

# **Gull Control Program 2021**

Completed on 14/08/2021

Prepared by Specialist Vermin Control for Moray Council

The information contained within this report has been gathered from Specialist Vermin Control and its Operators over the course of the Gull Control Program and has been re-formatted to be easily readable in a report format. It includes information gathered from the commercial properties as well as the residential properties in Elgin and Forres.

#### Commercial Properties covered by the program

12 – 16 Greyfriars Street	30 - 32 High Street	9 – 11 North Guildry St.	Aberlour Primary
Aberlour Swimming Pool	Ashgrove Depot	Beechbrae	Bishopmill Primary
Cameron Parkbrae	Cedarwood	Child Protection Unit	Cooper Park Depot
Cooper Park Nursery	Council Annex	Council HQ	East End School
Elgin Cemetary	Elgin Community Centre	Elgin High School	Elgin Library
Forres Academy	Grant Lodge	Greenwards Primary	Larch Court
Linkwood Primary	Millbank Primary	Moycroft	New Elgin Primary
Roths Primary	Seafield Primary	Speyside High School	St Gerardines
West End Primary	Kinloss Primary	St Slyvesters	

#### Residential Areas covered by the program

Kingsmills Lesmurdie (Elgin)

New Elgin

Elgin Centre

Pilmuir Area (Forres)

The overall program was successful with a large number of nests pre-emptively removed meaning there were fewer issues with removal/relocation of chicks. This dramatically reduced the threat to the public in the areas where works were conducted.

All Gull Control works were done under approved license by Nature Scot the governing body for works regarding protected species. Applications were applied for to conduct the removals/relocations and reports will be returned with numbers of eggs/nests and chicks removed or relocated. Relocated chicks were taken to the bird sanctuary at Ellon which had been arranged previously with Nature Scot as the approved drop off point.

## **Outline of Works Conducted**

Specialist Vermin Control undertook a preventative program of lasering in the areas requested in the contract. This consisted of a schedule of varied visits in the early hours of the morning to prevent formation of a pattern. High powered lasers were used to frighten and harass birds to prevent/deter them from nesting on the roofs. This continued throughout the entirety of the scheme.

Once nesting has begun, tenants in the covered areas could contact Specialist Vermin Control directly via the dedicated line or via a dedicated email to request nest removal from their property. Once Specialist Vermin Control received the request form an application for their property was submitted to Nature Scot and a license would either be approved or denied. Once a valid license was acquired the removal would take place with nest materials and eggs being destroyed in line with SEPA guidelines. A return form would be completed and sent back to Nature Scot to supply them with the information of the removal. Due to restrictions placed on Specialist Vermin Controls license, chicks could not be removed unless in extreme cases. This meant that removing nests as quickly as possible was high priority to prevent eggs from hatching.

Installation of a sonic scaring device was onto the roof of the Council Annex to aid with the prevention of nesting. This proved highly effective and was programmed to emit the deterring sound at various intervals, again to prevent formation of a pattern.

## Commercial Properties

All commercial properties were covered by a lasering program at the very beginning of the nesting season to prevent or minimise the amount of nesting birds on the sites, this was carried out until the last few weeks of nesting season.

The lasering proved to be a successful preventative measure on most properties however the Council Annex required the installation of a sonic scarer to deter the more persistent birds. This ran in conjunction with nest and egg removal to make sure areas were kept safe from aggressive birds as adults can become very hostile when nesting/with young.

Below is a list of the commercial properties along with the numbers of nests and eggs removed from each site.

Site	Eggs	Nests	Site	Eggs	Nests
12 – 16 Greyfriars Street	0	0	Elgin Community Centre	0	0
30 – 32 High Street	0	0	Elgin High School	0	0
9 – 11 Noth Guildry Street	3	1	Elgin Library	0	0
Aberlour Primary	4	2	Forres Academy	82	32
Aberlour Swimming Pool	0	0	Grant Lodge	0	0
Ashgrove Depot	12	6	Greenwards School	13	8
Beechbrae	0	0	Larch Court	0	0
Bishopmill Primary	8	4	Linkwood Primary	0	0
Cameron Parkbrae	0	0	Millbank Primary	8	4
Cedarwood	0	0	Moycroft	0	0
Child Protection Unit	0	0	New Elgin Primary	10	04
Cooper Park Depot	0	0	Roths Primary	27	10
Cooper Park Nursery	0	0	Seafield Primary	0	0
Council Annex	37	17	Speyside High School	0	0
Council HQ	28	12	St Gerardines	40	15
East End School	60	18	West End Primary	1	1
Elgin Cemetary	10	5	Kinloss Primary	89	32
St Sylvesters	9	4		0	0

### **Additional works**

Chicks were removed under special license from Nature Scot due to dangers to public health

Keith Grammar - 8 Chicks relocated to Ellon Bird Sanctuary

Lossiemouth High School - 12 Chicks relocated to Ellon Bird Sanctuary.

## **Residential Properties**

The residential areas were covered by a laser disruption scheme to prevent/deter nesting of birds on the house rooves. This was conducted during the early hours of the morning by Specialist Vermin Control operators in a sporadic fashion to prevent the formation of a pattern. This proved effective in reducing the numbers of birds forming nests and meant numbers for removals were manageable.

The initial contract was to cover three areas in Elgin – Kingsmills Lesmurdie, Elgin Centre and New Elgin with the Pilmuir area in Forres added to the scheme at a later date.

The following pages contain a listing of the residential properties.

No	Street Name	Action	Nest	Eggs
	12 Abbey Street	Chicks were present, removal could not be conducted		
	7 Academy Street	Chicks were present, removal could not be conducted		
	51 Academy Street	removal Completed	1	3
	54 Academy Street	Removal Completed	1	3
	10 Anderson Drive	removal Completed	1	3
	12 Anderson Drive	removal Completed	1	3
	45 Anderson Drive	Removal Completed	1	3
	52 Anderson Drive	removal Completed	1	3
	30 Ashfield Drive	removal Completed	1	3
	44 Ashfield Drive	Removal Completed	1	3
	7 Ashgrove Court	REmoval Completed	1	3
	88 Ashgrove Park	removal Completed	1	3
	18 Ashgrove Place	removal Completed	1	3
	62 Ashgrove Place	Removal Completed	1	3
	14 Bailies Drive	removal Completed	1	3
	24 Bailies Drive	Removal Completed	1	3
	50 Bailies Drive	Removal Completed	1	3
	20 Beechfield Road	Removal Completed	1	3
	30 Beechfield Road	removal Completed	1	3
	63 Beechfield Road	Chicks were present, removal could not be conducted		
	17 Ben Aigen Walk	removal Completed	1	3
	3 Birkenhill Place	removal Completed	1	3
	5 Birkenhill Place	Removal Completed	1	3
	18 Birkenhill PLace	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present		
	48 Birkenhill PLace	removal Completed	1	3
	50 Birkenhill Place	Removal Completed	1	3
	25 Birnie Crescent	Removal Completed	1	3
	31 Birnie Crescent	Removal Completed	1	3
	8 Birnie Road	Removal Completed	1	3
	35 Brechen Rig	removal Completed	1	3
	25 Brechenrig	removal Completed	1	3
	2 Calcots Court	removal Completed	1	3
	11 chanonry Road	removal Completed	1	3
	37 Chanonry Road	removal Completed	1	3
	38 Chanonry Road	removal Completed	1	3
	11 Councillors Walk	removal Completed	1	3
	12 Councillors Walk	removal Completed	1	3
	14 Councillors Walk	removal Completed	1	3
	9 Culbard Road	application was denied on arrival as no nest present	0	0
	11 Culbard Street	Chicks were present, removal could not be conducted		
	13 Culbard Street	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present	0	0
	27 Culbard Street	Removal Completed	1	3
11A	Culbard Street	Chicks were present, removal could not be conducted	0	0
	14 Dean of Guild Way	removal Completed	1	3
	28 Dean of Guild Way	removal Completed	1	3
	8 Duff Avenue	Removal Completed	1	3
	133 Edgar Road	removal Completed	1	3
	16 Elmfield road	Removal Completed	1	3
	20 Elmfield Road	Chicks were present, removal could not be conducted		
	61 Glen Lossie Drive	removal Completed	1	3
	67 Glen Lossie Drive	Removal Completed	1	3
	69 Glen Lossie Drive	removal Completed	1	3
	24 Golf view Crescent	removal Completed	1	3
	26 Golf view Crescent	Removal Completed	1	3
	22 Gordon Street	removal Completed	1	3
	24 Grampian Road	Removal Completed	1	3
34A	Grampian Road	Removal Completed	1	2
	2 Gurness Circle	removal Completed	1	3
	10 Gurness Circle	removal Completed	1	3
	16 Gurness Circle	removal Completed	1	1
	18 Gurness Circle	removal Completed	1	3
	20 Hard Hillock Avenue	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present	0	0
	12 Hardhillock Avenue	removal Completed	1	3
	44 Hardhillock Avenue	Chicks were present, removal could not be conducted	0	0
	72 Hardhillock Avenue	removal Completed	1	3
	74 Hardhillock Avenue	Removal Completed	1	3
	76 Hardhillock avenue	removal Completed	1	2
	77 Hardhillock Avenue	Unable to access roof due to building position		
	41 high School Drive	Removal Completed	1	3
	14 Institution Road	Nest was not present on arrival at site	0	0
	14 King Street	removal Completed	1	3
	20 King Street	Removal Completed	1	3
	7 Kirkton Place	Removal Completed	1	3
	29 Kirkton Place	Removal Completed	1	3
	11 Land Street	removal Completed	1	3
	13 Land Street	Removal Completed	1	3

	24 Land Street	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present		
	10 Linkwood Avenue	Removal Completed	1	3
	1 Linkwood Road	Removal Completed	1	2
	3 Maisondieu Place	Removal Completed	1	3
	14 Maisondieu Place	removal Completed	1	3
	35 Maisondieu Road	Removal Completed	1	3
	62 Maisondieu Road	removal Completed	1	3
	3 Mannocho Court	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present		
	5 Mannocho Court	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present	0	0
	10 Market Drive	No nest was present on site	0	0
	99 Meadow Crescent	removal Completed	1	3
	101 Meadow Crescent	removal Completed	1	3
	17 Milnefield Avenue	removal Completed	1	3
	104 Milnefield Avenue	Removal Completed	1	3
	55 Moss Street	removal Completed	1	3
Eastwood	Moss Street	removal Completed	1	3
	47 Mossend Place	removal completed	1	2
	49 Mossend Place	Removal Completed	1	3
	59 Mossend Place	Removal Completed	1	3
	11 Muirfield Crescent	Removal Completed	1	0
	12 Muirfield Crescent	Removal Completed	1	3
	15 Muirfield Road	removal Completed	1	3
	25 Muirfield Road	Removal Completed	1	3
	35 Muirfield Road	removal completed	1	3
	38 Muirfield Road	removal Completed	1	3
	45 Muirfield Road	removal Completed	1	3
	47 Muirfield Road	removal Completed	1	2
	71 Muirfield Road	Removal Completed	1	3
	103 Muirfield Road	removal Completed	1	3
	135 Muirfield Road	removal Completed	1	3
	3 Muirfield Crescent	removal Completed	1	3
	43 Muirfield Road	removal Completed	1	3
	17 New Elgin Road	removal Completed	1	3
	48 Nicol Street	removal Completed	1	3
33A	Nicol Street	Removal Completed	1	3
38a	Nicol Street	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present	0	0
	11 North College Street	Removal Completed	1	3
	1 Pilmuir Road	No nest was present on arrival	0	0
	2 Pilmuir Road	Chicks were present, removal could not be conducted	0	0
	27 Pilmuir Road	Chicks were present, removal could not be conducted		
	18 Pine Grove	removal Completed	1	3
	19 Pinefield Crescent	removal Completed	1	3
	21 Pinefield Crescent	removal Completed	1	3
	22 Pinefield Crescent	removal Completed	1	3
	46 Pinefield Crescent	Removal Completed	1	3
	20 Pinefield Crescent	removal Completed	1	3
	23 Pinefield Crescent	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present	0	0
	8 Pond Park place	Removal Completed	1	3
	38 Priory Place	removal Completed	1	3
	46 Priory Place	removal Completed	1	2
	14 Quebec Place	Removal Completed	1	3
	24 Randolph Lane	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present		
	30 Randolph Lane	No nest present on site		
	22 Randolph Lane	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present		
	15 Reidhaven Street	Chicks were present, removal could not be conducted		
	23 Reidhaven Street	removal Completed	1	3
	25 Reidhaven Street	removal Completed	1	3
	28 Reidhaven street	removal Completed	1	3
	32 Robertson Drive	removal Completed	1	3
	85 Robertson Drive	removal Completed	1	3
	91 Robertson Drive	removal Completed	1	3
	17 Sandy Road	removal Completed	1	3
	3 Seafield Crescent	Removal Completed	1	3
	5 Seafield Crescent	removal Completed	1	3
	27 Seafield Street	removal Completed	1	3
	10 south College Street	Removal Completed	1	3
	12 South College Street	Removal Completed	1	3
	94 South College Street	Removal Completed	1	2
	23 Springburn place	removal Completed	1	3
	6 Stuart Street	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present		
	8 Stuart Street	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present		
	9 Stuart Street	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present		
	13 Stuart Street	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present		
	3 The Wards	Removal Completed	1	3
	77 Thornhill Road	Tried to reach tenant	0	0
	73 Thornhill Road	Removal Completed	1	3
	19 Tomail Place	removal Completed	1	3

10 Victoria Crescent	removal Completed	1	3
24 Victoria Crescent	removal Completed	1	3
34 Victoria Crescent	removal completed	1	3
39 Victoria Crescent	Removal Completed	1	3
44 Victoria Crescent	Removal Completed	1	3
14 Waulkmill Road	removal Completed	1	0
7 Wellbrae Court	removal Completed	1	3
9 Yewfield Road	Application was denied on arrival as no nest present		



## **Results of Program**

The results of the commercial property scheme showed that the program of lasering in the run up to the nesting creation period of the season reduced the quantity of birds willing to nest on the properties however in some cases (e.g. the Council Annex) it would be advisable to run alternative measures alongside the current methods such as installations of sonic scarers or other deterrent devices in conjunction with the physical removal of nests and nesting materials.

The results of the residential properties were positive, with many nests removed preventing any danger to the public from aggressive birds. The lasering conducted before the starting of the nest building period was effective at reducing the amount of birds willing to nest. The program was less effective in the Pilmuir area due to its late start. Due to our license constraints Specialist Vermin Control was not able to remove chicks unless under extreme circumstances and as such Pilmuir was further along in the nesting period chicks had begun to hatch by the time the licenses were coming back approved from Nature Scot.

To maximise the effectiveness of future schemes, the areas that are to be covered should be established at the very beginning of the season to make sure they are able to be covered by preventative lasering programs to minimise the amount of nesting birds. With changes to the licensing procedure and new procedures for dealing with eggs and chicks, the organisation of all areas to be covered would have to be set in place to allow for licenses to be in place and schedules set out.

Specialist Vermin Control found that many calls were submitted to the direct line from the Bishopmill area, however due to not being covered by the scheme had to be conducted as private removals. It is recommended that Bishopmill is included in future schemes to achieve full coverage, this will hopefully reduce the gull problem further by pushing them out of the Elgin/Bishopmill area entirely.