

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.



Damage to designated ASSI, SPA or SACs



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Contact:

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

Tel: 028 9056 9564

(outside office hours 0800 807 060)

Email: CDPCompliance@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.

WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE CRIME



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Coastal Wildlife



Northern Ireland

Crimestoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.

www.wildlifecrimeni.org



PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION AGAINST
wildlife crime

NORTHERN IRELAND



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. When walking or landing your boat on isolated beaches and islands **think wildlife!** March to September birds will be nesting. Many coastal birds nest on the ground at the top of the beach, in scrubby grasslands or on cliff top ledges. Some birds, eg. Terns, nest in groups or colonies and these are clearly visible from a distance. These birds will react by flocking violently when approached often mobbing the 'predator'.

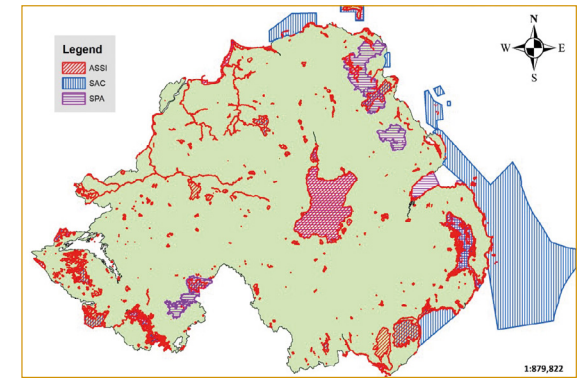
Other birds, eg. Ringed plover, nest individually above the high tide line, these nests are difficult to spot as the eggs tend to be camouflaged. The parent birds will try and lead you away from the nest by distraction behaviours.



Seals - These marine mammals are seen all around the coast of Northern Ireland. They come ashore or 'haul-out' to rest or give birth. While adult seals can normally escape unwanted attention, their pups (born in the late summer for harbour seals and autumn for grey seals) are vulnerable to human disturbance and attack by dogs. Their baby fur isn't waterproof impeding their swimming and leaving them vulnerable to exposure or drowning. Frequent disturbance can lead to mums 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.



- Only land your boat at approved landing stages.
- Obey any local instructions.
- Avoid nesting sites & seal haul-outs.
- Take care walking on the upper foreshore.
- Keep dogs on the lead.
- Do not light fires or BBQs without permission.
- Keep your distance from seals & other marine mammals - slow your boat down!



Much of Northern Ireland's coastline is designated by NIEA for its Special Scientific Interest, providing areas to allow wildlife to live in peace. Known as ASSIs these zones protect land for flora and fauna. For further details: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/protected-areas



It is a criminal offence to damage features of an ASSI without the NIEA's consent. 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 wildlife crime to disturb, damage or take them without an NIEA Licence. Seals are protected all year from disturbance and hunting.