

What is PAW NI?

The Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime NI (PAW NI) brings together statutory agencies, non-statutory agencies and interested parties with the common goal of combating wildlife crime through publicity, education and campaigning. PAW NI partners include key government departments, PSNI and other enforcement agencies, environmental organisations, animal welfare groups and country sports associations.



WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE CRIME

Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime Northern Ireland

WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE CRIME

Northern Ireland **CrimeStoppers.** 0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.

Food Standards Agency food.gov.uk

Ulster Wildlife

Countryside Alliance Ireland

Northern Ireland Bat Group

Loughs Agency

Ulster Farmers Union

USPCA

British Deer Society

Forest Service

BASC

hseni

BORN FREE

THE ZOO BELFAST ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR COUNTRY SPORTS

NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Reporting a wildlife crime



Any information about wildlife crime should be passed immediately to the PSNI*. Call 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Describe your call as a potential Wildlife Crime and try and relay the following if known:

- Give details of the (potential) crime.
- Location and time.
- Description of the person(s) involved.
- Vehicle registrations, makes & colours.
- Detail any use of firearms, tools & dogs etc.
- Ask for & retain an incident reference number.

*Information can also be given anonymously via Crimestoppers.



© J Lees

Wildlife Photography Advice Note

Northern Ireland **CrimeStoppers.** 0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.

www.wildlifecrimeni.org

Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime Northern Ireland

Whether your wildlife photography is casual i.e. a walk with the camera photographing things of interest, or the more patient 'Hide Photography', staking out a subject or habitat with the aim of capturing specific images and behaviours. Both activities can cause disturbance to sensitive wildlife.

The photographer should always think about the consequences of their actions.



In most circumstances a licence is not required to photograph wild birds or animals, provided you are well away from the nest or den. However, many animals and birds are especially prone to disturbance, especially during the breeding season. You should therefore be very careful to make sure that you act within the law. Licences are only required if your actions might otherwise constitute an offence.

In Northern Ireland all birds are protected whilst nesting, therefore where the photographer sets out to take pictures at, or close to the nest of any bird they will require a licence.

Disturbance at this critical time can lead to nest abandonment, cooling of eggs/chicks, starvation of the chicks or predators discovering the nesting site. **Photographers should not spend too long watching an individual subject, nor should they chase or harass the target species.**

Outside the breeding season:

Be aware that many natural areas across Northern Ireland have been designated* as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) for specific species or habitats of interest. Disturbance of noted species within ASSIs at anytime of the year could constitute an offence.

Many other animals are protected too and disturbance of them is also illegal. Photographing protected animals (those listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Order or Schedule 2 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (NI) 1995 as amended) requires a licence when the photographer intends to undertake the work immediately adjacent to the sett, holt or drey etc, particularly if this is to be done during the breeding season of that animal. Care should be taken around marine mammals - keep to a safe distance.

Don't give away locations of nests, setts or holts.

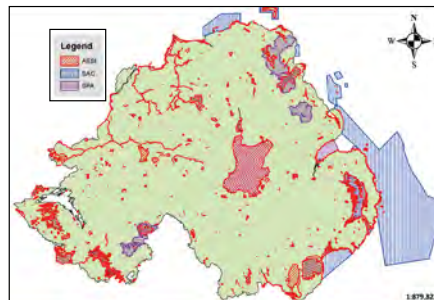
Be careful with Social media chatter.

Don't invite your friends to come for a look.

Advice should be sought from the Wildlife Officer if you intend to use flash photography or lighting.

Detailed advice from the NIEA Wildlife Team is available here:

Tel: 028 9056 9551



Licensing

The Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) are the Licensing authority in NI. Enquires & completed applications can be sent to:

elmswildlife@daera-ni.gov.uk

or Tel: 028 9056 9551. <https://bit.ly/3ftLJr7>

You may be asked for references & to document your experience when you apply.

Wildlife and the Law

The Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 (as amended) protects all wild birds & listed animals from unlawful killing or injury. Making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- kill, injure or take any wild bird or protected animal.
- take, damage, destroy or disturb a nest whilst it is being built or is in use.
- obstruct or prevent any wild bird from using its nest.
- disturb any wild bird whilst it is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young.
- damage or destroy, or obstruct access to, any structure or place which any wild animal included in Schedule 5 uses for shelter or protection.
- disturbs any such animal while it is occupying such a structure or place.

If convicted of an offence, fines of up to £5000 & or 6 month imprisonment per offence can be applied. *Lands designated under the Environment (NI) Order 2002 as amended or The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations (NI) 1995 as amended.

