

The UK lowland curlew recovery project

# Curlew Country

Based in the Shropshire Hills and Welsh Marches

## CURLEW COUNTRY NEEDS URGENT HELP NOW TO CONTINUE ITS VITAL WORK

[www.curlewcountry.org/curlewappeal](http://www.curlewcountry.org/curlewappeal)

This small **dynamic** project works at **landscape** scale to deliver its **trail blazing** conservation work for **UK lowland curlew recovery**.



Curlew Country is the **only** UK lowland curlew recovery **project** working on farmland (not reserve based), **to fledge significant numbers of chicks** (enough to start real recovery).

**TO SAVE FARMLAND CURLEW, REARING CHICKS (headstarting) is the ONLY affordable OPTION AVAILABLE NOW**

Curlew Country Research has demonstrated in **four years** that **curlews can survive** in the longer term if there is **realistic agri-environment funding** for **farmer support for breeding curlews**, coupled with **predation control**.  
It will take time to resolve achieve this.

# Curlew Country Achievements 2015 - 18



Curlew Country works effectively with partners who can deliver for conservation.

- Curlew Country has engaged the farming and land managing community, listened to their concerns, respected their views and involved them in the process of curlew recovery.
- Working with a farm business manager, Curlew Country has established the true costs to farmers of giving up crops to support breeding curlew and why existing agri-environments schemes don't work. This information is being fed back to policy makers.

- 2 years of nest monitoring and research have demonstrated the need for predation control alongside habitat management.
- Trial predation control and rewards to farmers have enabled chicks to fledge from natural nests.



It 'gets real' about predation control.

- Curlew Country respects the views of those concerned about sensitive subjects including predation control, takes an open mind until evidence is gathered and then demonstrates to those with doubts the need based on evidence (and usually maintains their support).

- Trials of rearing chicks have demonstrated that this can be achieved to boost numbers of a seriously threatened

population of curlew.

- It has embraced and nurtured the desire of a wide community to better understand and become actively involved in the recovery of an iconic species



It gets results and acts quickly based on its findings.



Trialled temporary electric fencing to greatly improve hatching rates of curlew eggs.



Live nest camera attracting local, national and international curlew awareness.



First UK licence to incubate eggs, rear chicks and re-release into the wild.

UK  
Firsts



# CURLEW COUNTRY TIMELINE



Years 1&2:  
Nests monitored  
but **no chicks**  
**survive.**



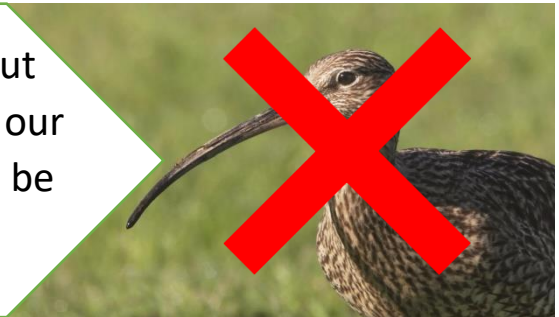
Year 3: Trials of  
nest protection  
and headstarting,  
**9 chicks survive.**



Year 4:  
Headstarting and  
nest protection, **21**  
**chicks survive.**



Year 5: Without  
**urgent** funding our  
great work will be  
undone.



So much will be lost without your help:

- A nationally important curlew population
- The goodwill and faith of farming partners
- The opportunities that curlew discussions have unlocked to deliver wider environmental benefits on farms
- The inspirational work of the small cost-effective project team of staff and dedicated volunteers
- A new, successful, pragmatic and trail-blazing approach to lowland curlew recovery

**Please give now: [www.curlewcountry.org/curlewappeal](http://www.curlewcountry.org/curlewappeal)**

or send a cheque payable to 'Ground nesting birds Recovery Group' and send it to  
The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge,  
Hampshire, SP6 1EF.

**Please make sure to mark it for Curlew Country and request a gift aid form if applicable.**