Tanat to Perry

Community Wildlife Group

Bird Survey Results 2020

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Tanat to Perry (Oswestry south) Community Wildlife Group

The Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group (CWG) was established in March 2018, primarily to look for Curlews as part of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) and Shropshire Ornithological Society (SOS) *Save our Curlews* Campaign. There were already Community Wildlife Groups surveying Lapwing and Curlew in most of the areas in the County where several pairs of Curlew had been found during Bird Atlas surveys carried out in 2008-13, but there was no previous coverage of this important area south of Oswestry.

The aim of the Group is to involve local people in surveying the area for Lapwing and Curlew, to see if the populations have continued to fall here following the Bird Atlas survey. The survey aims to locate the territories of breeding pairs, estimate the population, and if possible pin-point the fields with nests. No attempt is made to look for nests.

The area covered extends from Oswestry in the north to Kinnerley in the south, and eastward from the Welsh border to Ruyton-XI-Towns: from the Tanat to the Perry. It is shown on the Map in Appendix 1.

The launch meeting on 7 March 2018 received a presentation on the methodology and results of similar surveys carried out by Community Wildlife Groups in the Shropshire Hills since 2004, and the organisation of a similar survey in the Severn-Vyrnwy Confluence in 2018.

An introductory leaflet, outlining the reasons for the survey and how it would be carried out, with an appeal for volunteers and publicising the meeting, was distributed in the area, and sent out to SWT and SOS members. Posters were put up, and a press release was sent out.

The meeting was well attended, by 60 people, most of whom agreed to help. Several others, who were unable to come to the meeting, also volunteered to help. In total, 69 people, including 16 couples, plus one of the Shropshire Wild Teams, did survey work.

The survey was a success, and it was repeated in 2019, following another intensive publicity campaign and a well-attended briefing meeting on 5 March. Of the 50 people who attended, 26 were previous contacts (mostly surveyors), and 24 were new faces of whom 14 (including some 'pairs') signed up to survey tetrads. Other people, including some more surveyors who helped in 2018, also signed up to survey tetrads. All except four of the 43 tetrads were surveyed.

The survey was carried out again in 2020, as detailed in this report.

CURLEWS, LAPWINGS AND OTHER BIRDS SURVEY

A bird survey has been carried out in the area shown in Appendix 1 since 2018. It is intended to repeat the survey annually, to monitor long-term population trends for key species, as well as establish their current population and distribution.

Participants were asked to find out where Curlew and Lapwing occur in the breeding season, record behaviour indicative of breeding, and record other species, most of which are of nature conservation importance (i.e. they are Target Species for Government Agri-environment Schemes operated by Natural England, or they are on the *Red List* or *Amber List* of *Birds of Conservation Concern* in the UK because they have suffered large declines in the last 25 or 50 years, and/or are Target Species in the national Biodiversity Action Plan).

In addition to Lapwing and Curlew, the other target species were:-

- Kestrel
- Red Kite
- Barn Owl
- Grey Partridge
- Snipe
- Skylark
- Meadow Pipit
- Cuckoo
- Dipper
- Swift (nest sites only)
- Yellow Wagtail
- Dunnock
- Wheatear
- Whinchat
- Stonechat
- Spotted Flycatcher
- Tree Sparrow
- Linnet
- Bullfinch
- Yellowhammer
- Reed Bunting
- Corn Bunting

The area has been divided up into 43 survey squares, known as “tetrads” (2x2 kilometre squares, each made up of four of the one-kilometre squares shown on Ordnance Survey maps). These tetrads, and their reference code, are shown on the map in Appendix 1.

The survey normally consists of three visits to each of these tetrads, once during each of three specified two week periods, around 1st April, 1st May and mid-June. Plans were made to carry out the surveys in 2020 as normal: the 2019 report was sent to all participants,

and a public meeting primarily to recruit and brief new surveyors was held on 4 March. Over 30 people attended, while several participants from previous years sent apologies, but volunteered to continue in 2020.

Most squares were allocated to participants from previous years, or new volunteers who attended the public meeting or responded to early publicity, but eight of the 43 squares could not be allocated.

A practical fieldwork training meeting is usually held for those that want one, but this was abandoned due to the coronavirus restrictions introduced in mid-March.

The first and second surveys were cancelled too, after the Government's advice to people to stay at home to help prevent the spread of the virus. Some surveyors could do their square(s) within the daily exercise walk from home, complying with social distancing guidelines, and others were able to choose daily exercise walks from home that enabled them to collect records of the main target species, in any survey square. In these cases, surveyors were requested to concentrate on Lapwing, Curlew and Kestrel, and any potential Red Kite breeding sites, and submit records on tetrad sheets or casual records maps, or by email, as appropriate.

The lockdown restrictions in England were eased in mid-May, including allowing car journeys for travel to exercise, and no limit on the time spent exercising each day, so surveyors were requested on 15 May to resume survey work, and do a survey of their square(s) as soon as possible (the early May survey, a couple of weeks late), and the mid-June survey as usual. However, it was recognised that some of them would not be able, or willing, to do so, for various reasons, particularly residents in Wales who were subject to the different Covid-19 restrictions. At the same time, members were advised that "there have been more Cuckoo records than usual; it's not clear whether there are more Cuckoos about, or we're better able to hear them in the peace and quiet of staying at home", so they were asked to submit all records of Cuckoo as well.

This report therefore highlights the records of Curlew, Lapwing, Kestrel and Cuckoo.

In the event, five survey visits were made in the first period (in mid-March), none in the second period, 21 in the late second period starting on 15 May, and 29 in the third period starting 6 June. Thirteen tetrads were not surveyed at all, nine had one survey visit, 17 had two visits, and only four had three visits. Survey visits were carried out by 36 people, 28 of whom helped in 2019, and eight participated for the first time.

However, many members did make an effort to record Curlews and there were 37 casual records from 18 different tetrads. Unfortunately, the second period is the best time to locate Curlew territories, as they usually nest around 1 May, so they are more likely to be close to their nest site, rather than foraging over large distances, and they are less likely to have moved on following predation of their nest. Only eight of the casual Curlew records were in the period 23 April – 14 May.

The coverage actually achieved in 2020 is set out in Table 1. "Yes" means a survey was carried out. Blank means there was no coverage, unless there is a "Yes" in the Casual records column. At least one casual record was received from eight of the 13 squares with no survey coverage, so no records at all were received from only 5 of the 43 squares. This is a good effort in a very difficult year and special thanks are due to all who were able to contribute records. The interest of those who were unable to survey their tetrad is also acknowledged and it is hoped that everyone will be able to resume this vital fieldwork in the coming season.

Table 1. Coverage in 2020

Tetrad		Survey Period				Casual records
		First	Second	Second (late)	Third	
SJ22	G			Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ22	H			Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ22	I			Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ22	J				Yes	Yes
SJ22	L	Yes			Yes	
SJ22	M			Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ22	N					Yes
SJ22	P				Yes	Yes
SJ22	Q				Yes	Yes
SJ22	R					Yes
SJ22	S			Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ22	T	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ22	U				Yes	Yes
SJ22	V					Yes
SJ22	W				Yes	
SJ22	X				Yes	Yes
SJ22	Y					Yes
SJ22	Z				Yes	Yes
SJ32	A					Yes
SJ32	B			Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ32	C	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ32	D			Yes	Yes	Yes

Tetrad		Survey Period				Casual records
		First	Second	Second (late)	Third	
SJ32	E			Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ32	F					Yes
SJ32	G					
SJ32	H	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ32	I			Yes		Yes
SJ32	J			Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ32	K					
SJ32	L					
SJ32	M			Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ32	N					Yes
SJ32	P			Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ32	Q					
SJ32	R			Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ32	S			Yes	Yes	
SJ32	T					
SJ32	U			Yes	Yes	
SJ32	V					Yes
SJ32	W			Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ32	X			Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ32	Y	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
SJ32	Z				Yes	

Curlew

Curlew is the “most pressing bird conservation priority in the UK” (Brown *et al*, *British Birds* 2015), because the UK has an estimated 28% of the European, and 19-27% of the world population and is on the national *Red List* of *Birds of Conservation Concern* 4 (Eaton *et al*, British Birds 2015), because of a decline of 62% in the UK between 1969 and 2014. The BTO Breeding Bird Survey has found a 48% decline in the UK and a 31% decline in England over the 23 year period 1995-2018.

In Shropshire, it declined from about 700 breeding pairs in 1990 to 160 in 2010 (a loss of 77%), and it disappeared from 62% of the Atlas survey squares (tetrads) between 1985-90 and 2008-13. The decline has continued, and there were probably only 120 pairs left in the whole of the County in 2019. This is almost 30% of the total in southern England (*Saving England’s lowland Eurasian Curlews* Colwell *et al* British Birds 2020). At the current rate of decline, the County population will halve in about 13 years, and become virtually extinct in 25. Curlew is on the *Red List* of *Breeding Birds of Conservation Concern in Shropshire*, recently published by Shropshire Ornithological Society.

Survey results

The map summarises the estimated number and distribution of Curlew territories in the area in 2020. The location of all Curlews found during the surveys, or reported on Casual Record maps or by email, is shown on the map in Appendix 2 on p.24.

There was evidence of Curlew nests in five squares, as follows:-.

- SJ22H: A pair was resident near Bryn Farm throughout the season until late June
- SJ22T: Just east of Trefonen, in the area around Pentre Farm, Curlews were present continuously between 28 March and mid-June. Between 10 and 17 June, there were several observations of adult behaviour indicating the presence of chicks, including fighting off a Buzzard, a distraction display and mobbing Raven and Buzzard, and on 15 June the pair was seen with three chicks, feeding. On 13 June, this pair was joined by another pair from the east, to help with protecting the chicks from the Raven and Buzzard, and by one other adult while mobbing a Red Kite on 17 June. There was then “the odd call now and then for a few days after 18 June [but] nothing since”. Four adults were also seen on 8 and 11 June.
- This second pair were presumably the pair seen on several occasions in the north-east of this square, and beyond into SJ22Y. Evidence of a nest was found at both locations in the square in 2019, but there was no definitive evidence for a nest in the north-east in 2020, and SJ22Y was not surveyed.
- SJ22X: Near Gwern-y brenin, a pair was seen displaying on 23 April, and a nest with broken egg shells, possibly predated by a crow, was found in a hay meadow on 31 May. One or both adults were heard up until 16 June but not subsequently.
- SJ32C and SJ32H: The pair with the nest in SJ22X were also seen several times in SJ32C. On 8 June a pair was seen further east in SJ32C, feeding on the ground north of Ashfield. The male then “saw off a passing crow, a clear sign of territory / nest defence”, and then displayed over the field. Then another pair flew in from the west, calling, all four birds were in the air together, calling, and then the second pair drifted off to the east. A pair was recorded during all three survey periods at Bromwich Park in SJ32H, where a pair was recorded last year. It is possible that the two pairs together near Ashfield were those from SJ22X and SJ32H, but it is also possible that there is an additional pair there.
- SJ32J: Three Curlews were seen on 8 June, with two singing simultaneously, then a pair with four flying young on the very early date of 26 June was reported by the farmer.

Compared with 2019, the 2020 Territories Map is very similar, except that

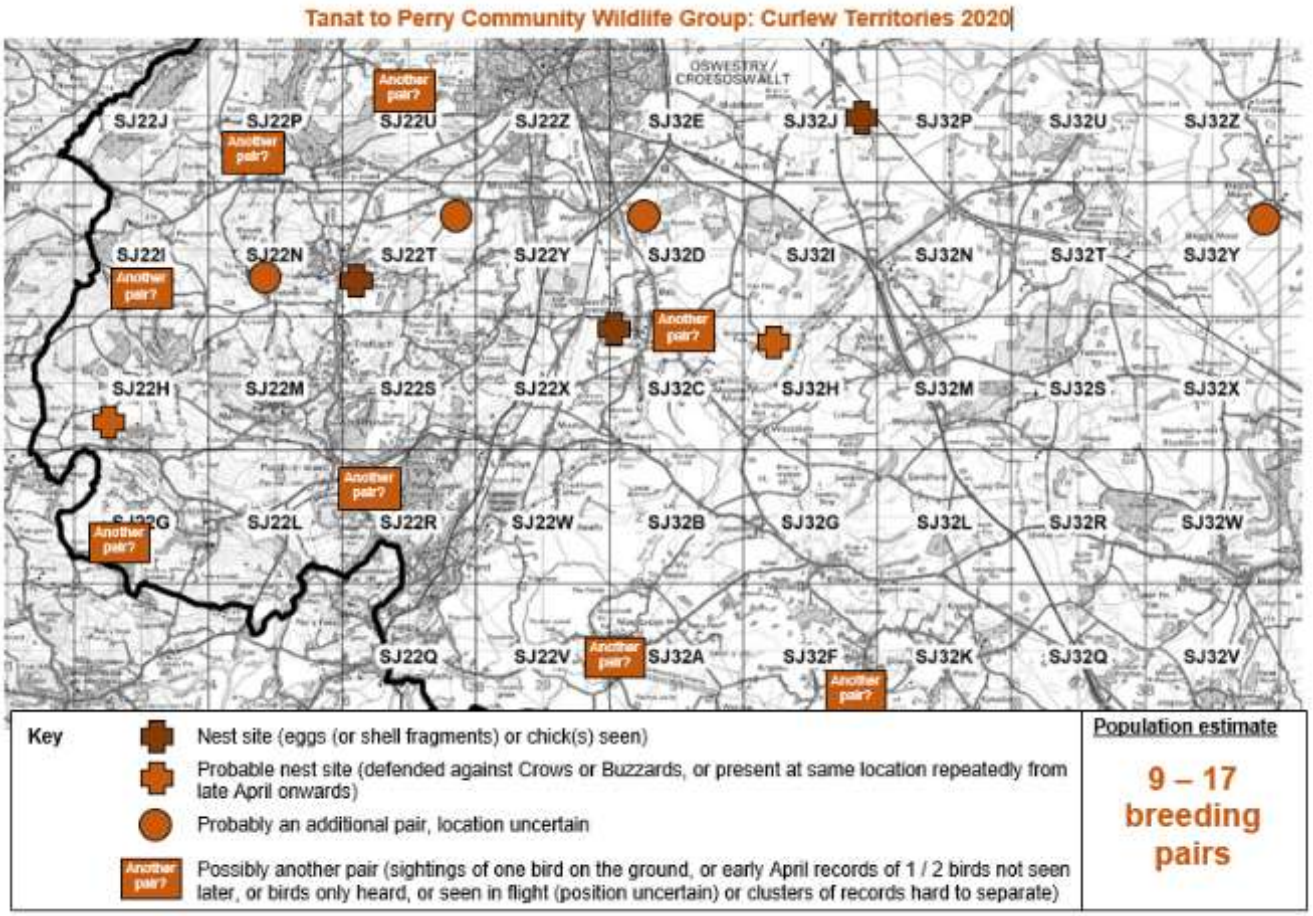
- There was “Probably an additional pair, location uncertain” in 2020 where a “Probable nest site” was mapped in 2019, in SJ22N and in SJ32D (i.e. there was less strong evidence in 2020, but this did not affect the population estimate)
- There was “Probably an additional pair, location uncertain” in 2019, where “Possibly another pair” has been mapped in 2020, in SJ22I and SJ22P (i.e. there was again less evidence in 2020, which reduced the minimum in the range given for the population estimate, but not the maximum)
- There were no records in 2019 to support the assessment of 2020 records that there could be other pairs in SJ22R, SJ32A or SJ32F
- There were no records in 2020 to suggest that sites mapped in 2019 were re-occupied: a “Probable nest site” in SJ22S, “Probably an additional pair” in the south-west corner of SJ22M, SJ22W and SJ32S, and a “Possibly another pair” in SJ32P. However, all of these squares had two visits (except SJ22W, which only had one), compared to the usual three, and none of these squares had visits at the best time to locate breeding Curlews, around the beginning of May.

In short:

- nine pairs were found in both 2019 and 2020 at the same locations
- two more of the “possibles” found in 2020 were present in 2019

- there were possibly another four individuals or pairs found in 2020 but not 2019, but there was not sufficient survey work in 2020 to prove the presence of a pair
- 5-6 pairs found in 2019 were not found in 2020, but this may be due to reduction in fieldwork effort
- It is not possible to conclude that there was any change in the breeding population in the area

Nevertheless, in spite of the reduced survey effort due to the coronavirus lockdown restrictions, the results have added considerably to our knowledge of Curlews in the area, and identified several sites to monitor carefully in 2021.



The Curlew population in the area is estimated at 9-17 pairs in 2020, compared with 15-19 pairs in 2019, and 12-15 in 2018.

The increase in 2019 will reflect improved survey coverage, and surveyors getting to know their squares better. The apparent decline in 2020 will largely be the result of reduced survey coverage due to Covid-19.

Population Trend

Establishing trends is not easy, as some squares have not been surveyed every year, with coverage in 2020 being particularly difficult, but pairs of Curlews are site-faithful, so as the locations of territories become more certain in the light of increased knowledge, it is possible to re-interpret the results of the surveys from earlier years. This will be attempted in 2021, if survey coverage is good.

Colour-ringing

Well over 150 wild Curlews have been caught and colour-ringed by the Mid-Wales Ringing Group since March 2015 at the Dolydd Hafren Montgomery Wildlife Trust Reserve on the

River Severn near Welshpool. All the “headstarted” chicks released by Curlew Country near the Stiperstones since 2017 have also been colour-ringed.

The colour-rings can be seen in the photo, taken in the Upper Clun in 2017.

No colour-rings have been seen yet on birds in this area in any year. However, being able to see rings requires a good view of the bird on the ground, before the grass gets too long, so in practice most birds have not been checked.

Recording Curlew Nest Sites

To improve the value of CWG Curlew surveys, nest site habitat data is being collected to feed into the database being developed by the South of England Curlew Forum. Although nests are not searched for, they are found occasionally. More importantly, the field containing the nest can often be identified (by seeing the sitting bird from a distance, or from the behaviour of the adults defending the nest from potential predators), and as far as defining the habitat is concerned, the precise location of the nest within the field is unnecessary.

Observers have been requested to complete a questionnaire for every case where a nest was found, or the field containing the nest was identified beyond reasonable doubt.

Some of the questions try to assess what farming activities take place in the field during the period before any chicks would fledge, up until early August (the full term if a pair nest late, or relay after the first clutch fails).

The questionnaire has been piloted this year, and comments on it (including any omissions) have been requested.

The nest site found in this area (with egg shells that were probably predated, shown in the photo, and the field containing a second nest, are shown on the Curlew Records Map in Appendix 2, as a cross with hatched colour.

Lapwing

Lapwing was added to the national *Red List* of *Birds of Conservation Concern* in 2009, and this status was confirmed in 2015 (Eaton *et al*, British Birds 2015), because of a decline in the UK of 63% between 1969 and 2014, and 57% over the previous 25 years. The BTO Breeding Bird Survey has found a 43% decline in the UK and a 30% decline in England over the 23 year period 1995-2018.

In Shropshire, it declined from about 3,000 breeding pairs in 1990 to 800 in 2010 (a loss of 73%), and it disappeared from 46% of the Atlas survey squares (tetrads) between 1985-90 and 2008-13. The decline has continued, certainly in the areas monitored by several Community Wildlife Groups. Lapwing is on the *Red List* of *Breeding Birds of Conservation Concern in Shropshire*. The decline is partly obscured by the much larger numbers seen in winter flocks, which comprise birds escaping from the frozen ground in northern Europe.

Lapwings need short vegetation or bare ground to nest on, and those that nest on arable land have to move round to follow the farm crop rotation.

The map in Appendix 3 on p.25 shows the locations of all Lapwings recorded on the surveys, or on casual records. The map below summarises the estimated number and distribution of breeding Lapwings in the survey area.

The records from each square are summarised below:

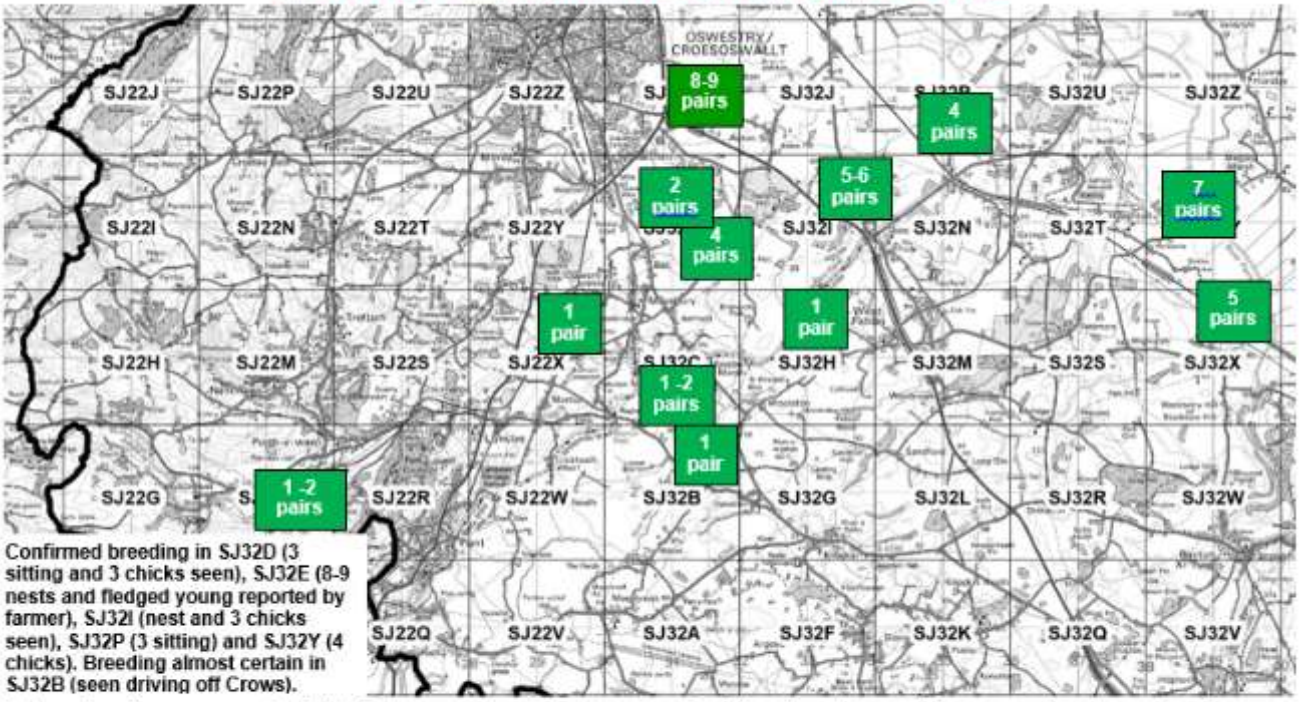
- SJ22L: three were calling in a fallow field on 16 May.
- SJ22X: a pair was seen on 21 April, the field was subsequently cultivated, a pair was seen again on 29 May, but no further evidence of breeding was noted.
- SJ32B: a casual record reported a pair battling with four corvids at Moreton Hall on 17 April.
- SJ32C: two observations, one of one Lapwing and the other of three, both on 18 May, suggests 1 -2 pairs
- SJ32D: two sites in the square, four adults and two chicks at Buckley Farm on 27 May, and 8 adults and three nests at Hisland on 27 May, with chick seen on 13 June, suggests six pairs. Twenty-four at the latter site on 16 June probably included some of these birds, and perhaps some fledged young, but largely comprised a post-breeding flock from nearby sites.
- SJ32E: 10 adults, several with chicks, on 15 May, 8-9 nests estimated by farmer, and a post breeding flock of about 30 on 16 June
- SJ32H; two flying south-east at Aston Lock on 6 May, may not have bred in square
- SJ32I: Two pairs were recorded on the survey on 18 May near Wootton, but casual records on five dates between 29 March and 17 May reported a maximum of 11 adults (5-6 pairs) including one on a nest on 19 April and at least three chicks on 3 and 8 May.
- SJ32P: there were 8 (4 pairs) in the usual field to the west of the Montgomery Canal on 17 May, and seven casual records from the same place between 3 May and 4 June reported a maximum of 10 adults including two sitting on nests. One sitting on another nest was predated on or before 17 May. A post-breeding flock of 20 were seen on 4 June, which may have include fledged young or adults from other breeding sites. By 9 June the field had been ploughed and sown, so the other nests were destroyed and no Lapwing were seen.
- SJ32X: 10 (5 pairs) were seen on 24 March. One pair was there on 22 May and 17 June, the remainder presumably having joined the large flock in the next tetrad to the north (SJ32Y).

Lapwing chick in SJ32D

- SJ32Y: 40 were seen flying over on 22 March, but they were not seen to land. A pair was subsequently seen at each of two sites on Baggy Moor on 21 April, and SJ32Z:
- SJ32Y: a flock of about 40 was seen flying over on 22 March, but it is not known whether they landed. Fourteen (presumably 7 pairs) were seen on 24 March, including 3 mobbing a crow, indicative of a nest to protect (different birds to those in SJ32X). The same number were present on 20 May, together with a flock of 14, the latter presumably a post-breeding flock of failed or non-breeders. Three adults showed “defensive behaviour against crows” on 26 May, indicative of the presence of eggs or chicks. Eighteen present on 9 June, including two mobbing crows, may possibly have been the same pairs plus some fledged young, though there was still at least one nest or chicks. Ten were seen 11 days later, just to the north on the border with SJ32Z, again including some chasing off corvids.

In comparison with last year, 40-44 pairs is less than the 42-51 estimated in 2019, and the 44-47 in 2018, but it will be seen from Table 1 Coverage above that very little survey work was done in the first two survey periods, the best time to locate breeding Lapwings, and four squares with six pairs in 2019 but none recorded in 2020 were not effectively surveyed this year.

Tanat To Perry Community Wildlife Group: Lapwing Territories 2020



Confirmed breeding in SJ32D (3 sitting and 3 chicks seen), SJ32E (8-9 nests and fledged young reported by farmer), SJ32I (nest and 3 chicks seen), SJ32P (3 sitting) and SJ32Y (4 chicks). Breeding almost certain in SJ32B (seen driving off Crows).

No breeding sites were reported in the first or second periods, so some pairs at the sites shown on this map may have been relocations, as some Lapwings move sites between breeding attempts, if the first site becomes unsuitable (field is ploughed, crop grows too high, or ground dries out). Most breeding records were casual observations o from late second period surveys, after 15 May. Some pairs were still defending nests in the third period, but by this time many adults become inconspicuous, as chicks are led from arable to grassland, and are harder to see. Most breeding attempts fail, so most observations in the third period were of large post-breeding flocks. Four squares with an estimated six pairs in 2019 were not effectively surveyed in 2020.

Estimating the population is therefore difficult, but there were probably at least 40 - 44 pairs

The area probably holds 5-10% of Shropshire’s Lapwings, estimated at about 800 pairs in 2014.

Anecdotal Evidence for the Decline of Lapwing and Curlew

Participants who live in the area, and other local residents, say that Lapwings and Curlews are less common now than they used to be. Some members talked to local farmers in the

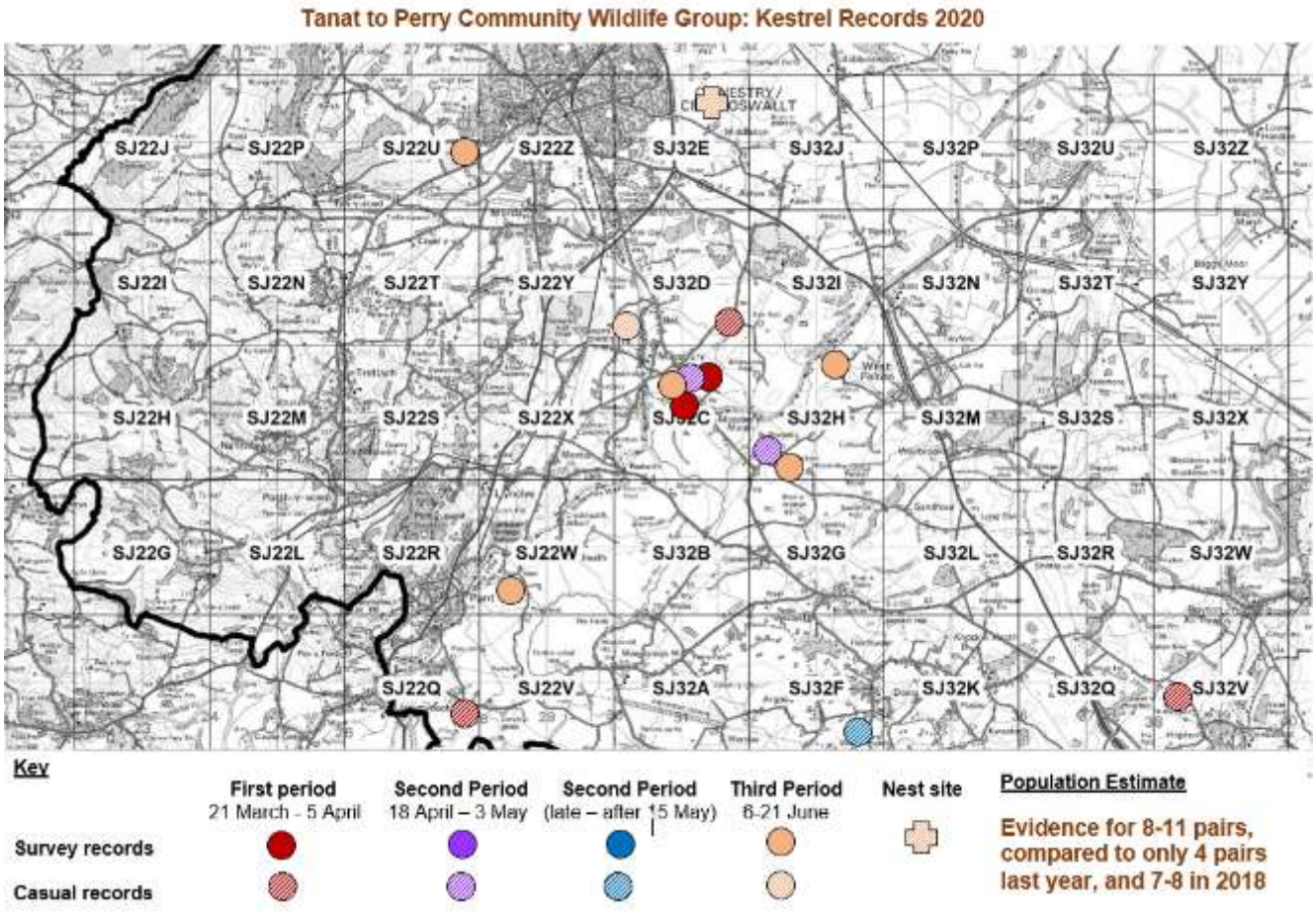
course of their surveys, and they too said that Lapwings and Curlew are less common now than they used to be.

Kestrel

Kestrel is on the national *Amber List* of *Birds of Conservation Concern* 4 (Eaton *et al*, 2015), because of a decline in the UK of 46% between 1969 and 2014, and 33% over the previous 25 years. The BTO Breeding Bird Survey has found a 35% decline in the UK and a 21% decline in England over the 23 year period 1995-2018.

In Shropshire, records of confirmed or probable breeding declined by 46% in the 870 Atlas survey squares (tetrads) between 1985-90 and 2008-13, and the population probably halved in that time. Kestrel is on the *Red List* of *Breeding Birds of Conservation Concern in Shropshire.*

Kestrels defend a small territory around the nest, but their home range, where they find most of their food, is at least 1 km square, but can be as large as 10 km square. Most hunting is usually carried out within 1.8km of the nest, but the home range is often partly shared with neighbouring pairs.



The local decline appears to have continued in recent years, and the Shropshire Ringing and Raptor Groups have launched a nest box scheme to help improve breeding success, and try and find out the reasons for the decline. To help get a better understanding of the population and distribution, members doing CWG surveys have been asked to make a special effort to record Kestrels.

The population varies from year to year, depending on prey abundance, mainly voles, but Kestrels are much more likely to be observed in good breeding seasons, when they have to spend more time hunting for food for chicks, and travelling to and from the nest. In 2019, the numbers of Kestrels seen were much lower in all the CWG areas than in 2018, suggesting that 2019 was a very poor year for them. 2020 appears to have been generally better. Clee Hill has a relatively high density, and the CWG found six nest sites, with the distance between two nests only about 1km, in 2020.

Observations in the Tanat to Perry CWG area in 2020 are shown on the Map. Some of the dots will be different observations of the same individuals. However, it is likely that the clusters of dots represent at least eight pairs, perhaps as many as 11. One nest was reported by a farmer, on the edge of a wood in SJ32E. Two young fledged. No nest sites were found on the surveys, although young would not have fledged until after the main survey period ended in mid-June.

Cuckoo

Cuckoo has declined considerably in recent years, and was added to the *Red List* of *Birds of Conservation Concern* in the UK in 2009. By 2015 the decline had reached 60% in the previous 25 years. The BTO Breeding Bird Survey has found a 71% decline in both England and the English West Midlands region between 1995 and 2018.

In Shropshire, comparison of the 1985-90 and 2008-13 Atlas distribution maps showed it had disappeared from 56% of the tetrads occupied in the earlier period. The population estimate for the later period published in *The Birds of Shropshire* was 90–95 pairs, less than half that estimated in the earlier Atlas.

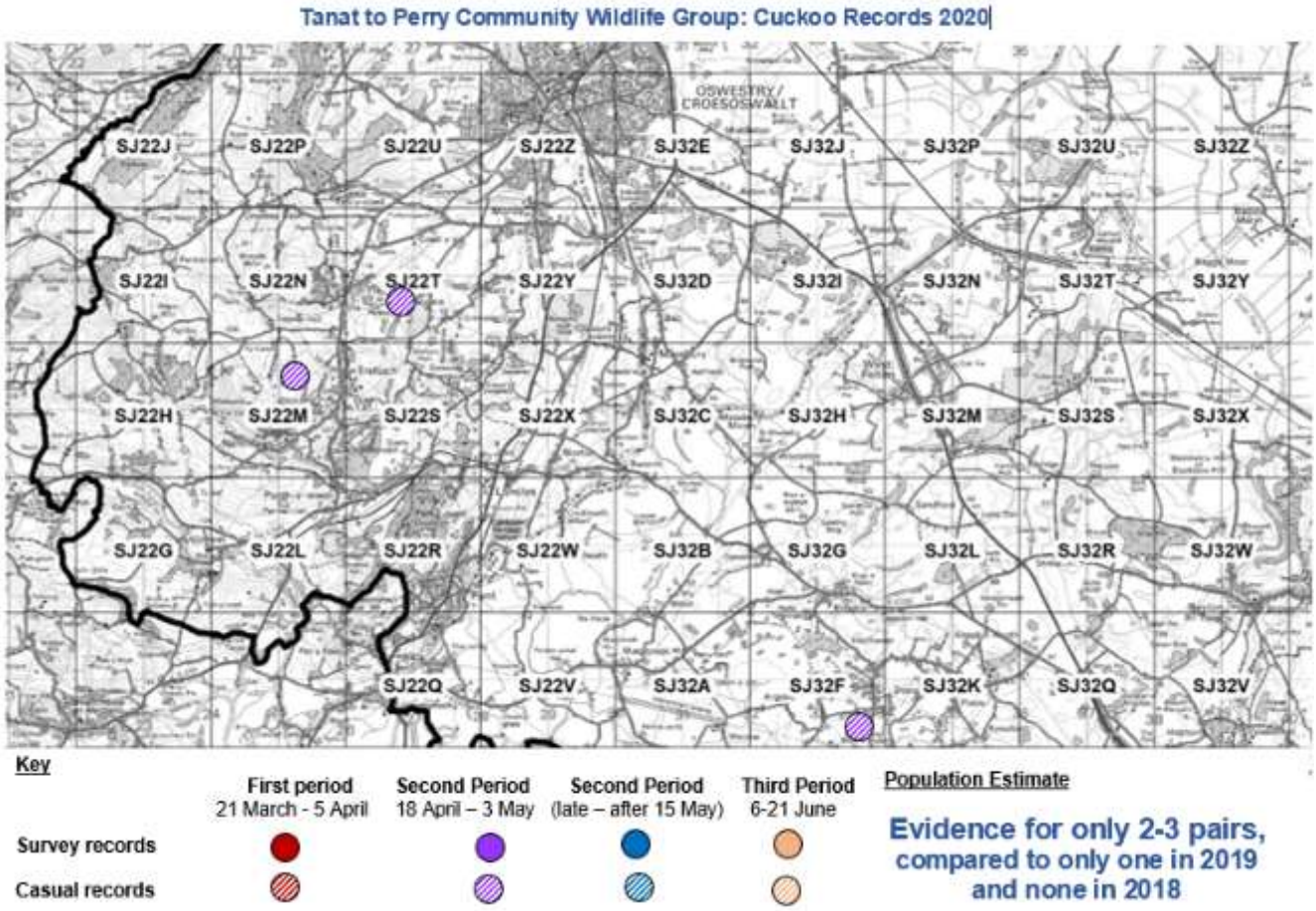
It is one of the Other Target Species that members have been asked to record each year, but in 2020 there were more Cuckoo records than usual. It was not clear whether there were actually more Cuckoos about, or that people were better able to hear them in the peace and quiet, or were at home rather than work, because of the coronavirus lockdown. Members were therefore specifically encouraged to submit Cuckoo records, and the results are shown on the map.

The characteristic Cuckoo call is made only by the male, and he defends a “song territory” to attract females and deter other males. The female has a different, rarely heard, “bubbling call”. Each male will chase other males out of his home patch, but the cuckoo isn't strongly territorial, and several males and females have been found to share overlapping ranges.

Each female lays between 10 and 25 eggs per year, each in a different nest. Each female usually selects nests of a single host species, most frequently Meadow Pipit, Dunnock or Reed Warbler.

The home range of each female varies considerably, depending on the ease of finding enough nests of the host species (i.e. parts of the home range will not be suitable breeding habitat for the host species, and the home range needs to include feeding areas for the Cuckoo as well). Thus the females' home range might overlap the song territory of more than one male, and she will mate with each of them (an estimate of "breeding pairs" would therefore be better termed "male territories").

No Cuckoos were seen or heard during survey visits, but there were three casual records, all in the first half of May. One at Pentre in SJ22T was "heard singing all day" on 5 May, and it may have been the same individual heard once in SJ22M around the same time. The other was heard once near Kinnerley on 12 May.



Red Kite

On surveys, 12 Red Kites were seen in seven tetrads. In 2019, nine were seen in eight tetrads, and in 2018 11 were seen in 10 tetrads. Prior to 2018, Kites were much more scarce, and several members who saw Kites in 2018 said it was the first time they have seen them in the area, so these numbers reflect the spread of this species.

The number of casual records increased considerably: 18 reports of 26 Kites in 16 tetrads, including the suggestion of a nest near Maesbury (SJ32C - seen daily until the end of April

flying over the observer's house), and 'more sightings' in Treflach/Trefonen this year than previously.

The Shropshire Kites are still mainly in the south-west hills, but a nest north of Shrewsbury was found in 2017, and each year since, and there have been second-hand reports of a nest in this area in 2018 and 2019, and a report of another nest here in 2019. A pair was seen near the former site in April and June 2020, and there was a casual record of one near the latter in early April. If nests are confirmed at these sites, they will be the furthest north in the County to date.

One was seen near Baschurch carrying sticks for a nest, but it was not located. The nest might be in the area, but is probably further east.

Given this recent increase in local observations, and the rapid spread and population increase (over 40 known pairs in Shropshire in 2019 – the first successful breeding for 130 years occurred as recently as 2006), it is likely that breeding will become more frequently observed in the near future.

Other Target Species

The Other Target Species recorded during the surveys are summarised in Table 1.

As expected in a survey of this type, the expertise of members, and the time they had available to undertake the surveys, varied considerably. The primary aim was to look for Lapwing and Curlew, and all participants were familiar with both these two species, but several participants made no attempt to look for, or record, the other target species.

However, participants were requested to make an effort to record Kestrels, as they too have declined considerably in recent years.

Note that participants were asked to record individual birds, not pairs (so at some locations both the birds in the pair were recorded, and in the final survey some recently fledged juveniles may have been recorded as well).

The survey squares also vary considerably, in accessibility and terrain. The “detectability” of the birds themselves also varies considerably, according to prevailing weather conditions, time of day, the stage in the breeding cycle, and the normal behaviour of each species. Thus the survey results will give an indication of the species present, and perhaps their habitat preferences, but only a very small proportion of the total population will have been recorded.

The summary table shows the maximum count for each species on any one survey in each tetrad. This may under-record some species, but the alternative – adding all the counts together – would lead to considerable double or triple counting of some individual birds. The results of every survey are shown in Appendix 4.

Most species were found only in small numbers, reflecting the scarcity of their habitat, and nine were not recorded at all: Grey Partridge, Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Swift (nest site), Meadow

Pipit, Dipper, Wheatear, Whinchat and Stonechat. Where they are found, these species do not occupy the Lapwing and Curlew habitats targeted in this survey.

Casual records of Swift nest sites would be gratefully received, as the Swift population in England has declined by 58% since 1995. Records are passed to the Shropshire Swift Group, which is organising a conservation programme for them.

Table 2. Other Target Species – Summary

Tetrad		MAXIMUM SINGLE COUNT FROM ALL SURVEYS IN EACH TETRAD												
		Kestrel	Red Kite	Snipe	Skylark	Yellow Wagtail	Dunnock	Spotted Fly-catcher	Tree Sparrow	Linnet	Bull-finch	Reed Bunting	Yellow-hammer	Corn Bunting
SJ22	G		5				1							
SJ22	H													
SJ22	I		1											
SJ22	J													
SJ22	L		1						1					
SJ22	M													
SJ22	N													
SJ22	P						1		1					
SJ22	Q													
SJ22	R													
SJ22	S													1
SJ22	T		1											
SJ22	U	1												
SJ22	V													
SJ22	W	1			5		6			4		1	6	
SJ22	X									20				
SJ22	Y													
SJ22	Z													
SJ32	A													
SJ32	B													
SJ32	C	2	1	5	4	2	4	4		5	2	1	7	1
SJ32	D													
SJ32	E													
SJ32	F													
SJ32	G													
SJ32	H	2			9	3		6			3	4		4
SJ32	I		1											
SJ32	J									2				
SJ32	K													
SJ32	L													
SJ32	M				2									
SJ32	N													
SJ32	P													
SJ32	Q													
SJ32	R				1		2						1	2
SJ32	S				1					6				
SJ32	T													
SJ32	U													
SJ32	V													
SJ32	W													
SJ32	X					4								
SJ32	Y		2		7	6	1			2		1	4	
SJ32	Z	1			27								2	3
Totals		7	12	5	56	15	15	10	2	39	5	7	20	11
Number of tetrads in which each species was seen:		5	7	1	8	4	6	2	2	6	2	4	5	5

Decline of Lapwing and Curlew

In England, Lapwing and Curlew are in decline, nationally, and in Shropshire. Objective evidence for this comes from Bird Atlas work, and the Breeding Bird Survey carried out each year by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), and the summary tables in the annual

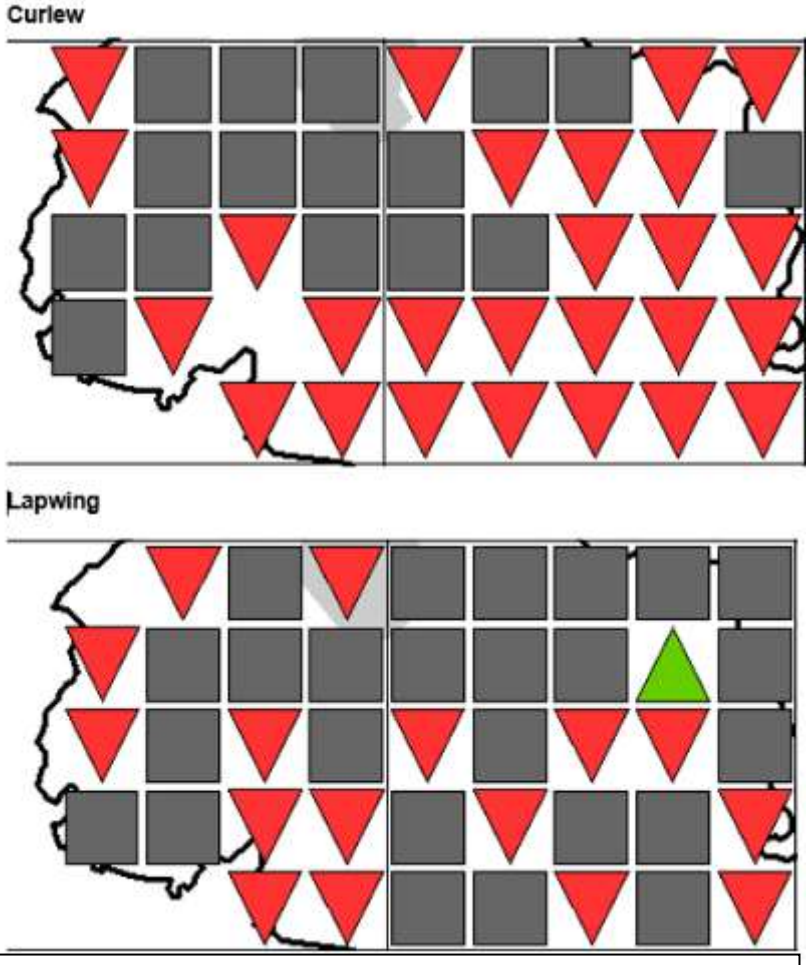
State of the UK's Birds. Figures for the decline of each species are summarised at the beginning of the respective species counts above.

Shropshire Ornithological Society undertook six years' fieldwork between 1985 and 1990, and covered all 870 tetrads in the County. The results were published in *An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Shropshire* in 1992. The survey was repeated in 2008-13, with similar amounts of fieldwork effort, and the Atlas maps (included in *The Birds of Shropshire*, published by Liverpool University Press in 2019) are directly comparable.

The resulting breeding distribution change maps for the Tanat to Perry CWG survey area are shown below. The black line along the left of each map is the border with Wales, and the background pale grey shape at the top of map is the southern part of the town of Oswestry. The grid lines enclose the 10km squares SJ22 and SJ32 on the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Each symbol represents a tetrad (2x2km square on the OS grid, 25 tetrads in the 10km square SJ32, but seven mainly in Wales in SJ22 are excluded. These squares are the same as those used for this survey.

Tetrads where each species was found in both Atlas surveys are shown as grey squares, and tetrads where it was found in the earlier period, but not the more recent period are marked with red downward triangles. It was not found in either period in the blank squares. It will be seen that the range of both species declined substantially in this area in only 20-25 years.

Breeding Distribution Change Maps for the Tanat to Perry CWG area (1985-90 to 2008-13)



Maps copyright Shropshire Ornithological Society. Not to be reproduced without prior permission

Curlew was still present in 16 tetrads, but lost from 26, while Lapwing was still present in 25, lost from 16 and gained in one.

Surveys including counts complement these maps. The county Lapwing population has fallen from about 3,000 pairs in 1990 to only about 800 in 2013, a decline of around 70%. The Curlew population has fallen from about 700 pairs in 1990 to about 160 pairs in 2010 (a 77% decline).

Surveys carried out by several other Community Wildlife Groups suggest that the population has fallen further since 2010.

Other evidence for the decline of Lapwing and Curlew can be found on the website of the

Action to reverse the declines must start by improving the breeding success of the remaining pairs, so conservation action in the areas where they are still found, such as the Tanat to Perry CWG area, is vital. Such action is being taken, nationally and locally. Both species have been designated as UK Biodiversity Priority Species by the Government, as part of its commitment to international biodiversity targets, precisely because of the rapid decline.

Both species nest on farmland, and the Countryside Stewardship Agri-environment Scheme (part of the system of payments to farmers through the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union) includes provision to reward farmers for sensitive management of habitat on their farms, and providing other environmental benefits. The scheme includes specific prescriptions, and payments, for Lapwing and Curlew habitat, but it unlikely that new applications will be successful.

A new Agriculture Bill has been submitted to Parliament by the Government, and it remains to be seen whether the post-Brexit agri-environment schemes will be effective in reversing the decline of farmland birds.

Comparison of Tanat to Perry CWG Bird Survey Results with the Shropshire Bird Atlas 2008-13

The next two pairs of maps show, on the left, the results of the Bird Atlas 2008-13 for the 43 tetrads covered by the survey, and, on the right, the results of the survey in this area, as shown on the 2018 maps in last year's report, and the 2019 maps on pages 4 - 6. Each dot represents at least one observation during the Atlas period, or during the 2018 and 2019 surveys, in the appropriate tetrad.

- Large dot = Confirmed Breeding (Bird seen sitting on nest, or chicks seen)
- Middle dot = Probable Breeding (Pair or display seen)
- Small dot = Seen or heard in suitable habitat
- No dot = Not found

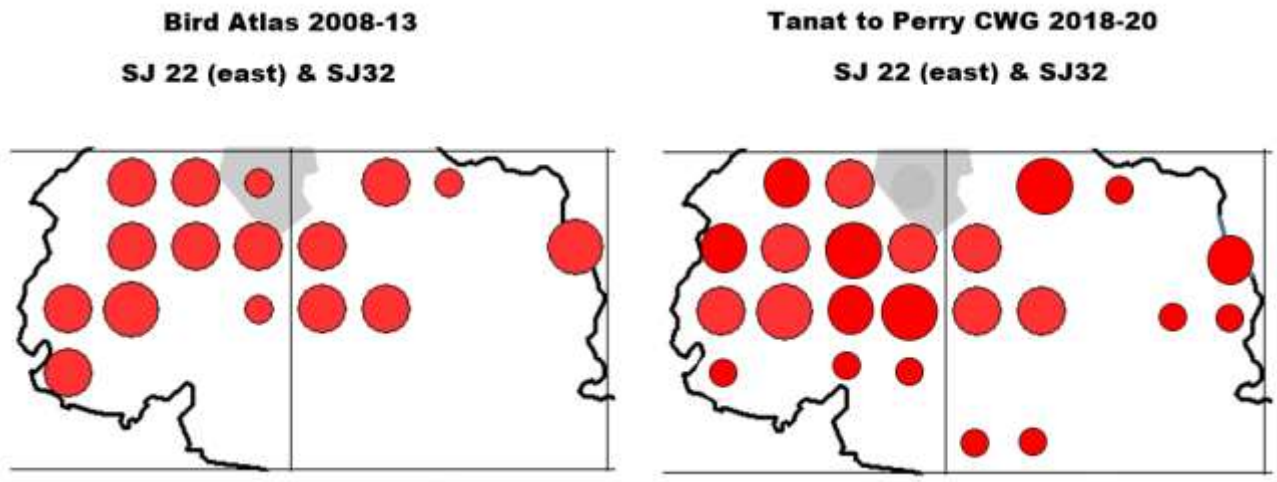
It must be stressed that the Atlas map includes survey work over six years, not three, but most tetrads will not have been visited every year, and it was only necessary to find the highest level of breeding evidence once in the six years, and the surveyors were looking for breeding evidence for all species.

Also, while Curlews, as long as they survive, are generally site faithful, Lapwing on arable farmland have to follow the crop rotation to find bare earth or spring crops, so the same pair(s) may occupy several tetrads in a period of several years.

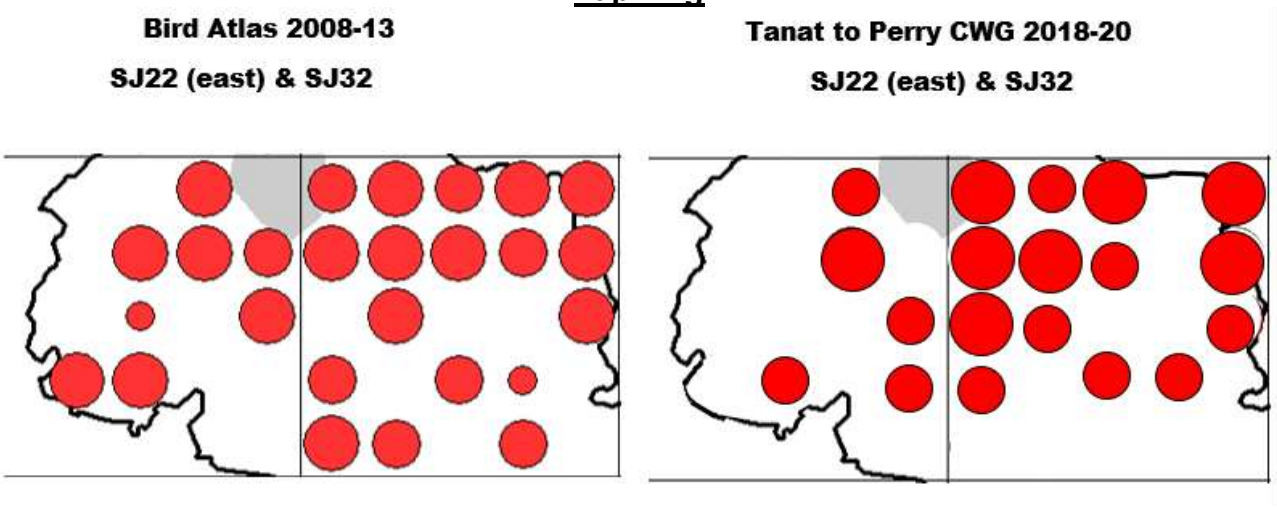
Even so, it is unlikely that the 2018-20 surveys found all the pairs, and results should improve as surveyors get to know their squares better, and more people find out about the survey and contribute records or information. It is likely to take another 2-3 years to build up a complete picture.

However, the two target species are conspicuous and noisy, so most will not have been overlooked, and these maps suggest that the decline of both species has continued since the Atlas survey in this area too.

Curlew



Lapwing



Use of CWG Survey Results

Most importantly in the short term, the survey results will made available to Natural England. They show the importance of particular areas for these species, which will hopefully encourage farmers to manage their land sensitively, and provide Natural England with objective evidence to judge individual farm applications to join Countryside Stewardship, and information to target the use of their limited resources more effectively.

The results also reinforce and supplement the results from other Community Wildlife Groups operating in the Shropshire Hills, and the north-west. The former now cover well over 500 square kilometres, around two-thirds of the Shropshire Hills AONB. These results help inform the AONB Management Plan, which has now been revised to cover the five years 2019 – 24.

Coupled with the results of other surveys, the results may also contribute to the identification of potential new Local (County) Wildlife Sites. These sites are monitored by Shropshire Wildlife Trust, which encourages the landowners to manage the sites sensitively, so they retain their value for wildlife.

Conservation action to halt and reverse the decline of Curlew in particular is becoming increasingly important at the regional and national level. The South of England Curlew Forum is encouraging local conservation projects, and collating results from Shropshire and all counties to the south of us, to show that Curlews are still declining, and productivity

(the number of fledged young per breeding pair) is not sufficient to maintain even the existing depleted population.

Shropshire has about 20 – 25% of the Curlew records contributed to the Forum, including those from this Group.

The same information is contributed to a national Curlew Species Recovery Group, comprising RSPB (who provide the chair / secretariat), BTO, GWCT, WWT, JNCC, National Trust, Birdwatch Ireland, National Parks Ireland and the four country-based statutory agencies. The purpose of the group is to bring together five statutory agencies and various non-governmental organisations to shape and drive a co-ordinated programme for Curlew conservation

More importantly in the longer term, the location of Curlew territories and nest sites will provide vital information to the *Save our Curlews* campaign. Subject to locating the approximate locations of the centre of several Curlew territories (i.e. the field(s) containing the nest site), and the appeal raising the necessary funds to employ someone to find the nests and put up and maintain electric fences to protect them, it is hoped to start nest protection in the near future. A professional ornithologist will be employed to find nests once we are confident that we have located several territories. This will obviously require permission for access to the appropriate land, and co-operation from farmers on how their land is managed, so building relationships with individual farmers will be a crucial part of our work in future years

Work With Individual Farmers

The vast majority of the Lapwing and Curlew populations in the area nest on private farmland. The active support of farmers is therefore essential if the declines are to be reversed. Several members talked to local farmers while conducting their surveys, who were friendly and helpful. A lot of useful information was received, including reports of Curlew nests in previous years, and a Kestrel nest. Some volunteered access to their land, particularly to find and protect Curlew nests when this work starts in the area.

As our knowledge builds up, efforts will be made to work with individual farmers to safeguard their habitats. This will be particularly important for finding and protecting Curlew nests, through the *Save our Curlews* project.

A record has been kept of the contact details of these farmers, and efforts will be made to keep in touch with them as the group, and the *Save our Curlews* campaign, develops.

Lessons Learnt, to be Applied in 2021

More emphasis will be placed on noting the behaviour of Lapwing and Curlew, to try and check if birds are part of the same breeding pair, or different ones, and whether they were defending nests or chicks, indicating the nesting field and level of breeding success.

Recommendations

Natural England is recommended to encourage farmers with breeding Lapwing or Curlew on or near their land, to join the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, utilising the appropriate options to maintain and enhance the habitat for these priority species

Other Community Wildlife Groups

The first Group, the Upper Onny Wildlife Group, first surveyed Lapwing and Curlew in 2004, and has done so every year since. Upper Clun CWG started in 2007, Kemp Valley in 2009, Clee Hill CWG in 2012, and Rea Valley and Camlad CWGs (part of the Stiperstones-Corndon HLF-funded Landscape Partnership Scheme) in 2014. Strettons Area CWG was launched in 2012, and surveyed Lapwing and Curlew for the first time in 2017. The Three Parishes CWG, covering Weston Rhyn, St. Martin's and Gobowen (north of Oswestry), also undertook a Bird Survey in 2017. All these groups continued with a Lapwing and Curlew survey in 2018, when they were joined by new CWGs covering Oswestry south (Tanat to Perry) and Severn-Vyrnwy Confluence. A further Group, centred on Abdon (near Brown Clee), also started in 2018, the initiative of a local resident.

All these groups (except Kemp Valley, which has no breeding Curlews) continued with their surveys in 2019. Clee Hill and Abdon extended their areas, to close the gap between them and monitor known additional Curlew territories. Between them, the 10 groups cover around three-quarters of the County's breeding Curlews. They covered 267 survey squares (tetrads), totalling 1,048 square kilometres. There were 320 participants, who spent a total of more than 2,350 hours on survey work, and 94 - 115 Curlew territories were identified. This is a clear indication of the concern that local people have for the decline of Curlew, and their willingness to support action to do something about it.

The Curlew distribution map from the County Bird Atlas 2008-13, overlain with the Community Wildlife Group areas, and their 2019 results, can be found on the SOS website www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/

The Groups all also survey Lapwing, but they monitor a much smaller proportion of the County population, which is concentrated in north and north-east Shropshire.

In 2020, all these groups did some Curlew survey work, but it was truncated because of the Coronavirus restrictions. These results are still being analysed, and will be supplied separately to Bird Group members when they are available.

Further information can be found on the joint website for all the Community Wildlife Groups in Shropshire, www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk

The SOS Save our Curlews *Campaign*

Shropshire Ornithological Society (SOS) launched its *Save our Curlews* campaign in February 2020, with the intention of building on, and supporting, the Curlew monitoring work of the CWGs, and working initially with CWGs in the Upper Clun, Clee Hill and Strettons area to find nests, put an electric fence round them to protect the eggs, and then attach radio tags to the chicks just after they hatch, to track them to see how they use the landscape and what happens to them. Unfortunately, although the CWGs were able to monitor and map their populations, the nest protection and radio-tracking project had to be abandoned because of Coronavirus restrictions.

The Tanat to Perry CWG Curlew results, together with those from other CWGs, are fed into the monitoring of the County Curlew population by SOS, which then form part of the County data forwarded to the South of England Curlew Forum and the national Curlew

Species Recovery Group, hosted by RSPB, and help make the case for Government-sponsored conservation work, including future Agri-environment schemes.

This is a long term campaign, and it is hoped to extend the nest protection and chick monitoring work to other CWG areas in future years.

The full project is expensive, and it is currently hoped to start it in the Tanat to Perry area in 2022, but efforts will be made to create a task force to find and fence nests, if the CWG surveys in 2021 locate any.

A lot more information can be found about the campaign, including project work in Shropshire and elsewhere to find out the causes of the decline, and reverse it, on the SOS website www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/

A contributory factor to the decline is now being increasingly understood, the impact of releasing large numbers of Pheasants into the countryside for shooting.

Curlews and Pheasant Release

The RSPB has just announced the results of the review of its policy on game bird shooting, which it undertook partly because of the effect of releasing large numbers of Pheasants on the landscape and other wildlife. It is now seeking improved environmental standards, a reduction in the number of gamebirds released and better compliance with existing rules about reporting releases. The RSPB is committed to working with the shooting industry over the next 18 months to bring about this change. If substantial reform is not forthcoming in this period, then the RSPB will press for tighter regulation of large-scale gamebird releases. For further information see www.rspb.org.uk/gamebirdreview

The number of Pheasants and Red-legged Partridges released in the UK EACH YEAR has increased from 4 million in 1961, the first year for which there are figures, to almost 60 million now. Only 35% are shot, and the remainder don't live very long, so they provide a year-round supply of food for every other predator and scavenger. While the number of Pheasants released since 2004 has increased by one-third, the number shot has not increased since the 1990s.

In Shropshire, 726,000 Pheasants were released in 2018 alone, so predation of Curlews (collateral damage from foxes hunting Pheasants) is very high, and the Curlew population is heading for extinction (down 80% since 1990). Conversely, the feral breeding population of Pheasants increased by 62% between 1997 and 2014 (County Breeding Bird Survey results), and it is now the tenth most common breeding species in the County (and far and away the biggest in terms of biomass). They have spread from the release sites to virtually every part of the County now.

BTO has published research showing a disproportionate increase in the Buzzard and Crow population in areas with a high number of released Pheasants (Pringle *et al* 2019).

The massive increase in Pheasant carrion has allowed Buzzard and Raven to spread eastwards across most of England since 1990, and is undoubtedly the food source that has allowed Kites to spread into, and right across, Shropshire in only 15 years.

In 2014 there were an estimated 44,000 pairs of breeding Pheasants in Shropshire, all descended from previous releases (Pheasant is an introduced species), compared to 160 pairs of Curlew and 800 pairs of Lapwing.

Again, further information about this can be found on the SOS website www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/

Use of CWG Survey Results

In addition to feeding into the monitoring of the County population by SOS, and helping the Curlew Country fieldworkers, the survey results are made available to Natural England.

They show the importance of particular areas for these species, which will hopefully encourage farmers to manage their land more sensitively, and provide Defra with objective evidence to judge individual farm applications to join agri-environment schemes in future, enabling them to target the use of their limited resources more effectively.

The results also reinforce and supplement the results from other Community Wildlife Groups operating in the Shropshire Hills, which together now cover well over 500 square kilometres, around two-thirds of the Shropshire Hills AONB. These results help inform the AONB Management Plan, which has now been revised to cover the five years 2019 – 24.

Coupled with the results of other surveys, the results may also contribute to the identification of potential new Local (County) Wildlife Sites. These sites are monitored by Shropshire Wildlife Trust, which encourages the landowners to manage them so they retain their value for wildlife.

Finally, all records from the Tanat to Perry CWG surveys have been uploaded to BTO's BirdTrack database.

Acknowledgements

Firstly, a big thank you to Claire Backshall, who again publicised the meeting, organised the fieldwork, distributed survey information to members, especially the new participants, followed up the records, collated the results, provided sections for this report, and commented on the draft. Claire has done all this for all three years of the Group's operation, and in previous years organised the fieldwork training as well, with great skill and efficiency.

Public Meeting 4 March 2020

Claire has now decided to hand the baton on to someone else.

Good luck, Claire, best wishes, and thank you very much for all you have done

Thanks to the 36 Group members who undertook the survey work:

Claire Backshall
Vic & Cath Baldry
Dave Blowers
Cathy & Dennis Carter
Michele Coxon
Andrew Dale
Sue & Artie Edmonds
Jane Evans
Lottie Glover
Anthony Griffiths
Susie Hancock
David Hardwick
Jeanette & Neil Henderson
Dave Jones
Jacky Leather
Val Lewis
Alison Lindsay
Jeff Marais
Erica & Patrick Martin
Stephen Morris
Dave & Gwyneth Parish
Carol & Howard Perry
Mike Phillips
David Shearan
Andrew & Mary Thomson
Siân West
Alec White
Helen Williams

Casual records are very important, as they often allow more accurate interpretation of the survey results. Several of the surveyors, and a number of additional people, 57 altogether, also supplied additional casual records.

Terri Anderson
Richard & Julia Arrowsmith
Claire Backshall
Vic & Cath Baldry
Dave Blowers
Marvin Bolton
Casha & Adam Bowles-Jones
Cathy & Dennis Carter
Michele Coxon
Andrew Dale
Allan Dawes
Anna Doggart
Sue & Artie Edmonds
Anthony Griffiths
Andy Heaton
Jeanette & Neil Henderson
Belinda Jones
Carol Jones
Dave Jones & Ali
Haydn Jones
Pat & Roger Jones
Mary & Vicky Kidson
Bob Kimber
Suzanne Kirkwood
Jacky & Mark Leather
Val Lewis
Alison Lindsay
Jeff Marais
Erica & Patrick Martin
Stephen Morris
Robert Parker
Jim Partridge
Tris Pearce
Fiona & Francis Peate
Carol & Howard Perry
Mike Phillips
Ken Pickersgill
Robin Pinder
David Shearan
Sally Smyth
Andrew & Mary Thomson
John Tumelty
Siân West

Circumstances in 2020 meant that not everyone who signed up for a tetrad was able to actually do it. We would like to acknowledge the interest shown by the following 25 people, and hope they are able to participate in 2021.

Ruth & Tony Beardsall
Eric & Di Caldwell
Gareth Davies
Sue Franklin
Elaine Jones & Bill Mullen
Emily Jervis
Pat & Roger Jones
Mary & Vicky Kidson
Deborah Knox
Ann Leach
Eric Lloyd
Tris Pearce
Carl Pickering
Robin Pinder
Nick Reed
Pam & Steve Roberts
Steve Roberts
Sue & Steve Southam

This makes a grand total of 84 people who contributed records … or showed willing!

We are very grateful for this level of support. Thank you one and all.

The Curlew photo on the cover is © Leo Smith, and the Lapwing is © John Harding. Other photos are © Leo Smith, Allan Bernau, Anna Doggart, Celia Todd, Vic Baldry, John Harding, Mark Hamblin, and Claire Backshall. Thanks to them all for permission to use them.

Thanks also to:-
- Allan Dawes, for helping with the Curlew fieldwork.
- Michele Coxon, for selling prints of her Lapwing painting to raise funds for the Group.
- Richard Hammerton, Shropshire Council Biodiversity Data Officer, who provided the survey maps.

Summary 2020

Although the coronavirus restrictions limited the amount of survey work undertaken, this report summarises a welcome increase in the knowledge of the population and distribution of the target species. There were some records from all except five of the 43 tetrads. The populations in the Tanat to Perry CWG area are estimated at 9 - 17 pairs of Curlew, and 40-44 pairs of Lapwing, rather fewer than in 2019. In both cases, the decrease is likely to be due to the more limited survey work. It is not possible to determine whether the true population levels have changed.

There was a welcome increase in records of Kestrel, Cuckoo and Red Kite.

This is valuable information for the conservation of these birds. Further survey work in future years will add to this baseline, and establish population trends.

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Plans for 2021

The Group intends to repeat the Bird Survey. New participants are needed, so we hope to recruit new members. We also need to recruit a Group organiser to replace Claire Backshall.

It is unlikely that it will be possible to hold a Group meeting next March, primarily to plan the bird survey, as current Covid-19 restrictions are unlikely to have been eased by then. We will therefore need to develop new ways of promoting our work in the local community. New members, anyone interested in birds, will be very welcome.

It is hoped to set up a local task force, to find and protect nests, as part of the *Save our Curlews* project.

Details can be found and downloaded from the joint website for all the Community Wildlife Groups in Shropshire, www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk,

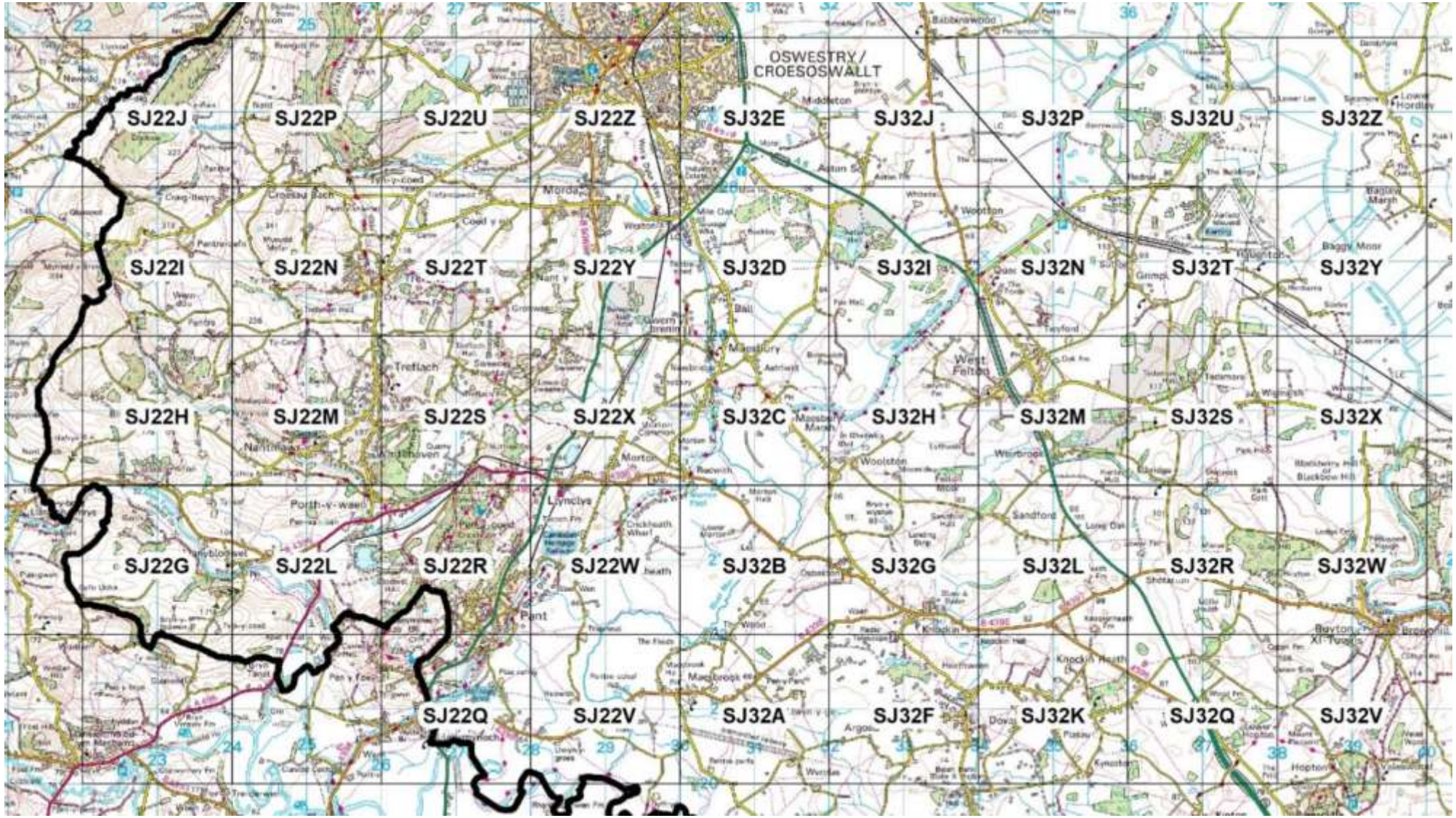
Further Information

- Leo Smith leo@leosmith.org.uk 01694 720296

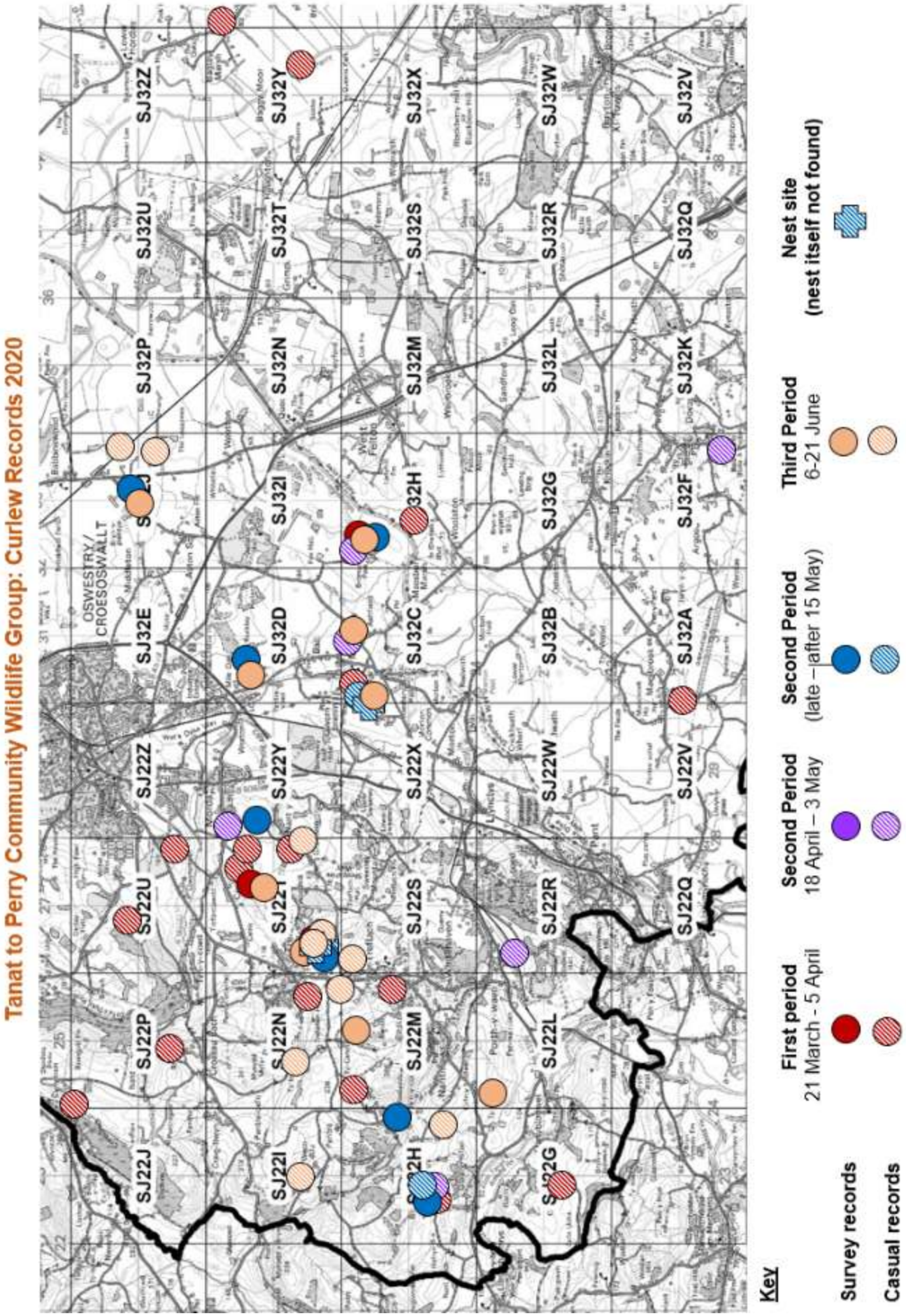
Further copies of this report can be obtained from Leo.

Leo Smith
Claire Backshall
January 2021

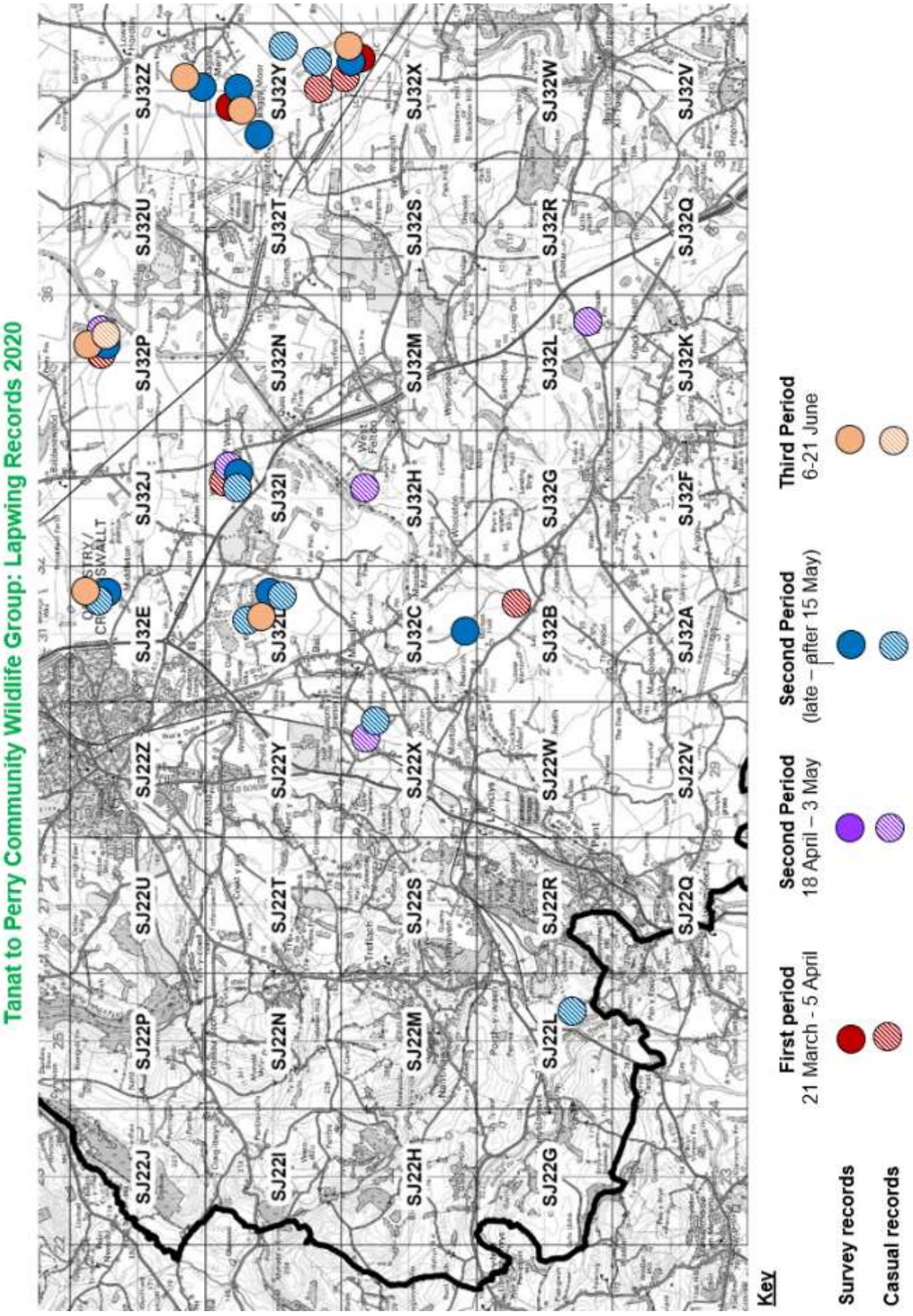
Appendix 1. Map of Survey Area, showing Square Boundaries and Tetrad Codes



Appendix 2. All Curlew Records (surveys and casuals)



Appendix 3. All Lapwing Records (surveys and casuals)



Appendix 4. Detailed Survey Results

First Survey Period (21 March - 5 April)

Tetrad		Square Surveyor	Time		Other target species looked for	Number of Each Species Recorded												
			Hrs	Mins		Kestrel	Red Kite	Snipe	Skylark	Yellow Wagtail	Dunnock	Spotted Fly-catcher	Tree Sparrow	Linnet	Bullfinch	Reed Bunting	Yellow-hammer	Corn Bunting
SJ22	G	David Hardwick																
SJ22	H	Sue & Artie Edmonds																
SJ22	I	Carol & Howard Perry																
SJ22	J	David & Gwyneth Parish																
SJ22	L	Val Lewis	4	30	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ22	M	Jacky Leather																
SJ22	N	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ22	P	Jeff Marais																
SJ22	Q	Mike Phillips																
SJ22	R	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ22	S	Jeanette & Neil Henderson																
SJ22	T	Cathy & Dennis Carter	3	30		(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ22	U	Jeff Marais																
SJ22	V	VACANT																
SJ22	W	Allocated but surveyor covid restricted																
SJ22	X	VACANT																
SJ22	Y	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ22	Z	Susie Hancock																
SJ32	A	Allocated but surveyor covid restricted																
SJ32	B	Andrew & Mary Thomson																
SJ32	C	Anthony Griffiths	2	30		2		5	2					1			7	
SJ32	C	Andrew Dale																
SJ32	D	Vic & Cath Baldry																
SJ32	E	Dave Blowers																
SJ32	F	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ32	G	VACANT																
SJ32	H	Anthony Griffiths	2	30					4									2
SJ32	I	Jane Evans & Helen Williams																
SJ32	J	Stephen Morris																
SJ32	K	VACANT																
SJ32	L	VACANT																
SJ32	M	Dave Jones																
SJ32	N	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ32	P	Michele Coxon																
SJ32	Q	Allocated but surveyor covid restricted																
SJ32	R	Sian West																
SJ32	S	David Shearan																
SJ32	T	VACANT																
SJ32	U	Michele Coxon																
SJ32	V	VACANT																
SJ32	W	Alison Lindsay																
SJ32	X	Alison Lindsay																
SJ32	Y	Erica & Patrick Martin	4	45	Yes				7		1						1	
SJ32	Z	VACANT																
Total			**17**	**45**		**2**	**0**	**5**	**13**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**8**	**2**

Second Survey Period (18 April - 3 May)

Tetrad		Square Surveyor	Time		Other target species looked for	Number of Each Species Recorded												
			Hrs	Mins		Kestrel	Red Kite	Snipe	Skylark	Yellow Wagtail	Dunnock	Spotted Fly-catcher	Tree Sparrow	Linnet	Bullfinch	Reed Bunting	Yellow-hammer	Corn Bunting
SJ22	G	David Hardwick	4	0	Yes		1											
SJ22	H	Sue & Artie Edmonds	2	30	No	(Did not look for optional target species)												
SJ22	I	Carol & Howard Perry	3	0	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ22	J	David & Gwyneth Parish																
SJ22	L	Val Lewis																
SJ22	M	Jacky Leather	4	30	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ22	N	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ22	P	Jeff Marais																
SJ22	Q	Mike Phillips																
SJ22	R	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ22	S	Jeanette & Neil Henderson	2	0	Yes													1
SJ22	T	Cathy & Dennis Carter	4	0	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ22	U	Jeff Marais																
SJ22	V	VACANT																
SJ22	W	Allocated but surveyor covid restricted																
SJ22	X	VACANT																
SJ22	Y	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ22	Z	Susie Hancock																
SJ32	A	Allocated but surveyor covid restricted																
SJ32	B	Andrew & Mary Thomson	4	0	No	(Did not look for optional target species)												
SJ32	C	Anthony Griffiths	2	30	Yes		1		1	1		3			2	1	1	1
SJ32	C	Andrew Dale	2	15	Yes											1		
SJ32	D	Vic & Cath Baldry	3	20	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ32	E	Dave Blowers	3	0	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ32	F	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ32	G	VACANT																
SJ32	H	Anthony Griffiths	2	30	Yes				7	3		6				4		2
SJ32	I	Jane Evans & Helen Williams	1	55	Yes		1											
SJ32	J	Stephen Morris	3	0	Yes									2				
SJ32	K	VACANT																
SJ32	L	VACANT																
SJ32	M	Dave Jones	3	10	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ32	N	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ32	P	Michele Coxon	2	30	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ32	Q	Allocated but surveyor covid restricted																
SJ32	R	Sian West	4	30	Yes						2						1	
SJ32	S	David Shearan	2	0	Yes				1									
SJ32	T	VACANT																
SJ32	U	Michele Coxon	1	45	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ32	V	VACANT																
SJ32	W	Alison Lindsay	1	0	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ32	X	Alison Lindsay	1	45	Yes					4								
SJ32	Y	Erica & Patrick Martin	5	50	Yes		2		6	5				2			4	
SJ32	Z	VACANT																
Total			**65**	**0**		**0**	**5**	**0**	**15**	**13**	**2**	**9**	**0**	**4**	**2**	**6**	**6**	**4**

Appendix 4. Detailed Survey Results (continued)

Third Survey Period (6 June - 21 June)

Tetrad		Square Surveyor	Time		Other target species looked for	Number of Each Species Recorded												
			Hrs	Mins		Kestrel	Red Kite	Snipe	Skylark	Yellow Wagtail	Dunnock	Spotted Fly-catcher	Tree Sparrow	Linnet	Bullfinch	Reed Bunting	Yellow-hammer	Corn Bunting
SJ22	G	David Hardwick	4	0	Yes		5				1							
SJ22	H	Sue & Artie Edmonds	3	30	No	(Did not look for optional target species)												
SJ22	I	Carol & Howard Perry	3	0	Yes		1											
SJ22	J	David & Gwyneth Parish	1	10	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ22	L	Val Lewis	5	0	Yes		1						1					
SJ22	M	Jacky Leather	7	0	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ22	N	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ22	P	Jeff Marais	3	30	Yes						1		1					
SJ22	Q	Mike Phillips	4	30	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ22	R	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ22	S	Jeanette & Neil Henderson	2	30	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ22	T	Cathy & Dennis Carter	2	25	Yes		1											
SJ22	U	Jeff Marais	4		Yes	1												
SJ22	V	VACANT																
SJ22	W	Claire Backshall	3	30	Yes	1			5		6			4		1	6	
SJ22	X	Lottie Glover	2	30	Yes									20				
SJ22	Y	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ22	Z	Susie Hancock	2	0	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ32	A	Allocated but surveyor covid restricted																
SJ32	B	Andrew & Mary Thomson	2	30	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ32	C	Anthony Griffiths	2	0	Yes	1	1		4	2		4			2		1	1
SJ32	C	Andrew Dale	5	30	Yes						4	1		5	2		1	1
SJ32	D	Vic & Cath Baldry	5	15	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ32	E	Dave Blowers	2	30	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ32	F	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ32	G	VACANT																
SJ32	H	Anthony Griffiths	2	0	Yes	2			9	2		3			3			4
SJ32	I	Jane Evans & Helen Williams																
SJ32	J	Stephen Morris	3	0	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ32	K	VACANT																
SJ32	L	VACANT																
SJ32	M	Dave Jones	3	30	Yes				2									
SJ32	N	Allocated but no response from surveyor																
SJ32	P	Michele Coxon	3	0	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ32	Q	Allocated but surveyor covid restricted																
SJ32	R	Sian West	5	20	Yes				1								1	2
SJ32	S	David Shearan	1	15	Yes				1					6				
SJ32	T	VACANT																
SJ32	U	Michele Coxon	2	15	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ32	V	VACANT																
SJ32	W	Alison Lindsay	1	0	Yes	(Looked for optional target species but none found)												
SJ32	X	Alison Lindsay	1	45	Yes					4								
SJ32	Y	Erica & Patrick Martin	4	40	Yes				5	6						1	2	
SJ32	Z	Lottie Glover	2	30	Yes	1			27								2	3
Total			**96**	**35**		**6**	**9**	**0**	**54**	**14**	**12**	**8**	**2**	**35**	**7**	**2**	**13**	**11**

Appendix 5

Tanat to Perry
Community Wildlife Group

Status and Finances

Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group (TPCWG) is one of a family of 11 such Groups. Most of the others are constituted, and as a result have elected officers, including a Treasurer, and are able to open bank accounts. This group has decided, at least for the time being, that such formality is unnecessary, particularly as there are many other wildlife organisations in the area which the group does not want to duplicate.

The Group was established by the SWT / SOS *Save our Curlews* campaign, and initially funded by the joint Curlew appeal, specifically to locate Curlews (and Lapwings) in an area where Curlews were known to breed. However, this funding ceased in 2019.

Most of the other CWGs are self-financing, with running costs met by collections at meetings, donations, and raffles. Collections have been held at previous TPCWG meetings to finance the Group.

The 2019 report contained an income and expenditure account from the first collection in June 2018 up until February 2020. This showed a balance remaining of £95.44.

The cost of the Community Wildlife Groups website is shared equally by the 10 active CWGs.

Income and expenditure since then is as follows:-

Income	**£**
Balance brought forward	95.44
Collection 4 March 2020	145.90
Total Income	**241.34**
Expenditure	
Hire of Morda Social Club 4 March 2020	30.00
Admin Expenses paid to Claire Backshall (8/11/20)	22.07
Website hosting and admin (TPCWG contribution January 2021)	12.00
Total expenditure	**64.07**
Balance Remaining	**177.27**

In the absence of a Constitution and elected Treasurer, expenditure is jointly agreed by Leo Smith and Claire Backshall, and paid by Leo Smith out of the Group's funds, which he holds. A spreadsheet of Income and expenditure maintains a running total of the Group's finances.

Claire Backshall
Leo Smith
17 January 2021

For further information, contact Leo Smith (leo@leosmith.org.uk 01694 720296)