

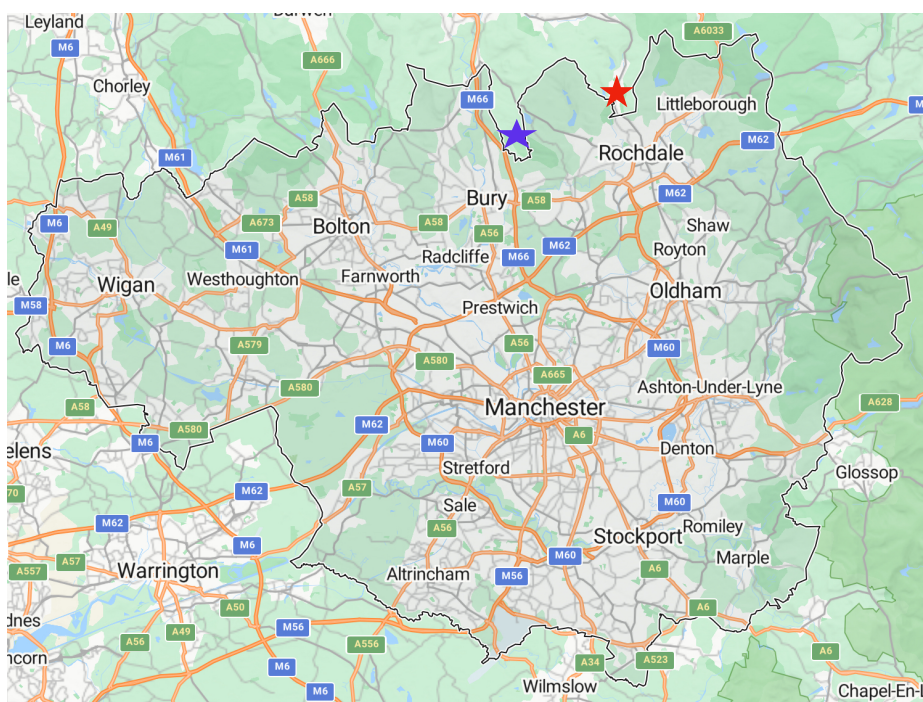
2026 New Years Day Birding Challenge

Another year, and yet another list!

In what is now becoming an annual event you are invited to kickstart your 2026 bird list by joining the RFNS birding challenge on Thursday 1st January 2026. This year there are two options.

1) Greater Manchester

The objective for the day is to record as many bird species as you can within Greater Manchester* between the hours of dawn to dusk. It is up to you how far you travel and whether you walk, drive, or use any other method of transport. You can enter either as an individual or as a team (max 4) and can go to locations anywhere within Greater Manchester (see the map below).



★ **Healey Dell** - is also included although it isn't all in Greater Manchester

★ **A680** - the area to the **south west** of the A680 between Ashworth Reservoir and Edenfield can also be included as the boundary here is complex.

* Greater Manchester boundary map - see notes for additional areas.

2) Rochdale Metropolitan Borough

This option limits the area available to within the boundaries of Rochdale Borough and all of Healey Dell Nature Reserve. See map of boundary overleaf.

Whichever option you choose you must be at the designated meeting point, The Baum in Rochdale, at the finish time of 5.00pm so plan your route carefully!

If you think you would like to take part then please express your interest by emailing me on rfnspublicity@gmail.com (please put birding challenge in the subject) and I will get back to you to confirm the finalised details nearer the time.

Pam Crofts

