

## BRIDGE POLICY CIRCULAR

**BPC 2005/06**

**SUBJECT: BIRD NESTING IN BRIDGE ABUTMENTS & BOX GIRDERS**

<b>No. Drawings Following</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>No. Appendix Sheets Following</b>	<b>0</b>
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### ***Background***

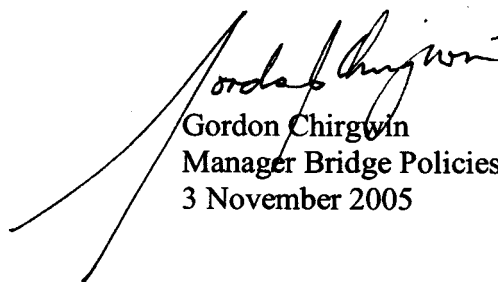
Large bridges normally contain void spaces in the bridge abutments to provide inspection/maintenance access to the expansion joints and other parts of the structure. Open apertures between the girders and the abutment enable the uncontrolled nesting of birds. The presence of birds in these spaces together with their droppings presents an unacceptable OH&S risk to staff undertaking inspection and/or maintenance activities.

### ***Current Position***

There is currently no bridge design requirement for the closure of these apertures and many bridges have unrestricted access for birds into the abutment void and other parts of the structure. In a number of cases, birds have nested in very large numbers and their nesting attracts other vermin. Where apertures are closed to birds, closure has generally been performed post-construction.

### ***Action Required***

Designers and Project Managers must ensure that, for box-girder bridges and other structures with large void spaces, the design prevents any bird entry. The means used must be sufficiently robust so that unauthorised removal is resisted. An appropriate design is attached to this circular



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Manager Bridge Policies Standards & Records  
3 November 2005

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