



## **INFORMATION & GUIDANCE REGARDING GULLS**

Like all wild birds, gulls are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Under this Act it is an offence to intentionally injure or kill any gull, or take, damage or destroy an active nest or its contents when in use or being built.

However General Licences issued by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) allow control measures to be taken by landowners or occupiers where there are public health or safety concerns, air safety concerns, to conserve other wild birds, and to prevent serious damage to agriculture.

The law does not permit control measures for gulls if they are causing noise or odour nuisance, or simply damaging property. These can only be addressed by using non-lethal methods of control. Nests not being built or not in use are not protected under the law and may be destroyed at any time

Councils have no statutory duty to take action against gulls.

### **Deterring Gulls**

- Do not approach active nests as gulls roosting or nesting may become aggressive and noisy, particularly when they are breeding and rearing young, which can result in attacks on members of the public in order to protect their young.
- Avoiding the spillage of foodstuffs.
- Keep food storage areas secure and bird-proof.
- Ensure that disposal and waste facilities are kept clean and tidy.
- Limit/prevent the deliberate feeding of birds which can attract gulls to your property.
- Dispose of edible rubbish in lidded bins if possible.

### **Proofing**

It is recommended that property owners seek guidance and advice on what measures may be appropriate from a specialist contractor. They will be able to advise on the most suitable devices which can be fitted.

Specialist contractors can be found under 'Pest Control' or 'Bird Control' in business directories or by searching the internet.

### **Useful contacts:**

- **DEFRA**  
Tel: 03459 33 55 77  
Email: [defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs)
- **Natural England**  
Tel: 0300 060 3900  
Email: [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)  
Website: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england)
- **RSPB**  
Tel: 01767 693690  
Website: [www.rspb.org.uk/makeahomeforwildlife/advice/gardening/unwantedvisitors/gulls/index.aspx](http://www.rspb.org.uk/makeahomeforwildlife/advice/gardening/unwantedvisitors/gulls/index.aspx)