

# The Curlew Forum



# Origins



# What's it for?

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‘Our goal is to work with farmers and land managers to reverse the current decline of breeding curlew across southern England.

We will do this by monitoring status, sharing knowledge and experience, raising awareness, offering advice, and securing funding to implement effective conservation measures.’

Informal co-ordinating committee

Representatives from each (most)  
population







## About this website

There has in recent years been a growing realisation that, in northwest Europe (and in other parts of the



## Curlew Sites

This map shows the main Southern England Curlew breeding sites in green. Click on a site to go to the



## Conferences

There were Curlew Conferences in 2016 and 2017, and a further one is planned in January 2018. The

## Feedback

### How to tell whether eggshells in Curlew nests have hatched or been predated

26 Sep, 2017 in Feedback by curladmin

Question from Mike Smart (14/05/2017): Juliet Bailey and I found an apparently predated nest in the Severn Vale in early May (much too early for the eggs to have hatched even in an early year like 2017); the nest had been ripped up, and had two broken eggs, in very [...]



### Tips on finding Curlews' nests

15 Sep, 2017 in Feedback by curladmin

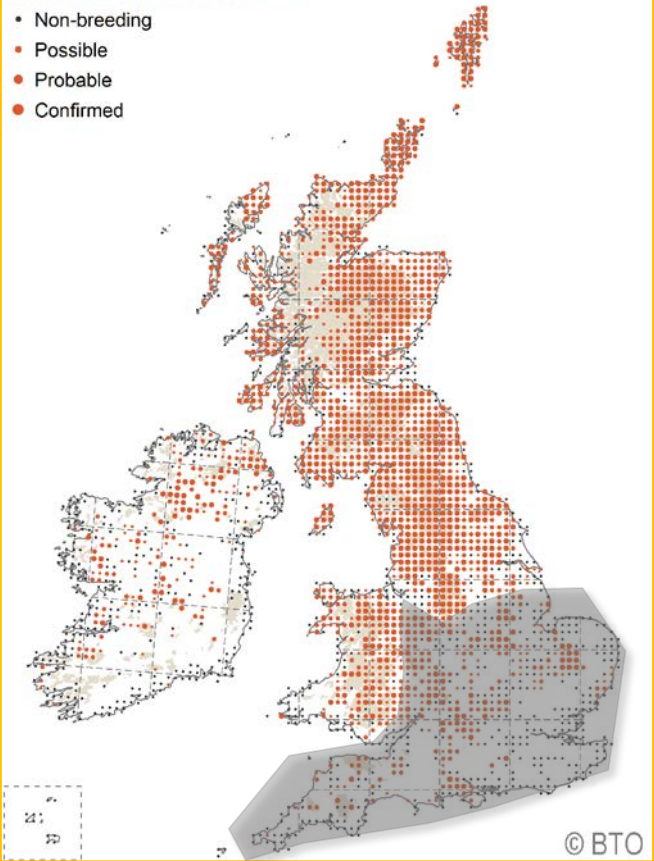
The following notes on finding Curlews' nests were provided by several experienced field workers, in response to a request from Barry O'Donoghue of the Irish National Parks Service, as a contribution for the planning of the 2018 monitoring season. As noted by Barry, "Different regions and probably different sites will [...]"





Breeding Distribution 2008–11

- Non-breeding
- Possible
- Probable
- Confirmed

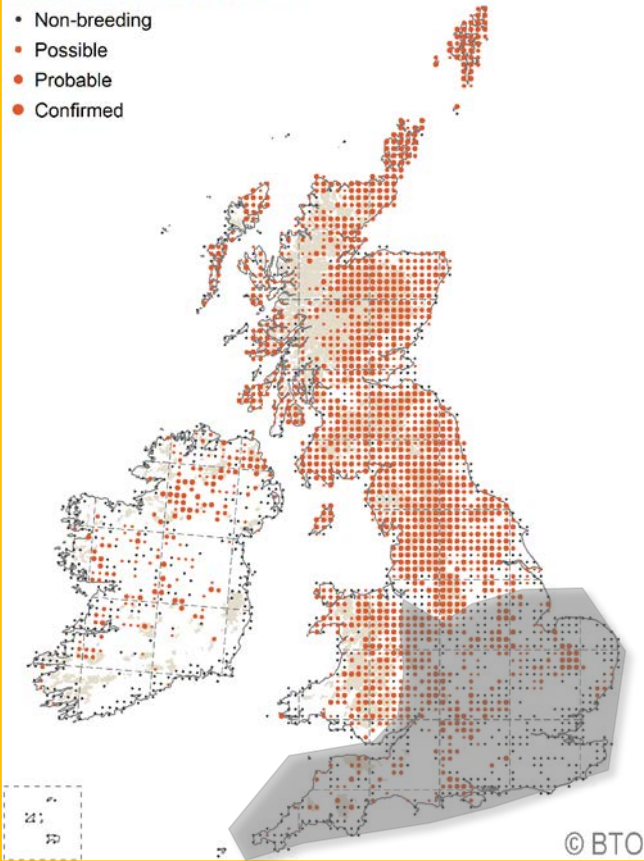


- A small part of the population
- A substantial part of the historic range



# Breeding Distribution 2008-11

- Non-breeding
- Possible
- Probable
- Confirmed



Shropshire 140 pairs

New Forest 40 pairs

Upper Thames 40 pairs

Severn & Avon Vales 35 pairs

Breckland 30 pairs

Somerset Levels 20 pairs

Herefordshire 9 pairs

Salisbury Plain 8 pairs

North Wiltshire 6 pairs

Dartmoor 4 pairs

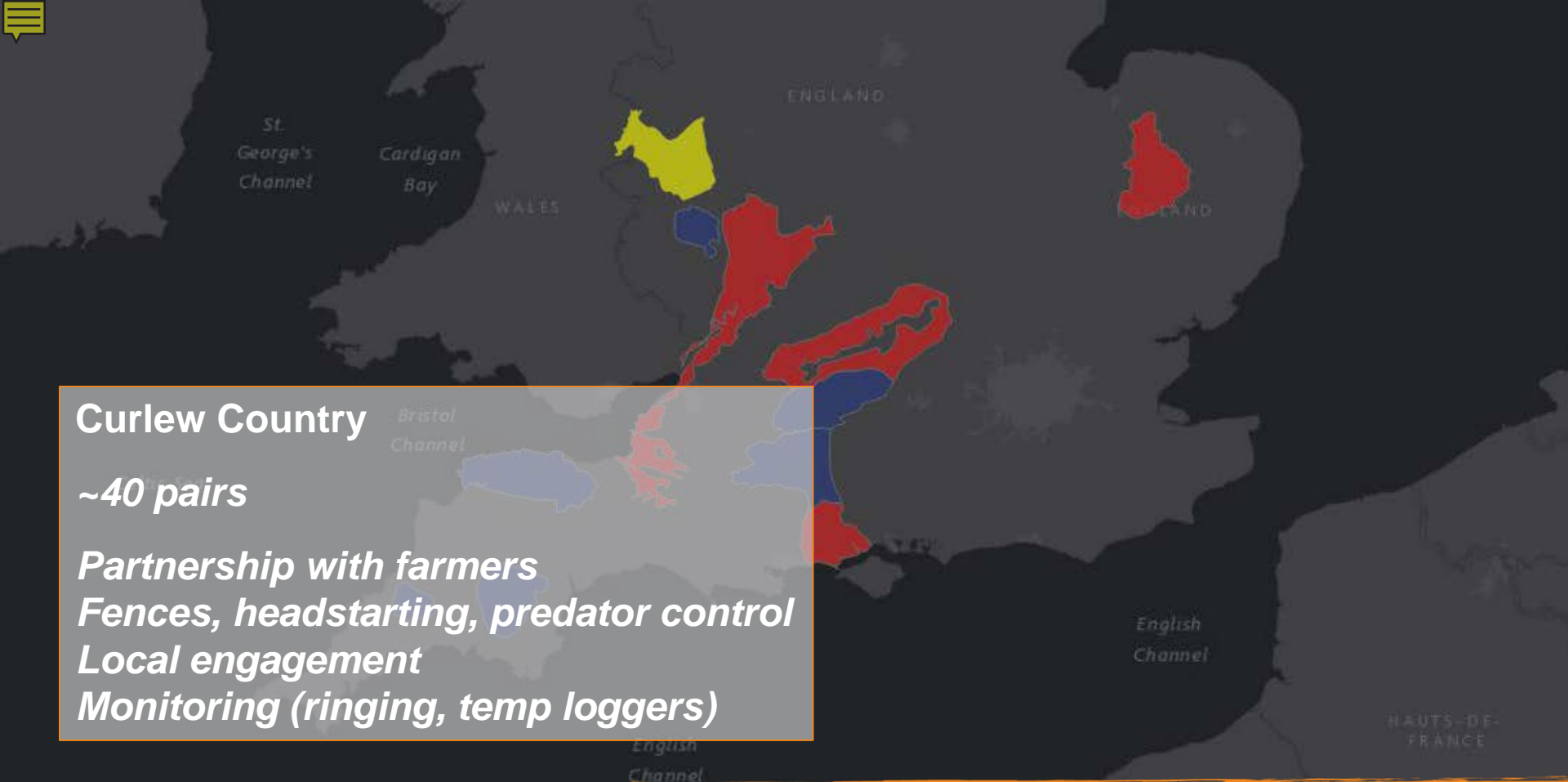
Exmoor ??

Bodmin ??

The rest ??

TOTAL ~330 pairs





## **Curlew Country**

*~40 pairs*

*Partnership with farmers*

*Fences, headstarting, predator control*

*Local engagement*

*Monitoring (ringing, temp loggers)*



***RSPB with MoD and vols***

***~8 pairs on permanent  
grassland (downland)***

***Nest monitoring***







Celtic Sea

Bristol  
Channel

ENGLAND

Wales

*RSPB led (mostly reserves)*

*~20 pairs on wet meadows*

*Large-scale management for nature  
Doing well!*



Channel

Celtic Sea

ENGLAND

ENGLAND

English

English  
Channel

HAUTE-DE  
FRANCE

*Mike Smart; volunteer run*

*~35 pairs in old hay meadows*

*Survey & monitoring  
Partnership with farmers (and EA)*

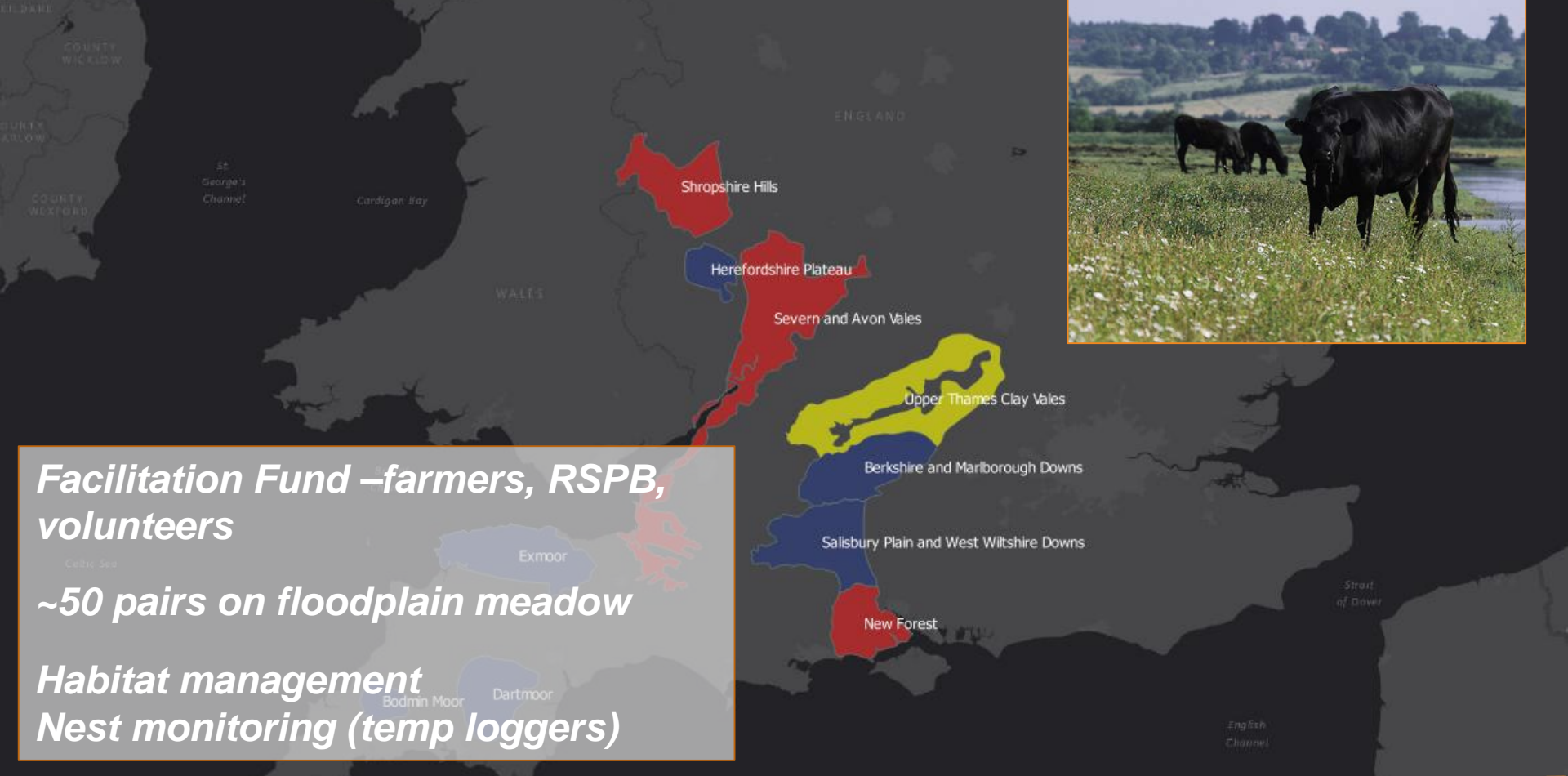


***RSPB/UEA/NE PhD project (on stone curlews!)***

***~30 pairs on grass heath***

***Nest monitoring (temp loggers)***

***Experimental management***



***Facilitation Fund –farmers, RSPB, volunteers***

***~50 pairs on floodplain meadow***

***Habitat management***  
***Nest monitoring (temp loggers)***



Upper Thames



***Soton Uni / volunteers***

***~40 pairs on wet heath & bog***

***Nest monitoring (temp loggers)***



## Problems:

- Predation (mostly mammals)
- Agricultural operations
- Recreational disturbance

## Solutions:

- Fences, headstarting, predator control
- Ultimately: landscape management
- Working with farmers & agri-environment





- Don't monitor to extinction!
- Bring more groups in
- Facilitation Fund
- Greater than the sum of its parts:
  - Shared learning
  - Pooled data for research
  - Joint projects?
- Headstarting?













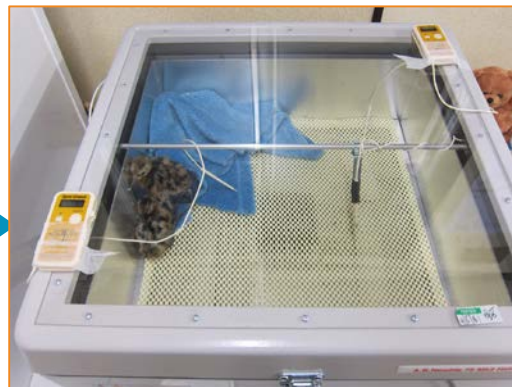
Parents: Welney 3 pairs,  
Nene 35 pairs



Welney: 2 fledglings;  
0.7 fledglings per pair

Nene: 5 fledglings; 0.14  
fledglings per pair

Overall: 0.18 fledglings  
per pair



Headstarting: 8 clutches, 32 eggs, 27 chicks



Headstarting:  
25 fledglings;  
3.1 fledglings per 'pair'

Overall:  
0.84 fledglings per pair