

Our ref: B-BRR-121-004

Stephen Pargiter
Senior Technical Director
Barratt Homes Ltd
Wallis House
Great West Road
Brentford
Middlesex
TW8 9BS

20th May 2015

Dear Stephen,

Tree Inspection, Camden Road, London

## Background

Barratt Homes Ltd is redeveloping a site at Camden Road, London. The development plans involve the demolition of all existing buildings on site and the provision of a new apartment building. The canopies of six trees (T9, T10, T11, T12, T13 and T14 on Figure 1) on site with the potential to support breeding birds will be pollarded/pruned on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015. A condition attached to planning consent for the development states:

'All removal of trees, hedgerows, shrubs, scrub or tall herbaceous vegetation shall be undertaken between September and February inclusive. If this is not possible, then before the relevant part of each Phase commences a suitably qualified ecologist shall be employed to check the areas concerned immediately to ensure that no nesting or nest-building birds are present, and a report of the ecologist's findings shall be provided to the council for approval in writing. If any nesting birds are present then the vegetation shall not be removed until the fledglings have left the nest.'

Thomson Ecology previously provided a quotation for nesting bird assessment for the site recommending the above planning condition to be discharged based on the works being carried undertaken outside of the breeding bird season. However, as works to these trees was not undertaken outside of the breeding bird season, Thomson Ecology were commissioned on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 to undertake a check of remaining trees to be affected by the development to ensure that no active birds nests are present.

# Methodology

All of the six trees (T9 - T14) to be checked are located along the south eastern boundary of the site adjacent to Camden Road. The breeding bird check was carried out on 18th May 2015.

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Each tree was inspected from ground level to check for evidence of nests or nest-building material, with particular attention paid to:

- Woodpecker and rot holes;
- · Loose bark, splits and cracks; and
- · Crevices and holes.

#### Results

No evidence of nesting or nest-building birds was identified in any of the trees during the site visit. All of the trees were assessed as having negligible potential to support breeding birds due to lack of supporting features due to age and location. No bird species were recorded during the survey.

## Legal and Planning Policy Issues

During the site visit, no evidence of nesting or nest-building birds was identified in T9, T10, T11, T12, T13 or T14.

All of the six trees have negligible potential to support breeding birds; therefore there should be no legal and planning policy issues with respect to birds and the pruning of the tree canopies.

All birds, eggs and nests are protected from damage and destruction under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended. If during the pruning of the trees an active nest is discovered, advice should be sought from an ecologist and all works should cease until such a time that the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active.

### Conclusion

Providing the recommendations made within this letter report are followed, the works to T9, T10, T11, T12, T13 and T14 should be compliant with legislation and planning policy with respect to breeding birds and bats.

Yours sincerely

Kristina Lewis Senior Ecologist

Encl: Figure 1: Tree Locations

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