

Bird Hazard Management Plan Hillingdon Gardens, London

Technical Note

Project: 19.020	Ref: BMD.19.020.RPE/TN.803.BHMP	
Subject: Bird Hazard Management	Date: September 2019	
Status: FOR PLANNING	Rev: -	
Originated JP	Technical reviewed HM	Approved JP

BACKGROUND

Planning permission is sought for a mixed-use development at a Site in Uxbridge, Hillingdon, UB10 9QE. The proposed development is for the construction of a residential-led, mixed-use development comprising buildings of between 2 and 11 storeys containing 514 units (Use Class C3); flexible commercial units (Use Class B1/A1/A3/D1); associated car (164 spaces) and cycle parking spaces; refuse and bicycle stores; hard and soft landscaping including a new central space, greenspaces, new pedestrian links; biodiversity enhancement; associated highways infrastructure; plant; and other associated ancillary development.

Declaration of compliance with professional code of ethics or conduct

The information which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bonafide opinions.

Every reasonable attempt has been made to comply with the relevant best practice guidelines and BS42020:2013 (Biodiversity: Code of practice for planning and development).

SITE LOCATION & CONTEXT

- 1.1.1 The Site is located in a built-up area of residential properties in Uxbridge. The proposed development Site is approximately 2.54 ha and comprises bare ground/ hard landscaping, scrub, broadleaf plantation, scattered trees, amenity grassland, species poor semi improved grassland and species poor defunct hedge.
- 1.1.2 The A40 borders the Site to the north and separates the Site from farmland and further residential areas. Freezeland Way and Long Lane border the Site to the south and west.

BASELINE INFORMATION

- 1.1.3 A Preliminary Ecological Assessment has been undertaken for the Site (Report Ref BMD.19.020.RPE-P1.801.RevA-Ecology) with a walkover survey undertaken in July 2019. Subsequent walkovers have been undertaken throughout July to September 2019 as part of ongoing reptile surveys at the Site and adjacent land. During the 2019 assessment potential for nesting birds within the Site was assessed. A range of common and widespread bird species were recorded with no rare or notable breeders identified.
- 1.1.4 Birds recorded to date at the Site include species such as blackbird (*Turdus merula*), blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), carrion crow (*Corvus corone*), dunnoek (*Prunella modularis*), lesser black backed gull (*Larus fuscus*), magpie (*Pica pica*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*) and wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). Only low numbers of birds have been recorded at the Site and on adjacent land with no significant assemblages of bird species e.g. wildfowl, gulls or corvids observed. Individual bird nests were recorded in boundary vegetation indicating low level breeding at the Site.

BIRD RISK EVALUATION

- 1.1.5 The bird observations to date provide a good indication of the usage of the Site by nesting birds. The species observed within the Site were common and widespread and likely to use the features on Site or within the locality for nesting. The bird species composition nesting on Site consists mainly of low numbers of passerines and corvids, which are not considered as hazardous to aircraft compared to larger birds that fly at greater elevation with more regularity, such as gulls and geese.
- 1.1.6 The Site is generally enclosed with vegetation and only small areas of open ground/hardstanding are present with no standing water areas. As such, assemblages of wintering flocks of species such as gulls, waders and wildfowl are considered unlikely. The Site is also near to existing residential areas and is subject to human disturbances in the locality, further reducing the risk of large flocks of birds during winter months.
- 1.1.7 The proposed development includes a series of residential apartments which are comprised of four and eleven storey blocks and as such the overall area of habitat favourable for the bird species composition recorded on site at present will be reduced as a result of development. The distribution and type of vegetation will also be altered with a reduction in woodland planting and mature trees.

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- 1.1.8 The majority of the Site footprint will support apartment blocks with associated access and will be unfavourable to the bird species currently recorded on Site. The proposed development is therefore considered unlikely to significantly increase the numbers of birds within the vicinity.
- 1.1.9 However, the presence of elevated/flat roof features may provide conditions favourable to nesting and loafing gulls with ledges and some roof structures potentially supporting feral pigeons. For these reasons it is considered likely that upon completion and operation of the development, the bird species composition on Site may change over time to become more hazardous to aircraft, albeit at relatively low numbers of such birds given the scale of the Site.
- 1.1.10 This Plan will therefore focus upon the potential issues associated with nesting, roosting or loafing of gulls and pigeons on the small roof areas of the new structures. The measures identified in this Plan should be implemented for the life time of the development to ensure that the site does not pose a bird hazard risk post development. The Bird Hazard Management Plan relevant for the Scheme is appended below.

BIRD HAZARD MANAGEMENT PLAN
Hillingdon Gardens, Uxbridge, UB10 9QE

I/We confirm that:

1. That the roofs are constructed in such a manner that they are safely accessible to enable (if required) any eggs or nests to be cleared and persistent birds to be dispersed.
2. Checks will be undertaken weekly or sooner if bird activity dictates, during the breeding season by an appointed person/company. The breeding seasons for gulls typically includes March to June, although feral pigeons may nest at any time of the year.
3. Any birds found nesting and/or roosting and/or loafing during the breeding season will be dispersed when detected and/or when requested by relevant third parties e.g. the Local Planning Authority.
4. Any nest or eggs found will be removed under appropriate licence(s) as obtained from Natural England, with such works carried out by suitably competent persons.
5. Checks will be made on a regular basis, as dictated by bird activity, outside of the breeding season by the nominated person/company. Wireless cameras could be installed on the roofs to facilitate this process.
6. Any birds found roosting and/or loafing outside of the breeding season will be dispersed when detected and/or when requested by relevant third parties e.g. the Local Planning Authority.
7. The method of dispersal used will be physical dispersal, such as scaring by human presence. If persistence by birds in the breeding season becomes problematic other options such as correctly installed netting will be used temporarily to deter nesting.
8. Bird activity associated with the small, stone chip ballasted flat roofs will be monitored and should any persistent bird issues be encountered then an alternative method such as correctly fitted netting could be considered.
9. A logbook will be kept which will detail as a minimum the following key information:
 - a. Dates and times of inspections;
 - b. Who conducted the inspections;
 - c. Bird numbers and species observed; and,
 - d. Details of any remedial activity such as dispersal actions taken/no. of nests removed.
10. The logbook will be made available to relevant third parties e.g. the Local Planning Authority to view upon request.

Signed:.....

On behalf of:.....

Date:.....