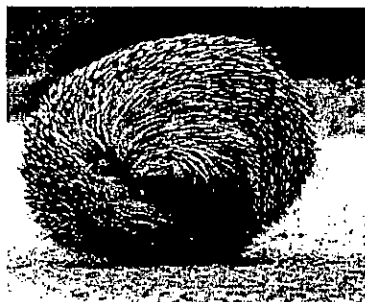


Environment Bulletin – Hedgehog Awareness Week

SB No	EN01
Dated	Issue 24/04/2017 – Required return date 8 th May
Subject	Hedgehog Awareness Week 30 th April - 6 th May 2017

HEDGEHOG 30th April - 6th May 2017 #hedgehogweek AWARENESS WEEK

The once common hedgehog is now under threat from development and habitat loss caused by the reduction of hedgerows, the increase in intensification of our agricultural landscapes and loss of suitable habitats in domestic gardens. In just the last 10 years, hedgehog numbers have fallen by 30%, and there are now thought to be fewer than one million left in the UK. They are disappearing from our countryside as fast as tigers are worldwide. Hedgehogs are found across the UK, absent only from some Scottish islands. Gardens, hedgerows, woodlands, grasslands, parkland and cemeteries are all important hedgehog habitats.



Many hundreds of hedgehogs every year are seriously injured, sometimes fatally by the use of strimmers and brush cutters, many hundreds of young hedgehogs (hoglets) may unintentionally be orphaned by landscaping activities where the sow hedgehog is either killed, injured or disturbed to the extent that she abandons her young.

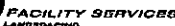
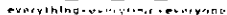
Along with other Interested Parties, ISS Landscaping are supporting the British Hedgehog Preservation Society to make sure that all Operatives are aware of the dangers that mowers, strimmers, hedge cutters etc. can pose to wildlife, particularly hedgehogs. These dangers can be avoided by simply carrying out a thorough visual check of the area to be cut before work commences.

By attaching the British Hedgehog Preservation Society labels to equipment and by raising Operator awareness our aim is to reduce the number of hedgehog injuries and deaths.



Labels can requested from the Operations Support Centre, please ensure these are clearly displayed on all equipment that could harm this precious species. If you do spot a hedgehog and provided it is safe to do so take a photo and send it through to the Compliance team along with details of the date and where the hedgehog was seen.

This safety information is mandatory the content must be brought to the attention of all ISS employees by using this environment brief as a tool box talk (TBTs). Completed copies to be returned to the Operations Support Centre.

[illegible]

SB Rev 0 Feb 2010

ENVIRONMENT BRIEFING: NESTING BIRDS

SB/TBT NO.	06/16
Dated	15 th March 2016
Subject	Nesting Birds

The Law

All birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, All nesting wild birds (including 'pest' species such as feral pigeons and gulls) are protected. It is an offence to: _

- Damage or destroy nests while being built or in use,
- Disturbing birds while nesting
- Removing, damaging or taking eggs and young birds from nests



Prosecution can lead to fines of up to £5,000 and 6 months in prison.

When

Bird nesting season is typically between March to early July but this may be extended to August depending on weather and availability of food.



How

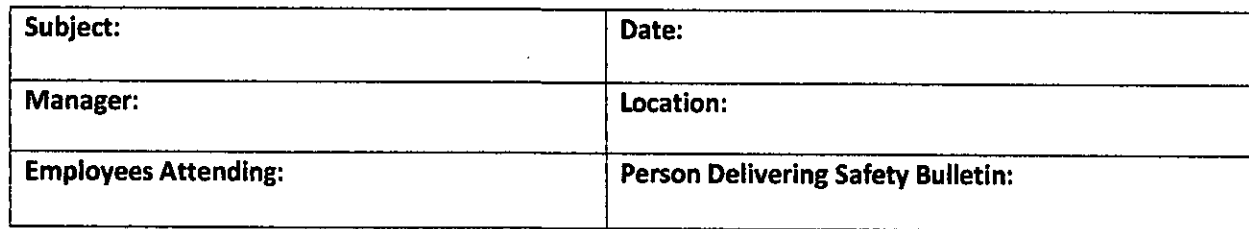
If clearance work has to be undertaken during the nesting season, a thorough examination of the locality (hedges, trees etc.) must be carried out. As a general rule, it should be assumed that birds will be nesting in trees, scrub, reeds or substantial ditch side vegetation during the core breeding period, unless a survey had shown this not to be the case.

- Signs of birds being encouraged to a garden e.g. bird tables, feeders etc. will show bird activity and possible nests
- Birds returning frequently to the same spot in a hedge could indicate young nestlings have hatched
- Noisy birds may indicate that you are close to a nest and it is trying to divert your attention
- Ground nesting birds, such as the skylark and lapwing, nest on grassland and scrub areas. They usually land a distance from the nest in order to prevent predators from locating their eggs and young
- Most birds will sit tight on eggs in nests, pay particular attention if a bird allows you to get closer than usual before it is spooked and flies away, this may indicate a nest. Move directly to where it flew from and inspect the area closely

No works that will disturb nesting birds should be carried out until the birds have stopped breeding and chicks have fledged. Consider implementing a 10 metre exclusion zone and minimising plant and vehicle movements in the area. Do not move materials or plant away from the nest as this could disturb the parent birds or young and could expose the nest to predators

Questions

1. What time of the year is typical bird nesting season?
2. What is the maximum fine per offence for damaging or destroying a bird's nest?
3. Which wild birds are not protected while nesting?

[illegible]ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL BR/113/17/PL