



DUKE OF NORFOLK SCHOOL, GLOSSOP.

OS REF: SK 040 948.

NESTING BIRD SURVEY.

Ref No:- 160538.

Date:- 13th May 2016.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page Number
1. INTRODUCTION.	3
2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.	4
3. SURVEY RESULTS.	5
4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.	10
5. RECOMMENDATIONS.	11
6. REFERENCES.	12
Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.	13

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. Works are currently ongoing at Duke of Norfolk School, where the interior of the build is being redeveloped for residential use. No works will impact upon the exterior of the main building as a condition of the planning permission. No works will impact upon any of the outbuildings on site.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to carry out a nesting bird survey of the site in order to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works and meet the requirements of planning permission (11):

‘No works to or demolition of buildings or structures or removal of vegetation that may be used by breeding birds shall take place between 1st March and 31st August inclusive, unless a recent survey has been undertaken by a competent ecologist to assess the nesting bird activity on site during this period, and details of measures to protect the nesting bird interest on the site, have first been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority and then implemented as approved.’

1.3. This survey was carried out on 12th May 2016 and this report outlines the findings of that survey and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendix I of this report provides additional information with respect to nesting birds and is designed to assist the reader to understand the contents of this report.

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. The survey area was searched for potential nest sites in vegetation, buildings etc on the site.

2.2. All potential sites were observed over a suitable period of time for bird movements or calling male birds that would indicate the presence of a nest.

2.3. The presence of a nest is identified from the field signs without the necessity to see the nest itself, thereby avoiding any disturbance of the nests.

2.4. This survey was carried out by Laura Hobbs BSc, MRes, Grad CIEEM. Since 2013 Laura has had experience in a professional capacity carrying out ecology, protected species and phase 1 habitat surveys. Laura holds degrees in Zoology (BSc) and Evolutionary Biology (MRes); Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage and Natural Resources Wales survey licences for Great Crested Newts and Bats; a Natural England licence for Schedule 1 Birds; and is a Graduate member of CIEEM. Laura has also completed numerous professional courses run by National Biodiversity Network (NBN), Field Studies Council (FSC), Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT), Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), CIEEM and others in relative protected species and phase 1 survey methodologies; and has completed a traineeship with YWT focusing on conservation and survey methods for water voles.

3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. Desktop data searches were carried out within publically available documents in order to identify any records of designated sites and or notable species within the area surrounding the site.

3.1.2. No designated sites were identified within close proximity to the survey area, although woodland habitats were identified immediately adjacent to the south of the site. Many different woodland habitats are Habitats of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act (fig 1).

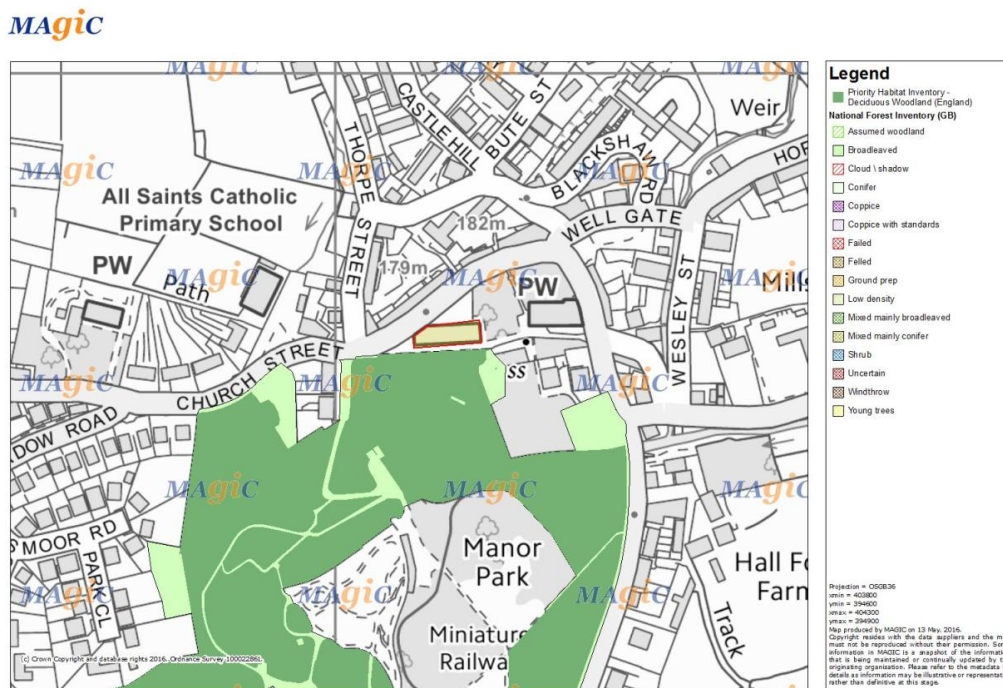


Figure 1. Map showing woodland within area surrounding site.

3.1.3. Recent records of Schedule 1 species including merlin, redwing and fieldfares were identified within the area surrounding the site. Species of Principal importance including skylark, tree pipit, cuckoo, reed bunting, grasshopper warbler, spotted flycatcher, curlew, house sparrow, tree sparrow, grey partridge, wood warbler, ring ouzel and lapwings were also identified within this area. No specific locations were available within these publically available documents.

3.2. Site Description.

3.2.1. The surveyed area covered the Grade II listed Duke of Norfolk Primary School building and associated outbuildings. These are located to the north of the village of Glossop, Derbyshire and consequently surrounded by built up residential areas with broadleaved woodland to the south (fig 2).



Figure 2. Aerial view of site and surrounding land.

3.2.2. The building is a two storey building constructed from tight fitting, well pointed stone (fig 3). The doors and windows were all in-situ and well fitting with no gaps or crevices. The roof is pitched and covered with tight fitting blue slate and ceramic ridge tiles with several chimney stacks. Occasional ventilation gaps were present within what would previously have been the loft space of the building, and the chimneys. These have been boarded up to prevent any fauna access or exposure to elements and the building has internally been plastered and boarded.



Figure 3. Main school building on site.

3.2.3. Two outbuildings were present on site. Outbuilding 1 was a disused single storey building constructed from tight fitting well pointed stone, it contained a flat roof covered with a bitumen coating (fig 4). All windows were intact but left open. There was no access internally to this building at the time of the survey. Adjacent to this building was an area of ivy growing along the stone wall; a small nest box was also erected in this area on the western aspect of the building.



Figure 4. Outbuilding 1 on site.

3.2.4. Outbuilding 2 was comprised of two conjoined single storey buildings constructed from tight fitting well pointed stone and a double ridged roof. The western of these two buildings is a disused toilet block, with windows left open. The eastern of these buildings is currently being used as a break room and canteen by those on site.



Figure 5. Outbuilding 2 on site.

3.3. Survey Results.

3.3.1. The main building on site contained few opportunities for nesting birds. All ventilation gaps were well sealed with no access possible for birds. The internal structure has been plastered or boarded so there are no opportunities for nesting inside this building (fig 6). Any nesting opportunities would be limited to the external features of the structure which will remain unaffected during the proposed works. No birds were identified to be nesting within this building at this time.



Figure 6. Boarded ventilation gaps within main building.

3.3.2. No birds were seen to be nesting within outbuilding 1, although there was access to allow an internal inspection. This building will remain unaffected by proposed works.

3.3.3. No birds were identified to be nesting within outbuilding 2. This building will remain unaffected by proposed works.

3.3.4. The nest box erected on the western aspect of outbuilding 1 was observed to be in use by a blue tit feeding young (fig 7). Young chicks often fledge after 15-23 days in the nest.



Figure 7. Nesting box on outbuilding 1 in use by blue tits.

3.3.5. The ivy adjacent to outbuilding 1 was identified to have blackbirds nesting (fig 8). Blackbirds incubate eggs for 11-17 days before hatching with another 12-19 days in the nest before chicks will fledge. Young are fed by parents for three weeks after leaving the nest.



Figure 8. Ivy on site in use by blackbirds.

3.3.6. Rooks were also identified to be roosting within trees in the surrounding area, although these were off site.

4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. No designated sites were identified within close proximity to the surveyed area. Woodland habitat was identified to the south of the site although this will remain unaffected by proposed works.

4.2. Although identified within the data search, no notable bird species were identified during this survey of the site. The number of species identified within the data search are also commonly found within farmland and moorland habitats, none of which are present on site. As works will be limited to the internal features of the main school building only and will leave all suitable habitats for notable species unaffected, it has been assessed that there will be no impact upon any of these species.

4.3. No nests were found within any building on site, with all potential nesting features located within outbuildings and the external structure of the main building. These areas will remain unaffected by proposed works; hence there will be no impact upon nesting birds during proposed works.

4.4. Two nests were identified on site, a blue tit nesting within the nest box adjacent to outbuilding 1 and blackbirds nesting within the ivy in the same location. These areas will be left undisturbed by proposed works; hence there will be no impact upon these birds.

4.5. Rooks were identified to be nesting within trees off site. These will remain unaffected by proposed works.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. In order to satisfy planning condition (11), measure should be put in place to ensure the protection of nesting birds on site. It is therefore recommended that all personnel on site are briefed on the potential presence of nesting birds and how to act should they be identified. Toolbox talks have been appended to this report to aid the briefing process.

5.2. In the unlikely circumstance that a nest is found within a work area it should be left undisturbed, with works in that area ceased, until the chicks have fledged from the nest.

5.3. In the circumstance that any further works need to be carried out upon the external features of the main building or upon any outbuilding, it is advised that they are done so outside of the nesting bird season, which extends from March to September each year. Should this not be possible professional advice must be sought in order to assess the likelihood of impact to nesting birds. Should there be an impact further nesting bird surveys will be required.

Prepared by:	
Laura Hobbs BSc, MRes, Grad CIEEM.	Date: 13 th May 2016.

Checked by:	
Derek Whitcher. BSc, MCIEEM, MCMI.	Date: 19 th May 2016.

6. REFERENCES.

- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. 2013. *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*. CIEEM, Hampshire.
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee. 2004. *Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Birds*. 2004 ed. JNCC, Peterborough.
- Nobel DG, Bashford RI and Baille SR. 2000. *Breeding Bird Survey 1999*. British Trust for Ornithology.
- Sutherland WJ, Newton I and Green RE. 2004. *Bird Ecology and Conservation: A Handbook of Techniques*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
1979. *Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats*. <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/104> (accessed 18/02/16)
2000. *Countryside and Rights of Way Act*. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents> (accessed 18/02/16)
2010. *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations*. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made> (accessed 18/02/16)
1979. *The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*. <http://www.cms.int/> (accessed 18/02/16)
1981. *Wildlife and Countryside Act*. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69> (accessed 18/02/16)

Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.

It is necessary to understand a little about the legal protection offered to nesting birds in order to evaluate the findings of this report.

Part 1.-(1) Of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 states that:-

If any person intentionally:-

- (a) kills, injures or takes any wild bird;
 - (b) takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or
 - (c) takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird,
- he shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1.-(5) of the Act states that:-

If any person intentionally:-

- (a) disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or
- (b) disturbs dependant young of such a bird,

he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above by inserting after “intentionally” the words “or recklessly”.

The nesting season will vary according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September.

It is also worth remembering that some birds nest in trees, scrub and buildings but others are ground nesting.

The best way to avoid this issue is to plan for vegetation clearance to be carried out outside the bird-nesting season.

Toolbox Talk : Nesting Birds

The bird nesting season varies according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September.

A bird's nest is the place in which a bird lays and incubates its eggs. Some species build a nest structure while other species lay their eggs directly onto the ground or on a rocky ledge. Nests can be constructed from a variety of materials and are usually lined with feathers or fur.

Identification.

Some birds construct nests in an area where it can be seen while others construct nests that are hidden from view and are more difficult to identify.

The photograph to the right shows a Moorhen nest which can easily be seen.



Nests can also be identified from field signs without the necessity to see the nest itself. The presence of a nest can be identified by seeing the adult birds leaving and returning to the nest regularly with food to feed the chicks.

The photograph to the left shows a Wren's nest in overhanging tree roots, which is almost impossible to see.

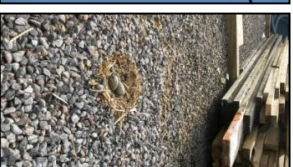


Care should be taken at any time during the nesting season particularly when regular bird activity is seen or birds can be heard calling.



Habitat.

Birds regularly nest in a variety of places with some species nesting in buildings or vegetation and others nesting on the ground or on water. However, birds may nest in any habitat or situation if they identify a suitable nest site.



Legislation.

Part 1.-(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 states that:

If any person intentionally or recklessly:

- Kills, injures or takes any wild bird.
 - Takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built, or
 - Takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird.
- He shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1.-(5) of the Act states that:

If any person intentionally or recklessly:

- Disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young, or
- Disturbs young of such a bird.

He shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

If a nest or potential nesting activity is identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants

