


From: Janice Worthing janice@inverness.uk.com 
Subject: Inverness Gull Programme
Date: 7 December 2022 at 09:27
To: Lesley Strang lesley@lesleystrang.com

JW

Hi Lesley,

It was great to talk to you last week.

Inverness Background

In response to concerns expressed by the public, councillors, and businesses at the number of gulls in the Inverness area and the mess and disturbance they were causing, in late 2011 Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot) were approached and asked for advice on what could be done to reduce problems in this area.

Inverness BID had undertaken the original review of other gull managements schemes including liaising with the successful programme in Dumfries. BID was asked to deliver an egg & nest removal programme in both Inverness city centre and the outskirts as part of an intervention

Outcome

Over the years the programme has been extended to include additional properties in Carsgate Industrial as well as the Longman and the city centre.

Following the initial programme in 2012, both the Inverness Common Good Fund and BID have continued to support the programme 66.6% : 33.3% basis.

It is stressed that without intervention the number of breeding gulls were projected by NatureScot to continue to grow by 7% annually.

It is recognised the Inverness Gull Programme has been successful and effective in reducing the growth in the Gull population in the City and surroundings.

It is important to note that no evidence has been found of Gulls relocating to nest into the residential areas of Inverness where of course they are often seen seeking food.

Summary

As previously stated, it has always been accepted that to control and seek to reverse the growth of gull population that had occurred over so many years, intervention in the gull breeding cycle by annually removing/destroying eggs would need to be undertaken for the long term.

During the 2021 breeding season we were able for the first time have a plane go up and take some ariel shots of all the roofs in the central Inverness area. A detailed review of each photograph was undertaken to find any additional breeding nests which we hadn't been aware of – this enabled us to identify nests which were impossible to view via our foot surveying previously undertaken (at high vantage point at each area) that were hidden against roof plants etc. which we included in our 2022 programme.

Preparation

- December Quote from licensed Pest Control (we use Northeast Pest Management – Derek Ross)
- December Inverness Common Good Fund application made
- End of February start of March Gulls pair off
- Into March Gulls can be seen sitting in pairs
- Mid March list put together of potential nesting buildings/premises
- Late March meeting with Pest control
- Start of April licence applications for each premises filled out and sent to NatureScot
- Permission from each building/premises required for access
- End of April/start of May annual survey of area
- First weekend May removals start
- Removals continue every 14 days until 4 x visits
- Throughout each removal numbers recorded
- End of programme egg & nest numbers submitted back to NatureScot for each individual licence

Inverness table

NUMBERS 2012-2022	GULL		
	YEAR	NESTS	EGGS
2012	620	1339	26
2013	789	1610	33
2014	474	1145	45
2015	709	1753	49
2016	976	2433	56
2017	643	1683	57
2018	551	1507	59
2019	704	1456	53
2021	627	1357	47
2022	987	2098	72

Kind regards,

Janice Worthing

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