

THE CALL OF THE CURLEW IS FOR MANY A SIGN OF SPRING

**Advice for farmers,
land managers and contractors**



Curlew numbers are seriously declining

Locally, the birds we hear can be up to 25 years old, but they are not reproducing successfully. It is likely that we are hearing the same ageing population year after year.

**Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Country
Landscape Partnership Scheme**

Ground-nesting Birds Recovery Project

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR CURLEWS

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do curlews need?

- Stock-free, rough damp pasture with tussocks, or traditional hay meadows
- Nesting sites away from tall trees and shrubs that harbour predators
- The same area to nest in each year
- Adults eat leatherjackets, beetles, spiders, worms and caterpillars
- Chicks eat insects and spiders

When do they nest?

- The first nests are made in March, but a failed attempt to raise a brood may result in a second, later attempt
- Almost all curlew chicks can fly by the end of July

What is the latest date that I can keep stock, or roll or harrow the field that the curlews nest in?

Mid to late April, depending on the weather.

If I find a nest can I mark it up or fence it off to protect it, and then just work around it?

Predators are drawn to areas that are distinctive in a field and will almost certainly investigate markers or a small area of long grass in the middle of an otherwise cut or grazed field. Ideally, the whole field should look similar to the nest site to deter predators.



When should I cut the grass?

Mid to late July to be sure that the young birds are able to fly to safety. Sadly earlier cutting means that many chicks end up in a big bale.

How should I mow the grass?

Chick fatalities can be much reduced by mowing at the correct time and from the inside of the field out. An outside strip may still be needed to accommodate access, but by mowing from the inside out, chicks still near the nest, but unable to fly, can escape through the un-mown grass to safety.



Is there any financial support for helping to conserve Ground Nesting Birds?

Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme have small capital grants for small projects on land not in another funding scheme.

Contact: Amanda Perkins
Tel: 01938 561741
E-mail: amanda.perkins@shropshire.gov.uk

The Glastir Scheme in Wales and the Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme in England includes a range of options to help farmers provide the management required to maintain and enhance ground-nesting birds

Contact: Rural Payments Wales Customer Contact Centre.
Tel: 0300 062 5004
E-mail: agriculture.llandrindod@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Contact: Dave Cragg at Natural England
Tel: 07769 641520
E-mail: dave.cragg@naturalengland.org.uk

What other sources of advice and support are available?

Please contact any of the above or Leo Smith, Ornithological Consultancy

Contact: Tel: 01694 720296 **E-mail:** leo@leosmith.org

Stiperstones &
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LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME



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The Stiperstones and Corndon Hill County Landscape Partnership Scheme is managed by a Partnership of professional and community representatives from Shropshire and Powys, who are listed at www.stiperstonesandcorndon.co.uk The lead organisation for the Scheme is the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership, hosted by Shropshire Council.