

Poynton Pool – Protected species records up to 04/01/2024

This document contains wildlife records for all protected species mainly within the last 6 years in the Poynton Pool area.

It provides evidence that proper ecological assessment must be undertaken as part of reviewing the planned proposal.

These observations cover the area of the pool, the woodland habitats around the pool and the park area, **all are within the 1km zone of influence**. This is not a large area in total and includes the woodland area where trees are proposed for removal and the reedbed area at the north end which will also be impacted. It is an important consideration to understand how the wildlife interacts with the woodland and relies on it as part of the wild habitat in this area of Poynton. What may seem like a very localised habitat removal will have a much wider impact.

The species listed are a sub-set of approximately 16,700 bird records and over 700 non-bird records. In total there are records for over 110 bird species and hundreds of non-birds species. It is not an exhaustive list and there would be an expectation that many more would be recorded there with additional surveying, for example a good population of moths would be expected on the basis of the number and variety of bats that inhabit the site.

All records are also available with more detail within the rECOrd system:

<https://record-lrc.co.uk/>

In summary, within the rECOrd system there are over 17,000 records of nearly 400 species.

Protected Habitat

Local councils now have a legal duty with regard to conserving biodiversity in the exercise of their normal functions. There is also protected habitat directly connected to the area of impact:

Section 41 habitat of principal importance: Woodland: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland

Protected Species

To summarise, a total of 67 species with protections have been found:

Protection type	Number of species listed
Redlist(Red)	15
Redlist(Amber)	31
LBAP	15
WCA	20
NERC	21
EPS	5

Key:

NERC – Section 41 Species of Principal Importance, Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

LBAP – Local (Cheshire) Biodiversity Action Plan

WCA – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Redlist – IUCN listed species within the UK that are of conservation concern

EPS – European Protected Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Observation Date	Protections
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	25/01/23	Redlist(Red), NERC
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	05/12/23	Redlist(Amber)
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	09/05/19	Redlist(Amber)
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	15/10/21	Redlist(Red), LBAP, NERC
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	26/10/23	WCA
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	11/06/23	Redlist(Amber)
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	31/12/23	Redlist(Amber)
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	16/10/23	Redlist(Amber)
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	25/01/23	Redlist(Amber)
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	09/10/23	Redlist(Amber)
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	16/06/23	Redlist(Red)
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	04/04/23	Redlist(Red)
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	31/12/23	Redlist(Amber)
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	15/12/23	Redlist(Amber)
Common Wood-Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	31/12/23	Redlist(Amber)
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	05/10/23	Redlist(Amber)
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	09/02/21	WCA
Common House-Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	10/07/23	Redlist(Red)
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>	17/11/18	NERC
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	28/04/23	Redlist(Amber), LBAP, NERC
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	12/01/19	WCA
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	24/12/20	WCA
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	06/09/21	WCA
Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	12/12/23	Redlist(Amber)
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	10/02/20	WCA
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	30/11/20	Redlist(Amber)
Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	31/12/23	Redlist(Amber)
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	26/05/22	Redlist(Amber)
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeus melanocephalus</i>	04/02/96	WCA
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	15/12/23	Redlist(Red), NERC
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	05/12/23	Redlist(Amber)
Lesser Black-backed	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	07/12/23	Redlist(Amber)

Gull			
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	28/03/22	Redlist(Amber)
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	28/02/22	Redlist(Amber)
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	19/03/21	WCA, NERC
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	13/08/22	Redlist(Amber), WCA
Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	09/10/23	Redlist(Amber)
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	04/05/21	Redlist(Red), NERC
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	11/08/18	Redlist(Red), LBAP, NERC
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	21/02/21	Redlist(Red), NERC
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	25/04/15	Redlist(Amber)
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	05/04/08	WCA
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	30/11/23	Redlist(Red), LBAP, NERC
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	16/04/22	Redlist(Amber)
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	12/12/23	Redlist(Amber), NERC
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	11/02/22	Redlist(Amber), LBAP, NERC
Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	19/01/23	Redlist(Red)
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	07/12/23	Redlist(Amber)
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	23/04/21	Redlist(Amber)
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	31/12/23	Redlist(Red), LBAP, NERC
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	15/12/23	Redlist(Amber)
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	02/12/23	Redlist(Amber), WCA
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	30/06/23	Redlist(Amber), LBAP, NERC
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	04/11/23	Redlist(Red), WCA
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	12/12/23	Redlist(Red)
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	14/10/21	Redlist(Red), LBAP
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	21/02/23	WCA, NERC
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	26/08/19	NERC
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	16/10/17	NERC
Common Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	18/09/19	LBAP, WCA, NERC, EPS
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	18/09/19	LBAP, WCA, EPS
Pygmy Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	18/09/19	LBAP, WCA, NERC, EPS

Brown Long-eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	18/09/19	LBAP, WCA, NERC, EPS
Daubenton's bat	Myotis daubentonii	18/09/19	LBAP, WCA, EPS
European Toad	Bufo bufo	06/01/21	WCA, NERC
Bluebell*	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	28/04/23	LBAP, WCA
Ringlet Butterfly	Aphantopus hyperantus	30/06/23	LBAP

*Hyacinthoides × massartiana (Hybrid Bluebell) can be found at the south end of the pool, H. non-scripta is found in multiple places directly within the impacted area of woodland.

Additional notes:

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker:

This difficult to spot species has been seen on multiple occasions in the last 10 years in the Poynton Pool area (also with photographic evidence from multiple sources) with breeding in nearby woodland. It cannot be understated how important it is to protect habitats where they still exist. The population of this species is estimated to have fallen by 83% since 1970, with an estimate of no more than 2,000 pairs left in the UK. It is classified as Red under the Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the Red List for Birds (2021) and it is a priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework, a section 41 species of principal importance.

The Cheshire and Wirral Bird Atlas states 'from work in Sweden, the recommendation for conservation of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers is to have a minimum of 40 ha of woodland dominated by deciduous trees, which may be fragmented over a maximum of 200 ha'. Although the proposed tree removal at Poynton Pool may be considered a small percentage of a territory it is a valid corridor connecting woodland belts and would disproportionately degrade the area via fragmentation of the wildlife corridor of woodland along the pool. There is also additional degradation of the habitat via 'tidying up' the trees and woodland floor by eradicating deadwood severely reducing its value to the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker population.

Bats:

The belt of woodland along the pool edge provides good shelter and protection from disturbance of both noise and light for bats and their prey species. The shelter the trees provide reduces the impact of wind and exposure for weaker flying invertebrate species allowing a good population of moths, caddis and other invertebrates the bats feed on as well as the trees being a source of invertebrate food themselves.

There are at least 5 species of bat living at the pool and on a summer evening their population can be measured well into three figures. Simply searching the trees for roosting sites is not an adequate mitigation for these legally protected species. Reducing the volumes of their food source will inevitably reduce the population size and may even cause some species to die out in the area. Bats, like all wildlife, need habitats with a good food source and degrading this will be severely detrimental to them.

An understanding of the negative impacts the proposed changes could bring is very important prior to any decision making.

Impacts on waterbirds using the Pool:

Birds nest in the trees and vegetation overhanging the bank in the summer, species that use this bank to nest include Coot, Moorhen, Greylag Goose and Mallard

The reedbed at the north end is an important habitat, species using this habitat type at the pool include Water Rail, Reed Bunting (breeding), Snipe and most recently Cetti's Warbler

The overhanging trees also provide shelter for overwintering waterfowl including Northern

Shoveler, Common Teal, Wigeon, Mallard, Gadwall, Moorhen and Goosander

The removal of tree cover and opening up the bank, as well as increasing noise, will silhouette recreational users and make dogs more visible, this will negatively impact both the species and populations of waterfowl that currently find the pool a desirable habitat.

Invertebrates:

Poynton Pool is a good location for Blue Tailed Damselfly, the Cheshire branch of the British Dragonfly Society have listed it as a species with reduced occupancy rates (i.e. it is in decline) and so it is now a 'locally important' species to monitor. The proposed works will clear 25% of the vegetation on the banks around the pool including areas with reeds, in it's current state this proposal will have a devastating impact on the population of this species as well as the many other invertebrates that require bank-side vegetation to survive.

The lowland mixed deciduous woodland is a BAP priority habitat and so will contain a wide variety of species that will live on both the living and dead wood. The dead wood is especially important for beetles and other invertebrate life and will be a key food source for the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

Breaking the tree cover along such a large section of the bank will increase the light pollution and have negative impacts on the moth population within the park.

Invertebrates are a key part of the food chain and removing them has impacts on all other wildlife and their population sizes, especially birds and bats.

Biology:

The pool is designated as a Site of Biological importance, it is designated for its woodland, marginal/emergent/inundation vegetation and its ornithological interest.

The pool has a good mix of habitat along it's banks supporting a wide variety of plant and tree species including patches of reedbed and species such as European Royal Fern (which is locally scarce). This provides homes for many other species of wildlife and is a key reason for the high biodiversity the pool supports. A concrete kerb and cleared vegetation with reduced trees on 25 % of the bank edge will have a devastating impact which is as yet unknown and unquantified.

General area context:

While a small area, in the context of Poynton is it a very important corridor providing connectivity for wildlife between the north and south areas of the Park, this has become even more important in the area since the new road has sliced through the habitats to the West. When considering wildlife, developments need to consider the surrounding habitat to provide context, the impacts go much further than the immediate boundaries. There are many upcoming threats within Poynton such as potential impacts on the priority habitat woodland corridors surrounding the current Poynton Sports Club which appears to also now be a consideration for more development.

Habitat loss and degradation is a key reason driving population declines in all of our wildlife which is a key reason why seemingly 'common' species are now redlisted. While this may seem like a small area of habitat it is driving a 'death by a thousand cuts' of wildlife in the wider Poynton area when taking into account the multiple recent developments centred on housing and road building. The new roads will have caused the local extinction of lowland breeding Curlew and had severe and as yet unquantified impacts on Northern Lapwing, Little Ringed Plover, Eurasian Skylark, Eurasian Oystercatcher and many other bird species.