

Johnathon Lowe
Miller Homes
103 Dalton Avenue
Birchwood Park
Warrington
WA3 6YF

ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd ref: 2017-322o

3rd March 2023

Dear Johnathon,

RE: Nesting Bird Survey of Eastern Site Boundary Hedgerow at Wilbury Park, Higher Road, Halewood L26 3UE (SJ 45732 84733)

Further to your recent instruction I confirm that our ecologist attended the above site on Friday 3rd March 2023 and carried out a nesting bird survey of the whole length of hedgerow at the eastern site boundary / boundary with Finch Lane.

Rationale for Survey

It is understood that a section of hedgerow will be removed to facilitate construction access and that the remainder of the hedgerow will be laid. The hedgerow is suitable for use by nesting birds.

All wild birds and their nests are protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) whilst the nest is active (this includes nest building). If vegetation clearance works are scheduled within the bird nesting season (between March and August inclusive) a nesting bird survey is required to inform the works.

Survey Method

Surveyor / Ecologist:	The nesting bird survey was carried out by an appropriately qualified and experienced ecologist: Chris Swindells B.Sc. (Hons).
Survey Date and Weather Conditions:	Friday 3 rd March 2023 Overcast with a light air (Beaufort scale 1) and a maximum air temperature of 7°C.
Survey Approach and Limitations:	The nesting bird survey involved a combination of: a. Watching for birds exhibiting nesting behaviour (carrying nest material and food); b. Listening for territorial calls indicative of nesting; and c. Actively searching the vegetation for nests and potential nest holes. No survey limitations were experienced.

Results of Survey and Guidance

Result:	The area of search comprised an approximately 130 metres long and 3 to 4 metres high Hawthorn hedgerow with Bramble scrub. No active nests or bird activity to indicate the presence of an active nest was detected in the vegetation.
Guidance:	There are no constraints, in relation to nesting birds, on the commencement of works. If the commencement of works is delayed beyond <u>Tuesday 7th March 2023</u>, then it is advised that a reinspection of the vegetation is carried out to ensure that the works are informed by an accurate account of the nesting bird status at the site. It is essential that all brash and arisings from the vegetation removal are chipped or removed from site the same day / the day after felling as brash and arisings can be used by nesting birds.
Toolbox Talk:	All contractors must be advised on the possibility of the detection of nesting birds and the need to proceed in accordance with the guidance of the ecologist. If any active bird nests are discovered or suspected, then work in that area must cease and the ecologist must be contacted immediately.

I trust this letter is of assistance. Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Victoria Burrows B.Sc. (Hons) M.Sc. CEnv MCIEEM
Principal Ecologist

Enc.



Photo 1: Hedgerow at eastern site boundary