



10th December 2021

BIRD HAZARD MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE AIRPORT HOTEL, RINGWAY ROAD, MANCHESTER 2021

Background

Rachel Hacking Ecology Ltd was commissioned in 2021 by Frederic Robinson Ltd to produce a Bird Hazard Management Plan (BHMP) for a proposed development site at The Airport Pub, Ringway Road in Manchester. Airport Hotel is located off Ringway Road, Woodhouse Park, Manchester (O.S grid reference: SJ829852). The site was subject of an application in 2016 which was granted by Manchester City Council (planning reference: 111018/FO/2016/S2). This included the provisioning of a Bird Hazard Management Plan (BHMP) as a condition of the planning application issued by Manchester City Council and requested by Manchester Airport Group (MAG) (*see Bird Hazard Management Plan for The Airport Hotel, Ringway Road, Manchester 2016 - Rachel Hacking Ecology Ltd*).

The site has since been granted planning permission in October 2021 by Manchester City Council (planning reference: 131843/FO/2021) for the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of the property, following the demolition of existing glass house. As part of the planning permission, Manchester City Council issued a number of conditions. This document aims to discharge Condition 5 which deals with the requirement for an updated Bird Hazard Management Plan (BHMP).

Condition 5 states: *“No works shall commence at the site until a full Bird Hazard Management Plan (BHMP) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the City Council as local planning authority. The BHMP shall include the whole construction process with mitigation measures against, and contingency for any standing water to prevent the attraction to hazardous species of birds. The works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

Reason - In the interests of the safe operation of aircraft pursuant to policy DM2 of the Core Strategy.”

Risk Assessment

Aircraft collisions with birds can cause damage to aircraft and can potentially cause an accident. The risk of a bird collisions with aircraft can be minimised through appropriate and effective hazard planning. Any development that has the potential to provide feeding, roosting or breeding opportunities within 13km of an operational aerodrome may attract bird species which could increase the number of birds visiting or flying within aerodrome airspace.

The proposed development site sits within the 13km radius of Manchester Airport which is outlined in the government’s Safeguarding Aerodromes guidance. The British Aviation Authority (BAA) Advice Notes and the Civil Aviation Authority’s (CAA) CAP 772: Wildlife Hazard Management at Aerodromes provides the most current and relevant guidance on maintaining an effective BHMP, including the assessment and appropriate actions required to reduce bird strikes.





Legal Context

All bird species are protected at their nest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 but some coastal birds and birds of prey are afforded extra protection through inclusion of Schedule 1 of the Act which makes it an offence to 'recklessly disturb' birds during nesting activities.

Bird Hazard Management Plan

This Bird Hazard Management Plan (BHMP) aims to set out measures to be carried out during and after the construction and eventual operational use of the proposed development to reduce the bird activity and reduce the potential risk of bird strikes through targeted efforts. The following measures must be implemented at the Airport Hotel and the recommended actions are to be carried out by appointed personnel to implement, oversee and record the BHMP strategy.

- **Construction Phase** – Water bodies and standing water can attract waterfowl/wildfowl and other birds. The proposed development plans should include a Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to avoid the creation of pooling water such as permeable paving materials or filter drains. All holes created during the construction period, to lay foundations or created during transport on and off the site, will be filled in and levelled on the same day so as not to leave any depressions where water can accumulate. All waste generated on site by personnel and visitors, either during construction or operation, will be stored in sealed containers or disposed of in self-closing or swinging lid bins and removed from site regularly.
 - Prior to construction work starting on site, a toolbox talk will be given by an ecologist to all construction personnel. The construction team will nominate a lead member of the team to ensure the RAMs are carried out daily.
 - An ecologist will be on call throughout the construction work and will visit site periodically.
- **Building Design** – The renovated Airport Hotel will include a flat roof single story extension at the rear, which is unlikely to prevent birds from roosting, loafing and potentially nesting. It is recommended that where possible, measures are taken to prevent birds from using the roof. Where appropriate roof edges, ridges and ledges should be fitted with pigeon/gull grade netting and/or bird spike clips to be fitted to reduce the favourability of any external features of the buildings.
- **Auditory and visual deterrents** - Where considered appropriate, the use of a recorded predator call played through a speaker system can be effective at preventing birds from using the buildings to roost and forage. Calls from the Peregrine Falcon and Sparrowhawk can be sufficient auditory deterrents. Visual stimulus is also proven effective and can be utilised through the employment of a falconer. Birds or prey are a natural predator of smaller bird species and falconry birds can become a useful tool





where nesting sites are inaccessible. Alternatively, passive deterrents can be implemented such as flag or rotating devices can prove effective with certain bird species.

- **Habitat management** – Any vegetation to be retained on site should be kept clean and tidy. The hedgerows should be regularly pruned to reduce berry production, and trees should be maintained using pollarding. Vegetation growth beyond the site boundary should be maintained by MAG by regular strimming to ground level at least twice a year. Any new vegetation planted should be limited and carefully selected to avoid the attraction of birds. This should be avoiding plants that produce fruit and nuts. Airport Hotel staff will be proactive in regularly weeding the associated grounds at the Airport Hotel to reduce the attractiveness of the site to foraging birds. Airport staff should also be proactive in contacting the airport if vegetation beyond the site boundary appears to be overgrowing or attracting birds.
- **Pre-nesting deterrents** – From February to September, a fortnightly inspection of each roof including the flat roof extension should take place, searching for evidence of nest building, including piles of twigs, debris or any nesting material. It is recommended that this should be removed but only if the nest is inactive. The nesting material should be disposed of appropriately and a where material is inaccessible by ladder or cherry picker, a high-powered hose can be used to dislodge the material.
- **Food waste management** – The outdoor seating area and any associated food waste has the potential to attract gulls, corvids, pigeon and starlings and its availability should be limited. Where food waste may occur, appropriate bins should be provided which prevent access to animals (such as foxes and rodents) and namely birds. Self-closing or swinging lid bins should be implemented where appropriate and frequently emptied before they overflow. Appropriate signage should be used to ensure that staff, contractors, and visitors are fully aware of the issues surrounding potential wildlife attraction.
- **Ongoing monitoring** – An information and record sheet should be regularly filled in and reviewed by an appointed member of staff whose duty will entail monitoring the aforementioned mitigation strategies and recording information such as:
 - Time for each activity and/or record;
 - Type of each activity and/or record (e.g. pre-nesting checks, roof checks, nest removal);
 - Species recorded during the activity and/or record;
 - Numbers of species (including nil);
 - Type of deterrent being used on site (e.g. netting, bird spikes, flags);
 - Condition of the deterrents (e.g. new, require replacement);
 - Waste management procedure and effectiveness.

This should be regularly reviewed and ensure that all staff members are aware and suitably trained to avoid attracting birds to the Airport Hotel. A copy of the BHMP



should be always accessible. In the even that birds become to flock or numbers noticed increasing then the Airport Hotel staff have a duty to report this to Manchester Airport by contacting them on 0808 169 7030 to report where necessary.

