

Our ref: 9295 / JDH
Approved: JD

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13 May 2021

Dear Zach

Re: P20-023 Hoyland Infrastructure: Vegetation Clearance

The following letter provides details of the pre-commencement checks and supervision of site clearance works subject to ecological constraints conditioned within planning consent (2020/0647).

Condition 5. *No vegetation clearance shall take place between the months of March and August inclusive unless nesting birds have been shown to be absent by a suitably qualified ecologist in accordance with written details to be submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

Nesting bird checks were undertaken on the 10th and 12th May 2021 by James Hutchison (Senior Ecologist) BSc (Hons), MRes, PhD; ACIEEM.

Figure 1 attached illustrates the search area and findings.

Nests with evidence of activity, or that could not conclusively be classified as disused are to be monitored on subsequent visits until such a time that ecologists are certain that they are no longer in use. A suitable buffer of retained vegetation was demarcated around all monitored nests with no clearance works to be undertaken in these areas until the nests are confirmed as no longer in use.

Three nests were those of woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*. These all had females occupying them at time of survey. Woodpigeon are not seasonally constrained in their nesting behaviour and so the retained nests should be checked by an ecologist prior to clearance works, regardless of timing.

A single magpie *Pica pica* nest was identified in the early stages of nest building, with a pair of birds regularly bringing nesting material. The main chick fledging period extends into August for this species.

The above nests were buffered with hazard tape to mark the limit of approved vegetation clearance.

Four lapwing were flushed from the fields highlighted in Figure 1. The fields are covered by short ruderal vegetation, bounded by temporary water bodies and areas of bare ground. Monitoring and a

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subsequent search revealed no nests. However due to the notoriously well hidden nature of these nests, a precautionary approach has been adopted. No works should proceed in these areas between the months of March and August inclusive without a prior survey for ground nesting birds. A temporary 10m buffer strip (expiring 13th May 2021) either side of the hedgerow has been checked to facilitate the immediate removal of hedgerow H12.

The above checks are valid until the end of 13th May 2021. Any further clearance of vegetation beyond these areas or outwith this timeframe will require additional checks for the presence of nesting birds. Further update checks of areas within identified buffer zones can be provided if required.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any clarification or wish to discuss the above in more detail.

Yours sincerely



James Hutchison
Senior Ecologist
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Key

- Search Area
- Lapwing Activity
- Nests
 - Active
 - Disused

- 1. Wood Pigeon
- 2. Wood Pigeon
- 3. Wood Pigeon
- 4. Magpie



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Newlands Developments

project
Land West of Sheffield Road,
Hoyland

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Nesting Bird Checks 12 May 21

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13/5/2021

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Figure 1

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