



## Integrated Management Plan

Information to supplement an application for a licence to control gulls and/or their eggs/nests.

The Integrated Management Plan template below must be completed and submitted with any application to control gulls in urban areas (see guidance on [lesser black-backed and herring gull licences](#)).

An integrated management plan aims to coordinate action between property owners and managers, to tackle effectively the problems which may be caused by gulls in urban areas. An effective plan will typically employ a range of methods. It is important that each method is employed at the right time, in the right way, and that any deterrent methods are varied regularly. An Integrated Management Plan will show how a range of measures will be used to greatest effect.

Annex 1 of this document provides information on possible measures to minimise problems caused by gulls. In order for a licence to be issued, the applicant will need to show that all practical and proportionate methods that are likely to address the problem have been tried, or will continue to be used alongside licensed action. The list of methods in Annex 1 is not exhaustive. Use of other lawful methods may be required if appropriate in the circumstances. Licensed activities are a last resort.

An integrated management plan should be proportionate to the scale of the problem. A householder applying for a very localised problem may only need to coordinate efforts with any neighbouring properties, whose cooperation may be required to put in place the required measures. However, an application to control gulls over a large area will need to involve all major landowners and local authorities. At both ends of the scale, reputable, professional pest control companies or businesses with experience of installing measures such as proofing, can be invaluable in helping to develop an effective plan to address the specifics of the problem being experienced.

**Gull Management Plan for (site name): LOOE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Year: 2020**

**Name of applicant: LOOE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Name and role of person completing this form: enter details**

Action	Proposed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	When will you do the work?		How Often? (e.g. daily, weekly)	Who will do it?	Record of actions (Dates and actions carried out or reason why this particular action is not proposed)	Details of methods, effectiveness and limitations
		Start	Finish				
Physically prevent nesting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date	Date				
Remove old nests and potential nesting materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date	Date				
Removal of attractants such as litter and food waste	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date	Date				
Human disturbance/presence	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Date	Date				
Static/automated scaring devices	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Date	Date				
Hawking by birds of prey	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Date	Date				
Disturbance by dogs	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Date	Date				
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Date	Date				
Nest removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Date	Date			Use licence return form	
Egg removal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	30/03/2020	05/05/2020	Once per nest site	Town Council	Use licence return form	This method has proven to reduce the number of attacks and the overall aggressive behaviour during the years our programme has been running
Egg oiling	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Date	Date			Use licence return form	

<b>Lethal control</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Date	Date			<b>Use licence return form</b>	
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## Annex 1 – Options for managing gull problems

An effective strategy will aim to be:

- Focused on removing opportunities for gulls to nest, scavenge and loaf in problem areas;
- Balanced and realistic in allowing opportunities where coexistence is acceptable;
- A maintained and long-term plan;
- In line with recognised standards and good practice (e.g. netting installation);
- Effective; methods can be innovative if required;
- Extensive enough to protect adjacent locations where gull problem would likely otherwise displace to.

The following list gives options, as well as recommended dates and frequency, for carrying out activities to reduce or avoid problems caused by gulls.

Action	Details	Who can do it?	Suggested timing	Suggested frequency
<b>Physically prevent nesting</b>	Physically excluding birds from potential problem nesting sites is often the best way of preventing or minimising problems caused by gulls. Whilst this can be expensive in the short-term, in the long-term this may be far more cost-effective and successful than year-on-year management. There are a wide variety of products available to prevent birds from nesting, from complete netting of potential nesting areas to 'proofing' key areas such as chimney pots or guttering/roof valleys with anti-nesting spikes. All exclusion measures do however need to be appropriately maintained to ensure that they remain effective and do not cause welfare problems (e.g. entanglement). This is a list of equipment that can be used to exclude and scare birds.	Advice from a reputable and experienced pest control company is likely to be helpful, especially for larger projects.	Any time outside of breeding season (September to March)	Once
<b>Remove old nests and potential nesting materials</b>	Clearing of nesting material from areas where gulls have previously nested and caused problems in the past is very important in terms of good roof maintenance and management to prevent problems such as blocked drain pipes and gutters and could possibly reduce the attractiveness of a site for birds to nest in future.	Anyone, unless specific access or health and safety considerations.	Prior to birds arrival/commencement of breeding season. March.	Once
<b>Regular removal of attractants such as litter and food waste</b>	The presence of food, unprotected bins and food waste can exacerbate problems caused by gulls, particularly where they are causing mess or other problems at ground level. By ensuring that bins are secure and emptied regularly and that litter and food waste is minimised any problems should also be minimised. Whilst undertaking these measures at an individual site level is recommended, it may be far more effective as part of a co-ordinated plan over a much larger area.	Anyone	At all times, particularly prior to and during breeding season	Preferably daily and at least weekly
<b>Human disturbance</b>	The presence of people on site is a great deterrent to nesting. However it is critical that these are employed from the very start of the nesting season. By putting in effort at the start of the season, and particularly when problems first arise, gulls may choose to attempt to nest elsewhere.	Anyone, unless specific access or health and safety considerations.		Preferably multiple times daily

<b>Static/automated scaring devices</b>	There are a wide range of commercially available 'scaring' devices to help discourage birds from using or nesting at a site. These can range from static audio devices emitting noises from sirens or distress calls of the same species of bird to visual deterrents to the use of pyrotechnics, lasers, starter-pistols of firing blank cartridges. These can be effective but as with many measures they need to be part of a more integrated effort involving multiple approaches and should be varied regularly for maximum effect.	Anyone, although advice from an experienced and reputable pest control company is likely to be helpful	Throughout breeding season. With particular emphasis immediately prior to the start of nesting season	Constant but change device very regularly (every two weeks)
<b>Hawking by birds of prey</b>	The flying of captive-bred birds of prey by a falconer may sometimes be useful to help dissuade birds from nesting. This should be used most intensively at the start of the breeding season.	An experienced falconer		As often as possible
<b>Disturbance by dogs</b>	Use of dogs to patrol potential nesting areas at ground level can be an effective means of ensuring that birds do not settle at the start of the breeding season.	Anyone, unless specific access or health and safety considerations.		As often as possible
<b>Nest removal</b> (licence required)	As soon as birds start to settle and scrape out a depression in the ground or to bring in, move or arrange nesting materials you can consider that they are nesting and therefore that destruction or removal of that structure could only be carried out under licence. By doing so, and continuing to do so as frequently and intensively as possible, particularly at the start of the breeding season, it may be possible to minimise problems caused by gulls. By keeping on top of this it may be possible to avoid the need for the removal of eggs in future and it may possibly help persuade the birds to move elsewhere.	Anyone, unless specific access or health and safety considerations.		Preferably daily or multiple times daily at the start of the nesting season. <b>At the very minimum this should be carried out weekly.</b>
<b>Egg removal</b> (licence required)	Regular removal of nests as they are built should reduce the need to remove and destroy eggs. However this may still be necessary in some cases. Once eggs are removed (along with the nests) birds will likely attempt to re-lay and can do this multiple times. Therefore, as with removal of nests, effort should be targeted as early as possible and very frequently and this can ultimately reduce the size of the breeding population at that site. If egg removal is carried out very regularly at the start of the season, it can be successful in resulting in the colony being abandoned.	Anyone, unless specific access or health and safety considerations.	Throughout breeding season. With particular emphasis immediately prior to and at start of nesting season	
<b>Egg pricking/oiling</b> (licence required)	Egg pricking or oiling (with paraffin oil), or replacement of the eggs with dummy eggs (that can be purchased commercially) can make them unviable and minimise the need to repeatedly remove eggs because the birds will generally continue to incubate them rather than relay.	Anyone, although advice from an experienced and reputable pest controller is advised in the first instance.		
<b>Killing of adults or chicks</b> (licence required)	This should be an absolute last resort. Removal of nests or eggs, or the pricking or oiling of eggs should mean that this circumstance does not arise. We would expect to only licence this in exceptional circumstances where it has not been possible to be able to remove nests and eggs and where there is a clear and imminent risk to public health or safety.	We recommend that this should be carried out by an experienced and reputable pest controller.	If and when the need arises	As necessary