

From: Giacomelli, Alison
Sent: 13 September 2005 10:41
To: 'Paul James'
Subject: RE: Lydd airport bird survey

Hi Paul,

Thanks for your e-mail. Mark McClellan had called me on Friday to say that Parsons Brinckerhoff had produced a new scoping document and that you had some recommendations about the bird study, which he would like our comments on. I've not received the scoping yet, but we agree with your recommendation for 1 survey a month between October and March and the 2 mile radius. By my calculations on a map, this looks like the area to survey (excluding designated sites and built up areas) will be the fields between the north of the airport and New Romney, fields to the west between the airport and roughly the line of pylons, and fields to the south - Dengemarsh, that are not designated. We feel that it is important to survey the whole of this area for larger birds - wildfowl, waders and gulls, using vantage points in the same way as you would for WeBS. We don't think it's necessary to walk within 100m of all that area to pick up wintering passerines. And it's not necessary to count starlings and blackbirds in Lydd and New Romney.

It's most important to concentrate on counting the wildfowl, waders and gulls, these are the species that are most likely to pose a threat of bird strike, and include the species for which the SPA is designated, so are most important in conservation terms. Blanket coverage of the area described above would be important for these species, but hopefully would not be too onerous, as it looks like most parts of the survey area could be seen from the roads and tracks. It would be useful to have any records of passerines, but it is not necessary to achieve a systematic coverage of the area for these smaller species, that are less important in terms of bird strike risk, and although you mention Red List species, they are not part of the SPA interest.

I hope these thoughts are helpful. Give me a call if you'd like to discuss anything.
Thanks,
Alison

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The RSPB is the UK charity working to secure a healthy environment for birds and wildlife, helping to create a better world for us all.

From: Paul James [mailto:pauljames@ntlworld.com]
Sent: 11 September 2005 19:32
To: Giacomelli, Alison
Subject: Lydd airport bird survey

Hi Alison

Chris Corrigan has suggested that I get in contact with you. I work on a contract basis for various consultants and conservation bodies carrying out bird surveys.

Last winter I carried out a preliminary bird survey in the vicinity of Lydd Airport for Parsons Brinckerhoff Ltd. The intention is to carry out a more 'robust' survey this forthcoming winter. I have suggested that the survey be carried out once a month from October to March within a 2 mile radius of the airport

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(excluding designated sites). The preliminary survey identified a number of ornithologically important sites within the study area so I would propose concentrating on these rather than attempting to achieve blanket coverage. My intention would be to count concentrations of wildfowl, waders and gulls and also passerines such as skylark, tree sparrow and reed and corn buntings.

It would be very helpful if you could comment on this proposal in terms of whether the methodology would be acceptable to the RSPB.

I have been asked to finalise the scope in the next few days so would appreciate your comments ASAP.

Best regards

Paul James

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