

Amenity Tree Care Ltd

Consulting Arboriculturalists

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Rivulet Rd Wrexham.

NESTING BIRD ASSESSMENT

Site:

Former Gas Works,
Rivulet Road,
Wrexham.

Client:

Anwyl Construction

1.0 INTRODUCTION

We have been commissioned by the client to conduct an assessment of nesting bird activity in a small area of trees in the southeast corner of the former gas work site on the Rivulet Road development site in Wrexham. The trees had been identified as requiring works undertaken on them including felling operations.

Richard Castell, co-author of “Breeding Birds of the Western Palearctic *Nests, Eggs, Nestlings, Fledglings and Habitats*” (Birdguides 2009) and the BTO “Field Guide to Monitoring Nests” (British Trust for Ornithology 2011) conducted the survey on 29th June 2012 - he has more than 35 years experience studying the breeding biology of birds.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The area was thoroughly searched for active nests, examining all potential nest sites whilst monitoring any birds observed for behaviour that might indicate breeding activity.

3.0 RESULTS

Only 2 species of bird were recorded using the area of trees: Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* and Blackbird *Turdus merula*. Recently used and older nests of both species were found but no active nests could be located. Woodpigeons were observed entering the trees and are likely to use the area for nesting in the near future, potentially right through to early November. Most Blackbirds have reached or are nearing the end of their breeding cycles for this year.

4.0 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 *Legal Protection*

All wild birds, their nests and their eggs are protected by the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. It is an offence (with certain exceptions), to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird (this includes chicks); to take, damage or destroy any wild bird's nest while it is in use or being built; and to take or destroy the egg of any wild bird. The definition of a wild bird is 'any bird of a kind which is resident in or a visitor to Great Britain in a wild state'. Species named in Schedule 1 of the Act are given special protection and it is an offence to disturb these species at the nest or while they are caring for dependant young. For certain species general licenses are available online from Natural England for an authorised person to lawfully carry out the actions outlined above providing that it is in the overriding interest of **public health** or **air safety** and that all other attempts to prevent the problem caused by the species have failed.

- 4.2 No active bird nests were located within the survey area. Providing tree works area carried out within one to two weeks of the survey date there will be no impact upon nesting birds other than habitat loss (considered to be low grade quality). If operations are delayed longer than this timescale then the area will need to be re-examined for nests within 1 week of the rescheduled works.