BEST PRACTICE

Wildlife Protection

Curraheen Point Student Accommodation

Description:

Curraheen Point Student Accommodation project is located in a residential neighbourhood in the suburbs of Cork city. The site was closed for 7 weeks during the COVID -19 pandemic in line with government requirements. Site management returned to work prior to the workforce to carry out inspections & implement measures to facilitate the returning workers welfare. During inspection of an apartment it was noticed that a bird had commenced building a nest on electrical containment in a corridor adjacent to an unglazed window. Birds have a high level of legal protection during the breeding season (March to the end of August) and are protected under the Wildlife act (1976) and the Wildlife Amendment Act (2000). Therefore an ecologist was contacted & he advised that the bird was a Jackdaw & was in the process of completing the nest. He issued a report stating that a screen should be erected inside the window which would allow the bird access to the nest but prevent further nesting within the building.

The screen was installed as per above picture & free access provided for the bird to access the nest. Picture of Jackdaw as observed by the ecologist.

The ecologist returned to site 2 weeks later & inspected the area. He monitored the nest for several hours & advised that there was no activity & that the bird had abandoned the roost. He removed the nest & advised in his report that the window should be infilled to prevent future access.

Benefit:

- Expert advise sought prior to possible interference from returning operatives
- Nest & flight path of bird protected as advised
- Change in programming of works in the immediate area, to after breeding season, as not to compromise handover date.
- Expert retained for monitoring of area
- Nest removed by expert once satisfied it had been abandoned

Applicable for use on:

- Any site where wildlife create a habitat