

**APPENDIX 1**  
**Plan 2 – Skylark Mitigation Land**

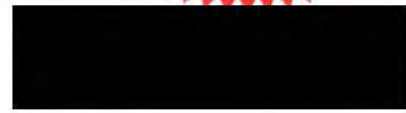


**Figure 2** Land at Town Farm, Kelsale, Saxmundham

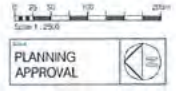
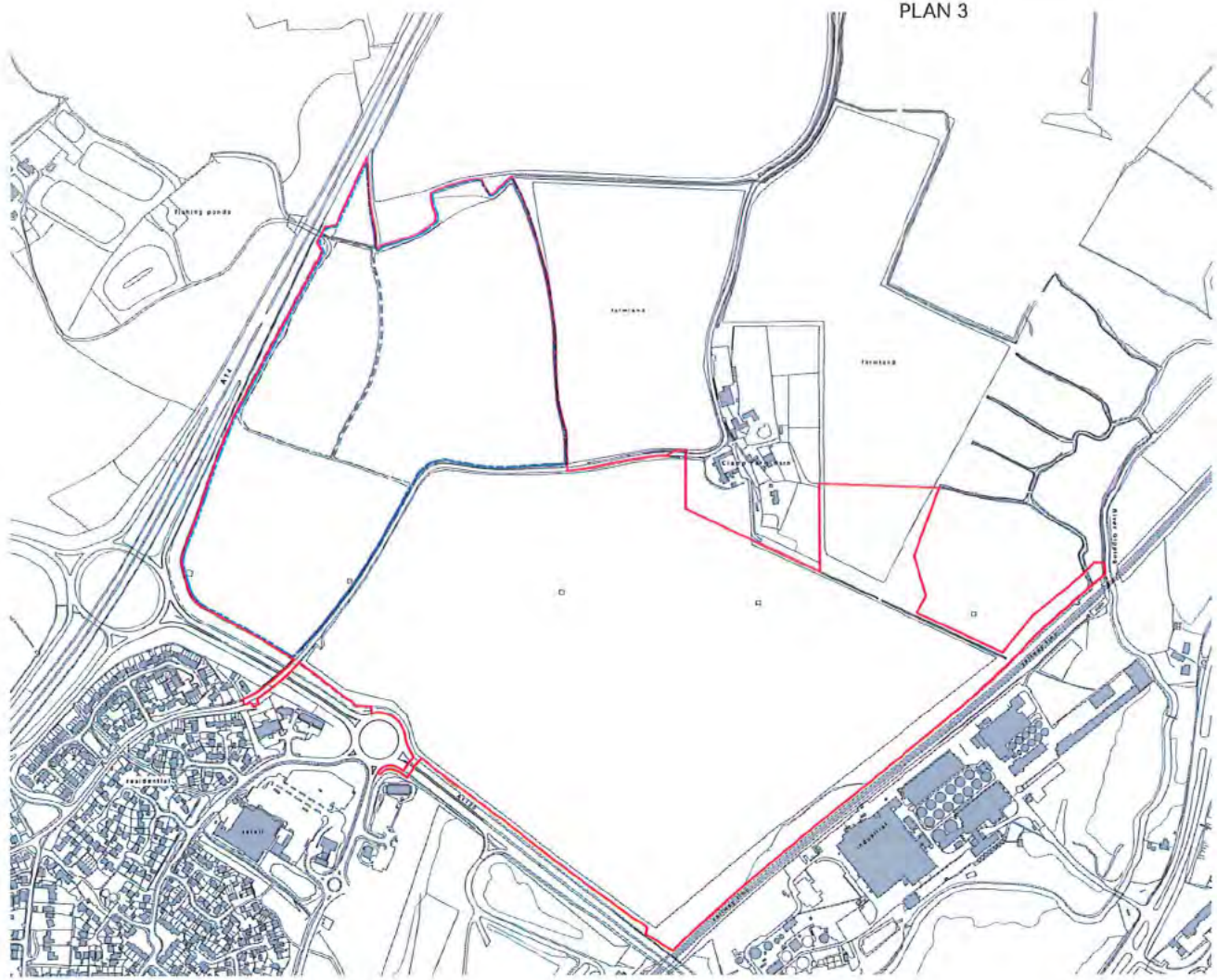
**APPENDIX 2**  
**Plan 3 – Skylark Area**



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PLAN 3

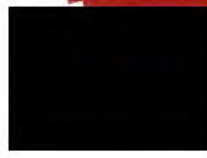


**GATEWAY 14**  
 LOCATION PLAN FOR MITIGATION  
**JAYNIC**  
 FRANK  
 SHAW  
 ASSOCIATES  
 LIMITED  
 ARCHITECTS

Scale: 1:2500 @ A1  
 Date: 20/12/2012  
 Project: 2012 FSA-XX-KO-EPTA-0150



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**APPENDIX 3**  
**Plan 4 - Footpaths**





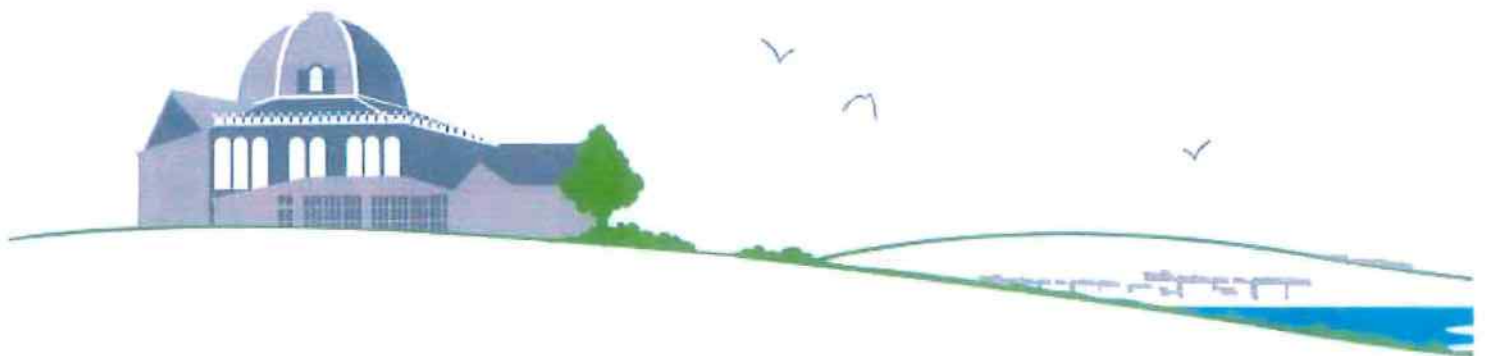


**APPENDIX 4**  
**Approved Skylark Mitigation Scheme**





JAYNIC LTD  
GATEWAY 14 STOWMARKET  
EURASIAN SKYLARK  
HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN





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**JAYNIC LTD**

**GATEWAY 14 STOWMARKET**

**EURASIAN SKYLARK HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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October 2021

This project has been undertaken in accordance with PAA policies and procedures on quality assurance.

Signed: 

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## APPENDIX

1 Habitat Notes May 2021	
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## 1. BACKGROUND

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- 1.1 Penny Anderson Associates Ltd (PAA) were commissioned by Jaynic Ltd to prepare a Eurasian Skylark Management Plan in relation to a planning application seeking 'hybrid' planning permission for an employment and commercial development at a site to the east of Stowmarket, Suffolk, referred to as Gateway 14. The application site extends to 67.3ha (hereafter referred to as 'the site').
- 1.2 Access to the application site is currently from Mill Lane, which runs east to west through the northern half of the site. The site is bound by the A14 dual carriageway to the north, agricultural fields to the east, the Ipswich to Cambridge railway line to the south and the A1120 (Gun Cotton Way) and Stowmarket to the west.
- 1.3 The main habitat type consists of arable fields with a large field to the south of Mill Lane, a portion of land south of Clamps Farm and east of Mill Lane. At the time of the habitat survey (PAA 2019) the crops consisted mainly of wheat and barley, with a small field of beet towards the south. Fields are bound by crop margins of varying width consisting of sections of neutral grassland, semi-improved neutral and improved grassland. Grassland, limited areas of woodland and scrub vegetation, and ruderal vegetation extend around the site.
- 1.4 As part of the ecological baseline assessment of the site a breeding bird survey was carried out in the spring and early summer of 2020 (PAA 2020). Several red listed Eurasian skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) territories were identified during the breeding bird survey (see Figure 1), which confirmed the presence of territories in a survey specifically targeting Eurasian skylark in 2017, when five territories were also recorded (Enims 2017) although the survey area at that time was confined to fields north of Mill Lane.
- 1.5 On-site mitigation at Gateway 14 for the loss of Eurasian skylark breeding territories is not possible and off-site mitigation is required. Agricultural land at Town Farm, Kelsale, near Saxmundham, Suffolk has been identified as suitable Eurasian skylark breeding habitat for enhancement in compensation for loss of suitable habitat at the Gateway 14 site. This report sets out mitigation proposals for Eurasian skylark at that location.





## 2. EURASIAN SKYLARK

- 2.1 Eurasian skylarks are ground-nesting birds preferring vegetation at a height 20-25cm and open enough to give access to the ground. To maintain their population, they need to make attempts to nest and breed two or three times between April and August. The UK population has declined (e.g. by 54% between 1970 and 2001) caused by intensification of grassland management and the switch from spring-sown wheat to winter wheat.
- 2.2 Crops such as winter wheat that are sown in the autumn, grow too tall and dense by June to allow for more than a single brood. If the surrounding farmland is under similar practices, Eurasian skylarks struggle to find alternative nest sites and food. The Eurasian skylark plots are undrilled patches in winter cereal fields. It has been proved that they boost nesting opportunities for Eurasian skylarks in areas of predominantly autumn-sown crops. It has been demonstrated that fields with plots have more young that are better fed, increasing their survival chances over winter and the addition of two plots per hectare in winter cereals can increase the number of Eurasian skylark chicks by 50% (RSPB 2021).
- 2.3 The measures to be introduced are based upon the Countryside Stewardship agri-environment Option AB4<sup>1</sup> and also draw upon research into breeding and feeding behaviour and their habitat requirements for successful breeding (e.g. Toepfer and Stubbe 2001; Wilson and Browne 1993) and advice provided to farmers on, for example cropping selection, sward heights, provision of plots and liming management to improve the breeding and foraging opportunities for Eurasian skylark (RSPB 2020). Research has demonstrated that the provision of field plots and strips can significantly increase breeding densities (Donald and Morris 2005; Stoate and Moorcroft 2007; Fischer *et al.* 2009). The approach has been reviewed and agreed with Sue Hooton, Principal Ecological Consultant providing specialist advice to Place Services, Essex County Council, under a service level agreement (pers comm 17/10/2021).



**Photo 1 Eurasian Skylark Plot in a Field of Winter Wheat**

(from: BTO Understanding Birds <https://www.bto.org/understanding-birds/species-focus/skylark>. Photo: Gavin Siriwardena)

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants/skylark-plots-ab4>

### 3. THE MITIGATION AREA

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- 3.1 On-site mitigation at Gateway 14 for the loss of Eurasian skylark breeding territories is not possible and suitable off-site mitigation is required. It is proposed that agricultural land at Town Farm, Kelsale, near Saxmundham, Suffolk (grid reference TM 39095 66530) will be specifically managed to enhance breeding habitat for Eurasian skylark as compensation for loss of suitable habitat at the Gateway 14 site. An aerial view of the mitigation area is presented as Figure 2 of this report.
- 3.2 The area consists of three large fields (labelled West, Central and East in Figure 2) to the south of Town Farm Lane, that together cover an area of 31.85ha. Presently, it is planted with barley. It is the same area proposed and accepted under previous planning permissions as a mitigation site for the loss of habitat at Gateway 14. A habitat survey was carried out in May 2021, habitat notes from this are provided in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 A breeding bird baseline survey has been carried out at Town Farm by Landmark Ecology, involving three visits in May and June 2021. No Eurasian skylarks were registered during the first of three surveys (5/5/21). On the second survey (23/5/21) three to four Eurasian skylarks were recorded singing on site, one in each of the fields, with an additional bird singing on the northern boundary of the middle field. During the third survey (12/6/21) there was a single Eurasian skylark singing over the middle field with a second foraging in the eastern field that flew off-site to the north-east carrying food. This indicates that currently there is sufficient food and nesting opportunities to sustain Eurasian skylarks. There is a precedent for providing two plots at the mitigation site per pair at the application site and the agri-environment scheme guidance for Eurasian skylark plots is two per hectare<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.4 Since there is a need to enhance the existing population at the mitigation site, the number of pairs at the mitigation site should be added to the number from the application site to calculate the total number of Eurasian skylark plots to be created at the mitigation site. Based on this formula, even taking a very conservative approach, there should be more than sufficient space within the mitigation site.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants/skylark-plots-ab4>



## 4. MITIGATION METHOD STATEMENT

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### Objective

- 4.1 The aim of the mitigation proposals is to provide Eurasian skylarks with suitable access to nesting habitats in winter cereal crops throughout their breeding season.
- 4.2 If successful there will be:
- plots providing access into the growing cereal during the spring and summer;
  - Eurasian skylarks holding territory and singing over the fields of winter cereals where the plots are located and, ideally, landing in the plots themselves; and
  - increased numbers of singing Eurasian skylarks across the farm.

### Methods

- 4.3 Eurasian skylark plots are proposed for ten years at Town Farm, Kelsale, Saxmundham. In keeping with best practice guidance and through specialist consultation, plots will be created to the following specifications:
- During the autumn/winter fallow plots will be created within the winter cereal crop, i.e. following initial implementation which will happen before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022, plots will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> January each year until the crop is harvested in August;
  - There will be a minimum of two plots per ha and each plot will be at least 3 metres (m) wide and will have a minimum area of 16 square metres (e.g. 4x4m, 3x6m);
  - These plots will be retained until the crop is harvested;
  - In total, there will be at least ten unsown plots (five breeding territories lost – two plots/lost territory);
  - A minimum 50m buffer between the Eurasian skylark plots and the edge of the field;
  - Plots to be located away from tram lines, boundaries and margins as this increases nest predation), and away from potential predatory perching features, e.g. telegraph poles;
  - Plots created by switching the drill off when sowing or spraying out plots before the end of December; and
  - Plots to be provided in annual rotation to prevent succession and thereby maximise their importance as a foraging resource for breeding Eurasian skylarks; and
  - If the owner of the land is already receiving funding for Ecological Focus Areas declared for the Basic Payment Scheme, then the Eurasian skylark plots referred to in this Agreement should be additional.

### Management

- Plots can be managed with the same treatment as the remainder of the field after drilling;
- Plots do not need to be kept weed-free, but spot-treating with herbicide in April will ensure Eurasian skylarks have access to their nesting sites;
- Where there are Eurasian skylark plots in fields of crops, mechanical weeding is not recommended as it will destroy any nests present; and



- Photographs should be taken of the plots each year in mid-summer. These could be taken by the farmer or the ecological consultant and kept on file for future reference.

## Location

- Plots shall be established in a position to be varied from year to year within the site depending on crop rotation.

## Compliance Monitoring

- The ecological consultant will be responsible for monitoring the Eurasian skylark plots and the owner must heed to reasonable instructions of the ecologist, including providing information of the locations of Eurasian skylark plots as required and permitting reasonable access to allow monitoring;
- A monitoring plan covering the duration of the Agreement will be produced by the ecologist and agreed by the parties;
- The ecologist will be entitled to undertake annual compliance checks to provide confirmation of compliance and ensure the habitat is provided every year, as agreed;
- Monitoring will consist of a survey in years one, two, four and seven following the introduction of Eurasian skylark plots. This requires three surveys during the breeding season between April and June;
- Monitoring will look at relevant indicators of success, such as:
  - availability of Eurasian skylark plots at key times;
  - presence of Eurasian skylark and breeding activity;
  - use of created plots; and
  - overall numbers at the farm as compared to previously (baseline).
- Photographs should be taken of the plots each year in mid-summer. These could be taken by the farmer or the ecological consultant and kept on file for future reference.

## Baseline Survey

- 4.4 A breeding bird survey and habitat assessment for fields proposed for Eurasian skylark plots has established the likely current breeding assemblage and the suitability of the farmland for the introduction of the Eurasian skylark plots. The mitigation measures proposed will provide greater opportunities for further breeding. The purpose of the longer-term monitoring is to review the effects of introducing the plots and inform any necessary further action.

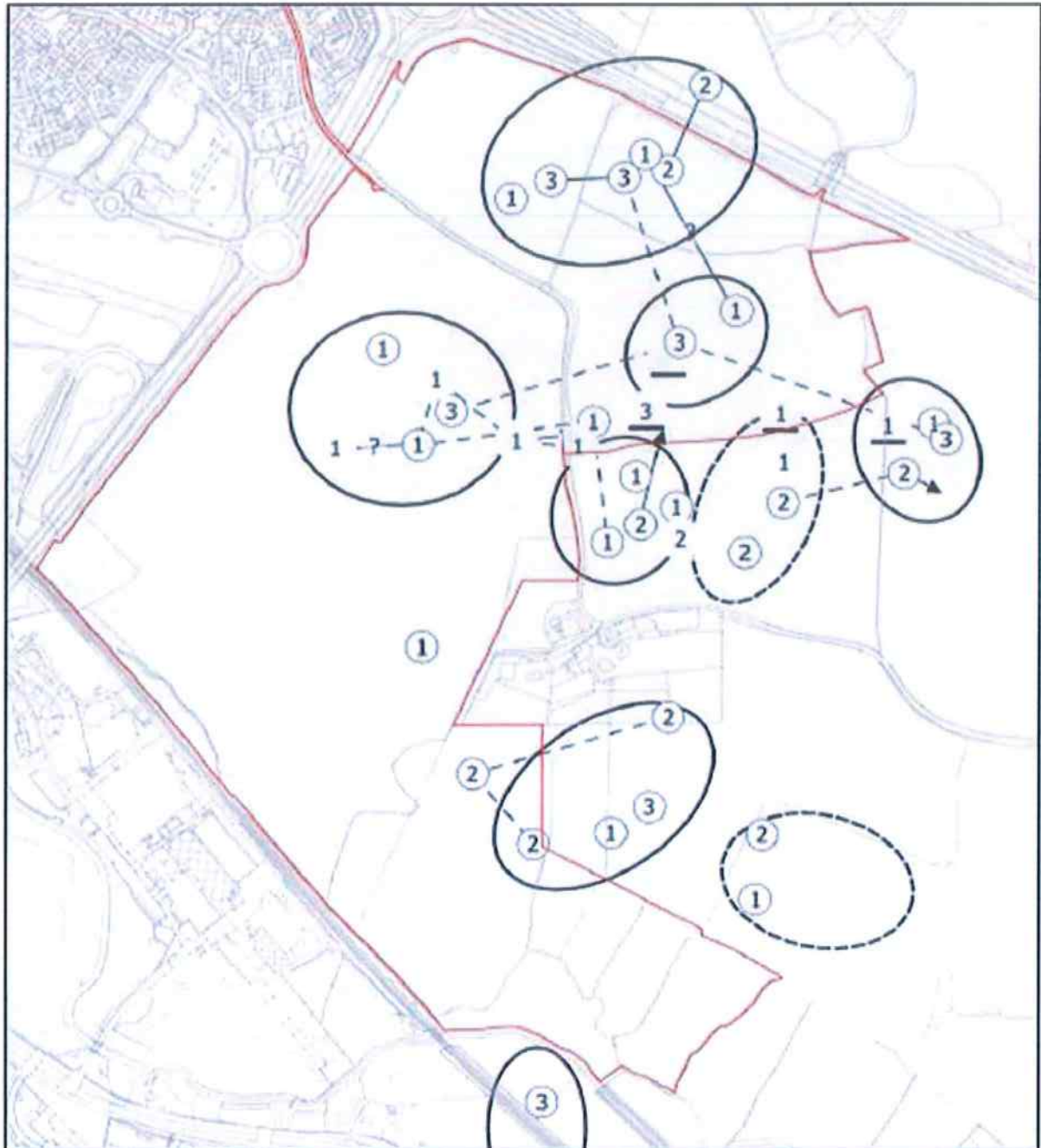
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**Figure 1 Map of Eurasian Skylark Registrations and Likely Territorial Groupings, Land off Mill Lane Stowmarket (PAA 2020)**

Numbers indicate the visit during which a registration took place. Solid ellipses indicate registrations likely to comprise a single territory, but do not indicate the location of territory boundaries. Dashed ellipses indicate potential territories where information is insufficient to be certain. (Please note that since the bird survey the red line boundary has been changed to exclude parts of the south-west corner of the site.)



**Figure 2 Land at Town Farm, Kelsale, Saxmundham**

The area within the yellow line covers the area where the Eurasian skylark plots will be introduced. Presently, each are planted with barley. At this stage, the precise location for the plots has yet to be determined. During the life of the ten-year agreement, plots will be rotated.

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**APPENDIX 1**  
**Habitat Notes May 2021**

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## APPENDIX 1 HABITAT NOTES MAY 2021

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### Land at Town Farm, Kelsale, Saxmundham

#### Location

The site (approximately centred on OS grid reference TM 391 667) is situated between the villages of Yoxford (that lies about 1.5km to the N) and Kelsale (about 1km to the S). The A12 runs NNW-SSW just beyond its western boundary (The Red House Farm at its NW-limits); the northern boundary is bordered by a minor road (Town Farm Lane) and Town Farm itself. The site is located within a predominantly intensively cultivated, arable farmland landscape.

#### Habitats within Survey Area

##### Overview

The survey area (31.85 ha) comprises two large arable fields plus about 50% of a third arable field (the eastern-most of the three), plus hedges around most of their margins (no hedge along part of the N-edge of the central field along Town Farm Lane, W of Town Farm). The land rises gently from S to N (about 31 to 41m a.s.l). The fields are mostly bordered by species-poor to moderately species-rich hawthorn- (*Crataegus monogyna*) dominated hedgerows, with field maple (*Acer campestre*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) being frequent component woody species. The hedges in present condition are, overall, of low to moderate quality nesting habitat for birds. There are a very few hedgerow trees (mainly ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), field maple and pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*)). Habitats within the survey area are summarised, below. A photograph (Figure) of each field is given in Appendix 1.1, and a map of habitats in Appendix 1.2.

##### Arable Fields

The three survey fields, designated West Field (Figure 1), Central Field (Figure 2) and East Field (Figure 3), were all under a tall, very dense (other than along tractor lines) barley crop at the time of survey (May-June 2021).

##### Hedgerows

###### West Field

- (a) N edge – hawthorn-dominated approx. 1.8m tall x 1.5 wide, running along Town Farm Lane;
- (b) W edge – a line of tall Leyland cypress (*Cupressocyparis x leylandii*) (with a row of lombardy-type poplars (*Populus* sp.) behind, i.e. to W) N of The Red House Farm. To the S of the farm, the hedge is tall (4 to 8m) and variably wide (2 to 4m) but somewhat gappy and sparse; hawthorn-dominated with suckering elm (*Ulmus* sp.), and occasional small/semi-mature ash and field maples;
- (c) S edge – western 20% no hedge, otherwise approx. 1.7 to 2m tall by 1.5 m wide but fairly sparse; moderately species-rich including hawthorn, blackthorn, elm, field maple and hazel (*Corylus avellana*); and
- (d) E edge – shared with W margin of Central Field, mostly about 2.5m tall by 1.5m wide; hawthorn-dominated with two semi-mature oaks at its N end, five along the southern-half and singles of field maple and semi-mature ash at the S end.

###### Central Field

- (a) N edge – hawthorn-dominated, approximately 1.8m tall x 1.5 wide. (There is no hedge along the western half of the N edge of the central field along Town Farm Lane, i.e. W of Town Farm, this comprising a grassy verge);
- (b) W edge – see West Field (d), above;



- (c) S edge – 2m tall x 3m wide; hawthorn-dominated, other woody species including bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), field maple and three part-cut trimmed small pedunculate oaks (with oak, hawthorn and willow (*Salix sp.*) scrub around the margin of the pond abutting the S of the survey area by the hedge).
- (d) E edge – shared with W margin of East Field, a long straight hedge, approx. 2 to 2.8m tall by 1 to 3m wide; hawthorn-dominated, other species including blackthorn and bramble.

### East Field:

- (a) N edge – there is no hedge along the N and E margin of Town Hall Farm farmyard. There is then a variably tall (2 to 6m) by variably broad (2 to 4m) gappy hedge around the S and E margins of the grass field (lying off site). Along Town Farm Lane the hedge is gappy and about 1.5 to 1.8m tall by 1 to 2m broad; hawthorn and blackthorn-dominated. There is a semi-mature pedunculate oak at its W end;
- (b) W edge – see Central Field (d), above;
- (c) S edge – approx. 2m tall by 1.5m wide; moderately species-rich, hawthorn-dominated with other woody species including blackthorn, field maple and spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*); and
- (d) E edge – the N section is a variably 3 to 8m tall by 1 to 3m broad hedgerow with a sparse base, running SW to a pond surrounded by scrub with a large field maple tree; hawthorn-dominated with other woody species including blackthorn and field maple. (The survey area boundary to the SW of the pond runs through the field to a hedge section along its southern edge, see above).

### Trees

In addition to a few semi-mature trees within hedgerows (addressed in 'Hedgerows', above), there is:

- (1) a dying mature ash tree in the NW corner of the central field;
- (2) there is a small pedunculate oak at the SE edge of the survey area within the eastern-most field; and
- (3) a mature pedunculate oak towards the northern margin of the eastern-most field (E of Town Farm).

Around the pond on the eastern margin of the survey area and East Field, there is a mature field maple (as well as scrub around the pond's perimeter).

### Habitats Adjacent to the Survey Area

The Red House Farm lies just beyond the NW limits of the survey area, and Town Farm towards its NE margin. A small field E of Town Farm comprised rough grassland. Otherwise, the site is surrounded arable (Town Farm Lane running along the survey sites northern margin). Most abutting arable fields were under a barley crop at time of survey. One field to the E was under oilseed rape and the one to the NE under beans/peas. There was a strip of old stubble (presumably a 'game strip') with much bare ground, bordering the W-half of the southern edge of the Central Field.

Five small ponds (surrounded by scrub/small-medium-size trees) lie just beyond the limits of the survey area:

- (1) about 300m W of Town Farm, N side of the lane;
- (2) on the southern margin of Central Field;
- (3) NW of Town Farm by Town Farm Lane;
- (4) just E of Town Farm; and
- (5) at the central-eastern end of the site within East Field.

About 100m to the SE of the survey site boundary is a block of broadleaved woodland.



## APPENDIX 1.1 PHOTOS OF THE SURVEY FIELDS, TOWN FARM, KELSALE

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**Figure 1** Looking SW across 'West Field' from its NE corner.

As the other two fields, under a dense (except along tractor lines), tall bare crop at time of survey, with margins bordered by species-poor to moderately species-rich hedgerows including a few semi-mature hedgeline trees (primarily pedunculate oaks, ash and field maple). Red House Farm (just beyond the survey site NW-limits) is visible to the W (right hand side of photo). 23/05/2021.



**Figure 2** Looking S from Town Farm Lane across 'Central Field'

Bordered around most of its margins by species-poor to moderately species-rich hedgerows; Town Farm is visible to the E (left hand side of photo). Note the uniformly tall and very dense barley crop at time of survey (cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* – white flowers – foreground along Town Farm Lane verge). 23/05/2021.



**Figure 3 Looking SW from Town Farm Lane across 'East Field'**

Bordered around most of its margins (except Town Farm farmyard) by species-poor to moderately species-rich hedgerows. Town Farm is visible to the W (right hand side of the photo). Note the tall (approx. 60cm), dense (other than along tractor lines) barley crop at time of survey; the tree in the field is a pedunculate oak. 23/05/2021.



# APPENDIX 1.2 HABITATS MAP SHOWING THE THREE SURVEY FIELDS, CROP TYPE (INCLUDING ADJACENT FIELDS), HEDGES, SELECTED TREES AND PONDS

**KEY**  
A = arable



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