

BREEDING/ NESTING BIRDS



Generally, legislation only protects the nests of breeding birds when they are occupied or during their construction. As such, any removal/destruction of nesting habitat during the nesting season may destroy nests, damage eggs or kill or injure dependent young which is therefore considered to be unlawful. The habitat of breeding birds receives no protection outside the nesting season, which is generally accepted as being between March and August. However, in certain specially protected areas, nesting bird habitat receives greater protection.

Birds considered to be 'Priority species of conservation' are often included within Local Plan Policy as being of local or regional importance. Species of Principal Importance are typically listed in the Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP), or noted on the Red Data Book as endangered, rare, or vulnerable. Such species may occur as populations of wintering or non-breeding birds and may require surveys outside the breeding season. Sites with significant populations of notably important species may be designated as statutory or non-statutory sites of importance for nature conservation and thereby receive additional protection.

Surveys of breeding birds follow published methodology, and are undertaken between April and July. It is important to note, that there is no 'disturbance licence' available for the removal of bird breeding habitat whilst the birds are nesting or the disturbance of specially protected Schedule 1 species whilst they are breeding.

Our Ecologists can provide:

- ✓ **Breeding Bird Surveys for all bird species**
- ✓ **Common Bird Surveys to identify the use of a site by all birds (breeding and non-breeding)**
- ✓ **Wintering bird surveys, e.g. Wetland Bird Survey, Low Tide Counts**
- ✓ **Species-specific surveys (e.g. for Schedule 1 species, such as Barn Owl)**
- ✓ **Habitat surveys to identify the potential for breeding birds**
- ✓ **Negotiation with the Local Planning Authority**
- ✓ **Liaison with interested parties and stakeholders**



Our Ecologists possess extensive experience and knowledge of ornithology and bird surveys and are members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and the Royal Society of Biology and abide by their codes of professional conduct. By consulting with us at the early stages of your project we are able to identify potential constraints and assist in resolving any potential conflicts between development and these protected species.

Please refer to our survey calendar for optimal time periods for surveys. However, if the timing falls out of the survey period please get in touch, as surveys and inspections could possibly still be carried out in a bid not to hold up development.



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Consultant Ecologists
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