

LAPWINGS ARE LOSING THE FIGHT TO SURVIVE LOCALLY

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



About 85% of the lapwing population has been lost in the last 25 years.

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

Ground-nesting Birds Recovery Project

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR LAPWINGS?

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do lapwings need?

- Bare ground, spring crops or short cattle-grazed vegetation for nesting. This enables the female to see predators coming and leave camouflaged eggs safely in the nest
- Most sheep pasture is unsuitable
- Variable vegetation for chicks to find cover in event of danger
- Lots of soil and ground invertebrates for feeding throughout the year. Wet pasture is a particularly important source of food
- An area away from tall hedges and trees where predators can perch

When do lapwings nest?

Between mid-March and mid-July. Lapwings only rear one brood, but if the first clutch of eggs is lost they will try again.

What do lapwings eat?

Earthworms, leatherjackets, soil surface insects and their larvae.

Can I cultivate ground where lapwings nest?

Avoid mechanical operations if possible, but where one or more essential operations are required, undertake them all within one week and as early as possible before the eggs hatch.

Scrapes are important in arable fields.

Why are lapwing populations dwindling when I see them on the same piece of ground every year?

Lapwings return to the same ground to try and nest each year even if it is no longer suitable as a nesting site.

Why do I see many more lapwings in the winter?

The large flocks seen in winter have often travelled from northern Europe and are not an indication of the local breeding population.



How do I manage grassland for lapwings?

- Adapt stocking rates during the nesting season to avoid the risk of nest trampling
- Raise stocking rates during the late summer to graze sward down for the following spring
- Control rush levels to below 30% of field area
- Create small wet features, such as wader scrapes, or raise the water levels by blocking field drains or re-profiling ditch banks

How do I manage arable land for lapwings?

- Retain spring cropping if possible where it will be adjacent to grassland. If this is not viable then create a two hectare fallow plot by ploughing in the autumn or ploughing and discing in February
- Buffer strips, beetle banks and field corner management can help boost insect abundance

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
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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.