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Cirl Bunting Bulletin

Welcome to *Cirl Bunting Bulletin*, the annual newsletter for owners and managers of farmland within the range of the cirl bunting, the UK's rarest farmland bird.



Cirl bunting's nest in scrub and hedges

Chris Gomersall (rspb-images.com)

Scrub management benefits wildlife

Deborah Deveney, RSPB cirl bunting project officer, explains...

Scrub - perhaps not every landowner's favourite habitat but, faced with a field of dense scrub, do you ignore it or get it under some form of management control? Often the task is overwhelming and costly - where do you start and how?

Although scrub is an important wildlife habitat in its own right, often abandonment of steep slopes allows scrub to dominate and, if left unmanaged, it can develop into secondary woodland. This can lead to the loss of species rich grassland, reduce the area of grazing land or impact on sensitive archaeological sites.

Unless complete eradication is necessary, trying to retain and manage scattered patches of successional scrub with a range of species, age (from bare ground to decaying wood) and structure can support wildlife and not interfere with grazing. A mosaic of scrub and grassland can provide nectar, pollen, seeds, fruits, shelter and breeding sites for invertebrates, birds and mammals, and habitat for many plants.

Farmland birds such as cirl buntings, yellowhammers and linnets will nest in patches of dense gorse so management should always be undertaken outside the breeding season, avoiding March-September inclusive and preferably leaving any berry bearing scrub until after Christmas. Opening up scrub by cutting pathways to create open glades and rides is perfect for butterflies and scalloping the edges can provide a microclimate for insects. Cutting areas of scrub in rotation produces a diversity in age.

Once cut, aftermath grazing or mowing is essential to keep areas clear of scrub or to retain a structural diversity.

Case studies overleaf highlight new mechanical techniques to tackle large areas of thick scrub and explain why Dartmoor ponies are popular for conservation grazing. For more information, please visit www.rspb.org.uk and search for "scrub management" or contact the RSPB on 01392 453763 for an advice sheet.

Dartmoor ponies - 'moor' popular than ever

Dru Butterfield, Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust, explains why...

Dartmoor ponies have roamed the challenging moorland landscape for over 1,000 years and have a long history of being used as 'work horses' including as pack ponies, on farms and down coal mines. Strong and thrifty for their size (today the Dartmoor Pony Society states a standard not exceeding 12.2hh), their willing natures helped them settle quickly to work. Today they are increasingly used for conservation grazing.

Dartmoor ponies are growing in popularity across the UK and now control vegetation on conservation sites from the coastal clifftops of Devon and Cornwall to the wetlands of Norfolk. Their hardiness and ability to thrive on poor vegetation coupled with their temperament makes them one of the easier native breeds to manage. Ponies can be used across a range of habitats where a varied sward structure, from short to longer, tussocky vegetation, is desired.

On heath and moorland, ponies have an important role in grazing purple moor grass between May and July and western gorse in late winter. They are also particularly useful on wet grassland and in wetlands (as long as there is adequate dry land to rest up on).

For example, Dartmoor's valley mires are internationally important and pony grazing is critical for the maintenance of open, tussocky vegetation on which so many rare species depend. At Tor View Moor, a rhos pasture with southern damselfly and marsh fritillary, grazing with continental cross cattle in the last 10 years has been intermittent and sub-optimal but just one year of grazing by Dartmoor ponies has had an immediate impact, producing a better vegetation structure for these insects.

On chalk and limestone grasslands, Dartmoor ponies help control Tor grass throughout spring and summer and help to create the varied vegetation structure important to a range of rare species.



Dru Butterfield

Dartmoor ponies can also help to control the spread of bracken by trampling and weakening the young fronds. Trampling is beneficial in bracken stands on south-facing slopes where rare fritillary butterflies thrive. These butterflies need open bracken stands with a good density of violets and ponies help to create and then maintain this habitat.

The Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust, a registered charity, offers a comprehensive service for land managers, from providing advice on the most suitable stock, to sourcing and arranging delivery of hardy native ponies. All ponies will be handled to conservation grazing level, enabling easier day-to-day management of your herd. All ponies sourced will be eligible for Higher Level Stewardship Scheme Native Breeds at Risk Supplement. The Trust also runs training courses for wardens, rangers and volunteers in handling and managing semi-feral ponies for land management.

For more information on pony grazing habits, sourcing a herd or training courses, please contact Dru Butterfield at the Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust on 01626 355314 or email dru@dpht.co.uk or visit www.dpht.co.uk

A new approach to scrub management in South Devon

Emma Cary, Countryside Intern, National Trust South Devon coast and countryside, describes the approach at Wembury . . .

Clearance of scrub and conservation grazing are central to the management of many SSSIs and HLS sites. Traditionally, scrub has been cleared by hand cutting, either by National Trust rangers or specialised contractors but this is neither time nor cost effective, especially on larger sites. Over the past 18 months National Trust South Devon Countryside has successfully trialled and implemented a different approach on our land at Wembury Point, using mechanical means to clear larger tracts of scrub and return the site to a natural and wild headland. A tracked excavator fitted with a 1.5 metre flail mower rather than a bucket head can clear scrub quickly and efficiently, with a 5 metre reach and the ability to work on

anything up to a 35 degree slope. The value in time management, cost and conservation is clear, as National Trust ranger Andrew Marsh explains: "It's an inexpensive, efficient and safe means of working; nearly three times as much scrub can be cleared in a day than by a two person brushcutting team. Greater wildlife corridors can be created and for a site the size of Wembury Point, it is the most effective way of managing the land."

Mechanical clearance is followed by a low intensity conservation grazing regime, using Dartmoor ponies to maintain grassland and keep coarse scrub re-growth under control. The project has been very successful; maritime grasses and wild flowers are now established, and bird life is increasing. Although hand cutting is still used in some areas which are not accessible to tracked excavators, the use of machines in the conservation



The National Trust

management of large and abandoned areas allows us to have a greater impact on these habitats.

To find out more about our management of these SSSI sites and our coastal slopes, please visit our blog at <http://ntsouthdevoncountryside.co.uk>



Nigel Climpson

In 2012, a record-breaking 44 breeding pairs were recorded in Cornwall. (Male on left, female on right)

Cornwall Cirl Bunting Reintroduction Project: 2011 update

Stuart Croft, RSPB project field officer, reports on the best year yet for the Cirl Bunting Reintroduction Project - a joint venture between the RSPB, Paignton Zoo, the National Trust and Natural England to re-establish the cirl bunting in Cornwall...

Following the coldest December for south Cornwall for over a hundred years, the opening month of 2011 brought no respite to the growing population of cirls on the Roseland. However, despite the harsh conditions, the population fared relatively well, with few losses. Milder conditions in February were followed by a fine, dry spring which gave the cirls a flying start to the breeding season, with many pairs enjoying uncharacteristic early success. Several pioneering pairs also increased the known breeding range in various directions, which is most encouraging, as it is not a species prone to venturing far. A total of 28 breeding pairs represented a healthy increase on the 16 pairs in 2010 and led to the production of at least 69 juveniles. These results show that the wild-bred pairs are up to twice as productive as the hand-reared ones. As wild-bred birds comprise an increasing proportion of the overall population, this can be expected to lead to increased productivity in future.

Sadly, our oldest bird was unable to contribute, for just two months shy of his fifth birthday he was lost in early May 2011. Most cirls don't live much longer than two or three years so for one to approach five is exceptional. In his long life he nested 11 times with seven different females and helped raise 15 fledglings.

As in previous years, there were instances of polygamy, with five males taking advantage of the excess of females. One particular male commuted a mile (an epic distance if you are a cirl!) to keep his two mates happy, though his initial enthusiasm soon wore off, leaving one of his mates to bring up the chicks alone! More pairs than previously also found that gardens provided a good place to nest, with nine pairs living up to their colloquial name of 'village bunting'.

Meanwhile, the final year of reintroductions was underway. Our team of two aviculturists did a great job in rearing 52 juveniles to release. By October 2011 many had dispersed to their wintering areas and by spring 2012 a higher percentage than ever before had survived their first winter.

A lot of this success is due to the provision of the key winter foraging areas - typically spring-sown barley stubbles where the cirls seek out natural weed seeds, as well as patches of bird seed mix. Both these habitats are provided by the local farming community, which is so important for helping cirl buntings and other farmland wildlife too. A growing number of farmers have adopted ELS and HLS agri-environment schemes. On one farm where HLS prescriptions for cirl buntings are now in place, cirls returned to breed after they last bred on the farm in the 1990s.

From cirls to thick knees...

We said goodbye to Nick Tomalin when he moved to a new RSPB role as Wessex Farmland Project Manager earlier in 2012. Nick had worked on the project since its start in 2006, firstly, as a member of the nest-finding team in Devon and then as Field Officer, monitoring the released birds on the Roseland, before becoming Project Officer where he assisted farmers with applications for and implementation of Environmental Stewardship. He can be proud that his hard work is now paying off, as the numbers of cirls are rising to a self-sustaining level. He is missed, but will be back from time to time to catch up with the birds.

We are, as always, indebted to the help and support we receive from the local farmers and the dedicated team of staff and volunteers who keep a close eye on the birds throughout the year.

For more information or to report any sightings of cirl buntings in Cornwall, please contact Stuart Croft: stuart.croft@rspb.org.uk or 01326 290842 / 07736 792524.



A flower-studded pasture in spring.

RSPB

RSPB Labrador Bay nature reserve

John White, Volunteer Warden, describes the reserve in spring 2012

Labrador Bay has continued to recover from the extensive management work of two years ago. In late May it was a kaleidoscope of colour with spring flowers in profusion following clearance work. The bluebells spilled out of Plantation Wood into Valley Field as though a pot of blue paint had been emptied. Water Field was a mass of red campion with foxgloves growing to flower later and continue the pink palette. The pasture fields were a sea of yellow buttercups with the promise of many grasshoppers to feed our cirl chicks.

Last year's breeding season was a great success with in excess of 12 confirmed breeding pairs again, building on the initial two pairs when we acquired the reserve. This resulted in excellent winter flocks, at times over 30 birds at once - a real bonus for the many birdwatchers who came from all over the country to see a cirl!

Along with our now familiar Dartmoor ponies, we fed the cirls over winter which enabled everyone to get tremendous views of our star bird. Breeding for 2012 started well and all the prime breeding territories were taken and new ones discovered.

The ponies kept the fields down, helping the birds to feed near the grass roots and keeping scrub, especially brambles, at bay. They

are an attraction in their own right and many people come to see the 'Labrador Bay Ponies'. We then introduce them to our cirls - a great conservation opportunity.

The reserve attracts film units and this year in March, Wildside Productions/green travel guides came to shoot a film exploring the RSPB initiative of volunteering. They were enchanted with the location and experienced every season in two days! Labrador Bay never looked more beautiful and can be seen in 'Stepping Up for Nature' on the RSPB website <http://www.rspb.org.uk/film/24605056.aspx#>

The walks are all well attended and often with people who have travelled from all over the country just for cirls. The new interpretation boards and leaflets help visitors enjoy the experience of Labrador Bay.

The initial warm spring offered great hope of record breeding; but the summer was wet, to say the least, and dashed hopes. However, 16 pairs of cirl buntings did breed on the reserve, although productivity was affected by the poor early summer weather. Whitethroat, blackcap and chiffchaff were down in numbers but buzzards, peregrines, woodpeckers and kestrels all bred and skylark song was much in evidence over the spring.

For more information about this farmed nature reserve, please visit www.rspb.org.uk and search for "Labrador Bay".

Farmer's View

Tony Rowdon, West Norton Farm, Dartmouth

Tony Rowdon has the Dart running through his blood, as a Dartmouth boy born and bred, he has been farming in the area for 38 years - when he left school he started farming the Raleigh Estate with his father. Back then it was a 50 head dairy farm growing maize and some spring barley for feed - but over this period his farming journey has changed.

Being given the opportunity to purchase West Norton Farm from the Raleigh Estate 15 years ago gave Tony the impetus to change his farming system - to make it pay he would either have had to double his dairy herd and become more 'intensive' or consider an alternative and 'extensify', but how could this be supported financially?

The Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) provided an opportunity to support Tony's income and enabled him to extensify. The farm changed from dairy to a mixed farm - a beef and sheep enterprise with a herd of 50 Red Ruby North Devon cattle and 200 mule/cross ewes, all get finished and taken direct to the abattoir, with 80 ha of arable - oil seed rape sold to Western Grain and winter wheat, spring barley and spring oats grown as animal feed. Tony also undertakes contract work on other farms.

After years of fertilizing steep fields, putting nitrogen on winter cereals and flailing hedges hard, CSS encouraged Tony to reduce his fertilizer use by 50%, increase the area of spring sown cereals and manage his hedges more sympathetically. "Since the dairy cows have gone I suppose I have become more 'eco-friendly'. I was aware of ciril buntings in the area from working with a neighbouring farmer, so it's great to be putting in habitat for them on my farm and I no longer worry about my hedges looking untidy as they provide shelter around the pasture fields."

In 2007 when his CSS expired, Tony did not want to return to a high input way of farming and see 10 years of CSS management wasted. He was offered an opportunity to apply for Higher Level Stewardship (HLS), although waiting 18 months between his CSS ending and his HLS starting proved quite frustrating for him in trying to make any farm management decisions.

As part of the package Tony was really keen to trial some wild bird seed mixtures around the farm. He planted a seed mixture supplied by Tuckers Seeds made up of borage, charlock, buckwheat, sunflowers, chicory, rape, kale, maize. The first year creates an abundance of flowers beneficial for bees, while the second year is better for seeds. This concept was new to Tony, but he has risen to the challenge to make these seed mixtures work as winter feeding stations for birds. In fact... "it is actually more economical for me to put in a 'birdy' mix than a crop in some steep corners of my small arable fields and rotate them around", but is he pleased with the results? "Last year was a good year for the sunflowers, but the weather this year made it difficult to get the mixtures established but it's always rewarding to see large flocks of goldfinch, joined by linnets and yellowhammers usually after the first frosts, then if I sprinkle some waste corn on the ground this attracts the starlings, redwings and fieldfares in to feed, so quite a spectacle."

Tony is three years into his ELS/HLS agreement, but does it continue to work for him? As Tony explains, he has mixed thoughts. Although ELS blends in with HLS, HLS is a completely



Tony's wild bird seed mix on a wet day in 2012.

Deborah Deveney

different ballgame to CSS. It seems more complicated and without the RSPB doing the application, he would never have gone for it. There is no flexibility with the spring barley winter stubbles - this year in particular was a problem with weed infestation; unable to spray under the management guidelines, like many, Tony suffered very low yields and has left more in the ground than necessary under his HLS commitment. "At the moment the stubble option is costing me money but over the 10 years I hope this will balance out, these are the sacrifices you have to make and it does have benefits for the wildlife on the farm". On the other hand HLS supports him in his aim to build up his Ruby herd to 50 cows as some former arable land has gone into grassland reversion to protect underground archaeology, supplementing his silage production. A number of things disappoint him - people are misusing the permissive access he granted - gates left open and sheep getting out, dogs off leads chasing sheep and their mess being left. When Natural England visited this year they only looked at four grass fields and weren't particularly keen to provide advice or discuss other elements of his agreement, and the delay in payments has been quite unhelpful.

However on the whole, Tony is pleased he went into HLS and does recommend it to other farmers, although the time delay in processing seems to put others off. He feels there is a fair balance between production and the environment on his farm, less fertilizer use reduces any risk of contaminating water courses and he has seen brown hare and ciril bunting numbers increase. With energy costs high and rising, and climate change a factor, Tony may explore the potential of solar panels in the future, but when the time comes for Tony to pass on the farm to his son, he can feel a sense of achievement that he is handing over a healthy farm that is producing good quality food and providing a haven for wildlife.



Black oil beetle *Meloe proscarabaeus*

Ben Lee

Managing habitats for oil beetles

Anne Halpin, Buglife Conservation Officer, explains how to help

Oil beetles are large, charismatic and somewhat strange looking insects that have been described as looking like a fat man whose waistcoat doesn't quite fit - the 'waistcoat' is the short wing cases that do not fully cover the beetle's abdomen.

Oil beetles can be locally common on sites in South West England but they are under threat. Four of the UK's native oil beetles are now extinct, and data collected by Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust showed that the remaining four species are in decline due to changes in the way our countryside is managed. Buglife has produced advice to help landowners and managers conserve oil beetles.

Oil beetles have an extraordinary life cycle which is intricately entwined with solitary mining bees. Juvenile oil beetles (called triungulins) are tiny, louse-like creatures that emerge in spring and lie in wait on flower heads for visiting bees. They take advantage of the bees, firstly by hitching a lift on their back, and again in the bee's nest, by eating the food collected by the bee for its own young; the beetle equivalent of a cuckoo. The larval oil beetle then develops within the bee burrow and emerges as an adult the following year. Because of this complex lifecycle, oil beetles require large populations of mining

bees. A decline in mining bees, for example through the loss of wildflower habitat, can quickly lead to the loss of oil beetles. In this respect, oil beetles act as an early warning system that habitat quality may be declining.

The most important factor in maintaining oil beetle populations, and the solitary mining bees upon which they depend, is the long-term maintenance of wildflower-rich, semi-natural habitats. Oil beetles are normally found on wildflower-rich sites with a succession of nectar sources through the spring and early summer such as unimproved grasslands and glades or rides in woodlands. South-facing slopes with well drained soils are particularly favoured.

Most oil beetle sites are maintained through grazing with cattle or sheep or by wild animals such as deer or rabbits. However some sites are kept open through trampling by walkers or the natural process of cliff erosion. Normally, grazing is the preferred management option, but it needs to be controlled, as high stocking densities can be detrimental to oil beetle populations through overgrazing of wildflowers and physical damage to bee burrows. Early grazing should be avoided, but summer and early autumn grazing is

important to keep the sward open through till the following spring.

Unless there is a history of mechanical cutting on a site, the introduction of a cutting regime should be carried out cautiously and cutting should occur in mid to late summer. Early cuts should be avoided as this is when both oil beetles and their host bees are most active. Autumn cuts should also be avoided if Rugged oil beetles (*Meloe rugosus*) are present, as the adults of this species emerge in autumn.

A new management guidance sheet and an oil beetle identification guide are available at www.buglife.org.uk or by contacting our South West team: Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust, Unit 15, Creykes Court, 5 Craigie Drive, The Millfields, Plymouth, PL1 3JB 01752 253087 E-mail: southwest@buglife.org.uk or anne.halpin@buglife.org.uk

Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust is the only charity in Europe devoted to the conservation of all invertebrates, and is working to save Britain's rarest bugs, bees, butterflies, ants, worms, beetles, snails and many more fascinating invertebrates.

CAP reform and the future of Environmental Stewardship

Kevin Rylands, RSPB Regional Farmland Adviser, highlights what's at stake for farmers and wildlife

The future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been the subject of much discussion. Attention has focussed on 'greening' the Single Farm Payment (Pillar 1). The details are far from certain but with nearly 50% of the EU budget at stake many feel this money should be delivering much more in terms of environmental and public goods.

But CAP reform is not just about Pillar 1, the funding of Rural Development Programmes (Pillar 2) will also change, and there are real concerns that the next CAP will not deliver policies such as agri-environment schemes. It is vital for farmers and the environment that these remain adequately funded.

Despite this uncertain future, there is something to celebrate, 2012 is the 25th anniversary of agri-environment in the UK and things have come a long way since those first agreements. Agri-environment

now helps farmers safeguard some of the UK's most cherished species, habitats and landscapes, and remains of the utmost importance. These schemes allow thousands of farmers to make space for nature, providing environmental goods that the market fails to support. Their continuing popularity amongst the farming community shows they make economic sense in a world of increasing uncertainty in both commodity prices and weather.

Agri-environment also makes financial sense for the public purse. Studies of wildlife-rich habitats have found that the ecosystem services (food, water, flood prevention, carbon storage etc) provided are worth £1.36 billion across the UK. Further research has also shown that investing in the natural environment pays dividends, with the economic benefits of these sites totalling £956 million in return for annual expenditure of £111 million.

Very few stocks and shares pay out £8.60 for every £1 invested!

But before we get carried away with the celebrations, we need to look again to the future. The current Rural Development Programme finishes in 2013 and it is likely that delays in Europe will mean that there will be no replacement until 2015. That means at least two years without any new or renewed Environmental Stewardship. Farmers with CSS or ES agreements ending in 2014-15 should start to plan accordingly.

If the successes of the last 25 years are to be maintained and enhanced, there needs to be a concerted effort to ensure that some form of agri-environment is continued through this transition period. After that we must all hope that the new CAP continues to maintain well funded Rural Development Programmes with the natural environment and support for nature-friendly farming at their core.

Berry production on hawthorn hedges

Deborah Deveney, RSPB, reports on research into the effects of cutting and frequency of hedge trimming

In April, Devon Hedge Group hosted an informative event at Yacombe, east Devon to feed back information from two research projects: Nigel Adams (Vice Chairman of National Hedge Laying Society) discussed ongoing research looking at the practicalities, different methods and costs involved in rejuvenating hedges whilst Joanna Staley (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)) reported on their five year research programme exploring the effects of different hedge trimming frequencies and timing on flower and fruit production.

The CEH study focused on hawthorn hedges to test the effectiveness of Entry Level hedge options (EB1, 2 and 3) on a single site in Cambridgeshire. They also looked at the effects on invertebrates. CEH are hoping to expand this research to look at other hedge species and hedge structure.

Over the five years of monitoring, hawthorn hedges that were cut during this period resulted in a reduction of the number of flowers by 75% and reduction in biomass of berries available over winter by up to 83% compared to monitored uncut hedges. In fact uncut hedges were found to have six times more flowers and 15 times

Reducing the frequency of your hedge cut will boost the yield of hawthorn berries.



Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

more berries than cut hedges. However sections cut every two years in winter produced more berries than hedges trimmed in autumn.

If the current uptake of EB1/2 (2 year cutting option) was transferred to EB3 (3 year cutting option) then the biomass of berries could increase on managed hawthorn hedgerows in England by 1.4 fold, producing 63,488 tonnes of berries and as the study concludes this could "substantially increase resources for over-wintering birds and pollinators."

To find out more, please contact Rob Wolton (Devon Hedge Group) initially at robertwolton@yahoo.co.uk or 01837 810416.

Many thanks to SITA Trust



Since September 2011 SITA Trust has helped fund some core aspects of the RSPB cirl bunting project work in Devon and supported the vital monitoring of the breeding population and productivity of the reintroduced cirls in Cornwall.

During winter the project relies upon an enthusiastic team of 24 volunteers across south and east Devon to undertake supplementary feeding and monitoring of cirl buntings in hotspot areas. Through SITA Trust, the RSPB provides seed to three different groups of volunteer feeders (emergency, development and permanent), to put out for cirls. If snow cover or extreme cold weather persists then our emergency feeders will head out to scatter seed so the birds can feed, whilst our development volunteers tend to be located in east Devon, putting food out to encourage the birds to expand their range eastwards, and the permanent volunteers put food out regularly to boost winter populations which can go on to become strong breeding populations.



RSPB

As well as financially supporting 35 farmer advisory visits in Devon, SITA Trust also enables the RSPB to supply farmers with a targeted wild bird seed mix (spring barley, quinoa, millet and dwarf sunflowers) that can be sown to provide winter food for cirls. This is available for any farmer wishing to put in a 0.5 - 1ha wild bird seed plot/margin, but it must not form part of an agri-environment scheme agreement. Last winter eight farmers took up the offer of free seed and planted 6.4ha of wild seed bird mixtures between them.

Funding via SITA Trust can also assist farmers not in Higher Level Stewardship with practical land management such as help with scrub clearance and new hedge planting. This is undertaken through the RSPB and tries to use local volunteers.



RSPB

This funding has also contributed towards habitat management work at RSPB Labrador Bay Nature Reserve. This includes hedge restoration, providing food and hay for the ponies so that we can use them as a management tool for restoring the species rich grassland, and to fund volunteer work party days to help with tasks such as scrub clearance, hedge planting and ragwort pulling.

If you are interested to find out more about receiving seeds to sow a wild bird seed mixture, or help with scrub clearance and hedge planting on your land then please contact Cath Jeffs (RSPB cirl bunting project manager) on 01392 453765 or

Cath.Jeffs@rspb.org.uk. To find out more about SITA Trust and their work please visit: www.sitatrust.org.uk



RSPB

Cirl bunting project staff changes

Deborah Deveney (cirl bunting project officer - Devon) has started a nine month secondment to the national RSPB agricultural policy team as Campaign Leader for High Nature Value Farming. The role involves raising awareness amongst the farming community, to ensure that marginal farming systems that support wildlife and produce our iconic landscapes get the recognition and financial assistance they need to survive.

The contact for the RSPB cirl bunting project is Cath Jeffs (cirl bunting project manager) on 01392 453765 or Cath.Jeffs@RSPB.org.uk



The RSPB wishes to acknowledge the financial support of Natural England and the SITA Trust.

The RSPB speaks out for birds and wildlife, tackling the problems that threaten our environment. Nature is amazing – help us keep it that way.

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

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The RSPB, your details and the Data Protection Act

For information, please contact Helene Jessop at RSPB, Keble House, Southernhay Gardens, Exeter, Devon, EX1 1NT (01392) 453763 or helene.jessop@rspb.org.uk

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