

Case Record

Kingfishers at the M6 Toll



Date May, 2002
Location Midlands
Client MEL
Main Contractor CAMMBA*

Kingfishers were discovered nesting in the bank of a section of Crane Brook due for realignment to cater for a new roundabout at the junction of Meerash Lane and Hanney Hay Road.

The Construction of the UKs first toll road.

Business Benefits

- **Emphasises Carillions continually growing commitment to the natural environment and to project impacts upon it**
- **Compliance with relevant licensing legislation ensures reputation and protects against negative action / media**

* CAMBBA - Carillion, Alfred McAlpine, Balfour Beatty and Amec.

Information supplied by:
Mike Leighton

In response the area was screened off using Chestnut Palings and HD Polythene sheeting for a length of 50 metres and to a height of 1.2 metres to allow the construction of a new Pre-cast Concrete Box Culvert some 50 metres from the nesting site.

Two new nesting sites were constructed in the bank of the stream, at locations where the watercourse will not be disturbed, using pre-cast concrete nesting burrows supplied by Alana Ecology. Small dams were created in the streambed under each of the nesting sites to encourage the development of a pool similar to the actual nesting site

A few weeks later it was reported that the nesting pair had been seen feeding their young outside the nest so it was decided to check the nesting burrow using an endoscope. An adult bird flew out revealing at least three eggs, so the nesting site was left alone. The last likely date when the eggs should have hatched and the young birds flown was calculated and the burrow revisited. This time the scope revealed three

fully feathered young birds that couldn't be far from leaving the nest site.

On the 24/07/02 one of the fledgling birds was observed sitting on the fence some 300-400 metres from the nest site. It sat there for 2 to 3 hrs without any observed contact from the rest of the family. At the end of this period it was seen to fall from the fence unable to fly away. The bird was picked up and taken back to its nest burrow. It was too weak to enter the burrow. Attempts were made to feed the bird using freshly caught small sticklebacks but it was unable to swallow these and died a short while later.

Hopefully the other two fledgling birds are still OK. The nest site was carefully excavated the following day to confirm flexiscope results indicating that the site was abandoned.

All the above works were carried out in consultation with DEFRA/ EN with regard to the licensing implications of disturbance to a Schedule 1 bird.