

Inglewood, Paignton

Breeding Bird Survey 2019

A Report on behalf of Deeley Freed Estates

November 2019

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An outline planning application (Torbay Council Planning Reference P/2017/1133) for a residential led development of up to 400* dwellings, together with the means of vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access, the principle of a public house, primary school with nursery, internal access roads and the provision of public open space (formal and informal) and strategic mitigation, was submitted in November 2017. *This has now been amended to “up to 373 dwellings”.
- 1.2 The application was supported by breeding bird surveys in 2016 (Ecological Baseline Report, NPA May 2017). At the time of writing the planning application has yet to be determined. Given the age of the survey that initially informed the application, an update survey was undertaken 2019.

2.0 METHODS

- 2.1 Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) were completed during spring 2019 using a methodology based upon a combination of Common Bird Census methodology, devised by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), and the national Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) techniques, jointly devised by the BTO, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) as well as standard methodology outlined in Bibby et al (2000)¹. This technique records the species, their breeding status and estimates the number of individual territories of the birds within the site or survey area.
- 2.2 The survey aimed to determine possible, probable and confirmed breeding status of all species heard or observed and to determine which birds are using the Site for breeding or foraging purposes. The locations of birds which were seen or heard during the surveys and their signs (moulted feathers, eggshells etc.) were carefully noted and recorded. In order to define possible, probable or confirmed breeding, details were recorded of birds behaviour in favourable habitat and those displaying, singing, calling, exhibiting territorial aggression, carrying food or nesting material and juvenile birds and family groups.
- 2.3 The method comprised four survey visits to the site during the breeding season, March to June between the hours of 6.15 am and 11.05 am at a time when birds are generally most active. Visits were carried out in the early morning with a start time just after sunrise (the

¹ Bibby, C.J., Burgess, N.D. & Hill, D.A. (1992) *Bird census techniques*. Academic Press Limited, London, UK.

exception to this being the May survey, which was delayed due to early morning rain); this period was chosen to avoid the first hour after dawn (as recommended by Gilbert, Gibbons and Evans, 1989)². A suitably experienced surveyor slowly walked a predetermined transect and sought to maximise the observance of all habitat types present within the route by either incorporating or passing within 50m of each habitat type. These were walked at a slow and constant pace with frequent pauses being made at appropriate vantage and listening points to enable nest searches within notable habitats or suitable trees to be undertaken.

2.4 Visits were undertaken on 28th March, 28th April, 26th May and 22nd June and notes made as to the birds present, resulting in population estimates and mapping of locations on site for each of the individual species. This in turn allowed for an assessment of the Site's overall value to breeding birds. Days were selected when weather conditions were forecast to be optimal for survey, with no rain, winds of less than Beaufort Force 5 and temperatures normal for early mornings during the spring and summer months.

2.5 Weather conditions at the time of the surveys were recorded and presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Breeding bird Breeding Survey Details

Date	Surveyor	Times	Weather
28/03/2019	Mark Tunmore	06:30-10:30	0/8 cloud cover, Beaufort Force 2, 10°C
28/04/2019	Mark Tunmore	06:15-09:30	8/8 cloud cover, Beaufort Force 3, 12°C
26/05/2019	Mark Tunmore	07:00-11:05	7/8 cloud cover, Beaufort Force 4, 15°C
22/06/2019	Mark Tunmore	06:25-09:05	0/8 cloud cover, Beaufort Force 3, 16°C

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 A full list of bird species recorded during 2019 is given in Table 2 below. The table details the habitat with which each species was observed to be associated, the breeding status, the maximum number of pairs likely to be breeding within the Site and the conservation status, as categorised by Eaton *et al.*, (2016)³. The approximate breeding locations are presented in the Breeding Bird Surveys Visits 1-4 figures. Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 1 and Species of Principal Importance recorded are given in Table 3.

² Gilbert, G., Gibbons, D.W. & Evans, J, (1998) *Bird monitoring methods: A manual of techniques for key UK species*. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), The RSPB, Sandy, UK

³ Eaton *et al* (2016) *Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man*. British Birds 108, 708-746.

Table 2: Bird species recorded during the surveys

Common Name	Latin Name	Habitat	Breeding Status				No of breeding pairs (max)	Conservation status
			Confirmed	Probable	Possible	Not breeding		
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Hedgrows and mature trees	*				7	Green
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Hedgrows and mature trees	*				3	Green
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Fields				*	n/a	Amber
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Hedgrows and mature trees	*				5	Green
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Aerial			*		1	Green
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Fields and mature trees		*			2	Green
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Hedgrows and mature trees	*				4	Green
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Hedgrows and mature trees	*				2	Green
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	Hedgrows and field edges	*				2	Red
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Mature trees		*			1	Green
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Hedgrows and mature trees	*				9	Amber
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Hedgrows, mature trees and field edges	*				5	Green
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Hedgrows and mature trees	*				6	Green
Great-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Mature trees			*		1	Green
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Hedgrows and mature trees	*				1	Green
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Fields				*	n/a	Green
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Fields				*	n/a	Red

Common Name	Latin Name	Habitat	Breeding Status				No of breeding pairs (max)	Conservation status
			Confirmed	Probable	Possible	Not breeding		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Hedgrows and housing		*			5	Red
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Aerial				*	n/a	Amber
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Hedgrows and field edges	*				2	Red
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Hedgrows and mature trees		*			1	Green
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Hedgrows, mature trees and fields		*			?	Green
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Fields			*		1	Amber
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>	Fields				*	n/a	Amber
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Field edges			*		?	n/a
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Aerial				*	n/a	Green
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Fields			*		1	Green
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Hedgrows and mature trees	*				8	Green
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Mature trees	*				8	Green
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Fields	*				4	Red
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Hedgrows, mature trees and field edges	*				1	Red
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Hedgrows and field edges	*				1	Green
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Aerial			*		n/a	Green
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Aerial				*	n/a	Amber
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Hedgerows	*				3	Green
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Hedgrows and mature trees	*				7	Green
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Hedgrows and mature trees	*				16	Green

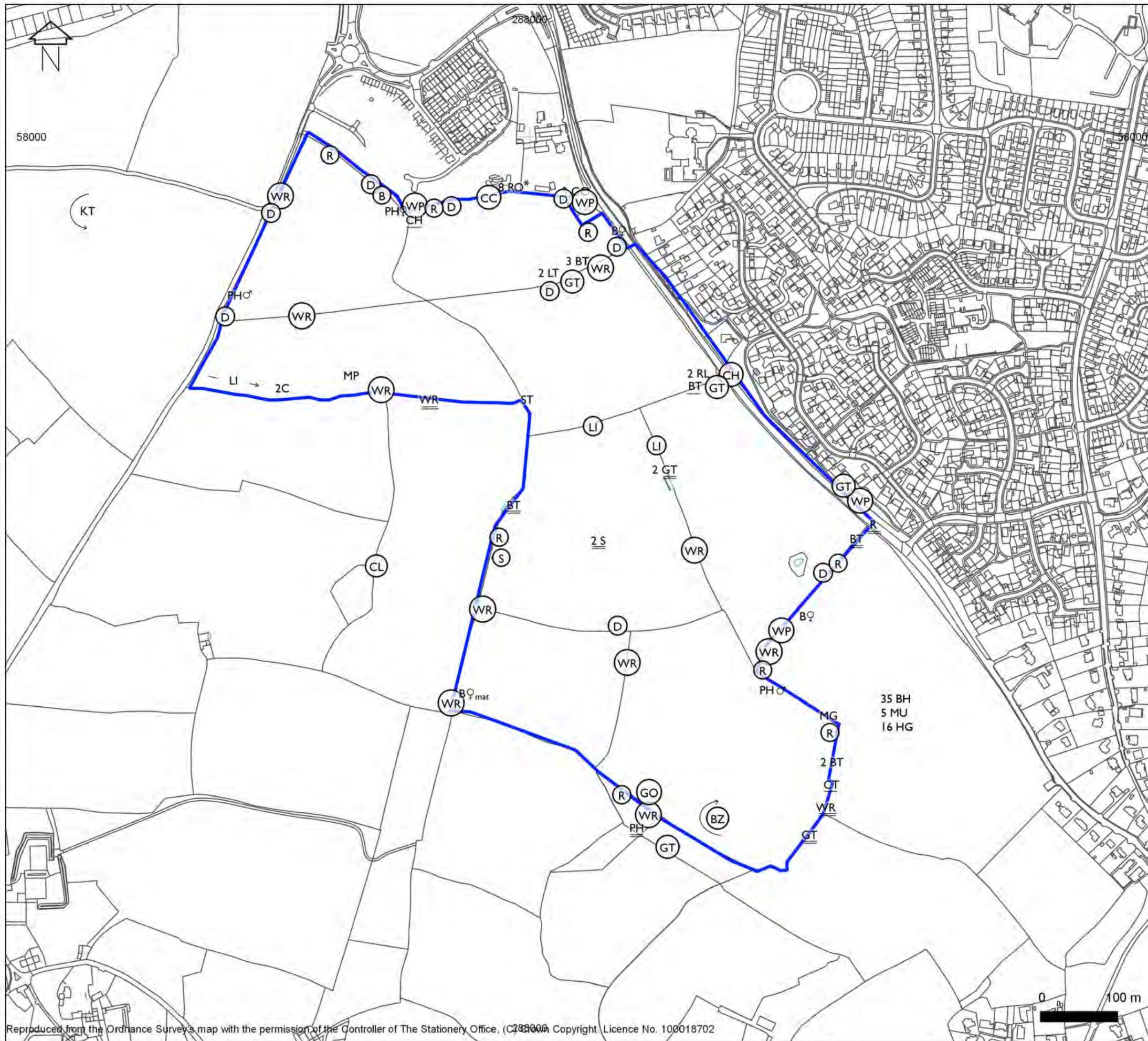
Table 3: UK BAP Species, Wildlife and Countryside Act and Species of Principal Importance recorded within the Site

Bird Species	UK BAP Priority Species	Species of Principle Importance	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule I
Skylark	*	*	
Linnet	*	*	
Cirl Bunting	*	*	*
Herring Gull	*	*	
House Sparrow	*	*	
Song Thrush	*	*	
Red Kite			*
Mediterranean Gull			*

- 3.2 A total of thirty-seven bird species were recorded during the surveys, four of which were only recorded flying over. Two species (Red Kite and Mediterranean Gull) were recorded just outside the survey area but are included within the species list as they are particularly scarce and the habitat they were recorded in was similar to that within the survey area.
- 3.3 Of the species recorded, six are considered to be of high (red-listed) conservation status: Skylark, Song Thrush, Cirl Bunting, Linnet, House Sparrow and Herring Gull. Of these, House Sparrow, is a probable breeder. Skylark, Song Thrush, Cirl Bunting and Linnet are confirmed breeders on Site. Herring Gulls were simply foraging in the fields.
- 3.4 Six species are considered to be of medium (amber-listed) conservation status: Dunnock, Meadow Pipit, Black-headed Gull, Mediterranean Gull, Kestrel and Swift. Of these Dunnock is a confirmed breeder whilst Meadow Pipit is a possible breeder. Black-headed Gull, Mediterranean Gull, Kestrel and Swift were not breeding within the site.
- 3.5 A total of six species, with five confirmed or probable breeders, were recorded during surveys that are listed as UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Species (succeeded by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework) and Species of Principal Importance.
- 3.6 One species, Cirl Bunting, listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) was recorded as breeding on Site. Two others—Mediterranean Gull and Red Kite—were not breeding within the survey area.
- 3.7 The remainder of the bird species recorded are of low conservation status (Green listed) or are without status (e.g. Pheasant).

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The 2019 breeding bird surveys recorded a similar assemblage of birds present to that recorded in 2016. Song Thrush was the only additional bird of higher conservation status (UK BAP species, Species of Principal Importance and Red List) recorded within the Planning application boundary. Other additional birds recorded within the survey area were Black-headed Gull, Carrion Crow, Coal Tit, Great-spotted Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Grey Wagtail, Kestrel, Mediterranean Gull, Red Kite, Red-legged Partridge, Stonechat and Swift.
- 4.2 Given the above it is considered that the conclusions with regards to breeding birds in the ecology chapter of the Environmental Statement (Stride Treglown, November 2017) that supported the application remain valid. This is based on the proposals still providing more than sufficient mitigation for breeding birds, including Song Thrush (including the creation of 3.5km of hedgerows, the sensitive management of retained and proposed hedgerows, provision of insect-rich habitats) which would avoid a residual negative impact during construction and would result in a significant positive impact in the long term.



Key	
	Survey Boundary
B	Blackbird
BC	Blackcap
BH	Black-headed Gull
BT	Blue Tit
BZ	Buzzard
C	Carrion Crow
CH	Chaffinch
CC	Chiffchaff
CL	Cirl Bunting
CT	Coal Tit
D	Dunnock
GO	Goldfinch
GT	Great Tit
GS	Great-spotted Woodpecker
GR	Greenfinch
GL	Grey Wagtail
HG	Herring Gull
HS	House Sparrow
K	Kestrel
LI	Linnet
LT	Long-tailed Tit
MG	Magpie
MP	Meadow Pipit
MU	Mediterranean Gull
PH	Pheasant
KT	Red Kite
RL	Red-legged Partridge
R	Robin
RO	Rook
S	Skylark
ST	Song Thrush
SC	Stonechat
SL	Swallow
SI	Swift
WH	Whitethroat
WP	Woodpigeon
WR	Wren
J	- juvenile
f	- food

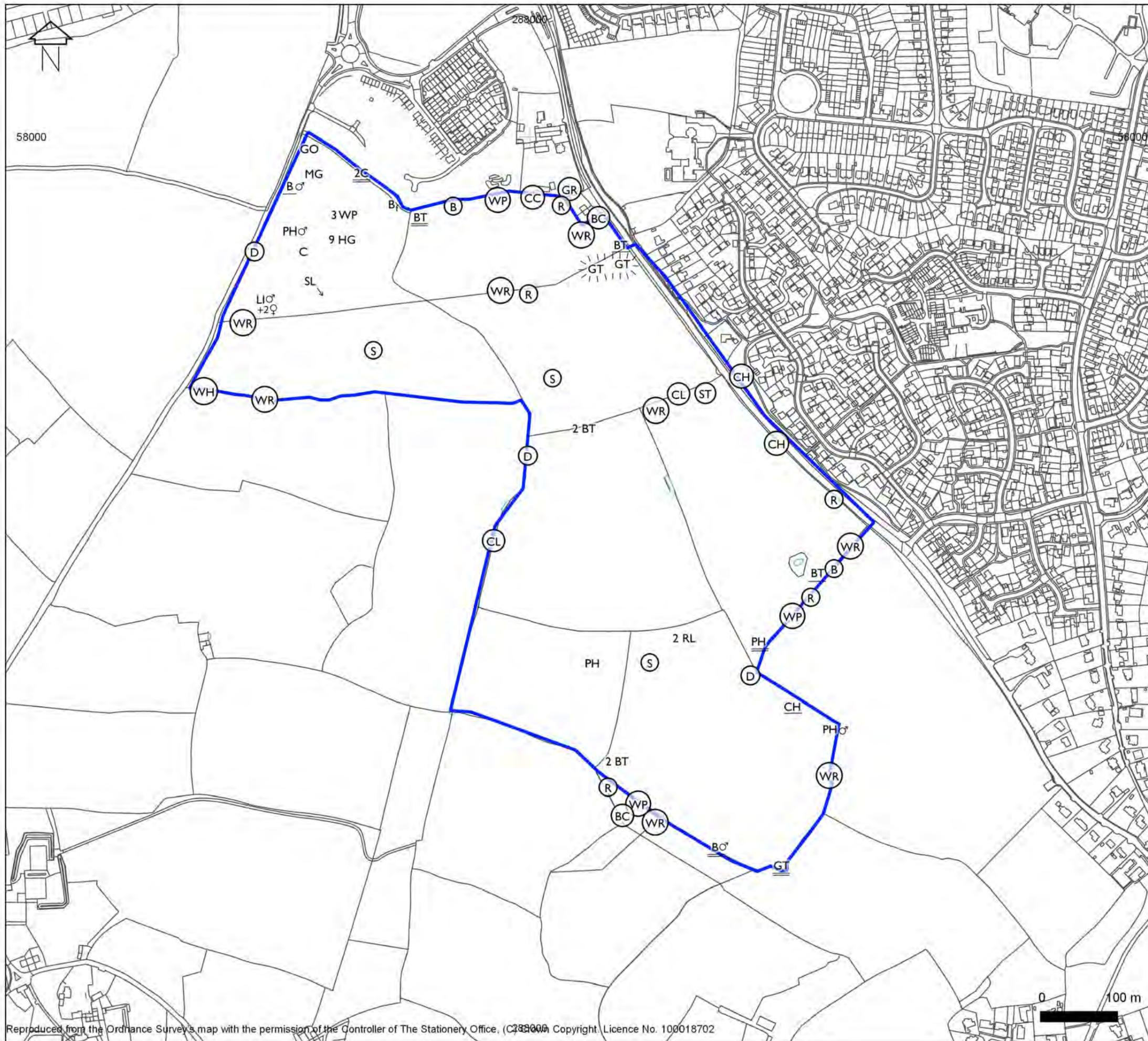
See British Trust for Ornithology for key to standard activity codes

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ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNERS • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS • ECOLOGISTS

Deeley Freed Estates

Inglewood, Paignton

Breeding Bird Survey
 Visit 1: 28/03/2019
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B	Blackbird
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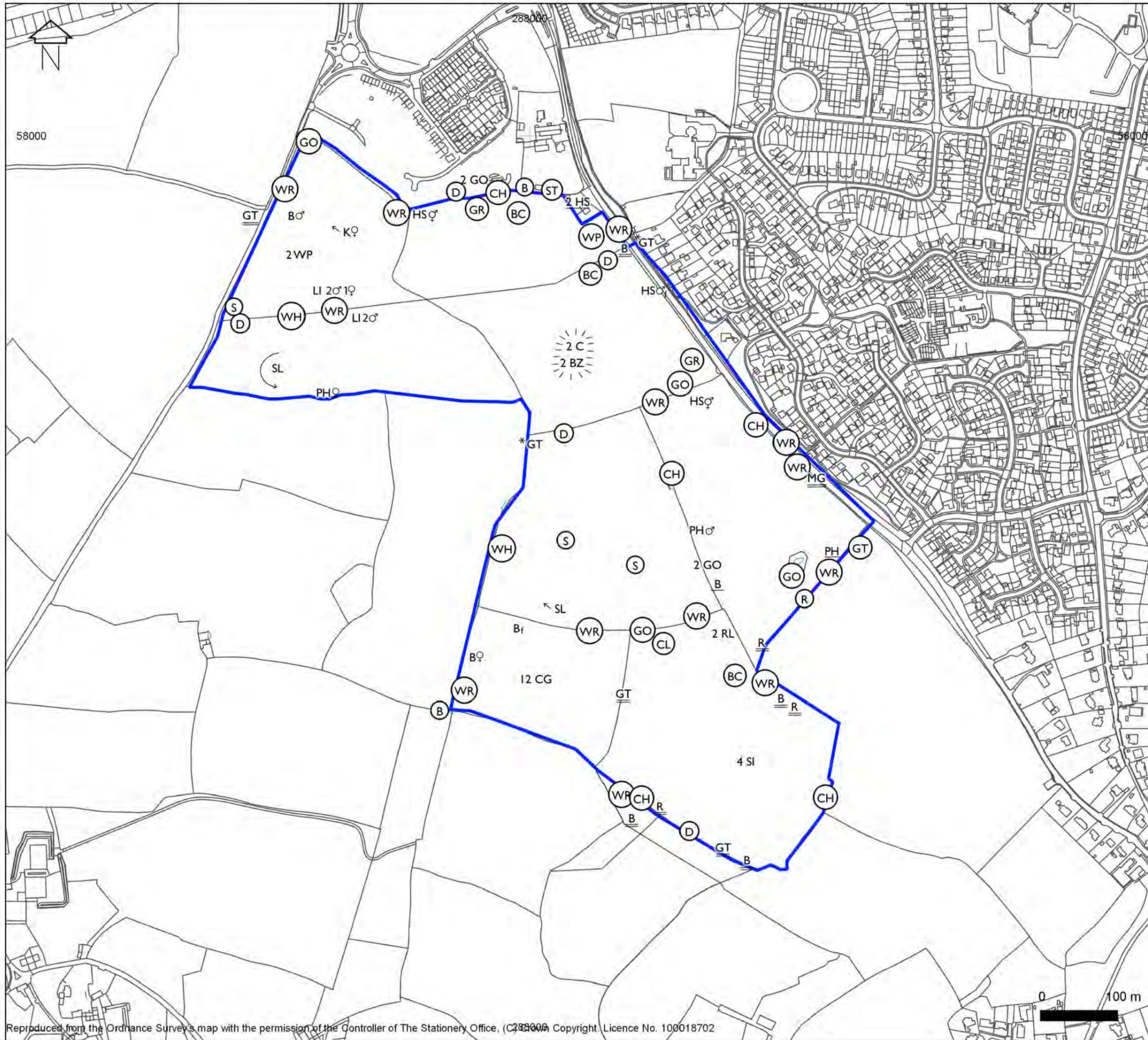
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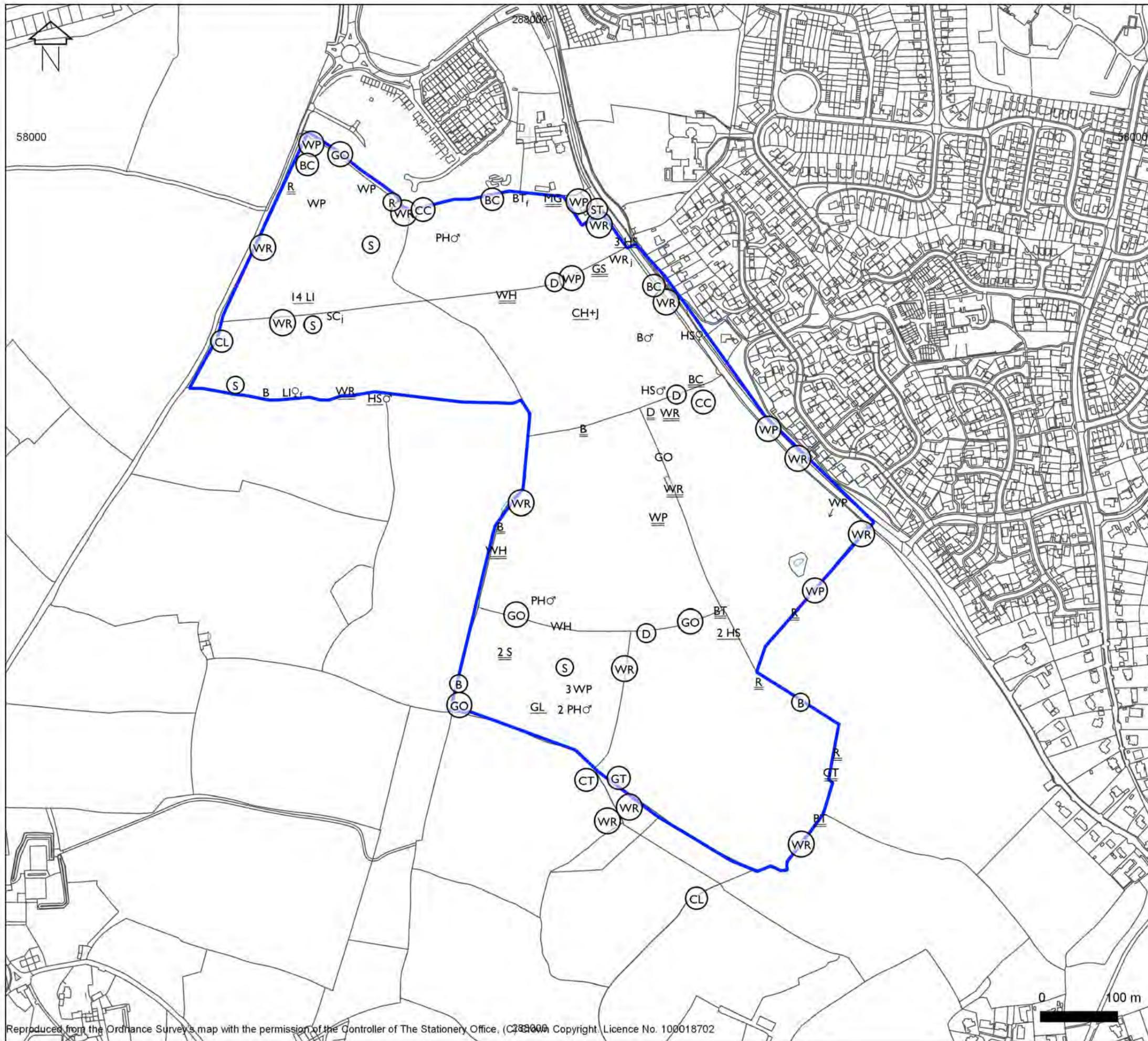
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