Toseland Hall

High Street

Toseland

PE19 6RX

16/06/2023

Dear Dr. Pilato

Reference: Breeding Bird Check, Toseland Hall, PE19 6RX

Introduction:

Cherryfield Ecology were commissioned to undertake a breeding bird check at the site of Toseland Hall, High Street, Toseland, PE19 6RX, this took place on the 21/05/2023. Further to this check and a nest being found a further checkwas undertaken on the 16/06/2023.

Two agricultural buildings were checked: (B1) which is due to be demolished as it is considered unsafe, and (B2) which will have the roof replaced.

Methods:

An industry standard breeding bird check was undertaken, whereby the buildings were searched for in-use nests and watched from a distance to allow any birds to utilize the nest and show it is in use.

Results:

B1: Is an open fronted barn-type structure, it has an asbestos roof and is subdivided internally with low-level breeze block walls (see Figures 1 to 4).



Figure 1: Example of the external area



Figure 2: Further example of exterior



Figure 3: Internal



Figure 4: Internal

A single in-use nest was located within the building, behind an Ivy *Hedera helix* covered wall to the rear of the building. A female blackbird *Turdus merula* was observed coming from the Ivy, with a male also observed going to and from the Ivy. The nest was left and not disturbed as it was clear that the female was likely sitting on eggs.

Wood pigeon *Columba palumbus* was also observed roosting in the barn. A single wren *Troglodytes troglodyte* was also seen, but no nests were observed.

B2: Is a stable block, with lean-to covering a portion of the front, it is built from breeze block and has an asbestos roof (see Figures 5 to 8).



Figure 5: Rear of B2



Figure 6: Front of B2



Figure 7: Under lean-to section



Figure 8: Example of internal area

No in-use nests were located in the building; however, several old nests were. These appeared to be barn swallow *Hirundo rustica* and possible wren nests being in the rafters and at the apex (see Figure 9).



Figure 9: Old nest (red circle indicates), probably a wren.

16/06/2023:

The in-use nest was checked and found to no longer be in use.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

As a single nest has been located in the building B1 (see Figure 10) this building must not be removed until the nest is no longer in use, this is usually between 6 to 9 weeks, but as it is likely the female is sitting on eggs, this timeframe is likely to be reduced to around 4 to 6 weeks depending on the length of time the eggs have been present.

Therefore, a final check in around 4 weeks' time will be required before the building is demolished. If the nest is still in use the building will have to remain until the nest is no longer in use.



Figure 10: Site plan

B2 should have the roof removed as soon as possible to prevent swallows or wrens utilizing the building going forward. As old nests are present it is likely that they would re-use the building for future nesting. This can be re-checked at the same time as B1 to ensure no new active nests are found.

16/06/2023 check and update:

It was advised to remove the Ivy to the rear of the barn as soon as possible in order to prevent any further nesting this season and to demolish the barns as soon as possible.

Martin O'Connor Dip, BSc (Hons), PGCert, CBiol, MRSB

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