

# Geese and Wildfowl Management Strategy

## New Methods

In 2015 for the first time a licence was applied for to undertake 'Egg control'.

This is a general licence from Natural England. The method chosen was to prick the eggs, which involves piercing the egg and killing the embryo before returning the egg to the nest.

100 eggs were treated in this way and along with the other management techniques were found to bring a reduction in Geese numbers.

Along with the re-design of banks and marginal areas around the freshwater ponds to effect habitat change, egg pricking will continue (under annual licence and regular review of its effects) as an effective means of preventing populations increasing.

The Integrated Management Strategy approach will continue to be monitored over time to assess its effectiveness.

## Impact on geese

100 eggs were pricked in 2015

Estimated reduction in number of Greylag Geese population of approx. 70%

Geese are thought to move away if breeding is unsuccessful.

Slight reduction seen in Canada Geese numbers



28%

Of all comments wanted Geese issues to be improved.

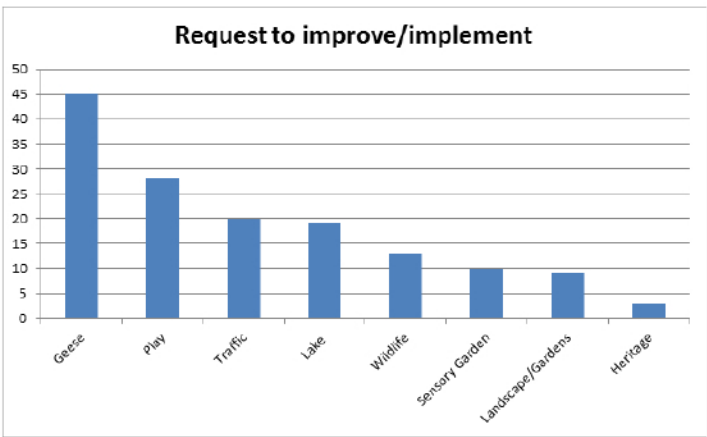
## Impact on the park

Fewer droppings

Increased visitor satisfaction and enjoyment, reduced complaints

Raises the quality of the park, e.g. less bare/eroded areas, increase in marginal vegetation along water edges, sustained reed beds on islands

Increase in water quality through reduced input of droppings (nitrates and phosphates that contribute to algal blooms)



Source: Comments section of 2014 Poole Park Life engagement survey. 8%

62% Reduction in use of the Amazone

70% Reduction in jet washing

c.£4,120 Resource Saving

## Impact on Maintenance costs

Use of Amazone proflhopper reduced from 240 hours to 150 hours = 62% reduction

Use of chemical spray that makes grass unpalatable reduced

Jet washing of hard surfaces reduced from 160 hours to 48 = 70% reduction

Overall saving of approx. £4,120 in labour and machinery and equipment costs

Egg pricking takes approx. 7 hours per 100 eggs and equates to £155.



1665

Canada Geese introduced by King Charles II to the UK from North America.



Greylag Goose



Canada Goose



Mute Swan

The 'wildfowl' are medium to large birds with rather long or very long necks, mostly short, broad bills, short legs and the front three toes joined by webs.

Swans are the largest and longest-necked; Mute swans (lower image, above) are resident in the UK, two species visit from autumn to spring.

Geese are divided into two main groups, the 'grey' geese (including the greylag, top image) and the 'black' geese, such as brent and barnacle geese. One of the most widespread, the Canada goose (middle image, above), is not native, but introduced to the UK from North America.

Ducks are roughly divided into 'surface feeders', which rarely dive, and 'diving ducks', which dive under for food. Several of the latter are found on the sea. Shelducks are intermediate in some respects between ducks and geese.

Images and content:  
[www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide](http://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide)

## Reference Documents



English Heritage: Landscape Advice Note: Canada Geese  
Natural England Technical Information Note TIN009