



CONSTRUCTION ECOLOGICAL METHOD STATEMENT

PROPOSED ALDI, EGREMONT

Background

Work is due to take place at Egremont. The approximate National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is NY 01176 11081. A full Ecological Impact Assessment was undertaken by Total Ecology in January 2024 to understand any ecological constraints posed by the site. The report identified that works may have negative impacts relating to birds.

Relevant Legislation and Nature Conservation Status

Birds

All wild birds in the UK are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or to take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or its eggs.

Bird species listed in Schedule 1 of the 1981 Act, receive further protection which makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb these species while building a nest or in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or to disturb dependent young of such a bird.

In addition to statutory protection, some bird species are classified according to their conservation status, such as their inclusion on the Red and Amber lists of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) in the UK (Eaton et al. 2021):

- Red list (high conservation concern) species are those that are Globally Threatened according to IUCN criteria; those whose population has declined rapidly (50% or more) in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.
- Amber list (medium conservation concern) species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately (between 25% and 49%) in recent years; those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeders; and those with internationally important or localised populations.
- Green list (low conservation concern) species fulfil none of the above criteria.

Site Specific Information

Birds

During the site visit, black-headed gulls *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* were observed flying over site with goldfinches *Carduelis carduelis* heard in adjacent vegetation. However, no birds were seen to utilise

site. It is possible that nesting could occur within bramble scrub to the south but generally the site provides very little opportunities for birds.

Overall, the site provides such low-quality opportunities for birds that it is of Site importance at most. It is likely that any species which do utilise site are commonly occurring species and is unlikely that any rarer or red/ amber- listed species will use site to any major degree.

Method of Progression

It is recommended that works on site, particularly clearance of bramble scrub, and demolition of buildings, is undertaken outside of the main nesting bird season (March – August inclusive).

Works which take place within the nesting bird season must be preceded by a nesting bird check.

A nesting bird check must be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist and is relevant for only 48 hours, before another check must be carried out.

Should any nesting birds be present then an appropriate buffer (dependent on species and specified by the ecologist on site) must be put in place with work avoided in that area until any young are independent. This will also depend on species, and the stage at which the nest is, when identified.

Contact Details

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References

HMSO. (1981) Wildlife and Countryside Act

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

Stanbury, A.J., Eaton, M.A., Aebischer, N.J., Balmer, D., Brown, A.F., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D.G. & Win, I. (2021). The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. *British Birds* 114: 747.