



## Bird Hazard Management Plan.

13th November 2023.

Client: Higgins Partnerships.

Site: Avondale Drive, Hayes, UB33PN.

This report is valid from the date received until the 29th of February 2024.

This report is valid for the current development plans only.

## PHASE 1A

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## Executive Summary.

This survey and report has been commissioned by Higgins Partnerships to identify potential bird hazards and to form a Bird Hazard Management Plan to mitigate the risks to the surrounding area.

A one hour transect survey was conducted on the site. Six stationary points were chosen where ten minutes was spent at each, observing for different bird species and numbers. Although the survey was constrained by the weather and the time of year, it is clear the site has bird activity including species that are likely to nest on site and species that need to be controlled in the area because of bird strike risk at Heathrow Air Port and RAF Northolt.

The building proposals show flat and shallow pitched roofs. These will be an attractive nesting, roosting, loafing and foraging area especially with the roofs becoming 'green roofs'. All species will find this good habitat but the Gull species are likely to congregate on mass. A Bird Hazard Management Plan is essential in controlling the activity on the site to mitigate the likelihood of this happening.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 protects all bird species from killing and injuring. Birds listed on schedule 1 are offered more protection. All control methods listed in this Bird Hazard Management Plan are lawful, non lethal and extremely effective.

The Bird Hazard Management Plan has three Phases to follow the construction development. Phase one includes Falconry, the use of lasers both automated and handheld, and bio-acoustic distress callers for the gull species. The ground should be covered and deterrents used throughout the hours of daylight (and lasers at night where possible) to keep birds from roosting, loafing, nesting and foraging.

During phase two, proofing works should be carried out where possible as the building is constructed. Areas that are accessible, where birds are likely to congregate, will be incorporated into the daily bird control routine.

Phase three proofing works should be carried out where wildlife operatives believe birds could perch. Dependant on the behaviour of the bird species and numbers recorded on the reports, the falconry can be reduced during the winter months to 3 days per week with call out visits on standby. This can only be in conjunction with all proofing works being carried out and roof top automated lasers in use to remove any doubt of birds congregating in any numbers on the buildings.

With this Mitigation Strategy in place, Planning Condition 25 (all subsections inclusive) and 'Advice Note 8 Potential Bird Hazards from Building Design' will be complied by.

## **Introduction.**

This Bird Hazard Management survey and report has been commissioned by Higgins Partnerships to meet the requirements of planning condition 25 (Bird Hazard Management Plan). Avondale Drive, Hayes, UB33PN (referred to as 'the site' from here on in) is currently residential flats and the first phase of demolition is underway. This report is made up of survey methodology and data, wildlife legislation, impact assessments and bird mitigation methodology.

The objectives of this Bird Hazard Management survey report are to:

- Highlight the risks of nesting and loafing birds on site throughout demolition, construction, and the buildings lifespan in accordance with the planning conditions and local airfield safeguarding teams.
- Identify the need for further bird surveys.
- Identify impacts and implement site specific mitigation techniques.

## Survey Methodology.

On the 10th of November 2023 a wintering bird presence survey was carried out on site. The survey was planned for one hour and commenced at 08:57am. The weather, Dark cloud, moderate continuous showers with wind force 3 (Beaufort wind force scale). The temperature was 9 degrees centigrade. The survey was carried out by Max Robinson. Only one survey is required at this stage.

A transect survey was carried out over the course of the hour, with six survey points marked around the site. Ten minutes at each point were spent observing and documenting bird species and numbers that were actively using the site to forage, loaf or use as a directional flightpath (Appendix 4).

## Transect Survey Results.

Bird Species	Number recorded	Comments
Wood Pigeon.	10	Active on site throughout the survey. Loafing on roof tops and in trees. <i>Columba palumbus.</i>
Feral Pigeon.	14	Active on the site foraging. Flying off and then returning to site. <i>Columba livia.</i>
Black Headed Gull.	24	Using the site as a foraging ground and loafing on the tops of the buildings. <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus.</i>
Magpie.	6	Very active around the site foraging. <i>Pica pica.</i>
Carrion Crow.	5	Using the site as a directional flight path and foraging ground. <i>Corvus corone.</i>
Pied Wagtail	2	Foraging around the site. <i>Motacilla</i>
Ring Necked Parakeet	2	Using the site as a navigational flightline. <i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Herring Gull.	18	Active loafing on the buildings and foraging on site. <i>Larus argentatus</i>
Black Bird	1	Foraging around the site. <i>Turdus Merula</i>

## Survey Constraints.

Due to the weather conditions and time of year a reduced number smaller species were identified during the survey, however, songbirds are highly likely to be present on site and will be accounted for in the mitigation section of this report.

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## Wildlife legislation.

All wild bird species, their eggs and nests are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. You must always try to avoid harming birds or to use measures which do not kill or injure them before considering taking harmful action.

It is against the law to:

intentionally kill, injure or take wild birds

intentionally take, damage or destroy a wild bird's nest while it's being used or built

intentionally take or destroy a wild bird's egg

possess, control or transport live or dead wild birds, or parts of them, or their eggs

sell wild birds or put them on display for sale

use prohibited methods to kill or take wild birds

Schedule 1 birds, e.g. peregrine falcons (S. Barker, *et al*, 2021), have extra legal protection. For these bird species it's also an offence to do the following, either intentionally or by not taking enough care:

disturb them while they're nesting, building a nest, in or near a nest that contains their young

disturb their dependent young

You could get an unlimited fine and up to 6 months in prison for each offence if you're found guilty.

Activities that can harm birds

These activities can affect wild birds, particularly during breeding season:

trimming or cutting trees, bushes, hedges and rough vegetation

renovating, converting or demolishing a building

creating disturbance, e.g. noise, lighting and vibration

taking actions to prevent problems, e.g. shooting birds or removing nests.

(1. Natural England, DEFRA, 2015).

## **Bird Presence Impact Assessment.**

Black Headed Gulls, Feral Pigeons and Wood Pigeons are all in the top ten species for causing bird strike incidents in the UK between 2017 and 2021 (UK Civil Aviation Authority, 2021).

Planning condition 25 (all subsections inclusive) has been implemented to reduce this risk. Any failure to comply could have catastrophic results, therefore it is vital professional recommendations are followed.

## **Bird Mitigation Strategy.**

### **Phase 1 Bird Mitigation Strategy.**

During the demolition phase of works, full day coverage should be implemented with a specialised team of birds of prey. These Hawks and Falcons will be used as a non lethal form of deterrent and therefore no protected species licence will be required. This is the most effective form of bird control as it triggers a natural fear response in the control species. Other Bird control techniques such as Lasers (handheld and automated), bio-acoustic distress callers (for the Black Headed Gulls and Herring Gulls), and kites should be used in conjunction with the falconry to prevent birds from, loafing, roosting, foraging and nesting on site. It is imperative to note that this works should be started immediately once approved and should be carried out consistently every day. The works must commence before the start of the nesting season (end of February) to prevent breech of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Wildlife Technicians working on the job will supply detailed reports every day containing observations and the work carried out and they will constantly assess the site and the effectiveness of the bird control measures in place.

This work is essential to prevent bird congregation and ensure no species nest on site. (Our team and the techniques we use are extremely effective, however, no non lethal bird control measures are one hundred percent effective and if nests are made, and eggs laid, protected species licence application will be required. This may halt works temporarily due to the Wildlife and Countryside Act. This has been set out in the Wildlife Legislation section of this document). (Natural England, DEFRA, 2015). The surveys carried out daily will highlight the likelihood of birds nesting and action will be taken to apply for egg and nest removal licences as soon as possible. However, all reasonable, non lethal bird control methods will have to be exhausted before a licence from Natural England can be approved. Feral Pigeon trapping and removal may be required depending on breeding levels and pigeon guano levels on site. This can be carried out under General Licence GL41 to preserve public health and safety once all other reasonable methods have been exhausted. (Appendix 2.).

## **Bird Mitigation Strategy.**

### **Phase 2 Bird Mitigation Strategy.**

During the construction phase of works. The full day falconry bird control should be upheld along with the use of kites (where possible) lasers and bio-acoustic distress callers. At this stage the buildings should be surveyed for immediate areas which will require proofing due to creating ideal nesting or roosting habitat. Proofing will be carried out mindfully of other wildlife. Lasers on the roof tops will be required to prevent birds, particularly the gull species, from roosting overnight on flat and shallow pitched roofs. The wildlife operatives will need access to the flat and shallow pitched roofs and other attractive roosting, nesting or loafing areas to ensure these areas are kept clear, once in the immediate area any suitable bird control methods can be used (Appendix 5).

### **Phase 3 Bird Mitigation Strategy.**

The ongoing bird control programme on this site should reflect the two previous phases. The wildlife operatives working on site will be able to find and correct any proofing issues as they arise. Depending on the state of the bird population and the behaviour they display towards the buildings. The falconry can then be decreased and used as a proactive and reactive response in the form of tri-weekly and call out visits whilst leaving the other bird control measures in place during the winter season. Bird control measures should always increase in the run up to and carry on through the nesting season. (Appendix 3).

### **Protocol for Liaison.**

All relevant contact details for RAF Northolt and Heathrow Airside Operations staff will be required before commencement of works in order to design a specific protocol of contact where dispersal works may affect the airspace. Fully detailed reports will be available on request and a detailed explanation of planned works can be given day by day. (Appendix 2.).

### **Waste Containment Facilities.**

Appropriate bins should be available in all areas pedestrians can access. All litter should be disposed of into these bins to remove any potential food source for problem bird species. Bins should be fitted with secure lids and should be fixed in place to prevent accidental spillage or removal. Bins should be monitored and emptied regularly to avoid excessive waste build up.

## **Conclusion.**

In conclusion, from the data collected in the site survey there are many bird species present likely to use the site for nesting, foraging, navigating and roosting/loafing. Three of the species identified and counted in the hour long survey are known to cause bird strike incidents indicated in the Civil Aviation Authority study (UK Civil Aviation Authority, 2021). More species such as Herring Gulls will likely try to use the site as it is demolished and new buildings are erected, especially with flat or shallow sloped roofs. This bird mitigation programme has been devised to mitigate the risks of birds accumulating on the site throughout the various construction phases. The various techniques described in the mitigation plan will allow for works to carry on through the nesting season providing bird control works are started before the end of February. This Bird Hazard Management Plan complies with planning condition 25 (all subsections inclusive) and also complies with Advice Note 8 'Potential Bird Hazards from Building Design'. This mitigation programme offers usable bird control solutions and will allow for licence application for egg and nest removal if necessary.

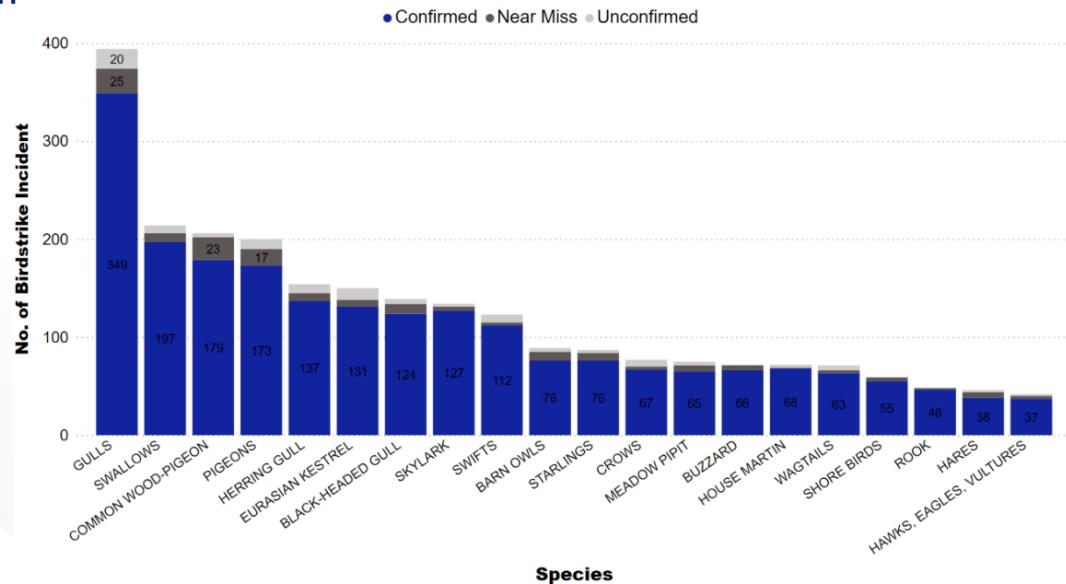
## **References.**

1. Natural England, DEFRA. (2015, March 29th). Wild birds: protection and licences. Retrieved from GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wild-birds-protection-surveys-and-licences>
2. UK Civil Aviation Authority. (2021). UK Reported Bird Strikes. Retrieved from Civil Aviation Authority: <https://www.caa.co.uk/media/hindyrm4/uk-reported-birdstrike-2017-2021.pdf>
3. S. Barker, *et al.* (2021). Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. London: Greengage.

## Appendices.

### 1. (2. UK Civil Aviation Authority, 2021)

## Reported Birdstrikes By Birds Species and Status (Top 20) 2017-21



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### 2.

9 The Bird Hazard Management Plan must ensure that flat/shallow pitched roofs be constructed to allow access to all areas by foot using permanent fixed access stairs ladders or similar. The owner/occupier must not allow gulls, to nest, roost or loaf on the building. Checks must be made weekly or sooner if bird activity dictates, during the breeding season. Outside of the breeding season gull activity must be monitored and the roof checked regularly to ensure that gulls do not utilise the roof. Any gulls found nesting, roosting or loafing must be dispersed by the owner/occupier when detected or when requested by Heathrow Airside Operations staff. In some instances it may be necessary to contact Heathrow Airside Operations staff before bird dispersal takes place. The owner/occupier must remove any nests or eggs found on the roof. The breeding season for gulls typically runs from March to June. The owner/occupier must obtain the appropriate licences where applicable from Natural England before the removal of nests and eggs. We will need to object to these proposals unless the above-mentioned condition is applied to any planning permission.

10 The applicant/developer is advised that any future submissions of reserved matters applications for the

## Appendices.

### 3.

25 - Bird Hazard Management Plan	25a	Pre-commencement Superstructure Works	Prior to superstructure works commencing of any relevant phase of this development, a Bird Hazard Management Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the Ministry of Defence and Heathrow Airport Ltd. The submitted plan shall include details of:
	25b	Pre-commencement Superstructure Works	Management of any flat/shallow pitched on buildings within the site which may be attractive to nesting, roosting and "loafing" birds. The management plan shall comply with Advice Note 8 'Potential Bird Hazards from Building Design'
	25c	Pre-commencement Superstructure Works	The roof terrace and other public access areas are to be provided with lidded bins, and an approved method to maintain the accumulation of waste, to ensure that no food waste is available for the attraction of hazardous birds. The Bird Hazard Management Plan shall be implemented as approved on completion of the development and shall remain in force for the life of the building.
	25d	Pre-commencement Superstructure Works	Details and a schedule of procedures to ensure that breeding or nesting birds are disturbed or displaced from any flat/green roofs (by licenced means) formed within the site. Means for suitably qualified personnel to access to all roof areas (including these smaller areas of biodiverse roof and the roof terraces) for both inspection and active bird control.
	25e	Pre-commencement Superstructure Works	Details of a protocol for liaison with RAF Northolt in the event that dispersal procedures are to be undertaken. The provisions of the BHMP shall be implemented strictly in accordance with the details agreed for the life of the development and there shall be no variation without the written agreement of both the Local Planning Authority and the MOD. No subsequent alterations to the plan are to take place unless first submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

### 4.



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## Appendices.

### 5.

