



CLIENT: GREENTECH
SITE: SPENCERS WOOD SOLAR FARM
DATE: JANUARY 2026
TITLE: REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES NESTING BIRDS

Background

- 1.1 This Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) document has been prepared as an appendix to the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for Spencer's Wood Solar Farm (the 'site') on Land North of Sheepbridge Court Farm, Basingstoke Road, Swallowfield, RG7 1PT. The CEMP was prepared in relation to the discharge of Planning Condition 18 of Full Planning Permission 232653.
- 1.2 The RAMS document sets out Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) that will be implemented to avoid harm to nesting birds during site preparation, ground cultivation, construction and associated works.

Legislative Context

- 1.3 All birds, their nests and eggs are protected in the UK under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, as amended. This makes it an offence, with certain exceptions, to:
- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
 - Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; or
 - Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- 1.4 Bird species listed under Schedule 1 of the Act are afforded additional protection when breeding. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building or is in, on or near a nest with eggs or young; or disturb the dependent young of such a bird. A total of 90 bird species are afforded Schedule 1 (with another six classed as Schedule 1 A) protection status. A Schedule 1 designation affords some level of increased protection for these species as the penalties for harming, disturbing or killing these species are greater than those covered only under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Potential Risks

- 1.5 Potential risks to nesting birds during the proposed works include:

- Injury or mortality during vegetation clearance and or ground cultivation.
- Disturbance or destruction of active nests or nests in construction.

Reasonable Avoidance Measures

- 1.6 To reduce the risk to nesting birds vegetation clearance, ground preparation and cultivation will be undertaken outside the main breeding bird season (March to August inclusive) wherever possible.
- 1.7 Should it not be possible to undertake works outside of the breeding bird season the following methodology will apply.

Nesting Bird Checks

- 1.8 A suitably experienced ecologist (ECoW) will undertake a nesting bird check immediately prior to the commencement of works. All areas of suitable nesting habitat within the works footprint will be inspected. The check will be undertaken no more than 24 hours before vegetation clearance or ground preparation/cultivation commences.
- 1.9 If no active nests are found, works will be permitted to proceed immediately.
- 1.10 If an active nest is identified, a suitable buffer zone will be established around the nest by the ECoW. Buffer distances will be proportionate to the species concerned and the nature of the works and will be determined by the ECoW. The buffer zone will be clearly demarcated and communicated to all site personnel. Works will not be undertaken within the buffer zone until the nest has become inactive and the young have fledged. The ECoW must confirm when this occurs.

Vegetation Clearance Methodology

- 1.11 Vegetation clearance will proceed in a directional approach, encouraging birds to move away from the works area towards retained habitats.

Toolbox Talks and Site Briefings

- 1.12 All site personnel will receive a toolbox talk prior to commencement of works. The toolbox talk will include:
- Legal protection afforded to nesting birds and penalties for offences.
 - Identification of nesting bird behaviour.
 - RAMs to be implemented on site.
 - Procedures to follow if a nest or nesting bird is encountered.

Procedure if Nesting Birds Are Encountered During Works

- 1.13 Works in the immediate area will stop immediately and the site manager will contact the site ecologist for advice.

- 1.14 An exclusion zone will be established where required and works will not recommence in the buffer area until the ecologist confirms that it is lawful to do so.