

NESTING BIRDS – CONTRACTOR’S NOTE

WHEN UNDERTAKING VEGETATION MANAGEMENT WORK OR STRUCTURE MAINTENANCE FOR THE COUNCIL, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT AS AN APPOINTED CONTRACTOR YOU ADHERE TO THE REQUIREMENTS SET OUT IN PROTECTED SPECIES LEGISLATION.

THE BIRD NESTING SEASON IS GENERALLY ASSUMED TO START IN EARLY MARCH AND RUN UNTIL AUGUST. NEARLY ALL NESTING BIRDS ARE PROTECTED BY LAW. BIRDS MAY NEST IN HOLES IN TREES, BUILD NESTS IN TREES OR SCRUB, OR MAKE NESTS WITHIN BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES OR WALLS.

DURING THIS PERIOD ALL REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS MUST BE TAKEN NOT TO DISTURB NESTING BIRDS, THIS INCLUDES NESTS THAT ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING BUILT, COMPLETED NEST AND NESTS WITH EGGS OR YOUNG.

OLD NESTS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS OR NESTS FROM WHICH THE YOUNG BIRDS HAVE LEFT ARE NOT PROTECTED.

BEFORE COMMENCING WORKS CARRY OUT A VISUAL CHECK OF THE AREA TO BE MANAGED AND NOTE THE PRESENCE OF BIRDS ACTING IN AN AGITATED OR DISTURBED MANNER. BIRDS CONSTANTLY FLYING BACK & FORTH TO THE SAME AREA AND GIVING ‘DISTRESS CALLS’ COULD INDICATE THE PRESENCE OF A NEST.

IF DURING MANAGEMENT WORKS AN ACTIVE NEST IS FOUND IMMEDIATELY CEASE WORKS IN THAT AREA AND ENSURE THE NEST SITE IS NOT LEFT ‘UNCOVERED’ AND REPORT THE INCIDENT.

IF VERY LARGE AREAS OF TREES, SCRUB, BRAMBLE OR IVY REQUIRES CLEARANCE, THE BEST ADVICE IS TO LEAVE THOSE UNTIL AFTER THE NESTING BIRD SEASON AND DO THE WORK DURING THE SEPTEMBER TO JANUARY PERIOD WHEN NESTING BIRD ACTIVITY IS MUCH LOWER. IF SIGNIFICANT WORKS IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES ARE REQUIRED CONSIDER WHETHER A NESTING BIRD SURVEY IS NEEDED.