

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 May 2025 16:50
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: THC update re gulls

[REDACTED]
Update from my meeting with [REDACTED] @THC this afternoon:

- Contract for survey issued and fieldwork to start 7th May.
- Covers 5km² core business and public space – excludes the mainly residential areas where any likely gulls will be at low density
- In addition ‘vulnerable’ (our ‘green’ category properties covered including those outwith the core survey area – in total 13 primary schools, 4 high schools, 2 hospitals, one NHS care home
- Emergency service properties not covered but THC open to adding these in

We discussed the options for using the £10k we would have available and THC would support a behavioural survey (gulls and people) at the ‘green’ properties plus the High Street. I would also like to survey where physical interventions are in place such as roof netting, perch-blockers etc.

BIDS are unaware of this so far.

[REDACTED] **Operations, Central Highland**

NatureScot | Achantoul, Grampian Road, Aviemore, PH22 1QD | DD: [REDACTED]

nature.scot | @nature_scot | *Scotland’s Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2025 14:56
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Inverness Gull Census and Distribution Survey

Hi [REDACTED]

Looks fine, bit sparse in detail. One edit that needs to be made though, Figure 2 title is incorrect

[REDACTED] Licensing Officer – Policy and Legislation | [REDACTED]
NatureScot | Inverdee House | Aberdeen | AB11 9QA |
nature.scot | @nature_scot | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

From: [REDACTED] nature.scot>
Sent: 22 July 2025 08:28
To: [REDACTED] nature.scot>
Subject: FW: Inverness Gull Census and Distribution Survey

Hi [REDACTED]
See attached first draft of Inverness gull survey. Any comments back to me.
[319414-THC - Inverness Urban Gull Census and Distribution Survey - V1.0 - 21 July 2025 \(A5286311\) - View](#)
Thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] Operations, Central Highland
NatureScot | Achantoul, Grampian Road, Aviemore, PH22 1QD | DD: [REDACTED]
nature.scot | @nature_scot | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

From: [REDACTED] @highland.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 July 2025 16:42
To: [REDACTED] @highland.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED] nature.scot>
Subject: Inverness Gull Census and Distribution Survey

Caution! This message was sent from outside NatureScot.

Hi both – please see V.1 of the urban gull census and distribution survey for Inverness. Any comments, let me know.
Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 July 2025 13:51
To: [REDACTED] @highland.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Inverness Gull Survey

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay in getting this over to you. Please find attached the finalised Inverness Gull Distribution and Census Report.

If you have any questions please get in touch.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HND



Mobile: [REDACTED] | Office: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@highland.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk)>

Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 08:47

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Inverness Gull Survey

Thank you [REDACTED] – enjoy your leave!

Cheers

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 01 July 2025 19:47

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@highland.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk)>

Subject: Re: Inverness Gull Survey

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Hi [REDACTED],

Apologies, I am currently on annual leave but have been monitoring my inbox for this periodically.

Unfortunately, the final version has not yet been approved by QA. I will push to have this finalised ASAP.

However, I have attached a draft copy for your meeting tomorrow alongside figures and the shapefiles.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Apologies again for the delay.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
HND



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From: [REDACTED] [@highland.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk)>

Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 09:08

To: [REDACTED] >

Subject: RE: Inverness Gull Survey

Hi [REDACTED] – if possible could I get the report today (even if not fully finalised). I have a meeting tomorrow morning with councillors and the Inverness BID and will be useful to give them the highlights from the survey.

Cheers
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 26 June 2025 13:56

To: [REDACTED] [@highland.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk)>

Subject: Re: Inverness Gull Survey

Hi [REDACTED]

All's well thanks, apologies for not updating you sooner.
The report is currently going through our QA process. I'm looking to have this finalised and issued to you on Monday 30th.

If it helps, I can send through the shapefiles today?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HND



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From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@highland.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk)>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 14:32

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Inverness Gull Survey

Hi [REDACTED] –

Hope you're well. Could I get a quick update on the gull survey report please and when you think it may be ready to issue?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 30 May 2025 17:45
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@highland.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk)>
Subject: Re: Inverness Gull Survey

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED]

All has gone well and the whole of the survey area has now been fully covered alongside the additional receptors.

I'm still in the process of analysing the data and understanding the dynamics of the gull population i.e. which species are where and preferences in nesting locations.

I can state that from the city centre to the north the gull population is increasingly dense with the epicentre being Longman and Carse industrial estates with one building in particular hosting 50+ nesting pairs.

The number of birds lessens significantly to the east and south of the city centre (Crown and Haugh).

In terms of residential locations, the densest areas of apparently occupied nests/territories were within Merkinch and South Kessock.

For the vulnerable receptors, apparently occupied nests/territories were located on or within the vicinity of each of the receptors, apart from the Ach-an-Eas Carehome.

The leisure centre area has 30+ birds on apparently occupied territory/nests, even with the implementation of reflective devices on roofs.

It should be noted that the schools are being utilised for foraging by gulls during and after lunch and break periods by a number of birds from the wider area. This may give the impression of more birds utilising the building itself for nesting than there actually are. I would hypothesise that this is a learned behaviour of a city population of birds much like more remote coastal populations learn the tides to forage the strandline. It would be interesting to investigate this further through wintering gull surveys.

I hope this is the kind of update you were looking for and we will be working on the full report in the next week or two, alongside some other commitments.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

HND



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Please consider your environment:
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From: [Redacted] [@highland.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@highland.gov.uk)>

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 15:56

To: [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Inverness Gull Survey

Hi [Redacted]

Could I please get a brief update on the gull survey. We have been asked to report to the local ward members Monday morning and would be useful to have a few bullet points to relay. Appreciate not many working hours between now and Monday morning!

Many thanks

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 19 May 2025 11:12
To: [Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@highland.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@highland.gov.uk)>
Subject: Re: Inverness Gull Survey

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Hi [Redacted]

We're currently ahead of schedule and are likely to complete the surveys this week.

I will be getting in touch with [Redacted] about arranging access separately.

Please find attached signed contract and the fee proposal for additional areas requested at the cost quoted previously.

Any questions please get in touch.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
HND



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From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@highland.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk)>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 11:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Inverness Gull Survey

Hi [REDACTED]

Good to hear it's going well. Yes, please go ahead with the extra areas as per your email below.

I've not heard anything back re access to the castle but will chase that today.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 13 May 2025 09:57
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@highland.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk)>
Subject: Re: Inverness Gull Survey

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED]

The Gull Survey is progressing nicely, and the weather has been excellent for it.

We will be able to undertake the requested extension and conclude that this would cost an extra [REDACTED]

If you're ok with the extra cost could you send me an email confirmation for now and I will get you a formal addendum to the initial fee proposal, hopefully, by the end of the week.

I've handed your contract over to senior management to review and sign, just a formality and I can't foresee them having any issues with it.

We will most likely require the extension to the contract to complete the reporting aspect; however, the survey work will be complete before the end of May.

In terms of payment, we usually invoice monthly for work undertaken. We can accommodate 50% this month and then 50% next.

Thank you for the extra info and please let me know how you get on with arranging a viewpoint from the castle. I'll hold off on scheduling in this area until we hear back. If it helps we do all hold CSCS H&S cards as I'm aware it's an active site at the moment.

If it's a struggle to arrange access to the castle viewpoint, I'm sure we can work with views from elsewhere.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HND



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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@highland.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 12:31
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Inverness Gull Survey

Hi [REDACTED] –

See attached for map of additional areas we'd like to be included in the survey (in blue). If you could let me know if this can be accommodated and if so the additional cost that would be great.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2025 12:23
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Inverness Gull Survey
Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope the gull survey is progressing well?

I have enquired as to whether we can get you access to the viewing tower at Inverness Castle and waiting on a response, as access may be restricted at present due to ongoing works.

We've also just received further information from environmental health colleagues re another two areas that should be part of the survey but were not included in the initial survey area provided – these are Inverness Leisure and rugby pitches (including Bught / Whin Park) (and including Inverness Leisure as an additional 'key building') and the Carsegate industrial estate – approx. additional 1.5km2. I'll send a map that shows the two new areas that we would like to be included shortly – if you could provide a quote for these additional areas and confirmation that you can include them in the survey that would be much appreciated.

Also, for information, the following from colleagues in the Council may be helpful/of interest:

Whilst there has been a lot of intervention activities to deter nesting undertaken city centre, historically large numbers were identified at the following areas;

- *Post Office Roof*
- *TK Maxx roof (Completely Netted 08.05.2025)*
- *Railway Station*
- *Concealed areas across roof's between Union Street and Barron Taylor Street*

Areas in and around city where complaints and high numbers are reported, some deterrents and actions taken by individual site owners/occupiers;

Harbour Road

Longman Road

Old College, Burnett Road

Carsegate – Industrial Site (Asbestos Roofs so access difficult/prohibited)

Highlife facilities – Inverness Leisure (2022, was the rea with greatest number of nesting gulls, however, area has been a focus for proofing and deterrents)

Shore Street

Shore Street on to Stadium Road towards Cally Thistle

Baird Maltings

Walker Road

MacGregor Industrial Supplies

I'll email out the standard Council contract later today – there shouldn't be anything unusual / unexpected in there (standard Council contract) but if you could check over and sign – any questions feel free to come back to me. With regard to payment, our preferred option is to settle once the contract has been concluded, but if you'd rather we'd be happy to pay 50% at the conclusion of the survey and 50% upon receipt of the report.

Kind regards

