

07 October 2026



Foss House
Kings pool
1-2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX

Andrew Gilruth
agilruth@moorlandassociation.org

Dear Andrew Gilruth

Access to Information Request – Request no EIR2026/12258

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 21 September 2026. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the EIRs).

You asked for the following information:

concerning breeding bird survey data for the North Pennine Moors SPA and Geltsdale.

Natural England's published Access to Information register identifies the following previous requests:

- **RFI 4335, received 8 August 2018 – Bird Survey Data – Geltsdale and Glendue Fells SSSI**
- **RFI 4340, received 14 August 2018 – Winter & Breeding Bird Surveys RSPB Reserve Geltsdale**
- **RFI 4405, received 12 October 2018 – Bird Data for North Pennine Moors**

Natural England's published guidance states that, although replies to information requests are not routinely published, copies can be requested by quoting the relevant RFI number. Please therefore provide:

- 1. The response issued by Natural England to each of RFI 4335, RFI 4340 and RFI 4405, including all information, reports, datasets, tables, maps, spreadsheets or other attachments disclosed with each response.**

Our response to Request RFI 4335 was to apply EIR Regulation 12(4)(a) Information not held. The requestor was referred to the RSPB for the requested survey data. We can confirm that the response issued in 2018 is still valid and Natural England does not hold bird survey data for RSPB Geltsdale.

Regarding Request 4340, this request was never completed. It was from the 'Whatdotheyknow' website and it is still visible on that website. The request was covered by our response to RFI 4335 and concluded under that reference, see above.

Our response to Request RFI 4405 provided the requested bird data for North Pennine Moors.

Please refer to documents provided within the attached zip file. Some of the information is being withheld under EIR 12(3) Personal information. Please refer to Annex A below for further details of this exception.

2. A copy of the report: Shepherd, K. (2008), North Pennine Moors SPA: Breeding Bird Survey 2005–07, report to Natural England, including any appendices, tables, figures and associated datasets held by Natural England.

This report is provided within RFI 4405 (see above) and is within the attached zip file.

Please note that the information we have supplied to you is subject to copyright protection under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988. You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, for the purposes of research for non-commercial purposes, private study, criticism, review and news reporting. You must re-use it accurately and not in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Natural England copyright, and you must give the title of the source document/publication. However, if you wish to re-use all or part of this information for commercial purposes, including publishing and the information is not covered by the [Open Government Licence](#) you will need to apply for a licence. Applications can be sent to Enquiry Service, Natural England, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX.

This information may also contain third party copyrighted material and you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned before you re-use it.

As you may be aware, under the legislation should you have any concerns with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision under Regulation 11 of the EIRs, please contact foi@naturalengland.org.uk within 40 working days of the date of this letter, and we'll arrange for a colleague to conduct an internal review.

If you are not content with the outcome of that complaint or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure provided by Natural England. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/> or call on 0303 123 1113 (local rate), www.ico.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Access to Information Team
Legal and Governance
Natural England
foi@naturalengland.org.uk

Enc.

Annex A

Regulation 12(3) - Personal Information

The names, signatures, and contact details of private individuals are considered by Natural England to be personal information as defined by the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

The First Data Protection Principle says that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner. Guidance published by the Information Commissioner, states that when considering fairness in relation to disclosing personal information under FOIA [and EIR] it will usually mean considering:

- whether the information is sensitive personal data;
- the possible consequences of disclosure on the individual;
- the reasonable expectations of the individual, taking into account: their expectations both at the time the information was collected and at the time of the request; the nature of the information itself; the circumstances in which the information was obtained; whether the information has been or remains in the public domain; and the FOIA [and EIR] principles of transparency and accountability; and
- any legitimate interests in the public having access to the information and the balance between these and the rights and freedoms of the individuals who are the data subjects.

When personal information is collected from individuals by Natural England we do not inform them that the information will remain confidential or that it may be released, however, we believe that there is an expectation of confidentiality.

The release of personal information and any subsequent contact may cause unnecessary or unjustified distress or damage to the individuals if released, and they have a reasonable expectation of confidence.

Natural England is therefore satisfied that the information requested fits the definition of personal data and that its release would be 'unfair' under the meaning of the first Data Protection Principle and should not be released.