

Summary of Stone-curlew conservation in the Brecks and at the proposed Sunnica site

The RSPB stone-curlew monitoring and protection project has been operating in the Brecks for 37 years and started in response to a massive decline in the stone-curlew population since the 1930's. The aim of the project was to locate and monitor the success of all stone-curlew nests and protect nests on arable land from destruction during farming operations. Other measures to conserve stone-curlews include restoration of Breck heathland and the creation of fallow nest plots on arable land. These measures resulted in a steady increase in the Brecks stone-curlew population up to 2012 (from fewer than 100 breeding pairs to around 260).

Following intensification of effort to provide more safe nesting habitat (Breck heathland and arable plots) in 2015 RSPB began scaling back monitoring effort to core areas in order to re-direct resources to other declining species. Today we continue to monitor and protect stone-curlews in core areas and a small number of landowners now carry out these activities themselves.

Two of the landholdings within Sunnica East Site B were monitored by RSPB up to and including 2015 and we have continued to monitor one of these landholdings up to the present date.