

## Archive

### SWT/SOS Save our Curlews Campaign and Appeal

In 2018 and 2019, Shropshire Wildlife Trust and SOS established a long-term County-wide 'Save Our Curlews' campaign, funded by a joint appeal. SWT withdrew in 2019. The Campaign and Appeal is being continued and co-ordinated by SOS.

This archive, starting with the next paragraph, includes items that were previously posted on the SOS website, but which are now out of date as a result of SWT's decision

Shropshire Wildlife Trust ([SWT](#)) and SOS established a long-term County-wide 'Save Our Curlews' campaign, funded by a joint appeal, in November 2017.

A multi-agency Shropshire Curlew Group, including SOS, has been set up to oversee the campaign. The Terms of Reference can be found [here](#).

An [outline strategy](#) was been agreed, extending the strategy developed by the Upper Onny Wildlife Group through the Stiperstones-Corndon Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) and 'rolling out' the lessons across the County i.e. develop Community Wildlife Groups (CWGs) to survey areas that hold breeding Curlew, to identify nesting areas, and then work with the landowners and farmers to find and protect the nest, and assess the outcomes. This must start by working with landowners, finding and protecting nests and monitoring the behaviour of chicks through radio-tagging. Expert help must be bought in to do most of this, and make maximum benefit of volunteers' time.

The Curlew breeding distribution map from the recent Atlas project was used to identify the areas where CWGs are needed. Most Curlew hotspots were already covered, but two new groups were needed, to cover the area south of Oswestry, and the Severn-Vyrnwy Confluence. CWGs to cover these two areas were set up in early 2018. Another Wildlife Group, at Abdon (near Clee Hill), also started a bird survey in 2018

The campaign will work in cooperation with, and support, the CWGs, which collectively monitor more than half of the Shropshire Curlew population.

Since the launch of the campaign and appeal, the Stiperstones Corndon Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) Curlew Recovery Project announced that it is continuing under the name "Curlew Country" beyond March 2018, under the auspices of the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust. It will continue with the nest monitoring and protection and other activities carried out in 2017, but it does not wish to participate in the Shropshire Curlew Group. SCG therefore decided to continue to implement the agreed strategy, starting with landowner liaison and finding and protecting nests in the Upper Clun and Clee Hill areas in 2018, if sufficient funds could be raised. The appeal has been successful, and project work in both these areas was undertaken in 2018.

#### The SWT/SOS 'Save Our Curlews' Appeal 2018-19

A joint appeal was launched to fund the campaign. The SOS Board agreed to donate £2,500 to the 2018 campaign. The Board decision can be found [here](#).

***SOS members, and everyone else who wants to ensure that Curlews return here to breed, are also requested to donate.***

- The appeal letter from the Presidents of the SWT and SOS is available by selecting [this link](#).

That Appeal was administered by SWT, but was accounted for separately. *Donors who pay UK tax were invited to complete a Gift Aid declaration.* This enabled SWT to re-claim the tax paid on the amount donated, so each donation is increased by 25p in the £1.

Funds raised by the Upper Onny Wildlife Group (UOWG) Curlew Appeal (over £10,000) were transferred to the SWT/SOS 'Save Our Curlews' Appeal.

The campaign will need to operate for many years to come, so the appeal will continue.

National conservation organisations are raising money for their own projects and priorities, but none of this money will be spent on saving Shropshire's Curlews. *The fate of the local population is in the hands of Shropshire's people.*

***Please give generously to support long term action to reverse the decline of one of our most iconic local breeding species***

***Reports on the Project work carried out in the Upper Clun and Clee Hill CWGs with the support of the SWT/SOS Appeal can be found on the SOS website Save our Curlews campaign home page, as it is continuing through the SOS Campaign and Appeal.***