

7th October 2025

ECOW Letter Statement – Hopwood Hall College

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1. Collington Winter Environmental Ltd (CWE) were commissioned by Seven Architecture to complete a Nesting Bird letter statement for the site, Hopwood Hall College Rochdale Rd, Middleton, Manchester M24 6XH. This letter has been prepared to detail the necessary timings and exemptions for the checks; the site relates to the chapel which is found on the school grounds (Figure 1).



Figure 1 – Site Area

- 1.1.2. The author of this letter is Michael Boucher, Ecological Project Manager at Collington winter and has been overseen by Katie Brewer BSc (Hons), Senior Ecologist at Collington Winter. Katie is experienced managing schemes and has produced many ecological reports to inform planning management plans.
- 1.1.3. To prepare the site for the larger upcoming works, power needs to be supplied to the building by running a cable around the northern aspect, the ground also needs to be cleared so shipping containers and temporary cabins can be put in place. This would involve the strimming of the immediate area around the chapel and therefore CWE were asked to complete nesting bird checks before the proposed strimming works, in compliance with the RAMs outlined in the 2024 PEA.

METHODS

- 1.1.4. To mitigate against potential harm caused to bird species, a nesting bird check was completed on 17th September 2025. The nesting bird check was undertaken in the morning before the works to ensure that any new nests or nests in construction were identified and protected.

RESULTS

- 1.1.5. No nests were observed within the ground vegetation however works were delayed due to the presence of invasive nonnative species such as Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*). Therefore, no vegetation removal took place on the surveyed date.

MITIGATION RECCOMENDATIONS

- 1.1.6. Due to delays in the works, strimming of the vegetation surrounding the chapel is still required. If vegetation removal is scheduled during the nesting bird season (March to August, inclusive), a nesting bird check must be conducted prior to any works. However, if the works are to take place outside of the nesting bird season (September to February, inclusive), no nesting bird check is required for the vegetation.
- 1.1.7. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was completed by CWE at the site in January 2024, which identified evidence

of nesting pigeons (*Columba palumbus*) within the chapel building. As this species is known to nest year-round, nesting bird checks are required prior to any works on the building, regardless of the time of year. These checks should be conducted no more than 48 hours before works commence. If active nests are found, they must be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

Yours sincerely,

For and on behalf of Collington Winter Environmental Ltd.

Michael Boucher
Ecological Project Manager

Katie Brewer
Senior Ecologist



Bolton Office: 01204 263034
Dumfries Office: 01387 378208
www.collingtonwinter.co.uk

Registered Address: Collington Winter Environmental Ltd, 23 Bark Street East, BOLTON, BL1 2BQ