



British Trust for Ornithology
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To whom it may concern

The bearer of this letter is a volunteer fieldworker taking part in the Breeding Bird Survey. This survey is organised by the British Trust for Ornithology and supported by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The scheme has three broad aims:

- To provide information on year-to-year, and longer term, changes in bird populations.
- To promote a greater understanding of the population biology of birds.
- To promote bird conservation through the involvement of large numbers of amateur survey workers.

The scheme started in 1994, and around 4,000 randomly-located 1-km squares are covered throughout the UK. The bearer of this letter has volunteered to take part in this project, and has been allocated one of the random squares with the request that he or she seeks permission to cross private land in order to carry out the fieldwork.

The work itself involves a maximum of three short, early morning visits each year. The first will be used to record the habitat and establish a survey route (which should ideally consist of two parallel lines, each 1 km long). The second and third visits to a square will be used to record the birds that the observer sees and hears as he or she walks the survey route at a steady pace. All survey work should take place during early morning visits between late March and the end of June. By repeating this work year after year in the same square, it will be possible to build up a picture of how national bird populations are changing through time.

Any help you can give the bearer regarding access permissions to privately owned land would be very much appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further information.

James Heywood, **BBS National Organiser**

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