

## Curlew Monitoring by Community Wildlife Group members



You'll have seen the notification that the second survey, as well as the first, has been cancelled.

However, the Curlew situation is critical, with a 77% decline between 1990 and 2010, and a further decline since. There's probably only 120 pairs left in the whole of the County now, and we haven't got long to save them from local extinction. We can't afford a total loss of data on their population and distribution in 2020.

Therefore, while you should obviously comply with the Coronavirus lockdown restrictions, please consider ways to continue to record Curlews, any you see or hear from home, or on your daily exercise.

**I still want to build up as complete a picture as possible this year, and I'd be grateful for any help you can give, please.**

Your options include

- If you can cover all or part of your allocated square as part of your daily exercise, please consider doing so. It's not necessary to cover the whole square, and you may be able to do different parts of it on different days. Concentrate on the areas where you might find Curlew.
- If you're unlikely to find Curlew in your allocated square, consider exercising in a different area where you're more likely to find them.
- If you can't get to your survey square without travelling, there might be other places near home where you can exercise, where you might see or hear Curlews.
- You may know other people who live in your square, or in part of the wider area, who also recognise Curlews, or their calls. Please ask them to telephone or email you with any information. Such informal social networks may also have wider community benefits, by helping to overcome the worst aspects of self-isolation.
- If you have to go out, to buy food or medicine, take your binoculars in your car with you. You can stop and scan likely places.

All information will be valuable in building the overall picture.

All records should indicate number of Curlews, behaviour (feeding, in flight, nesting, display (bubbling) call, agitated call, chasing off crows, Buzzards, etc.), and date and place.

Please also check Curlews for colour-rings

You can send Curlew records to me on survey tetrad maps, or the casual records maps for the CWG area, or by email with the record and grid reference. If you want a survey map for a different area, please ask.