



# **Long Preston Bird Report 2016**

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Compiled by

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For more information on the Long Preston Floodplain Project visit

<http://longprestonfloodplainproject.org/>

The Long Preston Floodplain Project is a partnership between the RSPB, Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, North Yorkshire County Council, the Ribble Rivers Trust, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, local landowners and farmers

## **Introduction**

Long Preston Deeps is in the area of the upper Ribble valley between Long Preston and Settle, lying between the Forest of Bowland and Yorkshire Dales National Park. This unique area of lowland wet grassland stretches from Settle south to Cow Bridge, where the Wigglesworth to Long Preston Road crosses the river, and is bordered on the east by Long Preston and the A65 and the Wigglesworth to Rathmell road on the west. Along with the nearby Hellifield Flash, these habitats provide an important area for breeding, passage and wintering birds.

## **Long Preston Recording Area**

The recording area combines the Long Preston Wetland Grassland Project area and the adjacent area to the south including Hellifield Flash. A map of the recording area that includes details of access points can be found on the following page.

The conservation management that has been implemented by the project has only been possible because of the close cooperation with the local farmers, other land users and local residents. We would ask that visitors are considerate when parking and do not block any access. Visitors should also be aware that fishermen are regularly present along the river and wildfowling takes place between 1st September and 31st January.

In order to maintain these positive relationships the project would like to remind visitors that the Long Preston floodplain is in private ownership and should only be accessed using the public rights of way shown on the project trail map. There are good but limited opportunities for watching the area from the surrounding roads, with a series of viewpoints also shown on the trail map, but please be aware that the birds can be distant and a telescope is strongly recommended.

The bird hide can be access along the Ribble Way, north from Cow Bridge. Car parking is very limited so please ensure that you do not block any roads or access tracks. Park carefully by the bridge at SD 82799 57022.

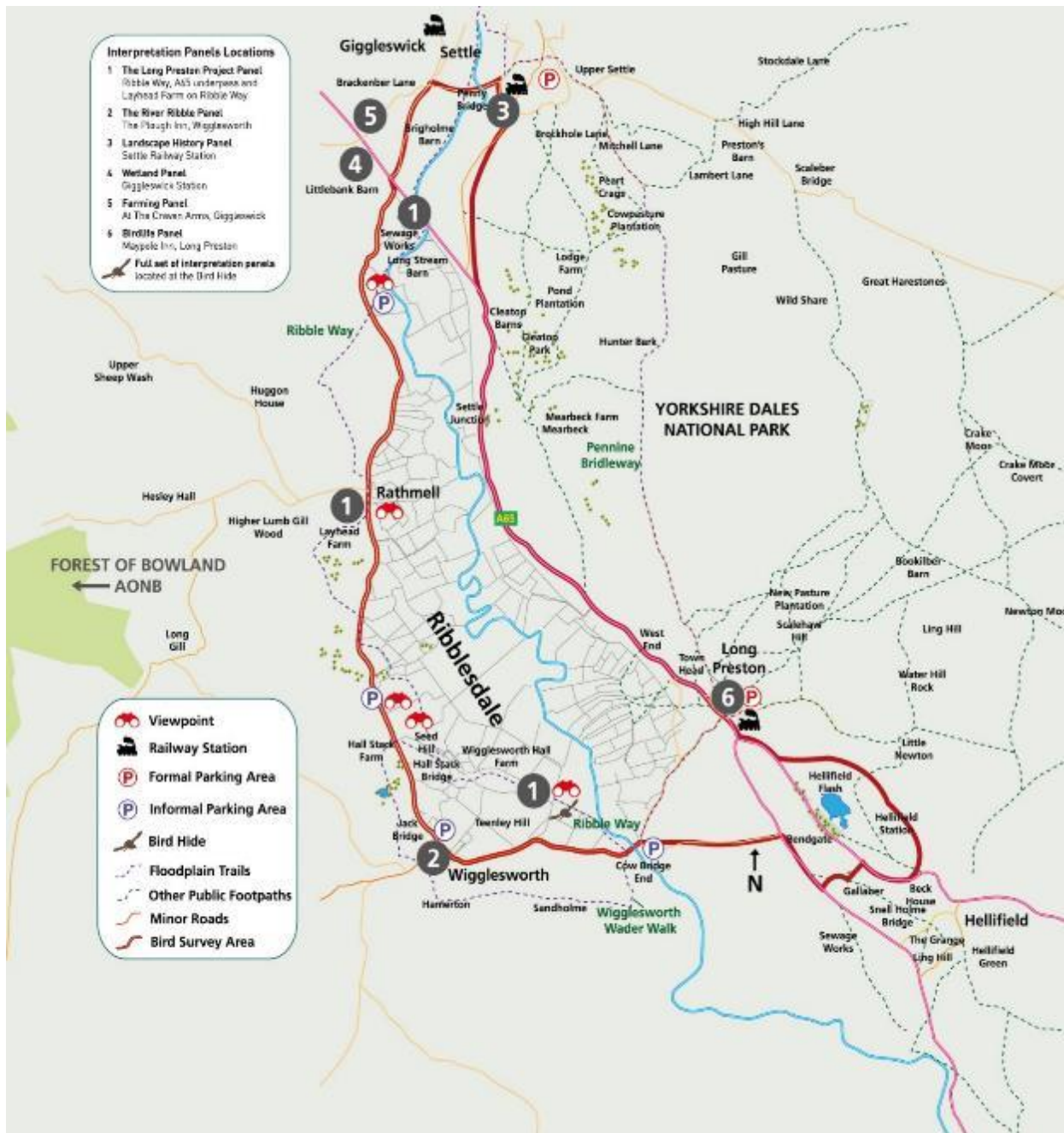
Hellifield Flash is viewable from Waterside Lane, accessed from the A65 approximately 1 km north of Hellifield. Please park sensibly on the roadside to avoid blocking any access and view from the road. The Flash can also be viewed from public footpaths but please be aware that that birds can be flushed from so it is recommended that it is viewed from the road. Visitors should be aware that water levels do fluctuate depending on rainfall and so during the summer, the Flash may dry out completely.

## **Bird Records**

If visiting the area we hope that you will take the time to submit your bird records. We would encourage all observers to enter their records on BirdTrack <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/birdtrack/about> as this will help in the production of both the local and county bird report, the latter published by the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union. Records can also be entered into the log book in the bird hide, entered on the East Lancashire Ornithologists' Club website <http://www.eastlancsornithologists.org.uk/Rep->

[Birdlist.aspx](http://Birdlist.aspx) or to the YNU North Yorkshire Bird Recorder Ian Court [ian.court@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:ian.court@mypostoffice.co.uk)

### A Map of the Long Preston Recording Area and Access Information



## 2016 Highlights

The year started off well with the high water levels covering Long Preston Deeps in 2015 remaining into January, resulting in unprecedented numbers of wildfowl being present. These totals included new record counts of 1400 Wigeon, 1600 Teal, 663 Pintail and 74 Shoveler. Numbers did rapidly disperse and by mid-month, numbers of most species returned to more expected levels. The birding was rather mundane during February and March apart from a Red Kite that flew south over Long Preston Deeps on 19th March, which was only second record in the area. At the end of the month four Avocets were present on Middle Marsh, and although only distant views were possible from the lay-by adjacent to Hollow Gill Wood, they enabled many local birds to catch up with a species that had only been recorded once before.

Only a few days later a *rossicus* race Bean Goose, a 'first' for the area, gave exceptional views from the Ribble Way between 2nd and 5th April, when it was present along with six Pink-footed Geese, varying numbers of Canada Geese and a Ruddy Shelduck. This remarkable purple patch continued with two more Avocets on Middle Marsh on 7th April; were these two of the birds that had been present at the end of March? Once again, there was a build-up of Black-tailed Godwits at Hellifield Flash during the spring providing a specular sight as many attained full breeding plumage. If this wasn't a give-away of their origin, a colour-ringed bird present from March had been ringed as a chick in north-west Iceland in 2009. A Reed Warbler present in the hedge between the bird hide and the willows on 7th May was surprisingly a first for the recording area. Spring wader passage was very disappointing with a number of hoped for species not recorded, although four Greenshank at Hellifield Flash on 21st May were a notable exception.

As ever, recording effort declined during the summer as low water levels at Long Preston Deeps and Hellifield Flash limited birding opportunities but what might have been missed during this period?

The latter half of the year was very quiet apart from an adult Yellow-legged Gull at Hellifield Flash on 22nd October; only the third record for the area. However, the birding picked up in December starting with the second record of Great White Egret that was present intermittently during most of the month, allowing all local birders to catch up with this species. As wildfowl numbers increased, ten Gadwall at Hellifield Flash on 2nd was yet another record count of wildfowl for the recording area. There were also two different Hen Harriers intermittently late in the month that, with a bit of patience, delighted a number of observers. A Water Rail heard calling opposite the bird hide on 29th December was notable even though the area of potentially suitable habitat must surely support many more birds?

A total of 118 species was recorded during the year including two new species, taking the overall total for the recording area to 206.

### **A Systematic List of the Birds of Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps**

There can be considerable movement of birds between Hellifield Flash and the Long Preston Deeps area, even on a daily basis, and so for many species the peak monthly counts derived from casual observations are included along with a summary of the monthly WeBs counts.

Where appropriate, only records of rare birds that have been accepted by the British Birds Rarity Committee or the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union have been published.

The YNU's Rarities Committee (YNURC) or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) has accepted all rare and unusual species that require a description in this Report. The sequence and nomenclature used is that detailed within the BOU's The British List (eighth edition, 2013), as described in detail within Ibis 155: 635–676. Vernacular as well as international names are now included in The British List and the former are generally used in this Report.

BOURC Category definitions as used in the Systematic List

#### **Category A Species**

Species recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950.

#### **MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* AC2**

The majority of records were on Long Preston Deeps where one or two birds were noted throughout the year, with peak counts of four during January and three in March. As usual, this species was very rarely recorded at Hellifield Flash so two pairs on 8th April was notable.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Preston	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

#### **WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* AE\***

It was poor first winter period for this species other than a party of 52 that flew north over the floodplain on 12th March before heading north east over Cleatop Wood. The following day 27 were on Hellifield Flash and 17 were on Long Preston Deeps, with another two adults at the Flash on 19th March. The only other record was of two adults and an immature on the Hollow Gill Flood on 2nd April. There were only two records in the latter half of the year with two on Long Preston Deeps on 16th October and five at Hellifield Flash on 31st December.

#### **BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* AE**

A Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus* present with six Pink-footed Geese in fields alongside the Ribble Way between the bird hide and Wigglesworth Hall on 2nd, 4th and 5th April (IRC) was the first record in the recording area. Although it appeared to arrive with a small group of Pink-footed Geese, they remained until 8th after the Bean Goose had departed.





Tundra Bean Goose and Canada Goose. IR Court

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* AE\***

It was a poor year with the only records in January from Long Preston Deeps, where there were two on 1st, 20 that flew north west on 6th and 53 heading north west on 9th. In February there were five on 3rd and 24 that flew over on 27th. The only other record was of six between 2nd and 8th April. In the latter part of the year the only records were in December when 130 flew west over Hellifield Flash on 20th, 22 were on Long Preston Deeps on 18th and 120 flew west over Long Preston Deeps on 29th.

**GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* AC2C4E\***

There were low single figure counts on Long Preston Deeps during the first half of the year with notable counts in January of 36 on 1st, 28 on 3rd February and a new high count for the area later in the month of 53 on 12th. A group of 24 were also present on 15th May. This species was relatively scarce at Hellifield flash with a peak count of ten in mid-May.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Preston	4	2	11	5	7	1	0	8	0	0	3	13

**GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* AC2E\***

The only confirmed breeding records were on Snipe Ground where two pairs attempted to nest, but other pairs may have attempted undetected elsewhere on the floodplain.

Numbers outside the breeding season remained relative stable with peak monthly counts and WeBs counts shown below.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	48	10	12	9	0	0	0	51	77	17	33	291
Long Preston	45	234	94	60	20	26	25	407	4	0	36	200

Maximum Monthly Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	420	6	30	23	-	-	-	200	440	-	212	500
Long Preston	580	280	38	26	15	-	98	193	-	-	-	-

Single Canada x Greylag hybrids were present at Hellifield Flash on 30th August and 20th December, with four on Long Preston Deeps on 23rd August.

#### **BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* ACZE\***

The only records were singles at Hellifield Flash on 30th August and 20th December.

#### **COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* A**

There were records at Hellifield from the start of the year, with an apparent turnover of birds during the spring with peak monthly counts shown below. One pair bred with two young still present on 28th June and 7th July. There were also birds present on the floodplain from the 1st January with up to 18 on a number of dates until the end of May. Although a number appeared to be paired up, there was no evidence of breeding.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	5	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Preston	0	4	9	8	22	9	9	0	0	0	0	0

Maximum Monthly Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	5		8	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Preston	12	18	7	6	18	4	4	0	0	0	0	0

#### **WIGEON *Anas penelope* AE\***

The numbers of birds at Hellifield Flash in the early months were comparable to previous years, peaking at 530 on 12th February. Unsurprisingly, numbers dropped dramatically in April from 110 on 2nd to only eight on 8th, but up to 50 were present in early May. An eclipse male on 23rd August was the first bird of the autumn with good numbers throughout the remainder of the year.



On Long Preston Deeps the high water levels remained into January resulting in large numbers of Wigeon remaining from December 2015. Although numbers dropped from the previous highest ever count of 1300 on 9th December 2015, there were still at least 960 on 1st and 900 still present on 6th, with an estimated 1400 reported on 10th January a new record count for the area. Numbers then dropped to more normal levels during the early months of the year with two males present until 10th May and one remaining until 15th May the last records in the first winter period. In the latter part of the year numbers were slow to build, with fewer than normal present by the end of the year.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	625	278	97	12	0	0	0	0	180	247	272	786
Long Preston	882	212	471	27	4	0	1	0	6	68	485	818

Maximum Monthly Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	300	530	220	110	50	0	0	1	200	200	300	150
Long Preston	1400	300	357	30	1	0	0	0	0	27	-	500

### **GADWALL *Anas strepera* AC2**

Numbers of this species continue to slowly increase, particularly at Hellifield Flash, where birds were present throughout the early part of the year up until 2nd April, when one pair remained. Following an eclipse male on 15th September, there were regular sightings until the year end with ten on 2nd December a new record count for the area.

Low single figure counts were also present on Long Preston Deeps during the year. As in 2015 a pair frequented the bird hide and sluice area from 30th March until at least 7th May.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Long Preston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0

Maximum Monthly Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	8	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	10
Long Preston	3	0	6	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### **TEAL *Anas crecca* A**

Average numbers were present at Hellifield Flash during the first half of the year with 16 still present on 26th April. Three on 23rd August were the first autumn records with numbers peaking in November.

As with a number of other duck species, high numbers remained on Long Preston Deeps with at least 400 on 9th January, with a staggering 1600 present on 10th far exceeding the

previous record total of 920 on 9th December 2009. Numbers dropped later in the month with 620 still present on 23rd and 350 on 28th.

It is likely that at least two pairs attempted to breed with single pairs below Hollow Gill on 10th and on the bird hide scrape on 15th May.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	50	17	12	5	0	0	0	39	76	285	71	75
Long Preston	465	178	281	136	3	4	26	55	109	78	246	253

Maximum Monthly Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	59	50	100	39	0	0	0	78	125	40	205	30
Long Preston	1600	21	195	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	

#### **MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* AC2C4E\***

Overall, numbers appeared to be lower than in previous years although this species is often under-recorded. Very few breeding records were received although there were two pairs present at Hellifield Flash in early May and at least one pair bred on Snipe Ground. The highest count of the year was 269 at Hellifield Flash on 21st August

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	50	17	12	5	0	0	1	269	18	68	71	114
Long Preston	224	34	55	22	18	25	22	77	37	26	142	27

Maximum Monthly Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	100	-	-	11	5	-	-	269	150	-	70	100
Long Preston	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	74	-	-	-	-

#### **PINTAIL *Anas acuta* AE**

The exceptional numbers of late winter 2015 on Long Preston Deeps not only remained but increased during the early part of the year. Following a record count of 222 on 20th December 2015 (which was over double the previous total of 108 recorded on the February WeBS count in 2014) 460 were present on 6th January increasing in only a few days to a staggering 633 on 10th. Although numbers did drop as the flood levels dropped, there were still high numbers present in February and March. Numbers in the latter half of the year returned to more average levels.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	42
Long Preston	121	97	230	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	9

Maximum Monthly Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	12	27
Long Preston	633	100	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### **SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* A**

As with several other species of wildfowl, large numbers were present on Long Preston Deeps early in the year with 74 on 3rd January a new record count, following 54 at Hellifield Flash on 2nd November 2012. Good numbers remained during the early months with several lingering into the breeding season. At Hellifield Flash two pairs and a single female remained until mid-April with one pair present until 13th May. As the male was then seen until at least 21st May, it is likely that nesting was attempted. Similarly on Long Preston Deeps, a pair was present on the bird hide scrape until 12th April with another pair on Middle Marsh up until 24th April, with a male until at least 10th May. Following nine at the Deeps on 21st August, numbers gradually increased during the autumn, peaking at 38 in November.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	32	2	16	10	0	0	0	9	2	10	0	31
Long Preston	38	16	50	3	3	0	0	2	0	4	12	3

Maximum Monthly Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	4	20	25	19	2	0	0	14	6	6	38	28
Long Preston	74	30	50	2	2	0	0	0	0	-	-	-

### **POCHARD *Aythya ferina* AE\***

The only records were all at Hellifield Flash in the first two months of the year. In January there was a pair on 3rd, four males on 13th, three males on 10th, ten including seven males and three females on 23rd, with five males and a single female on 28th. In February there were three males and a female still present on 11th, 11 on 13th and 12 on 21st.

### **TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* A**

As ever, numbers fluctuated at Hellifield Flash in the early months of the year. In January there were between two and 13 during the month with between three and 15 in February and up to 20 in March. Prolonged standing water on the floodplain resulted in a number of records on Long Preston Deeps including 13 on 9th January and 15 on 12th February. There

were relatively few records in the second winter period with eight on 9th September and peaks of ten in both November and December.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	4	8	10	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Long Preston	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

Maximum Monthly Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	13	10	20	16	0	0	0	0	8	0	10	10
Long Preston	13	15	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### **SCAUP *Aythya marila* A**

There were five records during the year with a female at Hellifield Flash on 6th January (MH) and what was presumably the same bird on floodwater in the Sour Dale Lane area on 9th January (*per* Birdguides). The remaining records were all at Hellifield Flash where there was a female on 3rd February (MH), with first-winter females present on 11th February and 12th March (IRC).

### **COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* A**

A female/immature on Middle Marsh during the early evening on 31st March was still present at 1830 hrs, with what was presumed to be a different bird at Hellifield Flash when the same observer arrived at the site at 1840 hrs (IRC). The only previous records were both from Hellifield Flash where a single was present on 5th April 2007 and five were present on 4th July 2012.

### **GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* AE\***

At Hellifield Flash there was a single on 10th and six on 23rd January. In March, four were present on 1st with two on 19th, four on 27th, two on 28th and seven on 30th. April records included four on 4th, six on 2nd (two males and four females), three on 4th and five on 8th (two males and three females). The only other records were in December with two on 4th and 20th, and 15 on 12th.

The floods on Long Preston Deeps attracted six on 1st, five on 3rd, four on 9th, 13 on 10th, six on 23rd and two on 28th January. The only other records were on the Ribble with two females on 12th and four on 21st February, and one on 10th April.

### **GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* A**

There were records of one or two birds in January, March, April, May and July. Although a pair was present in March around Cow Bridge and there was one male and two females present on 2nd May, there was no evidence of breeding.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Long Preston	0	0	1	3	4	1	0	5	0	0	1	1

### **PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* C1E\***

Large numbers of these non-native birds are introduced into the surrounding area with small numbers seen on the floodplain during the year.

### **CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* A**

There were regular records of birds in all months apart from May and June. Most records related to flyovers as most of the River Ribble is not viewable from any public rights of way or watch points, although eight were seen roosting in the dead trees by the Ribble on 13th September.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Long Preston Deepes.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Long Preston	15	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	6	1	1

Maximum Monthly Counts for Long Preston Deepes.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Long Preston	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	8	3	0	9

### **LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* A**

The number of records continues to increase year on year in line with those elsewhere in the county. All records were on Long Preston Deepes with records in the first half of the year of two on 9th April and one on 15th May. Later in the year a single was present on 5th and 6th August, and 26th November. It is likely that increased observer effort looking for its larger relative resulted in more sightings in December when one was present on 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 8th and two on 12th. At least one bird was noted on 13th, 15th, 17th, 18th, with two on 10th and further singles on 12th, 15th and 26th and 28th.

### **GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba* A**

In December one was present on the scrape in front of the bird hide (CM: JR) on 2nd, conveniently feeding next to a Little Egret. It was present intermittently on the scrape on at least 4th, 5th, 7th, 10th, 12th, 15th and 28th December often affording excellent views. It seemed to have a regular feeding circuit, flying in from the Wigglesworth direction and after feeding on the scrape, flying north up the valley. Its regular appearance enabled many local birders the opportunity to catch up with it. However, its somewhat erratic appearances meant that multiple visits were required before some observers managed to connect with it. This was the second record for the area following a flyover on 14th August 2014.





Great White Egret – Roy Clarke

### **GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* A**

Up to four birds were present on the floodplain throughout the year with occasional records at Hellifield Flash. An adult and juvenile on the floodplain on 23rd August is indicative of breeding somewhere in the surrounding area.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Long Preston	3	1	2	4	2	4	3	3	1	1	2	1

Maximum Monthly Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0
Long Preston	4	1	1	3	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	1

### **LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* A**

Singles were present at Hellifield Flash on 5th August and 31st December. There were regular sightings on the Ribble up river from the Wigglesworth Beck/River Ribble confluence with only one reported in January and up to three in February. In the latter months of the year one or two were present with four on 23rd November and three on 12th December.

### **RED KITE *Milvus milvus* AC3E\***

One drifted slowly south over the floodplain at 1300 hrs on 19th March (TH: GC). Despite the success of reintroduction projects in Yorkshire and Cumbria, it is surprising that this is only the second record within the recording area, following one that flew over the floodplain on 23rd July 2013.

### **MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* A**

There were a number of records all from the Long Preston Deeps area, with a female on 9th April and another on 14th June. A juvenile was present on at least 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th,

28th and 30th July. A 'creamcrown' was also present on 21st, 23rd, and 31st August and 8th and 11th September.

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**HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* A**

In the early part of the year a ringtail was over the floodplain on 10th January and a grey male was a fine sight as it hunted over Snipe Ground on March 30th. In December there were regular but intermittent sightings of a first calendar-year male and an adult female in the latter half of the month.

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**SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* A**

There were single birds noted in all months of the year at Long Preston Deeps and occasional records at Hellifield Flash.

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**BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* AE\***

There are a number of Buzzard territories around the edge of the recording boundary which will account for the majority of sightings, with one or two birds regularly present in the area in all months of the year.

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**WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* A**

One was heard calling from the *juncus* opposite the bird hide on 29th December.

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**MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* A**

There was only one record at Hellifield Flash of a single on 18th March. Single birds were noted on Long Preston Deeps on a number of dates with two birds at different locations on 5th May. A juvenile along the beck near the hide on 29th July and 21st August indicates that at least one pair bred in the area. An adult and juvenile were also present near Cow Bridge on 13th November. Elsewhere one to three birds were also present at Settle SW pool in late April.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Long Preston	0	0	2	2	4	0	2	3	1	1	2	1

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**COOT *Fulica atra* A**

At Hellifield Flash a single bird was present from at least 3rd January with two from 28th. In February two or three were present up until the middle of the month when numbers started to slowly increase to a peak of 15 during May. The first nest building was noted on 17th April, with at least four pairs attempting nest. As ever, when water levels dropped all the nesting attempts failed.

A small number were also present on Long Preston Deeps during the early months of the year when the area was flooded. The small roadside pool near Settle SW also attracted a single on 30th March with four present from 21st April until at least 4th May.

There were no birds reported in the second winter period.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	2	2	4	12	9	-	0	1	0	0	0	0
Long Preston	3	11	19	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

#### **AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* A**

Four were present on Middle Marsh viewed distantly from the lay-by adjacent to Hollow Gill Wood on 30th March (IRC). Two were in the same area on 7th April (IRC: RC). These represent the 3rd to 8th records for the area following two birds at Hellifield Flash briefly on 21st May 2013. Given the brevity of the 2013 birds' stay, thankfully these each stayed for a full day allowing a number of local birders to catch up with them.

#### **OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* A**

Eight at Hellifield Flash on 8th January were the first of the year with varying numbers then present up until May. The area around the roadside pool near Settle SW always attracts good numbers of passage birds with 30 on 24th February, 32 on 30th March and 44 on 7th April. There were no records at all in the latter months of the year.

During the breeding season two pairs were present at Hellifield Flash at Cow Bridge, with one pair around Settle SW pool.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	0	20	3	1	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Preston	0	6	6	12	13	8	3	0	0	0	0	0

#### **GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* A**

There was a good run of records at Hellifield Flash in the latter half of the year with nine on 22nd September, 100 on 4th, eight on 18th and 200 on 15th October. Records in November included 47 on 2nd, 20 on 11th, one on 13th and 13 on 30th. There were also 100 on 4th December.

Conversely all the records on Long Preston Deeps were in the early part of the year with eight on 3rd, 200 on 13th, 440 on 10th and 90 on 23rd January. In February there were 380 on 3rd, six on 24th and 25 on 27th. In April, eight were present on 9th.

#### **RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* A**

Another poor year with the records at Hellifield Flash comprising singles in May on 7th and 12th with 13 on 13th. The only autumn record was a single on 22nd. The only record at Long Preston Deeps was of four on 8th May.

#### **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* A**

There were surprisingly no records in early spring until a single was at Hellifield Flash on 12th May. A pair was present later in the month with display noted on a number of occasions and two adults and two juveniles were seen in mid-June. A juvenile on 1st August may have been a passage bird.

### **LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* A**

Varying numbers were seen during the year with the month maximum counts shown below. No formal survey work was undertaken during the breeding season but three pairs were present on Snipe Ground area in late April and early May at least.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	317	9	1	0	5	0	132	10	550	200	120	286
Long Preston	150	200	92	8	22	4	36	35	550	39	296	666

Maximum Monthly Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	300	100		1	1	0	95	100	730	150	350	400
Long Preston	750	350	200	5	0	0	120	110	800	250	0	2000

### **CURLEW *Numenius arquata* A**

One at Hellifield Flash on 27th February was the first of the year but there were very few other reports there or at Long Preston Deeps during the spring other than six on 21st February and a total of 22 that moved through the floodplain in small flocks on 12th March. Up to 15 were present on several days in May. No formal survey work was undertaken but one pair bred on Snipe Ground.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Preston	0	6	12	23	7	3	0	3	0	0	0	0

### **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* A**

One of the highlights of recent years has been the build-up of Icelandic Black-tailed Godwits at Hellifield Flash in late winter and early spring. This year the first two arrived on 3rd February followed by almost daily increases with five on 11th, seven on 12th, eight on 13th, ten on 19th, 16 on 24th and 18 on 27th. Numbers continued to increase during March with 30 on 12th, 66 on 19th, 70 on 26th, 42 on 28th, 57 on 27th and 30th and 15 on 31st. They were a spectacular sight in April as many attained full breeding plumage with 32 on 2nd, 61 on 7th, 77 on 8th, 76 on 10th and 84 on 9th. The latter was the highest count in the area, exceeding the 65 present on 26th April 1970. What were presumed to be part of the same group were seen feeding on Middle Marsh on Long Preston Deeps with nine on 31st March and one on 7th and 8th April.



Black-tailed Godwit – Roy Clarke

A colour-ringed bird was present on at least 19th, 25th and 30th March, and 2nd and 8th April. On many occasions the birds were either asleep in a single flock or feeding in the water with the legs not visible, so it is likely that the bird was present between these dates. The bird was ringed on the tibia on both legs with a yellow Darvic above a white Darvic on the left, and a red Darvic above red flag on the right. It had been ringed as a pullus (chick) on 1st September 2009 at A-Barðastrandarsýsla, Reykhólar in north west Iceland. It has subsequently been seen at a number of locations detailed as follows.



Date	Location
1.7.2009	Iceland,NW Ice,A-Barðastrandarsýsla,Reykhlólar,
3.9.2009	France,NW Fra,Finistère,Plouénan,Lanneunet
7.9.2009	France,NW Fra,Finistère,Goulven,
19.9.2009	France,NW Fra,Finistère,Le Curnic,Etang
17.10.2009	France,NW Fra,Finistère,Le Curnic,Etang
18.10.2009	France,NW Fra,Finistère,Le Curnic,Etang
5.3.2010	France,NW Fra,Finistère,Goulven,
2.6.2010	England,NW Eng,Lancashire,River Ribble,Newton Marsh
10.9.2011	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
19.9.2011	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
9.2.2012	England,NW Eng,Lancashire,Fleetwood,Preesal park
11.9.2012	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
13.9.2012	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
6.11.2012	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
2.12.2012	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
20.3.2013	England,NW Eng,Lancashire,Morecambe,Sunderland Point
26.4.2013	England,NW Eng,Lancashire,Morecambe Bay,Leighton Moss
16.9.2013	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
9.10.2014	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
21.12.2014	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
28.3.2015	England,NW Eng,Lancashire,Morecambe Bay,Leighton Moss
31.3.2015	England,NW Eng,Lancashire,Morecambe Bay,Leighton Moss
10.10.2015	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
16.10.2015	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
26.10.2015	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
18.3.2016	England,C Eng,North Yorkshire,Hellifield,Hellifield Flash
19.3.2016	England,C Eng,North Yorkshire,Hellifield,Hellifield Flash
19.3.2016	England,C Eng,North Yorkshire,Hellifield,Hellifield Flash
5.9.2016	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
16.9.2016	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
19.9.2016	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
25.9.2016	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
25.9.2016	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
1.10.2016	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
7.11.2016	England,NW Eng,Merseyside,Ribble Estuary,Marshside RSPB reserve
12.11.2016	England,NW Eng,Lancashire,Ribble estuary,Marshside, Crossens Marsh

### **RUFF *Calidris pugnax* A**

A very disappointing year; this species only just made it onto the year list with one with the Lapwing flock Long Preston Deeps on 31st December (BF).

### **DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* A**

It was another poor year with singles at Hellifield Flash on 27th February, 26th April and a juvenile on 29th and 31st July. There were also five on 19th August and three on 13th November. The only records on Long Preston Deeps were three on 18th September.

### **COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* A**

The first of the year at Hellifield Flash was on 26th April, with two on 7th May and at least one bird present on 13th, 15th, 17th and 27th suggesting that breeding may have been attempted. The only other sightings were singles on 14th June and 21st August.

Along the Ribble a single was seen on 4th April with one to three birds present on many dates in May but, surprisingly, there were no further records during the year.

### **GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* A**

At least one bird wintered on Long Preston Deeps with records on 3rd, 9th and 16th January. There were further sightings on 12th, 27th and 28th February with the confluence of Wigglesworth Beck and the Ribble and the scrape in front of the bird hide the favoured areas.

In the latter half of the year there were two on 24th July followed by one on 18th September and 26th November. There were regular sightings in December with one between Cow Bridge and the bird hide on 12th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 28th and 29th. What was presumably the same bird was on floodwater at Goosemire on 18th December. The only record at Hellifield Flash was a single on 19th August.

### **GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* A**

With only single records in the last few years, three records in May was a slight improvement. One was on the shingle bed above Cow Bridge on 21st May before flying south down the valley and at Hellifield Flash, two were present on 19th with four on 21st.

### **REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* A**

At Hellifield Flash a single was present on 12th March with four between the 19th and 31st. A pair remained during April up until 10th May and with only a single later in May, it is likely that they attempted to nest. In addition, five were present on 15th May. One on 20th December was an unusual winter record.

On the floodplain there was a displaying bird in the Cow Bridge area in early May and four at Settle SW pool on 21st April.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Preston	0	0	4	2	5	12	0	0	0	0	0	1

### **JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus* A**

This species is almost certainly a regular winter visitor but the only record was a single flushed on Long Preston Deeps on 16th October during the WeBs count.

### **SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* A**

The records reported are certainly a significant under-estimate of the number of birds that are likely to winter on the floodplain, with 172 on the September WeBs count indicating just how good this area is for this species. The peak monthly counts are shown below, with 66 at Hellifield Flash on 30th November the highest number recorded other than on WeBs counts. Four drumming over Snipe Ground in late April and early May were the only reports of probable breeding birds.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	34	1	1
Long Preston	12	17	40	41	7	6	17	8	172	50	27	14

Maximum Monthly Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	8	29	15	32	0	0	0	7	58	6	66	32
Long Preston	1	6	8	20	2	1	0	1	10	0	0	0

### **BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* A**

This species was present throughout the year but was generally under-recorded with at least 1000 on floods on Long Preston Deeps in early January the only notable count. The WeBs counts give the most reliable indication of status during the year.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	5	0	5	0	40
Long Preston	13	44	129	8	5	1	7	4	2	0	128	12

### **COMMON GULL *Larus canus* A**

Present in varying numbers during all months of the year apart from July. Single second calendar-year birds were present on 21st May and 29th July, both at Hellifield.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	0	3	0	90
Long Preston	15	19	82	0	0	0	0	10	0	6	1	23

### **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* A**

The first of the year was an adult at Hellifield Flash on 12th February with numbers gradually increasing during the month and into March. The first juvenile was noted on 29th July with a flock of 125 on 5th August containing many juveniles, indicating that wherever the birds nested, it had been a successful breeding season. The last record of the year was an adult on 30th November.

At Long Preston Deeps the first sightings were of three adults on 27th February below Hollow Gill followed by varying numbers during the summer and autumn. Outside this period singles were reported on 15th and 26th December.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	0	0	0	1
Long Preston	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	00	0	00	0

Maximum Monthly Counts for Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hellifield Flash	0	1	4	15	55	11	P	125	3	0	1	0
Long Preston	0	3	10	25	30	P	P	100	0	0	0	0

### **HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* A**

This is a relatively scarce species in the area although there were singles at Hellifield Flash on 30th March, 28th June and 16th October. On Long Preston Deeps an adult and sub-adult flew north over Cow Bridge on 12th with one adult on 30th March. Floodwaters in December attracted six on 4th and singles on 12th and 26th.

### **YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis* A**

An adult at Hellifield Flash on 22nd October (RC) was the third record for the area. The only previous records were of a second calendar-year bird on 3rd July 2008 and first calendar-year bird on 13th August 2015, both at Hellifield Flash.

### **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* A**

As usual there were very few records, primarily in the first winter period including one at Hellifield Flash on 3rd January, the only site record of the year. At Long Preston Deeps singles were noted on 3rd, 6th, 10th and 23rd January, 30th March and 15th December.

### **FERAL PIGEON/ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* AC4E\***

No notable records were received.

### **STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* A**

One or two birds were present along Sour Dale Lane, including a pair displaying on 9th April. The only other record of note was four in the Hollow Gill area on 4th May.

### **WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* A**

No notable records were received.

### **COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* A**

Other than two at Hellifield Flash on 3rd January, no notable records were received.

### **BARN OWL *Tyto alba* AE\***

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There were only two records: one carrying prey over Hellifield Flash on 14th June at dusk indicative of a local breeding pair and one hunting near Cow Bridge on 26th December.

### **LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* C1**

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One along Sour Dale Lane on 16th October was the only record.

### **SWIFT *Apus apus* A**

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Very few records were received, with five over the floodplain on 29th July the highest number reported.

### **KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* A**

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All records were from the Long Preston Deeps area with one providing excellent views as it sat on the bridge opposite the bird hide on 3rd January. There were further sightings along Wigglesworth Beck on 9th January, 3rd March and near Cow Bridge on 30th March. One was seen near the bird hide on 1st and 5th April, with sightings along the Ribble on 28th July, 6th August and 18th September. The only record of two birds was on 1st October.

### **GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* A**

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One was heard calling repeatedly from trees opposite the bird hide on the 15th May. Although present in the surrounding area this is a rare species within the recording area, with the last sighting near Cow Bridge on 1st January 2008.

### **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* A**

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A drumming bird was present on Hollow Gill Wood on at least 12th February and several birds were seen flying over the floodplain on several dates.

### **KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* A**

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One at Hellifield Flash was the only site record whilst on Long Preston Deeps, one, occasionally two birds were seen in all months of the year.

### **MERLIN *Falco columbarius* A**

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Most records are in late spring when birds are presumably moving back to breeding areas. This year was no exception with a female seen on the floodplain below Hollow Gill Wood on 27th February, a male in the same area on 2nd April and what may have been the same bird over Snipe Ground on 5th April.

### **PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* AE**

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The only record at Hellifield Flash was a juvenile on 19th August. At Long Preston Deeps singles were seen on 12th and 19th February, an adult on 27th, and further un-aged birds on 7th August and 12th, 17th, 26th and 28th December.

### **MAGPIE *Pica pica* A**

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No notable records were received.



**JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* A**

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No notable records were received.

**ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* A**

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Bred as usual at Wigglesworth Hall but there were no details of the number of nesting pairs. The only record on note was 60 on Long Preston Ings on 12th February.

**CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* A**

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No notable records were received.

**RAVEN *Corvus corax* A**

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There were regular sightings of single birds in the first three months of the year, primarily of birds flying over the floodplain, although three were seen on 12th March. There were no further records until November when there were again a number of sightings of flyovers until the year end.

**BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* A**

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The highest counts were ten on the feeders at the bird hide and the same number in Hollow Gill Wood on 13th November.

**GREAT TIT *Parus major* A**

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One or two were present between Cow Bridge and the bird hide in most months of the year and also at Hollow Gill Wood.

**COAL TIT *Periparus ater* A**

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One seen at the feeders near the bird hide on 28th January was the only record away from Hollow Gill Wood.

**SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* A**

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Very few records were received with only one on Long Preston Deeps in March and two in April. Singing males were present near Wigglesworth Hall and over Snipe Ground during April and May.

Monthly WeBs Counts for Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Long Preston	0	2	16	10	8	7	4	6	17	10	9	0

**SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* A**

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The first of the year was at Hellifield Flash on 27th March, with two present there and near the bird hide at Long Preston Deeps on 2nd April. There were regular sightings of up to 20 birds at both sites during spring and summer with 50 hawking over Middle Marsh during poor weather on 8th April the highest count received. The last record of the year was a single over Long Preston Deeps on 31st August.

### **SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* AE**

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A single over Long Preston Deeps on 5th April was followed by two on 8th. Small numbers were reported during the summer months at Hellifield Flash and Long Preston Deeps. There was some evidence of passage with a total 50 heading south down the valley on 12th August, 80 were feeding and perched on telephone wires near Long Preston on 24th September and

227 flew south over the floodplain in four and a half hours on 1st October. The last record of the year was a single over the flood plain on 22nd October when one was also at Hellifield Flash.

### **HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* A**

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No notable records were received.

### **LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* A**

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There were up to three birds occasionally in the hedge along Wigglesworth Beck in the early months of the year with nine on 3rd January. In the latter half of the year peak counts were all from the same area with seven on 13th November and 11 on 12th December.

### **CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* A**

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All the records were from Long Preston Deeps where a single was present in the hedge behind the bird hide on 30th and 31st March and again on 4th April, with a singing male on 15th May.

### **WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* A**

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One was singing near the bird hide on 12th April with one to three birds present in this area until the end of the month, including two singing males. Seven juveniles were in the hedge alongside Wigglesworth Beck on 29th July and in August, two were present on 12th and one on 19th. Later in the month there were two juveniles along Sour Dale Lane on 21st August. The last record was of three on 21st September near the bird hide.

### **BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* A**

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A single male at Hollow Gill on 4th May was the only record received.

### **WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* A**

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A singing male was at Hellifield Flash on 21st May

### **SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* A**

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The only records were from Snipe Ground where there was a single singing male on 1st May, with numbers increasing to a maximum of eight during the month.

### **REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* A**

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One was present in the hedge between the bird hide and the willows on 7th May, occasionally in sub-song (IRC). Remarkably, this is the first record for the area.



Reed Warbler IR Court

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**NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea* A**

At least one was regularly heard calling in Hollow Gill Wood throughout the year. Away from that site the only record was one near the bird hide on 30th March.

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**TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* A**

Singles seen in the hedge along Wigglesworth Beck on 4th and 12th December.

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**WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* A**

No notable records were received.

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**STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* A**

Small numbers were present throughout the year with peak counts at Hellifield Flash of 200 on 6th and 9th January and again on 4th December. At Long Preston Deeps there were 600 on 3rd and 12th January, with notable counts later in the year in November of 200 on 11th, 1000 feeding alongside Ribble Way on 25th and 250 on 30th. Up to 300 were present in December.

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**DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* A**

There were two along Wigglesworth Beck on 28th January, a single on 12th February, two on 13th November and singles on 18th and 29th December. The only other record was one along Long Preston Beck on 23rd July.

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**BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* A**

There were records of one or two birds at a number of sites with a maximum count of five at Cow Bridge on 21st May.

### **FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* A**

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Generally underreported in both winter periods with the 60 on 27th March the only notable record in the first winter period at Hellifield Flash. At Long Preston Deeps up to 110 were present in March and later in the year there were up to 500 in November and 200 in December.

### **SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* A**

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Two singing males at both Hellifield Flash and in the Cow Bridge area in April were the only records of note.

### **REDWING *Turdus iliacus* A**

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There were very few records received with the up to ten in December in the Cow Bridge area the only double figure count.

### **MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* A**

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A pair bred near Cow Bridge and a singing male was on territory in Hollow Gill Wood. The highest count of the year was 11 along Sour Dale Lane on 21st August.

### **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* A**

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One near the bird hide on 1st and 7th August and an adult and recently fledged juvenile along Sour Dales Lane on 21st August were the only records.

### **ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* A**

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No notable records were received.

### **REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* A**

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All records were in the Long Preston Deeps area. A singing male was present near the bird hide on 17th April but there were no further records until July when one was present on 17th, 23rd and 25th, with two juveniles on 27th (one in the hedge and one in willows near the main sluice). One remained until 31st. In August an adult was near bird hide on 1st, with a pair and two juveniles in the hedge near Cow Bridge on 2nd, with two birds being seen up until the 12th August at least.

### **WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* A**

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Once a common passage migrant through the area, this is now a very scarce species with the only records in August. A juvenile was in the Cow Bridge area on 2nd, a female on Snipe Ground opposite the hide on 12th, one on 19th and a female on 21st.

### **STONECHAT *Saxicola rubicola* A**

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This species also remains scarce in the recording area so a male and two females in front of the bird hide on 1st October, and one on 19th on the fence in front of bird hide were notable.

### **WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* A**

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A male at Hellifield Flash on 30th March was the only site record. On Long Preston Deeps three males and two females were present in fields near Wigglesworth Hall on 5th April with

a male in the same area on 9th. All the other records were in the Cow Bridge area with one on 20th, a female on 24th and two on 28th April, with three on 4th and one on 5th May.

#### **DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* A**

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No notable records were received.

#### **HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* A**

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Up to five were present in the Cow Bridge area during the year although there were more reported just outside the recording area in fields just to the south. There were also one or two on the edge of the recording area at Hollow Gill with good numbers present just out of the area in Rathmell.

#### **TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* A**

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There was a welcome increase in sightings this year including a number of confirmed breeding pairs. At Hellifield Flash a flock of 15 on 31st July included at least two broods being fed by adults which was indicative of local breeding. At least 12 were present in the same area on 13th September and there were single flyovers on 30th November and 19th December.

Near Cow Bridge there were at least two birds in the hedge near the car parking area on 30th March that were present until at least mid-May, with three on 21st. There were five on 29th July and four on 7th August which suggests at least one pair bred in the area.

#### **GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* A**

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A territorial pair present in the Cow Bridge area presumably accounted for most of the sightings between there and up to Wigglesworth Beck. There was no evidence of breeding.

#### **PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* A**

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There was very little spring passage at Hellifield Flash with six on 2nd April the highest count. Post-breeding numbers were also disappointing with 16 on 19th August the peak count. It was similar on the floodplain with 14 below Hollow Gill on 30th March and a pitiful four on 25th September the highest counts in spring and autumn respectively. The only other notable count was 13 near Cow Bridge on 18th December. The only pairs reported during the breeding season were near Cow Bridge in April and in the Sour Dale Lane area in May.

#### **MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* A**

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Small numbers were present in all months of the year at Long Preston Deeps with singing males reported at several sites on the floodplain. Most counts related to single or low double figure numbers apart from 150 on the southern floodplain on 30th March and 80 that were flushed by a Merlin when it flew over the fields below Hollow Gill on 2nd April.

Monthly counts for Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Long Preston	3	1	8	16	9	13	4	6	17	10	9	0

### **BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* A**

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A male was present in the hedge behind the bird hide on 12th April.

### **CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* A**

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One to three birds were present between Cow Bridge and the main sluice in all months of the year, including at least one singing male in April and May. There were no other records.

### **BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* A**

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The only records were at Hellifield Flash where there were two near the railway station on 25th November and a female near the Flash on 19th December.

### **GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* A**

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There were between three and nine regularly near the bird hide in the first and second winter periods with a peak count of 30 on 28th January. Four juveniles near Cow Bridge on 29th July were indicative of local breeding.

### **LINNET *Linaria cannabina* A**

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One or two were reported in the first few months of the year on Long Preston Deeps. The re-seeded pasture adjacent to Hollow Gill attracted 12 on 17th April, increasing to a remarkable 130 on 24th. Possible breeding records included a singing male at Hellifield Flash between 17th April and 31st July and near Cow Bridge, where there was a singing male in late April, four birds on 26th and a pair on 29th July and 2nd August. There was also a singing male around Hollow Gill Wood on 4th May. Post-breeding numbers at Hellifield Flash were very disappointing, with only 20 on 13th and two on 25th September.

### **LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret* A**

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The only record at Hellifield Flash was a single on 11th February. At Long Preston Deeps there was a singing male in display flight over Hollow Gill Wood on 31st March, two were on the feeders at the bird hide on 11th April with one the following day. The only other records were one on 30th November and three on 15th December.

### **GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* A**

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There were records in all months of the year predominantly on the feeders near the bird hide with up to eight in late April. Notable counts later in the year were 15 on 23rd August, 40 on 19th and 15 on 10th December. Elsewhere on the floodplain the highest count was 30 along Sour Dale Lane on 21st August.

### **SISKIN *Spinus spinus* A**

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Three flew along hedge near bird hide on 3rd January, was one near Hollow Gill Wood on 8th and 17th April and four flew over Hellifield Flash on 2nd November.

### **REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* A**

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There were records in all months of the year on Long Preston Deeps where at least three singing males were present.

## Monthly WeBs Counts for Long Preston Deeps.

Site/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Long Preston	1	2	6	5	9	3	8	4	2	2	4	3

### Category E

This category comprises those species that have been recorded as introductions, human-assisted transportees or escapees from captivity, whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. Species in Category E that have bred in the wild in Britain are designated as E\*.

#### **Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* E**

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One at Hellifield Flash on 31st December was in a flock of Canada Geese.

#### **Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* AC2E\***

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A blue phase bird was present at Hellifield Flash on 20th December (M Holmes).

#### **Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* BDE\***

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One flew in from the south and dropped onto Middle Marsh on 30th March. It was still present on 2nd April in a mixed flock of six Pink-footed Geese, a Tundra Bean Goose and Canada Geese. One was also present on 12th December.

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