

PCN

PEST CONTROL NEWS®

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE PEST CONTROL INDUSTRY



ISSUE **140**

**Are you ready for
the 2026 rodenticide
training changes?**

06

Important changes will be made to proof of competence requirements for purchasers and users of professional use of rodenticides from 1st January 2026. Take action in 2025 to ensure you are ready!

Bird licencing for 2025

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A reminder to consult 2025 general licences for bird management.

**Trapping and snaring
changes in Scotland**

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PCN provides important updates on Trap Registration and Training coming this year.

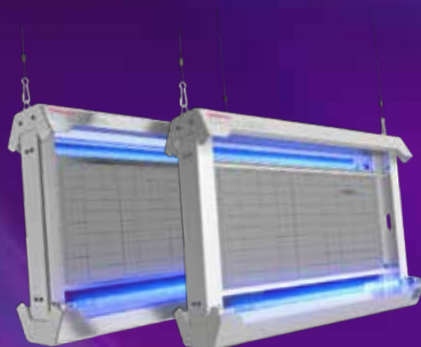
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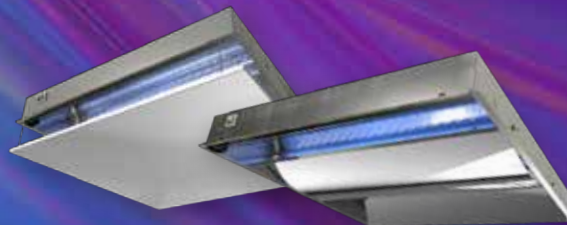
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Are you ready for the 2026 rodenticide training changes?

06

Important changes will be made to proof of competence requirements for purchasers and users of professional use of rodenticides from 1st January 2026.

Keep up-to-date with your professional development

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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**Pest Control News Limited,
Wakefield Road, Ossett,
West Yorkshire WF5 9AJ.**

tel:

01924 268400

e-mail:

editor@pestcontrolnews.com

technical@pestcontrolnews.com

Editor: Sophie Newton

Technical Editor: Matthew Davies

Co-Technical Editor: Avril Turner

International Contributor: Stuart Mitchell

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Building for the Future: NPTA Board Welcomes New Directors to Drive Industry Progress.

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Steve Hallam, Congratulations on your retirement

The National Pest Technicians Association announces the retirement of Chief Operating Officer Steve Hallam after a successful handover to the new CEO, Kevin Lawrenson. Steve, who joined in May 2019, played a key role in strengthening the association, focusing on building a solid foundation, enhancing membership support, and raising industry standards. His efforts have positioned the NPTA for continued success. NPTA Chairman John Davison expressed gratitude, stating, "On behalf of the board and our members, we thank Steve for his dedication and service over the past five years. His work has laid the groundwork for the future, and we wish him a happy, well-deserved retirement."

With the handover complete, CEO Kevin Lawrenson, who joined in 2024, now leads



the association. Kevin commented, "I am honored to lead the NPTA and build on Steve's legacy to continue delivering value to our members and the wider pest control community."

The NPTA thanks Steve for his years of service and looks forward to continued success under Kevin's leadership.

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New Technical and Compliance Manager appointed at BPCA

British Pest Control Association (BPCA) said goodbye to Natalie Bungay at the end of 2024, who has taken a role as Technical Director at BPCA member company Pestforce UK.

Coming on board as Nat's replacement is Niall Gallagher. Niall joins BPCA from Nurture Pest Control, where he was a Regional Technical Support Officer and gained his BPCA Certified Technical Inspector qualification.

Niall is already getting stuck in, saying, "I'm thrilled to have joined BPCA, and thankful for the opportunity to work alongside the team and give back to the industry. Driving excellence in pest management is the Association's mission and it's what I'm passionate about, so I'm happy to be supporting members and other stakeholders across the industry."

Niall will be at PPC Live in Harrogate this March, so don't forget to come and introduce yourselves to him in person.

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Nurture recruit new Training Academy Manager

Grahame Turner has been appointed as Training Academy Manager at Nurture Pest Control. As the company expands and launches a new training academy, Grahame will bring expertise and dedication to the role. Grahame is a qualified field biologist and comes from the NPTA as a Technical Support Officer, where he provided training and technical support to members.

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Natalie Bungay joins Pestforce

Pestforce is delighted to kick off the New Year with the appointment of Natalie Bungay as the new Technical and National Accounts Director, succeeding Phil Shaw.

Natalie brings a wealth of experience from her previous role as Technical Manager at the British Pest Control Association (BPCA), where she played a key role in advancing industry standards and education. Her expertise and dedication to excellence make her a valuable addition to the team.

The company extends its deepest gratitude to Phil Shaw, who will remain with the business during the handover period, for his significant contributions and leadership during his time with Pestforce.

Everyone is invited to join in welcoming Natalie to the Pestforce family.

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Killgerm Welcomes Yaughta Kikas, their new Area Sales Manager in London

Yaughta brings a wealth of experience to her new role, having spent many years at Rentokil, where she helped customers find practical solutions to their pest control challenges.

In her previous position, Yaughta's focus was on understanding customer needs and ensuring they received the best possible service. She was responsible for surveying pest and bird-related issues, creating detailed reports, and costing projects.

With experience in both domestic and commercial operations, Yaughta has worked with a range of organizations, including airports, the Ministry of Justice, food manufacturers, and hospitals.

As the new Area Sales Manager at Killgerm, Yaughta's primary goal is to deliver the highest standard of service and collaborate closely with clients to help their businesses thrive in partnership with Killgerm.

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Are you ready for the 2026 rodenticide training changes?

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TAKE ACTION IN 2025

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO PROOF OF COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR PURCHASERS AND USERS OF PROFESSIONAL USE RODENTICIDES FROM 1ST JAN 2026

As part of measures taken to strengthen stewardship, CRRU UK has decided that from 1st January 2026 the following two options will be the only criteria at the point of sale which sellers of professional use rodenticides will consider as proof of competence for the purchase and subsequent use of professional use rodenticides in the UK.

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 current membership of a CRRU UK approved Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme. <https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/continuing-professional-development-cpd-and-stewardship/>

Note: users joining a CRRU UK approved CPD scheme for the first time will need to join as soon as possible in 2025, and complete their membership criteria during this period, in order to be ready for the 1st January 2026 changes.

CRRU UK – APPROVED CPD SCHEMES

Check the CRRU UK website for details of CRRU UK approved CPD schemes <https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/continuing-professional-development-cpd-and-stewardship/>

CRRU UK approved CPD schemes feature 3 points / hours / credits, of rodent control content that conforms to CRRU guidelines, required each year as part of the normal quota for membership. This is to be assessed as part of the event.

Professional pest controllers

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 requirements, with no further action required. Continuing this approach will help ensure ongoing compliance with these requirements. Thank you for your support of stewardship.





CRRU Requirements

Take action in 2025 if you plan to purchase and use **professional use rodenticides** from 2026 onwards.



IMPORTANT CHANGES IN PROOF OF COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR PURCHASERS AND USERS FROM 1ST JANUARY 2026

WHAT TRAINING CERTIFICATION DO YOU NEED?



EITHER

Proof of certification to a CRRU UK approved training course **within the past 5 years.**

CERTIFICATE



OR

Proof of certification to a CRRU UK approved training course **more than 5 years ago** and current membership of a CRRU UK approved Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme

5 year exam certificate expiry date approaching?

EITHER

repeat the training and requalify

OR

join a CRRU UK approved CPD scheme

To find out more:

<https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/>



Note: Users joining a CRRU UK approved CPD scheme for the first time will need to join in 2025 and complete their membership in that year to be ready for the changes from 1 January 2026.

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.

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/>

Q3: Which CPD schemes are CRRU UK approved?

A3: CRRU UK approved CPD schemes are listed here: <https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/continuing-professional-development-cpd-and-stewardship/>

Q4: If I choose the CPD route, when do I need to join a CRRU UK approved scheme?

A4: Users joining an approved CPD scheme for the first time will need to have done so in 2025, and will need to have met their full annual membership criteria during 2025, in order to be ready for the 1st January 2026 changes. Remember as recommended you need to continue to maintain your membership in the following years. (CRRU UK approved CPD schemes feature 3 points / hours / credits, of rodent control content that conforms to CRRU guidelines, required each year as part of the normal quota for membership. This is to be assessed as part of the event.)

Q5: What will the 3 points / hours / credits, of rodent control content that conforms to CRRU guidelines look like? (Required each year as part of the normal quota for membership. This is to be assessed as part of the event)

A5: CRRU UK will support delivery of CPD by producing learning resources that are available to CRRU UK approved CPD schemes, for dissemination via their established routes to users. The expertise of CRRU UK member companies, stakeholder organisations and individuals will be harnessed to create a series of CPD training modules made freely available at the CRRU UK website (<http://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/continuing-professional-development-cpd-and-stewardship>). The modules, each comprising a PowerPoint presentation taking 45-60 minutes for completion, will be supported by detailed trainers' notes. The resources will be downloaded by training organisations and used during face-to-face or online education events. Resources will be made available in January 2025.

Q6: Do I need to collect the 3 points from attending 3 different talks?

A6: Ideally yes but this is not a requirement. Most users will proactively seek out different talks naturally. Events will typically vary their topics. Some events will feature 3 different talks all together. There is a chance, although rather unlikely, that a user may attend the same talk e.g. Environmental Risk Assessments 3 times and gain 3 points for the same information. It is trusted that users will be proactive enough to seek out the various CRRU UK updates at different events and that events through the year will naturally vary their content.

Q7: If in 2025 I am not part of a current CRRU UK approved CPD scheme and my certificate is older than 5 years, when should I take the training and exam, so I'm prepared for the 1st January 2026?

A7: Course availability and processing times for exam results vary. Ensure you have enough time to access a course, undertake the training and take the exam. Also factor in time needed for results to be processed and certificates produced with potential for exam re-sits also considered. Once passed it is recommended that professional pest controllers maintain annual membership of a CRRU UK approved CPD scheme, as an element of best practice.

Advice for professional pest controllers:

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.

Headline change for farmers

Q1: I hold membership of a Farm Assurance Scheme (CRRU UK approved) and have been purchasing and using professional-use rodenticides. What do I need to do to be ready for 2026?

A1: Membership of Farm Assurance Schemes will not be accepted at the point of sale for the purchase of professional-use rodenticides, from 1st January 2026.

You will need either:

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

Or :



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

See the CRRU UK website for further Q&A for farmers.

Advice for gamekeepers

Advice for gamekeepers is as per the infographic.

See the CRRU UK website for further Q&A for gamekeepers.

CPD presentations now available

A selection of new presentations has been released by the end of January 2025, to support delivery of CPD by producing learning resources available to CRRU UK approved CPD schemes, for dissemination via their established routes to users. The expertise of CRRU UK member companies, stakeholder organisations, and individuals was harnessed to create a series of CPD training modules made freely available at the CRRU UK website. The modules, each comprising a PowerPoint presentation taking 45-60 minutes for completion, are supported by detailed trainers' notes. The resources will be downloaded by training organisations and used during face-to-face or online education events.

The presentations are to be treated like a syllabus, meaning trainers can adapt the presentations to their own style and will be trusted to maintain accuracy. The presentations may be used free of charge in any format or medium provided they are reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as CRRU UK copyright and the title of the document specified.

1. Stewardship update – 2025. Strengthening measures and Code of Best Practice update
2. Environmental Risk Assessments
3. Direct Bait Application in Burrows (Justification and Mitigation Measures)

Consult Pest Control News for CRRU UK announcements and thank you for supporting stewardship.

Bird licensing for 2025



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A reminder to consult 2025 general licences for bird management

This is a reminder, for those involved in professional bird management, to ensure you have the latest copies of general licences before undertaking any lethal control of listed bird species. In fact, it's not just about having the latest copies, it's about following the licence requirements fully.

England

The general licences regarding bird management remain in place as they came in on the 1st of January 2024 and then will expire on the 31st of December 2025.

The licence most relevant to many pest controllers is the GL41 Wild birds: licence to kill or take for public health or safety. As a landowner, occupier or authorised person, use this general licence to kill or take certain wild birds to preserve public health or safety. Species listed are Canada goose, *Branta canadensis*, Feral pigeon *Columba livia*, Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*, Monk parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*.

Also note the following:

- Wild birds: licence to kill or take to prevent serious damage (GL42)
- Wild birds: licence to kill or take for conservation purposes (GL40)

Scotland

They are valid from 1st January to 31st December 2025. Key licences are:

- GL01/2025 - To kill or take certain birds for the conservation of wild birds
- GL02/2025 - To kill or take certain birds for the prevention of serious damage
- GL03/2025 - To kill or take certain birds for the preservation of public health, public safety and preventing the spread of disease

There is one change to the suite of 2025 General Licences from the 2024 General Licences. This change applies to an additional method specific to feral pigeons when shooting at night under General Licences 02 and 03. If you wish to trap feral pigeons, as this is not a method permitted under GL/03, then you should submit a bird health and safety/preventing the spread of disease licence application: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/licensing/species-licensing-z-guide/birds-licences-public-health-and-safety-and-air-safety>.

The Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024 introduced a requirement for anyone operating traps to catch wild birds must have:

- Attended an approved training course, and
- Been issued an individual license from NatureScot.
- Killgerm Training offers the course that follows the Scottish Government approved course contents and so fulfils part 1 of this new requirement.

<https://killgermtraining.com/killgerm-courses/wild-bird-trapping-scotland/>

Wales

Welsh general licences update

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have published new general licences for the control of wild birds for the 2025 calendar year.

Key licences, valid from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025 are:

- GL002 – Preservation of public health
- This general licence is for the purpose of preserving public health and preventing the spread of disease.

It authorises the killing or taking of feral pigeon. This includes damaging or destroying their nests and taking or destroying their eggs. It also authorises the use of any device (inside a building) for illuminating a target or any sighting device for night shooting; the use of any form of artificial lighting or any mirror or other dazzling device; or of any handheld or hand propelled net (inside a building) to take birds whilst not in flight.

- GL001 – Prevention of serious damage to crops and livestock
- This general licence is for the purpose of preventing serious damage or spread of disease to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables or fruit.

It authorises the killing or taking of Canada goose, carrion crow, jackdaw, feral pigeon and wood pigeon. This includes damaging or destroying their nests and taking or destroying their eggs. It also authorises the use of carrion crow and jackdaw as decoys in cage traps. <https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/species-licensing/bird-licensing/general-licences-2025/general-licence-001/?lang=en>

Northern Ireland

Kill or take certain birds, including the taking, damaging or destruction of their eggs, or the disturbance of such a bird or the young of such a bird for the purpose of preserving public health or public safety

- To kill or take certain birds TPG1
- Kill or take certain birds, including the taking, damaging or destruction of their eggs, or the disturbance of such a bird or the young of such a bird for the purpose of preventing the spread of disease and preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber and fisheries
- To kill or take certain birds TPG2
- Kill or take certain birds, including the taking, damaging or destruction of their eggs, or the disturbance of such a bird or the young of such a bird for the purpose of conserving wild birds
- To kill or take certain birds TPG3

Republic of Ireland

The 'Wild Bird Declaration' has been published in Ireland, for 2025 bird control.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage has signed the State-wide Declaration to allow the control of certain wild bird species that are causing damage to crops, livestock and fauna or in the interests of public health and safety. The Declaration is effective from 1 January 2025 until 31 December 2025.

Social Media 2025: A Map Through the Digital Maze

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Smart strategies to repurpose content, harness shifting trends, and connect authentically amidst the noise and chaos of today's digital landscape.

Social media in 2025 is a digital minefield. Too many channels and an overflowing amount of contents mean your message can easily get lost. You face a maze of choices—from selecting the right platforms to creating content that truly fits your brand. Meanwhile, audiences are moving to private spaces for real connection, leaving public feeds to struggle for attention. If you find yourself struggling with these issues, you're not alone. This article offers clear, practical tips to help you cut through the noise and work smarter in today's digital maze.

The Digital Efficiency Paradox

Digital tools make creating content easier, but they've also flooded us with more channels and endless competition. For pest controllers—especially one-man bands—it's tricky to decide where to focus. Social media, blogs, emails... it's a lot to manage.

The smart move? Work with what you've already got. If an article on your website is performing well, repurpose it into a social media post or break it into quick tips. You'll save time, stay consistent across channels, and get more value from the content you've already created.

Shift from “Social Media” to “Media”

Social media isn't as social as it used to be. As Forbes pointed out, it's evolving into something more like TV or streaming platforms—where people scroll, watch, and move on rather than join conversations. For pest controllers, this means thinking less about starting conversations and more about producing simple, attention-grabbing content—like short videos or graphics—that gets your message across quickly.

The Rise of Private Online Communities

Even though we're seeing a big shift from social media to media, people are getting hungrier for real connection through private online communities. Public feeds are overcrowded, and social fatigue is setting in. More users

are moving to spaces like Facebook Groups, Discord, and Slack—places where they can have more meaningful interactions.

In fact, over two-thirds of internet users already participate in online communities. According to Sprout Social, 60% of people are more likely to stay loyal to a brand if it offers community access.

Video is STILL the Best Form of Content

Platforms like TikTok, Instagram Reels, YouTube Shorts, LinkedIn video formats, and Threads now share similar features, putting video in the spotlight.

Short videos attract new viewers, while longer formats are making a comeback since 2018. X has recently introduced a “New Video Tab” and brands itself as a video-first platform, with video views rising 40% year-over-year. YouTube now offers AI system such “Dream Screen” for editing short clip videos and “Inspiration Tools” that uses their data to suggest titles, thumbnails, and script outlines—making it easier than ever for you to start creating video contents.

Advertising Fatigue

Consumers face a constant stream of ads and may quickly scroll past content that feels too promotional. So, instead of filling feeds with traditional ads, mix in content that informs or entertains. Experiment with interactive formats like videos, live sessions, or behind-the-scenes clips that add value and spark genuine interest. Use creativity to present your message in a way that feels natural and engaging to your audience.

Fluency In Online Culture

Social media is the epicentre of trends and cultural moments. But it's not about chasing every trend. Instead, choose cultural moments that your brand and audience can resonate with. Online culture is layered and changing, so you must be fluent to be smart in what you adopt.



According to Sprout Social, 93% of consumers expect brands to follow online culture, and 98% of social media practitioners say your content should reflect current trends. Over half of consumers rely on Facebook and Instagram for trend updates, while 37% turn to YouTube and Facebook. Consumers listen to brands that speak with authenticity and engage genuinely.

Conclusion

Social media in 2025 might be a minefield, but you now have a map. Repurpose content that works and choose channels that suit your brand. Use video to capture attention and join or create private spaces where real conversations happen. Focus on cultural moments that truly resonate with your audience and don't just jump on every trend you see online. With these tools in hand, you can overcome the clutter and get your messages heard.



Social Media Checklist for Pest Controllers

- ✓ Repurpose Content – Adapt your effective assets into various formats.
- ✓ Embrace Video - Use visual storytelling to capture attention quickly.
- ✓ Cultivate Private Communities – Build and engage in more intimate, meaningful communities.
- ✓ Make Content Interactive – Use live Q&As, how-tos, and polls.
- ✓ Avoid Hard Selling – Focus on content that informs and entertains rather than overt promotion.
- ✓ Stay Culturally Fluent - Align with trends that resonate with your brand identity and audience.
- ✓ Be Clear & Concise – Grab attention in under 10 seconds.
- ✓ Leverage AI Tools – Use automation to speed up content creation.

Scotland – trapping changes:

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Important Updates on Trap Registration and Training

(article from Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust)

Since the 1st April 2020 practitioners have been required by law to register with NatureScot in order to use Larsen Traps, Larsen Mate Traps, Larsen Pod Traps and multi-catch crow traps under the General Licences. Registrations were to last 5 years before reregistering was required.

However, on the 16th December 2024, NatureScot announced the automatic extension of trap registrations until 31 December 2025. This gives registered trappers time to prepare for the new Wildlife Trap Licence under the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024. The Scottish Government has yet to announce the Licence commencement date but when it does, GWCT will keep trappers informed.



Under the new law, NatureScot-accredited training is now mandatory for licence applications.

Training providers in the Gamekeeping sector are actively training end users. Pest Control News note that in the public health pest control sector, Killgerm Training are providing relevant courses <https://killgermtraining.com/killgerm-courses/spring-trapping-scotland-course/> and <https://killgermtraining.com/killgerm-courses/wild-bird-trapping-scotland/>

Snaring banned in Scotland

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(By Dr Nick Hesford, Head of Advisory, GWCT Scotland)

A ban on snaring, introduced as part of the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024, commenced on Monday 25 November 2024. This means that, from this date, it is an offence to set a snare in Scotland for the purpose of killing or restraining a wild animal.

Users are advised to ensure all snares currently set or deactivated on site are removed immediately. As the ban does not extend to the possession of snares, it will not be necessary to destroy or hand in any snares. However, as current snaring legislation remains in place, we urge users to retain all records of past snaring activities until further notice.

The GWCT were involved in the development and trialling of the Humane Cable Restraint. We demonstrated its efficacy and humaneness in our research and gave evidence to the Scottish Government and to the Scottish Parliament's Rural Affairs Committee to that effect. We deplore the loss of this vital tool for conservation and wildlife management.

In order to avoid similar bans in the future, it is now more important than ever that all remaining methods of legal predator control are carried out to highest standards of professionalism and animal welfare. Training in spring trapping and corvid trapping is now mandatory.



The GWCT pioneered this kind of training and the current NatureScot syllabus has been developed with the GWCT using our existing material.

Moreover, in carrying out legal predator control, it is becoming increasingly important to be able to demonstrate adherence to best practice. The GWCT have developed the Best Practice with Proof initiative, which allows land managers to collect data on the ground, which are then evaluated in detailed annual reports. We also offer Predator Control Assessments as a bespoke external audit of all relevant predator control methods.

GWCT research has repeatedly demonstrated the benefits of legal humane predator control for game and wildlife. As an organisation, we remain committed to ensuring that this form of wildlife management has a future in Scotland.

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Significant Increase in Grey Squirrel Populations Raises Concerns



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Recent data highlights a concerning rise in grey squirrel numbers across England, especially in areas traditionally home to red squirrels. The Red Squirrels Northern England (RSNE) group's annual survey reveals that grey squirrels now occupy 69% of surveyed areas, up from 62% in 2023. In contrast, red squirrel sightings have only slightly increased, from 50% to 52%.

The increase is particularly noticeable in Northumberland and Cumbria, where:

- Grey squirrels outnumber red squirrels by 25% in Northumberland.
- In Cumbria, grey squirrel detections are 17.3% higher than those of reds.

Grey squirrels pose a serious threat to native red squirrels by:

- Competing for food and habitat.
- Spreading squirrelpox virus, which is fatal to reds but does not harm greys.

Expert raise concerns

RSNE's Project Officer, Abbie McQueen, acknowledged the concerning rise in grey squirrel numbers but emphasised that red squirrels are maintaining their range. She explained that the stability in red squirrel detections highlights the positive impact of conservation efforts. McQueen also hope that the data could help secure further funding and support for red squirrels in areas where they are most at risk.

Ian Glendinning, chair of the Northumberland branch of Northern Red Squirrels, pointed out that unchecked grey squirrel breeding leads to overcrowding, pushing them further into red squirrel territories. Combined with the possibility of climate change extending their breeding season, the challenge continues to grow.

The red squirrel is a native species that has been in the UK since the Ice Age. In contrast, the larger, more robust grey squirrel was introduced to the UK by the Victorians as a curiosity around 150 years ago. Since then, grey squirrels have thrived, often at the expense of red squirrels.

Options for grey squirrel control

Considering this news, it is timely to look at alternative methods of control, based on Forestry Commission guidelines.



The Forestry Commission have issued extensive guidelines on effective control of grey squirrels, available here https://cdn.forestresearch.gov.uk/2019/12/ukfstn022_m7ldper.pdf

Key points are reproduced in this table:

Table 1 A comparison of the attributes of grey squirrel control methods.

Control method	Non-target impacts	Timing	Advantages/disadvantages of method	
			At high squirrel density	At low squirrel density
Live trapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traps can be placed on platforms in trees to reduce by-catch and maintain efficiency.• Non-target species can be released.	All year – but must be effective during winter and spring. A high production of seed in autumn can reduce capture success.	Effective at reducing densities, but multi-capture traps can only be used in grey-only areas.	Labour-intensive
Live traps with alarms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immediately alerts user to all captures, allowing non-targets to be released quickly		Little efficiency gain.	Can reduce time spent monitoring traps.
Tunnel (spring) traps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not to be used in areas with red squirrels or pine martens.• By-catch should be minimised by using baffles.		May be more effective to reduce high densities.	Reduced man-hours.
Shooting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risk of misidentification of red squirrels; trained shooters only.• Grey poking should be avoided in areas with red squirrels or pine martens.	All year – easier in winter with reduced foliage.	Useful when combined with trapping for trap-shy squirrels. Cost-effectiveness is improved if volunteers can be used.	Allows rapid targeted response to remove greys from red areas at any time of year. Use of baited sites may improve effectiveness.



CASE STUDY

PCN shares a case study by Pete Dunn, owner at Dunn and Dusted who talks about his experience with RatMat, a product that is exclusively distributed by Killgerm.

“**I am involved with an international Logistics company that manages a very large national retailer. A part of the resources stored in the distribution centres are pet feeds, which range from small mammal bedding straw to wet pouch cat and dog feeds. The stock holding is large and it distributed via a network of distribution carriers.**

Rodent activity in the warehouse is often prolific due to the pet feeds stored, and this can result in rodents being trapped inside packaging, which are then redistributed to store levels and back. To physically protect the stock, several measures are in place, including the use of RATMATs on high-traffic doors, such as delivery, loading, and pedestrian doors (including driver's doors). These doors are typically left open throughout the day and night,

making them particularly vulnerable to rodent entry. The strong aroma of pet feeds further exacerbates the issue, attracting rodents to the area.

The RATMATs have proven to be an effective tool for changing rodent behaviour. The pulsed electric current passing through the tiles is detectable by rodents, and upon being deterred, they quickly communicate the experience to others. This reaction causes the rodent to release a fear pheromone, further increasing the need for other rodents to avoid the area.

An excellent tool to sit alongside normal proofing measures, door discipline and rodent awareness for all staff.”

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Rodenticide resistance report for 2023 – 2024

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The University of Reading and Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) report, for CRRU UK, entitled 'Anticoagulant Resistance in Rats and Mice in the UK – new data for August 2023 to July 2024' has now been published on the CRRU UK website.

<https://www.thinkwildlife.org/downloads/>

Introduction

CRRU UK is required by government to supply information on resistance to anticoagulants in UK Norway rats *Rattus norvegicus* and house mice *Mus musculus*.

Resistance reports, produced each year, are based on results from DNA sequencing via rodent tail tissue samples. Professional pest controllers are the main providers of rodent samples for resistance testing. The most recent report, until now, summarised all data up until July 2023.

This new report also summarises prior data and additionally includes information on resistance to anticoagulants from August 2023 to July 2024.

The pest control sector is very interested in data on anticoagulant rodenticide resistance in UK Norway rats and house mice. RRAG (Rodenticide Resistance Action Group) UK publish guidance notes, based on resistance data, for house mice and Norway rats. RRAG is a UK-based voluntary group consisting of representatives from Universities, Government Agencies and all sectors of the Pest Management Industry, with an expertise in Rodenticide Resistance. The RRAG website is here <https://www.rrag.uk/>

Key points for 2023 – 2024 data

Norway rats

1. Split of samples

There were 71 rodent tissue samples received (lower than previous studies, possibly due to heightened awareness of resistance areas), 18 of which were not usable (likely due to sample degradation). The remainder were split as 47 samples from Norway rats and 6 samples from house mice.

2. Prevalence of resistance in rats

Anticoagulant resistance was recorded in 48.9% of Norway rats, lower than in previous reports.

3. Most common resistance mutation

The most frequent resistance type in this report was Y139C, carrying on the trend from the previous report. Norway rats carrying the Y139C mutation show resistance to coumatetralyl, difenacoum and bromadiolone. Rats with this type of resistance have no geographical central focus and are found 'virtually anywhere in England south of a line joining the estuaries of the Mersey and Tees'.

4. Hybrid resistance found again

An individual rat from East Yorkshire showed 'hybrid resistance', carrying Y139C in conjunction with L128Q.

5. Distribution of other resistance mutations in rats

There were no changes in distribution of other resistance mutations in rats. Records were on the periphery of ranges or within known ranges.

6. Samples from Northern Ireland for the first time

It was the first time that samples came from Northern Ireland and they

were all from fully susceptible Norway rats. Fully susceptible Norway rats were also noted from a variety of broadly distributed areas of England and Wales.

House mice

1. Prevalence of resistance in house mice

While only a small sample size of 6, over 80% of house mouse samples showed anticoagulant resistance. RRAG note that resistance is highly prevalent in UK house mice and treatments should assume resistance and be undertaken with resistance-breaking methods.

Key points from 2009 - 2024

1. 75.2% of rats and 94.4% of mice carried one or more anticoagulant resistance mutations

2. Distribution of Norway rat resistance

"L128Q is largely restricted to Scotland and the north of England. Y139S is found mainly in Wales, on the Anglo-Welsh border and in an expanding focus in North Yorkshire. L120Q is very widespread across central southern England, but is found with increasing frequency in East Anglia, the far south-west and elsewhere. Y139F is found mainly in Kent, East Sussex and Greater London, but now with established foci in the north-west and East Anglia."

While pockets of susceptibility remain in areas of the Midlands (some counties of the east and south Midlands) and the north-east coast, there is increasing evidence of resistance making incursions into these regions.

3. RRAG advice

Following RRAG advice will: help protect human and animal health via faster and more effective rodent control,

limit the spread and severity of anticoagulant resistance, cut back the application of resisted anticoagulants and therefore their release into the environment and wildlife species.

4. Resistance maps online

The Rodenticide Resistance Action Committee produce online interactive maps available at <https://rrac.info/index.html> and via mobile phone app stores.

ANTICOAGULANT RESISTANCE IN THE NORWAY RAT AND GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF RESISTANT RAT INFESTATIONS IN THE UK

The different anticoagulant active substances and their effectiveness against the resistance mutations found in rats in the UK. A red box means that the active substance should not be used against that strain and a green box means that it may be used with a reasonable expectation of a successful outcome.

Rodenticide Resistance Action Group




Active substance	Resistance mutation and where found				
	L128Q Scotland, Yorkshire, Lancashire	Y139S Anglo-Welsh border, Merseyside, West & North Yorkshire, and almost up to the border of County Durham	Y139C Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, SW Scotland, widely spread across England, Scotland and Wales	Y139F Kent, Sussex, Greater London, North- West England (East Lancashire), Suffolk coast.	L120Q Hampshire, Berkshire and the whole of the central south, East Anglia, far South-West England (Devon, Cornwall) Derbyshire, Somerset, Dorset, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.
Coumatetralyl					
Difenacoum					
Bromadiolone					
Brodifacoum					
Difethialone					
Flocoumafen					
Cholecalciferol					

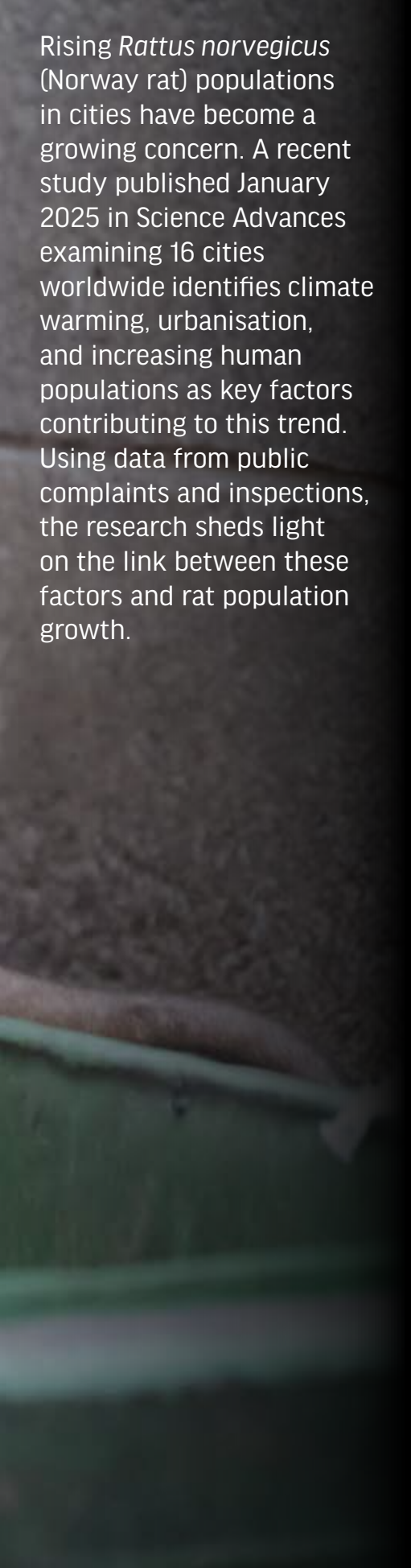
Increasing Rat Numbers in Cities Linked to Climate Warming, Urbanization, and Human Population

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Rising *Rattus norvegicus* (Norway rat) populations in cities have become a growing concern. A recent study published January 2025 in *Science Advances* examining 16 cities worldwide identifies climate warming, urbanisation, and increasing human populations as key factors contributing to this trend. Using data from public complaints and inspections, the research sheds light on the link between these factors and rat population growth.

Key Findings of the Study

The study found that 11 of the 16 cities (69%) saw significant increases in rat numbers. Cities like Washington D.C., New York City, and Amsterdam showed the strongest positive trends. Conversely, cities like Tokyo, Louisville, and New Orleans saw decreases in rat populations. The findings suggest that climate change and urban growth are key drivers in expanding rat populations.

A clear pattern emerged linking increasing rat numbers to warming temperatures, higher human population densities, and more urbanisation. Cities with greater temperature increases and higher human densities saw more significant growth in rat numbers. The availability of food waste and shelter due to urbanisation makes these cities more conducive to rat survival.

The Role of Climate Change

The study highlights the role of climate change in driving urban rat population growth. Rats, like many small mammals, are constrained by cold temperatures, which limit their breeding and foraging activity. However, as temperatures rise, rats experience longer active periods, allowing for more breeding and foraging opportunities. The research found that cities with higher temperature increases over time had larger rat population growth, suggesting that warmer temperatures are enabling rats to thrive for longer periods each year.

Urban heat islands, where city temperatures are higher than surrounding rural areas, amplify the effects of warming. This creates an environment where rats can remain active and breed longer, further contributing to their population growth.

The Impact of Urbanization and Population Growth

Urbanisation and population growth are also significant contributors to the rise in rat numbers. As cities grow, the volume of waste increases, providing more food for rats. In addition, expanding urban infrastructure, such as residential areas and restaurants, offers more shelter and nesting opportunities for rats.

The study found a positive correlation between human population density and rat numbers. Cities with higher population densities experienced larger increases in rat sightings. As more people inhabit a city, food waste becomes a more abundant resource for rats, and more buildings provide nesting sites.

Green Spaces and Rat Numbers

The study also explored the impact of green spaces on rat populations. Cities with fewer green spaces and more urbanisation saw greater increases in rat numbers. However, the relationship between vegetation and rat numbers is complex.

While some vegetation provides shelter for rats, it can also reduce food waste, potentially limiting their numbers. The study found that cities with more green spaces generally saw slower rat

population growth.

At a smaller scale, dense vegetation provides more cover for rats, aiding their survival. While this study looked at broader trends, it suggests that preserving green spaces could help slow the rise of rats by limiting suitable habitats and food availability.

Implications for Pest Control

The findings stress the need for cities to rethink their pest control strategies. With climate change and urbanisation creating more favourable conditions for rats, pest control methods must adapt to address these factors. The study calls for proactive rodent management practices that focus on preventing rats from thriving in urban environments.

One recommendation is improving waste management. Cities should implement rodent-proof trash containers, more frequent waste collections, and food waste diversion programs. These measures can limit the availability of food for rats, making it harder for them to thrive.

Cities should also focus on building codes and urban design that limit rat access to structures. Making urban areas less suitable for rats, rather than relying solely on poisons and traps, can help control populations more effectively.

Tracking Rat Populations

Another key finding is the need for cities to track rat populations consistently over time. Without reliable data, it's difficult to assess the effectiveness of pest control efforts. While the study relied on public complaints and inspection data, this approach has limitations, including potential biases. Better monitoring systems are needed to understand rat trends and the impact of pest control strategies.

Conclusion

The study underscores the growing problem of rats in urban areas, linked to climate warming, urbanisation, and increasing human populations. These factors are making cities more conducive to rat survival and reproduction. To address this issue, cities must adopt proactive pest control measures, improve waste management, and focus on making urban areas less hospitable to rats. By better tracking rat numbers and adapting strategies, cities can mitigate the expected growth of rat populations in the future.

Richardson, J.L., McCoy, E.P., Parlavecchio, N., Szykowny, R., Beech-Brown, E., Buijs, J.A., Buckley, J., Corrigan, R.M., Costa, F., DeLaney, R. and Denny, R., 2025. Increasing rat numbers in cities are linked to climate warming, urbanization, and human population. *Science Advances*, 11(5), p.eads6782.

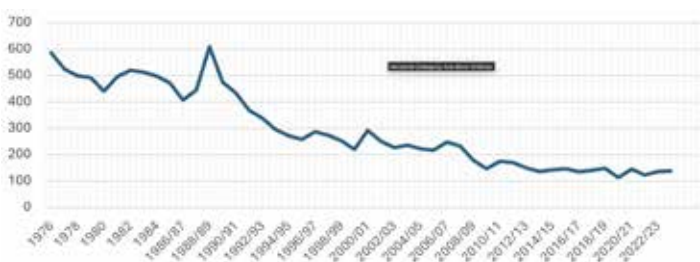
HSE is 50

That's correct, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) reaches a milestone birthday this year. Since the enactment of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HASWA) on the 1st January 1975 the HSE has been pivotal in the reduction of deaths and injuries at work and still continues to work tirelessly as they look towards the next 50 years. HSE's main goal is to prevent work-related death, injury and ill health.

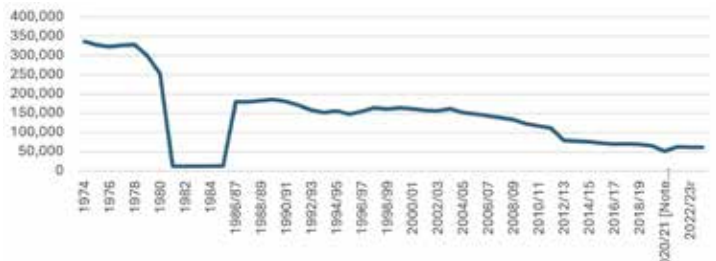
What has HSE done in the last 50 years?

The figures speak for themselves. 'In 1974, 651 employees were killed at work; HSE's latest annual statistics for 2023/24 show that number had reduced to 138.* That's a reduction of around 78%. Of course, HASWA is the main crux behind this decrease but the implementation of this huge piece of legislation would not be what it is without the HSE. There are of course many other influencing factors that have been prevalent over the last 50 years, such as the changing face of industry in the UK. HASWA was groundbreaking at its time of inception and has stood the test of those 50 years. As Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety the HSE upholds direct alignment with HASWA, it also collaborates with the other relevant departments, businesses, industrial sectors and government to provide the protection that people need at work. Aside from this and the inspections that HSE completes they also have research and development centres to help develop safety equipment and testing facilities. Major injuries at work have also generally decreased 82% - however with several fluctuations, mainly attributed to poor reporting and inadequate protocols, poorly followed by employers at the time.

Fatalities at work from 1974 – 2024



Reduction in non-fatal injuries at work 1974 - 2024



A little history

The HSE or the idea of a national enforcer /regulator was around many years before its birth in 1975. We look back to the 1800's when the first inspections started to take place in factories (1833), mines and Quarrying sectors. The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) ran in a parallel to the HSE, HSC being the regulator and the HSE being the enforcer. Eventually in 2008 the two merged.

Within a year after the HSE was created it had initiated some 1,200 prosecutions. All relating to industrial accidents, incidents and of course major incidents and occupational risks. The main remit between the HSC and HSE was to regulate and enforce health and safety legislation in all workplaces – except for those regulated by Local Authorities.

In more recent history, the HSE has taken on other areas of regulation, such as becoming the Building Safety Regulator and further extension into chemical regulation. This relates directly to pesticide regulations, HSE are the authorising body for our pesticides in the public health pest management industry.



HSE duties

The duties of the HSE are to continually encourage all the health and safety objectives set out by HASWA, encourage and plan for the progression of research, publications, training and available information on the work that HSE carries out. Aside from these duties, HSE also makes arrangements for government departments, employers, employees, related organisations and any other party so that they are kept informed and advised on related matters. On top of this, the HSE will propose health and safety regulations. We can all agree that HSE has a huge task, but it is believed that the foundations are strong.

Research, development and testing

HSE's Science and Research Centre is located in Buxton, it is a world leading facility encompassing over 380 scientists, engineers, occupational health and hygiene specialists and support professionals. Some of the work carried out here ranges from evidence from testing to support prosecutions right the way through to testing new products for personal protective equipment, explosives, battery testing, railway vehicles, fuel tank tests, structural materials tests, lifting equipment, biological monitoring - to name just a few and this is really just the tip of the iceberg of the capabilities. It is truly a fascinating facility, from the respiratory booths to the workshops to the labs to the very special anechoic chamber (noted as the quietest places on earth, you can hear your own blood being pumped throughout your body – a very surreal experience for which lasted approximately 10 seconds for me personally!).

Changing climates

Unfortunately, budget cuts over at least the last ten years within HSE have seen reduced numbers of staff including a reduction in inspectors,

and seen the number of fatalities in the workplace begin to slow down and could plateau. This is being seen as a direct correlation. We do tend to see this alignment throughout the world. Countries with better economic performance have a better health and safety record, whereas less well performing countries regarding economics tend to sit lower down on the health and safety ladder. Other influencing factors are of course at play, but the UK (as of 2018) was in the number 5 spot out of 29 regarding fatalities at work. Making it much less likely that a fatality could happen at work in the UK when compared to the other 24 countries behind the UK.

Looking to the future the buzz of the moment is artificial intelligence (AI) and how that can be utilised within Health and Safety. We already see the use of virtual reality (VR) for demonstration, training, scenario running and more. Technology to make things safer, sending in a drone, sending in a robot – not so much new, but the interpretation of the data in real time using AI would be lightning fast, with the combination of the two – could fatal accidents and life changing injuries at work be brought down to near zero? Never likely to be absolute zero – there is always risk but is there a possibility of being close to it? However, this would only happen with the correct investment.



BINS!

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Whether it is a general waste two-wheeled bin or the commercial four wheeled 'wheelie'; bins can cause huge issues for pest management. Many a pest controller will at some point in their career without a doubt have had issues with waste management – most particularly involving the humble wheelie bin and of course other related waste vessels and waste in general.

Waste Management

As a whole, waste is clearly a massive attractant to pests – insect and rodent, not forgetting avian pests. Waste management plays a pivotal role in integrated pest management (IPM) and waste control is integral to inhibiting pests on a site. From unlidged bins allowing top-down access to the bungs missing from the base. Rodents and insects are well equipped to breach the bin or the waste bag. For other sites such as waste transfer, processing and even landfill; increased restrictions on rodenticides and the 'special use or non-routine' use can add complexity.

Bin location

Distance is important, whatever type the bin is. 10 metres or more is a good for separation from a building and keeping the attractive waste further away. This decreases the risk to the inhabitants of any nearby buildings of potential

pest ingress. The standing too, stable hard standing (concrete, slabs, tarmac etc.) is ideal for run off and cleaning, regular jet washing to rid decaying residues. This can be especially important for larger compactors, they can be incredible heavy and the ground beneath them can degrade – creating harbourage conducive to a fly breeding ground.



Wheelie bins

We may soon see fewer rubbish collections in the coming months with Bristol potentially collecting black bins every 4 weeks as reported

on BBC News (Bristol may be first big English city with four-weekly bin collections - BBC News <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c75z34ep2lzo>), potentially compounding issues and forcing more waste to be 'available' for longer. Adding attractiveness and enhancing decay – a recipe to attract more pests. There are some newer products available however that may help us in this battle. The bungs in large 4-wheeled bins can always be of suspicion during an inspection (regardless of if the site has issues or not). Checking that those bungs or plugs are present can be crucial to appropriate waste holding and therefore proper segregation. One of the products now available is the AF Universal Bin Plug © a product that has now answered a call for a solution to those forever missing bin bungs. The universal design is simple and incredibly robust, something all pest controllers should be aware of as a

remedy, preventative solution, and a potential sell on product.

Bin hygiene is paramount, and the waste receptacle should be washed or jet washed out on a regular basis to prevent buildup but is often the reason why the bungs go missing in the first place, they are removed for drainage and not replaced.



Can we optimise on attractive waste?

In short, yes we can - concealed rodenticide camouflaged within the Plastic Bait Safe Litter bin© and the metal version. This solution is effectively discreet, hiding in plain sight.



Internal bins

Domestic waste has been mentioned, and the same integrated approach applies, lids down or a closing top, appropriately bagged, kept as clean as possible. Some of the key issues can be in bars or restaurants typically creating more food waste. The bottle bin behind a bar, usually plenty of residues, leading to a plethora of ideal hangouts for fruit flies. This is really where bin hygiene can help immensely. It is a 'must check' area in any bar or restaurant. We can then give the corrective action.



Fly management

Even with the lids down, we can still have bin waste issues that are highly attractive to flying insects. There are viable solutions to this problem - without immediately reaching for the insecticide. Electronic fly units are often a 'go to' for fly management, but when the lesser house fly (*Fannia canicularis*) is concerned. UV tubes are not always the answer. The lesser housefly does show a response to UV light but doesn't land frequently, it prefers to jaggedly triangulate around the centre of a space.

Therefore, we must think outside the fly unit 'box' and broaden our treatment strategy whilst still considering the other fly species that may be present. The fly bags, an example being the Redtop Fly Catcher© or the AF Disposable Fly Bag © acts around the perimeter of an outside area to draw flies away from affected/attractive areas. With a very large capacity, the fly bags utilise specialised attractants to lure the flies into the inescapable bag. Simple, yet highly effective. The only downside is potentially having to do a fly count from those bags. There are suitable for numerous types of outside area. For internal traps, the Sticky Fly Papers© or Gold Stick Fly Traps© can be hung where those pesky lesser house flies are hanging out, they are much more likely to come into contact therefore get trapped. This builds into IPM, adapting pest management techniques aligning with the species behaviours.







Bins are organised, lidded with bungs present.

Whilst on the subject of fly species, as we know it is essential to identify the type of fly to enable a source to be discovered and a plan of action formulated. The table below shows some common flying insects that you may frequently come across:



In conclusion

Think outside that bin, think about the type of waste and the attractiveness to that particular species whether it be rodent or insect and the specificities of the behaviours within those species. Remember the other aspects of integrated pest management and use this alongside product utilisation and recommendations. Hygiene is essential, even the smallest of build-up of organic residue can create issues conducive to ongoing problems, therefore bin hygiene is essential - keep those bins as clean as possible, situated away from main buildings.

Insect	Key biology	Potential sources
<i>Musca domestica</i> , housefly 	The adult fly may travel up to 5 miles in search of suitable development sites, attracted by odours. Houseflies are potential vectors of a wide range of diseases. They move from filth to food indiscriminately and may therefore move pathogens from dirty to clean areas.	Eggs are laid in moist, fermenting or putrefying material such as excrement, rotting vegetable matter; especially that with a high protein content. Sources could be refuse bins locally and animal manure; horse, cow, human, pig, chicken and others.
<i>Fannia canicularis</i> , lesser housefly 	Similar to <i>M. domestica</i> . Can cause widespread problems as the adult readily disperses and enters buildings.	Sources could be rotting vegetation, poultry manure. Rotting vegetation can include seeds and grain. Refuse bins can be a source. A range of animal manure; poultry, pig, horse, calf, human.
<i>Calliphora</i> sp., bluebottle 	Bluebottles may fly considerable distances and very large numbers of flies may emerge from relatively small quantities of decaying matter; for instance, a dead rat will provide enough nutrients to rear 4,000 flies. In rural areas populations of <i>C. vicina</i> up to 2,500 per hectare have been estimated in peak periods.	These flies choose decaying material of animal origin as their preferred breeding site; offal, dead rodents and birds are typical sites of blowfly egg laying. In the absence of these suitable sites, blowflies will lay their eggs on animal faeces and decaying vegetable matter.
<i>Drosophila</i> spp., Fruit fly 	This is a small fly, around 3mm. Prominent bright red eyes are a key identifying feature (although there are some species with a darker red eye), they possess a yellowish brown with darkly striped abdomen. They can breed in very small amounts of matter but are not particularly strong flyers and tend to be found nearby any breeding source.	Anything that is fermenting, fruit, sweet liquids, milk, dairy, beer, including decaying matter in drains or drainage systems. Sticky traps can be effective at capturing these flies.

Cholecalciferol and minimising risk



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The rodenticide active ingredient cholecalciferol may be used against Norway rats, black rats and house mice, including resistant strains. One cholecalciferol product may also be used against wood mice *Apodemus sylvaticus*.

Cholecalciferol is not persistent in the environment and therefore it may be assumed to present a lower risk of secondary poisoning. However, it is not free from risks to non-targets as it is, like many rodenticides, acutely toxic to some species.

Key use aspects are:

- The bait stations should be visited at least every 1 to 2 days at the beginning of the treatment and at least weekly afterwards, if not applied as part of a permanent baiting programme in order to check whether the bait is accepted, the bait stations are intact and to remove rodent bodies. Re-fill bait when necessary.
- Place the bait stations in areas not liable to flooding and replace any bait in a bait station in which bait has been damaged by water or contaminated by dirt (if outdoor).
- Bait stations should be placed in the immediate vicinity of places where rodent activity has been previously observed (e.g. travel paths, nesting sites, feedlots, holes, burrows etc.).

- Bait should be secured so that it cannot be dragged away from the bait station. Where possible, bait stations must be fixed to the ground or other structures.
- If bait uptake is low relative to the apparent size of the infestation, consider the relocation of bait stations to further places and the possibility to change to another bait formulation.

Key ways to minimise risk are:

Label up and inform

- Bait stations must be labelled with the following information: "do not move or open"; "contains a rodenticide"; "product name or authorisation number"; "active substance(s)" and "in case of incident, call a poison centre". UK medical professionals should contact the National Poisons Information Service (www.npis.org) for further advice.
- Where possible, prior to the treatment inform any bystanders (e.g. users of the treated area and their surroundings) about the rodent control campaign.

Prevent and search

- Consider preventive measures (plug holes, remove potential food and drinking as far as possible) to improve product intake and reduce the likelihood of reinvastion.
- To reduce the risk of secondary poisoning, search for and remove dead rodents during treatment at frequent intervals, in line with the recommendations provided by the relevant code of best practice.

Review and evaluate

- Permanent baiting is strictly limited to sites with a high potential for reinvastion when other methods of control have proven insufficient. The permanent baiting strategy shall be periodically reviewed in the context of integrated pest management (IPM) and the assessment of the risk for re-infestation.
- Products shall not be used beyond 35 days without an evaluation of the state of the infestation and of the efficacy of the treatment (unless permanent baiting).

New Products

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Fendona 6 SC

Fendona 6 SC is a trusted, broad-spectrum insecticide that has been a cornerstone in pest control for over 30 years. Now available again, this advanced suspension concentrate contains 60 g/l of alpha-cypermethrin and offers up to 12 weeks of residual efficacy. It is specially formulated for professional pest control, targeting a wide range of pests in various environments with precision and efficiency.

Visit www.killgerm.com



Exhale Active Bedbug Monitor

Introducing Exhale: A Revolutionary Bed Bug Monitoring Solution

Tackle bed bug infestations like never before with Exhale, the innovative, pesticide-free solution designed to mimic human presence and transform pest management. Pest controllers can save time by quickly identifying hotspots, enhance treatment effectiveness by activating bed bugs before, during, and after treatment, and provide chemical-free solutions for sensitive environments—all while maintaining a professional edge in the field.

Visit www.killgerm.com



Goodnature Mouse Trap

Goodnature Automatic Mouse Trap – Smart, Humane, and Self-Resetting Rodent Control

The Ultimate Non-Toxic, Bluetooth-Enabled Mouse Trap for Effortless Pest Control

A sleek, modern alternative to traditional traps, the Goodnature Automatic Mouse Trap is perfect for pest controllers to recommend to their customers. With self-resetting technology, Bluetooth monitoring, and a discreet, toxin-free design, it offers an effortless and effective rodent control solution.

Visit www.killgerm.com



RaxWool Pro: The Ultimate Pest-Proofing Solution

RaxWool Pro is a high-performance rodent-proofing barrier designed to keep pests out with durability and ease of use. Made from coarse stainless steel interwoven with strong synthetic fibers, it creates an impenetrable shield against mice, rats, and other unwanted intruders.

Visit www.killgerm.com



Fix-a-Net: An Innovative Bird Control Product

Fix-a-Net is a revolutionary solution for bird management, offering a simple and effective alternative to traditional bird control spikes. Whether you're installing a bird net for a garden, protecting crops, or managing large-scale installations, Fix-a-Net makes the process faster, easier, and more discreet. Designed for both large and small birds, it eliminates the need for wire ropes, intermediate fittings, or hog-rings.

Visit www.killgerm.com



AF Trapbase

The AF Trap Base is the perfect glue board alternative for professional pest controllers, designed to comply with the growing restrictions on glue boards while maintaining effective pest control. This modular mouse trap base allows traps to be connected side-by-side or back-to-back, making it ideal for creating barriers in key areas where mice are active, such as beneath kickboards and shop display units.

Visit www.killgerm.com



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

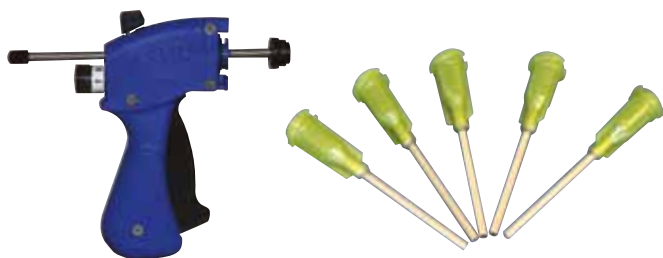
Kit maintenance

Looking back (and forward and...being prepared)!



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As we approach the prime insect season, it is an ideal time to look back at the previous season and prep for this coming season. Here at PCN we have delved into an overview of what we should have been aware of and how to prepare for what is potentially to come. Let us take a look at a few bits of kit and a few products.



Ant or cockroach gel (temperature extremes – gel baits can be affected)

Storage can be particularly important, protected from frost and cold and heat. It is usual that products would be contained within another outer secure box – this can help with maintaining the correct temperature for storage and application. In use, the various gel baits such as Syngenta Advion® ant gel (contains 0.05% w/w indoxacarb) and Envu Maxforce Quantum Ant Gel® (contains 0.03% w/w imidacloprid) are fully tested for palatability at different temperatures. Advion® is also tested and found to not run in warmer temperatures.

Whilst we are on the subject of gel baits, now is the time to make sure your bait guns are serviced in time for the season onset as we already have reports of ants and will soon see more and more as the seasonal species get going. As soon as the weather warms up to above 10 degrees C we can expect to see foraging ants outside. Ensure the bait gun is lubricated and working smoothly, spare tips are also especially useful to have on hand.



Paste/caulked products – check seasonal formulations

Certain products have a seasonal formulation code on them, some will be identified by a phrase that indicates which it is. The winter products may also give you instructions on how to prep the prep! For example, caulked rodent pastes, ant, and cockroach gel baits. Sakarat D Wax Bait® (contains 0.005% difenacoum) has a sticker to indicate which formulation it is. 'Please note that on the summer formulation each tube is marked with a red batch number sticker. The winter formulation is marked with a white sticker.' The same also goes for your caulking guns, make sure they are clean and working smoothly.



Aerosols, what temperature is it OK at?

The majority of the aerosol product have the phrase 'keep cool' on the label and the material safety data sheet. Due to the nature and components within these formulations, they often contain potentially volatile hydrocarbons which function as the propellant and carrying agent for the active insecticide ingredient. But how warm are we talking when it comes to keeping cool? As an example, Envu Flying insect killer®* (contains 0.125% w/w d-tetramethrin and 0.15% w/w d-phenothrin) should be stored 'below 25 degrees C and above 0 degrees C'. We do also need to consider the flammability, which of course increases alongside temperature. So just think carefully how these products are stored and transported, especially in colder or warmer weather conditions.



Is your duster looking a little dusty?

Maintenance is incredibly important for dusters, whether small or large capacity they can still block up, seals. Including checking the lances/ extensions and any gas-powered units. Similar applies for the sprayers, these are pressurised systems therefore can block up and we can have issues with pressure build up behind a blockage and awkward explanation with the customer – which can be avoided with careful and diligent maintenance. With the dusters, check the seals, check the moving mechanisms, lubricate as necessary and check the lance filters and nozzle, ensure it is clean and in good condition. With dust formulations its essential to keep the product dry. Especially those containing diatomaceous earth, the dust designed to dry out, if not stored with the lid tightly closed, we can render the product a useless clumpy mess if moisture is allowed to contact it. The same goes for other dust formulations too, ensure the lids are tightly closed when stored away. In use, we may consider the addition of a golf ball or 3 to prevent the dust from settling in the larger dusters and maintain flowability in use.



Pneumatic Sprayers - same old story?

All the standard actions apply for our sprayers, as per the product labels make sure they are calibrated and maintained. No insecticide should have been left in your sprayer at all, not overnight and even more so not over winter. If you have not already, now is the time to dust off that appropriately stored empty sprayer and change the seals, test the pressure and calibrate, so that the kit is ready to go at a moment's notice when the call comes in. The same for any knapsack or smaller 1 litre sprayer. Make sure they are free from leaks, the lance is dismantled, gauzes and filters are changed or cleaned as necessary and the nozzle is in good condition, carry spare with you.



Static stores

Just a few baseline necessities, although we transport our arsenal with us, the static store is also essential. The store should be:

- Safe and secure
- Chemicals should be away from direct sunlight, heat sources and extreme cold (protected from frost)
- Stable and appropriately ordered solids and liquids
- Lights should be fully working
- Appropriate signage and warning should be present
- Ventilated
- Bunded as necessary (able to contain 110% of the capacity stored)
- Spill(s) kit should be available
- First aid kit should be available along with eye wash
- Copies or access to copy labels and material safety data sheets
- A stock list should be accessible

Use the document on the HSE website, AIS16(rev1)

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais16.htm> as the guidance for 'other professional users.'

Summary - Being prepared is essential. Take stock from looking back and use the experience to think forward and be ready for the next call out. Now is the time to get ready and make sure all the equipment you need is clean, maintained, calibrated and ready to tackle its job. If not, you have time now to maintain, fix or seek advice so that the work can run smoothly and efficiently.

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

Acrobat ant

Crematogaster spp | Family: Formicidae

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A very characteristic ant with a heart-shaped abdomen and a red head, the rest of the body being brown-black.

The dorsal part of the thorax has a pair of spines. The junction between the thorax and the abdomen is formed by a two-segmented pedicel.

Crematogaster is a very diverse genus of ants. There are several species and *Crematogaster scutellaris* is relatively common with examples noted in the United Kingdom.

They nest in a variety of places, mainly in the bark of trees. Occasionally they nest inside homes, in wood and insulation. They cause damage to the structures where they nest.

They have a peculiar behavior that consists of bending their abdomen and head when they are disturbed. They defend the colony by giving off a defensive odor, even producing bites.

They have a peculiar behaviour that consists of bending their abdomen and head when they are disturbed. They defended the colony by giving off a defensive odor, even producing bites.

Top photo: adult *Crematogaster laeviuscula* 'Insects Unlocked' Project, University of Texas at Austin.

Bottom photo: adult *Crematogaster scutellaris*.

Sawtoothed grain beetle

Oryzaephilus surinamensis | Family: Silvanidae

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A small beetle of about 2.5 – 3.5 mm in length. A flattened body, dark brown in colour. There are six saw-like teeth on each side of the prothorax. Although it has well-developed wings it has not been observed in flight.

It resembles the merchant grain beetle, *Oryzaephilus mercator* - care is needed in differentiating the two species.

The female lays 45 to 285 shiny white eggs over a period of 2 to 5 months. The eggs hatch in 3 to 17 days, depending on the temperature.

The larva is yellowish white and measures less than 3mm in length. It usually builds a pupal chamber with food particles adhered to it with its sticky oral secretions.

The optimal conditions for their development are 30 to 35°C and 70% relative humidity. Adults live between 6 and 10 months, although they can live more than 3 years.

It is a frequent pest in places where flour or ground grains are stored (rice, corn, soybeans, wheat...). It feeds not only on flour, but is also carnivorous.

Control of these beetles is based on locating the source of food and removing it.



Photo: adult *Oryzaephilus surinamensis*. Udo Schmidt
 Flickr.

Fire and Explosion Prevention: When Quality Matters

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Pest controllers often receive requests from clients to install UV light units for flying insects in hazardous areas, particularly in environments with potentially explosive atmospheres.

How can you ensure the right units are used in such critical zones? To meet the requirements of the ATEX Directive (Equipment Used in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres), companies like PestWest specialise in manufacturing UV units suitable for areas at risk of explosions. PestWest offers two certified units: the Chameleon® EXG X and the Chameleon® 4×4 EX.

These units operate on the principle that most flying insects are attracted to light, particularly the ultraviolet (UV) end of the spectrum. This light is invisible to humans, but the lamps glow blue, indicating they are working. The flying insects are trapped on a glue board. For obvious reasons, electric grid fly traps are not allowed in potentially explosive areas, as they could generate ignition sparks.

Understanding the Risks of Electrical Equipment in Explosive Environments

Electrical equipment can be hazardous in areas where flammable gases, vapours, or dust particles mix with air, creating a potentially explosive atmosphere. This happens when three elements are present:

- Oxygen (present in the air)
- A flammable substance (gas, vapour, or dust)
- An ignition source (flame, spark, electric arc, or high temperature)

Various substances are classified as potentially explosive, particularly in the food and pharmaceutical industries. These include solvent vapours, alcohol, powders, or flours from maize, wheat, milk, and sugar. As a result, there is a potential explosion risk in areas where these substances are produced, processed, or stored.

Under normal conditions, an explosion-prone area is not explosive. However, it can become explosive if a spark occurs or if a unit overheats. This is why using electrical devices in such environments can be dangerous. It is crucial that any electrical equipment used in a potentially explosive setting complies with the ATEX Directive.

What Is ATEX?

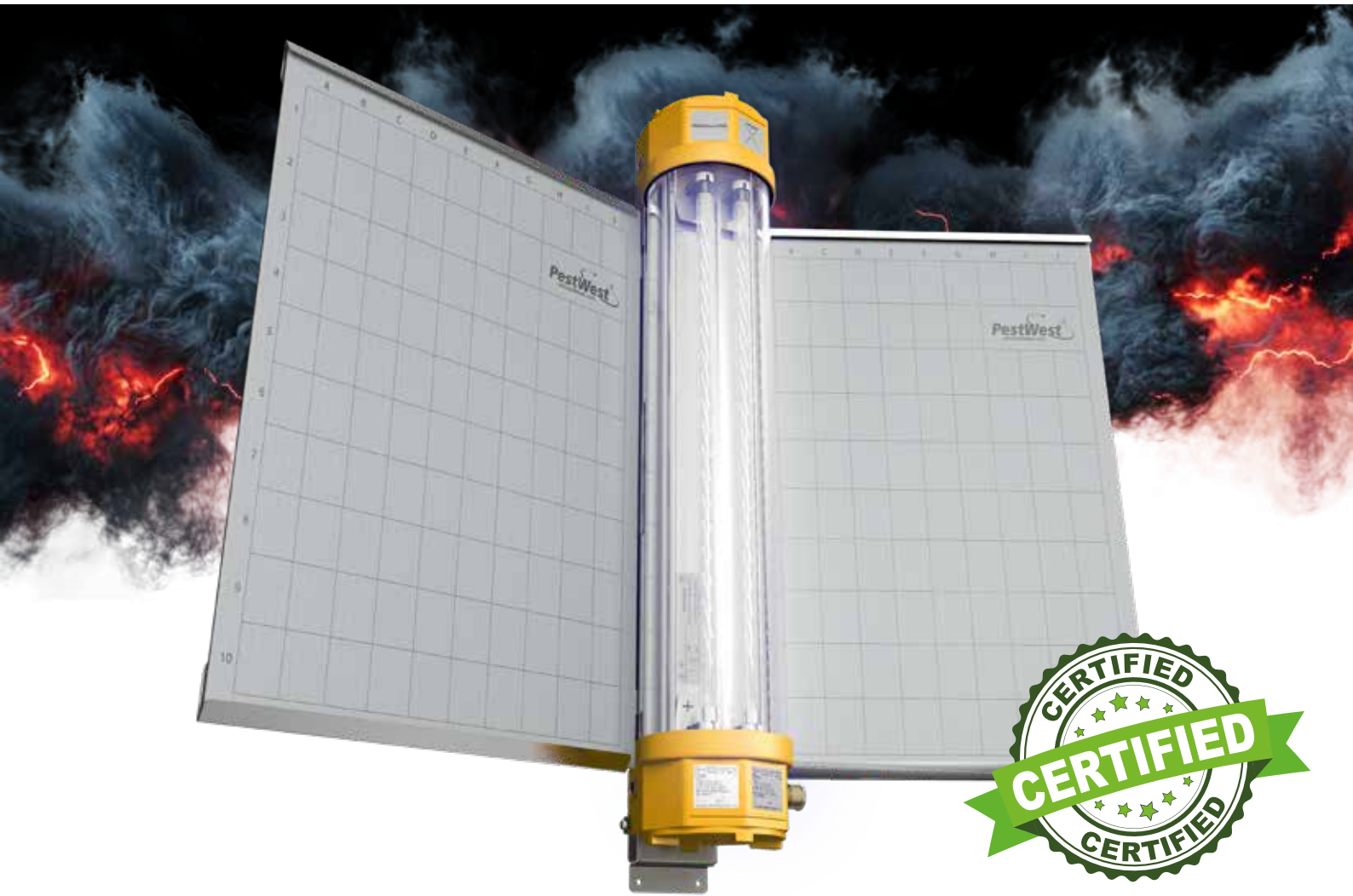
ATEX is the common name for two directives that regulate equipment and working environments in potentially explosive atmospheres:

- Equipment Directive (2014/34/EU) – Regulates equipment and protective systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres.
- Workplace Directive (1999/92/EC) – Specifies the minimum requirements for improving the safety and health of workers exposed to explosive atmospheres.

Employers must classify areas where potentially explosive atmospheres may occur. The classification of a particular zone—its size and location—depends on the likelihood of an explosive atmosphere forming and how long it would persist if it did occur.

ATEX Zone Classifications

Classification		Definition
Gases/ Vapours	Dust	
Zone 0	Zone 20	Areas where an explosive atmosphere is present permanently, for prolonged periods, or frequently.
Zone 1	Zone 21	Areas where, under normal operating conditions, an explosive atmosphere is likely to form occasionally.
Zone 2	Zone 22	Areas where, under normal operating conditions, an explosive atmosphere is unlikely to form, or if it does, it persists only for short periods.



Before a workplace with ATEX-classified areas begins operation, the employer must ensure that general explosion protection measures are verified as safe. Additionally, the employer's risk assessment must confirm the following:

- Evaluation of explosion hazards
- Ensuring workplace safety
- Correct classification of potentially explosive areas

A qualified person or organisation must conduct the assessment to consider the specific workplace risks and the effectiveness of explosion control measures. Furthermore, equipment and protective systems used in classified areas must be chosen to meet these requirements.

It is important to note that pest control companies are not responsible for determining ATEX zones—this must be done by specialised ATEX personnel. Likewise, ATEX equipment installation must be carried out by a properly qualified electrician.

ATEX-Certified Electrical Equipment Categories

ATEX-certified electrical devices are classified into categories, ensuring they are suitable for the zone in which they will be used—whether for gases/vapours, dust, or both. The equipment is divided into:

Zone	Equipment Category
Zone 0 / Zone 20	Category 1 (very high protection level)
Zone 1 / Zone 21	Category 1 or 2 (high protection level)
Zone 2 / Zone 22	Category 1, 2, or 3 (normal protection level)

Certified Solutions: Chameleon® 4x4 EX & Chameleon® EXG X

- Chameleon® 4x4 EX
 - o Certified EX II 3 D Ex tc IIIC T105 IP65
 - o Suitable for Zone 22 (dust), such as sugar factories and flour mills
 - o Additional protection: Chassis surface temperature will not exceed 105°C
- Chameleon® EXG X
 - o Certified EX II 2 G – Ex db IICT6 Gb // EX II 2 D – Ex tb IIIC T85°C Db
 - o Suitable for Zones 1 & 2 (gases) and Zones 21 & 22 (dust), such as alcohol distilleries, sugar factories, and flour mills
 - o Key protection feature: Fire-resistant construction, meaning the unit can withstand an internal explosion without transmitting it to the surrounding area
 - o IP66-rated with a fully corrosion-resistant build, including:
 - 304-grade brushed stainless steel
 - Marine-grade aluminium alloy
 - 7mm thick borosilicate glass housing

Not all EX-rated devices are the same. It is essential to rely on high-quality, properly certified units from trusted manufacturers like PestWest.



Professional Pest Controller Live 2025: event schedule announced

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British Pest Control Association (BPCA) has announced the full schedule for Professional Pest Controller Live 2025.

Taking place on Wednesday 19 March at the Great Yorkshire Event Centre in Harrogate, PPC Live 2025 looks set to be the biggest ever.

Packed with expert speakers from across the sector, PPC Live is the Association's free to attend, one-day exhibition and trade show for pest management professionals.

The event is open to everyone, whether you're an experienced pest control technician, a surveyor, support staff, a specialist, or just want to learn more about the sector.

We have a packed schedule of 30+ practical sessions and technical seminars. Gain valuable knowledge and actionable skills that make a real impact on your day-to-day job.

Presentations will cover topics like behavioural resistance, life after bendiocarb withdrawal and an important CRRU-approved talk on anticoagulant resistance in rodents.

With seating for 100 people, the seminars will use headphones, so attendees won't miss a single word of the presenters.

In a series of outdoor demonstrations, industry experts will also be showcasing their know-how in a range of disciplines from honey bee welfare to drone use in wildlife management.

And our indoor demonstration area will be home to bird netting, insect ID and digital monitoring talks.

Plus, for the first time at PPC Live, we're introducing Roundtable Discussions – a chance to debate the latest hot topics in the pest control industry.

All seminars, demonstrations and roundtables are completely free and open to everyone.

There will also be more than 50 exhibitors, displaying the latest pest control technology and equipment.

Lauren Day, BPCA Events Manager, believes that this year's event is set to be the best PPC Live yet. She said:

"There are some exciting new additions this year and we've worked hard to make sure there's something for everyone.

"We're committed to making sure pest management professionals leave with new knowledge and experiences they can apply to the day job.

"This is a place you can come to learn, network and do some valuable team-building.

"It's also a great opportunity to build up some CPD points, which will be available for anyone on the BPCA Registered scheme or BASIS Prompt.

"Whether you're currently working in pest management or just have an interest in the sector, PPC Live is the place to be this March."

Register your place at PPC Live now and get a free bacon roll and hot drink on arrival.





Building for the Future: NPTA Board Welcomes New Directors to Drive Industry Progress

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The National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA) is proud to announce the appointment of five new members to its Board of Directors, following a highly-competitive and inspiring interview process. The appointments were ratified at a board meeting held on 30th January.

The new board members are:



Jasmin Emmerson

Sales Director at Fotolec Technologies, with a passion for driving legislative improvements and raising industry standards, particularly regarding insect control technology. Jasmin is dedicated to ensuring technology is used to improve efficiency and compliance, benefiting pest control professionals and their clients alike.



Hugh Radford

Founder of Guardian Pest Control with over 35 years of experience in the pest control sector. Hugh established his business in 1997 after starting his career with a national company and has been an NPTA member since its inception. He is dedicated to giving back to the industry that has provided him with a rewarding career.



Shaun Muller

Director of Oakham Pest Control Ltd, based in Rutland. Since joining the industry in 2020, Shaun has helped build a successful family business and established a strong digital presence across platforms like LinkedIn and TikTok. He is passionate about advocating for small pest control businesses and promoting health, fitness, and innovation within the industry.



Louise Coldwell

Head of Sales and Customer Services at Killgerm, bringing over 21 years of experience and extensive knowledge of pest control and business management. Louise has worked closely with businesses of all sizes, helping them to access the tools, services, and training needed to succeed in today's pest control landscape.



Sophie Thorogood

Technical Training Manager at Pelsis, dedicated to improving training standards and supporting innovation in pest management practices. Sophie has led several initiatives aimed at developing practical, high-impact training programs to help professionals stay ahead of evolving industry demands.

These individuals bring a wealth of expertise and passion for advancing the pest control industry, supporting the NPTA's mission to champion pest controllers and businesses of all sizes through improved training, business support, and industry representation.

Chairman and co-founder John Davison expressed his enthusiasm, saying: "We are incredibly excited about the potential each new board member brings to the NPTA. Their insights and leadership will be instrumental in strengthening our association's impact and advancing our strategic vision."

In addition, the NPTA has entered into collaborations with three other professionals on special projects which aim to bring significant advancements to the pest control sector. These individuals are expected to formally join the board within the next six months.

Further details about the new board members have been featured in the NPTA's February newsletter and are available online via <https://www.npta.org.uk/about-our-board-members/>.



Evidence

 0113 245 0845
  giles.ward@milnerslaw.com or
  uk.linkedin.com/pub/giles-ward/31/187/6b3
 @MilnersGiles

When litigation is looming it is important to keep any documents which may be of importance or relate to the potential dispute, this is known as Preservation of Documents and any party to litigation has strict obligations to preserve all documents that may be relevant to the dispute whether they may assist or undermine the dispute. Parties are generally obligated to keep documentation to the extent that they are in contemplation of litigation. So, in simple terms, this generally means when relationships turn sour and it becomes apparent that a dispute will or may arise.

The duty is imposed so that the Court has all documents available to make a fully informed and just decision. This duty is also imposed to support disclosure. Disclosure is where each party to proceedings must search for and give to their opponents all documents that are relevant to the case, regardless of whether they support their case or not. Failure to comply with disclosure and at the same time this obligation, can lead to serious repercussions. This could, to list a few, include adverse inferences in which the court draws a negative conclusion from missing documents, credibility damage, or judicial scrutiny where you may be required to explain to a judge why documents are missing. It is also a dereliction of your fiduciary duty as a director not to keep transactional documents amongst others.

The duty to preserve documents prior to electronic communications was simply identifying relevant documents and putting them into files and storing them accordingly, however now it is more complex as the term documents relates to an array of different types of stored information. In litigation the term documents can be seen to include emails, text/WhatsApp messages, photographs, videos, notes, letters, or information stored on hard drives/USBs. All of which should be stored and preserved in the event of litigation being reasonably contemplated. Therefore, it could now be seen that anything in which has information recorded qualifies as a document, further to this it can be seen within the Civil Procedure Rules (the rules which govern the litigation process) that documents is defined as "anything in which information of any description is recorded".

Due to the duty to preserve documents it is important for individuals and organisations to regularly monitor what they are deleting and consider whether it could be of any importance to any potential

litigation. Some organisations have policies in place in which they will not delete documents and instead archive them for a period of time before eventually deleting them usually after 6 years have passed. It is usually 6 years as this is the primary limitation period under the Limitation Act 1980, this means that in claims in which this period applies after 6 years the claim would be unsuccessful. Other organisations have deletion policies which may delete documents when an employee leaves. Such a policy must be reviewed as the Court would not take a sympathetic view if relevant documents had been deleted due to such a policy. Instead, an organisation could ask the leaving employee whether they have been involved in or have any documents relevant to a potential dispute before deleting any documents from their device. This will allow the organisation the chance to preserve any relevant documents whilst also being able to delete any unrelated documents in the process.

In conclusion preserving documents is key to litigation as it is what a case is built upon. Additionally, these documents will be used to evidence allegations and should no such document be available, the Court may take a negative view of the allegation without evidence. Individuals and organisations who feel litigation may be pending especially need to keep the duty to preserve documents in the forefront of their mind, especially if they have a conflicting deletion policy which may lead to relevant documents being deleted or evidence going missing. One key takeaway should be that if there is any contemplation that litigation/proceedings will begin, do not delete anything related to the matter.

Should you or your organisation be in a situation alike to the above please feel free to contact me on matters relating to litigation you potentially could be facing, the preservation of documents or indeed any legal issue you are facing in confidence on mobile 07789 401 411 or via email giles.ward@milnerslaw.com.



2025 Training Dates

Your guide to pest control training events near you

Killgerm Training run courses nationwide offering different types of courses for different levels of experience and knowledge.

Details of all course dates and locations are available online at: www.killgermtraining.com

There is also a full list in the Killgerm catalogue

For further information or to book your place on a course call: 01924 268445 or email training@killgerm.com

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
YORKSHIRE		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
15th April 2025	Ossett	£180 inc lunch
Principles of Insect Control		
16th & 17th April 2025	Ossett	£205 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
29th April 2025	Doncaster	£235 Inc lunch
13th May 2025	Holmes Chapel	£235 Inc lunch
Bird Control		
7th & 8th April 2025	Holmes Chapel	£330 Inc lunch
Bird Free		
8th May 2025	Ossett	FOC
Flying Insect Management		
25th March 2025	Ossett	£180 Inc lunch
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
1st May 2025	Ossett	£80 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees & Wasps		
12th March 2025	Ossett	£180 inc lunch
Insect Workshop 1 - Bedbugs and Fleas		
13th March 2025	Ossett	£180 inc lunch
Insect Identification		
14th May 2025	Ossett	£235 Inc lunch
RSPH - LEVEL 2 Safe use of aluminium phosphide for the control of vertebrate pests FEE - £450 + VAT per person (includes RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)		
28th & 29th May 2025	York	£495 Inc lunch
Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
EAST ANGLIA		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
6th May 2025	Norwich	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
7th & 8th May 2025	Norwich	£205 Inc lunch
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
24th April 2025	Norwich	£80 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees and Wasps		
23rd April 2025	Norwich	£180 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
27th May 2025	Reading	£235 Inc lunch
Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
SURREY		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
11th March 2025	Lingfield	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
12th & 13th March 2025	Lingfield	£205 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		
18th March 2025	Newbury	£180 Inc lunch
13th May 2025	Newbury	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
19th & 20th March 2025	Newbury	£205 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Flying Insect Management		
21st May 2025	Newbury	£180 Inc lunch
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
8th May 2025	Newbury	£235 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees & Wasps		
30th April 2025	Newbury	£180 Inc lunch
Insect Workshop 1 - Bedbugs & Fleas		
1st May 2025	Newbury	£180 Inc lunch
REFRESHER COURSES		
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
8th May 2025	Newbury	£235 Inc lunch
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees & Wasps		
30th April 2025	Newbury	£180 Inc lunch
Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
BRISTOL		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
15th April 2025	Bristol	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
16th & 17th April 2025	Bristol	£205 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
20th March 2025	Bristol	£235 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees & Wasps		
15th May 2025	Bristol	£180 Inc lunch
Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
MIDLANDS		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
4th March 2025	Burton on Trent	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
5th & 6th March 2025	Burton on Trent	£205 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
27th March 2025	Kibworth	£235 Inc lunch
Bird Free		
24th April 2025	Kibworth	£30 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees & Wasps		
29th April 2025	Burton on Trent	£180 Inc lunch

RSPH - LEVEL 2 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT FEE - £950 + VAT per person (includes Killgerm manual, RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)		
Venue: Ossett		
Units 1 – 3	Tuesday 10th June - Tuesday 17th June 2025	
Examination	Wednesday 18th June 2025	
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH LEVEL 3 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT. FEE - £850 + VAT per person (includes RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)		
Venue: Newbury		
Training and Information day	26th March 2025	
Core Unit examination	9th April 2025	
Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
SCOTLAND		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
20th May 2025	Livingston	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
21st & 22nd May 2025	Livingston	£205 Inc lunch
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
9th April 2025	Livingston	£80 inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Bird Guano		
10th April 2025	Livingston	£180 Inc lunch
Flying insect Control		
30th April 2025	Livingston	£180 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 1 Bedbugs & Fleas		
8th April 2025	Livingston	£180 Inc lunch
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH LEVEL 3 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT. FEE - £850 + VAT per person (includes RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)		
Venue: Scotland - Livingston		
Training and Information day	15th April 2025	
Core Unit examination	1st May 2025	

Delivering High Quality Training

For further information on any of these training courses or book your place, call Lisa Wales on 01924 268445

Alternatively email training@killgerm.com or book online at www.killgermtraining.com

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