# Peacock numbers soar in Tutbury, sparking community clashes over noise and damage



In the quiet village of Tutbury, Staffordshire, residents are facing a rather unusual yet distressing situation. A growing flock of peacocks, now believed to number around 40, has been causing significant disruption, with local families reporting disturbances during the late hours of the night and early mornings. Their squawking has been described as a cacophony that often continues well past 2 a.m., intruding on the peace of the quaint village.

Locals have voiced their frustrations over the birds trampling gardens, leaving droppings on properties, and even frequently climbing onto rooftops. Marion West, a retired dinner lady aged 71, expressed her displeasure, saying, “They eat your flowers too – they're a pain in the backside.” Her sentiments reflect a broader discontent among villagers, many of whom cannot sleep due to the relentless noise, while others struggle to maintain their gardens amidst the avian chaos.

Interestingly, the increasing number of peacocks seems to have transformed from a quaint, charming feature of Tutbury into a contentious problem. One resident noted that there were initially only two birds when she moved to the area twelve years ago, but their population has exploded. Another villager remarked on their dual nature: “They’re lovely birds, but when they’re up at 5.30 a.m. squawking, you don’t need it.” This growing frustration has prompted the local council to issue warnings, urging residents not to feed the birds, as this behaviour reportedly exacerbates the peacock problem and impedes efforts to control their numbers.

While some villagers are calling for caution and restraint, others feel differently about the peacocks, viewing them as integral to the village's identity. Heather Hunter-Harris, a resident of over 16 years, argued, “If you take those out, you're taking Tutbury away... People come here to see the peacocks, and when they put their tails up, it looks lovely.” This split perspective has caused a divide within the community, akin to a “Marmite situation,” according to local council chair Francis Crossley, who recognises both the appeal and the nuisance that these birds present.

Concerns over the safety of the peafowl have also been raised. In light of multiple near-misses involving speeding drivers, villagers have even proposed the installation of warning signs. However, Staffordshire County Council has stated that current regulations do not permit such measures specifically for peafowl. This predicament underscores the challenges faced by communities balancing wildlife presence and public safety.

Moreover, peacocks are not the only birds encountering issues in suburban areas. Across the county, similar problems have been reported. For instance, in clinical cases, peafowl have been blamed for causing property damage and noise disturbances. These incidents highlight a growing trend where urban spaces unintentionally attract wildlife, leading to conflicts between homeowners and the natural world.

As Tutbury grapples with its peacock dilemma, it faces a complex challenge of preserving local charm while addressing the legitimate concerns of its residents. For now, it seems the flocks are here to stay, leaving the villagers to find a way to coexist or make necessary adjustments in hopes of reclaiming their tranquility.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14772131/gang-peacocks-terrorising-families-quiet-village.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/burton/residents-call-peacock-signs-tutbury-1828947)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14772131/gang-peacocks-terrorising-families-quiet-village.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/central/2018-08-05/peacocks-under-threat-in-village-where-they-roam-free)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/c0qn4xk1233o), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-64629037)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-48495413)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/14/damage-cars-devon-estate-reflects-badly-jealous-peacocks)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14772131/gang-peacocks-terrorising-families-quiet-village.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/burton/residents-call-peacock-signs-tutbury-1828947> - Residents in Tutbury, Staffordshire, have called for warning signs to be installed to protect peacocks from speeding motorists. The birds, including a mother and her chicks, roam freely in the village, leading to several near-misses with vehicles. Despite the community's efforts to raise funds for the signs, Staffordshire County Council stated that current regulations do not permit such signage for peafowl.
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/central/2018-08-05/peacocks-under-threat-in-village-where-they-roam-free> - In Tutbury, Staffordshire, peacocks have been roaming freely for years, with residents feeding and photographing them. However, the birds face threats from traffic, with one being found dead in the street. The community raised £350 in a day to fund warning signs for motorists, aiming to protect the peafowl from potential harm.
4. <https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/c0qn4xk1233o> - In Cotes Heath, Staffordshire, Percy the peacock has gained a reputation for mischief, including entering neighbours' homes and causing noise disturbances during the mating season. Despite his antics, the local community has largely embraced him, with most residents taking him to heart and enjoying his presence.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-64629037> - At the Ferrers Centre in Staunton Harold, Leicestershire, Toby the peacock caused significant damage by pecking at a visitor's black BMW, leading to hundreds of pounds worth of scratches. The centre's owner, John Blunt, has since confined Toby to prevent further incidents and is considering introducing a mate to curb his behaviour.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-48495413> - In Marehay, Derbyshire, a couple received an anti-social behaviour warning after their free-roaming peafowl caused disturbances, including noise and damage. The birds, which had been living wild for four years, were encouraged into urban areas by residents feeding them, leading to complaints from neighbours.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/14/damage-cars-devon-estate-reflects-badly-jealous-peacocks> - In Clyst St Mary, Devon, feral peacocks have been attacking their own reflections in parked cars, causing significant damage. Residents have reported repeated incidents of the birds scratching vehicles, leading to complaints about the peafowl's aggressive and territorial behaviour during the mating season.