

## BIRD SCARERS



Also known as "bangers", these are devices that farmers use to protect certain early crops from the unwanted attention of birds. Although considered to be an essential aid to deterring birds; if used inconsiderately the noise can be seriously annoying and could be a statutory noise nuisance.



There are many types of scarer. However, it is usually the propane gas gun that draws criticism from those living close to fields where they are situated.

The National Farmers Union (NFU) has issued advice to farmers using these devices, to try and avoid causing nuisance. This advice includes: -



- Not using the scarer on Sundays
- Only using the scarer between sunrise (or 6.00am if sun rises earlier) and sunset
- Not firing the machine more than 4 times in an hour. If shorter, birds can get used to the sound. Some machines fire three reports in a cycle, this is counted as one "bang"
- Liaison with other neighbouring farmers to try and avoid an overlap of machines in one area
- Positioning of the device for effectiveness and methods of screening.

If a complaint is received regarding noise from a bird scarer, our Environmental Services team will try and identify the land upon which it is situated and trace the owner. The time taken in dealing with such a complaint will be reduced if these details are known when the problem is reported. In past complaint investigations, it has generally been found that the timer on the scarer has malfunctioned, causing excessive explosions. The farmer can easily and quickly rectify these faults.

For further information or assistance, please call us **(01636) 655606** or e-mail [environmental.services@nsdc.info](mailto:environmental.services@nsdc.info)