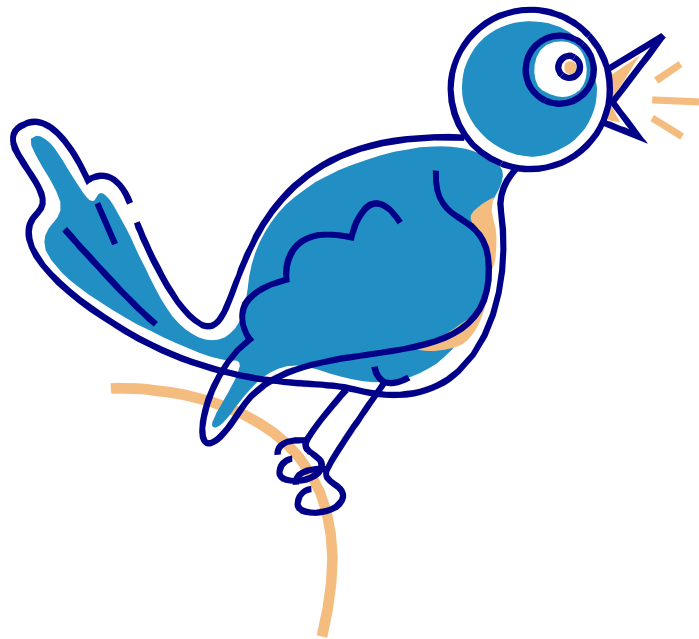


WILDLIFE SURVEY for BIRDS

AT

**Stonebridge Mill
Preston Road
Longridge
Preston
PR3 2AN**



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BIRD SURVEY & REPORT

Commissioned By:

Mr S Cherry

Address:

Higher Greaves Barn
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Tel No:

01200 447001

Instruction Method:

Written

Bird Survey Address:

Stonebridge Mill
Preston Road
Longridge
Preston
PR3 3AN

Visit Dates:

16 July 2012
20 July 2012

Document Reference:

1442

BIRD SURVEY & REPORT

Survey Brief

1. To inspect buildings and trees and assess the value of the site for breeding birds, and compile a report prior to a Planning Application being submitted.
2. The report will identify if birds have ever used the buildings, trees or site at any time, or not as the case may be.
3. If birds have used the buildings, trees or site, assess the importance of the site for nesting birds and their conservation.

Objectives of the report:

1. To thoroughly inspect all structures and habitat and record any findings indicating the presence of nesting birds.
2. Identify the bird species found.
3. To make recommendations when nesting birds are found.

Limitations of the report

1. The aim of the survey is to confirm use by nesting birds, but does not guarantee their absence.
2. Surveys undertaken during winter months when birds have migrated to warmer climes may have to be re-assessed during summer months when they have returned to breed.
3. Buildings or trees, whose structure is unsafe in any way, will only be inspected from a safe distance with the use of a pair of binoculars.
4. Buildings and trees with no signs of birds present on the date of the survey may be used for nesting purposes in subsequent weeks or months.
5. Thorough inspection should reveal whether birds have been present during previous years, but cannot guarantee they will return to breed annually.

BIRD SURVEY & REPORT

Bird Legal Protection

Birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended
Habitats and Species Regulations 1994, as amended
Countryside & Rights of Way Act, 2000. as amended
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

Survey Methods

The purpose of the survey is to look for evidence confirming that birds use, or have used any of the structures for nesting, breeding, or roosting.

Evidence of use will include the following;

- 1 Presence of birds, especially pairs of birds
- 2 An accumulation of bird droppings.
- 3 Nesting materials forming a nest.
- 4 Birds observed carrying nesting material
- 5 Birds observed carrying food for young.
- 6 Bird-song within close proximity to the site.
- 7 Birds flying constantly to the same area.
- 8 Feathers used as nesting materials.
- 9 Certain species like owls drop pellets near their nest site.

Surveying Equipment

10 x - 43 Hawke binoculars.
Olympus Digital Recorder.
A variety of folding aluminium ladders for access.
Telescopic inspection mirrors, large and small.
Motion activated video cameras for prolonged surveillance.

Risk Assessment

The level of probability that Birds are using the area is calculated on the evidence found.

Low risk:

This category concludes that no birds were recorded at the site and there was no evidence of any nesting.

Medium risk:

Implies that the presence of birds has been identified, and the site is probably used as a nesting and breeding site.

High risk:

Identifies that birds protected by Schedule 1 have been found to use the area and a licence from Natural England will be required before any development can take place.

BIRD SURVEY & REPORT

Site Description

The site occupies a central location in a rural village.

The buildings were a former weaving shed with a large modern extension to one side. More recently, the buildings have been home to a large engineering and fabrications company.

The original buildings were constructed with stone and brick, with a saw toothed and north lit roof covered with slate and glass.

The large extension is of modern construction with a steel frame clad with corrugated asbestos sheeting.

The surrounding area is used by other industrial works, a dairy, the high school and many residential properties.

Proposed Development

The proposal is to use the premises for other commercial works.

Potential for Nest Sites

Nest sites available to any avian species would be either inside the properties or within the stone or brickwork on the outside.

There are no trees or shrubs suitable for nesting birds on the site.

Many of the windows of the saw toothed roof are broken, giving free access to all flying creatures.

Historical Records

Having lived in the immediate area for over thirty years, I have a historical record of numerous birds, both resident and breeding in the area, to vagrants passing through.

Birds expected to be seen at the site could come from the following list;

House Sparrow
Starling
Blackbird
Thrush
Robin
Swallow
House martin
Chaffinch
Greenfinch
Wren
Blue Tit
Great Tit
Jackdaw
Pigeon (feral)

BIRD SURVEY & REPORT

Inside Survey Details

Date

16 July 2012 from 14.00 hours to 15.00 hours.

Surveyors

The survey was undertaken by Mr D Lambert and Mr G Anderton, both highly experienced bird experts.

Weather

Following heavy rain in the morning, the afternoon cleared up and though still overcast it turned into a suitable afternoon for finding, identifying and assessing the area for nesting birds.

Survey Area

This part of the survey concentrated on the insides of all the buildings, starting with the former weaving shed then moving into the large extension. All the various annexes were checked at the same time.

Survey Focus

The survey was conducted in the following sequence:

With each person positioned at either end of each building, we both sat quietly, looking for any bird movement, and listening for bird calls indicating nests, chicks, or young birds.

A thorough search was then undertaken, looking for nests and droppings, indicating that birds had bred there but finished breeding for this year.

This sequence was adopted in both of the main buildings and the associated annexes.

Survey Results

The survey could find no evidence of birds having nested within any of the buildings this year. The remains of a Feral Pigeon nest were identified on the floor in the weaving shed, but were considered to be several years old.

Conclusions

Despite a thorough survey, no evidence could be found of birds using the inside of the premises for nesting, breeding or roosting.

BIRD SURVEY & REPORT

External Survey Details

Date

20 July 2012 from 08.00 hours to 12.00 hours.

Surveyors

The survey was once again undertaken by Mr D Lambert and Mr G Anderton.

Weather

Overcast skies with drizzle continued throughout the day. The temperature was 13 °C.

Survey Area

This survey concentrated on the outsides of all the buildings, starting with the open yard to the west of the former weaving shed off Stonebridge Terrace. The next area to be monitored was the main access road into the mill, then the area behind the extension from the land belonging to the dairy.

Survey Focus

The survey was conducted by the following method:

Each person was positioned at either end of the area being surveyed, both sitting quietly, looking for any bird movement, and listening for bird calls indicating nests, chicks, or young birds.

A thorough search was then undertaken, looking for nests and droppings, indicating that birds had bred there but finished breeding for this year.

This method was adopted in all the external areas.

Survey Results

The survey could find no evidence of birds having nested anywhere to the outside of any of the buildings.

The only birds seen were three black-headed gulls and two swifts flying over the site.

Conclusions

Despite it being a wet morning, no evidence of birds occupying the outside of the premises for nesting, breeding or roosting.

BIRD SURVEY & REPORT

Overall Summary

The surveys were conducted by two highly experienced birders.

Both the internal and external surveys found no evidence of birds, breeding or otherwise on the site.

In July, most birds have finished breeding and nesting, and lie low whilst they moult.

This summer has been one of the worst seasons on record with low temperatures, northerly winds, heavy continuous rain and no sunshine.

Many nests have failed through lack of available food, brought about by this miserable summer.

Once a nest has failed, many species do not try for a second brood, they give up and try another year.

This overview may be a highly contributory factor and reason for the total lack of birds at the site.

Importance of the Site

The survey has identified that the site has no special importance as a nesting or breeding site for birds.

Mitigation and Enhancement

No special mitigation or wildlife enhancement is required.

Timing of works

Works may be undertaken at anytime outside the breeding season for birds, which is generally considered to be late March to mid August.

Author: Denis Lambert

Signed: *Denis Lambert*

Dated: *2nd August 2012*

Surveyors Details

Denis Lambert is a registered and licensed Bat Warden for Natural England, since 1981. Dedicated to conservation and environmental issues, he has been a keen bird watcher and mammal specialist all his life and was involved with the formation of the Lancashire Badger Group and acted as its chairman for ten years. Working as a qualified arborist (tree surgeon) he has been actively involved in protecting many species of flora and fauna over the years. Glynn Anderton has spent much of his life being actively involved with all aspects of wildlife, especially birds and mammals. For twenty years, he invited guests to see wild badgers in the Ribble Valley and spends much of his time ringing birds to record their migration routes and movements.

BIRD SURVEY & REPORT

Birds and the Law

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is thus an offence, with certain exceptions, to;

Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird.

Intentionally take damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built.

Intentionally take damage or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

Have in ones possession or control any wild bird, dead or alive or any part of a wild bird, which has been taken in contravention of the Act or the Protection of Birds Act 1954.

Have in ones possession or control any egg or part of an egg which has been taken in contravention of the Act or the Protection of Birds Act 1954.

Use traps or similar items to kill, injure or take wild birds.

Have in ones possession or control any bird of a species occurring on Schedule 4 of the Act unless registered, and in most cases ringed, in accordance with the Secretary of States Regulations.

Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed in Schedule 1 whilst it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

Schedule 1 includes a list of species offered increased protection, any disturbance including photography of the birds at or near the nest site will require a licence from Natural England.

Fines

The maximum penalty that can be imposed for an offence under the Countryside and Wildlife Act – in respect of a single bird, nest or egg – is a fine up to £ 5000 and/or six months imprisonment

General Advice

Depending on the species and the legal protection afforded to that species, a license from Natural England may be required to protect the bird/s.

Mitigation may be required at a development site to maintain the bird breeding population in the local area.

Generally speaking, if the work is undertaken outside the breeding season and the birds are not affected by the development proposal, work may be done without a licence.

Each species has different requirements and Natural England have the final say.

I shall be available to advise and oversee the above points at any time, if requested.
Should nesting birds be found, work must cease immediately in that area and then please contact: **Denis Lambert** on **01772 783322** or **07813 140682**.