

INFORMATION

SEAGULLS AND PIGEONS

Introduction

The rising numbers of gulls and pigeons in towns is due primarily to the increased availability of food. The more food; the greater the population.

Although accepted as a 'natural' feature of coastal towns, gulls – particularly the herring gull – can sometimes come into conflict with people by, for example, nesting on rooftops and waking the occupants in the very early hours with raucous cries; breaking open refuse sacks and scattering the contents; 'dive bombing' people and pets considered to be too close to their young.

Pigeons carry many diseases, some of which can be transmitted to people. They carry also a mite which causes skin disease. Their droppings are acidic and can cause damage to buildings. Nest material, feathers and droppings can clog gutters, drains and vents. As well as being unsightly, pigeon droppings on pavements can make the surface slippery and hazardous.

Control

It is accepted generally that the most effective way of controlling gull and pigeon populations is to reduce the amount of food waste left outdoors and to 'proof' buildings – thereby limiting access to nest sites.

If you dispose of your domestic/commercial waste in a plastic sack, you can reduce the risk of them being ripped open by birds by putting them out as close as possible to the Council collection time.

Deliberately feeding pigeons and gulls aggravates the situation. To feed small birds in your garden without encouraging larger birds, put all food in feeders rather than loose on a bird table, or put food for ground feeding birds under a cage with a 3" mesh size that does not allow pigeons to enter but will let in blackbirds and thrushes.

The Law

Pigeons

Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 feral pigeons may be killed or taken by authorised persons only, using permitted techniques, and to prevent serious damage to agriculture, or to conserve other wild birds.

Gulls

Under the 1981 Act, herring gulls may be killed or taken by an authorised person only under the terms of a General Licence.

Further Advice and Products

Settling/Nesting deterrents – such as spikes and wires, and/or specialist advice are available from the companies/organisations listed below. *Please note that their inclusion should not be construed as implying endorsement of either the company/organisation or its services/products.*

Search 'Pest Control' on google or consult yell.com for further options.

Before fitting a bird deterrent to a Listed Building or property within the Conservation Area, you must submit your intentions, in writing, to: Conservation Officer, Rother District Council, Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 3JX
e planning@rother.gov.uk

- **Brookers** 43-54 Norman Road, St Leonards-on-Sea t 01424 423107
Supplies anti-perching spikes.
- **Sankeys Pest Control** 7 Riverside, Bellbrook Business Park, Uckfield
t 0800 158 3885
- **Keightley Pest Control** 44 Lansdowne Way, Hailsham BN27 1LT t 01323 449869/07796 332831 f 01323 449869 e tom243win@yahoo.co.uk
Removes nest material and installs barriers.
- **Pest Control Direct** Unit 1, Leap Cross Enterprise Centre, London Road, Hailsham BN27 3PD t 0800 085 7058
e pestcontroller@btconnect.com
Can supply spikes, 'pricklers', Dadi-Longlegs, birdchain, gel, clips and adhesive.

Rother District Council Community Services, 14 Beeching Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 3LG t 01424 787550 e envhealth@rother.gov.uk
www.rother.gov.uk

Publishes advice leaflets on both gulls and pigeons and provides advice on pest control/ deterrence.

- **Screwfix Direct** FREEPOST, Yeovil BA22 8BF t 0500 41 41 41
f 0800 056 2256 online@screwfix.com www.screwfix.com
Sells angled 'tippler' and spike strips.
- **Simply the Pest** Unit 6, Churchill Business Park, The Flyers Way, Westerham, Kent t 0800 195 7766 www.safeguardpestcontrol.co.uk
Netting and wire systems.

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