

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and Waterways Breeding Bird Survey (WBBS)

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey is the main scheme for monitoring the changing fortunes of the UK's common breeding birds, generating population trends used to set conservation priorities. In BBS, 1km squares are chosen randomly and cover all available habitats, reflecting the percentage of land use in the area. WBBS routes follow waterways using similar recording methods to BBS.

After an initial reconnaissance visit in March to set up the transect routes, two early morning recording visits are required: 'Early' in April/May; 'Late' in late May/June, at least four weeks apart. All birds seen and heard should be recorded, as well as habitat details. There is also an optional mammal section to this. The object is to visit the site at the same time each year, or as close as possible, to enable comparisons to be made.

2024

Although up to 100 squares have been surveyed at some time during the past 30 years, a few sites have now become available due retirements. Along with these, another 40 squares have been assigned to Northumberland recently, resulting in a long list of sites available. See details of available squares below.

For further information please visit www.bto.org/bbs or contact Muriel Cadwallender – tomandmurielcadwallender@hotmail.com

Grid Ref is SW corner of 1km square

WBBS/BBS Vacant Squares 2024

Grid Ref	Approximate Location	OS Map	Notes
NT7000	E of Kielder Head	80	New Route needed
NT7108	Deerlee Knowe	80	NEW, Route needed
NT8017	Blackbrough Hill (Borders)	80	NEW, Route needed
NT8318	Swindon Hill	80	NEW, Route needed
NT8617	White Knowe	80	NEW, Route needed
NT9736	Fordwood House		
NT9849	Unthank Square, Tweedmouth Moor	75	NEW, Route needed
NT9913	Nth of Prendwick, Cheviots	81	Mapped, in conjunction with adjacent NT9914
NT9914	Nth Prendwick-Chesters, Cheviots	81	Mapped, in conjunction with adjacent NT9913
NU0134	Bill Law nr Doddington	75	Mapped
NU0242	Lickar Dean, nth of Lowick Mill	75	Mapped
NU0247	NE Cheswick	75	Mapped
NU0313	North of Eslington Park	81	Permission not given. Landowner unknown

NU0538	Old Wood, Kylee Hills	75	Mapped
NU0637	Buckton Moor	75	Mapped
NY6068	Snowden Close, NW Gilsland	86	NEW, Route needed
NY6260	SW Greenhead	86	Mapped
NY6263	Hill Head nr Thirwell Common	86	NEW, Route needed
NY7072	Black Fell Wark Forest	86	Mapped
NY7298	Redesdale Forest	80	Mapped, steep ravine no tracks
NY7398	Blakehope Nick East, Kielder	80	Mapped Rough Terrain
NY7994	nr Blackburn Head, Kielder	80	Mapped
NY8293	Nether Houses, nr Rochester	80	Mapped
NY9059	High Ardley, Hexhamshire	87	Mapped
NY9154	White Hall W of Slaley Forest	87	NEW, Route needed
NZ0075	Mootlaw, E Hallington	87	NEW, Route needed
NZ0098	Tosson	81	Mapped
NZ0355	New Field, E of Minsteracres	87	NEW, Route needed
NZ0577	Belsay Barns	87	NEW, Route needed
NZ1270	Dissington Old Hall nr Medburn	88	NEW, Route needed
NZ1698	West Howdens, E of Weldon	81	NEW, Route needed
NZ1965	Denton Burn	88	Mapped
NZ2063	Derwenthaugh	88	Mapped
NZ2494	Widdrington Station	81	Mapped

Waterways BBS Vacant River Sections

Ref Only	Waterway	Map	Stretch (negotiable)
NU0026	Wooler Water	74	NT995279 - NT997248
NY6086	Lewis Burn	86	NY630768-NY632208
NY8692	River Rede	80	NY863529-NY862459
NY8890	River Rede	80	NY888379-NY890989