

Terms of Reference for Scientific Committee

Revised 8 Sept 2023

The HOS Scientific Committee is responsible for all matters relating to conservation, and the recording and monitoring of birds, in particular:

Surveys and recording

- prioritising and formulation of survey programme
- consultation and cooperation with other survey organisations, in particular through the Joint Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan Monitoring Group (JHBAP group)
- promotion, organisation, and management of surveys (through website, newsletter, etc.)
- encouragement & targeting of the general recording of key species or areas

Research

- encouragement and support of specialist surveys & projects (e.g. bird ringing)
- allocation of funds for undertaking and reporting on such research

Records management

- collection, validation & collation of records of both birds and ornithological sites (casual records, survey results, and ringing), including:
 - guidance to recorders (software, submission methods, etc)
 - policies for vetting records

Conservation

Ensuring reporting of survey results and analyses of records by means of:

- publication in HBR (systematic list and papers)
- liaison & cooperation with other relevant organisations and agencies (e.g. JHBAP, HBIC, HBP, Natural England, Solent Forum)
- maintaining HOS awareness of significant developments in planning or conservation issues

Provision of input/comment to conservation policies & proposals, e.g. Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), Environmental Stewardship Entry-level (ELS) and Higher-level (HLS) targeting.

Budget for Surveys & Recording, Research, Records Management, & Conservation

- promotion of the HOS Scientific Committee grant for projects that will research or conserve birds and/or their habitat in Hampshire
- consideration of grant applications for full or partial funding for suitable projects
- award of funding for suitable projects
- liaison with applicant throughout project and on completion to oversee provision of data, report and summary details/articles for HBR/Kingfisher, as required

Terms of Reference for Records Panel

- storage, analysis, and retrieval of records (including records input, database management, backup, and data retention policies)
- distribution and release of records, including:
 - policies for data release and Data Release Panel
 - policies with regard to rare birds and Rare Birds Panel,
- provision of data and response to info requests from consultancies, local authorities, landowners, etc.
- provision of data through data-exchange services to Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) and Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership (HBP)
- provision of data to Hampshire Bird Report (HBR) authors (of systematic list and/or papers)

(this version agreed April 2007, superseding April 1997)