|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Our ref: CRS 736,255  Your ref: | NDD - Directorate Services Team Correspondence Manager  9th Floor  The Cube  199 Wharfside Street  Birmingham  B1 1RN  21 April 2016 |

Dear

Thank you for your follow up Freedom of Information request received on 22 March 2016

To meet the legal requirements in terms of nesting and disturbance of wild birds and their nests under the terms of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, our schemes are subject to Environmental Assessments.

Specific surveys relating to birds of prey are not undertaken as a matter of course. If birds of prey are identified during the assessment of environmental impact of works, a detailed survey may be undertaken. In terms of works on site, all vegetation clearance during the bird nesting season is subject to checks prior to works to ensure that no nests are present. If nests are present, the works do not go ahead. This assessment is completed by an ecologist or other suitably trained personnel.

In my previous response I explained that our network is managed by thirteen different area teams, using a number of different service providers. The presence of birds of prey is therefore managed on an individual basis. The survey of the network referred to in my previous response relates to the A19 Darrington to Dishforth route only. I can further confirm that, as no birds of prey were found on their last survey, there is nothing recorded.

The organisations that our service providers have used in connection with birds on our network include:

* RSPB
* RSPCA
* Centre for Ecology & Hydrology - Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme (PBMS) <https://wiki.ceh.ac.uk/display/pbms/Home>
* BTO (for ringed birds) <http://www.bto.org/>
* Screech Owl Sanctuary
* Barn Owl Trust
* Local vets
* Police
* Wildlife Welfare, Stevenage
* South East Essex Wildlife Hospital
* Harper Asprey Wildlife Centre
* Wildlife Aid Foundation
* Hawk & Owl Trust
* Falconry UK <http://www.falconrycentre.co.uk/>

Completing these reports isn’t a national requirement and is therefore completed on an ad hoc basis. Please see attached a report from our database for our Yorkshire North East section of the network. This was completed as an additional piece of work by our service provider and is not mandatory. It contains all information on raptor sightings, seen alive or dead as road deaths – the column headed “OBSTYPE” describes how the bird was noted as follows:

1 = Anecdotal

2 = A call heard

3 = Road kill/casualty

4 = A sighting

5 = A Sign

I also contains the Grid Reference, so the enquiry can identify the position on our network too Hope this helps.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. Our internal review process is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure>

If you require a print copy, please phone the Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk). You should contact me if you wish to complain.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner’s Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote reference number CRS 734,041 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely