



Code of Best Practice

# Bird management and control

Version 1. December 2020.

## British Pest Control Association Code of Best Practice for Bird Management and Control

A BPCA Code of Best Practice is a set of written rules which explains how people working in our industry should behave in a particular situation. It encompasses relevant legislation but is not the law in itself.

However, were a member to act outside of the norms outlined in the COBP, they may be subject to disciplinary action or be in breach of legislation. Members must abide by Codes of Best Practice

in their day-to-day work. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the Association.

**Version 1. December 2020.**

[bPCA.org.uk/codes](https://bPCA.org.uk/codes)  
Driving excellence in pest management

 01332 294 288  
 @britpestcontrol

# British Pest Control Association Code of Best Practice for Bird Management and Control

This Code of Best Practice aims to touch on the important points a professional must be aware of and consider, to ensure both professional and legal management of birds.

Those working to manage bird populations need to ensure they follow a strict hierarchy of controls (listed in section two of this document).



All birds, their eggs and their nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

## Legislation

The principles of this legislation will be relevant to each country of the UK. You should also ensure you follow any other relevant legislation specific to your country.

### Animal Welfare Act 2006

Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act places a duty of care on people to ensure they take reasonable steps in all the circumstances to meet the welfare animals in their care. This means that any bird work you do must ensure the target animal does not experience harm or suffering, so far as is reasonably practicable.

### Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 - All birds protected

The following licences outline the specific conditions under

**“This Code of Best Practice aims to touch on the important points a professional must be aware of and consider, to ensure both professional and legal management of birds.”**

which certain bird species may be lethally controlled:

- General Licences - no application needed
- Individual Licences - application needed
- Class Licences - application needed.

## Types of management you must consider in order (hierarchy of controls)

1. Environmental controls such as food and water reduction
2. Scaring and dispersal - falconry, audio and visual scaring, lasers
3. Proofing - netting and ledge proofing installation, building adjustments by clients, mesh and other sealants, guards such as for chimneys
4. Trapping - multi-catch traps, single trap, mist netting, hand held net catch
5. Culling (lethal) - air weapons, firearms, dispatch after trapping (last resort).

## General considerations before work

1

Refer to BPCA's Code Of Best Practice for Surveys.

2

Ensure a thorough survey and risk assessment is carried out and recorded, identifying as a minimum; bird species, problem areas and recommended works.

3

Consider the legislation associated with bird management in your country.

4

Ensure relevant permits and licences are obtained, where applicable.

5

Ensure operatives have the appropriate skills and experience for the work in hand.

6

Use products, systems and Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) and/or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as per manufacturer's guidance and as is intended.

7

The appropriate waste carriers licence will be held and all waste disposed of as per your local authority guidance.

## Addressing the hierarchy of control, in order:

### Environmental controls

- Advise on the removal of available food and water for the birds that may be attracting them
- Offer information to customers on how to prevent bird activity that affects the health and safety of humans, ie eliminating the feeding of birds, closing doors and erecting signs, and

# British Pest Control Association

## Code of Best Practice for Bird Management and Control

habitat management, like cutting back trees or hedges.

### Scaring and dispersal

- Ensure systems used are appropriate for the bird species and will have the desired effect
- Systems should be used as part of an integrated management plan
- Visual and audio scaring devices can be quickly habituated to and have no guarantees of success.

### Proofing - netting, ledge proofing

- Ensure proofing equipment is erected in a manner that does not cause any harm to bird species
- Ensure all proofing methods are species appropriate and in line with bird pressure levels
- Ensure all hard to reach and hidden gaps are proofed and no birds are left trapped on completion (record this)
- It is advised that access points, such as zips, clips and gates are integrated with nets to release trapped birds and/ or allow access for other contractors.
- Birdscape (trapped bird release system) may be appropriate for netting
- Ensure at least one follow-up visit to ensure the net is free of birds
- It is advised that photos of completed works are recorded
- Consider maintenance of the nets and ledge proofing

- For netting, you should attach a plaque to the netting advising who to contact in the event of damage and/or unintentionally trapped birds
- When using adhesives for ledge proofing, ensure it is suitable for the surface type.

### Trapping/catching

- Refer to BPCA Code Of Best Practice for Live Trapping and relevant licence and requirements
- Keep trapping programmes discreet - consider the emotiveness of bird trapping and respect this
- If dispatch of the bird(s) is required, ensure this is done discreetly and humanely
- Remove all cages at the end of treatment or leave inoperable/disabled
- It is recommended you consult with the general licence 33 (GL33 "Standard licence conditions for trapping wild birds and using decoys")
- Mist-nets users must ensure they hold an appropriate licence.

### Culling via shooting

Refer to BPCA Code of Best Practice for Air Weapons.

### Clearance of bird fouling

- A task specific risk assessment will be done in relation to zoonosis and disease

- It is advised that a biocide is used to treat the droppings and contaminated areas before work commences
- All droppings should be safely bagged and tied, to prevent spillage and contamination of clean areas (consider bag gauge)
- If, whilst clearing droppings, you come across any live birds, nests or eggs, you must ensure you are legally allowed to remove them or dispatch them
- If using biocides always follow the label conditions.



The British Pest Control Association requires that its members meet a range of criteria including strict abidance to all of our Codes of Best Practice. You can search for our members on the BPCA website [bpca.org.uk/find](http://bpca.org.uk/find)

BPCA makes strenuous efforts to ensure the accuracy and current relevance of its publications, which are intended for use by technically competent persons. However, this does not remove the need for technical and managerial judgement in practical situations. Nor do they confer any immunity or exemption from relevant legal requirements, including by-laws.

If you suspect something in this document is incorrect or out of date, please report it to [technical@bpca.org.uk](mailto:technical@bpca.org.uk) so we can review it.

### Further reading

- Safety in dropping clearance [hse.gov.uk/agriculture/zoonoses-data-sheets/psittacosis.pdf](http://hse.gov.uk/agriculture/zoonoses-data-sheets/psittacosis.pdf)
- Harmful micro-organisms [hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/hazardous-substances/harmful-micro-organisms/index.htm](http://hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/hazardous-substances/harmful-micro-organisms/index.htm)
- BPCA Codes of Best Practice for Surveys/Air Weapons/Live Trapping [bpca.org.uk/pest-advice/documents-and-codes/codes-of-practice](http://bpca.org.uk/pest-advice/documents-and-codes/codes-of-practice).

Version 1. December 2020



4A Mallard Way, Pride Park, Derby, DE24 8GX  
+44 (0)1332 294 288 @britpestcontrol