



# Theme of the Month: Nesting Birds

Most birds have a strong instinct to build a nest each breeding season, often returning to the same general location. Some birds can have up to 3 broods in a season. Our sites are often the chosen location for a multitude of birds due to their isolated locations, presence of water and ample food supplies. Our works can also create warm, sheltered locations for nesting.

Both legislation and the RSPB state that bird nesting season runs from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> August, BUT birds can also nest outside of this period. As a precaution (from our experience), we now state bird nesting to be from **1<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> September**. During these dates, search your work locations to ensure that no nesting birds are present.

If clearing vegetation during nesting season, then a qualified ecologist is required to attend site to ensure that there are no nesting birds present. If a nest is not occupied, then works must start within 48 hours of the survey.



**The Law** - Under the **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)** it is a crime to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take wild birds.
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy a wild bird's nest while it's being used or built.
- Intentionally take or destroy a wild bird's egg.
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 of the Act while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.
- Disturb them while they're nesting, building a nest, in or near a nest that contains their young.
- Disturb their dependent young

**If found guilty you could receive an unlimited fine and up to 6 months in prison for each offence.**

While it is illegal to disturb or prevent birds from building their nests, incidents can be avoided by keeping up with good housekeeping practices - keep work areas clear of surplus materials and unused plant.

Deterrents can be put in place prior to nesting season to reduce the likelihood of nests in high-risk locations. Please note that deterrents cannot be placed after nesting behaviours have been identified, as this is considered prevention/disturbance of nest building.

Predator Decoy



Kite Decoy



Reflectors



Eye Balloons



**Please consult your Environment Advisor before placing any deterrents. Additional steps may be required before placement.**



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## Protection of Nesting Birds

On site, complete the [Toolbox Talk \(EVTT01-38\)](#) and share examples below of where nesting birds were found during 2025.

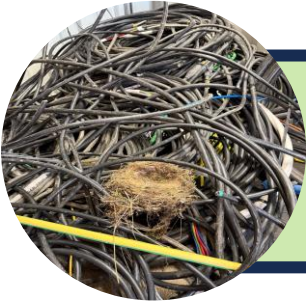
**Location:** Inside Primary RGF (drained for cleaning)

**Actions:** Nest identified by team removing media. An exclusion from the cell, where the nest was found, was put in place and works were able to continue in the adjoining cells.



**Location:** Offcut cable storage

**Actions:** Restricted works; barriers were put in place to prevent entrance into exclusion zone. Monitored by Environmental Advisor at weekly intervals until chicks fledged.



**Location:** Above Fire Alarm, MCC

**Actions:** Works stopped inside location. Door was required to remain propped open to prevent trapping. External works in proximity could continue using hand tools.



**Location:** Above door, Primary Dosing Room

**Actions:** Due to location, external door had to remain propped open to allow bird in and out. Alternative access route was chosen, although no physical exclusion zone could be used as door was an emergency exit.



**Location:** Inside stored shuttering

**Actions:** Discovered when trying to remove shuttering. Reported to Environmental Advisor and left as it was found. Exclusion zone put in place until nest was confirmed empty.



Please consult your Environment Advisor if you have any questions.

Refer to guidance [EVGD01-38 Nesting Birds](#)

[Nesting Birds – Reasonable Avoidance Measures \(EVRU01-38\)](#) document can be included in your RAMS