

GUIDANCE ON BIODIVERSITY AND SAFEGUARDING

Common mitigation advice includes the following.

- Avoid extensive gravelled areas and dense vegetation on roofs to discourage roosting. Flat roofs should be avoided or pitched.
- Avoid large grass covered areas/ ecologically diverse meadows within 1km of the airport.
- Dense or sheltered vegetation has the potential to become a starling roost, so stagger plants in rows or spread them out to prevent this.
- Avoid fruiting and berry-bearing trees, shrubs and any species with the potential to attract birds.
- Disperse bird-attracting plant species within other unattractive species.
- All outdoor eateries should have a regular cleaning regime to avoid food being left out for birds to eat. All bins should also be locked and vermin proof.
- Small ornamental water bodies are great for increasing biodiversity and will not increase local bird species. Larger water bodies should be as deep as possible (over 4 metres) with vertical margins. The banks of larger water bodies should be steep and without vegetation.
- Signs near waterbodies requiring “no feeding the birds” should be installed and water should not be stocked with fish which may attract birds to feed.
- Ongoing management of the site post-development to deter bird species.

London City Airport is happy to support the installation of green walls and roofs, but they should be carefully designed in accordance with the guidance listed above.

There are lots ways to increase biodiversity while not increasing bird populations. Some examples are as follows:

- Installation of bat boxes and small bird boxes inhabited with non-flocking species
- Creation of habitat for small reptiles and amphibians
- Creation of habitats for small mammals
- Installing small ornamental water bodies
- The introduction of bee hives
- Compost bins so long as they are sealed.
- The use of native species of plants
- Avoiding the use of pesticides or herbicides
- Installing walkways to prevent the people trampling on habitats
- Using only male plants to prevent berries being produced.

London City Airport encourages discussions with developers prior to the submission of planning applications to ensure that biodiversity is maximised whilst managing the risk to aerodrome safety. To initiate these discussions, or if you have any questions relating to safeguarding please contact the London City Airport safeguarding team on 0203 203 2523 or email safeguarding@londoncityairport.com

This guidance was informed by:

- CAA publications 772 and 168
- AOA Advice Note 3 Wildlife Hazards around Aerodromes