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17th March 2024

Land at Green Hill Road, Middleton Junction: Nesting Bird Survey

Dear Mr Walker

On 11th March 2024 a nesting bird survey was undertaken by myself, Verity Webster BSc MSc CEng MCIEEM, at the above site to determine the presence or absence of nesting birds and the potential impacts of the proposed vegetation and tree clearance upon nesting birds.

Legislation

Wild birds, their nests, eggs and young are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended).

Site Survey

The site visit was undertaken between 10:00 and 11:00. The weather at the time of survey was good; 9°C, 100% cloud, wind 6mph northeast and dry.

During the survey the tree and surrounding vegetation inspected from the ground to look for bird nests and signs of bird nesting activity.

The vegetation on site comprises rough grassland, tall ruderal vegetation, and bramble with immature trees including ash and hawthorn.



The survey site



The survey site

Survey findings

Birds recorded on site or passing through the site comprised: greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*), house sparrow (*Passer domestica*) and magpie (*Pica pica*).

A single, disused nest was found on a tree adjacent to the southeast of the site.

A magpie was recorded constructing a nest (partially) built in a tree on the southwest boundary. Activity in the tree was minimal. A pair of magpie were observed regularly to the southeast of the site during the survey.



The partially constructed nest

Subsequent monitoring (14th March) of the partially constructed nest indicated no additional building. It is considered that the nest is likely abandoned.

No evidence of birds nesting, or constructing nests in any other vegetation was found during the survey.

Mitigation:

The proposed vegetation works are unlikely to result in the disturbance of nesting birds.

It is recommended that works commence immediately. If works are delayed for more than 7 days, an additional nesting bird survey may be required to check that birds have not started nesting in the interim.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Verity Webster'.

Verity Webster BSc MSc CEcol CMIEEM

Director and Principal Ecologist