



GSMP

# ICELANDIC-BREEDING GOOSE CENSUS

Two coordinated IGC counts are made in autumn: sites supporting Pink-footed Geese should be covered during October and November, whilst those holding Greylag Geese should be counted in November. At sites where both species occur please try and count in both months.

To help gain a better understanding of the degree of mixing between the Icelandic and resident populations of Greylag Geese in Britain and Ireland, counts made in September will identify the number of resident birds that are present before the arrival of the Icelandic geese. Counts are also requested on other dates, particularly during periods of high turnover in autumn, during mid-winter and prior to spring departure to assess site importance at those times.

Ideally counts should be made at roost sites, preferably at dawn as birds fly out to feed. In areas where roosts are inaccessible, poorly known or infrequently used, counts of feeding birds may be made.

- 1 COUNTER DETAILS:** Please enter your full name and your email or the first line of your address and your postcode. Space is provided in the additional information box below for details of anyone else who assisted with the counts.
- 2 SITE DETAILS:** Please enter the name of the count unit and the central grid reference of the area covered in the boxes provided. If the area you count is part of a larger site (e.g. if you count one sector of a large estuary) please enter the name of the site also. Use recognised names and adhere to existing count boundaries whilst counting. Clarification will be available from your Local Organiser or the GSMP Office.
- 3 DATE AND TIME:** Please enter the date of the count and approximate start and finish times using the 24 hour clock (e.g. 0900, 1300). Only counts of birds between these times should be included on the form. Please indicate if the count was of roosting birds made at dawn or dusk, or a daytime count of feeding geese.
- 4 GOOSE COUNTS:** Please record the numbers of all goose species present, as well as any Bewick's or Whooper Swans.
  - Write "0" (zero) if none of the target species were present when you made the count. Please don't leave the cell blank or use any other symbol, such as a dash (-).
  - Use brackets to enclose gross UNDERestimates, e.g. [100].
  - Write "NC" (No Count) in the appropriate box if a species was present which you were unable to count.
  - Birds flying overhead should be excluded unless obviously using your count area.
  - For Bean Geese, please identify the species (Tundra or Taiga) seen. Circle counts of Brent or White-fronted Geese if you could not identify the species or race involved, e.g. ②0
- 5 COUNT CONDITIONS:** Please give an approximate value for the percentage of the water area within your count area covered by ice. If the site is tidal or close to tidal waters, please circle the appropriate number(s) using the key provided to indicate the state of the tide during the counts. Please also indicate the moonlight and local flooding conditions during the counts using the key provided.
- 6 COVERAGE:** Recording of coverage is essential if we are to interpret your counts properly. Please circle whether you feel the counts provide a reasonably accurate reflection of the bird numbers in the count area at the time of your visit (OK) or if other factors prevented you from recording a significant number of the birds present (LOW). If your count was LOW, please tick the appropriate box(es) to indicate the factors which affected your count.
- 7 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Please provide any additional information you feel is relevant.

If you are providing name, address and other personal details, BTO will store and use your personal details in line with our published Privacy Policy (<https://www.bto.org/about-bto/privacy-statement>). You can specify your preferences surrounding the way we contact you at any time. Further details, see [www.bto.org](https://www.bto.org), or email [info@bto.org](mailto:info@bto.org), or phone 01842 750050.

A copy of the privacy policy can be requested from the National Organiser.

By submitting data on this form you are agreeing: i) that any information you contribute is yours or you have the permission of the owner to agree to this usage; ii) that any information you contribute contains only data that you have the right to make available; iii) that you give your permission (or have the permission of the owner) for the records (excluding personal information) to be used for research, education and public information, and to be made generally available for re-use for any other legal purpose under the terms of the Open Government Licence (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/>).

If you have internet access you can now submit your counts using GSMP Online. By using GSMP Online your data will be easier for us to process. For more information on how to register please contact the GSMP Office at [gsmpp@bto.org](mailto:gsmpp@bto.org). Please note - the use of GSMP Online is NOT compulsory.

Please return completed forms promptly to your  
GSMP Local Organiser or to the GSMP Office  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP**



1 COUNTER DETAILS

If you are unsure how to complete any part of this form, full instructions for each numbered section are given on the front page.

2 COUNT UNIT:

Central Grid Ref.

Count unit code

Site (if part of larger site)

3 DATE (e.g. 13/10/22)

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TIME (use 24 hour clock)

Start (e.g. 0900)

Finish (e.g. 1400)

METHOD circle the appropriate number

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

Key: 1 Dawn Roost Count

2 Dusk Roost Count

3 Daytime/feeding count

4 COUNTS: Enter a '0' if no birds of the target species were present

Pink-footed Goose

PG

Greylag Goose

GJ

Other goose and swan species

5 COUNT CONDITIONS

% of water area in count unit covered by ice?

State of tide (coastal sites only)

circle the appropriate number

1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4

Key: 1 Rising 2 High 3 Falling 4 Low

Was the night moonlit?

circle the appropriate number

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

Key: 1 Yes 2 No 3 Don't know

Was there local flooding?

circle the appropriate number

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

Key: 1 Yes 2 No 3 Don't know

6 COVERAGE

Do you feel your counts of waterbirds were reasonably accurate (circle 'OK') or did other factors (e.g. weather or disturbance) prevent you from recording a significant number of birds present (circle 'LOW')?

Count accuracy

OK/LOW

OK/LOW

OK/LOW

OK/LOW

OK/LOW

OK/LOW

OK/LOW

If 'LOW' which of the following affected your count (please ☒ the appropriate box/boxes)?

I did not cover all of my count area

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☐

☐

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Poor visibility (due to fog, glare, heavy rain etc.)

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☐

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High levels of disturbance

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☐

☐

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☐

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☐

7 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Please provide any additional information you feel is relevant.