



Lords Wood Bar, Building B, Lodsworth, West Sussex, GU28 9Bs

4th August 2021

Ref: 1A &1B Northway Road Wick, Littlehampton BN17 7JK

To whom it may concern,

I undertook a site visit on the 4th of August, further to a reported breach of planning condition No 7 imposed under LU/284/19/PL with Arun District Council. This site visit was undertaken further to clarification on requirements set out by Lisa Coney at Arun District Council, including the production of a report that establishes what work has taken place and how this should be remediated.

A Preliminary ecological appraisal of the site produced by Middlemarch Environmental recommended the following in relation to nesting birds:

R3 Nesting Birds: Vegetation and building clearance should be undertaken outside the nesting bird season. The nesting bird season is weather dependent but generally extends between March and September inclusive (peak period March-August). If this is not possible then any vegetation/buildings to be removed or disturbed should be checked by an experienced ecologist for nesting birds immediately prior to works commencing. If birds are found to be nesting any works which may affect them should be delayed until the young have fledged and the nest has been abandoned naturally, for example via the implementation of an appropriate buffer zone (species dependent) around the nest in which no disturbance is permitted until the nest is no longer in use.

The site has had trees and scrub cut down at the southeast and northwest corner (figure 1). These areas included patches of scattered trees, ephemeral/short perennial and introduced shrub, some of which as re-grown.

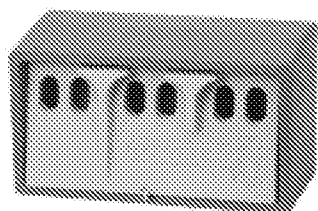
This work was carried out without an ecologist on site to check for any birds' nests that may have been present.



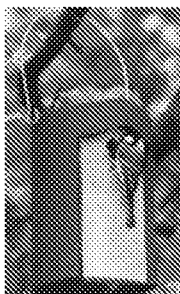
Figure 1: Trees and scrub which have been cut down and damaged

Mitigation for breeding birds

In order to mitigate the actions undertaken, which is highly likely to have resulted in the loss of nesting bird habitat, compensation measures are proposed that could be incorporated into the scheme, in addition to those set out in the report by Middlemarch. This compensation should include the incorporation of at least five common nesting bird boxes across the site. Two 1SP Schwegler 'sparrow terrace' boxes should be placed upon new buildings in any location close to the soffit boards and at least 3.5 metres in height and three Schwegler 1B nest boxes can also be installed at least 3.5m high on any trees retained or upon external walls of the property where necessary.



1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace



Schwegler 1B nest box

Whilst it is impossible to know if the work undertaken in breach of Condition 7 would have resulted in the destruction of any active birds nests, I feel that the compensation measures described above should help to ensure that habitats for nesting birds are appropriately considered within the development moving forwards.

If you have any queries about the findings of this assessment, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Charlotte Hammond
BSc (Hons)