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18<sup>th</sup> August 2017  
Our ref: 550906epAug17\_Bird\_Survey

Dear Andreas,

**Re: 26 Netherhall Gardens – Bird Survey**

Greengage Environmental Ltd were commissioned to undertake a nesting bird survey at 26 Netherhall Gardens, London, NW3 5TL, to assess the presence/likely absence of nesting birds on the building and trees within the associated garden, as well as the potential for birds to nest in these areas.

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) states all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is thus an offence, with certain exceptions intentionally to:

- Kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; and
- Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

A site visit was undertaken on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017 during clear and mild weather conditions to inspect and observe the building and vegetation at site for direct signs of nesting birds.

The survey took place between 14:00 and 15:00 with favourable weather conditions of a light breeze and 15°C. Common bird species including blackbird (*Turdus merula*), magpie (*Pica pica*), feral pigeon (*Columba livia domestica*), blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), great tit (*Parus major*), and robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) were observed either passing over the site or foraging in vegetation at site. All aspects of the building and all trees could be clearly assessed from the ground using binoculars. These features were observed for a period of 30 mins and no nesting behaviour was recorded.

No nests or evidence of nesting was found on site and therefore it is likely that nesting birds were absent from the site at the time of survey. However, many potential nesting places were observed, on the flat-roofed extension to the building to the south, and in the vegetation around the garden.

**Recommendations**

Vegetation clearance and demolition works should be timed outside of the breeding bird season (March – August inclusive). Where this is not possible, a check should be undertaken by an ecologist to determine the presence/absence of nesting birds a maximum of 24 hours prior to works, and ideally should supervise phased vegetation clearance. This would allow the ecologist to conduct further checks for nests that are not readily visible, for example ground nesting birds in dense vegetation. If an active nest is found, works will need to cease in the vicinity of the nest until the young have fledged and the nest has been abandoned.



Some species will nest all year round and therefore, where works are undertaken outside of the breeding bird season, care and attention should be paid to confirm absence prior to vegetation clearance.

It is recommended that bird boxes are included in the final development to attract house sparrows, a Species of Principal Importance and Biodiversity Action Plan species. These boxes can be built into the building itself, installed on the outside of the building or hung on trees. Bird boxes should face between north and west, out of direct sunlight and be located near to vegetation.

We trust the above information is clear and satisfactory. Should you have any queries do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

**Emily Power**

**Consultant**

**For and on behalf of Greengage Environmental Ltd**