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Our reference: 2487726 – Bury Market - Nesting Bird Check

Dear Daniel,

Nesting Bird Check, October 2024

This letter report presents the results of a nesting bird check undertaken at Bury Market in Bury, Greater Manchester, prior to the demolition of two buildings (buildings 2 and 3) on Hilton Road. The location of the Site and the buildings is shown in *Figure 1*.

The nesting bird check was required in order to discharge Condition 8 of the planning permission granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Bury Council (planning application no. 69580), which states the following:

"No demolition shall occur unless a detailed bird nest survey by a suitably experienced ecologist has been carried out immediately prior to demolition and written confirmation provided that no active bird nests are present which has been agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority, unless the species present is feral pigeon in which case a general license issued by Natural England authorising destruction of feral nests should be provided to the Local Planning Authority.

Reason. In order to ensure that no harm is caused to a Protected Species pursuant to policies EN6 - Conservation of the Natural Environment and EN6/3 - Features of Ecological Value of the Bury Unitary Development Plan and National Planning Policy Framework Section 15 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment."

Background

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was undertaken by RSK Biocensus in November 2021¹ which identified that the buildings within the Site have the potential to support nesting birds, particularly feral pigeon (*Columba livia domestica*). A breeding bird survey was then carried out by RSK Biocensus in May 2022² which identified a number of feral pigeons nesting across the

¹ RSK Biocensus (2021). Bury Market – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Rev01).

² RSK Biocensus (2022) Bury Market – Breeding Bird and Bat Survey Report



Site on various buildings. A pied wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) was also recorded singing in suitable nesting habitat and was concluded to be a 'Probable' breeding bird within the Site.

Therefore, a nesting bird check was requested by the LPA to confirm presence/absence of nesting pigeons or any other bird species immediately prior to the demolition of buildings 2 and 3.

Methods

The nesting bird check was carried out on 8 October 2024 by RSK Biocensus consultant ecologist Danielle Langton and assistant ecologist Iveta Nikandrovaite. Vantage point surveys were conducted from the ground at each aspect of the buildings for a minimum of 30 mins to observe any birds flying to or from the buildings and carrying food or nesting materials. Any roosting birds were observed with binoculars to determine if a nest was present, and if so, the status of the nest (i.e. eggs or young, or adults still building or sitting on it preparatory to laying eggs). The buildings were also inspected internally, where access allowed. The surveys were carried out between 9am and 12pm and the weather conditions during the survey were 13-15°C, dry with no wind.

Constraints

Access to the roof of building 2 was not possible as the staircase had been boarded up. There was no access point to building 3 as it is a single storey building. Also due to the size of the buildings, the rooftops could not be fully observed from the ground. However, this is not considered to be a major constraint as the roofs were observed from several aspects and for a sufficient amount of time to be able to see any birds flying to or from a potential nest.

Results

No nesting birds were observed on/in buildings 2 or 3 during the survey. A maximum of four feral pigeons were observed roosting on the northeastern corner of the roof of building 2. They were mostly standing and moving around and were not displaying any nesting behaviours.

There were no signs of any nesting birds inside either of the buildings and the buildings appeared to be in a good state of repair. No potential access points in windows or brickwork were observed. Access to the second floor of building 2 was not possible therefore if birds were present they may have been missed, though the likelihood of birds being present is considered to be very low as none were seen flying to or from the roof during the survey. The only potential access points for birds in building 2 is through gaps at the top of the public toilet doors, however no birds were seen entering or exiting these gaps during the survey and therefore the likelihood of them being present is considered to be low.

No other birds were observed roosting or flying to/from either of the buildings during the survey. Numerous feral pigeons and corvids (*Corvus spp.*) were seen flying overhead across the



Site, but they were not seen landing on any buildings. Given that the survey was carried out outside of the optimal nesting bird season, feral pigeon are considered to be the only species with the potential to nest in the Site at this time of year.

Conclusions and evaluation

The survey did not find any evidence of nesting birds in/on buildings 2 or 3 of Bury Market, therefore there are no constraints with regard to nesting birds and the demolition of buildings 2 and 3. Nesting bird checks are usually valid for a maximum of 48 hours, however as the survey an demolition are being undertaken outside of the bird breeding season, this nesting bird check is valid for a period of one week. Therefore the demolition of buildings 2 and 3 should take place no later than one week following the completion of the check. If the demolition is not completed during this period, a further nesting bird check will be required.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is thus an offence to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. If any potential nests or nesting birds are found during the demolition, works must stop and advice must be sought from an ecologist.

If you have any questions, please email liz.probert@rskbiocensus.com.

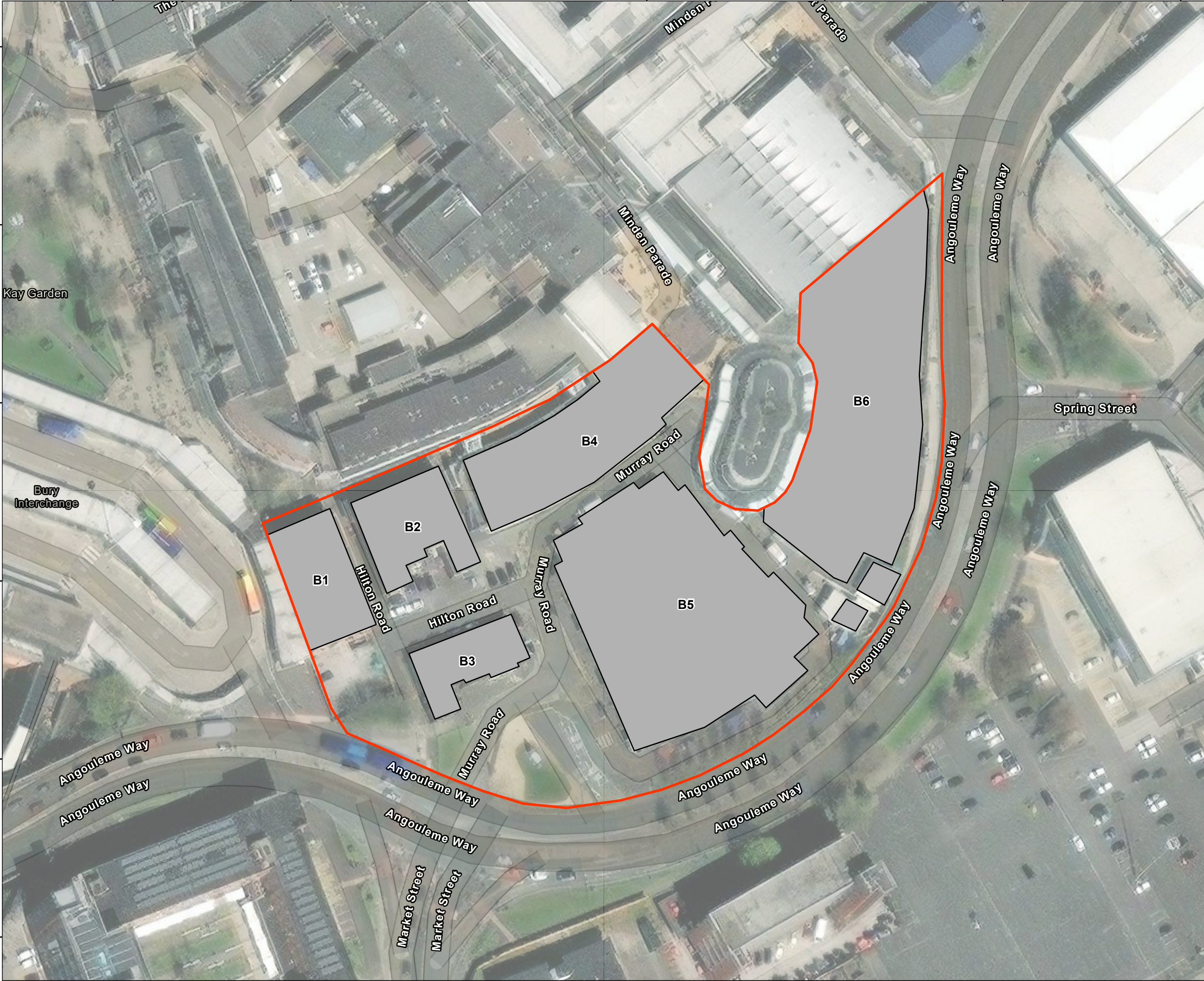
Yours sincerely,

Danielle Langton, consultant ecologist

On behalf of RSK Biocensus

Technical review by

Will Holden, associate director



Legend:

- Site boundary
- Building

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Rev	Date	Project Code	Drm	Chk	App
00	10/10/2024	2487726	EC	RS	LP

Bird Survey Bury Market Flexi Hall

EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 1:
Site Location Plan

0 10 20 30
Metres
SCALE: 1:1,000 @ A3

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