



## Responses to Proposals

### THEME: Obligations to Protected Sites

Question 1: Do you agree with Natural England's proposal to address this concern by drawing attention to the existing obligations on Statutory Undertakers?

Yes  No  No Comment

It may also be useful to illustrate this with specific examples. The proposed text is accurate but, as many local authorities do not have access to a full-time ecologist, a good example of the situation that would require notification would be very beneficial.

### THEME: Non-Native Species

Question 2: Do you agree with our proposal to use regulatory measures to facilitate the control or invasive non-native species?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 3.1: Do you agree with our proposal to add Ring-necked and Monk Parakeets to the general licence issued for the purpose of conserving wild birds (s.16(1)(c) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 3.2: Do you agree with our proposal to add Canada Geese and Egyptian Geese to the general licence issued for the purpose of conserving wild birds (s.16(1)(c) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 4.1: Do you agree with our proposal to permit the killing/taking of Ring-necked and Monk Parakeet species for the purpose of preventing serious damage to crops, etc (s.16(1)(k) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 4.2: Do you agree with our proposal to issue a separate licence for this purpose for invasive non-native species?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 5.1: Do you agree with our proposal to permit the killing/taking of Monk Parakeet species under a general licence for the purpose of preserving public health or public or air safety (s.16(1)(i) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 5.2: Do you agreed with our proposal to issue a separate licence for this purpose for invasive, non-native species?

Yes  No  No Comment

### THEME – Review of species listed

Question 6.1: Do you agree that Great Black-backed Gull should only be listed on the general licence permitting take/kill birds for the purpose of preserving air safety? Please provide evidence in support of your view.

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 6.2: Do you agree that the Herring Gull should only be listed on the general licences permitting

a. the killing/taking of birds for the purpose of preserving air safety?

Yes  No  No Comment

b. the destruction of eggs and nests for the purpose of preserving public health and public safety? Please provide evidence in support of your view.

Yes  No  No Comment

The Wildlife Trusts welcome the removal of the Herring Gull from most of the general licences. However, we would question why this species is not to be awarded the same level of protection as the Great Black-backed Gull especially in light of the species now meeting red listing criteria as a bird of conservation concern.

Question 7.1 Do you agree with our proposal to issue a limited general licence permitting the taking/killing of House sparrow, Starling, Robin and Blackbird in food production/handling premises for the purpose of preserving public health or public safety (s.16(1)(i) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)?

Yes  No  No Comment

However, we are concerned that, even though the actual number of licences applied for is low and the number of birds taken/killed is low, some grain stores especially, might have large

numbers of birds. With only an annual report, a significant number of birds, of species that are of concern, could be killed before Natural England became aware of it. Could a threshold of kills (for example, maximum of 20) be applied and at that level, Natural England should be consulted before any further culling took place.

Whilst the consultation makes it clear that all other non-lethal methods should be tried initially, there could perhaps be a greater emphasis placed on fully exhausting all other options before resorting to shooting.

The Wildlife Trusts appreciate that the specific wording for the licence and conditions are to be drawn up subsequent to this consultation. Careful consideration should be given to specifying the 'defined period of time' for which non-lethal options and the various live traps are in place before resorting to the bird(s) being shot.

Question 7.2 If such a licence is issued, do you agree that it is appropriate to require users of the licence to register their first use of the licence with Natural England and to keep written records of action taken under the licence?

Yes  No  No Comment

See comments for Question 7.1

### **THEME – Sales of birds**

Question 8.1: Do you agree with the proposal to consolidate the sales licences?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 8.2: Do you agree with the proposal to continue to allow the birds listed on the appendix (and their eggs) to be sold without a ring?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 8.3: Is the list of species that are exempt from ringing correct (see draft licence for list)? If you disagree, please state why and provide evidence.

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 9.1: Do you agree with our proposal that no species be excluded from sale under the general licence on the grounds of risks to their conservation status from illegal take from the wild? If you disagree, please provide grounds and evidence for your position? If you do disagree, please provide grounds and evidence for your position.

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 9.2: Do you agree that Ruddy Duck and Egyptian Goose should continue to be excluded from the general licence permitting sales on the grounds of potential risks to native species, and that Canada Goose should be added to the list of exclusions?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 9.3: Do you agree that sales of Eagle Owls under the general licence should be subject to a registration scheme on the grounds of potential risks to native species?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 9.4: Do you believe that other bird species should be added to this list of exclusions on the grounds of potential risks to native species? Please consider the possible candidates suggested above; you may suggest other species and explain why, providing evidence.

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 10: Do you agree with our proposal that sales of dead Barnacle Goose and White-fronted Goose (Greenland race) be permitted under the general licence?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 11.1: Do you agree that Natural England should provide guidance on what might constitute suitable documentary evidence?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 11.2: Do you agree that the wording we propose is appropriate? If not, please provide alternative wording.

Yes  No  No Comment

**THEME – Understanding and awareness of the general licences & their conditions**

Question 12.1 Do you believe that there is sufficient widespread understanding of the General Licences, the circumstances in which they may be used and the conditions that apply. Please provide evidence in support of your answer where possible.

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 12.2 Do you have any suggestions as to how we could raise the level of awareness?

Please scroll down to the next part of this form if you wish to provide us with general feedback on this consultation package and exercise.