



Wildlife
Crime Prevention
Information Leaflet



Keeping People Safe



Razorbills by Laurie Campbell

“We don’t all nest in trees!”

**Your actions may be causing birds to abandon their nests or seals to desert their pups!
Disturbing these wildlife species is a criminal offence.**

Northern Ireland’s wildlife is under constant stress from human activities, some areas are designated to allow wildlife to live in peace. When walking or landing your boat on isolated beaches and islands think wildlife! Between March and September birds will be nesting. Many birds nest on the ground at the top of beach or on cliff top ledges. Some birds, eg Terns, nest in groups or colonies these are clearly visible from a distance. These birds react by flocking violently when approached often mobbing the ‘predator’.



Flock Mobbing by Jon Lees

Other birds, eg ringed plover, nest individually above the high tide line, these are difficult to spot and their eggs tend to be camouflaged! The adults try to lead you away from the nest by distraction behaviours.



Ringed Plover Eggs by Jon Lees



Ringed Plover Sitting on The Nest
by Laurie Campbell

Seals

These marine mammals are seen all around the coast of Northern Ireland, they come ashore or 'haul up' to rest and give birth.



Grey Seals on the rocks by Geoff Campbell

While adult seals can normally escape unwanted attention, their pups born in the summer for harbour seals and autumn for grey seals are vulnerable to human disturbance and attack by dogs. Frequent disturbance can lead to mother's abandoning their pups too early and exhaustion of the adults. Watercraft can also injure seals where they are operated at speed near known seal haul outs.

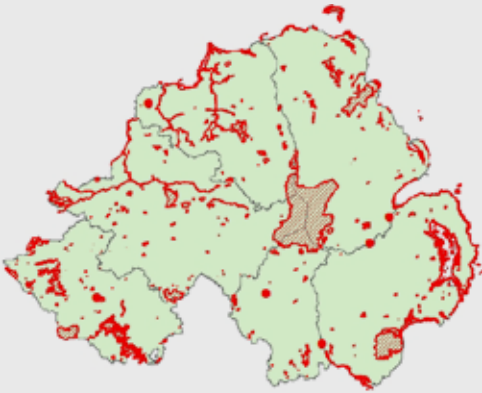


Jet Skier by Arthur Ward

- Only land your boat at approved landing stages.
- Obey any local instructions.
- Avoid areas with nesting birds.
- Take care walking on the foreshore
- Keep dogs on the lead.
- Do not light fires or BBQs without the landowners permission.
- Keep your distance from all seals & slow down your boat!
- Take all litter home.



Common Tern by John Doherty



NIEA - ASSI Map

Much of Northern Ireland's coastline is designated by the NIEA for its Special Scientific Interest. Known as ASSIs these zones protect land for flora and fauna.

Visit the Northern Ireland Environment Agency website <http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/> for further details.

It is a criminal offence to damage features of an ASSI without the NIEA's consent.
Reporting offences NIEA Tel: 028 90569564.

Certain Flora and Fauna are protected by the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 (As Amended). All nesting birds, their nests, eggs and chicks are protected by law – it is a criminal offence to disturb, damage or take them without an NIEA Licence. Seals are protected all year from disturbance and hunting.

To report wildlife crime offences call the police and ask for the wildlife office or call at your local police station.



An Agency within the Department of the

Environment

www.doeni.gov.uk