

Advice to Householders on Feral Pigeon Control



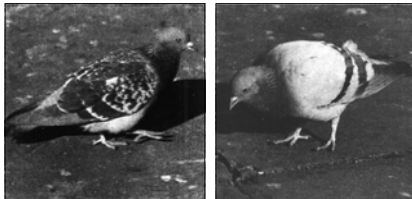
Pigeon Control

Behaviour

Feral pigeons have developed from the rock dove, doves and domestic pigeons. They are increasing in numbers in town centres where they have adapted well to the artificial cliffs of buildings. They depend largely on the public for food and due to this dependence, they have become a pest fouling buildings, pavements, parklands, gardens, contaminating food stores, transmitting diseases and causing health and safety problems. They rely mainly on scraps, bread, cakes and birdseed given to them by the general public.

The birds normally feed in flocks and are highly efficient at finding roosting places near to a food source where they will wait until they can feed undisturbed, unless they know that a person feeds them regularly at a certain time of day

Examples of Feral



Pigeons ▼

Significance

The fouling of buildings and monuments frequently occurs at places where they roost and nest. The acidic droppings react with chemicals in the stonework causing erosion of the surfaces. Accumulations of droppings can become infested with mites and insects, which are pests of stored products and houses.

They carry many diseases and can give rise to the following: -

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Other problems that they cause include blocked gutters and downspouts which can cause water damage by seepage coming into the property, chimneys being blocked causing smoke problems or gasses such as carbon monoxide being forced back into the house, all of which lead to increased costs of maintenance and a risk of nuisance to neighbouring properties. Large numbers of roosting pigeons also give rise to odour and noise nuisance complaints, not to mention the risk to health and safety in terms of slipping hazards on pavements and fire escapes, from the accumulations of droppings.

Control Measures

The only effective way to control feral pigeons and other pest species of birds is to remove food sources, remove roosting sites and nesting sites.

Removing food sources is the single most important factor in reducing the number of feral pigeons in towns. If you must feed birds then it should only be within the curtilage of your own yard or garden, and no food should be left laying around for long periods in time as this will in time attract rodents into the area. To scatter food on roads, pavements and other public places are an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

There are a number of companies who will carry out proofing measures to buildings and there are companies who will supply materials directly to you for you to proof your own gutters, window cills etc. Proofing of empty buildings is of particular importance as any access points into a building allows the pigeons time to establish a large colony as they are left undisturbed for long periods of time and hence have nesting places as well as roosting sites.

Bird Control Firms

The following companies either offer a service to install and recommend on bird proofing measures, or they will provide materials directly to you to carry out your own proofing measures. However this type of work can be expensive and it would pay you to shop around for several quotes, most companies will not charge for a survey, but it is as well as check this out before arranging an appointment. Further companies can be found in the yellow pages under Pest and Vermin.

Pigeon Control

(None of the contractors listed come with any recommendation of Babergh District Council)

IGROX

White Hall, Worlingworth, WOODBRIDGE,
Suffolk, IP13 7HW. Tel: **0800 387690**

COMMAND PEST CONTROL

Unit 4, College Farm, Church Lane, Preston St.
Mary, SUDBURY, Suffolk. Tel: **01787 248049**

TERMINIX

Cherry Hinton Road, CAMBRIDGE, CB1 4FG.
Tel: **0800 789600**

ALPINE PEST CONTROL

55 Fore Street, FRAMLINGHAM, Suffolk,
IP13 9DD. Tel: **01728 723277**


CROWNGUARD

15a The Broadway Mill Hill, LONDON,
NW7 3LN. Tel: **020 8959 4525**

Customer Services

Babergh District Council
Corks Lane, Hadleigh
Ipswich IP7 6SJ

Tel: (01473) 826622

Minicom: 01473 825878 

www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/pests

If you need help to understand this information in another language or would like it in another format (audio version or large print) please call
01473 826622

