Guidelines for acceptance of breeds on to the RBST list of UK Poultry Breeds at risk

A breed is defined as: A group of animals that has been selected by humans to possess a set of inherited characteristics that distinguishes it from other animals within the same species. In the case of poultry, breeds must be recognised by a governing body and accepted as a standardised breed according to British Standards.

Colour variants will normally be considered as part of the same interbreeding population unless there is evidence of genetically distinct origins and these variants are not interbred.

For recognition by the RBST a breed must be an original breed or a native breed of which at least one parent breed is believed to be extinct. A native breed is defined as:

- Breed history documents the breed origin within the UK (including from amalgamation of native breeds) and the UK has formed the primary environment for the development of the breed or the breed of origin in its current adapted form; and
- Breed history documents its presence in the UK for 40 years plus 6 generations (where a generation is 2 years for poultry breeds); and
- Not more than 20% of the genetic contributions come from animals born outside the UK (other than those imported for an approved conservation project) in any generation for the last 40 years plus 6 generations.

Evidence of its continuous documented existence will take the form of written material e.g. newspapers of the time or historical writings. In future this evidence should be recorded at the Trust.

Breed Societies and Clubs will be regarded as the official source of breed information.

An imported breed may qualify for inclusion on the Watchlist on the grounds that the UK has become the main breeding centre for a breed or original population that is seriously endangered or extinct, or has undergone significant breed development with the UK to distinguish it from the breed in its country of origin.

If insufficient information exists to fulfil all current guidelines, RBST may occasionally recognise breeds it considers to be of sufficient genetic conservation importance.

What the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) does

- Promotes knowledge and the keeping of UK native and rare breed livestock.
- Identifies and monitors the populations of native breeds most at risk and takes action where necessary.
- Provides conservation grants to breed societies and organisations to help them support rare and native breeds.
- Collaborates with research institutes and universities on studies into rare and native breeds such as the recently published poultry DNA diversity study with the Roslin Institute.
- Hosts the RBST Poultry Working Group which includes representatives of the major poultry organisations to advise on poultry issues.

We are the UK’s leading charity dedicated to conserving native farm livestock breeds and our work relies on the support of the public. Why not use JustTextGiving to make a donation today? Text RBST11 and your donation amount to 70070 e.g. RBST11 £5.

As a member of RBST you will receive ‘The Ark’, our membership magazine, four times a year and be able to advertise your native breed livestock on our website. Visit our website www.rbst.org.uk for more details on joining RBST.

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Breeds on the UK Poultry Breeds at Risk list are not categorised and not all of the breeds are to be considered numerically rare, although some certainly are, but all fulfil the RBST definition of being a UK native breed and/or other criteria. RBST recognizes large fowl and true bantams but acknowledges that some miniatures of these breeds are also rare.

**Chicken Breeds**
- Ancona
- Andalusian
- Australorp
- British Faverolles
- Brussbar
- Buff Orpington
- Campine
- Cochín
- Cream Legbar
- Croad Langshan
- Derbyshire Redcap
- Dorking
- Hamburgh
- Indian Game
- Ixworth
- Legbar
- Leghorn
- Malay
- Marsh Daisy
- Minorca
- Modern Game
- Modern Langshan
- Nankin
- Norfolk Grey
- North Holland Blue
- Old English Game
- Old English Pheasant Fowl
- Orpington (non Buff)
- Rhodebar
- Rosecomb
- Rumpless Game
- Scots Dumpy
- Scots Grey
- Sebright
- Spanish
- Sultan
- Sussex
- Welbar

**Turkey Breeds**
- Blue
- Bourbon Red
- British White
- Bronze
- Buff
- Narragansett
- Nebraskan
- Norfolk Black
- Pied/Cröllwitzer
- Slate

**Goose Breeds**
- Brecon Buff
- Greyback
- Pilgrim
- Sebastopol
- Shetland
- Toulouse (Exhibition)
- West of England

**Duck Breeds**
- Abacot Ranger
- Appleyard Silver
- Aylesbury
- Black East Indian
- Campbell
- Cayuga
- Crested
- Magpie
- Orpington
- Rouen (Exhibition)
- Shetland
- Silver Bantam Duck
- Stanbridge White
- Welsh Harlequin

The RBST Poultry Working Group consists of representatives of the Poultry Club of Great Britain, the Rare Poultry Society, the Turkey Club, the Goose Club, the Domestic Waterfowl Club and British Waterfowl Association, as well as individual poultry specialists.

Having the opportunity to work with all of the leading poultry organisations in compiling this list is important to RBST and valuable dialogues have been established that will form the foundation for future conservation work. The Poultry Working Group is establishing priorities and is keen to move forward with these aims for poultry conservation.

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