

HSE Bulletin (Ref:10 in2014)

Nesting Birds

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Background

Birds often make their nests, lay eggs and rear chicks in and around our infrastructure from early Spring through to late Summer. Nesting birds can be a nuisance when there is roof work required or other maintenance on part of the building where they are nesting.

Birds, their nests and eggs are legally protected by the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, and it is an offence to damage or destroy an active nest or prevent parent birds' access to their nests. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 also protects all animals from unnecessary suffering, such as pigeons being stuck behind bird netting.

A general licence, issued by the government, allows for feral pigeons in Britain, house sparrows and starlings but only if it can be shown that action was absolutely necessary for the purpose of preserving public health.

Instruction

- All staff undertaking maintenance works on roofs, trees, in vent shafts, store rooms, disused substations or buildings and ledges at stations should be aware of the presence of birds nesting or infestations of small chicks and avoid them.



- Birds can find the smallest place for nesting therefore ensure you check the roof and spaces before commencing any type of work.
- Report nesting birds to your manager or if you're not sure, please contact the Environment Team on auto40533, mobile 07764429178 or steven.judd@tube-lines.com.
- Do not try to remove the nest and/or young ones by yourself.
- Do not forget that all nesting birds are protected, even pigeons.
- Do not forget that only an authorised person can kill, destroy or remove nests of nesting birds.
- Do not use traps or similar items to kill, injure or take the birds or their eggs.

Please remember, if you try to kill, injure or take nesting birds, remove their nests or take their eggs, you may have to face the maximum penalty that can be imposed for an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act - in respect of a single bird, nest or egg - is a fine of up to £5,000, and/or six months' imprisonment.

Please communicate this alert to your teams, projects and suppliers as appropriate

For more information contact: Steve Judd, Head of Environment ([auto40533](tel:auto40533) or [mobile 07764429178](tel:07764429178))