

**Precautionary Working Method Statement for
nesting birds.**

72236

**Client: Coach House, Knowsley View,
Knowsley Road, Bolton, Ainsworth,
BL2 5PT
(F158 - 5)**

FIELDODOLOGY WORKS



CONTENTS

Introduction

Risk Assessment

Mitigation / Avoidance Measures

Species Method Statements

Responsible Persons

Monitoring

REPORT CONTROL SHEET

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Fieldology Works Ltd disclaims any responsibility to Mr K Stopforth and others in respect of any matters outside the scope of this report. This report has been prepared with reasonable skill, care and diligence within the terms of the Contract with Mr K Stopforth and according to the proposed plans supplied by the client or the client's agent upon commencement of the project.

The contents of this report are valid at the time of writing. As the ecological value of a site is constantly evolving and changing, if more than twelve months have elapsed since the date of this report, further advice must be taken before reliance upon on the contents. Notwithstanding any provision of the Fieldology Works Ltd Terms & Conditions, Fieldology Works Ltd shall not be liable for any losses (howsoever incurred) arising as a result of reliance by the client or any third party on this report more than twelve months after the report date.

This report is confidential to Mr K Stopforth and Fieldology Works Ltd accepts no responsibility of whatsoever nature to third parties to whom this report or any part thereof is made known. Any such party relies upon the report at their own risk.

INTRODUCTION

REASONS FOR PWMS

Fieldology works Ltd have been commissioned by Mr K Stopforth, to provide a Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) for nesting birds for the proposed development at Coach House, Knowsley View, Knowsley Road, Bolton, Ainsworth, BL2 5PT.

The PWMS is required in association with a change of use from coach house to 3 no. 2 bed apartments; Raising ridge height on existing extension; Single storey front extension; Single storey side extension.

The PWMS is based upon Bury Metropolitan Borough Council's Planning Condition 12,

- 12 No building works shall commence between the 1st March and 31st August in any year unless a precautionary working method statement for nesting birds by a suitably experienced ecologist has been supplied to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
Reason. In order to ensure that no harm is caused to a Protected Species pursuant to policies EN6/3 - Features of Ecological Value, JP-G8 - A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity and National Planning Policy Framework Section 15 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

An initial site survey and Emergence and Activity Report was carried out by Fieldology Works Ltd May/June 2025. They concluded that a Jackdaw, (*Corvus monedula*), landed upon the chimney positioned along the southern roof, and climbed down into the chimney, to access the building interior. It was concluded that this bird could be going down to the unidentified nest, found during the PEA, however the Jackdaw did not come out during the remainder of the survey, (refer to PEA report and photo 33 (PEA Fieldology Works Ltd 2025).

Objective

The objective of this document is to detail the required methods, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures for protected species at The Coach House.

This is to ensure that no such species are disturbed, injured or killed during the works, and to ensure that the project provides enhanced nesting and roosting opportunities for birds in the long term.

SITE LOCATION & CONTEXT

The site comprises a house and to the front is a concreted yard area. The sides and rear mainly comprise vegetated gardens (lawns and ornamental shrub planting, there are 3 mature trees in the rear garden. The gardens are bounded on three sides by hedgerows / lines of trees. Along the western boundary is a tarmacked road which is bounded by a hedgerow with trees. Beyond this hedgerow within the arable field is an established pond. The surrounding area is rural, comprising agricultural land (arable and grassland). Central grid reference SD 76475 10935

The proposed site is shown in context with the surrounding area is shown on Figure 1 below.

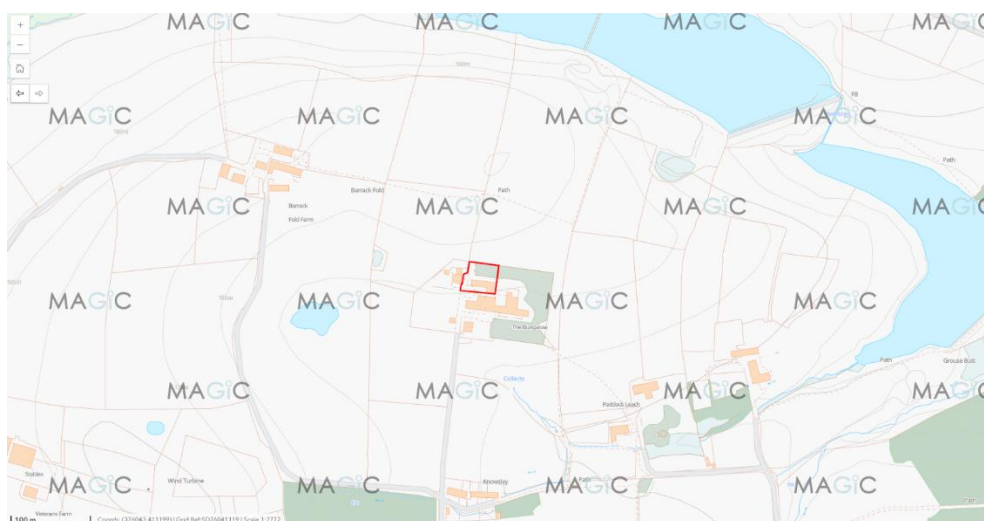


Figure 1: Site Location (red outline) and context with surrounding area (Image date – November 2025)

RISK ASSESSMENT

Ecologically Valued Features

The protected species which require impact consideration during construction are birds, specifically Jackdaw.

Bird droppings were observed on a nest in The Coach House and a Jackdaw was seen flying into The Coach House during an evening emergence and activity survey in May 2025.

There is a risk of nests and young birds being harmed if building work is undertaken during the bird breeding season (March to early September) without pre-construction nesting checks first being undertaken.

All nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). There is no provision under the licensing system for disturbance/destruction of nests to facilitate development.

Potentially Damaging Activities

Potential negative impacts from construction could come from:

- Direct killing or injury of protected species by works.
- Entrapment of protected species in ground trenches and/or wall cavities.
- Destruction of bird nesting sites.
- Night lighting of sensitive areas

MITIGATION/ AVOIDANCE MEASURES

Jackdaws and their nests are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird. It is an offence to intentionally take, damage or destroy the eggs, young or nest of a Jackdaw whilst it is being built or in use.

The Act allows for fines or prison sentences for every bird, egg or nest destroyed.

General Measures

An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed to oversee the construction phase of the project. The ECoW will be a suitably qualified ecologist. Contact details for the ECoW will be left with any site managers and in a suitable location onsite (e.g. site notice board) so that the ECoW can be contacted as and when required.

The ECoW will be present on site as a minimum:

- For a final site inspection prior to commencement of works.
- To give a toolbox briefing at the start of works.
- To conduct checks for nesting birds and monitor active nests.
- For the set-up of any Construction Exclusion Zones on the discovery of unexpected active nests or any other protected species on site.
- And otherwise at regular intervals throughout the construction programme to ensure that the construction methods proposed are adhered to.

A toolbox talk will be provided by an ECoW to the workforce prior to the commencement of work on the building. This will familiarise the workforce with the PWMS. It will also familiarise the workforce with the key protected species and Priority Species that could potentially be encountered.

Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZ) will be defined by the ECoW as required during construction works. CEZs will be used to protect key areas; this is likely to pertain to active bird nests within The Coach House, should any be discovered.

No worker or works traffic will enter a CEZ without prior agreement with the ECoW. All CEZs will be defined by a barrier, e.g. heras fencing. All CEZs will be clearly marked with signs to confirm the purpose of the barrier and to provide the contact details of the ECoW if access is required (signage must be weather-proof, e.g. laminated).

All construction waste will be placed directly into a skip to avoid creating suitable resting and sheltering habitat for wildlife.

SPECIES METHOD STATEMENTS

Breeding Birds

It is optimal for work to commence outside of the main bird nesting period, which is considered to be 1st March to 31st August inclusive. However, if this is not possible then a check of the affected buildings will be undertaken by the ECoW (a suitably qualified ecologist) prior to work commencing, to ensure that no nesting birds are present.

A nesting bird check of vegetation will be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to felling and dense scrub clearance works. If nesting birds are found then the vegetation must remain until the young have fledged the nest.

A nesting bird check of The Coach House will be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to works commencing.

If any nests are found, either by the ECoW or by on-site workers, then works will cease in the vicinity of the nest. A temporary CEZ would be agreed with the ECoW (size dependent on species) and observed until the nest has come/reached a natural conclusion.

The relocation of the existing bird nest in the building should not occur until all young have fledged (not before 1st November). It is recommended that an Ecologist visits the targeted building (The Coach House) to ensure that the nest is not occupied prior to any disturbance or relocation. At this time, it can be observed if the nest is being actively used and if this is historic. As a minimum the replacement nest boxes should be equal to the number of nests in relative recent active use.

Jackdaws should have alternative nest sites provided for them if existing sites will be lost as a result of a development. Jackdaws are persistent, highly social, and habitual birds that will often return to the same spot, or nearby, year after year.

It is recommended that at least 1 Schwegler No. 29 Jackdaw Nestbox (see figure 2 below) is positioned on an external wall of The Coach House, at a height above ground of 6 – 8m. This design provides a removal inspection flap for easy access and cleaning.



Figure 2: Schwegler No. 29 Jackdaw Nestbox

In summary, removing a nest without offering a new, suitable location often leads to the birds trying to return to the same spot, resulting in a frustrating cycle for the occupiers/owner and stress for the birds. Providing a, secure nesting box is the best approach for long-term management.

Works to chimney and nest removal

- **Timing:** The best time to remove a nest and install a chimney cowl/guard is after the breeding season (September to January) when an active nest is no longer in use.
- **Fire Safety:** While removing the nest, ensure a heavy-duty bird guard is fitted to the chimney pot to prevent them from returning immediately.
- **Professional Help:** Because nests can be very deep, it is recommended to use a professional chimney sweep to remove them safely and check the flue with CCTV.

Responsible Persons

During construction the site will have a site manager (to be confirmed) or assistant site manager present during all working hours. It is the responsibility of these site managers to liaise with workers and ensure that they are aware of the ecological issues.

Should any concerns be raised, it is the responsibility of the site managers (once clarified) to contact the ECoW to ask them to attend the site or provide advice as appropriate.

All contractors and those involved with the work on the buildings must be informed of their legal obligations – if birds or other protected species are encountered at any stage of the development works, work must stop in the affected area and advice sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.

Monitoring and Compliance:

- The site managers will be responsible for ensuring compliance with this PWMS.
- On-site toolbox talks and training to ensure site workers understand and implement this PWMS.

References

Fieldology Works Ltd (May 2025) Evening Emergence and Activity Survey, The Coach House

Fieldology Works Ltd (June 2025) 'Preliminary Ecological Appraisal', The Coach House.



TERMS OF BUSINESS

This fee proposal has been produced in good faith and in line with the specified details to Provide a fair reflection of our required involvement based upon our judgment and experience.

However, due to the nature of ecological survey work, this involvement may evolve should we encounter issues at the appraisal stage, if there is a significant departure from the original brief, or should unforeseen issues arise. Should this occur, we will notify you as soon as possible and prior to the addition of any further charges.

This cost estimate will remain valid for three months following the date of its production, after which we reserve the right to amend the document to reflect current market conditions. Our fee proposal includes various ecological assessment services aimed at ensuring compliance in your development project. The specific services are detailed within the fee estimate, and adjustments are noted where applicable.

The assessment works will be invoiced after the assessment/report has been produced when paid, the final report will be released to the client. Any additional services or disbursements required beyond the scope of this fee proposal will be reported to and agreed with the client, based on an hourly charge-out rate of £__ /hour plus VAT and disbursements.

By accepting this fee proposal, the client confirms: The correct ownership details for the site, including details of any adjoining land in the applicant's ownership, have been supplied.

That with respect to the Local Planning Authority/Council for the site, the applicant is not one of the following: a member of staff, an elected member, related to a member of staff, or related to an elected member.



The general term of business for Fieldology Works Ltd apply to this fee proposal. A copy of these terms is attached to this fee proposal and can also be found using the following link: [Fieldology Works Ltd Terms and Conditions](#). Fieldology Works ([google.com](#)) By accepting this fee proposal, you also accept the general terms of business for Fieldology Works Ltd.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding this fee proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us

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