



giving
nature
a home

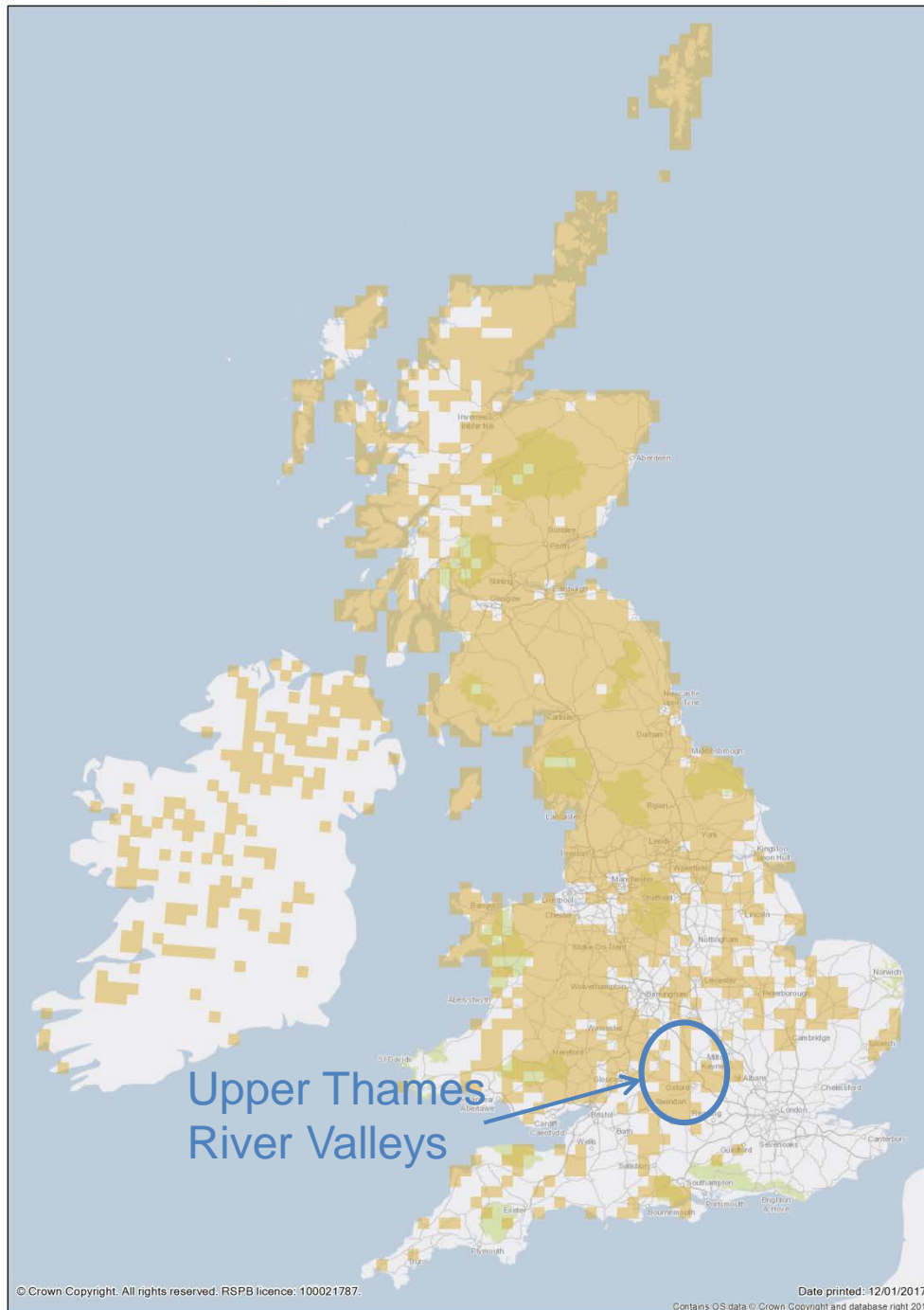
Upper Thames Farmers' Conservation Group

Setting farmers up for conservation success

Kirsty Brannan



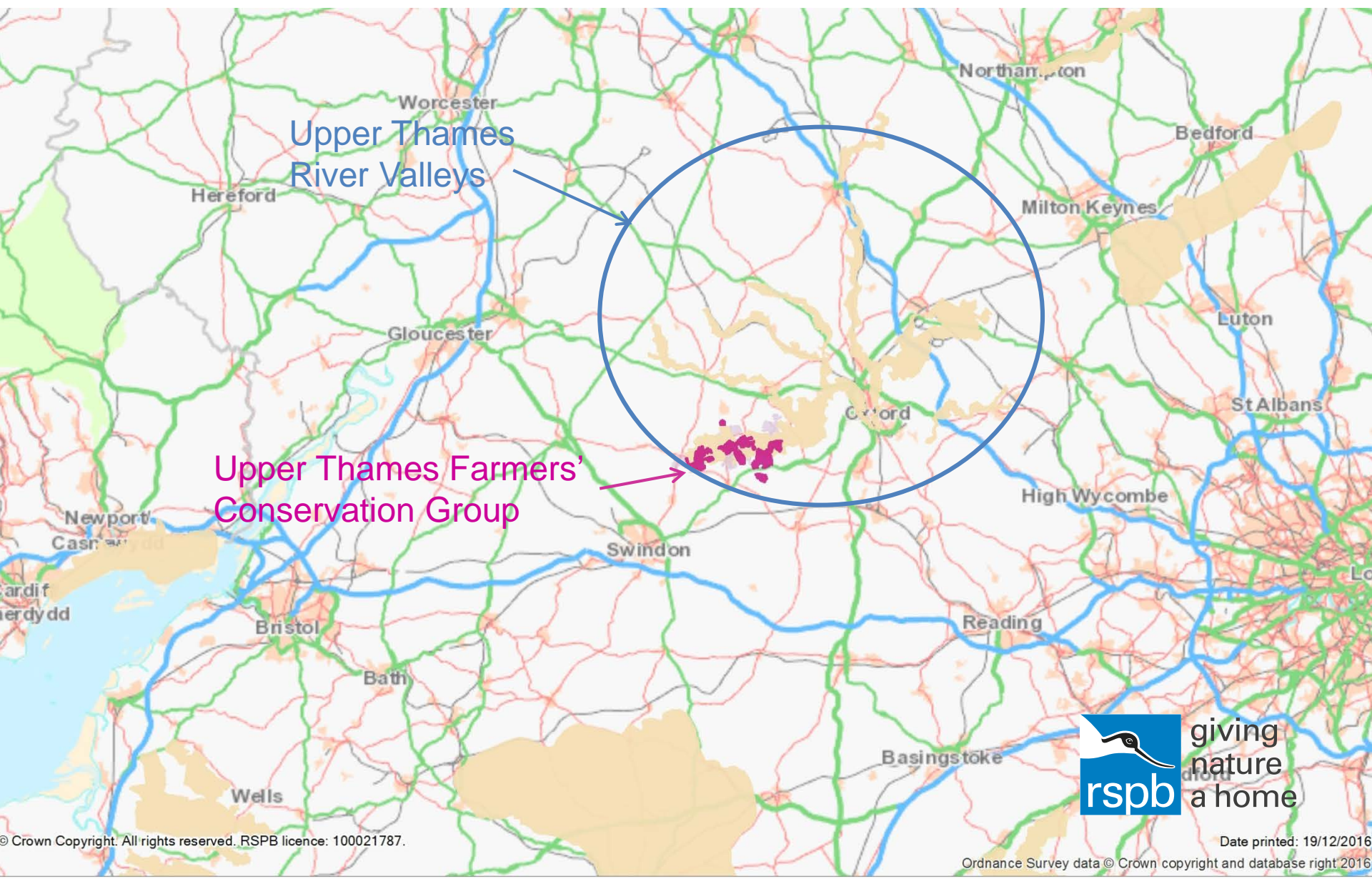
Eurasian curlew breeding distribution



Data from BTO
Bird Atlas 2007-11

Upper Thames
River Valleys

Where?

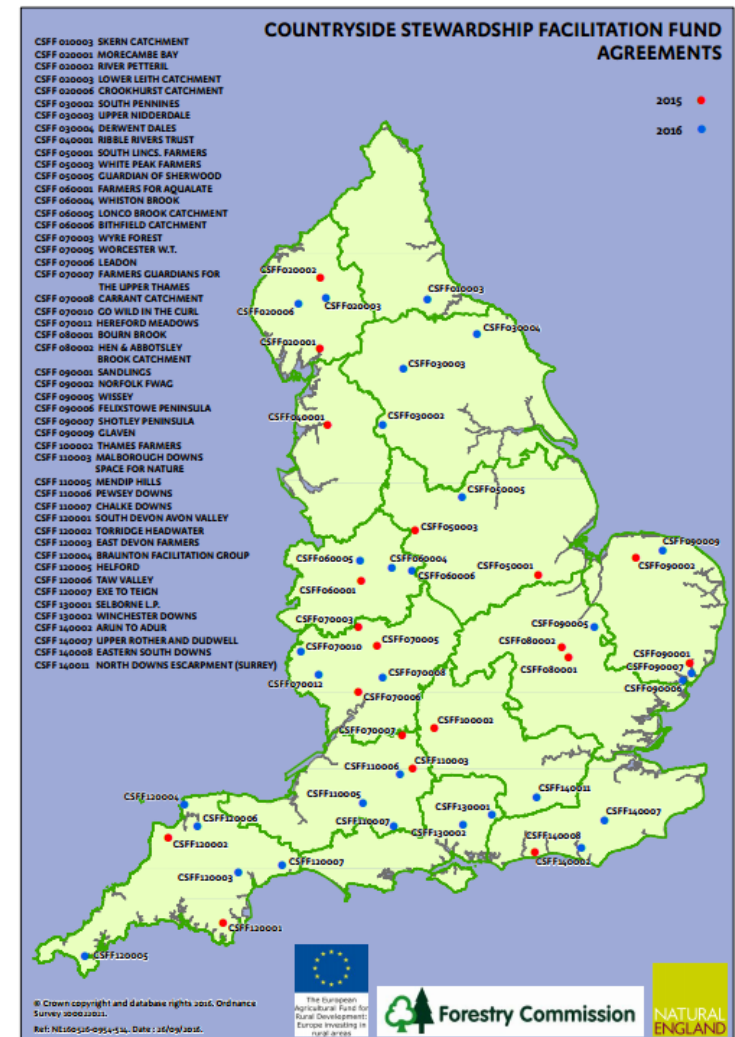




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What is the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund??

‘Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund supports people and organisations that bring farmers...together to improve the natural environment at a landscape scale.’





First - facilitation

- Facilitation ≠ advice!
- Framework – NE's Stewardship landscape environmental priorities
- *Farmers* shortlist priorities
- *Farmers* identify challenges
- *Farmers* steer activities

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Priority: habitat for breeding waders





Priority: floodplain grazing marsh





Priority: species-rich meadows





Priority: wild pollinators and farm wildlife



Chris Gomersall (rspb-images.com)

Activities – start small, then grow

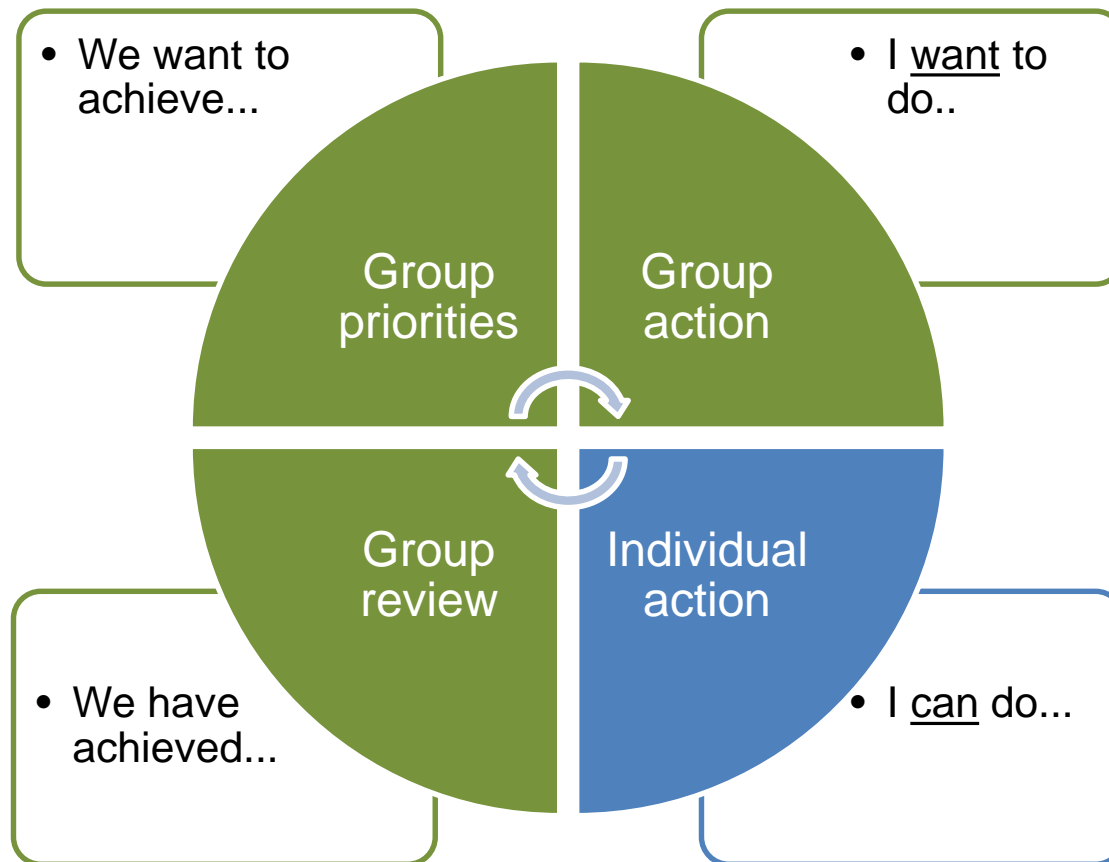




Second – individual support

Map removed

Group development CATALYSES individual action



Habitat results



107

Trees being pollarded



Habitat results



1,565 metres

Hedgerow being
restored

Habitat results



14,115 square metres

Footdrains and scrapes created



Habitat results



129 hectares

Wet grassland for waders



Habitat results



242 hectares
Species-rich meadow



Early results

Map removed



Upper Thames curlew project

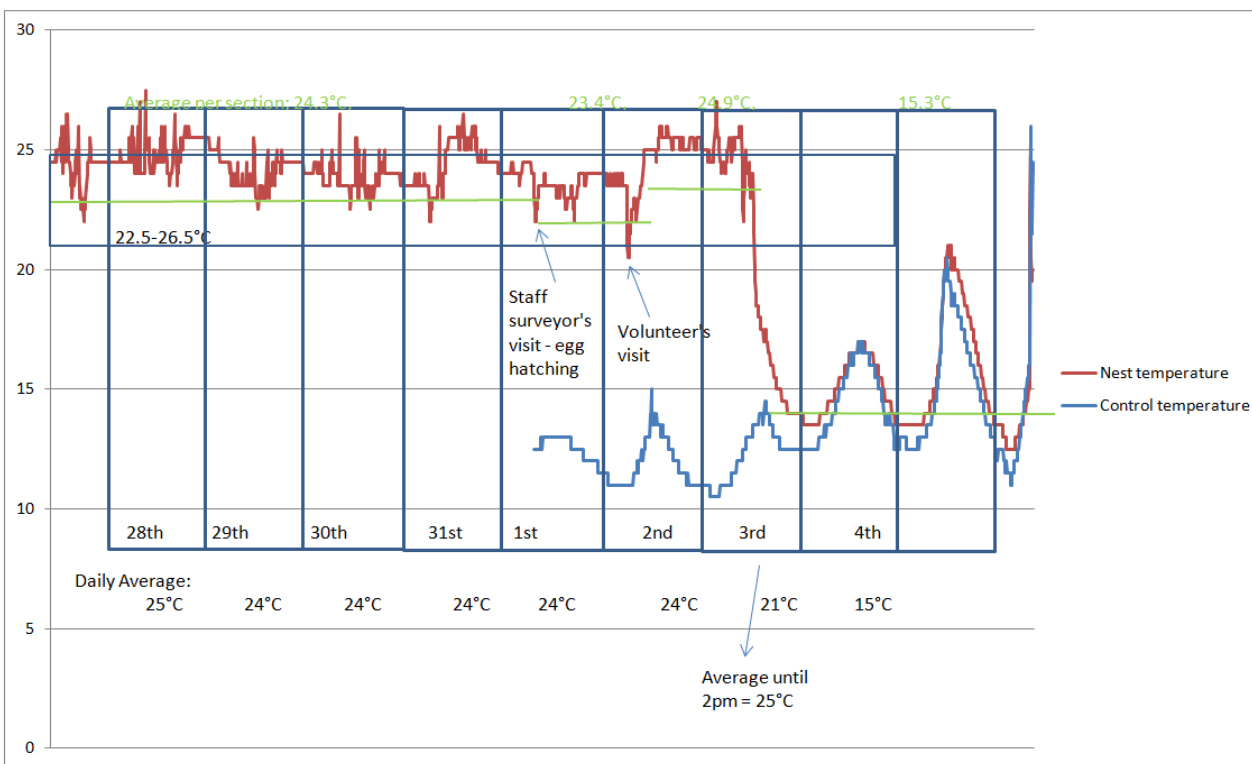


Kirsty Brannan (RSPB)



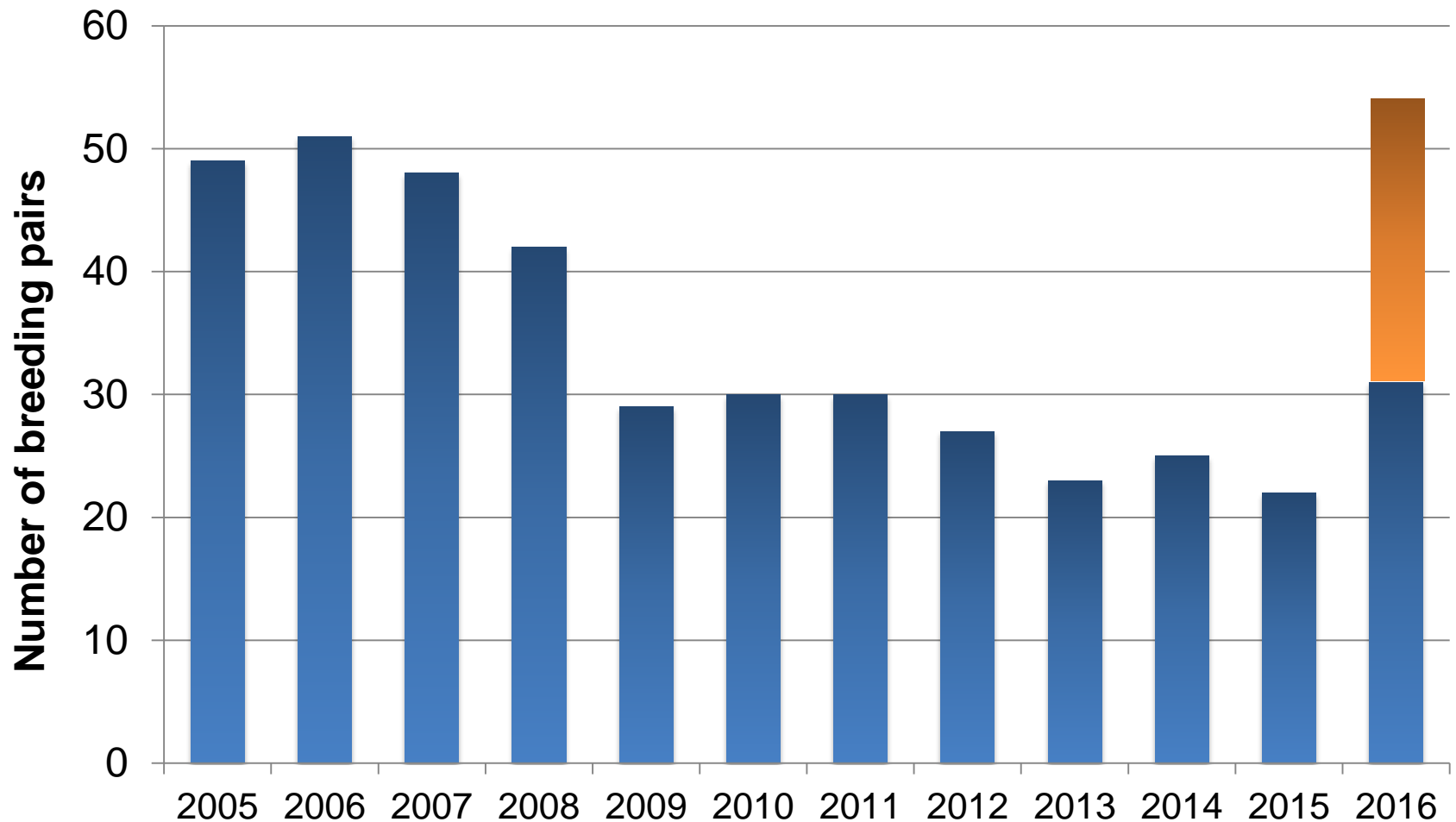
Chris Hodges

Upper Thames curlew project





Curlew in sample surveys across Upper Thames





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The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home.

The Upper Thames Farmers' Conservation Group is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and is part of the Rural Development Programme for England.

The RSPB is part of BirdLife International,
a partnership of nature conservation
organisations working to give nature a
home around the world.

