

Richard Sharman  
Via email

27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Forestry England  
620 Bristol Business Park  
Coldharbour Lane  
BRISTOL  
BS16 1EJ

[informationrights@forestryengland.uk](mailto:informationrights@forestryengland.uk)

## Information Request - Bird Species Populations in The New Forest: ref 088\_20

Dear Dr Sharman,

Thank you for your request for information we received on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020 in which you asked for the following information:

- 1. Have recreational activities led to bird species' decline in the New Forest?*
- 2. What are the specific recreational activities which have led to this?*
- 3. What are the numbers of each bird species in specific areas of the New Forest each year for the period 2010 to the present (2020), and what are the numbers of successful and unsuccessful bird breeding (nesting and fledging) events in each SSSI within the New Forest?*

We are replying on behalf of Forestry England, the Forestry Commission's land management agency.

We have considered your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as the information you are seeking is considered "environmental information" as defined in Regulation 2 of the EIR. You can read more about the EIR here:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-environmental-information-regulations/>

Please find our response to your request below:

1. We do not have specific data about this, however we are preparing a monitoring strategy for the next 5 years to try to gather evidence about permitted recreational activities which are allowed on the New Forest by permit for activities that fall outside the byelaws. In some of the species surveys there is some anecdotal observational data of disturbance from recreation, but nothing scientific.



2. As above.

3. All of the reports for surveys carried out during 2010 to 2020 are in the public domain and viewable via the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (HLS) website: <https://www.hlsnewforest.org.uk/projects/wildlife/>

We have recently finalised an additional report that Forestry England paid for direct this summer to review wader behaviour during and post lockdown, please find this attached to our response email. There are other sources of data such as the Hampshire Ornithological Society's annual report which has a synopsis of bird species distribution. You can find this on their website: <https://www.hos.org.uk/>

I hope this response is helpful and you can enjoy our forests soon. If you are unhappy about the way your request has been handled please contact:

Forestry Commission  
Chief Executive Officer  
620 Bristol Business Park  
Coldharbour Lane  
Bristol  
BS16 1EJ

Email: [commissioners@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:commissioners@forestrycommission.gov.uk)

We aim to resolve any concerns with you directly in the first instance. However, should the matter fail to be resolved to your satisfaction, you may make an additional appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Further information on the role of the Information Commissioner and guidance on FOI/EIR can be found on the Commissioner's web site: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk) or by calling the ICO helpline: 0303 123 1113

If you have any further requests, please contact us via the information rights mailbox:

[informationrights@forestryengland.uk](mailto:informationrights@forestryengland.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Knowledge & Information Team, Forestry England

