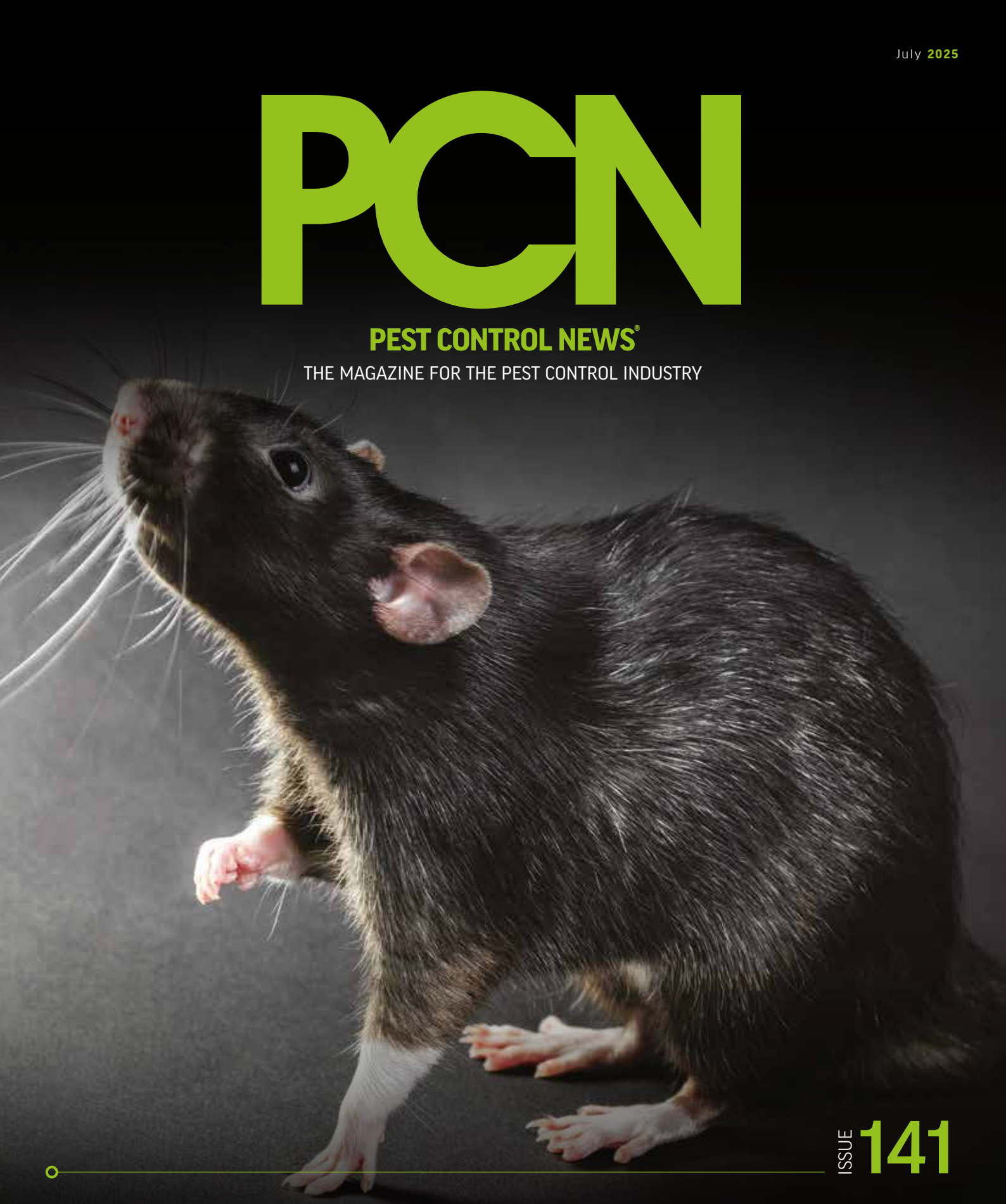
July 2025

PCN

PEST CONTROL NEWS®

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE PEST CONTROL INDUSTRY



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Bitesize...

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All Pest Control News readers can now receive two BASIS PROMPT CPD points per calendar year. All you need to do to claim these points is include PCN on your annual BASIS PROMPT record using the following code:

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Envu to Expand Stored Grain Portfolio with Acquisition of Actellic Products from Syngenta

Envu have signed an agreement with Syngenta, a global leader in agricultural innovation, to acquire several Actellic® products for global use in the stored grain segment. The products complement the existing Envu portfolio, giving growers a fully integrated solution for broader coverage against stored grain pests.

"With this product acquisition, we'll provide customers an integrated solution for controlling damaging pests that threaten their livelihood and our global food supply," said Tiffany Fremder, chief marketing officer for Envu. "We also look forward to expanding our stored grain offerings to more countries in Latin America and Africa through this agreement."

"Envu is excited to continue our growth journey with this strategic product acquisition," said Envu CEO, Gilles Galliou. "Helping prevent food loss and waste is not only a key sustainability commitment, but also one of many ways we advance our purpose at Envu while helping our customers advance food security.»

For more information visit www.envu.com

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Killgerm help Keep Britain clean!

In March, Killgerm supported John O'Conner Ltd in their Great British Spring Clean at Priory Memorial Gardens, Royston.

They supplied the litter pickers that helped make a visible difference to the space. Keeping Britain clean isn't just a campaign, it's about respecting the spaces we all use. Clean streets, tidy parks, and litter-free paths benefit everyone.

A big shoutout to the team at John O'Conner for getting stuck in and doing the work.

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Five Pest Controllers Strike Gold in Killgerm and BASF Competition

In an exciting collaboration between Killgerm and BASF, five lucky pest controllers each won a golden ticket, earning them and a guest an exclusive experience.

The winners were treated to a guided tour of BASF's Widnes factory, where they got an inside look at how Selontra® and Storm® are produced, followed by a memorable evening out in Liverpool. The golden tickets had been randomly placed with boxes of Selontra, turning an ordinary purchase into a golden opportunity.

The event offered not only a unique behind-the-scenes view of pest control product manufacturing but also provided valuable networking opportunities and lively discussions among industry professionals.

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PestForce's New Recruit Harry Leyland Embarks on Promising Career with Support from Killgerm

Killgerm is proud to support Pestforce newest and youngest team member, Harry Leyland, whose early training journey has already demonstrated dedication and potential.

Harry's development has been strongly supported by Killgerm, who sponsored his places on two key training courses: Principles of Rodent Control and Principles of Insect Control, both held in Ossett. In addition, Killgerm provided Harry with online learning resources to further enhance his understanding and skills in pest management.

His hard work and commitment have paid off! Harry has already successfully passed the Principles of Rodent Control exam, a foundational qualification in the field.

Harry continued to deepen his knowledge by attending Insect Workshop 1 – Bedbugs and Fleas and Insect Workshop 2 – Ants, Bees and Wasps in March, also in Ossett. He then progressed to complete the Safe Use of Air Weapons course in Doncaster in April and a Drainage course in June. All of these courses are sponsored by Killgerm.

Phil Shaw of Pestforce commented, "Harry's enthusiasm for learning and the pest control profession is inspiring. With Killgerm's support and his strong work ethic, he is set for a bright future in the industry." With solid training and unwavering determination, Harry Leyland is off to a flying start in his pest control career.

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The industry bids farewell to János Daru

The industry mourns the loss of János Daru, who passed away on March 31, 2025, at the age of 59.

Over a distinguished 35-year career, he played a pivotal role in the growth of Bábolna Bio, progressing from sales representative in 1990 to CEO in 2022.

Known for his dedication, leadership, and professionalism, he remained active in the company even during a long illness. His passing marks a significant loss for the company and the wider industry.

Balázs Bajomi, previously Deputy CEO for Economic Affairs, will now take over as CEO, while Dr. Dániel Bajomi continues as Chairman of the Board.

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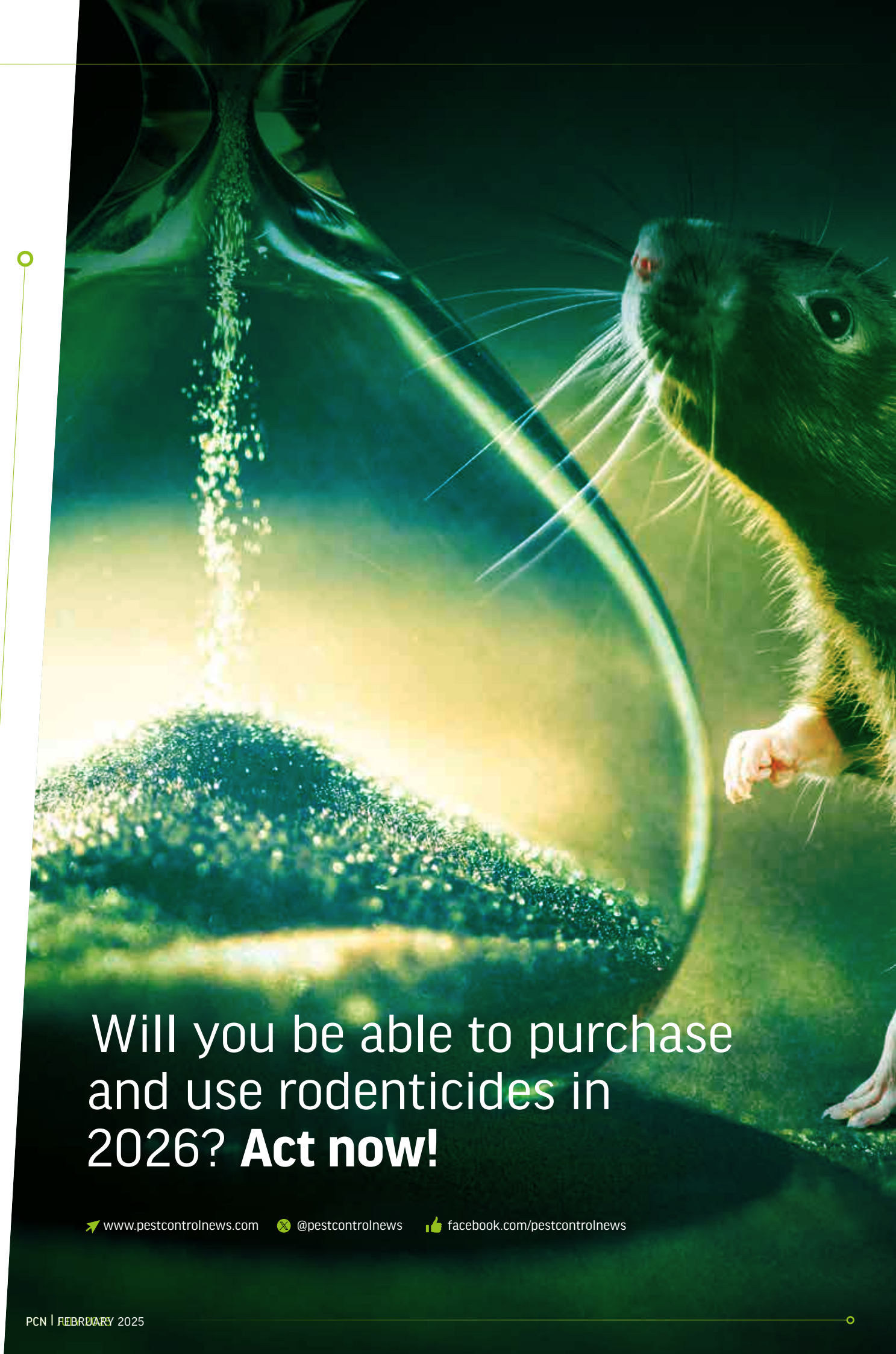
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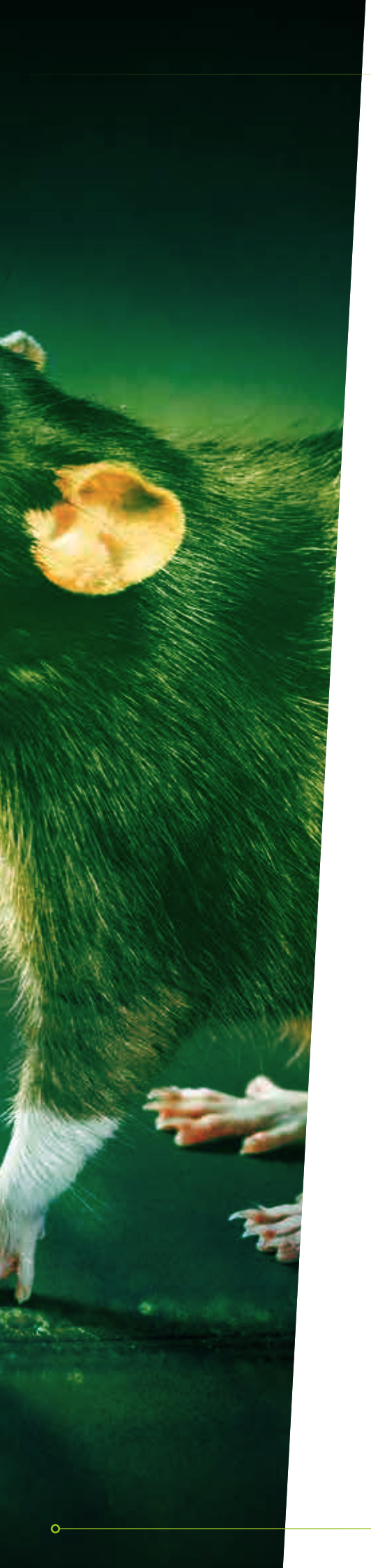

CRRU UK Stewardship: Understanding the 2026 Changes for Rodenticide Use

Michael Dunbar, Killgerm Training's Technical Manager, interviewed Dr Matthew Davies (Killgerm Head of Technical Department) to discuss the upcoming rodenticide stewardship changes. These changes affect all users of professional use rodenticides and you must act now to be ready for 1st January 2026.

- Have you got the right training to continue to purchase and use these products?
- What about the CPD aspect?

Read on to find out what you need to do, to be ready for this essential and industry-wide change.

PCN spoke to both Michael and Matt and we summarise their discussions.

The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use UK (CRRU UK) is implementing new strengthening measures set to take full effect from 1st January 2026. These changes are primarily driven by the need to address the "stubbornly static" levels of anticoagulant rodenticide residues found in non-target wildlife, particularly barn owls. Killgerm's Head of Technical, Dr. Matthew Davies, discusses these upcoming requirements and what they mean for pest control professionals. As 2026 is not very far away at all, you may need to act now.

Key Changes & Compliance Pathways:

The core of the new measures revolves around ensuring pest controllers (plus gamekeepers and farmers of course) remain up-to-date with best practices for rodenticide use. From 2026, proof of competency will be even more crucial at the point of sale for professional-use rodenticides.

Two main pathways exist for all professional users to demonstrate this ongoing competency:

1. **Re-qualification:** Operatives can retake a CRRU UK-approved rodent control training course and exam. To comply from 1st January 2026, this qualification must have been obtained **within the preceding five years.**
2. **Continuing Professional Development (CPD):** Membership of a CRRU UK-approved CPD scheme is the alternative. To maintain compliance via this route, members must:
   - o Achieve their scheme's annual points target (typically 20 points) in 2025.
   - o Ensure that **at least three of these points** are specifically related to CRRU UK rodent control content.
   - o Maintain membership of the CPD scheme.

Accessing CRRU UK Specific CPD Content:

CRRU UK has made three key presentations available on its website to help professional users meet the specific rodent control CPD requirement.

These cover:

- Stewardship update 2025: an overview of the new strengthening measures themselves
- Environmental Risk Assessments
- Burrow Baiting (including risk mitigation and justification)

Pest control companies can use these freely available resources to deliver in-house training. Additionally, many industry events and dedicated training sessions will incorporate this material to provide the necessary CPD points.

Killgerm Training, for example, has already hosted a live webinar covering these topics (which was made available as a recording) and has also produced pre-recorded online versions of these presentations, offering flexibility for professionals to learn at their own pace.

Implications for Pest Controllers:

- **Existing Qualifications:** A qualification obtained before 2021 will not be sufficient on its own to purchase professional rodenticides from 1st January 2026. Operatives with such qualifications will need to either re-qualify or demonstrate ongoing competency through a CRRU UK-approved CPD scheme (including the three specific rodent control points annually).
- **Newer Qualifications:** Those who qualified more recently (within the last 5 years come 2026) will be compliant via their qualification route until it reaches its five-year expiry for CRRU UK purposes, after which they too will need to decide between re-qualification or the CPD pathway.

For a visual guide to the changes, please consult this infographic:

- **Planning is Key:** Dr. Davies emphasized the importance of planning ahead. While 2026 may seem distant, pest controllers should not leave it until the last minute to ensure they meet the new requirements. Demand for training courses may spike, and ensuring CPD points are accrued consistently is vital.
- **Farm Assurance Schemes:** It's important to note that membership of a farm assurance scheme will not be accepted as proof of competence at the point of sale for professional-use rodenticides from 1st January 2026. This levels the playing field, requiring all professional users to meet the same stewardship standards.

The "Why":

These measures are not arbitrary. They are a direct response to the ongoing challenge of protecting wildlife from contamination with second generation anticoagulants. By ensuring all professional rodenticide users are regularly updated on best practice, CRRU UK aims to drive down non-target residues and promote a more sustainable approach to rodent control.

Pest controllers are encouraged to review their current qualifications and CPD status now to ensure a smooth transition when these new strengthening measures come into force. Staying informed and proactive will be essential for continued access to professional rodenticide products and for upholding the principles of responsible use.

Advice for professional pest controllers:

Some helpful questions:

Q1: I am a professional pest controller with training and certification listed here https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/ and I already maintain current membership of a CRRU UK approved CPD scheme https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/continuing-professional-development-cpd-and-stewardship/. What do I need to do to be ready for 2026?

A1: Congratulations, you are a standard-bearer for stewardship! You meet the CRRU UK requirements, with no further action required. Continuing this approach will help ensure ongoing compliance with these requirements. Thank you for your support of stewardship.

Q2: I am a professional pest controller with training and certification listed here https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/ and have been purchasing and using professional use rodenticides. What do I need to do to be ready for 2026?

A2a: Check the date on your exam certificate – if it is within the past 5 years on the 1st January 2026 (i.e. from 2021 onwards) you will be able to purchase and use professional use rodenticides at that point. (Remember to check your exam certificate date at regular intervals, to ensure that it is no older than 5 years to-date).

A2b: Check the date on your exam certificate – if it is not within the past 5 years on the 1st January 2026 (i.e. pre-2021) you will not be able to purchase and use professional use rodenticides. You will need either:

Proof of certification to a CRRU UK approved training course within the past 5 years (https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/)

Or:

Proof of certification to a CRRU UK approved training course more than 5 years ago **and** as recommended retain current membership of a CRRU UK approved Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/continuing-professional-development-cpd-and-stewardship/

Remember...

Professional pest controllers are often involved in continuous and daily use of rodenticides across multiple client sites. For this reason, it is recommended that professional pest controllers maintain annual membership of a CRRU UK approved CPD scheme, as an element of best practice, even if their exam certificate is within 5 years old.

Maintaining annual membership of a CRRU UK approved CPD scheme is likely to future-proof professional users for any further stewardship strengthening measures.

Note that the requirements being brought in for 2026 are the minimum standards needed to purchase and use professional rodenticides under stewardship, as a starting point for professional users. Further development and progression in training, including practical experience, is a responsible approach.

Full details are on the CRRU UK website: https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/

To hear the interviews / podcasts with Mike and Matt, in full, please visit https://podcast.killgerm.com/podcast/episode-41-crru-uk-update/

https://podcast.killgerm.com/podcast/episode-42-crru-uk-update-part-2-navigating-the-new-rodenticide-rules/

How To Use AI to Support Your Marketing, **Not Run It**

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What to do, what to avoid, and how to get better results.

AI is a brilliant tool when you know how to use it properly. It can help you plan campaigns, come up with content ideas, write faster, and stay consistent. But just like any other platform, there is plenty of ways to get it wrong. In this article, you'll learn how to prompt it well, polish the output, and use it to support your ideas without losing your voice.

Why AI Matters in Pest Control Marketing

AI isn't here to replace people. It's here to save time and better your marketing efforts. For pest control businesses, especially smaller teams, it takes care of the jobs that would normally take hours: writing emails, making graphics, scheduling posts, and pulling together campaign ideas. One of its biggest strengths is how quickly it helps you build on an idea. When you're stuck or unsure where to start, it gives you options that you can shape to suit your needs.

It's a bit like when the internet first arrived. That changed how quickly we could access and share information. AI now helps you come up with and shape ideas just as quickly. But your ideas should still take the lead. AI is here to support, not steer. You don't need to be technical either. Most tools are simple to use and do the heavy lifting for you. It means you can market consistently without hiring a full team or burning out—giving you more time to focus on running your business.

How to Write Better Prompts

The quality of what you get out of AI depends on what you put in it— and that input is called a prompt. If your prompt is vague, the response will be too. A good one is clear, specific, and gives the AI some direction.

Instead of typing "write a blog post about rats," try: "Write a 100-word blog intro in a friendly but professional tone, aimed at hospitality businesses, explaining the early signs of a rat infestation." That one sentence gives the AI the format, the tone, the audience, and the topic. You're guiding it to produce something useful the first time, rather than fixing it later.

You can also ask for alternatives, shorter versions, or rewrites until it feels right. Think of it like briefing a junior member of the team: give as much clear context as you can and stay involved — that's when you'll get the best results.

Using AI to Plan, Not Just Write

One of the best uses of AI isn't writing, it's streamlining idea generation. If you've already got a rough idea for a campaign, AI can help you build on that. You can ask for different angles, ways to expand the idea, or even different formats to try.

You can also use it to create a pool of options to pick from. Ask for 10 social post ideas based on your topic, then choose the ones that make sense. The results won't always be perfect, and they shouldn't be. You're the expert, not the tool. AI just helps you explore ideas faster and avoid

AI is useful, but only when you bring something to the table first.

starting from complete scratch.

How to Use AI Without Sounding Like AI

You can often spot AI-written content from a mile away. It's too smooth, too formal, and more often than not, it's not how people actually talk. If you post this as-is, it'll feel too generic. Your customers will notice and that could harm your reputation.

The fix is quite simple. Don't throw it out, just tweak it. Swap in words you'd actually use day-to-day.

For example, if AI gives you:

"Our technicians are on-hand to provide professional pest control services across the local area."

You can change it to:

"Our expert technicians are always ready to provide you with professional pest control services in your local area."

You're not rewriting it, just making it sound like something you'd say, and you're tweaking it to talk directly to your customers. That's what makes a copy feel real.

The One Mistake That Ruins AI Content

The most common mistake people make with AI is jumping in without doing first-hand research. If you don't have a solid knowledge of the topic, you won't know if the content is accurate. Therefore, you won't be able to guide the platform properly.

That's how you end up with a vague, generic piece that sounds like everyone else. And right now, everyone's using AI. The internet is flooded with the same recycled phrases and forgettable posts. If your content isn't backed by your own knowledge, it won't stand out and it will just get lost in the noise.

AI is useful, but only when you bring something to the table first.

Conclusion

AI is a brilliant tool that can streamline your marketing efforts, especially when you're short on time or running your business on your own. But it still comes down to the person using the platform. Think of it as a creative personal assistant – full of ideas, quick to respond, and able to handle a lot of information at once.

What it lacks is human judgement, experience, and context. That's where you come in. The more you bring to the table – your knowledge, your ideas, your voice – the better the result.

PCN takes a closer look at Killgerm's new **Fix-a-Net system** with Alastair Fernie

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Bird control is a constant challenge for pest management professionals, requiring solutions that are not only effective but also efficient to install and versatile enough for various sites. Killgerm Chemicals has recently launched Fix-a-Net, a new bird netting system promising to simplify installations significantly. PCN caught up with Alastair Fernie, Bird Specialist at Killgerm Chemicals, to get the lowdown on this innovative product.

PCN: What is Fix-a-Net and how does it work?

Alastair Fernie: The Fix-a-Net system is a very easy system. It works in a very similar way to the traditional wire method, but there›s no rigid main fixings. This can be screwed or glued down, and it doesn›t have any wires, any hog rings, any intermediate fixings. There›s no drilling. It›s just stick or screw and go. Very easy to install.

PCN: What tools do you need to install Fix-a-Net?

Alastair Fernie: No specialised tools are required for installing Fix-a-Net. You'd only need your cordless drill if you're screwing into substrates or into wood. You need your net shears. If you're applying adhesives, you'll need your caulking gun and whichever adhesive you're going to be using for applying the Fix-a-Net system to the wall or your substrate.

PCN: Can Fix-a-Net be used on listed buildings or sensitive sites?

Alastair Fernie: Fix-a-Net can be used on grade listed buildings and sensitive sites, as this can be stuck down. Also, check with your local authority, if it's a grade listed or a sensitive building, that you are allowed to stick onto it. Normally, with grade listed buildings, they don't want you rigid fixing it, which would be screwing it down. They'd rather it be stuck down so it can be removed and cleaned off.

PCN: Can I install Fix-a-Net without drilling?

Alastair Fernie: You can install Fix-a-Net without drilling. All you need to do is get an adhesive, put it down the back spine of the Fix-a-Net strip, and stick that on. You could use high-tack or Fixall Crystal. If the surface is a porous surface, Fixall Crystal is the best product for the job, because of the absorption of the material, the adhesive will be drawn out of it and it won't stick very well.

Fix-a-Net can be attached to any surface. It can be screwed to anything which is rigid or hard that you can screw into, like brick, wood, and stone. If it's going to go on another surface like corrugated tin, plastics, or glass, it can be stuck onto those. It can also be stuck onto brick, plastics, and corrugated steel, but it's making sure that you can adhere to it. Do a test area beforehand to make sure the adhesive and the Fix-a-Net stick to each other, and then you should be fine to go.

PCN: What size netting is recommended for different sized birds?

Alastair Fernie: For small birds, 19mm net is designed for species like sparrows, and 28mm net is designed for starlings. These can be used on the smaller Fix-a-Net strips, which have the hooks slightly smaller and positioned for these net sizes. For 50mm and 75mm net, you will need the larger Fix-a-Net systems. You can use 50mm net for pigeons, and 75mm net for gulls. These strips can be adhered on using any of the suitable adhesives.

PCN: Is bird netting, and specifically Fix-a-Net, safe for birds?

Alastair Fernie: It certainly is safe for birds. You›ve got to make sure that when you›re tightening up a bird net, it›s taut. A bird could get caught up in that net if it›s baggy, or if there›s areas where the net hasn›t been pulled tight. If it›s not tight, the bird could get caught up in it and it could be harmful for them. The Fix-a-Net system facilitates achieving that necessary tension.

PCN: How do I maintain Fix-a-Net?

Alastair Fernie: It›s recommended that any proofing system that is installed is inspected on a 12-month basis to make sure it is tight and taut, and to make sure it hasn't been damaged in any way through bad weather, vandalism, or another contractor. Inspecting the net fulfils your duty of care for your customer, and it also makes sure that your netting or proofing system has held up for what you wanted it to do.

PCN: How does Fix-a-Net hold up in strong winds or bad weather?

Alastair Fernie: Fix-a-Net is a very strong product. A traditional hog ring can only take up to around 30 kilos of pressure before it opens up. Fix-a-Net hooks can take up to 250 kilos per hook. Normally, you will find that it would be your net system, the net itself, that would fail, not your Fix-a-Net system.

PCN: That›s certainly impressive. Alastair, thank you for shedding light on Fix-a-Net. It sounds like a very promising solution for pest professionals seeking efficient and robust bird control methods.

Alastair Fernie: My pleasure. We believe it offers a real advantage in terms of ease and speed of installation, without compromising on strength or versatility.

For more information on the Fix-a-Net and how to install it, scan the QR code and watch the Killgerm how to video!

Health & Safety

Pathogens in pest management Part 1

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With increased press coverage of Hantavirus in recent months it seems apt to review what we do and how we do it. Especially considering pest professionals are potentially in absolute front-line contact with pathogens carried by rodents and insects. While these pathogens and potential diseases are rare we should still be cautious, and as safe as possible, protecting public health and our own health in what we do. We will also consider leptospirosis in this issue. In PCN 142 we expand our coverage of rodent-borne pathogens to include lymphocytic choriomeningitis, toxoplasmosis and food poisoning bacteria.

Hantavirus

Recently experiencing coverage in the news and on social media, Hantavirus can refer to a couple of related viruses that may cause diseases such as HPS (hanta pulmonary syndrome) and HFRS (haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome). Hantaviruses are spread by rodents, and humans can contract hantaviruses by contact with rodent droppings, urine, and saliva. HPS is the most common hantavirus related disease in the Western Hemisphere but is typically spread in the U.S by the deer mouse (*Peromyscus* genus) which is not a mouse that we see in the UK. However, house mice (*Mus domesticus*) and brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) can also carry hantaviruses.

Cases

Described as very rare in the UK, occasional cases have been reported. However, none have been reported recently. A UK hantavirus has been proven, since 2012 several cases of AKI (acute kidney injury) have been attributed to hantavirus infection and confirmed during research by the University of Liverpool. Two cases were confirmed after exposure to wild Norway rats *Rattus norvegicus*.

Is there a vaccine?

For the UK? No. The vaccines used in China are thought not to be effective against the strains present in Europe, but there are studies ongoing at present. Hantaviruses are not known to pass from human to human.

What do we do to protect ourselves?

Most importantly, hantavirus can be breathed in, highlighting the need for awareness for pest professionals to risk assess. Wearing a face mask with a P3 filter when working anywhere in close proximity to rodent activity, especially with reduced ventilation, is a sensible precaution. But it is worth remembering that it is still stated as rare in the UK.

Leptospirosis (Weil's disease)

Still described as rare in the UK, Weil's disease or Leptospirosis (*Leptospira interrogans*) can be contracted whilst carrying out your job. Contact with rodent urine (or other animals such as cows, pigs, and dogs too) can be the roote host, due to *Leptospira* harbouring in the animal's bladder. Typically rat urine is in larger volumes therefore enabling the bacteria to survive for longer. Mouse urine is secreted in tiny amounts constantly and, therefore dries quickly, not providing the damp/wet environment that Lepto bacteria require to survive. Building on this fact, the bacteria can survive for up to 7 days without a host in a body of water, or on a damp riverbank.

Leptospira bacteria can enter your body via open cuts, mucous membranes, eyes, and mouth or any other orifice. In general work in pest management, we are wearing gloves and follow good hand hygiene procedures and remember to cover any cuts with a waterproof dressing or plaster.

What can happen to you?

Symptoms do not always present in each person. However, if they do the disease begins with flu-like symptoms, progressing to high temperature, including headaches, body aches and pains, nausea, diarrhoea, and eventual jaundice at around day 10 of the progression. By day 14 in the most severe cases the body has begun to shut down and death is caused by acute kidney failure/heart failure. Caught early enough the disease is treatable with antibiotics. A special blood test can be carried out called an ELISA (enzyme-linked immunoassay) which identifies antibodies that are produced by the immune system in response to *Leptospira* bacteria exposure. There is also a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test that can be done in the early stages of potential exposure.

Deaths and cases

There was an average of ***57 confirmed cases and 89 probable cases from 2020 to 2023 (Health and Safety Executive (HSE) figures), with an average of 1 to 3 people dying from Weil's disease each year.***

Interestingly, the water leisure industry and participants are most at risk, with construction industries and agriculture following in terms of cases. However, in recent years much more has been done within the construction industry to raise awareness.

Is there a vaccine?

There are several different strains of *Leptospira* bacteria with potential to cause Weil's disease. A vaccine for humans would need to cover all of these strains, and at the current time is not considered economically viable for a core human vaccine program, so no vaccine for humans. There are vaccines for animals though, the theory being that the animals are vaccinated and therefore do not shed the bacteria. Wild rats would still remain as a vector.

What do we do to protect ourselves?

Awareness is the main factor for Weil's disease prevention, and as per the HSE website, control the pest, control the exposure.

At the forefront of pest management, if an infestation is suspected we can spray treat the area with specialised disinfectants that are tested on *Leptospira* bacteria and known to be effective. Giving peace of mind prior to any other works, we are wearing gloves and appropriate work attire including PPE (personal protective clothing in this case).

Summary

It's undeniable that as front line pest management professionals, we are without a doubt at an increased risk of potential contact with pathogens associated with rodents and insects. The best advice is to follow protocols for disinfection, and cleaning and follow your risk assessment, use PPE correctly, and always follow good hygiene procedures. If you do feel unwell and have had recent contact with pests it is important to tell the medical professional all the details, this can be essential to performing the correct tests for a diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

Asian hornets sighted again in the UK

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So far in 2025 there have been **35 sightings** of yellow-legged hornet (YLH) *Vespa velutina*.

Sightings are considered confirmed when a specimen has been analysed by an official laboratory with a positive outcome.
The latest update from the Animal and Plant Health Agency's National Bee Unit (NBU) from the week ending 13th June is included below:
The NBU have received 6 further credible report of YLH's. This means that currently there has been a total of 35 sightings in 2025.

Kent

Five of these sightings were at different locations in Kent.

- On 9th June a YLH nest was found in Ivy in Wye. The nest was damaged and YLH were seen. An inspector visited on 10th June, destroyed the nest and collected it.
- On 8th June a YLH was seen in an apiary trap and a second YLH was seen at bee hives in Selsted. The 2 samples were collected by a bee inspector on 12th June. The beekeeper and local Yellow-Legged Asian Hornet Team are monitoring in the area.
- On 8th June a YLH nest was found in a bird nest box in Ashford. The nest was destroyed and removed on 10th June.
- On 9th June a householder in Hythe reported multiple sightings of YLH seen from a window. An Inspector visited on 10th June and found a nest in the ground. The samples of adults were collected and the nest destroyed on 12th June.
- On 12th June a nest on the underside of a shed in Kennington was reported. On the same day an inspector visited, destroyed and removed the nest.

West Sussex

The sixth sighting was in West Sussex. On 6th June a report was made of a YLH seen on some wood in a shed in Shoreham. Inspectors visited the same day and found a nest. This was destroyed and removed on 10th June.

All samples were sent to Fera Science.

More information and details of previous sightings can be found on the website of the National Bee Unit.

We would be grateful for your support in helping to raise awareness and encourage reporting of any further sightings.

Any suspected sightings should ideally be reporting via the Asian Hornet Watch app or the online reporting form, *https://risc.brc.ac.uk/alert.php?species=asian_hornet*. Free alert posters and ID sheets are available on request to help with awareness raising. For further details on identification and reporting, please visit the yellow-legged hornet alert page.

Reporting

Please report sightings of Yellow-legged hornets (YLH), also known as Asian hornets, on this online form or download the free Asian hornet Watch app for Apple devices or android devices.

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Promoting Professional Pest Management

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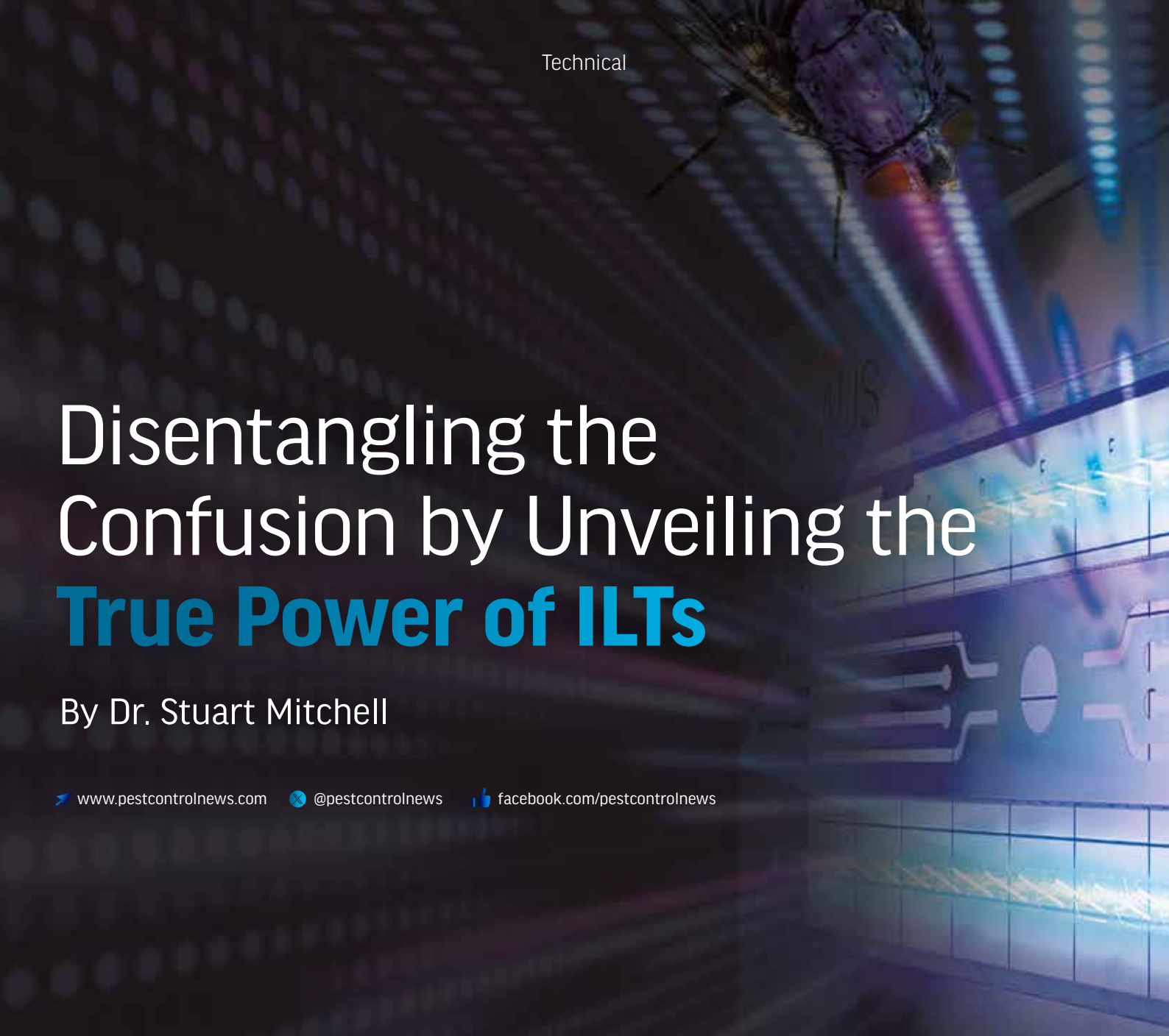
PestTech 2024 In Review



Disentangling the Confusion by Unveiling the True Power of ILTs

By Dr. Stuart Mitchell

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Why are houseflies responsive to UV light?

House fly (HF), *Musca domestica*, is typically attracted to an insect light trap as a function of phototactic response or naturally drawn to ultraviolet (UVA) light. LED UVA insect light traps emit UVA light, which is exceptionally effective in luring flies, as UVA wavelengths (320-400 nm) are highly visible to compound eyes.

HF experiences or perceives LED UVA light as a strong visual stimulus, which mimics natural environmental cues such as sunlight or specular and diffuse reflected light from surfaces. The approach and interaction process of HF with an LED UVA insect light trap and wavelength appropriate glue board can be described.

The science bit! With some common sense(s) too...

The attraction of HF to UVA light results through the process of phototransduction within compound eyes. Phototransduction is the biochemical process by which light is converted into electrical signals in the photoreceptor cells. For HF, rhodopsins (light-sensitive proteins) located in the ommatidia (individual units of compound eyes) are particularly sensitive to ultraviolet light, which is abundant in the LED UVA spectrum. This heightened sensitivity stimulates HF's phototactic behavior, causing lure toward the trap.

HF ultraviolet sensitivity evolved due to attraction to environments rich in potential food sources (rotting material and flowers).

Taking advantage of housefly movement

HF often exhibits thigmotaxis, which is to seek contact with surfaces. Thigmotaxis is a common behavior in many insects that prefer to remain close to surfaces, using it for navigation, protection, and thermal regulation. Once inside the light trap, HF may move towards the walls of the trap or walk on surfaces, increasing the possibility of contact with the glue board adhesive. Such behavior can explain why flies are more likely to land on or move near the adhesive surface rather than immediately flying out of the light trap.

Fly glue boards – a 'sticking point'

When HF adheres to a glue board, the adhesive forces at play involve the physical structure of the HF exoskeleton. The exoskeleton, made up of chitin, provides both rigidity and flexibility. The external layer of the cuticle, called the epicuticle, contains waxy substances that reduce water loss but may also interact with adhesives. The adhesive used on insect light trap boards typically contains high-tack or high pull-off force adhesives that bond quickly with the exoskeleton surface.

The physical principles of adhesion (Van der Waals forces and capillary adhesion) contribute to HF capture. Van der Waals forces are weak intermolecular forces between the glue and the exoskeleton, while capillary action may enhance adhesion if there is a slight moisture or residue on HF's surface.

Once adhered to the glue board, HF may struggle toward freedom. This leads to increased contact between different parts of HF and the adhesive surface. Vigorous struggle can cause other body parts (wings or thorax) to adhere. Fatigue results as energy spent struggling reduces possible glue board escape.

Behavioral fatigue results from HF's limited energy reserves. Once immobilized, HF's metabolic rate may temporarily rise due to escape attempts. Energy quickly depletes further resulting in immobilization.

Located on the underside of HF tarsi are specialized adhesive pads called pulvilli. By secreting a thin film of liquid that increases adhesion through capillary forces, these pads enable HF to walk on smooth surfaces. However, when HF's feet contact the glue board, these same adhesion mechanisms make it difficult for HF to detach as the strength of the adhesive exceeds the normal forces the pulvilli can handle.

Adhesives used on light trap glue boards are temperature-sensitive, with viscosity changing based on ambient conditions. For UVA fluorescent glue boards (such as the Universal glue board), the increased UVA lamp heat favorably affects the glue board adhesive. The higher lamp temperature increases the glue board adhesive pull-off force (~2 psi), which assures HF capture and hold. In contrast, UVA LED lamps operate at a much cooler temperature, which increases the pull-off force of special LED glue board adhesive. This assures flying insect capture and hold. As a result, each type of glue board adhesive is designed to work optimally within the respective type of light trap.

You can LED a housefly to water...

LED UVA insect light traps effectively exploit HF's natural behaviors and biological features. HF phototactic response to UVA light, combined with thigmotactic tendencies, makes them prime pestiferous targets for light trap capture. By aligning LEDs with the HF UVA sensitivity,

LED insect light traps offer a modern, efficient solution for attracting, capturing, monitoring, and controlling HF and other flying insect populations in numerous environments. Understanding underlying biological interactions continually improves trap design, making future flying insect control both more efficient and environmentally friendly.

First detection of West Nile virus in UK mosquitoes

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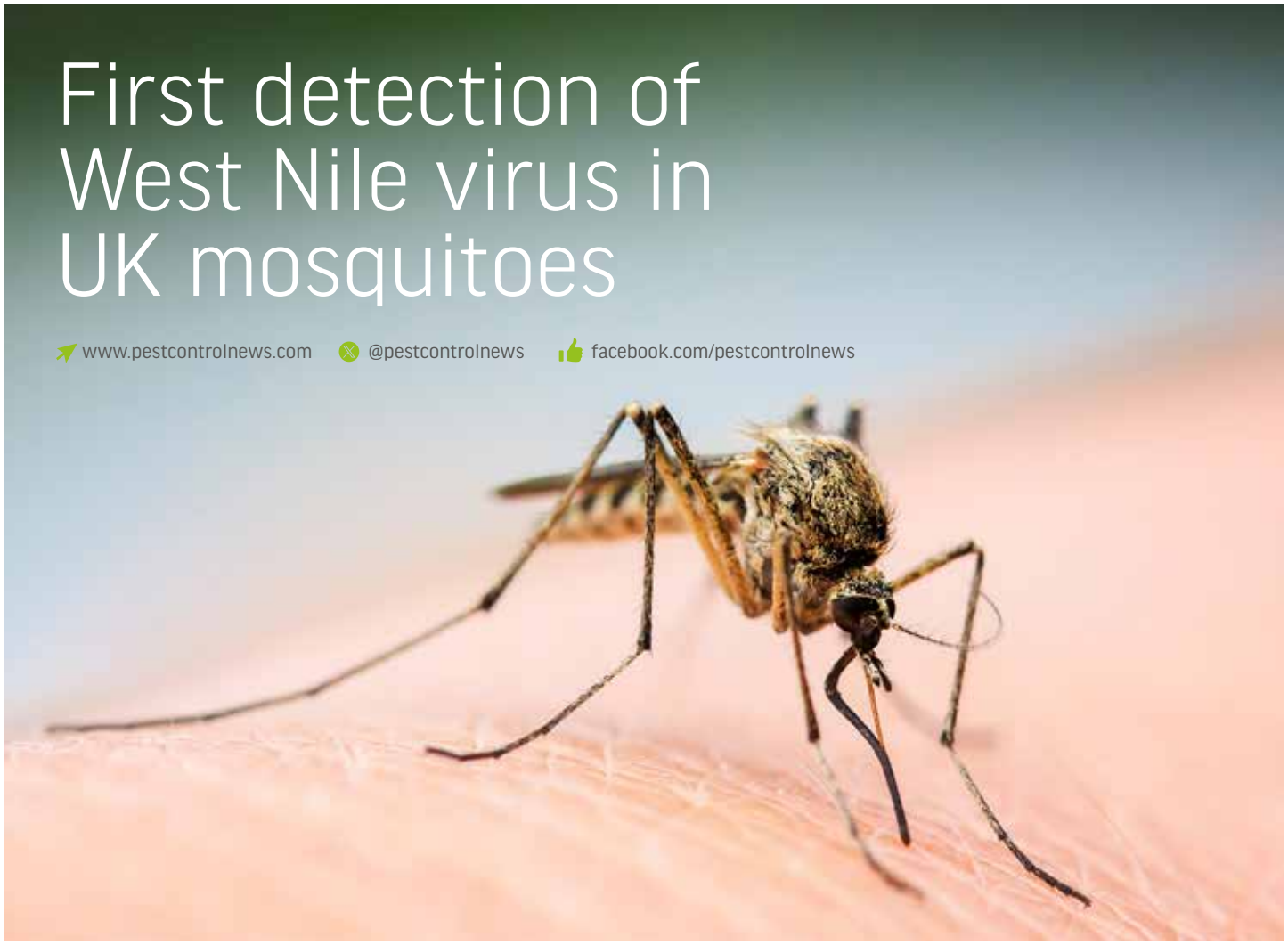


UKHSA says there is no evidence to suggest ongoing circulation of the virus in birds or mosquitos in the UK and the risk to the general public is very low

A research programme by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) has identified fragments of West Nile Virus (WNV) genetic material in mosquitoes collected in Britain for the first time.

West Nile Virus is a vector borne disease belonging to the Flaviviridae family, which also includes the viruses that cause dengue and yellow fever. It is usually found in birds, and typically circulates through bird-biting mosquitoes. In rare cases mosquitoes can transmit the virus to humans or horses.

The fragments were detected through the Vector-Borne RADAR (Real-time Arbovirus Detection And Response) programme by APHA, using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing, in 2 samples of Aedes vexans mosquitoes collected by UKHSA from wetlands on the River Idle near Gamston (Retford), Nottinghamshire, during July 2023. The mosquitoes were pooled into groups of 10 for testing, and fragments of West Nile Virus genetic material were identified in 2 of the pools. The other 198 were negative. This is the first evidence of West Nile Virus detected in a mosquito in the UK. A further 198 pools from the same site tested negative for the virus.

West Nile virus (WNV) is endemic in various regions across the globe, including Europe, Africa, the Middle East, West and Central Asia, and North America, as well as South America, USA and Australia. The geographic range of West Nile Virus has expanded in recent years to more northerly and western regions of mainland Europe.

The UKHSA has assessed the risk to the general public as very low, but is issuing advice to healthcare professionals so that patients with encephalitis of unknown cause can be tested as a precaution through UKHSA's Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory.

There have been no cases of locally acquired West Nile Virus detected in humans or horses in the UK to date, although 7 travel-associated cases have occurred since 2000. Based on available surveillance, there is no evidence to suggest ongoing circulation of the virus in birds or mosquitos in the UK. Disease surveillance and control activities are being enhanced in light of the findings. Currently, the main risk of West Nile Virus for UK residents continues to be travel to endemic areas overseas.

Dr Meera Chand, UKHSA Deputy Director for travel health, zoonoses, emerging infections, respiratory and tuberculosis, said: *While this is the first detection of West Nile Virus in mosquitoes in the UK so far, it is not unexpected as the virus is already widespread in Europe.*

The risk to the general public is currently assessed as very low. Vector research of this kind is designed to give us early warning of potential threats so that we can enhance our disease surveillance and control activities and ensure patients receive appropriate testing.

Dr Arran Folly, Arbovirologist at APHA and lead of the Vector-Borne RADAR project concluded: The detection of West Nile virus in the UK is part of a wider changing landscape, where, in the wake of climate change mosquito-borne

diseases are expanding to new areas. Only through continued surveillance can we assess the risk to animal and public health.

Our primary focus is to understand how viruses move into the country and how they are transmitted. Combined this can help us identify areas that may be at increased risk of outbreaks. The Vector-Borne RADAR project brings together a wealth of expertise across government and wildlife charities, to enhance the surveillance we undertake in the United Kingdom for mosquito-borne diseases.

Aedes vexans are native to the UK and although they can be found widely at very low densities, in a few locations in England they can occur at high densities associated with summer flooded river landscapes. While uncommon, they are known to cause nuisance biting in a small number of areas in the country, including in villages along the River Idle near Retford, Nottinghamshire, where summer flooding and poor drainage is experienced. Recent efforts have taken place to manage the mosquito populations and to minimise suitable habitats for the main nuisance biting mosquito.

As temperatures warm due to climate change, tick and mosquito species not currently native to the UK will begin to find the UK's climate more bearable making it easier for them to survive, reproduce and establish a local population. Other species of mosquito, some of which have the potential to transmit infectious disease, can arrive in the UK in several ways, such as by becoming trapped in cars and lorries crossing the border into the UK. They may also be transported through trade channels in containers which are shipped internationally. UKHSA's wider vector surveillance programmes involve monitoring transport hubs such as motorway service stations and truck stops, as well as other high-risk sites, to ensure that these invasive insects can be detected and eradicated before they disseminate more widely.

Dr Jolyon Medlock, Head of Medical Entomology and Zoonoses Ecology at UKHSA, added: Our surveillance, which led to this discovery, monitors for mosquitoes across Britain to understand the distribution, density and activity across the country. We also monitor mosquito nuisance biting, so anyone experiencing this can contact our mosquito surveillance scheme and provide an image or sample.

Mosquitoes breed in a range of natural wetlands, but can also be common in gardens, breeding in container habitats like water butts and buckets. Reducing opportunities for some mosquito species to access these containers with lids, or turning them over, can reduce mosquito numbers around our homes.

Mosquitoes in the UK are also commonly found in wet woodland areas and various aquatic habitats, including ponds, ditches, marshes, and even garden water butts or cisterns. To avoid being bitten by a mosquito when in these types of areas, wear long-sleeved clothing and trousers to cover your arms and legs, use insect repellent on your skin (ideally one that contains the ingredient DEET), close windows and doors whenever possible, or use blinds or screens.

The Vector-Borne RADAR (Real-time Arbovirus Detection And Response) programme, funded by the UK Research and Innovation and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, was created to help understand the emergence and transmission of zoonotic mosquito-borne viruses in the United Kingdom, and is also supported by ZSL's Institute of Zoology and the British Trust for Ornithology. Part of its research has involved testing mosquito samples, both newly collected and archived from use in previous research, for the presence of West Nile Virus genetic material. A total of 32,000 mosquitoes have been tested through the scheme, with the latest samples tested submitted in 2024. Other types of mosquitoes tested include *Culex modestus* and *Culex pipiens* as the principal bridge and enzootic vectors.

Updated rodenticide **gamekeepers course** now available

As of 1 January 2025, the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) in open areas away other than in connection with a building is no longer permitted.

In response to these regulatory changes, the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use UK (CRRU UK) has updated the Code of Best Practice and the product authorisation holders have updated the labelling on rodenticide products.

Additionally, from 1 January 2026, anyone wishing to purchase professional rodenticides must either hold a certificate from an approved training course completed within the last five years, or combine an older certificate with active membership in a CRRU UK-approved CPD (Continuing Professional Development) scheme. https://***www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/continuing-professional-development-cpd-and-stewardship/***

In response to these changes, a coalition of gamekeeping sector organisations - including the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), Countryside Alliance (CA), Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT), National Gamekeepers' Organisation (NGO), and the Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) - has worked alongside CRRU UK and BASIS (the examination provider) to revise the 'Rodent Control for Gamekeepers and Rural Environments' course.

The updated course is a one-day training followed by an online examination. Upon passing, participants receive the certification required to purchase professional rodenticides, valid for five years. Those interested in attending the course should contact one of the above organisations for further information and available venues. Glynn Evans, the gamekeeping sector representative with CRRU UK, stated: "Working together, we've updated the sector's course to reflect recent regulatory changes and incorporate the latest best practice guidance. Rodenticides remain a key control method, but they must be used only when absolutely necessary - and in the correct way. This course provides that essential knowledge along with the accreditation needed."

Nigel Cheeseright, Chairman of CRRU, added: "It is good to see the proactive approach the Gamekeeping sector are taking to prepare for the changes CRRU UK have initiated to strengthen professional rodenticide product stewardship. It is important for all professional rodenticide users to understand the impact the changes will have on them and take action now if they wish to purchase these products from 1st Jan 2026."

Meet the Rising Stars of Pest Control:

5<25 PROFESSIONAL FUTURES

TRAINING INITIATIVE FOR YOUNG MEMBERS

The **NPTA** and **Syngenta**, have unveiled the successful candidates selected for the highly sought-after 5<25 Professional Futures initiative. These emerging professionals will now embark on their journey toward achieving the industry-recognised Killgerm RSPH Level 2 qualification, paving the way for rewarding careers in pest control.

Shining a Light on Young Talent

Kevin Lawrenson, Chief Executive of the NPTA, explained the vision behind the initiative:

"The 5<25 Professional Futures initiative was created to highlight and celebrate rising talent within the pest control industry. We're committed to recognising outstanding individuals under the age of 25 who are already making a meaningful impact through their dedication, innovation, and leadership."

He added,
"Pest control isn't just a job—it's a profession that demands passion, adaptability, and a commitment to ongoing learning in an ever-evolving industry. This initiative is our way of nurturing the next generation of leaders, offering them the recognition they deserve while inspiring others to aim high."

Each of the selected candidates brings a unique background and ambition, but they are united by their drive and determination to succeed. These individuals are helping to shape the future of the pest control profession.

Richard Moseley, Business Manager at Syngenta Professional Pest Management, echoed this sentiment:

"We believe the future of pest control lies in the hands of those who are passionate, forward-thinking, and driven to make a difference. By recognising these young professionals, we're not only celebrating their contributions but also promoting a culture of continuous growth and learning across the industry."

Each candidate has their own story—personal, powerful, and inspiring. Read on to discover more about these promising young professionals and what motivates them on their pest control journeys.

Farrer Moore
Leeds | Age 23

With over three decades of family experience in the industry, Farrer grew up surrounded by pest control. Inspired by his father's legacy and eager to expand the family business, he joined the 5<25 initiative to deepen his theoretical knowledge and translate it into practical excellence.

"I want to stay on top of evolving legislation and industry standards. This scheme gives me the tools to deliver best practice to both customers and future team members."

Jess Symak
South Lincolnshire

The daughter of MozzyMak Pest Control, Jess joined the industry straight out of secondary school and has never looked back. Her passion grew through working with her mum, attending industry events, and connecting with the wider pest control community.

"Winning the opportunity to gain my Level 2 qualification is life-changing. It puts me in a position to grow our family-run business and create future opportunities for others like me."

Outside of work, Jess enjoys time with her horses, Joey and Jelle.

Will Coombs
Warrington | Age 19

Having grown up around his father's pest control business, Will is committed to helping expand the company while building a career of his own.

"My goal is to help my dad retire early and continue building the business. Pest control is so rewarding—and no two days are ever the same."

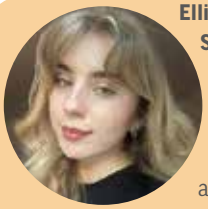
He also enjoys rabbiting with his lurcher and ratting with terriers, blending traditional methods with modern professionalism.

Madeline Perrott
Rural Derbyshire

A nature enthusiast from a young age, Madeline brings a strong environmental awareness to her pest control work. With a passion for both animals and science, she aims to balance effective pest management with ecological responsibility.

"I want to better understand legislation and the impact of rodenticides and insecticides, so I can educate clients and reduce environmental harm. Pest control is for everyone—it's a fascinating, evolving field with so much to learn."

Madeline enjoys cooking, gardening, and gaming in her spare time.



Ellie Egerton White
Southport, Merseyside | Age 24

After earning her degree, Ellie joined her father's pest control and decontamination business full-time. She has since dedicated herself to gaining practical experience and expanding her expertise—especially in entomology.

"Insects fascinate me—their biology, behaviours, and life cycles. I'm passionate about innovative, preventative solutions and promoting best practices that balance public health and environmental responsibility."

Ellie is proud to represent women in a traditionally male-dominated field and strives to advance the industry through research and outreach. Outside of work, she enjoys reading, writing, films, and time in nature.

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Our Principles of Insect Control and Principles of Rodent Control courses offer exceptional value with a complimentary exam re-sit if needed.

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Expert Tutors with Real-World Experience

Our tutors, including Alastair Fernie, Robin Moss, Melvin Knapp, Avril Turner, Mike Dunbar, and Louise Loben, bring over 130 years of combined pest control experience. With academic qualifications, pest control certifications (Level 3, Field Biologist), IPAF licenses, and teaching credentials, they're qualified to deliver both classroom instruction and university-level lectures.

Led by Industry Authority

Killgerm Training is led by Dr. Matthew Davies, who also heads the Killgerm Technical Department. Dr. Davies is a respected voice in pest control, holding roles such as Chair of the Rodenticide Resistance Action Group, Leader of the CRRU UK Training and Certification Work Group, and Technical Editor of Pest Control News.

Lifelong Learning and Support

Our tutors are active practitioners who perform pest control inspections and audits. They continue professional development to stay current with industry standards. You'll also benefit from ongoing support post-training, especially through our dedicated technical support advisor, Louise Loben.

Real Human Support

You won't get stuck in automated systems. Our admin team—Lisa Wales and Kayleigh Davies—hold pest control qualifications and are always available to help.

Earn CPD Credits

Many courses include a period of BASIS PROMPT associate membership, enabling you to demonstrate Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and gain access to the PROMPT Register.

Comprehensive Course Materials

All training—online or in person—includes helpful learning materials. In-person sessions also come with lunch and refreshments.

Legacy and Trust

Established in 1893, Killgerm has decades of pest control expertise. Our technical department, founded in the late 1980s, is the largest and most qualified in UK public health pest control.

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We offer the UK's broadest bird control training program, including:

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- Bird Licensing & Legislation
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We provide bird control training across the UK or on-site for bespoke sessions.

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Air weapons training is delivered in partnership with shooting specialists Tony Belas and Richard Saunders, in coordination with Alastair Fernie.

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Training covers all relevant legislation and licensing—crucial for legal operation. Alastair Fernie brings first-hand experience in licensing processes.

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Eliciting Bed Bug (*Cimex lectularius*) Foraging Behaviour in a Simulated Bedroom Environment with Exhale Bed Bug Activator

By Dr. Richard Naylor

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Considering the interest in insecticide resistance in bedbug *Cimex lectularius* populations, discussed in this issue, Pest Control News is delighted to be able to reproduce a fascinating report on a new development in bedbug monitoring.

Introduction

Bed bugs are hematophagous insects, feeding exclusively on the blood of their host at approximately weekly intervals. They aggregate in sheltered cracks and crevices around the areas where the host sleep. Hungry bed bugs detect the host's presence from within the harbourage by detecting an increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide (and potentially also VOCs) exhaled by the host. This allows them to remain hidden until they know the host is present.

In hotels bed bugs are commonly found hiding behind fixed headboards, inside hollow bed bases, and behind fixed skirting boards. These locations are often difficult to check.

The Exhale Bed Bug Activator (SKATEK, Norway) is designed to lure bed bugs out of their harbourages by mimicking host breathing.

It achieves this by releasing carbon dioxide, and a blend of other compounds normally associated with exhaled air, from a compressed aerosol container controlled by a programmable timer. The device could be used in conjunction with traps or residual treatments, to facilitate bed bug management.

The objective of this study was to observe bed bug activation in response to the Exhale Bed Bug Activator in a simulated bedroom environment with an established population of bed bugs (*Cimex lectularius*). Foraging behaviour was monitored with two infrared-sensitive time-lapse cameras.

Method

Test bedroom

All replicates were conducted in the same test environment. The test bedroom was 2.8 m x 2.5 m. The room was fitted with carpets, skirting boards, a standard double wooden bed and two wooden bedside tables. The room had a window to one side of the bed, which was covered with a black-out blind (Figure 1).

A wall mounted electric fan heater was used to maintain the room temperature at c. 22ºC. The temperature was monitored via a data logger mounted on the wall.

Figure 1. Test bedroom.

Digital cameras

Two infra-red sensitive digital time-lapse cameras were used to observe bed bug activity above and below the bed throughout the night. Illunmination was provided by two infra-red (850nm) security flood lights. The cameras were set to capture images at 5 second intervals throughout the 8 hour night period. The resulting sets of images were combined combined with image stacking software (Zerene Stacker 1.04, Zerene Systems, USA) to reveal "heat maps" of bed bug activity.

Test Insects

Adult bed bugs were selected from a culture maintained by Dr. Naylor. The population was collected from Malmö, Sweden in 2013 and maintained at 26oC, 70% RH, with weekly feeds on human volunteers.

To create an established infestation in the room, 100 unfed adult bed bugs were released onto the floor under the bed at the beginning of the night phase. A volunteer (the investigator, Naylor) slept in the bed to elicit the natural foraging behaviour.

By morning, the majority of the foraging bed bugs had climbed into the bed, fed, and found somewhere to hide in and around the bed structure. After the first night, the room was left undisturbed for 4 weeks to allow time for the bugs to establish natural aggregations and to get hungry.

Approximately 12 hours before testing the Exhale, 40 bugs were carefully collected from around the room and moved into two corrugated cardboard "harbourages". The artificial harbourages, each containing 20 adult bed bugs, were placed on the skirting board and on the floor under the bed (Figure 2) in positions where they were easily visible from one of the cameras. This allowed us to assess whether the Exhale can activate bed bugs harbouring in different locations.

Experiment 1

To see if the position of the Exhale had any impact on bed bug activation, it was tested over three nights, with the Exhale placed in a different location on each night (Figure 2). As a control cameras were run for one night without the Exhale.

Figure 2. Room plan showing positions of Exhale and direction of spray for nights 1, 2 and 3, and the location of the two corrugated cardboard harbourages.

Cameras were run from 2230hrs and were stopped at 0600hrs. The Exhale was set to run from 2300 until 0400, with 15 minute intervals between sprays.

Discussion

The Exhale was effective at activating bed bugs in the simulated infestation. Considerable bed bug activity was recorded on every night that the Exhale ran, while only a single bed bug left its harbourage during the control night.

Peak activity was recorded on night 2, when the exhale was placed on the bed, facing towards the head end.

Overall activity appeared to decline throughout the trial. There was notably less activity on the nights where the traps were installed, compared to the earlier nights. This could be the result of a desensitisation to the Exhale. Because the nights ran sequentially in the same test environment, the same bed bugs were repeatedly exposed to the Exhale.

It is likely that repeated activations without an opportunity to feed would eventually lead to desensitisation, as the bed bugs adapt to conserve resources. The room was left undisturbed for one week between Experiments 1 and 2 to allow the bugs to "reset", but this was apparently not sufficient to restore full sensitivity to the activator. It is possible that the bugs would need to feed before being triggered to forage in this way again.

Despite activation from the Exhale, the pitfalls were not particularly successful at capturing bed bugs. Several of the images showed bed bugs climbing on the monitors, but not falling in. In total, 3 bed bugs were captured across two nights with the Exhale, and none were captured on the control night, so it is likely that the Exhale did positively influence capture, but the percentage captured was probably too low to be of value for pest managers.

The Exhale would be ideally suited to work in conjunction with a trap containing a heat source.

Foraging bed bugs move around fairly randomly in response to carbon dioxide, but will home in on sources of heat as they search for their hosts.

The Exhale could also be used in conjunction with a residual treatment, such as a desiccant dust or fungal spore treatment (not authorised in the UK), to encourage the bed bugs to come into contact with the treated area.

Experiment 1/2 Control - no Exhale

Stacked image of bed bug activity over 8 hours on control night, without Exhale.

Appendix 1 - Stacked Images

Experiment 1. - Night 1.

Stacked image of bed bug activity recorded over 8 hours with Exhale on the floor, close to bed (see Figure 2).

Experiment 1. - Night 2.

Stacked image of bed bug activity with Exhale positioned on top of the bed, near the centre (see Figure 2).

Experiment 1. - Night 3.

Stacked image of bed bug activity with Exhale positioned near the doorway (see Figure 2).

bug scents™ Sentry Pro

Arctech Innovation Unveils BugScents™ Sentry Pro: A New Dawn for Bed Bug Detection

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The persistent challenge of bed bug *Cimex lectularius* infestations continues to affect both homeowners and pest control professionals across the UK.

Early detection and effective monitoring are paramount, yet the cryptic nature of these pests often makes this a difficult task. Sophie Wulff, Director of Strategic Partnerships at Arctech Innovation, spoke to Pest Control News to discuss a groundbreaking new product, BugScents™ Sentry Pro, designed to revolutionise how the industry tackles bed bugs.

From Academic Roots to Practical Solutions

Arctech Innovation isn't just another product manufacturer. Its origins are deeply embedded in scientific research, having spun out from the prestigious London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). "Our company was originally part of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine," Sophie explained, highlighting their foundation in global health and disease control. "Pests, as you know, are extremely important vectors of disease, so effective pest control is core to public health."

This scientific grounding underpins Arctech's mission: " to improve lives by innovating the impossible by harnessing the power of nature, technology and people to create sustainable products and solutions that allow better prediction, prevention and control of pests and diseases "

The Genesis of BugScents™: Understanding Bed Bug Behaviour

The development of BugScents™ Sentry Pro stemmed from a deep understanding of bed bug biology. Whilst bed bugs aren't primary disease transmitters in the UK, their impact is significant. "They can be incredibly distressing to those people that are affected by them," Sophie noted.

Arctech's co-founders, Professor James Logan and Professor Mary Cameron, have worked with bed bugs for years as part of their academic research. "Together with their students, they identified a unique combination of odours that are released by bed bugs to attract them to each other. And that is the bed bug aggregation pheromone."

This discovery was crucial. Early detection is key, as a single pregnant female introduced into an apartment can lead to a population of several thousands within a few months. The aggregation pheromone, Sophie explained, "really unlocks the key to being able to rapidly detect those."

BugScents™ Sentry Pro: Key Features and Innovations

The challenge lay in translating this academic research into a practical, stable, and effective product. Arctech Innovation succeeded by developing a way to formulate this pheromone into a storable, scalable, and stable lure. "Our lure lasts for over 18 months in storage and 3 months in use, being scalable and also stable at room temperature," Sophie stated, highlighting a significant advantage over traditional pheromone products that can be difficult to store and deploy.

The BugScents™ Sentry Pro monitor, designed specifically for professionals, incorporates several innovative features:

1. **Active Attraction:** Unlike passive "blunder traps" that rely on bed bugs accidentally walking into them, the BugScents™ Sentry Pro actively attracts bed bugs. "The BugScents™ Sentry Pro actively attracts the bed bugs into the monitor by slowly releasing this patented lure that mimics the bed bug aggregation pheromone," Sophie detailed. This means it can detect bed bugs fast, even at low infestation levels.

2. **Overcoming Glue Avoidance:** Bed bugs are notoriously adept at avoiding sticky surfaces. "Bed bugs are really good at avoiding glue," Sophie pointed out. "In our monitor, we've actually put the glue on the ceiling. So bed bugs will walk into the monitor, and then they'll get caught on their backs."

3. **Discreet and Versatile Design:** Recognising the need for discretion, especially in hospitality settings, the Sentry Pro is "super slim and versatile." It can fit under a divan bed or be oriented vertically behind a headboard.

4. **Cost-Effectiveness:** The lure lasts for three months, and the monitor itself is reusable and portable. This makes it a cost-effective, versatile tool.

5. **Targeting All Life Stages:** A significant challenge in development was finding a glue effective enough to contain all bed bug life stages. "We've been developing this brand new monitor that accompanies the BugScents™ lure. So it really combines with the pheromone technology to make a complete solution for rapid detection." The team successfully identified a glue "really quite sticky, so that the bed bugs at all stages could get stuck." This means the monitor can capture everything from first instar nymphs to adults, both fed and unfed.

The "Three-Pronged Attack": How BugScents™ Sentry Aids PCOs

Sophie outlined a "three-pronged attack" where BugScents™ Sentry Pro can significantly benefit pest control operations:

1. **Initial Detection & Building Confidence:** In situations where clients report bites but no live bugs are visible, the Sentry Pro can confirm an infestation. "You could, for example, use the monitor for a few days. Even though you might not be able to find the bed bugs on initial inspection, it's quite possible that if there are bed bugs, then our monitor will pick them up." This provides evidence and allows PCOs to proceed with treatment confidently.

2. **Post-Treatment Efficacy Monitoring:** After a treatment, it's vital to ensure its success. The Sentry Pro can be deployed (after following product label directions regarding insecticide use exclusion times) to monitor for any surviving bed bugs or newly emerged nymphs from missed eggs. "Our product will be able to help detect them," Sophie confirmed, referring to catching even tiny first instar nymphs post-treatment.

3. **Proactive Monitoring:** For high-risk environments like hotels, or for concerned homeowners, the Sentry Pro offers a proactive monitoring solution. "You can have this monitor in place, and... as long as you keep checking it, you'll know where if there is an if a new infestation comes." This allows for early intervention before a small problem becomes a large one. Perimeter monitoring around a known infestation in, for example, a block of flats, is another key proactive use, saving considerable time compared to manually searching adjacent rooms.

A Significant Advancement

BugScents™ lure and the Sentry Pro monitor represent a scientifically-backed advancement in bed bug detection and management. By harnessing the bed bug's own biology, Arctech Innovation has provided the pest control industry with a powerful, discreet, and efficient tool to aid in the ongoing battle against these resilient pests. As Sophie concluded, "using our product will really help improve bed bug management in general."

Urban Deer Management: A High-Tech Approach to Ethical Control

By Oli Smith, CEO WildTrackPro

Urban landscapes are increasingly shared with wild deer species, from solitary roe deer wandering schoolyards to fallow herds in hospital grounds. Effective urban deer management requires the integration of cutting-edge technologies, expert decision-making, and clear, evidence-based reporting. This article presents a best-practice approach to urban deer control, focusing on the use of thermal-imaging drones, data-driven decisions, and the importance of client communication in ensuring transparency, safety, and efficiency.

1. Evidence-First Approach: Why Client Reporting Matters

Before any control measures are implemented, providing a comprehensive, evidence-based report is essential. This baseline assessment ensures that the intervention is justified, transparent, and tailored to the specific needs of the area. The report serves as the foundation for decision-making and guides the operational team throughout the process.

Key Aspects of Effective Client Communication:

- **Baseline Assessment:** Before conducting any operation, we carry out a detailed site analysis, gathering data on the deer population and identifying key hotspots. This is followed by a thermal-drone survey to confirm the deer's location and assess any potential impact on the site. The data collected not only helps justify any intervention but also guids the planning of the operation.

- **Impact Assessment:** Documenting the impacts of deer presence, including property damage (e.g., bark stripping), deer-vehicle collisions, and public health risks, provides the context for the operation. This allows the client to understand the scope of the problem and the rationale for implementing control measures.

- **Tailored Control Plan:** The data from the site analysis and thermal survey forms the basis for a tailored control plan, which may include non-lethal options (such as exclusion fencing) or, when necessary, lethal control. The plan outlines the expected outcomes, the methods used, and the safety and legal compliance measures to ensure the operation is carried out ethically.

- **Post-Control Monitoring:** Post-operation, continuous monitoring is essential. Follow-up thermal surveys or targeted trail cameras track the effectiveness of the intervention, monitor deer movement, and assess if additional measures are required. This data-driven, adaptive management approach ensures long-term success in managing urban deer populations.

2. Thermal-Imaging Drones: Precision Detection and Reporting

The use of **thermal-imaging drones** is central to our urban deer management approach. These drones offer a non-invasive, efficient, and highly accurate method of detecting deer in urban areas, and their use extends far beyond detection—they are essential for the reporting and safety of the operation.

Key Features and Benefits of Thermal Drones:

- **High-Resolution Sensors:** Thermal drones are equipped with high-sensitivity sensors capable of detecting temperature differentials as small as 0.05 °C, allowing for precise identification of deer even in complex urban environments.

  Pre-Dawn Flights: Thermal drones are deployed at the optimal time—pre-dawn—when the temperature contrast between deer and their surroundings is most pronounced, ensuring detection rates of over 90% at altitudes of 150 meters (Chang et al., 2025). This early timing minimizes disturbance to both the animals and the public.

- **Real-Time GIS Integration:** The thermal data is georeferenced and immediately transmitted to ground teams, providing them with precise coordinates to locate deer. This ensures that every step of the operation is based on real-time data, enabling swift and accurate decision-making.

- **Validation Layers and Reporting:** After detecting heat signatures, secondary passes with visual or low-light drones are used to confirm the location of deer and eliminate false positives. All findings are then compiled into a comprehensive report, which includes detailed flight logs, heatmaps, and annotated imagery of the deer's location. These reports offer clients a clear picture of the deer density, movement patterns, and areas most in need of intervention.

3. Coordinating Safety with Outlying Watchers

Safety and discretion are paramount during urban deer management operations. To maintain undetected shots and ensure the safety of all involved, we employ outlying watchers positioned around the area. These watchers, equipped with radios, provide constant communication with the main team to monitor any movements that may compromise the operation.

- **Watchers' Role:** The outlying watchers keep track of the surrounding area, including monitoring any bystanders or potential disturbances. Their real-time updates ensure that the operation remains covert, allowing the firearms operator to take the shot without detection.

- **Safety Protocols:** Watchers work closely with the drone operators and the control team to maintain situational awareness, ensuring that shots are taken only when the area is secure and no public are likely to be disturbed.

By coordinating the movements of watchers and drone operators, we ensure that the operation is carried out seamlessly, without drawing attention or causing unnecessary alarm. This coordination is crucial for urban settings, where noise or public visibility could disrupt the operation, raise safety concerns or cause any undue attention for the client.

4. Case Study: A Successful Urban Deer Operation

On the longest day of the year, at 03:30 a.m., our team at WildTrackPro undertook an operation in a school playground where three roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) were causing significant concern. Several days before the operation, we conducted a thorough site analysis and liaised with local authorities. We presented the client with a full range of options and recommendations with the associated risks and risk analyses.

On the day of the operation, we deployed our advanced thermal-imaging drones to locate the deer and overwatch for the public and other risks. The drones quickly pinpointed their locations, and the data was transmitted in real-time to our firearms operator. With guidance from the outlying watchers, who communicated via radio, the operator remained undetected and discreetly took the necessary shots. By 03:45 a.m., the deer were removed, the area was restored to its original state and the work had been completed with the site team en-route to another job.

This operation was a prime example of how a combination of detailed site analysis, technology, and safety protocols can lead to a successful and ethical deer management intervention. The use of thermal drones for initial reporting, combined with real-time coordination with outlying watchers, ensured that the operation was carried out with minimal disturbance and maximum efficiency.

5. Future Challenges: Deer Density and Urban Expansion

As urban deer populations continue to grow, the challenges of managing these populations will only increase. The initial data collected through thermal surveys helps us assess the current population density and identify potential hotspots for future deer activity.

- **Density Reporting:** Through regular thermal surveys, we track changes in deer density over time. High deer densities in specific areas may signal the need for more frequent interventions or the implementation of additional non-lethal deterrents, such as exclusion fencing or habitat modifications.
- **Long-Term Monitoring:** Our data-driven approach allows us to make informed decisions about long-term urban deer management. By tracking movement patterns and monitoring the impact of previous interventions, we can predict future problems and act proactively before the deer cause significant damage to public or private property.
- **Public Safety and Welfare:** As urban sprawl continues, we anticipate that deer populations will expand into new areas. Continued use of thermal drones, along with comprehensive reporting and monitoring, will be essential in keeping the balance between wildlife conservation, public safety, and urban development.

6. Operator Skill in Urban Environments

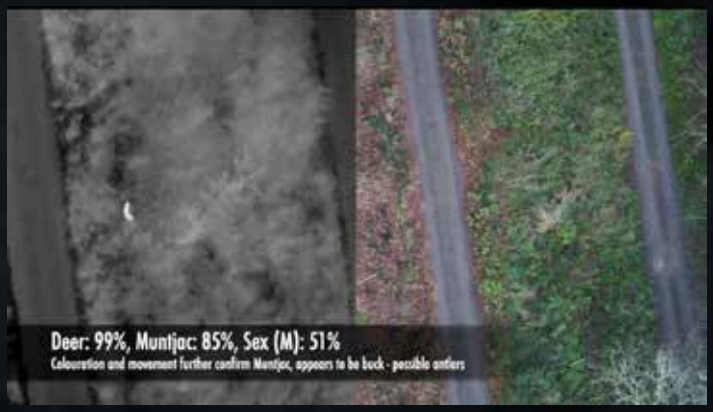
Urban deer management requires highly skilled operators who are adept at handling both the challenges of urban environments and the technical aspects of the operation. The complexities of shooting in confined spaces, ensuring minimal disturbance, and maintaining safety in populated areas all require advanced training.

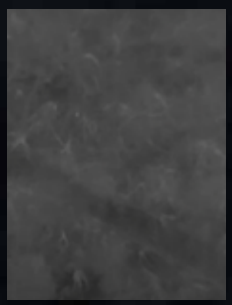
- **Deer and Survey Expertise:** Operators must be suitably qualified in drone operations, deer identification, behavior and biology.
- **Firearms Expertise:** Urban environments present unique challenges, and operators must be well-versed in using moderated centrefire rifles. In these settings, the goal is to ensure that shots are fired discreetly, without alarming the public. A highly skilled operator knows when and where to take the shot, ensuring a humane and efficient dispatch.
- **Adaptability and Discretion:** Operators must be adaptable and quick-thinking, adjusting to changing conditions as they arise. Whether it's dealing with unexpected movement of the deer or a potential disturbance from bystanders, operators must maintain situational awareness and adapt their approach to ensure the operation remains undetected and effective.

7. Conclusion

The modern urban deer management operation is a high-tech, data-driven process. By integrating **thermal-imaging drones** for precise detection and reporting, **coordinating with outlying watchers** to maintain safety and discretion, and employing **skilled operators** to execute the operation, urban deer control can be carried out effectively and ethically. With continued population growth and urban expansion, these advanced techniques will be crucial for ensuring safe, humane, and publicly acceptable deer management.

For more information about deer control, equipment specifications or bespoke training courses, contact WildTrackPro at +44 7798 588 814 or email dean@wildtrackpro.com.





European honey bee

Apis mellifera | Family: Apidae

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It's one of the few insects, if not the only one, that has been domesticated. The ancient Egyptians already had beehives.

The queen can lay up to more than 2,500 eggs a day. Each egg is deposited in a cell where it will develop.

They are very important as pollinators, and their honey has always been in high demand. Bees feed on nectar and pollen obtained from flowers.

Bee populations are declining due to the use of phytosanitary insecticides, habitat degradation, climate change, and invasive species such as the Asian hornet, among other factors. Measures are being taken to conserve endangered pollinator species and their habitats.

They live in colonies with a high degree of social organization. Each colony consists of a queen, a small number of males or drones, and a large number of workers. Each caste has a specific function.

Honey bees will attack and sting if they see their hive threatened. If a nest is found that could cause a nuisance, it can be removed by a professional beekeeper who will take care of the nest without causing any damage.

New Products

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AF® Trapmus

AF® Trapmus is designed for a clean, humane kill – guiding the mouse into the ideal position using a ramp-aligned base for a swift and targeted strike.

Inside, a central translucent baffle with perforation allows light to filter through, creating a sense of openness to encourage mice to approach. Its slim design also allows discreet placement in tighter spaces.

Visit www.killgerm.com

Dethlac

Dethlac Insecticidal Lacquer Spray forms a clear, durable coating on non-absorbent surfaces,

killing ants, cockroaches, woodlice, and other crawling insects within hours of contact. Its waterproof formula remains effective for months, even after rain or cleaning. Safe for indoor and outdoor use once dry.

Visit www.killgerm.com

The Original CleanBoot®

Goodnature Automatic Mouse Trap – Smart, Humane, and Self-Resetting Rodent Control. A reusable neoprene shoe cover designed for pest control professionals.

It features a non-marking, high-grip sole suitable for various surfaces, helping maintain safety and cleanliness. Machine washable and durable, it fits over most work boots—ideal for protecting floors and upholding hygiene in domestic, commercial, and sensitive working environments.

Visit www.killgerm.com

Use biocides safely. Always read the label and product information before use.

Fast knockdown plan to clear parrot sanctuary mouse infestation

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Understanding the behavior of mice - how they move around their environment and their feeding habits - is the essential element for getting good results with Ridmus Alpha, advocates Sean Mooney of Middlesbrough-based Kill Line Pest Control.

"All pest controllers know just how difficult it can be to tempt house mice into a box and get them to take any bait when there are other food sources available, particularly alphachloralose," he reports. "Whilst we've shown that Ridmus can give very quick results, it's the pest controllers knowledge of mouse behaviour and study of the site before you start that really makes a difference."

The trick he considers was key to getting in control of a major mouse infestation at the Morndyke Parrot Sanctuary in North Yorkshire was an intensive two-week pre-baiting campaign with non-toxic Talon Track bait.

"Having used other baits containing alphachloralose in the past, the difficulty in getting mice to eat it was a big risk," Sean recalls. But he was confident that if he could get them used to the boxes and feeding regularly on a non-toxic bait with no effects, there would be a good chance of getting them to take the Ridmus Alpha when it was switched over.

Experienced pest controllers know that creating a feeding habit is the key to get them comfortable going into the boxes. He invested in 80 new metal mouse bait boxes, placing them throughout the parrot aviary barns where mice were identified as active, to target the whole site in one hit.

He highlights it's especially important to ensure the boxes were kept topped up with the non-toxic bait during the preconditioning process, so the mice got used to feeding. "After two weeks of boxes in place with the non-toxic Talon Track, mice were completely at ease and behaving naturally. When the Talon Track was swapped with Ridmus Alpha, the results were instant."

Within days they picked up a huge number of dead mice that significantly reduced the population, and enabled a move to a standard rodenticide after seven days, in line with best practice. Although, if asked to do such a job again, Sean says he'd likely run the same Talon Track followed by Ridmus Alpha cycle that worked so well, before moving to a long-term solution.

Morndyke Parrot Sanctuary in North Yorkshire provides a rescue, rehoming and rehabilitation service for mistreated and sick parrots. But the carefully created conditions that allow the flock of 170 assorted parrots to socialise and thrive had also become the perfect habitat for house mice to infest and build up numbers.

When Sean, who also presents on the Beauties & Beasties podcast, was called in to tackle the issues on the sanctuary, near Thirsk, the pest population had reached serious problems. Previous operators' efforts to control the population had proved largely ineffective and required a complete rethink with the pe-baiting approach.

Syngenta Business Manger, Richard Moseley, pointed out the Ridmus Alpha is pretty much the same formulation for as highly palatable Talon Track, so to all intense and purposes the mice would not notice a big change.

He points out that Ridmus Alpha contains 4% alphachloralose active, compared to 0.0025% active in the case of some brodifacoum active rodenticides, for example, so the formulation itself has to be highly palatable to get mice to take it. The good news is that Ridmus is so active that just a tooth scratch of paste appears sufficient to knock out an adult house mouse.

Although the control programme was taking place in November and December, when outside temperatures were close to freezing, most of the aviaries in barns were heated - to reflect conditions of temperate rainforests where many of the parrot species originate. However, previous trials with Ridmus Alpha in similar higher temperature conditions gave the confidence it would still take effect quickly and that mice would be killed.

Morndyke Parrot Sanctuary owner, Tricia Phillips, says the parrots have come into their care from appalling circumstances. *"The vast majority have been abused, unwanted, unloved or bereaved and our philosophy is to give them the opportunity to live as natural a life as possible.*

"That obviously means providing food and enrichment in a mixed flock aviary, that also creates a perfect habitat for the mice.

"We hold in our care some of the rarest parrots in the world as well as some of the most endearing, naughty, intelligent and sentient. They all matter and we are desperate to ensure they have good living conditions.

*"I have absolute faith in **Sean from Kill Line** - his knowledge and work ethic is second to none. It instils great confidence knowing that **Syngenta** and **Killgerm Area Sales Manager Rob Simpson** care enough to come on site, witness the unique situation we are in and produce a system that offers a chance to knock down an entire population of mice so quickly."*

Sean does plan some long-term monitoring on the site to identify any subsequent activity of mice or other rodents, such as rats that can pose a serious threat to the parrots.

"Once we've achieved the initial reduction, monitoring should enable us to focus on certain areas where issues might be more prevalent, both for control and preventative actions," he adds.

With the infestation under control, the introduction of a long term IPM strategy with Tricia and the Morndyke team should enable the pest issues to be effectively managed and a better environment for the parrot collection.

NPTA
tomorrow's association
for today's technician

How the NPTA Is Developing Its Technical Support

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As the pest management industry continues to evolve, staying current with the latest techniques and standards is essential for every technician. The National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA) is committed to supporting pest controllers with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. Through a combination of innovative training programs, practical learning opportunities, and expert guidance, the NPTA is shaping the future of pest control professionalism.

This is why the NPTA now has two Technical Managers who play a vital role in delivering high-quality training and supporting members throughout the accreditation process. These roles are instrumental in maintaining the highest industry standards and ensuring that our members continue to lead in best practices. By investing in skilled trainers and comprehensive training resources, we are committed to helping our members stay ahead in the evolving pest management landscape.

Building a Skilled Workforce

At the NPTA, we understand that keeping pace with industry changes requires more than just hands-on experience. It demands ongoing access to expert knowledge, training, and practical support. Our dedicated technical team is at the forefront of this commitment, offering members the resources they need to tackle challenges, ensure compliance, and uphold the highest standards.

Whether it's managing routine pest control operations or addressing complex infestations, our technical team is here to support members every step of the way. By focusing on practical solutions, best practices, and continual professional development, we help our members deliver safe, effective, and compliant pest management services.

New Training Initiatives

One of the key ways the NPTA is fostering excellence is through our comprehensive training programs. This year, we have launched our Workplace RM H&S system and will be developing a suite of courses to help members master the system, including the creation of Risk Assessments and COSHH Assessments. Additionally, we are developing a new Bird Management course, which is expected to go live in early June. As the industry evolves, we continue to develop new training sessions to ensure our members have access to the most relevant and up-to-date content and with the extra technical resource available we can get these days held more local to members.

Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Practice

Training at the NPTA doesn't just stop with theory. Our commitment to professional development is reinforced through practical, interactive training sessions, as well as continuous learning opportunities. While our 'On the Road' days focus on industry networking, exhibitor showcases, and educational talks, our structured training courses are designed to provide technicians with hands-on skills and practical knowledge relevant to their daily roles. This comprehensive approach ensures that members are not only well-informed but also well-prepared for the challenges they encounter in the field.

All of our training courses are assigned CPD points, helping members achieve the 20 points required by each of the CPD schemes and in line with CRRU requirements. Visit the NPTA website to learn more about our CPD offerings and how they can benefit your career.

Meet Our Technical Managers

Duncan Bosomworth Duncan brings extensive practical experience and a hands-on approach to his role at the NPTA. He is dedicated to helping members find practical solutions to everyday challenges, offering guidance and support with a focus on professional growth. Known for his approachable nature, Duncan is a valued resource within the NPTA community and is based in the South of the UK.

Mobile: 07496 909524
Email: duncan.bosomworth@npta.org.uk

Mark Wenman Mark has built a successful career in the pest control industry, holding various technical and operational roles. His in-depth industry knowledge and practical insight make him an invaluable resource for our members. Based in the North, Mark supports members with tailored training, comprehensive audits, and expert technical guidance, helping them maintain high standards and compliance.

Mobile: 07508 964266
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Supporting Your Professional Journey

Whether you're an experienced technician looking to update your skills or new to the field, the NPTA's training and technical support programs are designed to meet your needs. Visit our website to explore our training opportunities and learn more about how the NPTA can support your professional development.

Full steam ahead: entry-Level 3 qualifications on BPCA Qualifications Framework

BPCA has spent the last two years talking to members, trainers, regulators and our awarding-body partner the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH). The message was crystal clear: if we want to be treated as equal to other trades and professions, our entry-level professional qualification has to reflect the complex, risk-critical work you do every day. If we want to protect our toolkit, we have to differentiate between qualified pest professionals and those who might masquerade as such.

A Level 3 Certificate in General Pest Management will do exactly that – and it will sit at the heart of a new, five-level BPCA Qualifications Framework that runs from basic awareness right up to Field Biologist.

Becoming a Level 3 Pest Technician

Whether you're recruiting someone fresh to the industry or supporting an experienced technician with an existing RSPH/BPCA Level 2 Award, the framework keeps things simple:

New to the sector	Already hold an RSPH/BPCA Level 2 Award or Certificate
Step 1 – Safe use of pesticides on recruitment. Step 2 – Level 3 Certificate in General Pest Management within 18 months.* *Some people may go straight in for their Level 3 qualification; however, we anticipate new technicians will spend some time learning at work before investing in their Level 3 qualification.	Option 1 – Upgrade with a single-module assessment and gain the new Level 3 Certificate. Option 2 – Keep your existing BPCA/RSPH Level 2

What the full BPCA pathway looks like

National framework level	New qualifications (work in progress)
1	Pest awareness*
2	Safe use of rodenticides* Safe use of insecticides*
3	Certificate in General Pest Management Bird management (specialist) Wildlife management (specialist)
4	Advanced roles*
5	Field biologist*

*Pending consultation

The entire framework is expected to be completed by 2030; however, work on the Level 3 Certificate in General Pest Management will begin immediately.

Setting the syllabus – your chance to shape it

Designing a qualification that genuinely meets the needs of today's pest management companies won't happen in a vacuum. That's why I'm pulling together **a Level 3 Certificate Working Group** that represents the whole industry: BPCA members, NPTA colleagues, independent providers and, of course, practising technicians. If bird or wildlife management is your specialist area, we'll create parallel groups for those certificates too.

Drop me a line at **training@bpca.org.uk** for an informal chat about what's involved. If you're passionate about professional standards, I'd love to have you in the room.

What changes – and what doesn't

Standards, not paperwork

We already know most technicians are working to Level 3 standards as a matter of course. The new certificate simply puts an official stamp on that standard so customers, facilities managers and regulators recognise it instantly.

Flexible learning and assessments

Training will still be able to be delivered online, in-person, or a mix of both (blended). However, we will look at options for assessing competency in multiple ways to keep costs to a minimum.

Specialist routes stay specialist

Bird and wildlife work requires specialist knowledge – now they'll have dedicated Level 3 qualifications.

No enforced re-training

Technicians with a current Level 2 Award keep it. Upgrading is entirely voluntary, though we expect many will want the new certificate to prove their competence.

Partnership power

Jenni Peprell, RSPH's Director of Qualifications, put it neatly when she told me:

"Educational pathways attract new people, help them see where they can go next and give employers confidence in their skills."

That's exactly the prize on offer here: a clear, inclusive ladder that helps us bring fresh talent into pest management and keep brilliant people in the sector.

Looking ahead

A robust, externally benchmarked qualification framework is more than a nice-to-have. It's our licence to operate, our defence against unjustified toolbox restrictions and our calling card when we sit down with the government. By putting Level 3 at the entry point, we signal, loudly and proudly, that professional pest management protects public health and the environment – and deserves to be treated with the same respect as plumbing, electrical work or food safety.

So let's get building. We'll bring the curriculum know-how; you bring the front-line insight that ensures it works where it really counts: on your customers' sites!

BASIS PROMPT

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New Textile Pests Course Launched on BASIS Classroom

A new, free, online course, Textile Pests, is now available for PROMPT members on the BASIS Classroom. This course provides an in-depth introduction to common textile pests found in the UK, including the common clothes moth and the varied carpet beetle. Participants will also learn about effective monitoring and control methods to manage infestations. The course is 30 minutes long and will provide PROMPT members 2 CPD points upon completion.

Developed in collaboration with Killgerm and Rentokil, the content has been carefully adapted by BASIS to create an engaging and informative online learning experience.

How to access the course:

If you are a BASIS PROMPT member, you can access the course for free via the Classroom platform on https://bit.ly/42f2ihV. If you do not currently have access, please complete the joining form to gain entry use the following link https://bit.ly/3YLqEBi.

If you are interested in becoming a BASIS PROMPT member, please go to www.basis-prompt.co.uk to join the register.

Sabra Everett Recognised for Her Contribution to BASIS PROMPT

We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Sabra Everett for her dedicated service as Chair of the BASIS PROMPT Committee.

Sabra took on the role of Chair in January 2016, following David Oldbury, and since then, she has played a vital role in the growth and success of the BASIS PROMPT initiative. Under her guidance, the Register has expanded significantly, becoming the largest independent Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Register for pest technicians in the UK, with over 3,000 members.

In addition to her time as Chair of BASIS PROMPT, Sabra has served on the BASIS Board for an impressive nine years, making a valuable contribution to the organisation's development. Her commitment to ensuring the independence of BASIS PROMPT has been essential to its credibility and success within the pest control sector.

"I have always been proud to be part of BASIS PROMPT, for over 15 years and laterally Chair. I have seen the professionalism of the industry grow and this has been my main driver, BASIS has supported our industry in that recognition, putting Pest Control on a platform"

As the Marketing & Public Affairs Director at Killgerm Group, Sabra brought a wealth of experience and expertise, which helped shape BASIS PROMPT's continued growth. Her strategic direction has been crucial in reinforcing the Register's mission to provide independent proof that pest controllers are constantly enhancing their skills and knowledge.

"Sabra's input has been invaluable for BASIS PROMPT. Her dedication has significantly advanced our mission, and we are grateful for her contributions. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours," says Mrs. Corrina Urquhart, CEO of BASIS PROMPT.

For more information about BASIS PROMPT, please visit www.basis-prompt.co.uk.

URS Corporation Limited v BDW Trading Limited

Supreme Court ruling. - Commentary

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Introduction

Recently the Supreme Court has made a notable ruling in the case of URS Corporation Limited v BDW Trading Limited which affects those involved in claims relating to the Defective Premises act 1972 ("DPA") such as developers and builders. BDW, a property developer, instructed URS as a structural engineer for two residential developments in the United Kingdom. Practical completion took place prior to 2019 and eventually BDW sold their freehold ("FH") interest in the development to a third party.

Following the tragedy of Grenfell, BDW sought to undertake a review of its developments and found significant structural flaws in those designed by URS. BDW completed all necessary remedial works and sought to claim the remedial costs from URS by bringing a claim against URS for negligence.

Following judgment in the underlying claim, URS appealed to the Supreme Court on 4 key grounds.

A 7-Judge panel was appointed on the appeal. In short, the Court dismissed URS' claim on all 4 grounds. The grounds on which URS appealed were:

Grounds:

Ground 1

In their first ground URS argued in this that the losses were too remote and that BDW had voluntarily undertaken the remedial works. URS raised the 'voluntary principle' that BDW in fact was 'doing the right thing' which is not an enforceable legal right. In this case the appeal failed, and the Court found that BDW were not acting voluntarily as there was a possible risk of death if BDW did nothing, together with a reputational risk. The Court found BDW had an enforceable legal liability under the DPA and contract law.

Ground 2

Ground 2 raised the question as to whether S135 of the Building Safety Act had any application in this case. URS held this position as the original claim that was brought by BDW was for negligence only, however BDW later applied to amend the claim under S135. The Supreme Court rejected URS' position and agreed that the retrospective amendment could be made successfully. The Court highlighted the importance of retrospectivity in conjunction with the BSA, commenting that this was a central intention behind the creation of the BSA.

Ground 3

Ground 3 questioned whether URS owed a duty under S11 of DPA, specially URS questioned S11(a)(b) and (c) of the act and the wording of the duties. The Court was clear in its decision to reject the appeal of URS stating that the wording of S11 was extremely clear.

Ground 4

Ground 4 questioned whether BDW were entitled to bring a claim under S1 of the contribution act against URS even when there is no judgment or settlement with third parties. The Supreme Court ruled that BDW was not prevented from claiming contribution simply because no judgment and/or settlement has been made. It was decided that the right may arise as soon as the damage is suffered.

Conclusion

The ruling of the Supreme Court in this case is a landmark decision and is likely to have a significant impact on the construction industry, developers, builders and all residential tenants alike in the industry. It allows them to hold negligent parties accountable for their actions and offers them the potential to recover losses such as remedial costs or pure economic losses which would otherwise have been difficult or potentially impossible to recover.

As a point to note following this ruling, Defendants should keep in mind the Court's stance on asserting voluntariness as a defence and be cautious in doing so. This is following the Court focus on moral pressure and public interest in respect of this point.

Should you or your organisation be in a situation alike to the above or fear the above may be applicable to a situation you are in. Please feel free to get in touch with me regarding a similar situation you potentially could be facing or indeed any legal issue you are facing in confidence on mobile 07789 401 411 or via email giles.ward@milnerslaw.com.

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2nd Sept 2025	Ossett	£180 Inc lunch
2nd Dec 2025	Ossett	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
3rd & 4th Sept 2025	Ossett	£205 Inc lunch
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
13th Nov 2025	Ossett	£80 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
23rd Sept 2025	Doncaster	£235 Inc lunch
14th Oct 2024	Holmes Chapel	£235 Inc lunch
Bird Free		
9th July 2025	Ossett	FOC
29th Oct 2025	Ossett	FOC
Bird Guano		
2nd July 2025	Ossett	£180 Inc lunch
15th Oct 2025	Ossett	£180 Inc lunch
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
19th June 2025	Ossett	£235 Inc lunch
16th Oct 2025	Ossett	£235 Inc lunch
PRACTICAL COURSES		
Trapping Techniques		
2nd Oct 2025	York	£180 Inc lunch
20th Nov 2025	York	£180 Inc lunch

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Venue: Ossett	
Unit 3	Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th October 2025
Unit 1	Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th October 2025
Unit 2	Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st October 2025
Examination	Wednesday 22nd October 2025

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
SURREY		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
15th July 2025	Lingfield	£180 Inc lunch
23rd Sept 2025	Lingfield	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
16th & 17th July 2025	Lingfield	£205 Inc lunch
24th & 25th Sept 2025	Lingfield	£205 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
15th July 2025	Reading	£235 Inc lunch
9th Sept 2025	Reading	£235 Inc lunch
18th Nov 2025	Reading	£235 Inc lunch
Bird Control		
16th & 17th July 2025	Reading	£330 Inc lunch
ADVANCED COURSES		
Advanced Safe use of Air Weapons		
10th Sept 2025	Reading	£250.00 + VAT Inc lunch

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
BERKSHIRE & HAMPSHIRE		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
2nd Sept 2025	Newbury	£180 Inc lunch
13th Nov 2025	Newbury	£180 Inc lunch

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
3rd Sept 2025	Newbury	£80 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
11th Sept 2025	Newbury	£235 Inc lunch
PRACTICAL COURSES		
Trapping Techniques		
9th Sept 2025	Hampshire	£180 Inc lunch
RSPH Level 2 – Safe use of aluminium phosphide for the control of vertebrate pests		
22nd & 23rd Oct 2025	Hampshire	£495 Inc lunch

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
BRISTOL		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
18th Nov 2025	Bristol	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
19th & 20th Nov 2025	Bristol	£205 Inc lunch
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
16th Oct 2025	Bristol	£80 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
25th Nov 2025	Portishead, Bristol	£235 Inc lunch
Bird Control		
26th & 27th Nov 2025	Portishead, Bristol	£330 Inc lunch
Insect Identification		
30th Sept 2025	Bristol	£235 Inc lunch

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
MIDLANDS		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
28th Oct 2025	Burton on Trent	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
29th & 30th Oct 2025	Burton on Trent	£205 Inc lunch
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
18th Sept 2025	Burton on Trent	£80 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
10th July 2025	Kibworth	£235 Inc lunch
18th Sept 2025	Kibworth	£235 Inc lunch
Bird Control		
16th & 17th Sept 2025	Kibworth	£330 Inc lunch
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
20th August 2025	Burton on Trent	£235 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 1 - Bedbugs & Fleas		
11th Sept 2025	Burton on Trent	£180 Inc lunch

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Venue: Norwich	
Units 1 – 3	Tuesday 22nd - Tuesday 29th July 2025
Examination	Wednesday 30th July 2025
Venue: Reigate	
Unit 3	Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th October 2025
Unit 1	Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th November 2025
Unit 2	Monday 10th & Tuesday 11th November 2025
Examination	Wednesday 12th November 2025

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
11th Nov 2025	Perthshire	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
12th & 13th Nov 2025	Perthshire	£205 Inc lunch
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
2nd Sept 2025	Perthshire	£80 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
3rd July 2025	Livingston	£235 Inc lunch
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
7th Oct 2025	Cluny Clays Leisure Centre, Cluny by Kirkcaldy	£235 Inc lunch
Bird Control		
8th & 9th Oct 2025	Cluny Clays Leisure Centre, Cluny by Kirkcaldy	£330 Inc lunch

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Venue: Scotland - Livingson	
Unit 3	Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th September 2025
Unit 1	Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th September 2025
Unit 2	Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th September 2025
Examination	Thursday 25th September 2025

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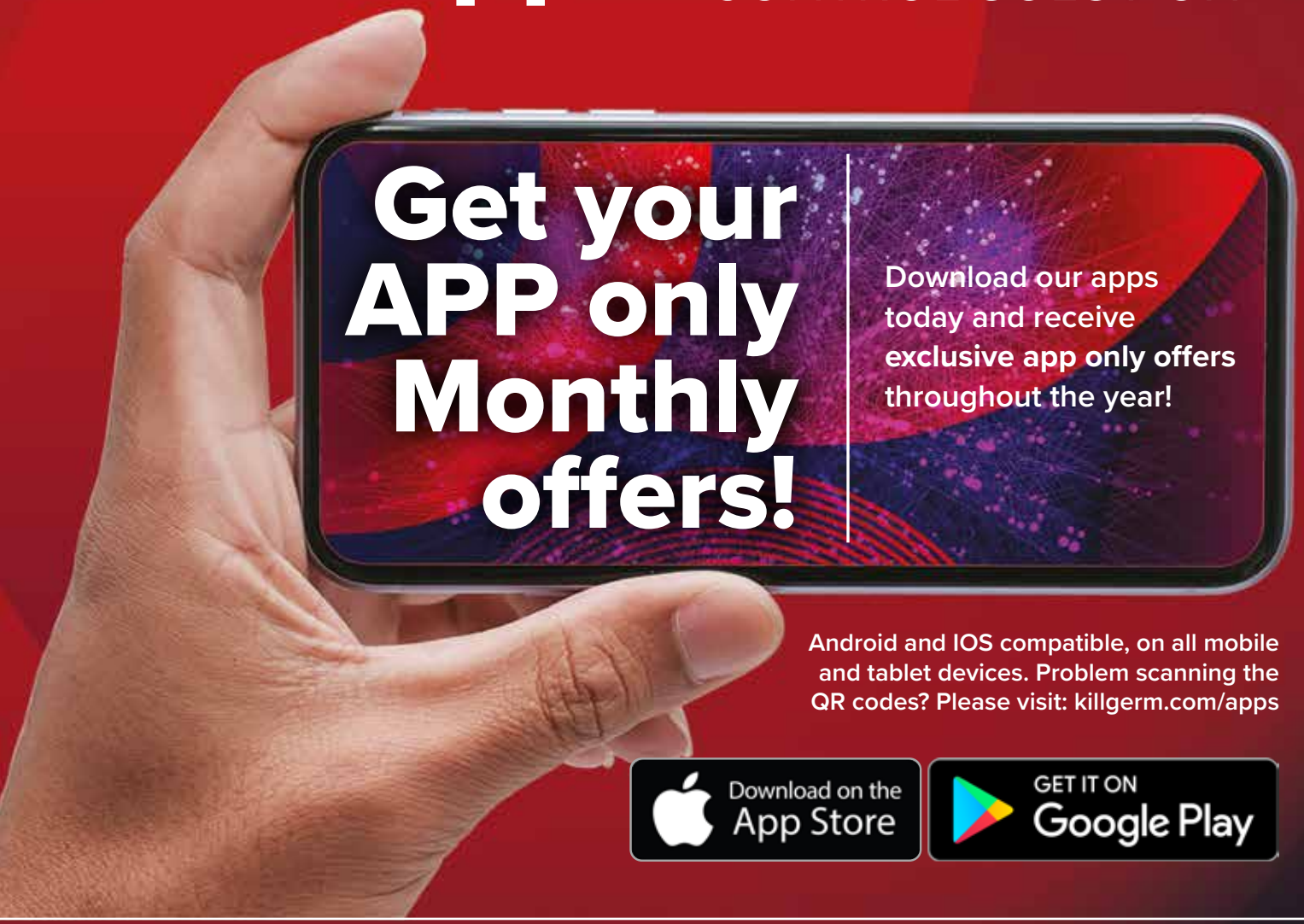

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