Nesting bird survey - Application: 17/00728/FUL Condition 7

Reference: BOW17_1041 Crown Top Lane – *Nesting bird check*	**Date Inspected:** 09/05/19	**Ecologist:** Jeremy James MSc, BSc (Hons), CEcol **Weather:** 8/8 cloud, dry with occasional very light rain, 8°C.

Description of works and relevant legislation:

A pre-clearance nesting bird check was undertaken by Jeremy James MSc, BSc (Hons), CEcol, CEnv, MCIEEM. The survey is required in respect of Condition 7 of Application: 17/00728/FUL Extension to existing storage and distribution warehouse (Use Class B8) including service area, turning area and parking area (Resubmission of 16/00705/FUL) Location: Unit 7 Crown Business Park, Crown Top Lane, Rochdale, OL11 2PU. Condition 7 states that:

No clearance of trees and shrubs in preparation for (or during the course of) development 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 unless a mitigation strategy has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority which provides for the protection of nesting birds during the period of works on site. Reason: In order to prevent any habitat disturbance to nesting birds in accordance with policies G6 and G7 of the adopted Rochdale Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework.

The nesting bird survey was therefore required, as Under Part 1, Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is an offence to: Kill, injure or take any wild bird intentionally, Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built, and Take or destroy the egg(s) of any wild bird.

The site boundary, within which all potential bird nesting habitat was checked is shown in Figure 1. All areas of the site were accessible and there were no constraints to the survey. The check involved the ecologist observing vegetation proposed for removal from several different viewpoints to observe any bird activity, using close focus binoculars to check for nests and nesting activity.

Site description and results:

The area is a level piece of ground that has been colonised by patchy vegetation consisting of grass species (creeping bent, Yorkshire fog, cock's foot) and herb species (red clover, ribwort plantain, creeping buttercup and vetches). Areas appear to be compacted and consequently have some impeded drainage with occasional areas of standing water and vegetation consisting of stands of rush (soft rush, hard rush) and bulrush. Additionally, there are scattered young planted trees (cherry). An existing warehouse forms the boundary to the east and a vegetated bund bounds the rest of the extension area.

During the survey (see Figure 1 for survey area), one species of bird was found to be using the site; feral pigeon. Activity was limited to foraging only and no breeding activity was recorded. Bird species noted flying over the site and/or in adjacent areas included; meadow pippit, blackbird and magpie.

Conclusion:

The site is considered to be of low value for nesting birds and no mitigation is required in terms of provision of replacement nest sites. However, it should be noted that nesting could occur within areas of rush and bare/wet areas. Should site clearance not occur within 7 days of the date of this survey then further pre-clearance checks should be undertaken. This is not required if site clearance/development occurs outside of the nesting season (i.e. between September to March).

Prepared by: Jeremy James MSc, BSc (Hons), CEcol, CEnv, MCIEEM **Date**: 10th May 2019

Photographs








Figure 1 – Survey Area (red outline)

