

Curlew in the  
context of  
working for  
waders.



**Working**  
for **Waders**



Alastair MacGugan  
With thanks to Jessica Findlay

Whaup

Guilbneach

Harbinger of  
bad news

Flaap

The dog fox  
returning to  
the den at last  
light

The conservation  
challenge

The changing seasons

The icon – The opportunity



# Natural science & Local knowledge

Scotland's  
**MOORLAND FORUM**



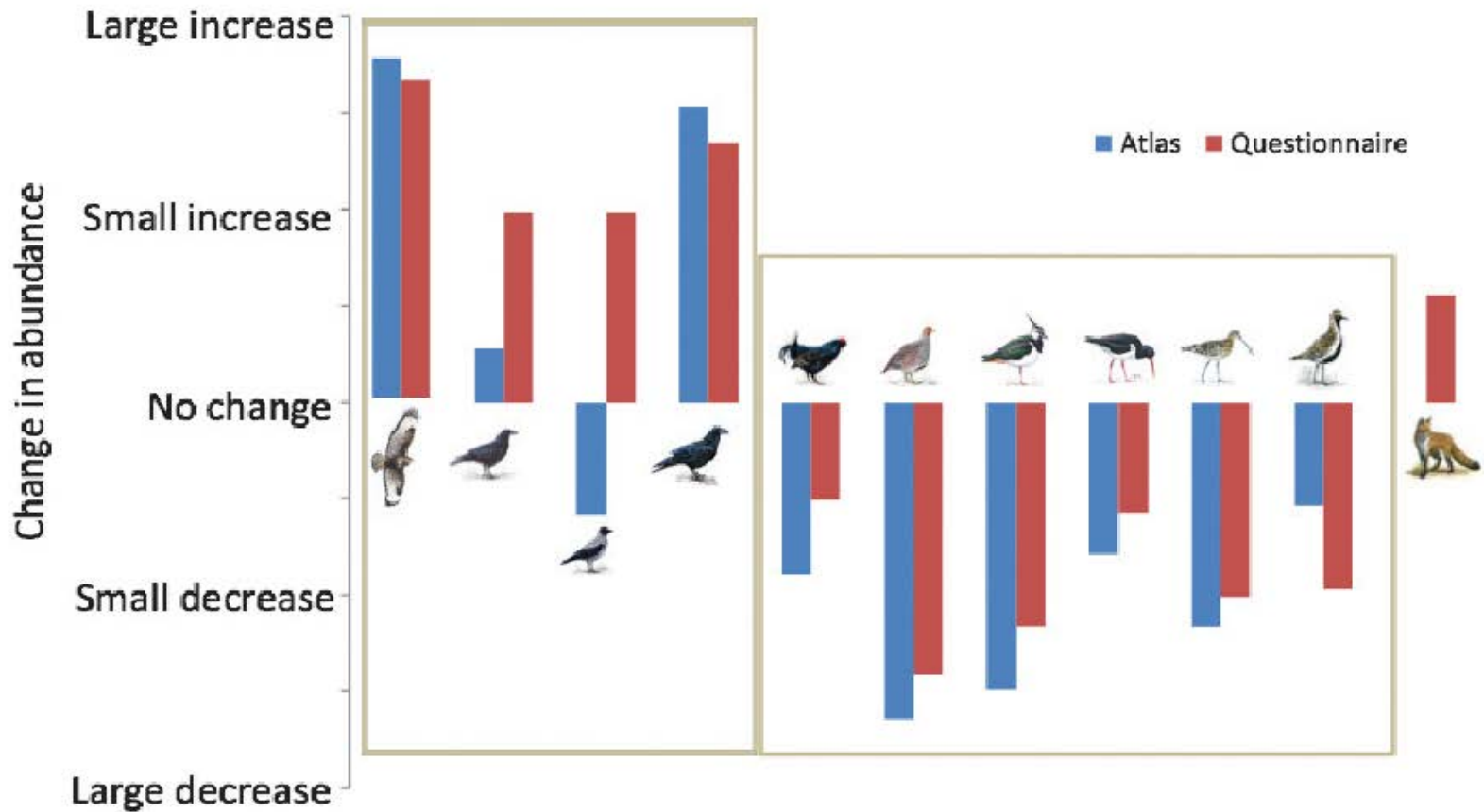
## UNDERSTANDING PREDATION

A review bringing together natural science and local knowledge of recent wild bird population changes and their drivers in Scotland



Gill Ainsworth (University of Aberdeen), John Calladine (BTO Scotland), Blaise Martay (BTO Scotland), Kirsty Park (University of Stirling), Steve Redpath (University of Aberdeen), Chris Wernham (BTO Scotland), Mark Wilson (BTO Scotland) & Juliette Young (CEH Edinburgh)

# Knowledge & Science



Comparison between Ecological Survey Data (Blue) and Stakeholder Knowledge (Red)

# Findings: Common Ground

- ***Predation*** an important factor driving population change
- ***Habitat and land-use*** change also ranked highly
- Recognition of need to improve ***habitat quality***



# Habitat & Predator Management



# What is Working for Waders?

Working for Wader YouTube

# What is Working for Waders?

- Collaborative Initiative
- Co-produced actions
- Aims to reverse the significant declines in waders





# Who is WfW

- Fluid membership - open to all with an interest and involvement in waders
- Current participants include RSPB, BTO, JHI, SRUC, SNH, Moorland Groups, SACS, SL&E, GWCT
- Still trying to encourage farming/crofting participation



# How is WfW different?

- Multiple folk influencing what should happen
- A safe place to share views
- Focus on building trust to deliver
- Demands a different kind of leadership
- Relies on a willingness to co-operate
- Need to listen to people you don't agree with



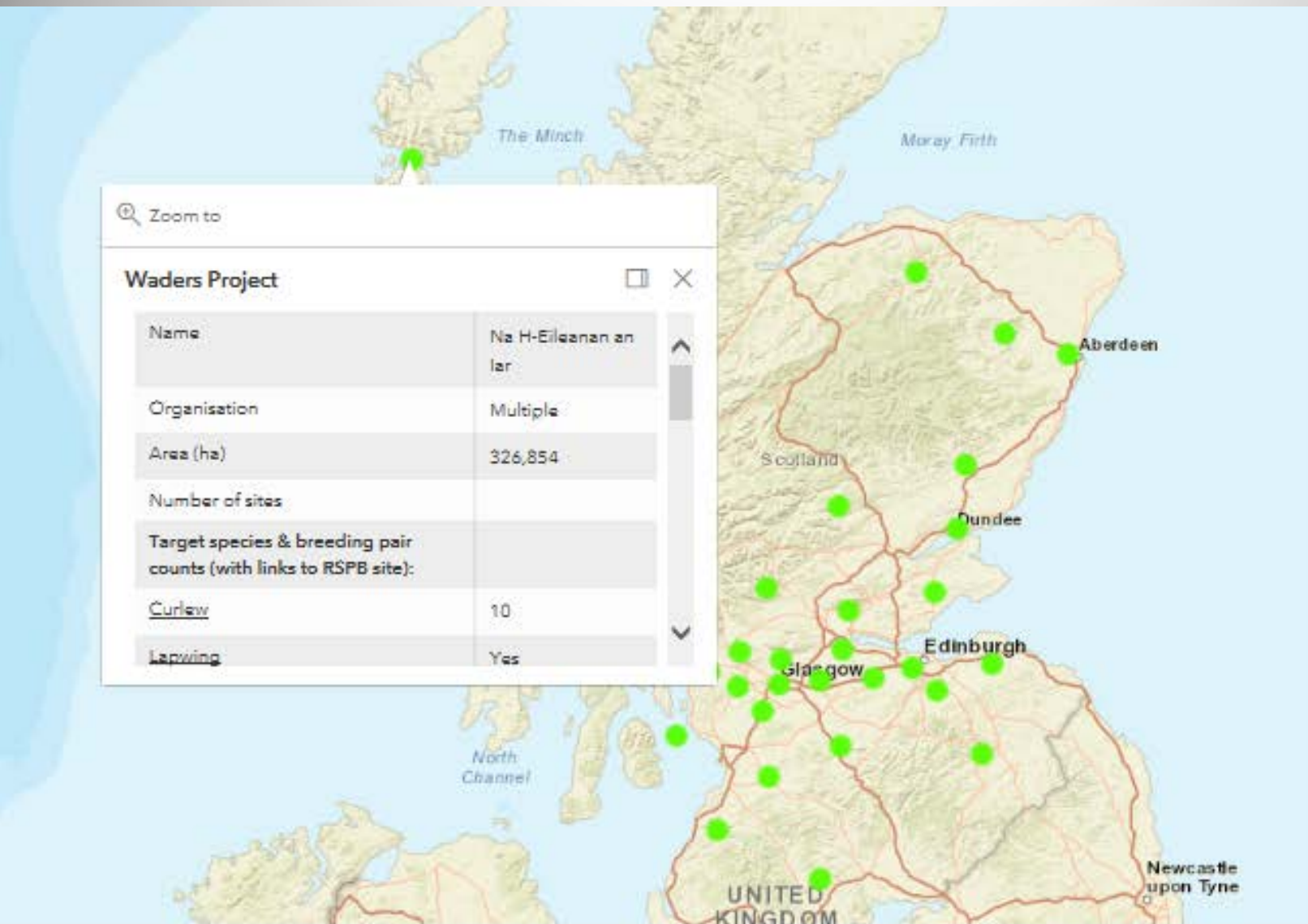
# What is happening?

- 1) Identify solutions to blockages to working collaboratively**
- 2) Carry out wader monitoring & conservation in East Scotland**
- 3) Produce Best Practice Guidance on waders**
- 4) Identify wader hot spots**
- 5) Produce a Wader Project Map**
- 6) Explore Wader Facilitation Fund**
- 7) Develop wader fieldwork guidance**
- 8) Develop a Wader Website**
- 9) Scoping a wader information HUB**

Zoom to

### Waders Project

Name	Na H-Eileanan an Iar
Organisation	Multiple
Area (ha)	326,854
Number of sites	
Target species & breeding pair counts (with links to RSPB site):	
<u>Curlew</u>	10
<u>Lapwing</u>	Yes



# People



# How WfW Works



# Knowledge

*'For every complex problem there is an answer which is clear, simple and wrong'*



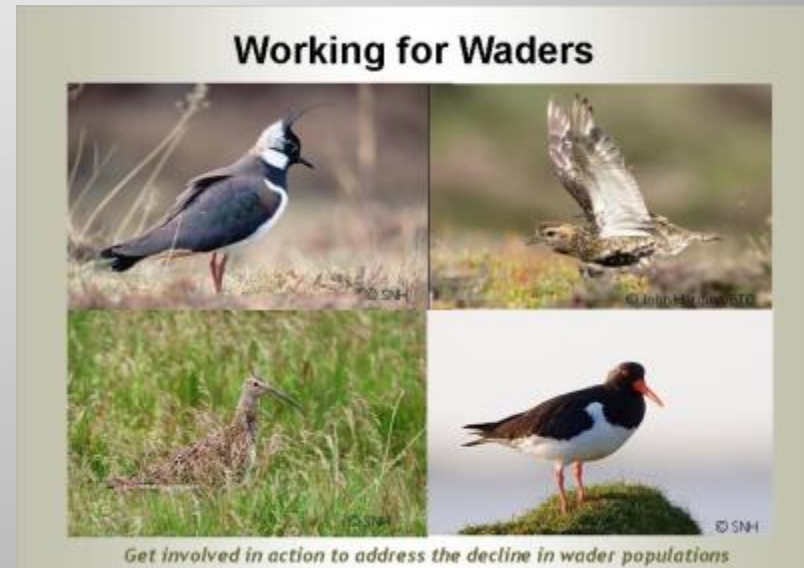
# Trust





# Challenges

- Investment of time
- Resourceful resourcing
- Needs active leadership
- Need to give up 'control'
- Lead from the bottom up
- Handle uncertainty





A future for wading birds in Scotland  
[www.waders.com](http://www.waders.com)

