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LIFE Waders for Real

Paul Stephens – Project co-ordinator





LIFE Waders for Real

PROJECT LOCATION: Avon Valley, Hampshire UK

BUDGET INFO:

Total amount: €1,254,638

% EC Co-funding: %50

DURATION: Start: 01/06/14 - End: 31/12/18

PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTORS:

Coordinating Beneficiary:

Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust UK

BACKGROUND and AIMS:

- We seek to reverse the decline of breeding waders in the Avon Valley .
- 30 years ago this site was one of the top lowland wet grassland sites in England for breeding waders.
- 1990 -2010 numbers of breeding pairs of:

Northern lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* fell from 208 to 71
Redshank *Tringa totanus* from 117 to 22
Common snipe *Gallinago gallinago* from 29 to 1.

- Monitoring of breed success has shown that productivity is currently too low for maintenance of a stable breeding population, owing to high nest predation.

MAIN EU POLICY(IES) TARGETED:

- Lapwing is red-listed in the UK and is on the Section 41 'England Biodiversity List' of the NERC (2006) Act.
- Redshank and Snipe are amber-listed in the UK. The redshank is a SPEC2 species and it has declining threat status in Europe.
- All three species are listed in Annex II of the EU Birds Directive
- The Hampshire Avon itself is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC, code: UK0013016) and covers an area of 498.24 ha.



MAIN ACTIVITIES:

We will attempt to reverse the decline in breeding waders through a unique combination of:

- habitat restoration 'Hot Spots'**
- innovative and targeted seasonal exclusion coupled with monitoring and tracking of predators;**
- partnerships with landowners, managers and policy makers;**
- using a new process called Planning for Real for engaging communities in delivering lasting conservation actions.**

EXPECTED RESULTS:

- Conservation plans for 4 Hot spot sites implemented**
- Increased Lapwing breeding success**
- Increase breeding Redshanks by 50%**
- Created 20ha of optimal breeding habitat for waders in the Avon valley**
- Measured the effectiveness and evaluated costs of various techniques for reducing predation on waders**
- Educating, engaging and enthusing local landholders and communities**