

SAVE OUR SNIPE

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



Snipe populations are in danger of becoming extinct locally.

Many migrating birds pass through in winter and spring, but hardly any breed successfully.

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

Ground-nesting Birds Recovery Project

HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT OUR SNIPE

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do snipe need?

- Wet tussocky ground that will not dry out such as wet flushes, rush pastures, moorland or bogs
- Soft damp soil for feeding on within walking distance from the nest
- A mosaic of tall and short vegetation
- Limited disturbance from livestock during the nesting season

When do snipe nest?

From mid-March to mid-July. Snipe only raise one brood, but if eggs are lost they may re-lay.

What do snipe feed on?

Leatherjackets, beetles, earthworms and caterpillars. Young chicks mainly eat earthworms collected from around the nest. If the adult has to fly from the nest, it alerts predators to the site.

Why do I see more snipe in the winter months?

Migrant snipe boost population numbers during the winter.

Will I have breeding snipe on my land?

Even if you do not have field size areas of suitable habitat, a wet corner or the margins of shallow watercourses may provide suitable nesting or foraging sites for snipe.



How should I manage land where I think snipe are breeding?

- Grazing outside the nesting season provides a good mixed length sward, with vegetation between 10cm and 30cms tall, (ideally with cattle, but sheep, horses or combinations of livestock can work)
- Maintain light stocking levels during the nesting season, between mid-March to the end of July, to avoid trampling, whilst retaining a mixture of sward heights
- Pasture should be managed with no, or limited use of fertiliser, moorland should not be limed, fertilised, re-seeded or burnt for grazing
- Any mechanical operations, such as muck spreading or harrowing should be timed before or after the breeding season

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.

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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 &
Corndon Hill Country
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.