

Kestrel Sustainability on the M40

Details

Clients	UK Highways
Date	June 2005
Location	M40 DBFO contract
Working with	UK Highways and British Trust of Ornithology

Carillion Sustainability Week allowed the team on the M40 DBFO contract to spend time Ringing and encouraging the Kestrel population within the contract area



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Benefits

- Reduces costs to British Trust of Ornithology.
- Improves relations with the community by work with local wildlife groups.
- Increase the Biodiversity and sustainability of the rich ecology within the DBFO contract.
- Employee motivation – a small change from everyday work evolving them with local interests.

Working with our client UK Highways and the British Trust of Ornithology's local Arden group, Carillion Highways Maintenance have supported the monitoring and maintained the sustainability of the Kestrel population on the M40 area, which was highlighted on the BBC programme British Isles a Natural History presented by Alan Titchmarsh. This year during Sustainability week Carillion Highways Maintenance supplied manpower and resources.

Paul Turgis supervisor on the DBFO is our local "Bird man" he has an outside interest as he owns several Falcons and Kestrels, so he is the ideal man to supervise the operations. This involves inspecting the nesting boxes that have been erected along the network from Warwick to Banbury, some are mounted in trees others on the back of Motorway signs and some on experimental poles. These are accessed in various ways either by Ladder, Mobile Elevated Work Platform or Rope and Harness (this is carried out by a fully trained person).

The Inspection involves an initial observation to assure it is safe to approach the nesting box, once this has been agreed the box is checked for Kestrels, if empty the box is cleared of any material that may be there, nesting material of sand and wood shavings is placed in the box to encourage the Kestrels to nest, if Kestrels are present then the chicks are ringed and logged with the British Trust of Ornithology. This year a Total of Six nesting boxes were used by Kestrels with a total of 24 chicks however there was a huge range of ages with some chicks just hatching while others almost ready to leave the nest, so as a result a few chicks were not tagged. Carillion Highways Maintenance will continue to work with local wildlife groups to encourage diversity along the M40 network

