



Your Ref: Belle Vue Co-op Academy, Manchester
Our Ref: BES-2021-M125AL-A

16th May 2018

Richard Podmore
Houldsworth Business Centre,
Houldsworth Mill,
Houldsworth Street,
Stockport,
SK5 6DA

Dear Richard Podmore,

Site:

Belle Vue Co-op Academy, Manchester – Nesting Bird Survey. Further to your request for an Ecologist to attend site and conduct a nesting bird survey prior to the commencement of tree removal, please find enclosed details of the survey undertaken, results and guidance (see attached plan XX-DR-L91-0008). *N.B. this letter permits the felling of trees with reference to nesting birds only and is not permission for trees to be removed which may otherwise require a formal license from (including, but not restricted to) i.e. The Forestry Commission, a Local Authority, The Environment Agency or Natural England.*

Background:

Britannia Ecological Solutions Ltd was contacted by yourselves on Wednesday 19th May 2021 requesting a nesting bird survey be undertaken on various trees at the former Showcase Manchester Cinema Complex, Hyde Road, Manchester, M12 5AL in advance of tree removal, proposed for Wednesday 26th May 2021. Although it is typically recommended works such as this avoid the bird breeding season, it is understood this is necessary to meet construction deadlines. 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 1st of March to 31st August (inclusive).

Methodology:

A nesting bird survey was undertaken by Jordan Prendergast of Britannia Ecological Solutions Ltd, a suitably qualified Ecologist, on 24th May 2021, inspecting trees planned for scheduled removal only (relating to plans provided onsite BDP854/SCHR/01 & 02 only), to determine if any active nests were present.

<u>Survey Date:</u>	24 th May 2021
<u>Surveyor:</u>	Jordan Prendergast BSc (Hons)
<u>Weather Conditions:</u>	Dry and 90% overcast, with a light breeze (Beaufort Scale 2) and 13°C.

The surveyor thoroughly searched all trees to be removed 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 several active bird nests are present within the site in trees scheduled for removal (relating to plans provided onsite BDP854/SCHR/01 & 02 only). Nests in trees to be exempt from removal at this time until nesting activity has ceased were identified as follows:

<u>Tree</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree 3 of Group 15	Magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>)
Group 8	Nuthatch (<i>Sitta europaea</i>)
Group 8	Great spotted woodpecker (<i>Dendrocopos major</i>)
T21, 26 and 36	Wood pigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)

It is also recommended that the following trees are exempt from removal so a better assessment can be made once covering trees have been removed:

<u>Tree</u>
T16
T35
T43
T2 & 6 of Group 6

Guidance has been provided on-site to site staff, vegetation removal contractors will receive the same guidance before the commencement of works, to ensure the nests are protected. This will include establishing a 5-metre radius protective buffer area around each nest i.e. through spray paint and/or the erecting of pedestrian exclusion fencing. No vegetation removal works are to take place within this protective buffer area until it can be confirmed by a suitably qualified Ecologist that the nest is no longer active.

Of the active nests found within the site the following estimations have been made:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Incubation (days)</u>	<u>Fledging (days)</u>	<u>Re-check estimate</u>
Great spotted woodpecker (<i>Dendrocopos major</i>)	10-16	20-23	02/07/2021
Wood pigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)	17	30-34	14/07/2021
Magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>)	18-19	20-30	12/07/2021
Nuthatch (<i>Sitta europaea</i>)	25	25	13/07/2021

If trees are to be removed at the earliest possible opportunity it is recommended that an updated check on the status of the nests is undertaken by a suitably qualified Ecologist around the 3rd of July and 15th July 2021. This check will confirm whether the nests continue to be active, or whether the nests have failed and it is possible to instruct the removal of trees scheduled for removal (subject to an updated check of the site and search for new nests).

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 recommended that all works outside of the established protective buffer area shall be completed by the evening of Thursday 27th May 2021. 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.

If any further active nests are detected all works in the area should cease immediately and an Ecologist be contacted for advice (see contact details below). 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.

N.B. This letter does not extend to further vegetation clearance works or works to be completed beyond the above stipulated time frame. Further vegetation clearance works will require additional checks before works commence.

I trust this letter satisfies your requirements.

Please contact me if you have any queries, concerns or require further detail.

Yours sincerely,

Britannia Ecological Solutions Ltd



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