

Your Ref: 21/01098/FUL
Our Ref: SHF.349.013.EC.R.004

Date: 13th July 2023
Email: chris.schofield@enzygo.com

Alex Inglis
Arlington Energy Ltd
70 Jermyn Street
London
SW1Y 6NY

By Email: ainglis@arlingtonenergy.co.uk

Dear Alex,

RE: Nesting Bird Check 12th July 2023 – Condition 9 Royle Barn Road, Rochdale

Further to recent correspondence, and your request for an Ecologist to attend to conduct a nesting bird check, please find enclosed details of the survey undertaken, the survey results and guidance.

Background

In September 2021, planning was granted subject to conditions for “Construction of 40MW energy storage facility” (planning reference 21/01098/FUL) at the site Royle Barn Road, Rochdale OL11 3HF.

Condition 9 of the planning approval states:

“No works, including any demolition works and the clearance of trees and shrubs, shall take place during the bird nesting season (March - August inclusive) unless an ecological survey has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority to establish whether the site is utilised for bird nesting. Should the survey reveal the presence of any nesting species, then no development shall take place during the period specified above.”

Enzygo Ltd were contacted by Arlington Energy Ltd on 6th July 2023 requesting a nesting bird survey to be undertaken at the site in advance of proposed vegetation removal.

Although it is typically recommended works such as this avoid the bird breeding season, it is understood this vegetation removal is necessary to meet the project programme.

All wild birds, and their eggs and nests, are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) whilst the nest is active, including nest building. The bird breeding season typically extends from March to August (inclusive).

Methodology

A nesting bird survey covering the whole site was undertaken by a suitably qualified Ecologist to determine if any active nests are present.

Survey Date: Wednesday 12th July 2023

Surveyor: Richard Lowe BSc (Hons) [Experienced Field Surveyor at Enzygo]

Weather Conditions: Predominantly dry with scattered light showers, partly cloudy (60% cloud cover), with a light breeze (Beaufort Scale 2) and 16°C.

The surveyor thoroughly searched all areas of suitable nesting habitat within and immediately adjacent to the site for evidence of nesting birds. A visual search was also conducted to observe any bird nesting activity or behaviour in the area, including any evidence of birds with nesting material, singing males, dependent young, or adults with food to feed chicks.

Results and Guidance

It is confirmed that at the time of writing there are **no active nests** at the site.

Proposed vegetation clearance can proceed with minimal risk of killing/injury or disturbance of active nesting birds. Any trees/scrub that are to be removed shall be chipped and removed and not piled up to prevent creating suitable nesting habitat for birds.

Given that birds can commence nesting at any time during the breeding season, any absence of nesting birds confirmed by a nesting bird check becomes invalid after a few days. It is therefore confirmed that the results of this nesting bird check remain **valid for 7 days only** (i.e. until 19th July 2023). In addition, as best practice, a precautionary approach should be undertaken with all contractors aware of the potential presence of nesting birds and the protocol should an active nest be detected.

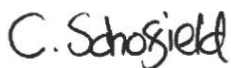
In the unlikely event an active nest is detected or suspected, all works in the area should cease immediately and an Ecologist contacted for advice. A species-appropriate protective buffer zone (to be confirmed by a suitably qualified Ecologist), would be established around the nest, and guidance will be given on the status of the nest (e.g. age of the chicks) to provide an estimate of when the chicks will have fledged and the nest will be no longer active. A further check would then be required by a suitably qualified Ecologist to confirm the nest is no longer active prior to the recommencement of works.

No evidence of any other protected species was identified, including no evidence of any Badger setts.

I trust this letter satisfies your requirements.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Chris Schofield – Principal Ecologist

Enzygo Ltd

