

# Seagulls

[Advice on how to deal with problem seagulls – GOV.UK](#)



Most gulls found in the district are Herring Gulls. They are protected by law under The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). It is illegal to intentionally or recklessly kill or injure a gull, cause damage to a nest or stop a bird accessing its nest.

The law recognises that in some circumstances there may be a need to control the number of gulls by licence. The reasons for

this are very specific and do not include minor damage to property and nuisance.

More information can be found on the RSPB website:

[www.rspb.org.uk/makeahomeforwildlife/advice/gardening/unwantedvisitors/gulls/thelaw.aspx](http://www.rspb.org.uk/makeahomeforwildlife/advice/gardening/unwantedvisitors/gulls/thelaw.aspx)

## Deterring gulls

Gulls usually cause people the most problems during the breeding season from May to July. They are noisy and can be aggressive when protecting their nest and chicks. Once they have found a nesting site, they usually return every year.

To discourage gulls, it is important not to feed them and make sure all rubbish is bagged securely and in a closed bin so that the bags cannot be ripped open.

There are private contractors that offer “bird-proofing” which helps make nesting sites less attractive. This can include spikes and wires to make it difficult for birds to land and netting. It is important to keep them well maintained so they don’t turn in to a trap as this is illegal. It is important to consider bird-proofing when the nests are not active.

## Injured and baby gulls

Baby gulls are sometimes found on the ground. Their parents will usually look after them so it is best not to move them as the parents will try to protect the baby gull and could become aggressive.

If a bird is injured, Seahaven Bird Rescue may be able to help and there is more information on their website. [www.seahavenbirdrescue.org.uk](http://www.seahavenbirdrescue.org.uk)