

Tom Smith
Ramboll UK Limited

By email to: [REDACTED]

15th May 2024

Dear Tom

RE – Planning Application 2024/0373/INVALID - BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

To clarify the situation regarding breeding bird surveys on the site at Stairfoot Glassworks, Barnsley.

A full breeding bird survey was completed in 2021 by Peak Ecology's Technical Director and one of our lead ornithologists, Jessica Eades which indicated that the site supported a reasonable and typical bird assemblage given the habitats present at the site. A specific survey was also carried out, at that time, for willow tit, which found them to be absent.

In the interim period, Jessica Eades and another of our lead ornithologists, Principal Ecologist Chloe Pritchard, have revisited the site and assessed the habitats on site with regards their value for breeding birds. Both Jessica and Chloe agreed that the site had not significantly changed with regards to the habitats present and levels of human disturbance and to repeat the breeding bird survey would not be necessary and would not compliment the information already held. It was considered disproportionate to update the bird survey, as a thorough assessment had been originally made, and recommendations relating to avoidance measures and mitigation can be implemented at the site to minimise impacts to breeding birds. Much of the suitable habitat for breeding birds is being retained and enhanced. The assemblage of birds utilising the site is considered unlikely to change, and therefore update surveys at this stage in the project are considered to create unnecessary delays, significant cost implications with little to be gained from the additional information.

Specifically, there was limited habitat for willow tit nesting and the habitat for little ringed plover had degraded and was considered unsuitable.

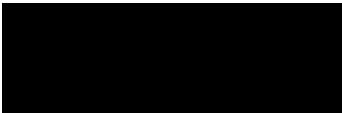
In addition, the comments from Katie Lawrence, Barnsley MBC Planning Ecologist, on 23rd October 2023 raised several issues pertaining to biodiversity but did not include any mention of breeding birds and the need for further survey.

During the pre-application planning meeting on 24th November 2023 there was some discussion regarding breeding birds. The discussion in Agenda Item 13 is extracted from the minutes and included below:

EW [Elaine Ward] suggested ecology surveys less than 2 years old could be resubmitted with the application e.g. those commissioned for the temporary works application. If further works would be required they could be provided as an addendum rather than a full new survey. WP [Wendy Phillips] set out that Peak Ecology have revisited the site and observed degraded habitats not suitable for breeding birds. Whilst the reports are just over 2 years old WP stated the visit shows consistent features so no further breeding surveys are proposed.

To my knowledge there has been no further communication over the above and therefore a breeding bird survey has been deemed unnecessary; a repeat survey would be unlikely to improve on the data generated in 2021 and therefore the original survey is fit for purpose and should be used to support the planning application.

Regards



Jessica Eades
Technical Director

