

THE QUAYS, BARRY

NESTING BIRD METHOD STATEMENT

Planning Condition 32 for The Quays site relates to considerations in terms of nesting birds and states:

Any vegetation clearance across the site shall be undertaken outside the nesting season, which is generally recognised to be from March to August inclusive, unless it can be demonstrated through submission to the Local Planning Authority of an appropriate survey immediately prior to works commencing that nesting birds are absent or a method statement for works is agreed in writing with the local planning authority and fully implemented prior to works commencing.

All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and their nests are protected against damage or destruction while in use or being built. Wherever possible vegetation removal works will be undertaken outside the nesting season (i.e. clearance undertaken between September and February). However where vegetation removal works are required to be undertaken during the nesting season the following method statement will be followed.

Removal of woody vegetation undertaken as part of site clearance works (clearance of trees/ scrub etc.) will be preceded by a thorough check for the presence of nesting birds undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist. This check will involve a physical inspection for the presence of nests followed by a period of fixed observation to identify any adult birds displaying nesting behaviour (carrying nesting material, food, foecal sacs etc.). Where dense scrub which cannot be easily viewed from the exterior requires clearance a series of paths will be cut into the vegetation to allow the ecologist access to undertake a more detailed inspection for the presence of nests. Alternatively, vegetation will be cleared in a phased manner (i.e. small areas cleared at a time) with the ecologist remaining on site during clearance to undertake checks throughout clearance works.

Should any active nests be found, works in the area surrounding the nest (c.2-4m) will immediately cease and will not re-commence until all chicks have fledged and the nest becomes in-active. The

location of the buffer surrounding the nest will be demarcated with tape or appropriate fencing to ensure it remains protected until the nest becomes in-active.

Areas of The Quays site are also known to support ground nesting birds such as Skylark. Construction works are already underway in the area of the site known as West Pond and of the remaining habitats the large expanses of grassland at East Quay are considered most likely to support ground nesting bird species. Vegetation clearance at East Quay will be undertaken outside the nesting season, or where works are scheduled to commence in the nesting season an initial cut of the grassland will be undertaken in the preceding February to reduce the vegetation to ground level with subsequent maintenance cuts undertaken every 2 weeks until works commence to discourage birds from nesting in the area. This methodology was identified in the Ecological Mitigation Strategy documents which have previously been agreed with the Local Authority.