

DETAILED PROJECT PLAN

HLF Programme Area			
Area	Programme Title	Main Area (tick one box only)	Links to Other Areas
A	Conserving or restoring the built and natural features that create the historic landscape character.	X	
B	Increasing community participation in local heritage		
C	Increasing access to and learning about the landscape and its heritage		x
D	Increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills		x
E	Scheme staffing, overheads and running costs		

Heading	Content		
Title	Dartmoor Moorland Birds	Project Code	
Summary	<p>This will be an ‘enabling’ project where the focus of activity within the MTMTE area will enable a wider roll out across the whole of Dartmoor’s moorland.</p> <p>This project aims to celebrate and conserve Dartmoor’s special moorland birds, working in alliance with other organisations, farmers, land-owners and the public. Dartmoor supports many bird species that are nationally declining and disappearing from the wider countryside. While they still occur on Dartmoor, many are still vulnerable because their populations are now small and isolated (eg curlew and ring ouzel), while others occur in important numbers and Dartmoor is providing a local stronghold for them (eg snipe and whinchat).</p> <p>This project’s focus will be to share the information provided by the MTMTE moorland breeding bird survey undertaken in 2016 and ensure the survival Dartmoor’s important species, by providing user-friendly information, backed up with 1:1 advice and support, co-ordinated with other advisors and initiatives.</p>		

	<p>The project will engage of a range of stakeholders from organisations, farmers, landowners and local communities.</p> <p>To further celebrate these moorland birds, we have already run guided walks and over the winter 2016/17 we will be creating moorland bird interpretation panels for Haytor Visitor Centre. We will also run further guided walks and training events to promote understanding of moorland birds and engage volunteers where we can.</p>
Project description	<p>The project will conserve and monitor moorland priority species on Dartmoor by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moorland bird species survey (Completed 2016) <p>The moors support 26 priority species including the globally 'near threatened' curlew, Dartford warbler and meadow pipit. The project surveyed the key populations of bird species within the MTMTE area, and was undertaken by RSPB staff and eight volunteers. This data collection will help inform future wildlife friendly moorland management. We are paying particular attention to whinchat, connecting with national research work to better understand the needs of this species - which since 1998 and 2005 have halved in number nationally.</p> <p>The survey data will be analysed over the winter 2016/17 by a volunteer as part of their ongoing work experience training.</p> 2. Connecting with existing initiatives and advising landowners and tenants (planned to start April 2017) <p>A 29 month advisory project through the appointment of a land-advisor to present the moorland bird survey in an interesting and engaging way. To work in coordination with other initiatives and organisations to help farmers and land-owners develop best agri-environmental practices (through 1:1 advice and events) for important habitats like mires, moorlands and grassland and the important species they support. The advisor will be a FTE spending 50% of</p>

	<p>their time in the MTMTE area. The MTMTE moorland is less than half of Dartmoor's moorland area, so the more in depth work in the MTMTE area will enable the approach to spread more widely across the whole moor.</p> <p>3. Working with the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the MTMTE area the project has celebrated and inspired historical, cultural and conservation stories through visitor and local community engagement in the form of five walks. From 2017 onwards, the project will further share the importance of moorland birds through three talks/walks to the local community and training events for local volunteers and volunteer rangers and others operating on Dartmoor moorland. A minimum of three training events will be run.
Beneficiaries and communication	<p>The project will benefit Dartmoor's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - natural heritage, notably its important bird species (eg whinchat, snipe, cuckoo), which depend on their habitats being in suitable condition and of sufficient scale. It will also benefit other species that rely on these habitats and through connections with other projects, such as BC's moorland butterfly project. - partner organisations, through building networks, sharing knowledge and co-ordinating activities to achieve more for Dartmoor's natural heritage - farmers and landowners, by providing them with information from this year's bird survey and follow up advice on how to conserve the special natural heritage they own and/or manage - local communities, through improved interpretation, walks and talks on Dartmoor's species habitats and species and targeted training for volunteers <p>To achieve this, we will employ a land advisor to work alongside farmers and land-owners and liaise with partner organisations. The advisor and our volunteers will also engage with the local community. They, with volunteers, will run guided walks, talks and events- across the moors and at the Haytor Visitor Centre. This will offer inclusive benefits; teaching volunteers new skills, increasing the numbers of people enjoying wildlife and finding</p>

	new ways to engage with nature.
Project buy-in	The project will work closely with Dartmoor National Park Authority, the Duchy of Cornwall, Devon Birds and Natural England for the conservation of moorland birds and habitats. We have so far used a volunteer pool of approximately 20 volunteers: 8 for survey, 3 – 4 for walks and c12 habitat management as part of the original red backed shrike programme. This has provided wider community benefits, new skills and a reinvigorated passion for the moors wildlife.
Project lead	Kevin Rylands/Helen Booker
Partners / contractors etc.	Devon Birds, Dartmoor National Park Authority, Natural England and Duchy of Cornwall
Activities and Timetable	MTMTE Moorland Bird Survey – April 2016 to July 2016 Survey data collated and analysed – October 2016 to Feb 2017 Land Adviser providing land wildlife friendly management advise to landowners and tenants – April 2017 to August 2019

Budgets	Cost Breakdown		
Estimated Total Cost	Cost: £89,296		Contingency:
			£
VAT	a. Is VAT applicable?	b. Is VAT reclaimable?	c. VAT amount:
	No		
Lead Partner Contributions	Type:	Secured:	Unsecured:
	Cash:	£	£
	Staff	£	£
	Volunteers:	£	£
	In-kind:	£	£
	TOTAL:	TBC	£
Other Contributions	Type:	Secured:	Unsecured:
	Cash (DNPA)		£5,000
	Cash (Duchy of Cornwall)		£4,000
	Staff (RSPB):	£16,537	£
	Volunteers:	£21,500	£
	In-kind (source):		£
	TOTAL:	£38,037	£9000
<i>Moor than meets the eye contribution</i>	Contribution:		Intervention Rate (%)
	£42,259		47%
Outputs	Key deliverables are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MTMTE Bird Survey of moorland across 171 1km squares including results report (done). - Eight volunteers have assisted with survey (done). - One volunteer will be analysing the data - Appoint an advisor by April 2017 - The advisor will interpret the survey results for farmers through the production of interesting mapped information - The advisor will engage 30 farmers per annum in the MTMTE area, including advisory visits and 1:1 support 		

	<p>follow-ups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They will offer land management advice, co-ordinated with other organisations and initiatives, across c10,000ha of the MTMTE area to increase the extent of suitable habitat priority Moorland species. - Engagement of volunteers to provide them with opportunities to assist in suitable aspects of species monitoring. - Five guided walks have been completed by 3 -4 volunteers to engage local people and visitors with Dartmoor's wildlife and natural heritage. We will deliver three more and three talks and training events on moorland birds. - Communication of project events through various media such as twitter and facebook. - Interpretation at Haytor Visitor Centre
Output indicators and targets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better farming engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage at least 30 farmers (co-ordinated with other initiatives/organisations) annually in the MTMTE area, and delivering advisory materials and support follow-ups. - Raise awareness of priority species and their habitats amongst all farmers with whom the advisor has contact through the above engagement. - Target to obtain positive land management outcomes for key habitats and species through the above engagement. - Roll out the approach to reach all moorland areas of Dartmoor 2. Greater knowledge and understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share species mapping and advice with other land-owners, managers and other relevant initiatives to broaden the reach of MTMTE. - Training key volunteers in the needs of priority species 3. Creating a wider audience for Moorland Wildlife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have successfully implemented 5 events, talks and walks within MTMTE and will deliver 3 more walks and 3 training events. - Record the number of people attending events (including ages and familiarity with nature) and the feedback achieved. - Record the number of volunteers involved and hours

	<p>contributed, the return rate of volunteers and the participation in projects.</p> <p>-</p>
Outcomes	<p><u>Increasing numbers of upland birds:</u> It will take time to see the impact on moorland species, however, the project will lead to longer term sensitive management of moorland habitats for priority species, and in time, their numbers should increase. Further survey will be needed to measure this change in future years.</p> <p><u>Involving landowners in conservation:</u> Through engagement with the farming community and other stakeholders, the outcome will be a legacy of greater understanding to enable the continuation of moorland management that will safeguard our natural heritage, especially its vulnerable species. This support and engagement is particularly pertinent in the face of Brexit, whereby the future of EU-centralised farming processes and funding is unknown. Through this involvement, locally distributed expertise will help provide a sustainable future and farming recognition for the vulnerable moorland wildlife. We will help guide management decisions to safeguard moorland populations into the future by working with those involved to check future agri-environment agreements, ensuring biodiversity is a priority.</p> <p><u>More visitors and local people knowing about and enjoying moorland birds:</u> This project will share with local people and visitors the lives of the special moorland birds within this unique landscape. To encourage those who are not otherwise wildlife experts, the project will engage all through talks and events as well as displays at the visitor centre. Having this presence will also offer people a wider understanding of moorland birds, learning more about their local wildlife. We will also seek to provide further volunteering opportunities to assist with species monitoring.</p>
Evidence	<p><u>Increasing numbers of upland birds:</u> The most effective measure will be quantitatively based on the numbers of breeding birds. Whilst we cannot measure this during the life of this project, we intend to do so in future years to measure the change. The long-term achievement will be a numerical increase in upland bird species, many of which are</p>

	<p>currently in national decline.</p> <p><u>Involving landowners in conservation:</u> We will measure this progress by recording numbers and those partaking in 1:1 advisory or follow-up meetings with the land-advisor. We will also monitor their progress, through assessing changes in habitat condition and its success in fostering Dartmoor's wildlife. The project's success will also be measured by feedback from farmers and those involved.</p> <p><u>More visitors and local people knowing about and enjoying moorland birds:</u> We will measure this progress by recording the number of people participating in guided walks, events and those visiting the moorland bird interpretation at the Haytor visitor centre. We will also record all who partake in events and guided walks, assessing feedback and comments and anyone undertaking volunteering activities.</p>
Wider context	<p>The project will work together with other organisations and programmes contributing to conservation of biodiversity on Dartmoor including Butterfly Conservation, Natural England, the Hill Farm Project, Dartmoor Farming Futures and others.</p> <p>Successes of such advisory programmes are plentiful and well-tested within the RSPB- the return of the Choughs and Cirl Buntings were achieved through a similar advisory programmes.</p>
Legacy and maintenance of benefits	<p><u>Local knowledge, support and ownership of the moorlands and their birds:</u> By working with farmers and raising awareness among local people and visitors, we hope the drive to look after the moorland and its special natural heritage continues long into the future. By empowering farmers and land-owners with the knowledge and support to integrate the needs of moorland birds and wildlife into their work, we can hope for sustainable future species populations.</p> <p><u>Raising awareness of conservation issues facing Dartmoor:</u> This project will raise awareness of the conservation and vulnerability of the moorlands wildlife- particularly the risk of disturbance in the breeding season. We want to encourage people to enjoy and appreciate wildlife; to be inspired and to</p>

	<p>ensure it remains for the future.</p> <p><u>Future enthusiasts for Dartmoor's wildlife:</u> The project's involvement with local communities, visitors and farmers will offer a rich resource to promote future enthusiasm for Dartmoor's wildlife. By holding guided walks, talks, events and developing interpretation at Haytor Visitor Centre, we can encourage people to pay closer attention to Dartmoor's wildlife; both in the local community and beyond.</p> <p><u>Wider benefits beyond the MTMTE area</u> The greater focus of work within the MTMTE area will have enabled a wider engagement with farmers, partners and other stakeholders across Dartmoor. This will provide a greater legacy in geographical terms as well as over time.</p>
Risks and Risk Mitigation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of engagement with farmers. Risk mitigation will involve working in partnership with a range of local organisations and initiatives including Duchy of Cornwall, a major landowner across the project area - the Hill Farm Project, Dartmoor Farming Futures, Natural England and others. We will also use previous knowledge of successful farmer engagement acquired from other RSPB projects. We will assist farmers and land-owners with assessments and facilitate appropriate learning support. We will also work with Natural England who have the key responsibility for agri-environment delivery.