

WeBS Local Organiser Advisory Committee
15th Meeting: 3rd June 2025, 19:00 - 20:30
Zoom

AGENDA

1 Apologies for absence

2 Welcome and introductions

All attendees will be invited to introduce themselves.

3 Confidentiality and conflicts of interest

Members of the Committee are asked to note that agenda items marked with an asterisk should be regarded as strictly confidential. The Committee may add or remove asterisks during the meeting. Committee members are asked to notify the Chair of any conflict of interest for any particular item and to absent themselves from the discussion, decision or vote for this item as appropriate.

4 Action Points from the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

Action points from the last meeting can be viewed in the minutes from meeting 14 here - https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/webs_loac_meeting_14_minutes_-_2024_1.pdf

5 WeBS Progress Update

Core and Supplementary Update - Gill Birtles

Low-Tide Update - Neil Calbrade

GSMP Update - Neil Calbrade

Waterbird News Update - Neil Calbrade

WeBS Report Online Update - Neil Calbrade

NEWS Update - Gill Birtles

6 Report from LOAC Regions

LOAC members will be invited to report feedback and queries that they have received ahead of the meeting from the Local Organisers in their regions.

7 International Swan Census

8 Roving WeBS

9 Any other business

Committee members may inform Gill Birtles of specific any other business in advance or at the start of the meeting.

Introduction to Roving WeBS*

It has been an idea for some time to introduce a 'roving' feature for WeBS counts, much like the [\[BBS\] Upland Rovers](#). This is something that we have had in the past, which took the form of leaflets with short Core Count forms, which could be left in strategic hides and posted back to the WeBS Office. We have also found that throughout the years, counters have asked for permissions to sites because they are going on holiday and can fill coverage gaps. So it would be the aim of this project to make this option easier for Local Organisers and counters to arrange and execute.

We are hoping to introduce this feature to WeBS Online and our thoughts currently are that there is a pre-determined list of sites which are marked as 'roving sites' and counters can be marked as 'roving counters', which gives them access to this site list. The idea being that counters who pass these roving sites while e.g. on holiday, can submit a Core Count in order to fill in a gap of coverage.

We have not decided yet what would classify a site to be a roving site - could be sites that haven't been counted in X amount of years or where a number of species is low/ doesn't meet a threshold.

Roving counts wouldn't need to be on a Priority Core Count date and data would mainly be used to fill in gaps for sites where it has proven difficult to allocate a counter to carry out monthly counts. This data would feed into e.g. avian influenza work, population estimates, species distribution, future projects and be an engagement tool.

This is all very much at the brainstorming stage and can be shaped into anything that we feel would work best for the project and volunteers. So please do have a think about if this sounds feasible to add to an LOs list of responsibilities and bring any ideas to the discussion in this meeting.

*We would also like your input on the name for this project! Here are a few serious (and not so serious!) suggestions:

- [WeBS] Floater Force;
- [WeBS] Riverside Rovers;
- [WeBS] Wetland Wanderers;
- [WeBS] Small Site Surveys;
- [WeBS] Rovers;
- [WeBS] Extra;
- [WeBS] Wanderers;
- [WeBS] Roving Reserves;
- [WeBS] Small Counts;
- [WeBS] Wandering Wingmen;
- [WeBS] Wetland Rovers;
- [WeBS] Small Site Scouts;
- [WeBS] Wanderfolk;
- [WeBS] Anywhere, Anywhen.

Any other suggestions would be welcome!