

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2024 16:29
To: 'pure-support@elsevier.com'
Subject: Data request

E-mail: 1

Steven R. Ewing et al. 'Biological Conservation'

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2023.110072>

'Illegal killing associated with gamebird management accounts for up to three-quarters of annual mortality in hen harriers (Circus cyaneus).'

Messrs: Ewing – Thomas (C.E.) – Butcher – Denman – Douglas (D.J.T.) – Anderson (D.I.K.) – Anderson (G.Q.A.) – Bray – Downing – Dugan – Etheridge – Hayward – Howie – Roos – Thomas (M) – Weston – Smart – Wilson.

Dear Sirs and Mesdames,

I assist the Moorland Association ('M.A.') with the hen harrier brood management trial, and have done so since 2019.

Should you require verification thereof, Mr. Andrew Gilruth, Chief Executive of the M.A., will provide same.

Presently, I am undertaking an investigation into the final transmission locations of all hen harriers ('harriers') for which there is such information.

To date I have been using the combined data published on the *gov.uk* website which comprises all harriers tagged by both the M.A. and Natural England ('N.E.') with their final transmission locations quoted in Longitude / Latitude – degrees / minutes / seconds.

From which it is possible to convert to an Ordnance Survey (O.S.G.B. '36) reference comprising a minimum of six figures – thus to an accuracy of 100 metres square being 10,000 square metres which is equivalent to 1 hectare (2.471 acres).

I wish to request the further data used to establish the final transmission location of the harriers within the above study as, regrettably, the locations are not disclosed.

The locational data appears to be restricted to a minimum area of 20 kilometre squares – thus to an accuracy of 400 square kilometres being 40,000 hectares (98,842 acres – 154 square miles) and therefore with the furthest points being 28.28 kilometres (17.57 miles) distant.

In addition, identifying the ownership of the satellite tags fitted to each individual would be helpful – again this is possible in respect of the M.A. / N.E. published data.

Should you require any further information, my contact details are shown below.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 July 2024 10:44
To: 'steven.ewing@rspb.org.uk'
Subject: Data request

E-mail: 2

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR. STEVEN R. EWING

The R.S.P.B. Centre for Conservation and Science, Edinburgh, EH12 9DH.

Dear Mr. Ewing,

I submitted the e-mail as below, the contents are self-explanatory.

To date no response.

Might we deal with this matter directly?

I am trying to put together an accurate and comprehensive record of all harriers tagged since 2014, all conveniently available on one site.

I would be most grateful if you could assist with this.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: Richard Gosling <Richard.Gosling@rspb.org.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 4:43 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Data request

E-mail: 3

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the below request for data from the RSPB, which has been forwarded to me as Intelligence Manager. In accordance with our processes, can you please complete the attached data request form with as much detail as possible in each section. Once completed, please return the completed form to crime@rspb.org.uk.

Once we receive your completed form, we will review the request and make a decision as to whether we are able to provide any of the requested data.

Kind regards,

Richard

Richard Gosling (he/him)

Investigations Intelligence Manager

richard.gosling@rspb.org.uk (please send any information carrying the GSC marking 'OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE' via secure mail to richard.gosling@rspb.cjism.net)

07725640084

Investigations Team,
UK Headquarters,
The Lodge,
Sandy,
Bedfordshire,
SG19 2DL



rspb.org.uk

Check out our latest [Birdcrime](#) report and [Raptor Persecution Map Hub](#).

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 5:58 PM
To: 'Richard Gosling' <Richard.Gosling@rspb.org.uk>
Subject: Data request

E-mail: 4

Richard – all received – will get on with it – many thanks – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 July 2024 10:21
To: 'Richard Gosling'
Subject: Data request
Attachments: M. A. - R.S.P.B. - Investigations Data Request Form - 30th July 2024.docx

E-mail: 5 A

Richard – request for data form attached – the intention is to create an accurate and comprehensive record of all tagged harriers – which would be a very useful resource for the future and increasingly so as each new year is added – if you need to discuss further do contact me – many thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



MARK AS APPROPRIATE

E-mail: 5 B

RSPB Investigations – Data Request Form

If your request relates to personal data as defined by GDPR, a separate request under the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR for the disclosure of personal data will be required – please contact crime@rspb.org.uk for further information.

Your details	
Name	[REDACTED]
Organisation	MOORLAND ASSOCIATION
Email address	[REDACTED]
Requested data	
Summary of request (a short explanation of the data required)	The final transmission data for the birds studied in the Ewing et al research paper
Species (list the species or groups of species (e.g., birds of prey) required)	Hen harrier – (circus cyaneus) – only
Date range	The date range within the research plus earlier if available
Location (if requesting a radius search, please enter the central point (grid ref/What3Words) and radius size)	Wherever a final transmission was received
Purpose (the reason for which you will be using the data)	To add to the M.A. and N.E. data (97 entries) which we have to date.
Security (how will sensitive data be securely stored?)	In the same way as the current N.E. and M.A. data is stored – on a system without any public access.
Distribution (do you intend to share the data with a third party? If so, please provide details)	Within the M.A. – board of directors and members.
Publication (do you intend to publish all or part of the data? If so, please provide details)	The data would be included within what is intended to be an accurate and comprehensive record of all tagged harriers from 2014 – important as there needs to be a complete listing to avoid confusion / duplication – the board may decide to make this available on the M.A. website – currently this has not been discussed.
Deadline (if urgent)	Not urgent

Please return your completed form to crime@rspb.org.uk or to rspb.investigations@rspb.cjism.net if the content is OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE. We aim to process your request in 7-10 working days, unless agreed otherwise. Please note that during peak periods, or periods including public holidays, our timescales may vary.

RSPB Investigations Use Only	
DR Ref No.	
Processed by	
Processed date	

MARK AS APPROPRIATE

From: EnglandCrime <EnglandCrime@rspb.org.uk>

Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 4:35 PM

E-mail: 6

Cc: Mark Thomas <mark.thomas@rspb.org.uk>; EnglandCrime <EnglandCrime@rspb.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Data request

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you again for taking the time to complete the attached form.

As you will be aware, Hen Harriers are an extremely vulnerable species, sadly subject to illegal persecution, which is recognised by Natural England as the number one factor impacting their English population levels.

The data you request relating to Hen Harriers, including the last known fixes of satellite-tagged birds is considered highly sensitive by the RSPB and as such on review, we are unable to provide the data requested on this occasion.

RSPB are undertaking ongoing research with regards to our Hen Harrier data, which we endeavour to publish in peer-reviewed journals at periodic points in time. As a conservation organisation it is important that we maintain the integrity of our data so that we can achieve the best outcomes to help protect such endangered species.

I wish you the all the best with your research.

Kind regards,

Rich

Richard Gosling (he/him)

Investigations Intelligence Manager

richard.gosling@rspb.org.uk (please send any information carrying the GSC marking

'OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE' via secure mail to richard.gosling@rspb.cjsm.net)

07725640084

Investigations Team,
UK Headquarters,
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SG19 2DL



rspb.org.uk

Check out our latest [Birdcrime](#) report and [Raptor Persecution Map Hub](#).

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: 'EnglandCrime'
Subject: Data request

[E-mail: 7](#)

Dear Rich,

Thank you for your reply.

From which, the situation can best be described as follows:

- Natural England are open and transparent publishing their data on the – gov.uk – website thereby making it available both to the public and for further research.
- The Moorland Association are open and transparent publishing their data on the – gov.uk – website thereby making it available both to the public and for further research.
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds are not open and transparent and do not publish their data on the – gov.uk – website thereby it is neither available to the public nor even available for further research upon request.

Clearly that stance is extremely disappointing, and somewhat disturbing.

I am grateful to you for your best wishes in respect of my research – which sadly will now be less comprehensive and authoritative due to the R.S.P.B.'s regrettable decision.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]