

# RE: a short teleconference on Wednesday on HH

07 October 2014

11:51

Subject	<b>RE: a short teleconference on Wednesday on HH</b>
From	[REDACTED] (Defra)
To	'Teresa Dent'
Cc	[REDACTED]
Sent	07 April 2014 12:55

Thank you, Teresa. Chris has another engagement in the morning, therefore he has asked us to start without him if he cannot make 9:30. He will join us as soon as he can. Please see below the dial in details:

UK Freefone:	[REDACTED]
UK Direct:	[REDACTED]
Participant passcode:	[REDACTED]

Kind regards,

**From:** Teresa Dent [mailto:tdent@gwct.org.uk]

**Sent:** 05 April 2014 19:56

**To:** [REDACTED] (Defra)

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: a short teleconference on Wednesday on HH

That should be fine but I'll need to be careful when. We are hosting a visit from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to our Allerton Project. The best time would be say 0930 and I'll call in from there. If its possible it would be good if [REDACTED] can join us please

**From:** [REDACTED] (Defra) [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 03 April 2014 15:58

**To:** Teresa Dent

**Subject:** a short teleconference on Wednesday on HH

Dear Teresa,

I was wondering if you would be available on Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of April anytime between 10:00 and 11:00 for a 30 min teleconference with Chris, Elaine, [REDACTED] and I to discuss the HH Action Plan.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Biodiversity Programme |RM 1/14| Temple Quay House |2 The Square

| Temple

Quay | Bristol | BS1 6EB

Tel: [REDACTED]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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# 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes

07 October 2014

10:28

Subject	<b>24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes</b>
From	[REDACTED] (Defra)
To	tdent@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk; 'Martin Gillibrand'
Cc	Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED]; Robert Benson (rbenson@moorlandassociation.org)
Sent	09 April 2014 13:02
Attachments	 24 March ...  HH Action ...

Dear all,

Please find attached the 24 March Sub-Group meeting notes. I would be grateful if you could send me your comments by 6 May.

I have also included as an attachment the views of the Protected Landscape' representatives on the Action Plan that [REDACTED] summarised during the meeting.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Biodiversity Programme | RM 1/14 | Temple Quay House | 2 The Square  
| Temple  
Quay | Bristol | BS1 6EB  
tel: [REDACTED]

#### Action 1: Monitoring of populations in England and UK

PLs support the continuation of monitoring of numbers in England, and the satellite tagging and tracking by NE and RSPB. PLs would also welcome data sharing that will enable them to contribute more to the co-ordinated monitoring of populations and protection of important Hen Harrier habitat.

#### Action 2: Diversionary Feeding

PLs welcome the research that is currently being undertaken and, where appropriate, will look to work with other organisations and landowners to implement the research findings when breeding attempts occur in PLs and where this is felt to be a requirement for successful breeding.

#### Action 3: Work with Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group (RPPDG) to analyse monitoring information and build intelligence picture

PLs welcome the collation of raptor persecution data, and where appropriate, support work with other organisations and landowners to implement the advice on the most effective enforcement and deterrent measures, including involvement in publicity and raising awareness - with local agreement between partners. We would wish to see longer term surety for the NWCUC and further prioritising of the Hen Harrier in its work.

#### Action 4: Nest and winter roost protection

Where appropriate and locally agreed, PLs will work with statutory agencies, NGOs & landowners to provide a co-ordinated approach to nest and winter roost monitoring.

#### Action 5: Lowland Reintroduction

PLs welcome any conservation measures that will improve the conservation status of Hen Harriers in England. However, the action plan needs to ensure that any measures undertaken in the lowlands of southern England do not detract from the prioritisation of funding and focus in the uplands. The objective of re-establishing breeding Hen Harriers populations in the uplands of the north of England must be the priority for any available funding ahead of any introduction programme. The objective of re-establishing breeding Hen Harriers populations in the uplands of the north of England, including the protected landscapes is critical.

#### Action 6: Trial Brood Management Scheme

PLs agree with the principle of brood management but only as part of an integrated strategy, that includes the use of other measures such as diversionary feeding, for the conservation of Hen Harriers. The scheme would only be supported once numbers have increased to pre agreed minimum thresholds that are appropriate for the conservation of Hen Harriers, and without significantly restricting the breeding range across northern England.

## Amanda's contact details

07 October 2014

10:27

Subject	<b>Amanda's contact details</b>
From	[REDACTED] (Defra)
To	Kendall, Elaine (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent	09 April 2014 13:57

**From:** Amanda Anderson [<mailto:amanda@moorlandassociation.org>]

**Sent:** 09 April 2014 13:56

**To:** [REDACTED] (Defra)

**Subject:** My email address


Dear [REDACTED],

Lovely to meet you last month. This is my email address as requested.

With Best Regards,  
Amanda

Amanda Anderson  
Director, The Moorland Association,  
Well Spring Barn,  
Austwick,  
Lancaster.  
LA2 8AN



Tel: [REDACTED]  
Mob. [REDACTED]

  
The Moorland Association  
[www.moorlandassociation.org](http://www.moorlandassociation.org)

# FW: 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes

07 October 2014

12:39

Subject	<b>FW: 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes</b>
From	[REDACTED] (Defra)
To	'Amanda Anderson'
Sent	09 April 2014 19:53
Attachments	 24 March 2014 Minu...  HH Action Plan PL res...

Dear Amanda,

It was lovely to meet you too. Please see below the notes from the sub-group meeting. Please let me know if you would like to suggest any changes.

Best wishes,

---

From: [REDACTED] (Defra)  
Sent: 09 April 2014 13:03  
To: tdent@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk; 'Martin Gillibrand' [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Cc: Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED]; Robert Benson (rbenson@moorlandassociation.org)  
Subject: 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes

Dear all,

Please find attached the 24 March Sub-Group meeting notes. I would be grateful if you could send me your comments by 6 May.

I have also included as an attachment the views of the Protected Landscape' representatives on the Action Plan that [REDACTED] summarised during the meeting.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Biodiversity Programme | RM 1/14 | Temple Quay House | 2 The Square  
| Temple  
Quay | Bristol | BS1 6EB  
tel: [REDACTED]

# RE: 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes

08 October 2014  
17:05

Subject	<b>RE: 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes</b>
From	[REDACTED]
To	[REDACTED] (Defra); tdent@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED] (NE); Martin.Gillibrand [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED]; rbenson@moorlandassociation.org
Cc	[REDACTED]
Sent	22 April 2014 13:27

Dear all

I'd like to have told you in person at our recent meeting, but I'll shortly be temporarily leaving RSPB to take up a secondment for 10 months.

My place on this group will be taken up by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has spent the previous six years as [REDACTED], including involvement in the Glenwherry project.

I've enjoyed out full and frank discussions and I'm disappointed I won't be there to see this process through to its finish, although I still hold out hope it will yet deliver a better future for hen harriers.

Best of luck and I'll no doubt see many of you in other forums when I come back in early 2015.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

UK Headquarters The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL  
Tel [REDACTED]  
Mobile [REDACTED]

[rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk)

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From: [REDACTED] defra.gsi.gov.uk  
Sent: 09 April 2014 13:03  
To: tdent@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED];  
Martin.Gillibrand [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk;  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED];  
rbenson@moorlandassociation.org  
**Subject:** 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes

Dear all,

Please find attached the 24 March Sub-Group meeting notes. I would be grateful if you could send me your comments by 6 May.

I have also included as an attachment the views of the Protected Landscape' representatives on the Action Plan that [REDACTED] summarised during the meeting.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
<<24 March 2014 Minutes - HH Sub-group meeting.doc>> <<HH Action Plan PL response Final.docx>>

[REDACTED]  
Biodiversity Programme | RM 1/14 | Temple Quay House | 2 The Square

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Tel [REDACTED]

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# FW: Hen Harrier Action Plan

07 October 2014

09:51

Subject	<b>FW: Hen Harrier Action Plan</b>
From	Kendall, Elaine (Defra)
To	[REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent	07 October 2014 09:51 .

**From:** De Grouchy, Chris (Defra)

**Sent:** 25 April 2014 16:22

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Kendall, Elaine (Defra)

**Subject:** RE: Hen Harrier Action Plan

Hello [REDACTED], very good to meet you too and I look forward to working with you. On hen harriers I'm still trying to get my mind round a few issues but we'll come back to you as soon as we possibly can. I'm keen to have a further talk and I'm convinced everyone round the HH sub-group table has the same general aims.

Regards

Chris

**From:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk

**Sent:** 24 April 2014 16:23

**To:** De Grouchy, Chris (Defra)

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Hen Harrier Action Plan

Hi Chris

I hope you had a lovely Easter break and enjoyed the fine weather.

When we met last week, you suggested that DEFRA would come back to the RSPB with additional thoughts on the Hen Harrier Action Plan. We're keen to know more about your thinking and to explore how we both think the plan can be improved so we are all able to support it.

We're particularly keen to talk about the need to see national recovery before local brood management could be considered, the need for a viable and adequately resourced plan to tackle the key threat of illegal persecution, and the balance of public/private resources for different elements of the plan.

As you know, the RSPB has come a long way to accept the majority of the proposals in the plan and we really want to see it succeed in recovering the population of hen harriers in England. I'm sure your leadership can help us to find a way forward and secure an agreed plan that solves this conservation challenge.

Please let me know when we can meet to discuss the issues again.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**UK Headquarters** The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL

**Tel** [REDACTED]

Mobile [REDACTED]

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# RE: 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes

07 October 2014

11:56

Subject	RE: 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes
From	Teresa Dent
To	[REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent	16 May 2014 14:03

Sorry for the delay – I am happy with these minutes – thanks for doing them

**From:** [REDACTED] (Defra) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 April 2014 13:03  
**To:** Teresa Dent; [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk; Martin.Gillibrand [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED]; rbenson@moorlandassociation.org  
**Subject:** 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes

Dear all,

Please find attached the 24 March Sub-Group meeting notes. I would be grateful if you could send me your comments by 6 May.

I have also included as an attachment the views of the Protected Landscape' representatives on the Action Plan that [REDACTED] summarised during the meeting.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
<<24 March 2014 Minutes - HH Sub-group meeting.doc>> <<HH Action Plan PL response Final.docx>>

[REDACTED]  
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| Temple

Quay | Bristol | BS1 6EB

Tel [REDACTED]

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# RE: 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes

07 October 2014

11:54

Subject	RE: 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes
From	[REDACTED]
To	[REDACTED]
Sent	02 June 2014 09:02

Sure, I will copy you in.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk]

**Sent:** 29 May 2014 08:54

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes

Thanks so much [REDACTED], I just didn't want to miss it getting into Teresa's diary as I don't see her emails.

Would you very kindly copy me in on emails regarding availability and I can answer on her behalf please?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] (Defra) [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 28 May 2014 16:28

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes

Hello [REDACTED],

We hope to have the next meeting in July. I have not asked the group members for dates yet. I will get in touch with Teresa about her availability.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk]

**Sent:** 28 May 2014 16:18

**To:** [REDACTED] (Defra)

**Subject:** RE: 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes

Dear [REDACTED]

Please could you tell me if a date has been fixed for the next meeting?

Very many thanks

[REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

[REDACTED]

Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust,

Fordingbridge, Hampshire, SP6 1EF

Direct tel: [REDACTED]

[www.gwct.org.uk](http://www.gwct.org.uk)

Follow us on



**From:** [REDACTED] (Defra) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 April 2014 13:03  
**To:** Teresa Dent; [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk;  
Martin.Gillibrand [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED],  
[REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] rbenson@moorlandassociation.org  
**Subject:** 24 March Hen Harrier Sub-Group meeting notes

Dear all,

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I have also included as an attachment the views of the Protected Landscape' representatives on the Action Plan that [REDACTED] summarised during the meeting.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]  
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| Temple  
Quay | Bristol | BS1 6EB  
Tel: [REDACTED]

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# RE: HHAP

06 October 2014  
16:58

Subject	RE: HHAP
From	[REDACTED]
To	[REDACTED] (Defra)
Cc	Kendall, Elaine (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent	13 June 2014 08:28

Hi [REDACTED]

I can make the 30 June and I'll come on my own. It would be good to talk about moorland issues more widely but I suggest we organise something separately with [REDACTED] to do this. I'll ask [REDACTED] to pull this together. I'd like to stick to the HHAP on the 30th.

Please confirm that the 30<sup>th</sup> is still suitable.

Many thanks  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**UK Headquarters** The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL  
Tel [REDACTED]  
Mobile [REDACTED]

[rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk)

## Let's give nature a home



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**From:** [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 June 2014 13:43  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Kendall, Elaine (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)  
**Subject:** FW: HHAP

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to Chris's email below, the following dates/times are available for Chris as his diary stands at the moment:

Wednesday, 18 June – 14:30 – 15:30  
Tuesday, 24 June – 14:30 – 15:30  
Monday, 30 June – 10:30 – 11:30  
Thursday, 3 July – 14:30 – 15:30

Monday, 7 July – 10:30 – 11:30

Would any of the above dates be suitable for you? If you would like [REDACTED] to attend she is more than welcome. The meeting will be held in our Nobel House office, London.

Regards.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs / Zone 1/14A Temple Quay House / 2 The Square / Temple Quay / Bristol / BS1 6EB

**From:** De Grouchy, Chris (Defra)

**Sent:** 11 June 2014 13:04

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Kendall, Elaine (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)

**Subject:** RE: HHAP

[REDACTED] – hi, good to hear from you. Elaine and I would be happy to meet you (and [REDACTED]?). Can [REDACTED] sort out a suitable date pl, in London if that's OK.

The moorland management side sounds as though it might be as much or more for [REDACTED]'s side of the team (I assume you've met [REDACTED]?). Should we involve him or one of his colleagues too?

Regards

Chris

**From:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk]

**Sent:** 10 June 2014 14:42

**To:** De Grouchy, Chris (Defra)

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: HHAP

Dear Chris

I'd like to come and see you very soon to find out more about progress with the Hen Harrier Action Plan and to brief you on some activities we are planning over the coming months to support sustainable moorland management.

I'm happy to pop down to your offices or meet you for a coffee somewhere convenient nearby to talk more. Can you suggest some dates and times which would be convenient?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

UK Headquarters The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL

Tel [REDACTED]

Mobile [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 May 2014 14:46  
**To:** De Grouchy, Chris (Defra)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: HHAP

Hi Chris

Thanks for the reply. There are at least two nests in Northern England and we're keeping a close eye on them. As ever, we are keeping this confidential until we feel the time is right to publicise. Let's cross fingers for success.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

UK Headquarters The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL  
Tel [REDACTED]  
Mobile [REDACTED]

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**From:** De Grouchy, Chris (Defra) [<mailto:chris.degrouchy@defra.gsi.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 28 May 2014 08:39  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: HHAP

[REDACTED] – many thanks and it was good to have an informal discussion with [REDACTED]. We're still reflecting (and this helps us to understand your position) and we'll come back again just as soon as we can.

Meanwhile what news of the harriers which were showing signs of nesting?

Regards

Chris

**From:** [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 21 May 2014 08:54  
**To:** De Grouchy, Chris (Defra)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** HHAP

Hi Chris

Following your chat with [REDACTED] last week, we've now had chance to discuss your suggestions for the Hen Harrier Action Plan (HHAP). We think your thoughts and ideas could lead to the genuine recovery of the hen harrier population in England and are keen to explore them further. Here are some comments on taking this to the next stage:

**1. A crackdown on persecution**

In 2007-2008, Operation Yatta (based within the National Wildlife Crime Unit) focused on utilising seconded Detectives to target wildlife crime enforcement efforts towards the serious and organised element of bird of prey persecution. As part of the HHAP, our 'red line' is that we want to see a number of Detective-level Wildlife Crime Officers in persecution 'hotspot' areas and a Coordinator to work on raptor persecution. We would be prepared to consider part-funding of this activity and we know such a scheme will be costly.

**2. A two-tier approach to the Brood Management Scheme (i.e. within SPAs, the hen harrier population target is the SPA designation level, and the BMS can only apply after it is reached. Outside, the BMS could begin earlier with a presumption that this is still triggered by reaching a threshold and that diversionary feeding is in place first)**

As you know, we accept that a brood management scheme could be included in the HHAP and merits experimental investigation in England in the future, but only once hen harrier numbers have recovered to a pre-agreed level nationally and less interventionist approaches, particularly diversionary feeding, have been widely attempted. This is our 'red line'. We would like to see further details of a two-tier approach, given that it gives us confidence our red line would not be crossed, but we urge you to consider legal scrutiny of the new proposals. Once we see firmer proposals, we can offer our legal analysis but we would suggest, in particular, early consideration of a) Section 16 WCA licensing implications and b) the possible adverse effects of brood management on SPAs and whether the derogation tests can be met.

It would be great to meet up soon to discuss this further.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**UK Headquarters** The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL  
**Tel** [REDACTED]  
**Mobile** [REDACTED]

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# FW: Moorland Association challenges RSPB to work together

06 October 2014

16:09

Subject	<b>FW: Moorland Association challenges RSPB to work together</b>
From	Kendall, Elaine (Defra)
To	De Grouchy, Chris (Defra)
Cc	[REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent	30 June 2014 14:22

For info – MA's response to the letter we touched on this morning

**From:** Moorland Association [<mailto:amanda@moorlandassociation.org@mail195.atl21.rsgsv.net>] **On Behalf Of** Moorland Association  
**Sent:** 30 June 2014 10:42  
**To:** Kendall, Elaine (Defra)  
**Subject:** Moorland Association challenges RSPB to work together

Amanda Anderson, Director of the Moorland Association, responds to RSPB open letter.  
[View this email in your browser](#)



30 June, 2014  
Dr Mike Clarke  
Chief Executive, RSPB  
The Lodge  
Sandy  
BEDS  
SG19 2DL

Dear Mike,

The Moorland Association welcomes the RSPB's support for sustainable grouse moors that "provide a safe home for birds of prey and other threatened species" and agrees that "our amazing upland wildlife" needs our collective care. Thank you for your letter.

I can assure you that the aim of the Moorland Association is to encourage and promote the conservation and enhancement of the ecology and natural beauty of heather moorland. We take great pride in the flora and fauna that are doing well under the careful management of our members; the black grouse, ring ouzel, merlin, lapwing, golden plover and curlew are just a few amber or red listed birds that have refuges on driven grouse moors. All are benefiting directly from grouse moor gamekeepers undertaking predator control and habitat management funded by grouse shooting.

As red grouse are wild, sympathetic management of the moors is all our members can do to safeguard the population and encourage a viable surplus to then be harvested by shooting. With that in mind, it makes no sense to deliberately 'damage or destroy' the very habitat on which the grouse depend.

Over 70% of grouse moors are designated as SSSI for flora and fauna largely delivered by the way grouse moors have been managed so well over the last 200 years, with 96% in favourable recovering condition. Clearly, there is still room for

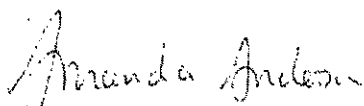
improvement, but with designation comes regulation and the Moorland Association feels that a further regulatory framework is at least unnecessary red tape and at worst could be damaging to the huge progress now being made with statutory and other bodies on peatland restoration on grouse moors. Equally, the hen harrier conflict is well recognised and we hope to see Defra's Joint Recovery Plan, which you have helped write, signed off and implemented so that we can build on the success of this year's breeding on moorland managed for red grouse in Bowland across England in a sustainable way.

The definition of what sustainable and successful land management in the uplands looks like is perhaps the nub of the question that needs answering. The Moorland Association, whose members look after one fifth of the uplands of England and Wales, need to work with you and other partners and through constructive dialogue create a Code of Practice for all upland land managers based on clear outcomes that also take into consideration the multiple objectives of the land use; be they water quality, conservation, agriculture, access and grouse moor management. Surely a healthy abundance of a suite of waders and an economically thriving local upland community are just as important as re-wetting the moors and encouraging sphagnum moss growth to clean water and lock up carbon?

This is challenging work, but I am sure we are more than tenacious enough to rise to it and rediscover the common ground that I think we still share.

The Chairman and I look forward to meeting you to discuss in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



Amanda Anderson BSc., MSc., PGCE  
Director



The Moorland Association

[www.moorlandassociation.org](http://www.moorlandassociation.org)  
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## RE: HH sub group

06 October 2014  
17:25

Subject	RE: HH sub group
From	[REDACTED]
To	Kendall, Elaine (Defra)
Cc	[REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent	03 July 2014 14:06

Thanks Elaine

I can tell you, confidentially if possible, that we had 6 eggs which had 3 chicks of which one died and the remaining 2 we ringed and [REDACTED] came a few days later and sat tagged them. A bit disappointing but much better than last year and they seemed to be 2 very healthy females.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

**From:** Kendall, Elaine (Defra) [<mailto:Elaine.Kendall@defra.gsi.gov.uk>]

**Sent:** 03 July 2014 12:43

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)

**Subject:** RE: HH sub group

Thanks [REDACTED], good to hear from you and hope you are well too.

We've had some further discussions here and are still considering how best to drive the action plan forward. We'll come out shortly canvassing for a date for the next sub-group meeting.

Meanwhile, we're pleased to hear that there are young in the 3 nests we have heard about. [REDACTED] was tagging 2 of them with some tags Defra purchased and I think there are 2 tags available for the Bowland chicks too. Waiting to hear their progress – let me know if there's anything you can tell me about them after the meeting.

Kind regards

Elaine

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 30 June 2014 11:40

**To:** Kendall, Elaine (Defra)

**Subject:** HH sub group

Hi Elaine, hope you are well.

We have a meeting of the northern protected landscapes coming up and I am, rightly, being asked what the position is with the HH Action Plan.

As I haven't heard anything since March I wondered if you could update me on the state of play as I guess there are politics at play somewhere!!

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Tel. [REDACTED]

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# FW: Skye Harrier nest predation report

06 October 2014  
16:18

Subject	<b>FW: Skye Harrier nest predation report</b>
From	<b>Teresa Dent</b>
To	<b>Kendall, Elaine (Defra)</b>
Sent	<b>11 July 2014 23:30</b>
Attachments	 <b>Skye harri...</b>

Have you seen this paper?

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 June 2014 17:35  
**To:** Teresa Dent  
**Subject:** FW: Skye Harrier nest predation report

As promised, a scan of the SOC Scottish birds paper McMillan, R.L. (2014) Hen Harriers on Skye, 2000-2012: nest failures and predation. *Scottish Birds* 34: 126-135. It re-inforces Dave Baines's and Mike Richardson's excellent paper

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# Please Sign e-petition to save hen harrers

06 October 2014

16:42

Subject	<b>Please Sign e-petition to save hen harrers</b>
From	<a href="#">Amanda Anderson</a>
To	Kendall, Elaine (Defra)
Sent	04 August 2014 08:16

Please sign this petition to help save the hen harrier  
[View this email in your browser](#)



The Moorland Association

An HM Government e-petition has been posted that calls for the publication of a six-pint Recovery Plan which seeks to boost hen harrier numbers in England without damaging the viability of grouse moors. The MA membership has signed this petition demonstrating the grouse moor community's commitment to seeing this plan published and implemented. Please add your voice.

Please follow the link below and sign the e-petition. It is very quick and very simple. Once you have signed, a verification email will land in your inbox which must be actioned with one further click.

## **Sign the HM Government e-Petition**

<http://www.gwct.org.uk/hhpetition>

## **Background**

Overseen by Defra, the Hen Harrier Joint Recovery Plan was drawn up by moor owners, gamekeepers and conservation groups, including the RSPB. Work started in August 2012 and the Plan has been ready since January this year, but has not yet been launched.

**There are six elements of the Joint Recovery Plan. Three deal with wildlife crime and three deal with measures to support the growth of a sustainable population of harriers avoiding colonial nesting. The six points are:**

- 1) Law enforcement, prevention and intelligence led by a senior police officer
- 2) Ongoing monitoring of breeding sites and winter roosts
- 3) Research of the movement of hen harriers using satellite tracking
- 4) Diversionsary feeding of hen harriers to reduce predation on grouse chicks
- 5) Engagement study about reintroducing them to other parts of England
- 6) Nest management trial to avoid red grouse and hen harrier population swings.

Learn more about the Recovery Plan - [Hen Harrier Fact File](#)

Please sign so we can build on this year's successful breeding on moorland managed

for red grouse. This Recovery Plan will deliver more hen harriers on more grouse moors in a **sustainable** way.

### **Why should I sign the e-petition to see the Defra-led Joint Recovery Plan Published?**

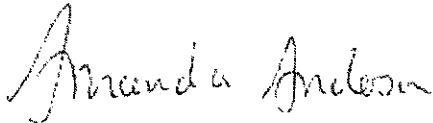
1. All six partners that contributed to the Defra-led hen harrier recovery plan have also publicly committed themselves to supporting sustainable driven grouse shooting. (RSPB, National Parks, National Gamekeepers Organisation, Natural England, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust and Moorland Association).
2. The key lesson from Langholm Moor, that there is wildlife conflict between hen harriers and red grouse, has been incorporated within the plan.
3. The plan includes a brood management trial as proven to remove conflict with Hen Harriers in France and Spain.
4. You are tired of all the talk about too few harriers and would like to see a robust solution that involves seeing hen harriers return to suitable habitat across England.
5. You would like to read the detail within the plan so you can make up your own mind.

**Please sign the HM Government e-Petition today**

<http://www.gwct.org.uk/hhpetition>

Please forward this email to anyone you feel may be interested.

Thank you for your support.



Amanda Anderson, Director



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## RE: Hen harriers

06 October 2014  
16:12

Subject	<b>RE: Hen harriers</b>
From	Kendall, Elaine (Defra)
To	[REDACTED]
Sent	06 August 2014 15:16

Hi [REDACTED]

Are you around this week?

If so could you give me a ring?

Thanks

Elaine

---

**From:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 04 July 2014 09:34  
**To:** De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); Kendall, Elaine (Defra)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Hen harriers

Dear Chris and Elaine

Thank you so much for meeting me on Monday to discuss the Hen Harrier Action Plan (and for the cuppa!). I found the discussion really useful and it gave us the chance to explore ways of securing full agreement. As you know, we see this process as very important and will continue to work with all the partners towards an effective plan.

We noticed that GWCT posted a survey of grouse and hen harriers on their website yesterday <http://www.gwct.org.uk/hhsurvey> and it states clearly that Defra supports it. This was a surprise. It asks the public whether grouse shooting should be left alone, licensed or banned, and the reasoning for their decision. It says it is supported by those taking part in the Joint Action Plan but we were not, to my knowledge, asked for our opinion. This is disappointing for us given that we are trying to work constructively with all the partners.

It would really help us to know why Defra has supported this questionnaire, what you believe is its purpose, why it has been published under the auspices of the Action Plan members given that banning or licensing are not currently components of the plan, and how you intend to use the results.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

**UK Headquarters** The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL  
**Tel** [REDACTED]  
**Mobile** [REDACTED]

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# Harrier-grouse paper

06 October 2014

16:57

Subject	<b>Harrier-grouse paper</b>
From	[REDACTED]
To	Kendall, Elaine (Defra)
Sent	14 August 2014 14:13
Attachments	 Journal of ...

Hi Elaine

I heard you had a good day out on Monday and saw some harriers – v jealous.

Just in case you hadn't seen it, attached is a paper on harrier 'quotas' that came out on Monday. We had no idea it was being published and it provides an intriguing statistic that 70 pairs of harriers could be nesting on English grouse moors with relatively low impact on grouse densities. And that's without diversionary feeding in place. It also usefully sets out some info on the potential challenges that the trial would need to tackle.

We talked about setting a date for a wider discussion of issues in the autumn. Could you send me some dates in October when we could do this? Very happy to meet in London if that suits.

Best ones

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**UK Headquarters** The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL

Tel [REDACTED]

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# Working with stakeholders to reduce conflict – modelling the impact of varying hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* densities on red grouse *Lagopus lagopus* populations

David A. Elston<sup>1</sup>, Luigi Spezia<sup>1</sup>, Dave Baines<sup>2</sup> and Stephen M. Redpath<sup>3\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland, Craigiebuckler Aberdeen AB15 8QH, UK; <sup>2</sup>Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, The Coach House, Eggleston Hall, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 0AG, UK; and <sup>3</sup>Institute of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Zoology Building, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB24 2TZ, UK

## Summary

1. Conflict management is difficult and may benefit from scientists working closely with stakeholders. We worked with conservation and moorland management interests, to consider the potential use of a quota system to address the long-standing conflict arising from hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* predation on red grouse *Lagopus lagopus scoticus*.
2. We modelled the impact of different harrier densities on grouse populations using a stochastic population dynamics model to inform the debate over the consequences of a quota system. The stakeholders commissioned the work and agreed on the underlying principles, the data sets and the approach.
3. The model covers the recovery phase from low grouse densities to a level at which driven shooting can recommence, as this phase is of paramount concern to the managers of grouse moors.
4. The model incorporated uncertainty in parameter values as well as for temporal and spatial variation in demographic rates. Multiple runs of the model enabled us to construct probability distributions, both for the population sizes in the first 2 years following cyclic lows in the grouse populations and for the number of years to recommencement of driven grouse shooting.
5. The model results quantified the extent to which high densities of harriers pose challenges for grouse management. At harrier densities of or below 0.025 km<sup>2</sup>, harrier impacts were predicted to reduce autumn grouse densities by <10%, suggesting that a quota scheme could theoretically support coexistence between grouse shooting and harrier conservation.
6. *Synthesis and applications.* Conflict management requires dialogue between conflicting parties and can benefit from objective inputs from scientists using an agreed evidence base and transparent derivation of relevant information from that evidence base. By discussing the principles of model development and eligibility of data sets with a stakeholder group in advance of producing model results, we achieved buy-in from all parties involved. Our model informs the debate: whether this additional information will lead to the development and testing of a quota system in practice remains to be seen.

**Key-words:** conflict management; estimated demographic rates; modelled predation rates; resumption of driven shooting; simulated autumn grouse densities; stakeholder engagement, hen harrier, red grouse; stochastic population dynamics model

## Introduction

The resolution of conflicts over wildlife species presents difficult challenges to ecologists (Sullero-Zubiri, Sukumar

& Treves 2008). Such conflicts can be seen across the world (Woodroffe, Thirgood & Rabinowitz 2005). Robust solutions are notoriously hard to achieve and success stories are few. Typically, parties become polarized and unable to have meaningful dialogue (Redpath *et al.* 2013). Participatory and deliberative approaches are used as a

\*Correspondence author. E-mail: s.redpath@abdn.ac.uk

**Table 1.** Percentage of observed July broods of sizes ranging from 0 to 15 chicks, pooled across estates and years for each of three regions: Northern Pennines (NP), Southern Pennines (SP) and North York Moors (NYM).

Region	Brood sizes															
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
NP	11.4	4.1	4.8	7.3	9.9	10.7	11.8	11.3	11.2	6.8	4.9	3.0	1.4	0.7	0.4	0.3
SP	5.3	1.0	2.4	7.3	16.0	17.5	17.5	16.5	8.7	4.9	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NYM	7.5	2.5	3.5	12.0	18.5	30.0	26.5	24.0	16.5	6.0	3.5	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

of brood sizes in 4 years. Although these counts were made in July, they give a good indication of brood sizes following mortality of grouse chicks immediately after hatching.

### Step 2: Chick predation

Adult harriers of both sexes take grouse chicks to feed their own young during June and July. We used 9 years of data from Scotland, excluding supplementary feeding trials, to estimate grouse chick predation by harriers (Redpath & Thirgood 1997, Redpath, Thirgood & Leckie 2001). The data consisted of numbers of grouse chicks brought back to each observed nest and numbers of observation hours per nest: an analysis of data from seven of these years has been published by Redpath & Thirgood (1999), using a model that assumes no chicks are caught when the chick density is zero.

### Step 3: Winter mortality

The GWCT also provided data for the survival of 100 radio-tagged grouse over the winters of 1999/2000, 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 from three moors in the North Pennines (Table 2). We based our analysis on birds that had died of natural causes rather than being shot.

### Step 4: Adult predation

Female harriers kill adult grouse in spring, in contrast to male harriers. We have no observational data from which to estimate the relationship between grouse density and predation rates at this time of year, although it is plausible to regard the predation rate as being an increasing function of grouse density. In the absence of data, three predation curves (termed low, medium and high adult predation) were agreed on with stakeholders. All three predation curves had upper asymptotes at 30 grouse, corresponding to female harriers taking one adult grouse each per day

**Table 2.** Data used to inform overwinter survival rates, summarizing records from 100 radio-tagged birds from three moors in the North Pennines

Winter	Numbers alive on		1st April (next year)
	1st August	1st October	
1999/2000	54	54	41
2000/2001	27	26	15
2001/2002	19	19	12

during the month following their return to breeding areas and before incubation. At low grouse density (5 pairs km<sup>-2</sup>), the mean numbers of grouse taken per female harrier were set to be 1, 2 and 4 for the low, medium and high spring predation curves, respectively. At higher grouse density (20 pairs km<sup>-2</sup>), the corresponding mean numbers of grouse taken per female harrier were set to be 5, 10 and 20.

### Further modelling assumptions

The following assumptions, discussed with stakeholders, were made in addition to those implicit in the annual cycle stated above to simplify the modelling approach:

- the sex ratios in grouse and harriers were fixed at 1:1;
- the modelled grouse populations were closed in terms of total size;
- the total predation of grouse chicks by adult harriers for each nest occurred over 900 h – 60 days from hatching to dispersal for 15 h per day; and
- natural mortality of adults only takes place in winter.

Apart from evidence from one moor (Langholm), there has been little evidence of harrier polygyny on grouse moors, especially when densities are low (assumption a). Assumption (b) was considered plausible for large grouse moors. Assumption (c) is based on published data (Redpath & Thirgood 1997). Assumption (d) was based on the finding that harriers during the breeding season took only grouse chicks rather than adult birds (Redpath & Thirgood 1997).

### Modelling context

In discussion with stakeholders, we determined that the modelling would be in the context of:

- when present, harrier nest densities were set from 0.0125 to 0.2 km<sup>-2</sup> and remained unchanged during each simulation;
- the area of the grouse moor was set at 80 km<sup>2</sup> (8000 ha, c.19800 acres);
- grouse densities started at population lows of either 10 or 20 pairs km<sup>-2</sup>;
- modelling of the grouse population started at the time of spring counts, and the predation rate of adult grouse by female harriers was evenly split before and after that time; and
- each simulation would be summarized by the grouse densities in autumn of years 1 and 2, and the first year in which autumn grouse densities were sufficiently high that driven grouse shooting could resume.

The grouse moor area was chosen to enable integer values for numbers of harrier nests at the minimum nonzero harrier density. The threshold for driven shooting was set by analysis of data provided by the GWCT (see below), consisting of estimates of

preliminary modelling, when means and standard errors were the only figures available, and we subsequently elected to continue with this approach. For each year of each simulation, we selected one of the beta distributions at random, drew a mortality rate at random from that distribution and then estimated the number of birds dying from the corresponding binomial distribution.

#### Step 4: Adult predation

The fixed points on the low, medium and high predation rate curve were interpolated uniquely according to an asymptotic curve of the form  $N_j = 30 A_j^q / (r + A_j^q)$  where  $N_j$  is the expected number of adult grouse taken by a female harrier in the spring of year  $j$ , and  $A_j$  is the corresponding density of adult grouse. The approximate parameter values for  $(q, r)$  achieving this interpolation were (1.268, 537.6), (1.404, 354.7) and (1.852, 460.4) for the low, medium and high spring predation curves, respectively.

Simulations were performed using each predation rate curve (Fig. 2) in turn, the results for each being compared by way of a sensitivity analysis. The probability of each adult grouse being predated was estimated by reading off the chosen predation rate curve at the current grouse density, multiplying this figure by the number of female harriers to get the total expected number of adult grouse predated and then dividing this figure by the number of grouse to get the expected probability of predation per bird. The number of adult grouse predated was then a random draw from the corresponding binomial distribution. In the first year of each simulation, the probability of predation per bird was divided by two to allow for the spring count taking place mid-way during the period of adult predation.

#### Resumption of driven shooting

For the 75 combinations of year and moor for which data were available, driven shooting took place on 59 occasions (Fig. 3). We treated the decision to have driven shooting as a binary response variable and modelled this using a generalized linear model with logistic link function using grouse density as a covariate: the need for more complex models was assessed by replacing the linear covariate by a smoothing spline with four degrees of freedom, but this increase in complexity was not supported by the data. The fitted response curve had  $\log(p/(1-p)) = 0.341 + 0.0412 (G-150)$ ,

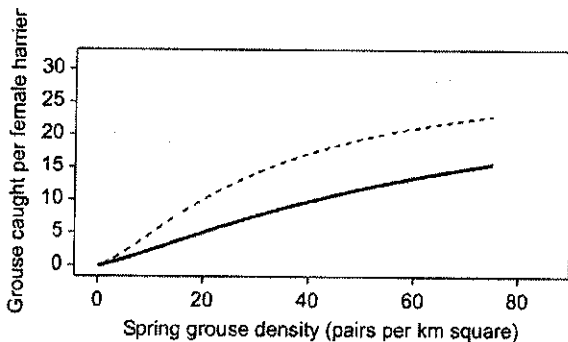


Fig. 2. The three curves assumed for predation of adult grouse in spring by female harriers, indicating the expected numbers of grouse taken per female harrier as a function of grouse density in spring. A. The curves each have an upper asymptote of 30 grouse and are described in the text as high (dotted, top), medium (dashed, middle) and low (solid, bottom) spring predation.

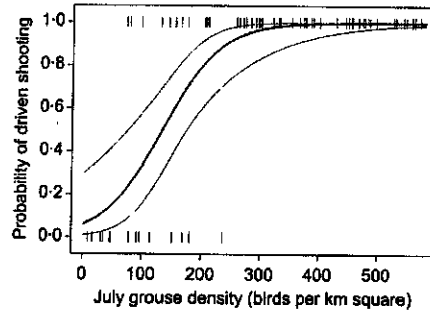


Fig. 3. Observed decisions as to whether (response = 1) or not (response = 0) to conduct driven shooting as a function of grouse density  $G$ , along with the fitted relationship and 95% confidence intervals from a logistic regression treating  $\log(p/(1-p))$  as a linear function of  $G$ .

where  $G$  is the population estimate of density (birds  $\text{km}^{-2}$ ) obtained in June but assumed to remain constant throughout the summer: the estimates of intercept and slope had standard errors of 0.409 and 0.00110, respectively, and a correlation of  $-0.051$ . These estimates of intercept and slope give a fitted probability of  $P = 0.5$  with a density of 133 birds  $\text{km}^{-2}$  following predation of chicks. Initial simulation runs were performed using this value of 133 birds  $\text{km}^{-2}$  as a fixed threshold, with driven shooting assumed to recommence as soon as it was exceeded. Subsequently, we decided to allow for uncertainty in the parameter estimates, setting a new threshold for each simulation run. This was done by drawing new values from the bivariate normal distribution with mean and variance-covariance parameters derived from the above, calculating the density corresponding to a fitted value of  $P = 0.5$ , and then using this as a threshold to define the year in which driven shooting would resume. To avoid the possibility of unrealistic thresholds being set, we constrained the thresholds to lie between the lowest density at which driven shooting had occurred and the largest density at which driven shooting had not occurred (respectively, 73 and 237 birds  $\text{km}^{-2}$ ).

#### Simulation strategy

Each simulation involved looping through the four demographic and predation steps above up to 11 times. Random draws were always assumed to be mutually independent. Each simulation ran until at least the autumn of year 2: if the threshold density for resumption of driven shooting had yet to be exceeded, then simulations continued until this happened or the autumn of year 11 was reached. We performed 100 000 simulations per situation to provide a reasonably precise estimate of the likely distribution of outcomes for each situation. Some pseudo-code describing the structure of the simulations is given as Appendix S1 (Supporting information). The simulations were summarized by grouse densities in years 1 and 2 and the year of first exceedance of the threshold density, these values being presented as tables of means, tables of percentages or graphs of the associated frequency distributions.

#### Results of simulations

In the absence of breeding harriers, simulated grouse densities in the autumn of year 1 were mostly between 50 and



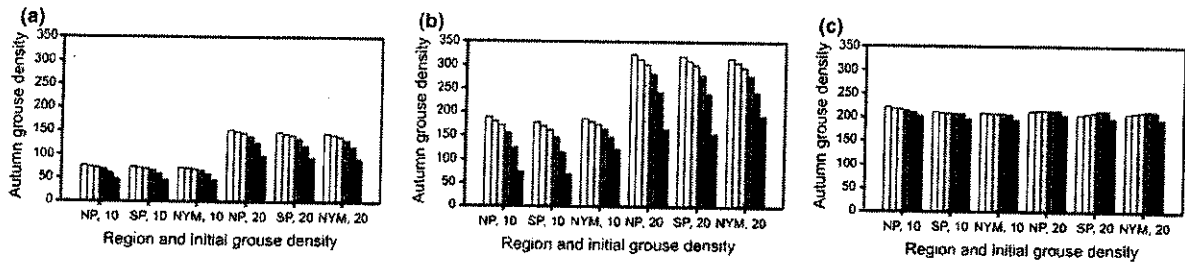


Fig. 5. Mean population densities (birds  $\text{km}^{-2}$ ) of red grouse in the autumn of simulation year 1 (a), year 2 (b) and also for the year in which the threshold for resumption of driven shooting was first exceeded (c). Simulations used the medium spring predation curves, with a spring grouse density in year 1 of either 10 or 20 pairs per  $\text{km}^2$ . Brood size data used was for one of Northern Pennines (NP), Southern Pennines (SP) or North York Moors (NYM). Shading of bars indicates harrier nest densities, from 0 (white) through 0.0125, 0.025, 0.05 and 0.1 to 0.2 (black) pairs  $\text{km}^{-2}$ . Results using other spring predations curves are summarized in the Supporting Information Tables S2a-c.

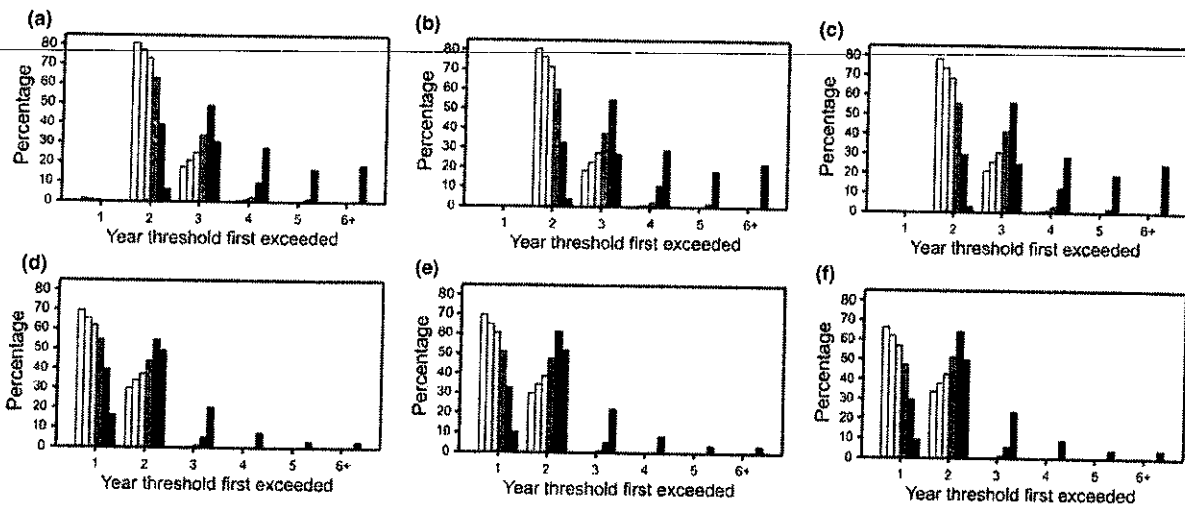


Fig. 6. For each combination of region and harrier density, this figure shows the percentage of 100 000 simulations in which driven shooting would have started in the stated year when spring grouse density in year 1 was either 10 pairs per  $\text{km}^2$  (a,b,c) or 20 pairs per  $\text{km}^2$  (d,e,f). Brood size data used was for one of Northern Pennines (a,d), Southern Pennines (b,e) or North York Moors (c,f). Shading of bars indicates harrier nest densities, from 0 (white) through 0.0125, 0.025, 0.05 and 0.1 to 0.2 (black) pairs  $\text{km}^{-2}$ . Simulations used the medium spring predation curve; results using other spring predations curves are summarized in Supporting Information Tables S3a-f.

requiring 4 or more years. With a starting grouse density of 20 pairs  $\text{km}^{-2}$ , the simulations first exceeded their thresholds for the resumption of driven shooting mainly (66–70%) in the autumn of year 1 (Fig. 6, second row and Tables S3d–e, Supporting information). The bulk of the remainder did so in year 2, with <1% of simulations requiring a third year.

In the presence of harriers, the time to first exceedance of the thresholds lengthened. Using the medium spring predation curves, with a starting grouse density of 10 pairs  $\text{km}^{-2}$ , the absolute difference in the percentages of simulations exceeding their thresholds by the end of year 2 averaged 4, 9 and 21% for harrier nest densities of 0.0125, 0.025 and 0.05 nests  $\text{km}^{-2}$ , respectively (Fig. 6, first row and Table S3a–c, Supporting information). Similarly, with a starting grouse density of 20 pairs  $\text{km}^{-2}$ , the absolute difference in the percentages of simulations

exceeding their thresholds by the end of year 1 averaged 4, 9 and 17% for harrier nest densities of 0.0125, 0.025 and 0.05 nests  $\text{km}^{-2}$ , respectively (Fig. 6, second row and Tables S3d–e, Supporting information). Higher harrier densities had more substantial impacts. At the harrier nest density of 0.2  $\text{km}^{-2}$ , over 60% of simulations required at least 4 years to exceed their thresholds from a starting grouse density of 10 pairs  $\text{km}^{-2}$  and over 30% required at least 3 years from a starting grouse density of 20 pairs  $\text{km}^{-2}$ .

## Discussion

A quota scheme offers a potential, if contentious, solution to this long-term conflict (Redpath *et al.* 2010). However, stakeholders are cautious about agreeing to this approach. Grouse managers are cautious because of the perceived

funding of this work. We are grateful to the Associate Editor and two anonymous referees for constructive comments which have helped to improve the quality of this paper. The Scottish Government's Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services Division (RESAS) helped fund the writing of this paper.

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Received 11 June 2013; accepted 1 July 2014  
Handling Editor: Chris Elphick

## Supporting Information

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article.

# Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum

06 October 2014  
17:53

Subject	Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum
From	[REDACTED] (Defra)
To	[REDACTED]@nationalparksengland.org.uk; amanda@moorlandassociation.org; [REDACTED] (NE); tdent@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk
Cc	Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent	15 August 2014 14:16
Attachments	 DWO - [REDACTED].

Dear Sub-Group Members

[REDACTED] has kindly drawn our attention to an e-mail which a [REDACTED] sent to all Sub-group members, with the exception of Defra by the look, back in March. The content of the e-mail can be found below. It is unclear whether his e-mail reached any of its intended targets or whether any of you has replied to the points raised in his e-mail.

On the basis that no response has been sent by any Sub-Group member, and as suggested by [REDACTED], perhaps a reply from Defra on behalf of the Sub-group should be sent. To this end we have drafted a reply to the points [REDACTED] has raised and this is attached.

If you have any comments to make I would be grateful for these by close of play **Wednesday 20 August** so there are no further delays.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Biodiversity Programme  
Defra  
Zone 1/14 Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Temple Quay  
Bristol, BS1 6EB  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 August 2014 12:23  
**To:** Kendall, Elaine (Defra)  
**Subject:** FW: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum  
**Importance:** High

Dear Elaine,

We have received the query below which I believe may have been passed on to Defra previously. As this request went to a number of partners in the Hen Harrier group and it is concerned with the discussions of the group, it would be very helpful if Defra would respond on behalf of the group.

Please could you send me a copy of any response made.

Many thanks, best wishes,

[REDACTED]  
National Parks England

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 August 2014 19:42  
**To:** enquiries  
**Subject:** FW: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum  
**Importance:** High

Hi, I was disappointed not to receive a response to the following email, which was sent in March. Could you please let me know when I can expect a response?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum  
**Date:** Sun, 2 Mar 2014 07:35:40 +0000  
**To:** Natural England, the Moorland Association, the National Gamekeepers' Organisation, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, the National Park Authority, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Dear Sir or Madam,

I was pleased to be informed by Defra that a Hen Harrier sub-group has been set up to develop an action plan for the development of the English population of the species, which I understand failed to breed in this country last year. I am aware that a report is to be submitted to the government in due course, but am keen to understand what is being done and am also trying to build a picture as to how we have reached this point.

As a result, I have a few questions and would be very interested in any response you could offer.

- **Why do you think the Hen Harrier failed to breed in England in 2013?**
- **Are you confident that the species has a viable long-term future in England?**
- **Is diversionary feeding a viable tactic which could be used in the future?**
- **What other measures have you recommended to the sub-group?**
- **What if any measures were suggested by other stakeholders that you were unable to support?**
- **Are any changes to the law necessary to protect the Hen Harrier?**

Any insight you could provide to the above - and any other comments you may wish to make - would be gratefully received.

Many thanks,



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail on hen harriers. I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Sub-Group members and I apologise for the delay.

As you have mentioned in your e-mail, the Uplands Stakeholder Forum Hen Harrier Sub-Group is developing a jointly-owned Action Plan containing a suite of complementary actions intended to contribute to the recovery of the hen harrier population in England. Defra officials are currently working with Sub-Group members to finalise the Plan.

To respond to your questions briefly:

***Why do you think the Hen Harrier failed to breed in England in 2013?***

Whilst there were two breeding attempts in 2013, one clutch was abandoned for reasons unknown; the other produced two eggs which were malformed and failed to hatch.

***Are you confident that the species has a viable long-term future in England?***

There is estimated to be 12 breeding pairs in England and in 2013 no young fledged for the first time in over 50 years. There is a danger that the hen harriers could be lost as a breeding species in England. This is a real concern and Defra is working together with the other organisations in the Sub-Group including , Natural England, the Moorland Association, the National Gamekeepers' Organisation, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, National Parks UK and the RSPB to develop the best possible measures that will contribute the recovery of one of our most iconic species. All members of the Hen Harrier Sub-Group, landowners and conservation bodies alike, agree that they have a common interest to protect hen harriers and their commitment gives us confidence that a viable future for English hen harriers is possible. We are encouraged to learn that there are a few nests this year which have chicks and we are confident that we will see these numbers to increase year on year once the Action Plan is put into place.

***Is diversionary feeding a viable tactic which could be used in the future?***

Diversionary feeding has been used extensively as part of the Langholm Moor Demonstration Project in Scotland. The work undertaken has shown that diversionary feeding can significantly reduce the rate at which red grouse chicks are predated by harriers. It is considered that diversionary feeding will be an important tool in managing the impacts of hen harriers on grouse moors while helping the recovery of these birds.

***What other measures have you recommended to the sub-group?***

The other actions considered by the Sub-Group include monitoring of populations in England and the UK, work with Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group (RPPDG) to analyse monitoring information and build intelligence picture, nest and winter roost protection, lowland reintroduction, and a trial Brood Management Scheme.

***What if any measures were suggested by other stakeholders that you were unable to support?***

All of the actions named above complement each other. The Sub-Group members are currently in discussions to finalise the Action Plan.


***Are any changes to the law necessary to protect the Hen Harrier?***

In England, there is a robust legal framework for protecting wild birds with penalties which can include imprisonment for offenders. All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and it is an offence to kill or injure any wild bird; take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; and take or destroy an egg of any wild bird. Some birds are further protected by their listing on Schedule 1 to the Act, it is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb them while they are building a nest, or are on, in, or near a nest containing eggs or their young; or to disturb dependent young of such a bird. Hen harriers are listed in Schedule 1. It is not considered necessary to make any changes to the legislation to increase further the protection to Hen Harriers.

The hen harrier is one of our most charismatic birds and we are committed to ensuring that the strict protection afforded these wild birds under our wildlife legislation is effectively enforced.

# RE: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum

06 October 2014  
16:18

Subject	<b>RE: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum</b>
From	Amanda Anderson
To	[REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED]@nationalparksengland.org.uk; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (NE); tdent@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk
Cc	Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent	15 August 2014 14:32
Attachments	 DWO - [REDACTED].docx

Dear [REDACTED],

I am aware, only through Twitter that [REDACTED] had written to all on the sub-group. The email to the MA did not arrive and he re-sent it just recently. I have not yet responded and would be happy for a group response as you attach to go with the MA's endorsement. I have made just a few suggested changes in red.

I am now on holiday from COP today to 3rd September.

Thanks  
Amanda

**From:** [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 August 2014 14:17  
**To:** [REDACTED]@nationalparksengland.org.uk; Amanda Anderson; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (NE); tdent@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk  
**Cc:** Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)  
**Subject:** Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum  
**Importance:** High

Dear Sub-Group Members

[REDACTED] has kindly drawn our attention to an e-mail which a [REDACTED] sent to all Sub-group members, with the exception of Defra by the look, back in March. The content of the e-mail can be found below. It is unclear whether his e-mail reached any of its intended targets or whether any of you has replied to the points raised in his e-mail.

On the basis that no response has been sent by any Sub-Group member, and as suggested by [REDACTED] perhaps a reply from Defra on behalf of the Sub-group should be sent. To this end we have drafted a reply to the points [REDACTED] has raised and this is attached.

If you have any comments to make I would be grateful for these by close of play **Wednesday 20 August** so there are no further delays.

Regards



[REDACTED]  
Biodiversity Programme  
Defra  
Zone 1/14 Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Temple Quay  
Bristol, BS1 6EB  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]nationalparksengland.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 06 August 2014 12:23  
**To:** Kendall, Elaine (Defra)  
**Subject:** FW: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum  
**Importance:** High

Dear Elaine,

We have received the query below which I believe may have been passed on to Defra previously. As this request went to a number of partners in the Hen Harrier group and it is concerned with the discussions of the group, it would be very helpful if Defra would respond on behalf of the group.

Please could you send me a copy of any response made.

Many thanks, best wishes,

[REDACTED]  
National Parks England

**From:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 August 2014 19:42  
**To:** enquiries  
**Subject:** FW: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum  
**Importance:** High

Hi, I was disappointed not to receive a response to the following email, which was sent in March. Could you please let me know when I can expect a response?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum  
**Date:** Sun, 2 Mar 2014 07:35:40 +0000  
**To:** Natural England, the Moorland Association, the National Gamekeepers' Organisation, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, the National Park Authority, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Dear Sir or Madam,

I was pleased to be informed by Defra that a Hen Harrier sub-group has been set up to


develop an action plan for the development of the English population of the species, which I understand failed to breed in this country last year. I am aware that a report is to be submitted to the government in due course, but am keen to understand what is being done and am also trying to build a picture as to how we have reached this point.

As a result, I have a few questions and would be very interested in any response you could offer.

- **Why do you think the Hen Harrier failed to breed in England in 2013?**
- **Are you confident that the species has a viable long-term future in England?**
- **Is diversionary feeding a viable tactic which could be used in the future?**
- **What other measures have you recommended to the sub-group?**
- **What if any measures were suggested by other stakeholders that you were unable to support?**
- **Are any changes to the law necessary to protect the Hen Harrier?**

Any insight you could provide to the above - and any other comments you may wish to make - would be gratefully received.

Many thanks,

  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail on hen harriers. I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Sub-Group members and I apologise for the delay.

As you have mentioned in your e-mail, the Uplands Stakeholder Forum Hen Harrier Sub-Group is developing a jointly-owned Action Plan containing a suite of complementary actions intended to contribute to the recovery of the hen harrier population in England. Defra officials are currently working with Sub-Group members to finalise the Plan.

To respond to your questions briefly:

***Why do you think the Hen Harrier failed to breed in England in 2013?***

Whilst there were two breeding attempts in 2013, one clutch was abandoned for reasons unknown; the other produced two eggs which were malformed and failed to hatch.

***Are you confident that the species has a viable long-term future in England?***

There is estimated to be 12 breeding pairs in England and in 2013 no young fledged for the first time in over 50 years. There is a danger that the hen harriers could be lost as a breeding species in England. This is a real concern and Defra is working together with the other organisations in the Sub-Group including , Natural England, the Moorland Association, the National Gamekeepers' Organisation, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, National Parks UK and the RSPB to develop the best possible measures that will contribute the recovery of one of our most iconic species. All members of the Hen Harrier Sub-Group, landowners and conservation bodies alike, agree that they have a common interest to protect hen harriers and their commitment gives us confidence that a viable future for English hen harriers is possible. We are encouraged to learn that there are a few nests this year which have chicks and we are confident that we will see these numbers to increase year on year once the Action Plan is put into place.

Comment [U1]: Insert to its

Comment [U2]: I would prefer such language was omitted

Formatted: Font color: Red

Comment [U3]: delete

***Is diversionary feeding a viable tactic which could be used in the future?***

Diversionary feeding has been used extensively as part of the Langholm Moor Demonstration Project in Scotland. The work undertaken has shown that diversionary feeding can significantly reduce the rate at which red grouse chicks are predated by harriers. It is considered that diversionary feeding will be an important tool in managing the impacts of hen harriers on grouse moors while helping the recovery of these birds.

***What other measures have you recommended to the sub-group?***

The other actions considered by the Sub-Group include monitoring of populations in England and the UK, work with Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group (RPPDG) to analyse monitoring information and build intelligence, picture, nest and winter roost protection, lowland reintroduction, and a trial Brood Management Scheme.

Comment [U4]: an

***What if any measures were suggested by other stakeholders that you were unable to support?***

All of the actions named above complement each other. The Sub-Group members are currently in discussions to finalise the Action Plan.

***Are any changes to the law necessary to protect the Hen Harrier?***

In England, there is a robust legal framework for protecting wild birds with penalties which can include imprisonment for offenders. All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and it is an offence to kill or injure any wild bird; take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; and take or destroy an egg of any wild bird. Some birds are further protected by their listing on Schedule 1 to the Act, it is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb them while they are building a nest, or are on, in, or near a nest containing eggs or their young; or to disturb dependent young of such a bird. Hen harriers are listed in Schedule 1. It is not considered necessary to make any changes to the legislation to increase further the protection to Hen Harriers.

The hen harrier is one of our most charismatic birds and we are committed to ensuring that the strict protection afforded these wild birds under our wildlife legislation is effectively enforced.

# RE: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum

06 October 2014

16:49

Subject	RE: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum
From	Teresa Dent
To	Amanda Anderson; [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED]@nationalparksengland.org.uk; [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk
Cc	Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent	15 August 2014 18:52

We are happy with Amada's suggestions

**From:** Amanda Anderson [<mailto:amanda@moorlandassociation.org>]

**Sent:** 15 August 2014 14:32

**To:** Wootton, Dave (Defra); [REDACTED]@nationalparksengland.org.uk; [REDACTED] (NE); Teresa Dent; [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk

**Cc:** Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)

**Subject:** RE: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum

Dear [REDACTED],

I am aware, only through Twitter that [REDACTED] had written to all on the sub-group. The email to the MA did not arrive and he re-sent it just recently. I have not yet responded and would be happy for a group response as you attach to go with the MA's endorsement. I have made just a few suggested changes in red.

I am now on holiday from COP today to 3rd September.

Thanks  
Amanda

**From:** [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 15 August 2014 14:17

**To:** [REDACTED]@nationalparksengland.org.uk; Amanda Anderson; [REDACTED] (NE); [tdent@gwct.org.uk](mailto:tdent@gwct.org.uk); [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk

**Cc:** Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)

**Subject:** Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum

**Importance:** High

Dear Sub-Group Members

[REDACTED] has kindly drawn our attention to an e-mail which a [REDACTED] sent to all Sub-group members, with the exception of Defra by the look, back in March. The content of the e-mail can be found below. It is unclear whether his e-mail reached any of its intended targets or whether any of you has replied to the points raised in his e-mail.

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If you have any comments to make I would be grateful for these by close of play  
**Wednesday 20 August** so there are no further delays.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Biodiversity Programme  
Defra  
Zone 1/14 Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Temple Quay  
Bristol, BS1 6EB  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] @nationalparksengland.org.uk  
**Sent:** 06 August 2014 12:23  
**To:** Kendall, Elaine (Defra)  
**Subject:** FW: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum  
**Importance:** High

Dear Elaine,

We have received the query below which I believe may have been passed on to Defra previously. As this request went to a number of partners in the Hen Harrier group and it is concerned with the discussions of the group, it would be very helpful if Defra would respond on behalf of the group.

Please could you send me a copy of any response made.

Many thanks, best wishes,

[REDACTED]  
National Parks England

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 August 2014 19:42  
**To:** enquiries  
**Subject:** FW: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum  
**Date:** Sun, 2 Mar 2014 07:35:40 +0000  
**To:** Natural England, the Moorland Association, the National Gamekeepers' Organisation, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, the National Park Authority, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Dear Sir or Madam,


I was pleased to be informed by Defra that a Hen Harrier sub-group has been set up to develop an action plan for the development of the English population of the species, which I understand failed to breed in this country last year. I am aware that a report is to be submitted to the government in due course, but am keen to understand what is being done and am also trying to build a picture as to how we have reached this point.

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Many thanks,

  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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Not yet a GWCT member? Discover the benefits of joining: [www.gwct.org.uk/benefits](http://www.gwct.org.uk/benefits)

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# Re: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum

06 October 2014  
17:17

Subject	Re: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum
From	[REDACTED]
To	[REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED]@nationalparksengland.org.uk; amanda@moorlandassociation.org; [REDACTED] (NE); tident@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk
Cc	Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent	17 August 2014 22:28

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for drafting this reply on behalf of the sub group I think it is much better coming from yourselves as host to the group rather than each organisation responding individually in this instance and we are supportive of the content.

Best wishes and thanks again.

[REDACTED]

National Parks UK

Sent from Samsung Mobile

----- Original message -----

From: "[REDACTED] (Defra)" <[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk>

Date: 15/08/2014 14:16 (GMT+00:00)

To:

[REDACTED]@nationalparksengland.org.uk, amanda@moorlandassociation.org, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (NE)"

<[REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk>, tident@gwct.org.uk, [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk

Cc: "Kendall, Elaine (Defra)" <Elaine.Kendall@defra.gsi.gov.uk>, "De Grouchy, Chris (Defra)"

<chris.degrouchy@defra.gsi.gov.uk>, "[REDACTED] (Defra)" <[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk>

Subject: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum

Dear Sub-Group Members

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On the basis that no response has been sent by any Sub-Group member, and as suggested by [REDACTED], perhaps a reply from Defra on behalf of the Sub-group should be sent. To this end we have drafted a reply to the points Mr Wright has raised and this is attached.

If you have any comments to make I would be grateful for these by close of play Wednesday 20 August so there are no further delays.

Regards



[REDACTED]  
Biodiversity Programme  
Defra  
Zone 1/14 Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Temple Quay  
Bristol, BS1 6EB  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 06 August 2014 12:23  
To: Kendall, Elaine (Defra)  
Subject: FW: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum  
Importance: High

Dear Elaine,

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Please could you send me a copy of any response made.

Many thanks, best wishes,

[REDACTED]  
National Parks England

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 03 August 2014 19:42  
To: enquiries  
Subject: FW: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum  
Importance: High

Hi, I was disappointed not to receive a response to the following email, which was sent in March. Could you please let me know when I can expect a response?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum  
Date: Sun, 2 Mar 2014 07:35:40 +0000  
To: Natural England, the Moorland Association, the National Gamekeepers' Organisation, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, the National Park Authority, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Dear Sir or Madam,

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- \* What other measures have you recommended to the sub-group?
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- \* Are any changes to the law necessary to protect the Hen Harrier?

Any insight you could provide to the above - and any other comments you may wish to make - would be gratefully received.

Many thanks,

██████████

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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# RE: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum

06 October 2014  
16:43

Subject	RE: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum
From	[REDACTED]
To	[REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED]@nationalparksengland.org.uk; amanda@moorlandassociation.org; [REDACTED] (NE); tdent@gwct.org.uk;
Cc	Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent	18 August 2014 09:35

Hi [REDACTED]

I'm happy with the content and that it comes from you.

Thanks  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
UK Headquarters The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL  
Tel [REDACTED]  
Mobile [REDACTED]

[rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk)

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The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654

**From:** [REDACTED] (Defra) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 August 2014 14:17  
**To:** [REDACTED]@nationalparksengland.org.uk; amanda@moorlandassociation.org; [REDACTED] (NE); tdent@gwct.org.uk;  
**Cc:** Kendall, Elaine (Defra); De Grouchy, Chris (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra)  
**Subject:** Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum  
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Regards

[REDACTED]  
Biodiversity Programme  
Defra  
Zone 1/14 Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Temple Quay  
Bristol, BS1 6EB  
[REDACTED]

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**Importance:** High

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National Parks England

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[REDACTED]  
From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Questions for members of Hen Harrier sub-group, Uplands Stakeholder Forum

Date: Sun, 2 Mar 2014 07:35:40 +0000

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Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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