Science and Research Grant

# Grant details

# The Spurn Bird Observatory committee have made £500 per year available to support projects that help meet the committee’s research priorities, with the aim of funding 1–3 projects per annum.

# Grants are made at any time of year, and on a first-come, first-served basis renewing at the start of each academic year (e.g. September 1st). If applying after 1st September of each year. It is highly recommended applicants check with the Science and Research Committee to check how much, if any, funding remains for that academic year. Grant applications can be made for any amount up to £500, but the committee may choose to award less money if they have received multiple applications they wish to fund. The Observatory is keen to increase the accessibility and feasibility of conducting research projects at Spurn. The grant is open to all, from academics through to non-professional enthusiasts.

# **How we assess grant applications:**

Grants will be assessed by our Science and Research sub-committee based on several factors; alignment with Observatory research priorities, probability of success, likelihood of scientific or conservation impact, and the potential for personal development. All funded projects will be related to Spurn Bird Observatory in some regard, either by conducting fieldwork in the area or through the use of data collected or held by the Observatory. We welcome projects that are bold, creative, and aim to push the boundaries of scientific knowledge, no matter their scope.

At Spurn Bird Observatory we have a strong focus on youth development, and our goal is to fund promising research, regardless of its size or the academic stage of the applicant. Both small-scale exploratory studies and more comprehensive research endeavours are equally considered, provided they demonstrate strong potential to contribute meaningfully to their respective fields. We will strongly prefer projects that are unlikely to obtain funding from elsewhere, for instance to allow some fieldwork for an undergraduate or MSc project, or from ornithologists/ecologists outside of academia who may be working on a British Birds, Ringing & Migration or Dutch Birding paper, for example.

We will fund any individual, student, or charities, but we do not fund private companies, fully-funded PhD projects, or academics in postdoctoral or permanent positions. Funding is for those 16 years and older. Anyone under 18 planning on staying at the Observatory hostel can include the discounted cost of a supervising adults accomodation in the grant application.

More details of Observatory research priorities can be found here: <https://spurnbirdobservatory.co.uk/science-and-research/projects>

Any project relating to migration ecology or the ecology of Holderness would also be considered an Observatory research priority.

Any applicants should feel free to contact the Science and Research sub-committee if they would like some help refining ideas and developing project ideas from our experienced ornithologists and scientists on the committee prior to application.

Contact us on: info@spurnbirdobservatory.co.uk

# Researcher Details

## Applicant Name

*Character Limit: 250*

## Applicant Date of Birth

*Character Limit: 10*

## Applicants current position (e.g. student/job title/non-academic)

*Character Limit: 250*

## Applicant Biography

Please provide a short biography of the primary researcher and any relevant experience.

*Character Limit: 1000*

## Additional Researchers:

Please provide names, email address, role, and short biography of anyone else involved in the project.

*Character Limit: 300 per person*

# Project Details

## Please treat the character limit as a maximum – outlining projects accurately and succinctly is preferred.

## Project Name

Name of Project.

*Character Limit: 100*

## Project Location (if not Spurn)

Describe the country, region, or nearest city. You may also upload a map or picture.

*Character Limit: 1000*

## Study Subject

Does the project relate to any of the SBOT research priorities?

## Short Project Description

Please give us a short description of your project.

*Character Limit: 750*

## What is the problem being solved or the question being answered?

*Character Limit: 1500*

## How will you use your results? Where do you plan to publish them? How will they be useful for Spurn Bird Observatory? How will they be useful for others?

*Character Limit: 1500*

**Even the best projects sometimes fail - outline any risks that might cause the project to fail and outline mitigation and back-up plans to prevent this.**

*Character Limit: 1500*

## Please add any additional information about your project (optional)

*Character Limit: 1000*

## Have you applied for this grant before?

**(Your answer will not negatively impact your application.)**

### Choices

Yes No

# Methods

## Overview of your methods\*

*Character Limit: 1000*

# Budget

## Budget\*

Provide a budget that clearly indicates how the grant money will be spent. Factor in accommodation at the Observatory Hostel, if required (£4 discount per night if staying to carry out research). If additional funding is required state how much, where that will be obtained from and if it is already secured.

*Character Limit: 10000*

# Other Resources

# Spurn Bird Observatory holds a wealth of other resources we can provide to help projects. These include long-term datasets from ringing, point counts and bird log data. We also have several members across our committees that hold PhDs in ornithology that can offer some supervisory, statistical, or coding support, and a number of highly experienced ecologists and ornithologists who can offer insight into suitable field study methods, animal behaviour and identification, and the geographical quirks of Spurn. Use this section to describe any non-monetary support you would like, please be specific.

# Character Limit: 1000

# Project Timeline

## Project Timeline\*

What are the phases of the project? When are they expected to start and end? Include a summary timeline of the project with dates and phases indicated.

*Character Limit: 500*

## Estimated Project Start Date\*

You must plan to start the project within one year.

*Character Limit: 10*

## Estimated Project End Date\*

## You must end the project within 3 years.

*Character Limit: 10*

# Referral Letter

Please provide a referral letter from one referee for the project, alongside a phone number or email address for them. This need not be an academic or professional reference but should emphasize the character of the candidate and their commitment to the project.

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*Character Limit: 254*

# Terms

## If awarded this grant, I agree to:

* + Pay all taxes (if applicable)
  + Provide a photo or short video of yourself (or voiceover images) with an introduction to the project we can use on social media
  + Start the project within one year
  + Submit an interim report halfway through the project
  + Acknowledge the support of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust in any presentations, meetings, publications and materials resulting from the project
  + Submit a final report within two months of completing the project of no less than 1500 words that can be used on the SBOT website and/or annual report.
  + Any project that utilises Spurn Bird Observatory’s data will abide by the [Data Request Terms](https://spurnbirdobservatory.co.uk/admin/resources/sbot-data-terms.pdf).
  + Spurn Bird Observatory’s Science and Research will be made aware of any publications stemming from the grant.

Signed: Date: