

Site code:

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Site name:



New county/region:

Grid reference^d:

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HERONRIES CENSUS

Year:

Date of count:		No. occupied nests:	
Day	Month	count ^a	estimate ^b

Habitat codes & description^e:

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Notes^f:

Year's best estimate^c:

Name of observer:
Address:

PLEASE SEE GUIDANCE NOTES ON REVERSE

GUIDANCE FOR COMPLETING A HERONRIES CENSUS CARD

- The aim of the census is to record, with supporting information, the figure that best represents the number of pairs of Grey Herons that nested, successfully or unsuccessfully, at each colony in each year. This is the 'year's best estimate'.
- Please complete a separate card for each heronry and year, entering a site name and the county (also the site code if you know it) to identify the site.
- Nests should be counted in the second half of April, with this count being supplemented (if possible) by an earlier and a later visit. If this is not possible, counts at any season would be helpful.
- Six boxes overleaf have superscript reference letters:
 - a** The 'count' column is equivalent to column A on the previous design of card. Please enter the number of nests *definitely occupied* on each visit.
 - b** The 'estimate' column is the same as column B on the previous design of card. Please enter, for each visit, the total number of pairs you *estimate* are nesting in the colony. This estimate may be greater than the figure in the 'count' column, for example if coverage has been partial or some nests are not clearly visible.
 - c** The 'year's best estimate' will normally be the highest figure in the 'estimate' column, 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'.
 - d** Please enter 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 card or any colony listings provided by BTO HQ, in case the colony has shifted.
 - e** Please record habitat around the nests using the BTO's standard codings, as used for Nest Record Cards and the Breeding Bird Survey. Record to at least level 2 (e.g. A1 broad-leaved woodland). Up to four codes can be entered at level 4. If in doubt, describe habitat in words only.
 - f** Under 'Notes', please include any changes to the site, any subtotals of the 'year's best estimate' (e.g. for different parts of the site or different habitats or tree species), and the presence (with counts if available) of any nesting Cormorants or other species of herons. If the colony is empty, please return a zero count and give details here.
- If numbers of eggs or young can be counted in any individual nest, please also fill in Nest Record Cards or a colony sheet for the BTO's Nest Record Scheme. Cards and colony sheets are available free from BTO HQ.
- If you received this card from a Regional Organiser for the Heronries Census, please return it through them. Otherwise it should be sent directly to: **Heronries Census, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU**