

Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project



Preliminary Environmental Information
Bird Data
February 2022

CWWTPR – Schedule 1 and Rare Breeding Bird Survey: 24-27th August 2021

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Marsh Harrier

Two together over Teversham Fen (outside the 300m survey buffer) on 24th August.

Barn Owl

A careful search of the buildings at Poplar Hall Farm on 26th August failed to find any evidence of Barn Owl occupation. The nest box in the main barn was unoccupied whilst other signs of occupation such as pellets, whitewash on beams and discarded feathers were absent. The farmer at Poplar Hall Farm reports having seen hunting Barn Owls between the farm and the River Cam but not in 2021. Suitable areas of rough grassland for hunting remain between the farm and river whereas the area east of the farm is entirely arable and less suitable.



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Kingfisher

One at Dickerson's Pit, Milton Country Park (grid ref TL 47924 62064) on 25th August. The same location as the bird seen on 30th July. It or another bird seen later fishing along the eastern edge of Dickerson's Pit.

One flew out from bridge over drainage ditch along edge of CWWTP (grid ref TL 47526 61494) on 26th August.

Hobby

A perched adult in an oak tree along the western perimeter of Y040 (grid ref TL 49980 61831) flew up to join a second bird (a juvenile) on a nearby electricity pylon. Both birds were very vocal. This constitutes confirmed breeding at this location.

Cetti's Warbler

One heard alarm calling along northern edge of Little Wilbraham Fen (outside the 300m survey buffer) on 24th August.

CWWTPR – Schedule 1 and Rare Breeding Bird Survey: 28-30th July 2021

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Marsh Harrier

One over Teversham Fen (outside the 300m survey buffer) on 29th July. There is extensive nesting habitat here for this species extending east from the 300m survey buffer towards Great Wilbraham.

Kingfisher

Two possible Kingfisher burrows (see photo below) were found in a vertical earth bank along the edge of CWWTP (grid reference TL 47471 61394) on 28th July. However, cobwebs across the entrance to the burrows and an absence of 'whitewash' on the face of the bank strongly suggested that they were not in use. A Kingfisher was seen 100m away from the burrows on 25th August.



A Kingfisher at Dickerson's Pit, Milton Country Park (grid ref TL 47916 62038) on 30th August flew into cover in the SW corner of the pit and emerged from the same area several minutes later as if visiting a nest site. Unfortunately, overhanging vegetation obscured the potential nest site and thus it was not possible to determine if there was an active burrow (see photo below). A Kingfisher was seen at the same location on 26th August.



Hobby

A perched adult in an oak tree along the western perimeter of Y040 (grid ref TL 49980 61831) on 29th July left its perch and was aggressive to a passing crow before returning to the same tree (see photo below). This behaviour was suggestive of the presence of an active nest nearby.



Species	BTO code	Date	Land parcel	Site name	Observations
Barn owl	BO	April	P020		Tree cavity in willow 5m above ground. Light when surveyed sub-optimal to assess how far recessed. Large passerine nest in situ. Ladder climbed on 31/7. Assessed as TRS with one BO pellet present, less than 6
Barn owl	BO	April	P119		Tree cavity with BO potential in veteran willow with rotten trunk
Barn owl	BO	April	G879	Biggin Abbey	Old water tank in building, potential BO nest/roost site.
Barn owl	BO	April	O873		4m high tree cavity on south side, tennis ball sized with BO potential. Currently occupied by honey bee colony.
Barn owl	BO	April	Y039		Tree cavity in ash trunk 4m high on west side. Accessed with ladder on 31/07/21. No BO signs and little nesting potential
Barn owl	BO	April	Y040		Hollow ash with cavities. Remnants of pellet beneath most likely LO/K. Tree checked on 31/07/21. No BO evidence. Not a likely nesting site for the species - too open.
Barn owl	BO	April	G036		Large cavity on north side of oak trunk 5m high. Tree climbed on 31/07/21 with ladder. No BO evidence. Unlikely to be used as too open.
Barn owl	BO	August	G040	Poplar Hall Farm	The nest box at Poplar Hall Fm shows no recent signs of BO occupancy. No pellets were found in barn and there was no whitewash on the beams. No sign of BO occupation in any of the farm outbuildings. Farmer reports seeing BO hunting over rough grassland between farm and River Cam but not in past 12 mnths.
Barn owl	BO		G037		Barn owl box attached to field maple
Cetti's warbler	CW	April	P118	Milton CP	Singing male, Dickerson's Pit
Cetti's warbler	CW	April		Cambridge WWTP	Small areas of phragmites/bulrush with willow scrub. CW potential.
Cetti's warbler	CW	April		Teversham Fen	Several pairs breed apparently according to another on site birder.
Cetti's warbler	CW	April	B841		Singing male
Cetti's warbler	CW	April		Teversham Fen	Singing male
Cetti's warbler	CW	April	G874		Area of phragmites and scrub along river, CW potential.
Cetti's warbler	CW	April	P034		Narrow ditch with phragmites and scrub, some CW potential but not high.
Cetti's warbler	CW	May	P118	Milton CP	Singing male, Dickerson's Pit
Cetti's warbler	CW	May		Teversham Fen	Singing male
Cetti's warbler	CW	May		Teversham Fen	Singing male
Garganey	GY	April		Teversham Fen	LP and GY potential. Flooded marshy field. Both species reported as present in 'recent days'.
Hobby	HY	April		Cambridge WWTP	Squirrel drey 10m high on willow branch, potential LE & HY nest site
Hobby	HY	May		Teversham Fen	Hunting over fen but then lost from view. Suitable nesting habitat nearby but likely just hunting.
Hobby	HY	July	B041		Adult chased crow along hedgerow and landed in oak tree at N end of hedgerow.
Hobby	HY	August	B041		Occupied nest in crown of oak on north side.
Hobby	HY	August	B041		Adult perched in oak tree - nest apparently no longer occupied.
Hobby	HY	August	Y040		Adult flew up to second bird on pylon. A lot of calling heard. Second bird appeared to be a juv.
Kingfisher	KF	April	G841		KF breeding potential along ditch.
Kingfisher	KF	April	O844		Heard calling in flooded wood, although considered not suitable for breeding.
Kingfisher	KF	May		Cambridge WWTP	Potential nest site 0.5m above water level in vertical bank of boulders. Comprises a white pipe entrance and is visible from handrail. No KF recorded here on 25 & 27 May in 10 minute VP surveys. No splashing below
Kingfisher	KF	May	G841		Suitable bank with scrub for breeding KF. Bank is on west side of ditch, height 3m, slope 75 degrees.
Kingfisher	KF	June	G841		Alarm calling from branch by ditch. Flew north under bridge but reappeared shortly afterwards and remained vociferous. Suggest nest/young may be close by. Bank steep and overgrown, unable to survey. 05.40 24th
Kingfisher	KF	July	P118	Milton CP	One visiting probable nest-site in SW corner of Dickerson's Pit
Kingfisher	KF	July		Cambridge WWTP	Two possible nesting burrows in vertical earth bank. No sign of recent occupation.
Kingfisher	KF	August		Cambridge WWTP	Flew out from under bridge and along ditch.
Kingfisher	KF	August	P118	Milton CP	One perched briefly in SW corner of Dickerson's Pit
Kingfisher	KF	August	P118	Milton CP	One fishing along east side of Dickerson's Pit
Kingfisher	KF	August	B041		Flew E across wheat field.
Lesser spotted woodp	LS	April	O844		Very small diameter woodpecker hole on east side of willow branch 15m above ground. Potentially LS.
Little ringed plover	LP	April		Cambridge WWTP	Dried up large overflow pool basin, LP potential.
Little ringed plover	LP	May		Teversham Fen	Single bird heard calling in suitable nesting habitat.
Little ringed plover	LP	April		Teversham Fen	LP and GY potential. Flooded marshy field. Both species reported as present in 'recent days'.
Long-eared owl	LE	April	Y844		Nest in hedge 4m high, currently occupied by MG. LE potential.
Long-eared owl	LE	April		Cambridge WWTP	Squirrel drey 10m high on willow branch, potential LE & HY nest site
Long-eared owl	LE	April		Cambridge WWTP	Covid nest 10m above ground in field maple, potential LE nest site.
Long-eared owl	LE	April		Cambridge WWTP	Squirrel drey 5m above ground in poplar, potential LE nest site.
Long-eared owl	LE	April		Cambridge WWTP	Magpie nest 7m high in blackthorn, potential LE nest site.
Long-eared owl	LE	April		Cambridge WWTP	Corvid nest 6m above ground in hawthorn, potential LE nest site.
Long-eared owl	LE	April		Cambridge WWTP	Mixed plantation. However LE potential considered low as adjacent to busy A14.
Long-eared owl	LE	April	G037		Dense hawthorn/bramble hedge at least 4m width, LE potential
Long-eared owl	LE	April	Y039		Corvid nest in hawthorn 6m high hidden amongst ivy. LE potential.
Marsh harrier	MR	April		Teversham Fen	Pair in suitable nesting habitat. Birder on site reports that 2 pairs nest.
Marsh harrier	MR	May		Teversham Fen	Male flying to this location in reedbed. Three birds present: 1 male, 2 females.
Marsh harrier	MR	July		Teversham Fen	Two juvs over reedbed.
Marsh harrier	MR	August		Teversham Fen	Two over reedbed. Flew off NE and lost to view.
Marsh harrier	MR	August		Teversham Fen	One hunting over fen.
Turtle dove	TD	April	P119		Dense hawthorn hedge 7m high, 5m wide. TD potential.
Turtle dove	TD	April	Y844		Dense predominantly hawthorn/blackthorn scrub. TD potential.
Turtle dove	TD	April	P020		Dense hawthorn scrub adjacent to A14 but TD potential likely low owing to noise disturbance.
Turtle dove	TD	April	R867		Tall dense hawthorn hedge, TD potential.
Turtle dove	TD	April	G037		Dense hawthorn/bramble hedge at least 4m width, TD potential
Turtle dove	TD	April	Y034		Dense predominantly hawthorn hedge 4m wide, 3m high, some TD potential but well 'gardened'.
Turtle dove	TD	April	P035		6m high hawthorn with scrub patches in adjacent field, TD potential.

Turtle dove	TD	April	Y034		6m high hawthorn hedge with adjacent scrub in field, TD potential.
Turtle dove	TD	April	P034		Sections of hedge with TD potential.
Turtle dove	TD	April	O036		Dense hawthorn scrub either side of road with TD potential.
Turtle dove	TD	April	O036		TD potential but busy road (A14) may have significant bearing on presence/absence.
Turtle dove	TD	April	B041		Tall hawthorn hedge with some TD potential. Disturbance likely though.
Turtle dove	TD	April	Y040		Tall 4m+ hawthorn hedge, TD potential.
Turtle dove	TD	April	Y039		Tall dense hawthorn hedge, TD potential.
Turtle dove	TD	May	B844		Ash, willow and hawthorn scrub. TD potential.
Turtle dove	TD	May	P035		Hawthorn hedge with TD potential, 3-4m in height and 2-3m in width.
Willow tit	WT	April	P020		Area of wet Salix woodland potentially suitable for willow tit.