

Guidelines for Precautionary Works for Protection of Wild Birds and Nests at External Facades of Buildings or Building Sites

Introduction

All wild birds, including their nests and eggs, are protected by the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170). When building works are going to be carried out at external facades of buildings or on building sites with wild birds' nests, the following precautionary measures shall be implemented:

Before the commencement of building works

- i) During preliminary site investigations or condition surveys of existing buildings before the commencement of works, locations and details of all existing wild birds' nests shall be properly recorded. Suspected wild birds' nests shall also be reported to the project team immediately for further investigation;
- ii) In case the building works would affect any wild birds' nests, mitigation measures to minimize / avoid impacts to the nests should be proposed and advice from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) shall be sought before the commencement of works;
- iii) Works which are located close to the nests shall be avoided as far as practicable;
- iv) All staff and contractors involved in the building works shall be well-informed that all wild birds and their nests and eggs are protected under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170).

During the building works

- i) A minimum number of workers should be allowed to work at the location right in front of or under the nests;
- ii) The necessary building works at the areas that are close to the nests of wild birds should be completed as soon as possible;
- iii) During the works period, if there is(are) bird(s) found on the ground, trapped or injured at the subject site, the case should immediately be reported to AFCD by phone 2471 4411 or by fax 2482 9894, or through 1823 Call Centre if it is outside office hours, and to the project team;
- iv) Should scaffolding and 'protective nets' be installed during construction phase, entrance holes or slots shall be opened adjacent to the nest colonies as far as practicable to retain their flight paths and allow the birds flying in and out of their nests. All intervening obstacles to the flight paths shall be removed as far as possible. Advice shall be sought from AFCD.

- v) The project team should monitor the subject bird nests on a regular basis and report at regular site meetings. Further advice shall be sought from AFCD should there be any significant change of the nesting condition.

After the completion of building works

- i) The condition of the wild birds' nests shall be properly recorded on the completion of works;
- ii) The user or client department who will take over the management of the buildings shall be properly briefed on the locations and details of the nests and their continuous responsibility in minimizing disturbance to the nests.

Architectural Services Department
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