**Hawking and falconry report for the Britannia Square area – w/b 18 May 2020**

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| Thursday 21 May – session began at 8.30 am* A Harris’ hawk and falcons were flown.
* Special attention was paid to the very determined gulls at Numbers 47/48. On each visit, the raptor presence lifted the pair and on each occasion they quickly returned to the nest. .
* No gulls were observed at Number 46. This pair may now have moved elsewhere to nest.
* No gulls were observed at the known occupied nests at Numbers 3/4, 16/17 and 28/29. It is presumed that they were away feeding, although they may have slipped away when they saw the hawker arrive and before the raptors were deployed.
* A gull was observed on the roof of the south terrace, especially at Number 14. It is unclear where this bird may be nesting and indeed whether it is part of a breeding pair or not.
* The distress calls from the Numbers 47/48 gulls briefly attracted around ten gulls from elsewhere.
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| Friday 22 May – session began at 9.00 am* A Harris’ hawk was used.
* The pattern of the previous day was repeated where no gulls were sighted at Numbers 3/4, 16/17, 28/29 and 46 during the two-hour visit.
* A lone gull was moved from the south terrace in Britannia Square, but returned later.
* The pair at Numbers 47/48 were repeatedly lifted from their nest area by the hawk, but quickly returned on each occasion.
* There was no report of gulls from elsewhere responding to distress calls from the 47/48 gulls.
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| CommentThe gulls in the BSRA area appear to have settled into a fairly stable pattern in relation to the hawking and falconry. The four nests occupied in 2019 are also being used this year, but thus far, incomers seem to have been deterred and Stephenson and Albany Terraces remain free of nests. However, the gull that frequents the south terrace of Britannia Square remains a mystery in relation to its possible nesting location. Gulls from the city centre and Tything areas appear to be less interested in investigating the cause of any distress calls caused by the raptors. |

Gordon Dugan

**Technical Officer (Gull Control)**

**Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Worcester City Council**

