**Hawking and falconry report for the Britannia Square area – w/b 25 May 2020**

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| Tuesday 26 May – am session   * A Harris’ hawk was flown. * The area was relatively quiet in relation to gull activity. * One gull was observed at Numbers 28/29; it moved away in the presence of the hawk and did not return during the session. * No gulls were observed at Numbers 3/4. * One gull was observed at Numbers 16/17. This moved away; it is then believed to have returned to the area around the south terrace of Britannia Square * Special attention was paid to the pair nesting on Numbers 47/48. This pair lifted, but quickly returned to the nest on several occasions. The hawker believed that they were likely to be incubating eggs. * No gulls were observed at Number 46. * Distress calls did not appear to attract gulls in from elsewhere. |
| Friday 29 May – session began at 1.00 pm   * A Harris’ hawk was flown. The high temperature meant that falcons could not be flown and this also reduced the vigour of the hawk. * At least one gull was present at Numbers 28/29; it quickly moved away when the hawk was deployed and did not return. * The pair at Numbers 47/48 repeated the same behaviour as they did on Tuesday – they lifted several times, only to quickly return to their nest. * One gull was observed at Numbers 16/17. It moved away in the presence of the hawk. It was later seen in the vicinity of the south terrace. * Gulls were not observed attending the nest at Numbers 3/4. * No gulls were observed at Number 46. * Distress calls did not appear to attract gulls in from elsewhere. |
| Comment  There are now four definite nesting sites in the BSRA area – all in Britannia Square - Numbers 3/4, 16/17, 28/29 and 47/48. The nest at 28/29 appears to have been blown off the chimney by the strong winds of the previous week; it is not known whether the eggs were destroyed by this or scavenged by other gulls or by corvids. Gulls have been seen repeatedly on the roof of the south terrace, especially above Numbers 10 and 11. It is not clear whether they are an additional incoming pair or the nesters from 3/4 or 16/17. The incoming gulls at Number 46 appear to have moved from that location permanently. This may be due to both the hawking and the visual and audible deterrents kindly deployed by Liz Price and John Ball. My thanks extend to both residents for their actions in this regard. |

Gordon Dugan

**Technical Officer (Gull Control)**

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

