

Nesting Bird Survey

Report Details	
Project Number:	21922/JF
Project Name:	Land off Woodheys Road
Location:	Woodheys Road, Smithybridge, Littleborough, OL15 0BY
Client:	AJ Cocker Associates
Prepared by:	James Foster
Reviewed by:	Rick Westwood
Approved by:	Adam West
Issue Date:	08/04/2024
Revision Date:	N/A
Date of site works:	05/04/2024

Task	
Activity:	Nesting bird survey
Background:	In July 2022, Rochdale Borough Council granted planning permission to the site subject to the following condition: - Condition 9: No clearing of vegetation shall occur between the 1st March and 31st August in any year unless a detailed bird nest survey by a suitably experienced ecologist has been carried out immediately prior to clearance and written confirmation provided that no active bird nests are present which has been agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. - Reason: In order to prevent disturbance to any nesting birds that may be present in accordance with Policies G6 and G7 of the adopted Rochdale Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework. In March 2024 JCA were instructed by AJ Cocker Associates to conduct a nesting bird survey.
Description:	An ecologist from JCA Ltd. attended site at 7:00am on the morning of the day that clearance was scheduled to take place. The trees, scrub, and areas adjacent to the site identified as potentially suitable habitat for nesting birds were surveyed for any presence of bird nests and any nesting activity, such as carrying nesting material and nest building.

Results	
Item	Observations
1	The ecologist attended site and began the survey at 07:00.
2	The trees and scrub on site were inspected for nesting birds. One nest was identified in a tree on the west of the site (see Photo 1 & 2). The nest looked fairly recent due to its size and good condition.
3	The nest and surrounding areas were observed by the ecologist for any nesting bird behaviour such as repeated flights to and from the same

	location, birds carrying food or nesting material to and from the same location, carrying nesting material and nest building.
4	The ecologist listened for bird song emanating from the vegetation being monitored, which could also indicate nesting.
5	A magpie <i>Pica pica</i> , was observed carrying nesting material to the nest on the tree on the west of the site on numerous occasions and was observed nest building.
6	Feral pigeon <i>Columba livia domestica</i> , wood pigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i> , carrion crow <i>Corvus corone</i> , blue tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> , common gull <i>Larus canus</i> , great tit <i>Parus major</i> , magpie <i>Pica pica</i> , starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> , blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i> were also observed commuting and foraging on and adjacent to the site.
7	The survey was concluded at 07:45 with evidence of bird nesting behaviour on the site being observed, no other nests or nesting behaviours were observed.

Recommendations

In order to avoid a breach in legislation, any vegetation clearance to the tree with nesting birds must be delayed until the young birds have fledged.

Another nesting bird survey is recommended to identify any nesting birds on site.

Vegetation clearance can only be conducted, up to 24 hours after the nesting bird survey confirms absence of nesting birds on the site. Alternatively, vegetation clearance can be conducted outside of bird nesting season (1st February to 31st August).

Site Photographs





Photo 1: The active bird nest (circled) in the tree on the west of the site, viewed from the northeast.





Photo 2: The active bird nest (circled) on the west of the site, viewed from the southwest.

