# Dive-bombing buzzard forces London village school to halt outdoor play



In the seemingly tranquil village of Havering-atte-Bower, Greater London, a dive-bombing buzzard has created an atmosphere of fear among residents. The raptor, affectionately named Brenda by local school children, has been laying aggressive siege to the community as it protects its nest, leading to significant safety concerns. Important steps have had to be taken, including the suspension of outdoor play at Dame Tipping Primary School since Easter, a decision that has stirred mixed emotions among parents and educators alike.

Recent footage captured by local resident Nick Woodgate illustrates the buzzard's audacious behaviour, as it attempted to breach a house through a closed window, followed by a precarious dance with crows that amassed to dislodge it from its perch. Such incidents have been described as alarming, with quotes from witnesses like Louise Whittle - who narrowly dodged an attack - characterising the events as "absolutely bonkers". The buzzard’s aggression is believed to be a protective instinct, focusing on defending its nest in nearby Havering Country Park.

The situation has quickly escalated, prompting formal cautionary measures in the area. Residents, including Nikki Dix, who experienced a frightful encounter with the bird, have reported scratching injuries and heightened anxiety while navigating outdoor spaces. Dix noted, "I was scared... swinging my bag above my head" to guard against further dives, reflecting the trauma felt by those who frequent the park. This pattern of behaviour underscores the often complex dynamics of human-wildlife interactions, particularly within an urban landscape where animals encroach upon human territories.

Havering Council has communicated that legal protections surrounding buzzards restrict intervention options. A spokesperson confirmed that their intervention capabilities are "very limited" due to the protective status of buzzards under UK law. In light of these restrictions, the council has recommended practical steps, such as posting warning signs in woodland areas to inform the public of potential hazards.

While the buzzard's antics may seem entertaining to some, they have engendered a serious dilemma for local authorities, educators, and families alike. Headteacher Stella McCarthy expressed that the school's priority remains the safety of its pupils amidst the turmoil. "As a school, safeguarding and protecting children is of paramount importance," she stated, while also noting the educational opportunities arising from the situation, as children have turned their focus toward the ecology of buzzards through informative projects.

Educational activities have been adapted in response to the buzzard’s presence. With added indoor breaks and activities like board games and puzzles, educators aim to create a safe environment, while simultaneously steering discussions towards local wildlife conservation. This pivot to learning reflects a broader narrative on how communities can navigate the challenges posed by wildlife in urban areas while fostering a sense of resilience and adaptability.

As Brenda continues her vigilance over her nest, the community remains hopeful for a resolution that will restore normalcy to the village. While the buzzard's actions spotlight the intricacies of coexisting with nature, they also raise essential questions about how to balance safety, education, and wildlife protection in increasingly urbanised settings.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14795009/dive-bombing-buzzard-village-attacked-magpies-crows.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/buzzard-attack-magpies-crows-havering-atte-bower-a9753106.html), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-56983682)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14795009/dive-bombing-buzzard-village-attacked-magpies-crows.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/may/01/buzzard-terrorises-residents-in-london-village), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/04/28/buzzard-attack-havering-school-children/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1617730/havering-atte-bower-buzzard-magpie-crows), [[7]](https://www.hackneygazette.co.uk/news/buzzard-dive-bombing-havering-atte-bower-8203870)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14795009/dive-bombing-buzzard-village-attacked-magpies-crows.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/04/28/buzzard-attack-havering-school-children/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/buzzard-attack-magpies-crows-havering-atte-bower-a9753106.html), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-56983682), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/may/01/buzzard-terrorises-residents-in-london-village)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14795009/dive-bombing-buzzard-village-attacked-magpies-crows.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/buzzard-attack-magpies-crows-havering-atte-bower-a9753106.html> - A buzzard has terrorised locals in Havering-atte-Bower, Greater London, leading to school closures during playtime. The bird, nicknamed Brenda, aggressively defended its nesting area, resulting in several near-misses with residents. The local primary school has maintained indoor safety for the children while learning about buzzards. Experts believe the buzzard's behaviour stems from protecting its young. Residents have reported dive-bombing incidents, prompting the council to advise on legal deterrents and to place warning signs to inform the public of the potential danger.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-56983682> - In Havering-atte-Bower, a buzzard has prompted safety concerns after aggressive dive-bombing behaviour towards residents. The local school has advised against outdoor play for pupils since Easter due to safety fears. Reports illustrate the buzzard, named Brenda by children, defending its nest, leading to multiple near-encounters. Local authorities, while acknowledging the commotion, have limited intervention options due to buzzards being legally protected. The situation has led to cautionary measures being enacted within the community to safeguard students and local residents alike.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/may/01/buzzard-terrorises-residents-in-london-village> - A buzzard has caused upheaval in Havering-atte-Bower as it aggressively protects its nest, prompting fear among local residents. Notably, the primary school had to restrict outdoor activities. With residents experiencing dive-bombing incidents, including head-scratching encounters, local authorities have responded cautiously due to the bird's protective status under UK law. The situation has drawn attention to wildlife interactions in urban settings, exemplifying the challenges residents face while ensuring the safety of their children amidst aggressive wildlife behaviour.
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/04/28/buzzard-attack-havering-school-children/> - In an unusual turn of events in Havering-atte-Bower, a buzzard has been dive-bombing locals, leading to heightened concerns around a local primary school. The school's headteacher confirmed that children have been kept indoors for their safety since the Easter break. Residents describe alarming close encounters with the bird, which is likely nesting nearby. Efforts are underway to find a feasible solution to the aggressive bird's behaviour without infringing on wildlife protection laws, illustrating the delicate balance between urban life and nature.
6. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1617730/havering-atte-bower-buzzard-magpie-crows> - In Havering-atte-Bower, a dive-bombing buzzard has been causing concern among residents and enforcing indoor play for local children at their school. Reports indicate that the bird, dubbed Brenda, has been aggressive in its territorial behaviour, targeting individuals near its nesting area. This unexpected predicament has led to local authorities and educational institutions seeking professional advice on how to deal with the situation while adhering to wildlife protection regulations, focusing on a balanced approach to community safety.
7. <https://www.hackneygazette.co.uk/news/buzzard-dive-bombing-havering-atte-bower-8203870> - A buzzard in Havering-atte-Bower has made headlines due to its alarming dive-bombing antics targeting residents, causing significant unease. Children at Dame Tipping Primary School have been advised to remain indoors since the Easter holiday for safety, a decision welcomed by parents amidst serious concerns drawn from recent attacks. The buzzard's behaviour is linked to its protective instincts over its nesting area. Local residents have faced dangerous encounters, highlighting the complexities of human-wildlife interactions within urban environments.