

**No. 2 Firhouse Road and the former 'Morton's  
The Firhouse Inn', Firhouse Road, Dublin 24:  
Bird Survey Report**



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This brief report outlines the findings of a survey for breeding birds carried out at the site of the former Firhouse Inn and No2 Firhouse Rd., Firhouse, Dublin by Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants on behalf of Bluemont Developments (Firhouse) Limited. The purpose of this survey was to ascertain whether any native or other breeding birds are utilising the buildings at this site. A survey of the birds utilising the trees adjacent the site was also carried out. All Irish birds are afforded some level of protection under law. This includes their refugia and nesting places.



Fig. 1 Area under survey at former Firhouse Inn site.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The buildings at the former Firhouse Inn and No 2 Firhouse Road were observed for c. 3 hours between 7am and 10am on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2022. This was carried out by an experienced and qualified Ecologist. Any signs of bird nesting activity or other bird activity were recorded. The Ecologist paid particular attention to areas where bird access or egress might be allowed. For example, cavities, roof spaces missing tiles or ill-fitting doors.

## 3. RESULTS

No birds were observed entering or exiting any of the buildings at the former Firhouse Inn and the adjacent buildings. No nesting activity was observed in any of the areas within the grounds of these premises. A number of bird species were seen and heard overflying the site and alighting in the mature trees adjoining the site. These included Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), Great Tit (*Parus major*) and Magpie (*Pica pica*). Birds overflying the site included Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) and Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*).

#### 4. DISCUSSION

No birds were recorded entering or exiting the building during the survey period. The survey was carried out within peak nesting season for breeding birds. Therefore, some bird nesting activity would have been observed were any nests present within the site.

A number of bird species were observed or heard either within the mature trees adjacent the site and the adjoining site or overflying the site. Nesting behaviour of Wood Pigeon was recorded within at least one of the mature Sycamore trees adjoining the site. Nesting behaviour of other species was not recorded.



Fig. 2. Mature Sycamore Trees directly adjacent the buildings

It should be noted that this survey is a record of bird nesting activity on the day of survey. It must be allowed that bird nesting activity may commence within the site following the date of this survey. Therefore, the building must be surveyed for the presence of any nesting bird species prior to commencement of any site clearance, demolition or construction activity on this site. No vegetation should be cleared within the site during the bird nesting season (March-August inclusive) in order to protect nesting birds. Any pruning of the mature trees should be carried out outside the above period.



## Appendix A. Some Photographs of Site

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Fig. 1 A section of the curtilage of the former Firhouse Inn.



Fig. 2 Mature Trees adjoining the site.



Fig. 3 Mature Sycamore trees that are likely important for some breeding species.



