

Heronries Census

Field Recording Sheet



**Birds
Science
People**



The aim of the Heronries Census is to record, with supporting information, the figure that best represents the number of pairs of Grey Herons, Little Egrets, Cormorants or other rarer heron species, that nested, successfully or unsuccessfully, at each colony in each year. Please refer to the guidance at the end of this form, and please try to enter your records through our online system at www.bto.org/volunteersurveys/heronries-census

OBSERVER DETAILS:	SITE:										
Name:	Site name:										
Phone number:	Site code (if known):										
Email address:	Region:										
	Grid Reference			A	B	1	2	3	1	2	3

If you are providing name, address and other personal details, BTO will store and use these in line with our published Privacy Policy. You can specify your preferences surrounding the way we contact you at any time. For further details, see www.bto.org, email info@bto.org or phone 01842 750050.

YEAR'S BEST ESTIMATES (YBE):	SPECIES:	YBE:	
Please complete these estimates at end of the season, when all visits have been made. The 'year's best estimate' for each species will normally be the highest 'estimate' made during your visits, but may be lower (if in retrospect some of the estimates on individual visits were too high) or higher (for example if some known pairs were not included in the highest 'estimate'). Units are 'apparently occupied nests'.	Grey Heron		
	Little Egret		
	Cormorant		

HABITAT DETAILS:		
Habitat details should relate to the habitat that the nests are in, e.g. if the nests are in conifer trees on a heath, the habitat should be recorded as A2, conifer woodland, even if it's only a few trees. If in doubt describe the habitat in words only. BTO habitat codes can be found at the end of this form.		
Habitat level:	Level 1:	Level 2:
Description:		

VISIT 1:

Date: Start time: Duration:

Species	AONs present?	No. of Apparently Occupied Nests (AONs)	
		Count	Estimate
Grey Heron			
Little Egret			
Cormorant			

VISIT NOTES:

VISIT 2:

Date: Start time: Duration:

Species	AONs present?	No. of Apparently Occupied Nests (AONs)	
		Count	Estimate
Grey Heron			
Little Egret			
Cormorant			

VISIT NOTES:

VISIT 3:

Date:

Start time:

Duration:

Species	AONs present?	No. of Apparently Occupied Nests (AONs)	
		Count	Estimate
Grey Heron			
Little Egret			
Cormorant			

VISIT NOTES:**VISIT 4:**

Date:

Start time:

Duration:

Species	AONs present?	No. of Apparently Occupied Nests (AONs)	
		Count	Estimate
Grey Heron			
Little Egret			
Cormorant			

VISIT NOTES:

GUIDANCE ON COMPLETING THIS FORM

Observer details	<i>Name and contact details</i> - required if submitting the data by post.
Site details	<p><i>Site name and code</i> - these can be obtained from your RO. The site name is visible when you log-in to the Heronries Census online system.</p> <p><i>Region</i> - usually the county where the heronry is located.</p> <p><i>Grid reference</i> - a central 2-letter, 6-figure grid reference for the nests you have counted this year. Do not copy the grid reference from a previous year in case the colony has shifted.</p>
Habitat details	<i>Habitat</i> should be recorded using BTO's standard codes (see front page and below). For the Heronries Census you only need to record to Level 2.
Year's Best Estimate (YBE) for each species	Complete at the end of the season when all visits have been made. Your 'best estimate' of apparently occupied nests for the year. This will usually be the highest 'estimate' made during your visits. It may be lower (if in retrospect some of the estimates on individual visits were too high) or higher (for example if some known occupied nests were not included in the highest 'estimate').
Visit information	<p>There is space on the form for up to four visits. For each visit please record the following:</p> <p><i>Date, start time and duration of visit</i></p> <p><i>A count of AONs for each species</i> - the number of nests apparently occupied on each visit, e.g. adults or young seen on/at nest, eggshells or droppings seen.</p> <p><i>An estimate of AONs for each species</i> - The total number of pairs you estimate are nesting in the colony on each visit. This estimate may be greater than the 'count', for example if you can only access part of the colony, some nests are not clearly visible or if additional nests were occupied on an earlier visit.</p>
Additional notes	Such as any changes to the site or colony location, any subtotals of the YBE (e.g. for different parts of the site or different habitats or tree species).

HABITAT LEVELS:

A WOODLAND

1. Broad-leaved woodland
2. Coniferous woodland
3. Mixed woodland (at least 10% of each)
4. Broad-leaved water-logged woodland or carr
5. Coniferous water-logged woodland
6. Mixed water-logged woodland

C SEMI-NATURAL GRASSLAND / MARSH

1. Chalk downland
2. Upland grassland/grass moor (unenclosed)
3. Grass moor mixed with heather (unenclosed)
4. Machair
5. Other dry grassland
6. Water meadow / grazing marsh
7. Reed swamp
8. Fen / other open marsh
9. Saltmarsh

H COASTAL

1. Marine - open shore
2. Marine shore - inlet / cove / loch
3. Estuarine
4. Brackish lagoon
5. Open sea

B SCRUBLAND

1. Devastated / Regenerating woodland / scrub
2. Chalk downland scrub
3. Heath scrub
4. Young coppice
5. New plantation scrub
6. Clear-felled, with or without new saplings
7. Other scrub

F HUMAN SITES

1. Urban
2. Suburban
3. Rural

I INLAND ROCK

1. Cliff
2. Scree / boulder slope
3. Limestone pavement
4. Other rock outcrop
5. Quarry
6. Mine / spoil / slag heap
7. Cave

Letters indicate Level 1 and numbers indicate Level 2