

Record of Action - ECoW Form.

Project Name:		Rochdale Town Hall	
Location:		The Slopes	
Licence Number		CL18: 2015-16233-CLS-CLS	
Licence Holder		Anthony Nickson	
Accredited agent: Ecologist:		Bruce Shortland	
Date of Action		15/03/2022	
Name & Contact Details of Supervising Agent undertaking Action		Wright Landscapes Arb Team	
Weather & temperature during activity:		TEMP 7-13.5 °C, 1/8 cloud, SW wind, Beaufort 1.	
Personnel on Site:		Ben Stobert, Alex Gibson, and Chris Allen	
Time onsite:	08:50	Time offsite	16:10

Task Undertaken: (for example supervision of pre-works vegetation strip, destructive search, bucket check or fence line maintenance).

Ecologist was brought in to supervise clearance of remaining moderate prf risk trees on site. Ecologist arrived on site to find team processing previously felled trees. PRF trees to be felled were inspected from the ground for nesting birds and for behaviour indicating nesting. Tree and bush work can usually be undertaken without survey between September and Mid-February/March, when nesting birds aren't present.

Nesting activity was noted in 2 no. trees which were planned to be felled. One tree from A1G2 and tree A4T4. These trees have been marked to be retained (ref. photographs 6 and 8) and identified to Emma Robinson (RDA) and site personnel.

The following species of bird activity within area were noted with signs of nesting birds, species info sourced from BTO (2011):

Carion Crow – egg laying from mid-March, typically in high forks or lateral branches

Black bird – egg laying from early March, in forks of trees, often against trunks, or in creepers (honeysuckle or ivy), typically below 4m, but recorded 12+m in some areas. Will nest in piled brash. Early season nests are often in ivy cover

Robin, lays eggs from late-February, highly variable nest locations, typically below 2m and rarely above 3m, especially found in dense vegetation such as ivy.

Greenfinch lays eggs mid-March, usually 2-4m height, inside leaf canopy either in fork or against trunk

Goldfinch- Lay eggs April, typically 1.5-15m in outmost fork of branch.

Woodpigeon – can lay eggs from late February, typically 3-5m, up to 25m height. Nest found on spreading bough or close to the trunk, often in dense climbers such as ivy early in the season. (fledge 35 days from laying).

All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is thus an offence, with certain exceptions (see Exceptions), to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird.
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- Have in one's possession or control any wild bird, dead or alive, or any part of a wild bird, which has been taken in contravention of the Act or the Protection of Birds Act 1954. Have in one's possession or control any egg or part of an egg which has been taken in contravention of the Act or the Protection of Birds Act 1954.
- Use traps or similar items to kill, injure or take wild birds.
- Have in one's possession or control any bird of a species occurring on Schedule 4 of the Act unless registered, and in most cases ringed, in accordance with the Secretary of State's regulations (see Schedules).
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

BTO, 2011 – Ferguson-Lees, J. Castell, R & Leech, D. A Field guide to Monitoring and nesting birds.

Details of any health and safety issues: (for example trip or fall hazards).

Continued risk of sharps and other drug paraphernalia, condoms and other human waste across site. Slips trips and falls on paving slabs and embankment. Deep mud on embankment. Public entering the working area 15.00.

Details of any delays or disruption: (for example restrictions on site access, missing or stolen equipment).

Chris left site for an hour to get a longer rope as one delivered was 50m not 100m. During this time we worked on other trees.

Details of any further actions required: (for example fencing repairs, broken or missing equipment or vegetation management).

Vegetation clearance team should consider carrying out and record nesting bird checks on a daily basis for the remainder of the time on site (as I would expect they normally would at this time of the year).

Further nesting bird checks to be completed on two Moderate PRF trees across site prior to felling.

Any other comments including detail of sketches or photographs taken:



Photograph 1: Working area at beginning of day 15/03/2022.



Photograph 2: Felled timber being processed.



Photograph 3: View east across the site from the western side.



Photograph 4: High risk for nesting birds, especially robin. Trees remaining for felling on the slopes 15:57pm.



Photograph 5: Nesting activity starting on boundary tree



Photograph 6: Nesting bird tree marked (tree within group A1G2)



Photograph 7: Retained tree on eastern site boundary, and felled moderate prf tree.



Photograph 8: Tree (A4T4) where nesting likely marked up following observations of frequent visits by three species of bird indicating use.