Black Headed Gulls – Elvanfoot 400kV

On the 18th May it was noted during the monthly substation visit at Elvanfoot 400kV substation that there was a large population of Black Headed Gulls occupying the live compound. Nesting season for the gulls is between April and August, during this time they are very territorial and will dive bomb anyone they see as a threat. Birds will nest anywhere that provides safety, food, or shelter. It is an offence to disturb the birds during the nesting season. Please read EXP-16-044 for more information on Nesting Birds. Ecological advice will be sought to seek to avoid this issue as far as possible next year.



Black Headed Gull

Vulnerable Locations on site include:

- Storage compounds (inside timber packaging/pipes/pallets);
- On soil/stone storage areas and stone tracks;
- Inside storage bags/boxes left uncovered;
- Inside and underneath equipment & machinery
- Inside containers/sheds/substations and equipment where doors/windows are left open; and
- On/under roofs, under guttering of buildings and cabins.



Gulls circling the substation

How to prevent:

- Good housekeeping – food waste attracts gulls;
- Off-hire plant and machinery when not needed; and
- Be wary of leaving anything outside substation buildings for extended periods
- If it cant be removed can it be made safe?

Recommendations and action points

- Only access substation if absolutely necessary
- Use the access gate with the clearest and shortest path to destination within the compound
- Standard PPE including hard hat, safety goggles and gloves (extra gloves to be found in the control room) to be worn at all times (even when outside the substation compound), **DO NOT** lift hands above head when in live compound
- If urgent work is to be carried out within the live compound during the breeding season please call the Environmental Technician (Emily Martin) on 07901518478 for support.