

# Inspection Report

Date of inspection: 28/06/2024 Date report completed: 22/07/2024

Name of applicant or current licence holder: Paul Green

Name and address of zoo: Sky Birds of Prey, Honnington Farm, Vauxhall Lane, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells  
Postcode: TN4 0XD

Tel no: [REDACTED] Licence Number: AW063

Date of last formal inspection: 29th May 2023 Type of last formal inspection: 11A (New Licence)

Timing of next formal inspection: < 28 December 2026 Type of next formal inspection: Renewal

Type of inspection Statutory composition of inspection team *Please tick appropriate box*

Section 10 Periodical: 2 Defra/Welsh Government nominees; 1 LA vet; option of up to 2 more from LA .. ☒

Section 11 Special: Any number of competent LA authorised appointees ..... ☐

Section 14(1)(b) dispensation renewal under section 6(1A)(a) (where a direction has been made that section 10 shall not apply):  
Defra/Welsh Government nominee/s..... ☐

Section 14(2) dispensation Periodical:  
Defra/Welsh Government nominee/s..... ☐

For a licence inspection (Section 4(1A)(b)) and a significant change inspection (Section 9A(8)) please use the inspection form at Appendix 11A of the Standards.

Name and designation of inspector(s)	Name of zoo representative(s)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	

When this form has been completed and signed the original must be sent to the local authority. If the zoo is owned by the local authority, the local authority must send a copy of the completed form to Defra where the zoo is situated in England or to the Welsh Government, where the zoo is situated in Wales.

## Preamble to inspectors' report

---

Information and guidance about the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (ZLA) is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-biodiversity-and-ecosystems-at-home-and-abroad/supporting-pages/species-protection> and <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/zoos/?lang=en>

Preamble to inspectors' report\*, including any comments about the current dispensation status, if applicable.

This periodical inspection being one year from the approval of a new zoo licence granted from the 29th June 2023 running until the 28th June 2027.

Sky Birds of Prey is a small birds of prey experience and falconry training based zoo, not directly open to the public as all birds are held in [REDACTED], only being used for experiences both on and off the premises.

The inspection team would like to thank the Sky Birds of Prey team for the help and open discussions held on the day's inspection. The inspection team felt that a lot had been achieved over the year especially in resolving conditions set on the initial licence

It is still considered that a Dispensation of 14 (2) is appropriate, as mentioned at the last inspection. The zoo operator had applied for a 14 (2) dispensation, but APHA responded that dispensations were currently on hold and therefore the zoo had to be inspected with a full team.

\*this might include general background about the zoo (type of collection, size etc) and any relevant information or comments from the pre-inspection audit

## Findings at inspection

Guidance note: Where possible a Yes, No or Not Applicable (N/A) answer should be given. Where not all criteria are met for a particular question, comments and clarification should be made indicating where any deficits occur. If appropriate, means of correction or improvement should be included as Conditions or Recommendations under 'Additional conditions' or Additional space' towards the end of the form.

1. Provision of food and water	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
<b>Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981:</b>		
1.1. Are animals provided with a high standard of nutrition?	No	The zoo must comply with Animal Byproducts legislation and store food in correctly labelled fridges and freezers. See Direction 1 The thermometer only records the current temperature and must be replaced with a max/min thermometer. See Direction 2
1.2. Is food and drink that is supplied appropriate for the species/individual?	No	With the number of birds overall, the inspectors felt that individual diet sheets must be used for more accurate control over diets. See Direction 3
1.3. Are supplies of food and water:		The inspection team would like to commend the use of the defrosting fridge with different defrosting zones within.
(a) kept hygienically?	Yes	
(b) prepared hygienically?	Yes	
(c) supplied to the animal hygienically?	Yes	
1.4. Has natural feeding behaviour been adequately considered to ensure that all animals have access to food and drink?	Yes	
1.5. Are feeding methods safe for staff and animals?	Yes	
1.6. Is feeding by visitors permitted?	Yes	
(a) if 'yes', is it properly controlled?	Yes	
<b>2. Provision of suitable environment</b>		
<b>Section 1A(c)(i) ZLA 1981:</b>		
2.1. Are the animals provided with an environment well adapted to meet the physical, psychological and social needs of the species to which they belong?	Yes	
2.2. Are the following environmental parameters appropriate:		Recommendation - To move away from the tethering of birds in offshow holding areas as the SSSMZIP (2012) will be replaced by the SMZIPGB in the near future and the new standards as written must be adhered to.
(a) temperature?	Yes	
(b) ventilation?	Yes	
(c) lighting?	Yes	
(d) noise levels?	Yes	
(e) any other environmental parameters?	N/A	

2. Provision of suitable environment (contd.)	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
2.3. Are there satisfactory measures in place to safely confine the animals?	Yes	
2.4. Do animal enclosures have sufficient shelter and refuge areas?	No	Some birds require a barrier they could choose to be behind if they felt intimidated/threatened from other birds. See Direction 4
2.5. Do animal enclosures provide sufficient space?	Yes	
2.6. Are backup facilities for life support systems adequate?	N/A	
2.7. Is the cleaning of the accommodation satisfactory?	Yes	
2.8. Is the standard of maintenance adequate for: (a) the buildings?	Yes	
(b) the fences?	Yes	
2.9. Is all drainage effective and safe?	Yes	
<b>3. Provision of animal health care</b>		
<b>Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981:</b> 3.1. Are the animals provided with a high standard of animal husbandry?	No	See Direction 10 on animal keeping records (section 9.1)
3.2. Do animals on display to the public appear in good health?	Yes	Note: Animals are only on display when bought out for an experience
3.3. Are observations of condition and health made and recorded?	No	See Direction 10 on animal keeping records (section 9.1)
3.4. Do animals receive prompt and appropriate attention when problems are noted?	Yes	Note: No reason to believe they do not receive prompt and appropriate attention, but see Direction 10 on animal keeping records (section 9.1)
3.5. Are enclosures designed and operated in such a way that social interaction problems are avoided?	No	See section 2.4 and Direction 4
<b>On-site facilities</b> 3.6. Are catch-up and restraint facilities adequate?	Yes	
3.7. Is darting equipment satisfactory?	N/A	
3.8. Are on-site veterinary facilities adequate?	Yes	Note: A good functional veterinary room

3. Provision of animal health care (contd.)	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
<b>Veterinary care</b> <b>Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981:</b> 3.9. Are the animals provided with a documented and maintained programme of preventative and curative veterinary care and nutrition?	No	The conditions as set out on the licence are not being met. See Direction 5
3.10. Is there a system for the regular review of clinical and pathological records?	No	The condition as set out on the licence are not being met. See Direction 5
3.11. Are appropriate veterinary records kept?	No	The condition as set out on the licence are not being met. See Direction 5. Veterinarian CPD records were not being kept - See Condition 3.
3.12. Are medicines kept and disposed of correctly?	Yes	Recommendation of a min/max thermometer. See Recommendation
3.13. Are controlled drugs used and recorded satisfactorily?	N/A	
3.14. Are appropriate antidotes available?	N/A	
3.15. Are <i>post mortem</i> examination arrangements satisfactory?	No	Due to the overall low number of animals and therefore low mortality rate, all animals must be post mortemed to allow acceptable disease surveillance.
<b>Isolation and containment</b> 3.16. Is adequate reserve accommodation available for isolation of animals for: (a) assessment?	No	Currently there is no accommodation available. See Condition 2.
(b) treatment?	No	
(c) recovery?	N/A	
(d) quarantine (where required)?	No	
<b>Sanitation and control of disease</b> <b>Section 1A(e) ZLA 1981:</b> 3.17. Are satisfactory measures in place to prevent the intrusion of pests and vermin into the zoo premises?	Yes	
3.18. Does it appear that general sanitation and pest control are effective?	No	Although the team said they use a foot cleaning method there were none on the day of the inspection. See Direction 6

<b>4. Provision of an opportunity to express most normal behaviour</b>	<b>Marking Yes No N/A</b>	<b>Comments/clarification</b>
4.1. Do the accommodation and management regimes encourage normal behaviour patterns and minimise any abnormal behaviour, taking into account current enrichment and husbandry guidelines?	No	See section 2.4 and Direction 4
4.2. Are animals of social species normally maintained in compatible social groups?	Yes	
<b>5. Provision of protection from fear and distress</b>		
5.1. Are the animals handled only by or under the supervision of appropriately experienced staff?	Yes	
5.2. Is physical contact between animals and the public consistent with the animals' welfare?	Yes	
5.3. Are interactions between the animals such that they are not excessively stressful?	Yes	
<b>6. Transportation and movement of live animals</b>		
6.1. Can the zoo demonstrate a knowledge of, and compliance with, the regulations covering transportation of animals, and provide copies of certificates to show compliance when transportation has occurred?	No	Part of Sky Birds of Prey programme is off site experiences and whilst they have good travel facilities, they were unaware of the animal transport licence that is required. See Condition 4.
6.2. Can the zoo demonstrate that:	Yes	
i) transport and movement equipment is in good order?		
ii) facilities suitable for lifting, crating and transportation of all the types of animals kept within the zoo to destinations both inside and outside the zoo are readily available?	Yes	
iii) catching and transportation techniques take account of the animal's temperament and escape behaviour in order to minimise injury, damage and distress?	Yes	
iv) adequate provision is made for the animal's and the public's safety and well-being while the animal is being transported or kept away from the zoo?	Yes	

7. Conservation, education and research	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
<b>Section 1A(a) ZLA 1981:</b> 7.1. Is the zoo participating in at least one of the following: (i) research from which conservation benefits accrue to species of wild animals?	No	Whilst conservation is talked about there is currently no conservation work happening. See Direction 7.
(ii) training in relevant conservation skills?	No	
(iii) the exchange of information relating to the conservation of species of wild animals?	No	
iv) where appropriate, breeding of wild animals in captivity?	No	
(v) where appropriate, the repopulation of an area with, or the reintroduction into the wild of, wild animals?	No	
<b>Section 1A(b) ZLA 1981:</b> 7.2. Is the zoo promoting public education and awareness in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, in particular by providing information about the species of wild animals kept in the zoo and their natural habitats?	Yes	Recommendation - that the public feedback forms are tailored to include more specific questions to find out if conservation messages have been understood.
7.3. Where appropriate are animals managed in a way consistent with the conservation needs of the species, (such as exchange between zoos, accommodation to encourage natural behaviour and breeding etc)?	Yes	
7.4. Are on-site education facilities adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	
7.5. Are the conservation efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	No	See 7.1 above and Direction 7
7.6. Are the research efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	No	See 7.1 above and Direction 7
7.7. Is captive breeding properly managed?	Yes	

8. Public safety	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
<b>Section 1A(d) ZLA 1981:</b> 8.1. Are there satisfactory measures in place to prevent the escape of animals?	Yes	
8.2. Are there satisfactory measures in place to be taken in the event of any escape or unauthorised release of animals?	Yes	
8.3. Are escape drills carried out four times a year, recorded and regularly reviewed (at least two drills should include the escape of a Category 1 animal where present)?	No	No recorded escape drills carried out. See Direction 8
8.4. Will the perimeter deter unauthorised entry and aid the confinement of zoo stock?	Yes	
8.5. Do stand-off barriers appear adequate?	N/A	
8.6. Are adequate warning signs provided?	Yes	
8.7. Are prohibited areas appropriately signed?	Yes	
8.8. Are exits clearly marked and accessible?	Yes	
8.9. Do public areas, walkways and buildings appear safe?	Yes	Recommendation - Mud slope on way to flying area, when wet could be an area of concern
8.10. Are trees regularly inspected and appropriate remedial action taken?	Yes	Recommendation - The farm on which Sky Bird of Prey resides has had a tree survey carried out, the team need to be aware of the findings and any proposed work required.
8.11. Have appropriate risk assessments for direct contact by the public with animals been carried out?	Yes	
8.12. Are the special safety requirements for walk-through or drive-through exhibits adequately met?	N/A	



9. Records	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
<b>Section 1A(f) ZLA 1981:</b>		
9.1. Are there up-to-date records of the zoo's collection, including records of:		While each animal has a file, some husbandry and veterinary observations are not being recorded. For instance all birds are said to be flown 4 times a week (other than ill or breeding etc). This is not being recorded and is important husbandry information. See Direction 9 and Direction 5
(i) the numbers of different animals?	Yes	
(ii) acquisitions, births, deaths, disposals and escapes of animals?	Yes	
(iii) the causes of any such deaths?	N/A	There had been no deaths since the zoo was first licensed.
(iv) the health of the animals?	No	
9.2. Are daily diaries maintained, and do they contain appropriate information?	No	See above 9.1 Directions 9 and 5
9.3. Are animal stock records clear and up-to-date?	Yes	
9.4. Are annual stock records completed in the correct format and submitted to the local authority?	Yes	
9.5. Are animal source and destination records kept?	Yes	
9.6. Are archived records secure?	No	Key information isn't being backed up See Direction 10
<b>10. Miscellaneous</b>		
10.1. Do staff numbers and training of staff appear adequate?	Yes	
10.2. Is the management structure and organisation of staff adequate to ensure compliance with the Standards at all times?	No	See Condition 6
10.3. Are effective risk assessments carried out where appropriate?	No	Risk Assesments need to be present and up to date, such as public and vehicle movements. See Condition 5.
10.4. Has an ethical review process been established and implemented?	No	Condition on Licence has not yet been met. See Direction 11
10.5. Are public toilet facilities adequate and serviced?	No	Public can only use a toilet in the office/mess room area, where there is no hot water for washing hands. See Condition 7.
10.6. Are parking facilities adequate?	Yes	
10.7. Is a First Aid policy and accident reporting and recording system in place?	Yes	

11. Associated legislation	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
11.1. Is electrical equipment routinely serviced?	Yes	
11.2. Have fire precautions been agreed and implemented?	No	There is no fire risk assesment nor fire safety drills carried out. Inspectors also noticed plugged in equipment hanging from the plugs. See Condition 5.
11.3. Is refuse and clinical waste disposed of correctly?	Yes	
11.4. Are the required needs of disabled visitors met?	No	The site doesn't meet the needs for disabled visitors. While the sister site can be offered as an alternative it would better if the necessary changes were implimented here. Recommendation to upgrade facillities for disabled visitors.
<b>12. Compliance check including licence conditions</b>		
12.1. Is the current licence or a copy on public display at each public entrance?	No	Although the licence is displayed the Conditions associated are not. See Direction 12
12.2. Is adequate Public Liability Insurance current?	Yes	
<b>12.3. Have any Additional licence conditions been met?</b>	No	Whilst most Conditions have been met from the initial licence issued on the 29th June 2023, some have not and all are addressed in the Directions listed here.

## Additional space

---

The following space is provided for:

- additional notes and comments on the answers to the earlier questions
- recommendations (other than in respect of grant or refusal of a licence and any specific conditions recommended for a licence) including those based on comments already made to earlier questions
- any general remarks which the inspecting team may wish to record

Recommendation - To move away from tethering birds in offshow holding areas.

Recommendation - Update the public feedback forms to be tailored to include more specific questions to answer what conservation messages have been understood.

Recommendation - To upgrade facilities suitable for disabled visitors. Whilst an alternative sister site can be used, it would be better if the necessary changes were made on this site to be more inclusive.

Recommendation - A minimum/maximum thermometer is recommended to be used in the medicine storage area to ensure sure medicines do not exceed the parameters required for storage.

Recommendation - The mud slope on the way to the flying area could be an area of concern for health and safety in muddy/wet weather. Steps and/or a hand rail should be considered for this area.

Inspecting team’s recommendation to the local authority

Having inspected (name of zoo) Sky Birds of Prey

on: 28th June 2024

the inspecting team make the following recommendation: Please tick appropriate box

- it is recommended that a licence be refused..... ☐
- it is recommended that the above collection be licensed in accordance with the ZLA 1981 subject to the conservation measures in section 1A ..... ☐
- it is recommended that the above collection be licensed in accordance with the ZLA 1981 subject to the conservation measures in section 1A and the following Additional Conditions (N.B Additional Conditions must be clearly worded so as to be enforceable and a timescale applied for compliance) ..... ☒
- it is recommended that the following alterations be made to the above collection’s licence conditions ..... ☐

Additional Conditions (if appropriate)

Condition 1 - Tree inspections  
In accordance with the Secretary of State’s Standards of Modern Zoo Practice Section 3.6, Sky Birds of Prey must ensure that the inspection report for the on-site trees is provided to the Local Authority. This condition is to be met within 1 month and within 1 month of each subsequent inspection.

Condition 2 – Isolation and containment  
In accordance with the Secretary of State’s Standards of Modern Zoo Practice Section 3.19, Sky Birds of Prey must provide dedicated accommodation that is available for the isolation and examination of newly arrived animals, and for the quarantine and care of unduly distressed, sick or injured animals. This condition is to be met within 3 months

Condition 3 – Veterinary Continuous Development (CPD)  
In accordance with the Secretary of State’s Standards of Modern Zoo Practice Appendix 5 – 5.3 Sky Birds of Prey must provide a record from the attending veterinary’s CPD detailing learning development areas for examination by the LA or APHA Inspector. This condition is to be met within 4 months.

Condition 4 – Animal transport licence  
In accordance with the Secretary of State’s Standards of Modern Zoo Practice Section 6.3, Sky Birds of Prey must ensure transport conforms with all current regulations for transportation of animals, including DEFRA and IATA provisions. This condition is to be met within 3 months.

Condition 5 – Risk Assessments  
In accordance with the Secretary of State’s Standards of Modern Zoo Practice Section 8.3 Sky Birds of Prey must provide risk assessments relating to public safety around moving vehicles, and fire risks to the public, which are regularly reviewed and significant findings made available for examination by the LA or APHA Inspector. This condition is to be met within 2 months.

Condition 6 - Staffing  
In accordance with the Secretary of State’s Standards of Modern Zoo Practice Section 10 – 10.1 Sky Birds of Prey must provide details of the number of staff and their experience and training, taking due allowance for holidays, sickness and other absences. This condition is to be met within 1 month.

Condition 7 – Public toilet facilities  
In accordance with the Secretary of State’s Standards of Modern Zoo Practice Section 11.6 Sky Birds of Prey must provide adequate, properly equipped and maintained toilet facilities. Hot running water for handwashing and a light for visibility must be provided. This condition is to be met within 1 month.

Inspector(s) signature(s)

Date signed

22/07/2024

24/07/2024

25/07/2024

25/07/2024

## **The Data Protection Act 1998 – Fair Processing Notice**

---

The purpose of this Fair Processing Notice is to inform you of the use that will be made of your personal data, as required by the Data Protection Act 1998.

The local authority in England (or in Wales as the case may be) is the data controller in respect of any personal data that you provide when you complete this zoo inspection form. The information that you provide may be used by the local authority in its consideration of issuing or amending a zoo licence in accordance with the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (ZLA). The local authority may be required to release information, including personal data and commercial information, on request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). However, local authorities will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor act in contravention of their obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

Where the zoo, to which this inspection report applies, is owned by the local authority, the local authority must send a copy of the completed form to Defra (in accordance with section 13(2) of the ZLA) where the zoo is situated in England, or to the Welsh Government where the zoo is situated in Wales. Defra or the Welsh Government (as the case may be) may use the information contained in the form to ensure that local authorities are carrying out their duties correctly in accordance with the ZLA.

Defra and the Welsh Government are also subject to the EIRs and the FOIA and so may be required to release information, including personal data and commercial information, on request. However, as above, Defra and the Welsh Government will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor act in contravention of their obligations under the DPA.