



Appendix 1

Curlew Focus Area Project - Update

Lead organisation – The Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership (NUCLNP)

1. Our curlew

In 2008, the Curlew was deemed of global conservation concern and became listed as “Near Threatened” on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Steep declines have been particularly evident in the UK. Between 1995 and 2012, the breeding populations declined by 55 per cent in Scotland and 30 per cent in England.

Elsewhere in the UK, the population has declined by 81 per cent in Wales between 1993 and 2006 and by 82 per cent in Northern Ireland between 1985-87 and 2013. The results of the latest Breeding Bird Atlas produced by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) found the breeding range has declined by 17 per cent in mainland Britain and a staggering 78 percent in Ireland. It is now thought that regional and even country-level extinctions are a possibility.

It is thought that the Northern Upland Chain (moorland and in-bye farmed land) is a stronghold for the Curlew in England and on that basis the NUCLNP is acting to secure and conserve the breeding populations for generations to come.

The percentage of Curlew thought to be supported within the NUCLNP area (based on the relative abundance metric from the Atlas that underpins the mapping work) is 49%. Quite neatly, the percentage of mainland England and Wales that is accounted by the land area of the NUCLNP is 4.9%.

2. The curlew project

Geographic Area

The project covers 5 Protected Landscapes. These are Forest of Bowland AONB, Nidderdale AONB, North Pennines AONB, Northumberland National Park, and Yorkshire Dales National Park. Together with the smaller area of the ‘Tyne Gap’ they make up the geographical extent of the Northern Upland Chain. This is an area of approximately 6,635 square km (2,560 square miles).

Project Framework

The project comes from an existing framework with 4 specific themes;

- Focus Areas
- Data and monitoring
- Engaging with landowners and land managers
- Public engagement

The Project highlights the Curlew as a ‘flagship species’ of healthy uplands and farmed land. That said, it is anticipated that there will be wide ranging benefits for all upland breeding waders given

the size and focus of the project. The Project also builds upon the excellent work already being done across the UK in support of Curlew conservation. It's significance is in the fact that this is a very large landscape scale project, bringing together all the Regional / Local interest groups.

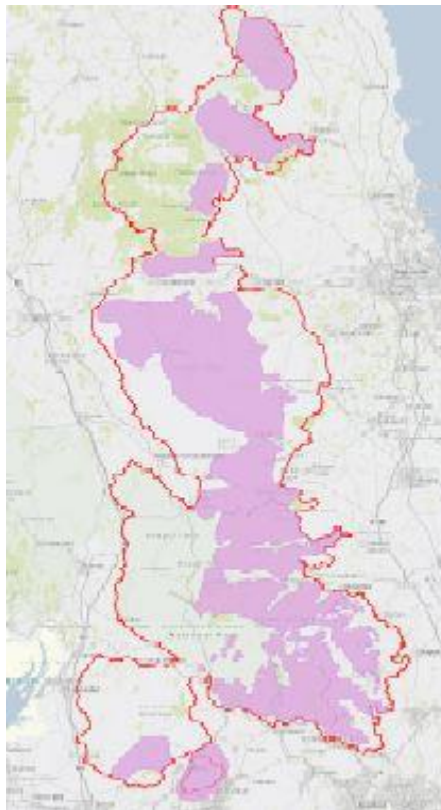
Project Vision

'To conserve the curlew for generations to come'.

Project Aims

Create Focus Areas for project activity

Select 'Focus Areas' for project activity within each of the 5 Protected Landscapes. These are in development, see below;



Develop Monitoring and Data in support of curlew conservation

- Train gamekeepers to undertake colour ringing of curlew chicks and adults through a consistent and scientifically robust methodology.
- Analyse, standardise and roll out across the NUC, gamekeeper transect work currently being done across 22 upland estates within the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB.
- Introduce GPS monitoring (as appropriate) for curlew within each of the 5 protected landscapes.
- Create a simple and effective means by which the farmer might contribute to data capture. This would be in partnership with the BTO.
- Use nest camera's to gain additional site specific information.

- Conduct additional habitat suitability mapping of the entire NUC thereby establishing where a productive population might spread.
- Enable and support citizen science throughout the NUC through the recruiting of volunteers of all ages to sight and record returning birds in the spring and throughout the summer.
- Create simple yet robust data collecting technology such as web based platforms and phone apps.
- Develop a data hub and analytical system which allows for data to be easily understood and shared.
- Engage with coastal communities and through schools and other partnerships, record and monitor the curlew population during their overwintering within the coastal zone.
- Apply consistency in relation to data collection, interpretation and sharing.

Engage with Farmers and Landowners

- Develop the concept for having Curlew Specialists working directly with farmers as well as training others.
- Create farmer led, problem solving groups to deliver more curlew friendly farming methods, particularly in relation to the most intensive and potentially disruptive practices such as silage cutting.
- Provide advice, training and current knowledge through Countryside Stewardship Farmer Facilitation Groups.
- Address the need and provide robust data to support new forestry planting following the principle “right tree in the right place”.
- Coordinate bespoke curlew and wader training for existing advisory networks (non profit, utilities, private) throughout the NUC using the most up to date scientific data and knowledge
- Support the way in which new agri-environment schemes develop
- Work with Moorland Groups and gamekeepers as well as the wider sporting networks to develop best practice for curlew and other waders whilst promoting the need to effective predator control and moorland management.
- Support the development of the curlew as a brand within food production and tourism.
- Encourage farmer and landowner ‘curlew champions’ within Focus Areas or the wider NUC.

Create Public Engagement opportunities both within and outside the NUC geographic boundary

- Develop the links between the curlew (and other waders) breeding in the uplands and migrating to the coast from late summer.
- Develop, support and roll out Curlew Safaris / Festivals currently being done by key landowners within the NUC. Work closely with the Moorland Groups and gamekeepers.
- Develop curriculum based materials for primary schools within the NUC as well as targeted coastal areas incorporating creativity and science.
- Develop a strong media and PR presence representing the interest groups and in support of the project, including Countryfile/Springwatch and other mainstream viewing or listening.
- Make use of the nest cameras as a means for sharing curlew footage during the nesting season.
- Develop a series of NUC leaflets for walkers and outdoor enthusiasts who use the uplands for recreational purposes.

- Develop the World Curlew Day (21st April) as a primary focal point for educating and publicising the need to conserve the curlew.
- Develop citizen science through volunteers recording and monitoring the curlew.
- Create a narrative of the 'curlews seasonal journey' through GPS tagging of select birds and sharing through web and other media outlets.
- Engage with the wider narrative of climate change and species extinction, developing the theme that the curlew is as endangered as the jaguar.
- Encourage a resident artist for the curlew project covering all the NUC or possibly within each of the protected landscapes.
- Seek support from high profile advocates for curlew conservation who become curlew champions or ambassadors.
- Consider creating a theme relating to the wellbeing of both upland and coastal communities

How will the project meet these aims?

It will employ a team of 11 people in varying roles for a period of 5 years

Roles include;

- A project lead / facilitator
- 5 curlew specialists working across the NUC in support of curlew conservation
- 4 coastal community links, providing educational resource, community participation and engagement
- A communications post facilitating the various messages relating to curlew conservation across the NUC

Top level figures

Total Value	£4,800,000
That being sought from the Heritage Fund	£3,675,000
Funding being sought from elsewhere	£1,125,000

Indicative figures to be agreed

Ends.