

NORTHERN UPLAND CHAIN  
Local Nature Partnership



# Curlew conservation

in the Northern Upland Chain





# UK & Ireland Curlew Action Group

The UK and Ireland Curlew Action Group brings together five statutory agencies and various non-governmental organisations to shape and drive a co-ordinated programme for curlew conservation and to support international obligations, including the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and the EU Birds Directive.



# Recommendations for curlew from the UK & Ireland Action Group

- **Agri-environment funding** continues and prescriptions are improved post Brexit to support farmers to manage land to benefit curlew. This to include support for *clusters* of farms/nature reserves managing for curlews, so that a suitable scale of curlew-friendly landscapes can be achieved.
- There are no **Special Protection Areas** with breeding curlew listed as a qualifying feature. It is critical that key breeding sites are identified and classified, and that their protection and management is sustained post-Brexit.
- While dealing with the immediate problem of high **predator numbers**, research is needed in the longer-term to develop an understanding of why predators are unsustainably high in curlew landscapes and how we can reduce them.
- Future sites for forest expansion and renewable energy should avoid key sites. All four countries have ambitious forest expansion and renewable energy targets to meet climate change commitments. The development of **opportunity and sensitivity maps** for these sectors could help in avoiding key areas for breeding curlew.

# Background

A young curlew chick is the central focus of the image, positioned in the middle ground. It has a long, dark, slightly curved beak and is looking towards the right. The chick's feathers are a mix of brown and tan, with some darker spots. It is surrounded by tall, green grass that is slightly out of focus, creating a natural, outdoor setting. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue sky.

1. NUCLNP decided action was required to ensure the Northern uplands of England remain a stronghold for curlew
2. Held a workshop with stakeholders, one of the outcomes of this was the creation of the NUCLNP Curlew sub-group
3. This presentation will look at four key outcomes that this curlew sub-group have agreed are priorities, including a brief look at the data project already completed.
4. Leads and costs for future work

# Four key curlew outcomes



1. Data on curlew supports the best ‘no regrets’ support for a range of actions.
2. Land management advice for curlew is consistent, as good as it can be and interventions are applied to maximum effect.
3. We protect the best: we are confident that we know our hotpots, how they relate to each other and that the best management for curlew is underway.
4. Everyone living, working and visiting the Northern Upland Chain has a stake in and cares about the future of curlew

# The Curlew Data project

- Carried out by the Environmental Records Information Centre North East on behalf of the NUCLNP Curlew Group and supported by members of the partnership
- Collated data from various sources, including data on breeding status where available
- Separated historic and recent data (before or after 2007)
- Compiled an interactive map

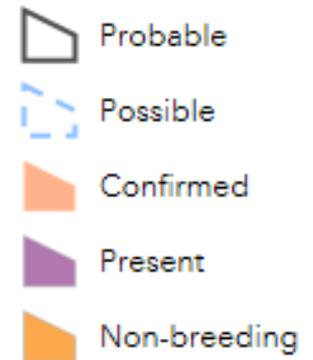


# The Curlew Data project

Compiled an interactive map showing:

- 2km<sup>2</sup> data plotted for broader view of curlew breeding status
- 1km<sup>2</sup> curlew data post 2007 & pre 2007
- Stewardship agreement expiry by year
- Potential wader sites (current ESS options for waders within each 1km<sup>2</sup>)
- 1km<sup>2</sup> containing >50% woodland
- 1km<sup>2</sup> intersected by area above moorland line
- Heatmaps showing density of records across the NUCLNP

## NUC 2km post2007



## NUC 1km post2007



## Curlew record density:

Heatmap 2007 onward.tif



# The Curlew Data project

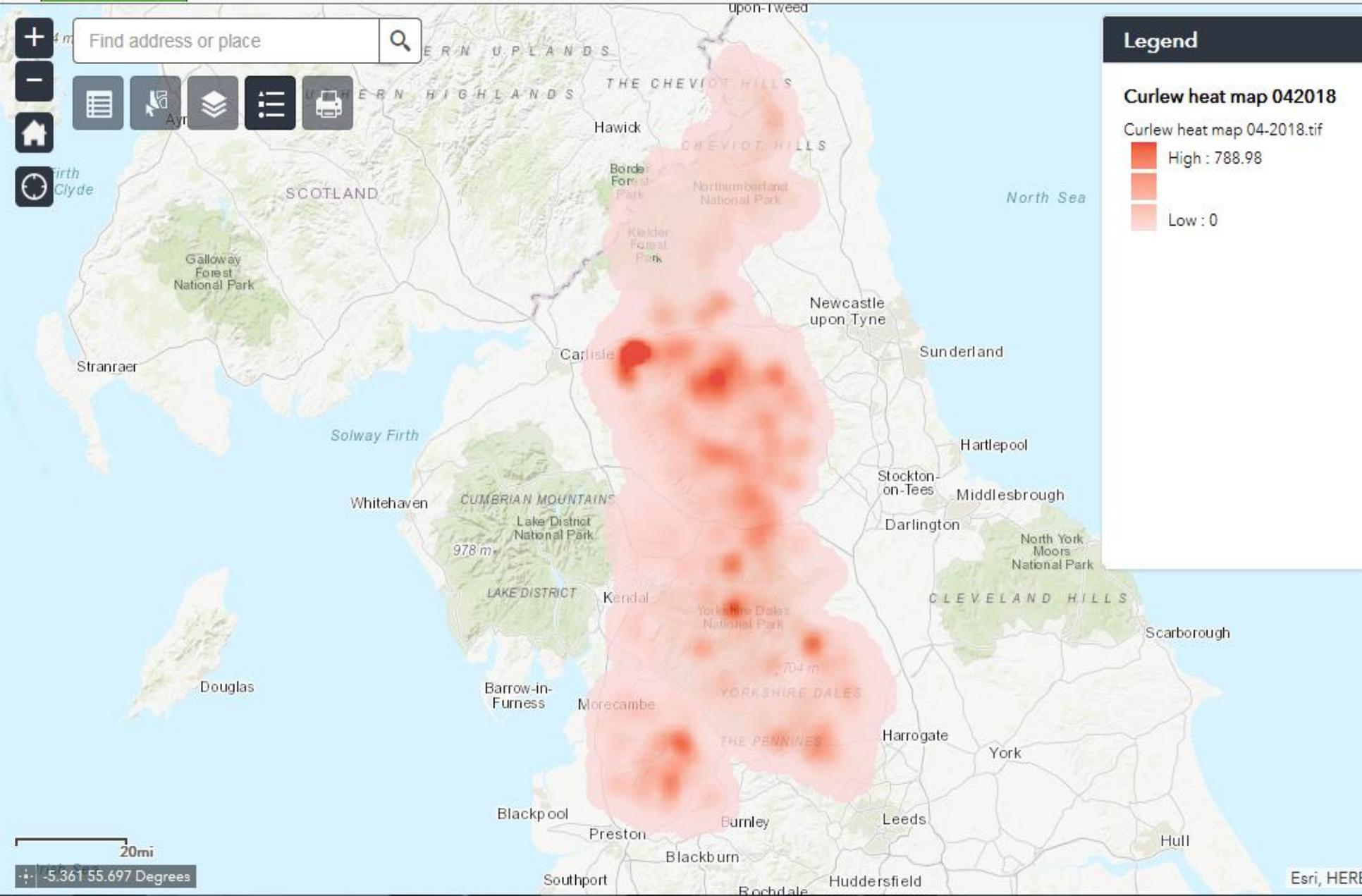
Webmap:

<https://eric-ne.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6c13895ff9de407aa707ae851e20734f>



The map can be used to interrogate data and includes:

- Legend
- Layers tool
- Basemap

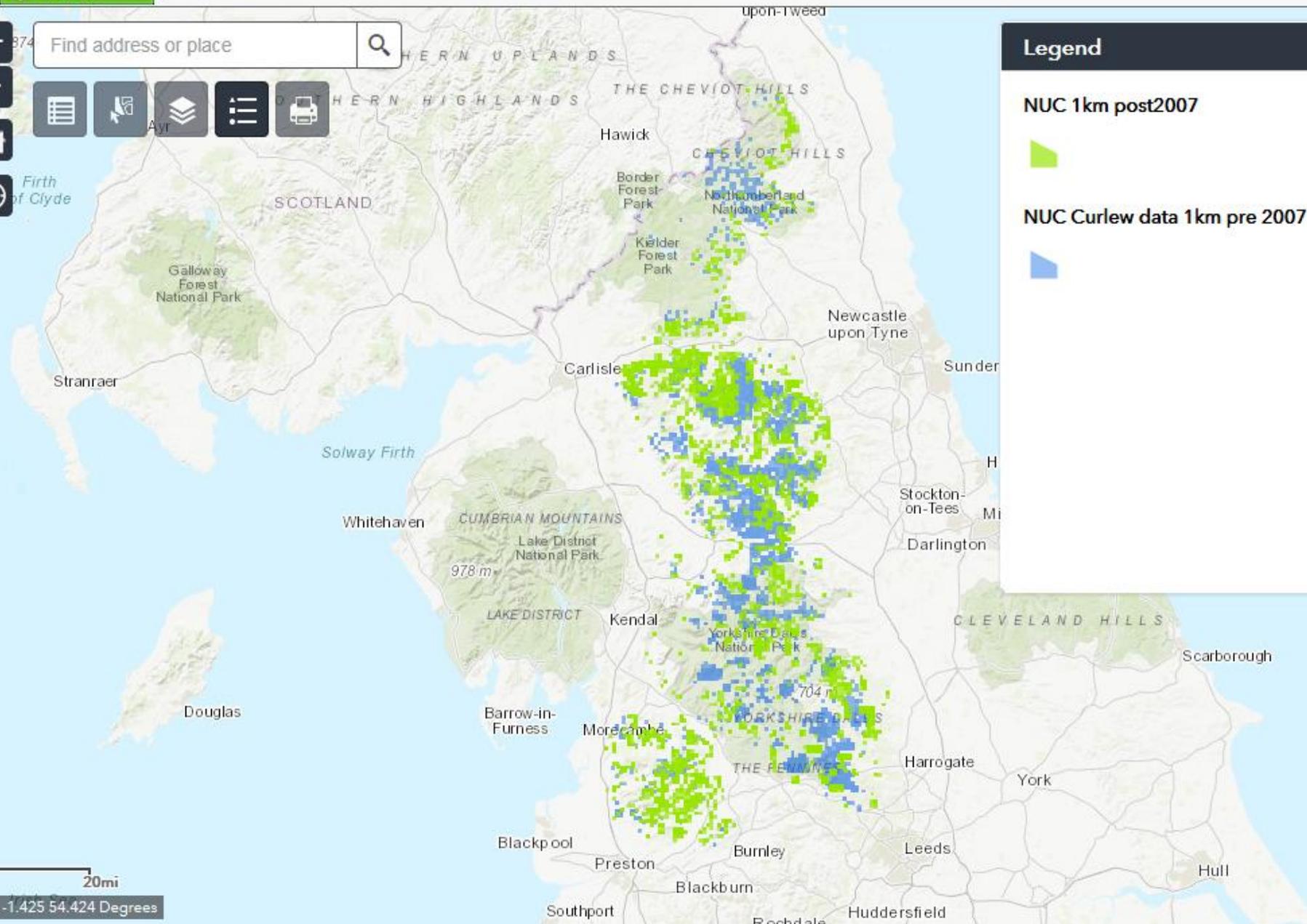


Find address or place



### Legend

- NUC 1km post2007
- NUC Curlew data 1km pre 2007



# Outcome 1:

## The Curlew Data project – what next?

- Data gaps in our current data sets
  - Good coverage across LNP at 2km resolution
  - 1km data is patchy in some areas
- *Proposal for next steps includes:*
  - Reviewing data gaps, securing new and existing data, setting up access, managing restrictions and future management of these data and the map.

**Costs:** Costs for new data, surveys and other miscellaneous activities c£5k for up to 3 years.

**Lead Organisation:** RSPB



# Outcome 2: Land management advice

*This will include:*

Creation of a network of advisers, training, support, demonstration events, land manager gatherings, talks and inter-organisational working on stewardship schemes

**Costs:** Costs for training event venues and materials may be required but otherwise delivered with existing resources across partners. Estimate £500- £1000 per annum

**Lead Organisation:** Natural England - tbc

## Outcome 3: Protect the best

*This will include:*

Ground-truth the hotspots for curlew identified by the data project, working with land owners and managers to highlight great management and share best practice, offer advice to maintain and/or expand these hotspots, coordinate data gathering for any key gaps and updating existing data through volunteer or contracted surveys.

**Costs:** NEW, project development costs, estimate at £2-5k depending on the size of the task after some development work has been done (or 3-6 months of part time staff time?) and match funding for the project, amount to be determined.

**Lead Organisation:** Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

# Outcome 4 - Communication

*This will include:*

Development of a proactive communications plan to support the whole Northern Upland Chain area, which might include making short films, media releases, events. We will be guided by the communications experts.

**Costs:** To be determined

**Lead Organisation:** Northumberland National Park Authority

**Looking for Board approval to  
further develop this work  
programme including financial  
support**