

SRMS Legacy Data Portal Guidance

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Acronyms

SRMS – Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme

SRMC – Scottish Raptor Monitoring Coordinator

BTO – British Trust for Ornithology

SRMG – Scottish Raptor Monitoring Group, the steering group for SRMS

SRSG – Scottish Raptor Study Group

SOC – Scottish Ornithologists' Club

1. What is the Legacy Data Portal?

The SRMS Legacy Data Portal has been created to securely share SRMS data with SRMS partners. It is to be used in strict accordance with the SRMS Data Sharing & Use Policy (<http://raptormonitoring.org/srms-data/data-sharing-use-policy>).

The SRMS legacy dataset comprises records of individual breeding attempts, showing occupancy and breeding outcomes.

These records have been collated and curated by the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Coordinator (SRMC) with support from a BTO Scotland Research Ecologist, on behalf of the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Group.

The SRMS legacy dataset contains records from the 2003 breeding season, usually up until the previous season. Records from any particular field season are typically submitted in the following autumn and are not added to the legacy dataset until the spring of the following breeding season.

2. How to access the Legacy Data Portal

The training video that accompanies this guidance is available [here](#).

The SRMS Legacy Data Portal can be accessed at <https://app.bto.org/srms-legacy/>.

If you are named in Section 8.2.3 of the SRMS Data Sharing Policy as your organisation's 'gatekeeper' (i.e. the individual responsible for governing internal access to SRMS data within your organisation), you will have been issued with a unique username and password by the SRMC.

If you work or volunteer for an SRMS partner organisation you will need to seek internal approval from your organisation's gatekeeper to access data from the Legacy Data Portal.

The gatekeeper can provide indirect access to raptor records from the Legacy Data Portal by downloading a relevant extract of the dataset, filtering it as required, and sharing it with approved people within their organisation. SRMS data must be stored securely, as it contains sensitive information on protected raptor species

Gatekeepers can also arrange for people within their organisation to have direct access to the Legacy Data Portal. This might be useful where these people need to routinely access up-to-date SRMS data. In order to arrange this, gatekeepers should provide the names, emails and organisational roles of those requiring access to the SRMC by emailing srms@bto.org. A unique username and password will then be assigned to each person.

Once you have been issued with a username & password you simply need to type these into the boxes on the home screen and click the green "Login" button.

Login to SRMS Legacy Data Portal

Username

Password

Login

[Email us](#) if you need assistance.



3. Responsibilities of a gatekeeper

If you are named in Section 8.2.3 of the SRMS Data Sharing Policy, it is your responsibility to approve access to the SRMS Legacy Dataset by individual staff members or volunteers within your organisation.

Gatekeepers must ensure that SRMS data are only used for the agreed purposes set out in Section 8.2.1 of the SRMS Data Sharing & Use Policy and that the following Terms and Conditions (see below) of using SRMS data are adhered to.

As the gatekeeper you should decide what is feasible for your organisation in terms of granting access to other individuals directly or indirectly. Where you wish to grant individual direct access to the dataset, you should send requests for access for approved individuals to the SRMC who will issue a unique username and password directly to the user.

Where you undertake to extract data on behalf of other individuals, you may wish to consider converting the data from .csv format (as downloaded from the database) to an .xlsx format where you could supply it in a password protected file. For guidance on how to achieve this please see the last paragraph of Section 4.

4. Terms and Conditions

SRMS Legacy Portal Data can only be used in adherence to the following Terms and Conditions:

- SRMS data should be stored securely with access limited to named individuals who are aware of the SRMS's Data Sharing & Use Policy and these Terms and Conditions.
- Data must not be used for any purposes not explicitly described in the Data Sharing & Use Policy without prior consent from SRMG.



- SRMS data may not be shared with any other party without prior written consent from SRMG.
- SRMS data may not be sold to a third party or used within work for which there is a commercial gain, without prior written consent from SRMG.
- Data users are expected to undertake their own data checks and to ensure that the data are suitable for their particular research application. Responsibility for any inappropriate use of or conclusions drawn from the data lies with the relevant SRMS partner and not with SRMS.
- Data should not be retained beyond the period they are required for.
- All data supplied remain the property of the data provider. In most cases this will be the individual raptor worker who collected the data and/or the organisation who provided the data to the Scheme.
- Any outputs produced using SRMS data must appropriately acknowledge their use of these data. Use of SRMS data must be acknowledged in the following format when reproduced in internal or external documents and publications: **Data from the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme.**
- Other than SRMS products in the public domain, SRMS data may not be used for any scientific research likely to lead to publication without the prior written consent of SRMG.
- Copies of all publications that draw on SRMS data, including reports that are in the public domain, must be supplied to SRMS as soon as possible. Please send copies of all such publications to srms@bto.org.
- Where detailed locational data (i.e. 100m resolution or higher) has been used in line with these Terms and Conditions and the Data Sharing & Use Policy, any outputs containing such data must be treated confidentially and must not enter the public domain unless agreed in writing with SRMG.

Each SRMS partner is required to report back to SRMG at the end of April each year on the purposes to which SRMS data have been put within their organisation. The gatekeeper will be best placed to produce an annual written report for their organisation's SRMG representative so that they can report back to SRMG. Gatekeepers are encouraged to use a template to capture the detail of the request. This can be provided by the SRMC.

5. How to extract data from the SRMS Legacy Data Portal

Once you have logged into the Legacy Data Portal you will arrive at the Data Home page. Here you can filter the dataset according to Region, Species & Year depending on your interest. You must select an option for at least one of the filters. If you wish to extract the entire dataset, you should select all of the options for one of the filters.



Data Home

Welcome to the SRMS Legacy Data Portal. Use the options below to download an extract of the dataset. See the [guidance notes](#) for assistance.

Select an option for at least one of the filters below.

Region:

Species:

Year:

[Run Extract](#)



The Regions are the SRMS sub-regions which SRMS uses in its annual reporting. For a map of these please see <http://raptormonitoring.org/srms-regions>. To select a single sub-region click on the white box below Region and a drop-down menu with a scroll bar will appear. Click on the sub-region that you wish to extract data for. You can select multiple sub-regions by re-clicking in the white box to add new sub-regions one at a time.

The Species are all SRMS species for which SRMS holds data. To select a single species, click on the white box below Species and a drop-down menu with a scroll bar will appear. Click on the species that you wish to extract data for. You can select multiple species by re-clicking in the white box to add new species one at a time.

The Year are all the years for which SRMS data are available via the Legacy Data Portal. To select data for a single year, click on the white box below Year and a drop-down menu with a scroll bar will appear. Click on the year that you wish to extract data for. You can select multiple years by re-clicking in the white box to add new years one at a time.

When you click the “Run Extract” button a .csv file containing the data you requested will download. You can open the file by clicking on it. The file will also appear in your list of downloads and from here you should rename and save it to a secure location in line with your organisation’s policy for secure data storage. We recommend that you save your extract in a secure location or password-protected file, especially if you are using an unsecure or public WiFi connection. Please delete the extract from your downloads folder once you have copied it to a secure location.

If you are a gatekeeper extracting data on behalf of another individual in your organisation for an approved use, you may wish to consider supplying the data to them as a password protected .xlsx file. To achieve this open the .csv file in Excel. In the ‘File’ menu click on ‘Info’ tab which appears at the top of the left-hand side bar then click on ‘Protect Workbook’. You can then click on ‘Encrypt with Password’ which gives you the option to give the file a



password which you can share with your colleague when you provide them with the file. For a visual demonstration of this process, please [click this link](#) to watch the training video that accompanies this guidance.

6. Understanding data extracted from the SRMS Legacy Data Portal

The dataset available on the SRMS Legacy Data Portal contains the following attributes:

Attribute	Description
CODE ID	Each record in the SRMS Legacy Dataset has been given a unique ID. Any query about a particular record can refer to this ID in communications with the SRMC or BTO data scientists.
YEAR	The year the record relates to.
OBSERVERS	Names of the individual(s) who collected the data, where they have given consent for their name(s) to be shared.
SOURCE	The organisation to which the record is attributed.
SPECIES	The SRMS species for which the record relates to.
REPORTING REGION	Areas used by SRMS in its annual reporting. For a map of SRMS regions & sub-regions please see https://raptormonitoring.org/srms-regions .
REPORTING SUB REGION	SRMS sub-regions which the SRMS uses in its annual reporting. For a map of SRMS regions & sub-regions please see https://raptormonitoring.org/srms-regions .
GRIDREF	The GB Ordnance Survey grid reference for the record. Where possible fieldworkers are asked to provide a 6-figure (i.e. 100 m resolution) or more precise grid reference.
NORTHING	The latitudinal (y-coordinate) component of the OS grid reference in numerical format.
EASTING	The longitudinal (x-coordinate) component of the OS grid reference in numerical format.
PRECISION	This is the resolution of the OS grid reference, e.g. 4-figure (1 km), 6-figure (100 m) or 10-figure (1 m).
NESTING HABITAT1	Data contributors are asked to record the two most prevalent habitats around the nest site. Whilst the area of importance will vary between species, the area within 1-km of the nest site is considered to be a useful guide. Nesting habitat 1 should be the most extensive habitat in this area.

NESTING HABITAT2	Data contributors are asked to estimate which two habitats are most important in an appropriate area around the nest site. Whilst the area of importance will vary between species, the area within 1-km of the nest site is considered to be a useful guide. Where it is recorded, nesting habitat 2 should be the second most extensive habitat in this area.
NEST SITE	The location of the nest. Where the nest was located in a tree or other vegetation the name of the species (e.g. larch or heather) will usually have been provided. Where the nest is on a man-made structure the type of structure (e.g. pylon, derelict building or active quarry) will usually have been provided.
NEST TYPE	The type of nest which will usually be “New self-built nest”, “Old self-built nest”, “Old other species’ nest”, “Natural cavity”, “Man-made cavity”, “Scrape”, “Nest box” or another.
OCCUPANCY STATUS	The occupancy status of a given home range. It will usually be “Pair”, “Single”, “Vacant” or “Unknown”.
EGGS LAID	The minimum number of eggs laid. Where direct observations of eggs are possible data contributors are asked to provide a numerical value – either a whole number if they are satisfied that that is a good assessment of the number there (e.g. 2) or a minimum assessment if they are not certain if there are any more present (e.g. 2+).
EGGS HATCHED	The minimum number of eggs hatched. Where direct observations of eggs are possible data contributors are asked to provide a numerical value – either a whole number if they are satisfied that that is a good assessment of the number there (e.g. 2) or a minimum assessment if they are not certain if there are any more present (e.g. 2+).
LARGE YOUNG	The minimum number of large young. Where direct observations of young are possible data contributors are asked to provide a numerical value – either a whole number if they are satisfied that that is a good assessment of the number there (e.g. 2) or a minimum assessment if they are not certain if there are any more present (e.g. 2+).
YOUNG FLEDGED	The minimum number of young successfully fledged.
LAST KNOWN STAGE	Unfortunately, not all breeding attempts will necessarily be followed to a conclusion. This field records the last stage in the breeding attempt that was recorded.
BREEDING OUTCOME	The breeding outcome from any given attempt. It may be “Failed”, “Successful” or “Unknown”.
SRMS HOME RANGE CODE	The unique Home Range code generated by SRMS Online. Home Range codes were introduced to standardise coding across all records. Most Nest Sites have unique Home Range codes, but Nest Sites belonging to the same pair of birds are under one single Home Range.

SOC REGION	Regional classifications used by the Scottish Ornithologists' Club.
NATURAL HERITAGE ZONE	Regional classifications used by NatureScot.
GRID REF TYPE	Indicates whether the grid reference supplied is the original or otherwise.
GRID REF 100M	6-figure grid reference locating nest site within 100m. Not available for all breeding attempts.
GRID REF 1KM	4-figure grid reference locating nest site within 1km.
GRID REF 10KM	2-figure grid reference locating nest site within 10km.

7. Limitations of SRMS data

Data users should be aware that SRMS data come from a number of discrete study areas for each species. Most of these have been selected by volunteer raptor workers, rather than through any formal sampling design. As both geographic and species coverage across Scotland varies considerably, SRMS may hold little or no data for any given combination of geographical area and species. However, the absence of raptor records in the Legacy Data Portal for a particular area of interest should not be interpreted as meaning that these raptors are not breeding in this area. It could be, instead, that the relevant species have not been reported from the area due to the level of monitoring coverage for these species being low or entirely lacking.

The most up-to-date data available from SRMS will always be that from the previous breeding season. In order to get access to data from the current breeding season, you should contact the relevant Scottish Raptor Study Group (SMSG) branch (and/or other bodies that may be involved in collecting relevant records) directly. It will often be a good idea for those using SRMS data to make contact with the SMSG branch(es) whose members collected the relevant records, in case their interpretation of the data can be improved by local, expert knowledge. For a list of contacts in SRMS partner organisations, please see: <http://raptormonitoring.org/srms-data/data-sharing-use-policy/1-2-a-note-for-data-users/srms-data-provider-contacts>.

All SRMS data contributors are encouraged to follow best practice guidance for raptor monitoring as described in Hardey et al. (<http://raptormonitoring.org/need-advice-on-monitoring>). However, many SRMS contributors are volunteers, and many continue to carry out monitoring studies that were in existence prior to the establishment of the SRMS. For these reasons, individual observers will vary in their approaches to monitoring, such as the extent to which they cover study areas comprehensively, the intensity of survey effort

(number of survey visits during the breeding season) and so on. Therefore, the SRMS cannot guarantee that all contributing data were collected according to this guidance.

SRMS data are frequently updated to include historical records submitted by contributors and records from contributors who have recently signed up to the SRMS Data Sharing & Use Policy. To ensure that the data used by SRMS partners are as up-to-date and accurate as possible, we advise downloading a new copy of the Legacy Data for each separate use, or for more continuous uses making sure the dataset is updated at least once per year.