

23rd August 2022

Our Ref: 9542.001
Your Ref: None provided

Cameron Campbell is dealing with this matter
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Willmott Dixon Construction Limited
Hollinwood Business Centre
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For the Attention of: Darren Siddall

Dear Darren,

RE: OLDHAM ROAD, ROCHDALE (NEIGHBOURHOOD SITE) – NESTING BIRD CHECK

A nesting bird check was undertaken at a site called Neighbourhood, off Oldham Road in Rochdale (central grid reference SD 89972 12963) by TEP ecologist Cameron Campbell on 19th August 2022. The survey was requested to discharge a planning condition for proposed enabling works on the site (Rochdale Borough Council Planning Ref: 22/00336/FUL).

Condition 4 of the planning consent states:

“No clearance of trees and shrubs shall take place during the bird nesting season (March to September, inclusive) unless a suitably qualified ecologist has surveyed to determine the presence or absence nesting birds prior to any vegetation works or clearance, and a Report of that survey has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. If any bird nests are present a method statement that sets how the nest is to be protected until young have fledged shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The method statement shall be implemented as approved.”

The purpose of the visit was to ascertain whether any active bird nests were present within the site, that may be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed enabling works.

It is understood all vegetation currently present on site is due to be cleared as part of the enabling works. Given the abundance of vegetation on site, the vegetation was split into several survey blocks. Each block of vegetation was visually searched for nests and watched for a period of between 15 and 30 minutes to observe any indication of nesting / breeding behaviour, such as birds carrying food, nesting material or faecal sacs.

No nests or evidence of nesting birds were found during the site visit, therefore there are currently no implications for the proposals with regard to nesting birds.

It is understood the enabling works are scheduled to commence in early September. As such, a further nesting bird check should be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist no more than 24 hours in advance of vegetation clearance works. If nesting birds are found, an



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appropriate exclusion zone will need to be set up around any active nests until the young have fledged. The size of the exclusion zone will depend on the species nesting.

Storing any cleared vegetation in brash piles must be avoided as this could attract nesting birds. If cleared vegetation needs to remain on site for a period of time before removal from site, the vegetation must instead be spread out close to the ground.

Please note three trees on site have been assessed by TEP to have low bat roost habitat suitability (listed as T7, T8 and T31 in TEP Report 9542.01.001, August 2022). In addition to a pre-commencement nesting bird check, these trees should be aerially inspected under supervision of a licenced bat ecologist prior to felling in line with Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2016).

T15 has been assessed as having moderate bat roost habitat suitability and therefore must not be felled or pruned until an aerial inspection by a licenced bat ecologist is undertaken to determine the presence of bats and need for nocturnal surveys.

If any potential roost features (PRFs) are confirmed or any PRFs with higher levels of suitability for roosting bats are noted during the aerial inspections, nocturnal surveys would then be required to ensure bat roosts are not impacted by removal. If nocturnal surveys are recommended, please be aware these surveys are seasonally constrained and can only be undertaken between May and September inclusive.

Furthermore, during the survey several stands of the invasive non-native species Japanese rose *Rosa rugosa* and a variety of cotoneaster species (listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) were identified on site. The recommendations of the ecological assessment (TEP Report 8435.001, October 2020) must be followed during the enabling works to ensure an offence is not committed in relation to the spread of invasive non-native species on site.

Should you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Cameron Campbell
Ecologist
TEP