

oForestry England

SubjectFreedom of Information request - Bird species population numbers and nesting success for all SSSIs in the New Forest since 2010.

Dear Forestry England,

It is often stated that many bird species once common in the New Forest are now in terminal decline. It is also often stated that this is due to increased recreational activity in recent years. Is this in fact true? and if so, what are the specific recreational activities which have lead to this? 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?

A logical and systematic way this question could be answered is by publishing the reports of all of the detailed studies of bird nesting in each SSSI in the New Forest for the period 2010 to 2020. This information will be easily mapped to the relevant recreational activities which have taken place in those areas, as it is well known that specific recreational activities tend to occur in particular places, and not elsewhere.

Such information could be useful in guiding and managing the relevant recreational activities in those cases where the activity has a known and measurable impact on the success of wild bird breeding in the New Forest.

Yours faithfully,
Dr Richard Sharman,