

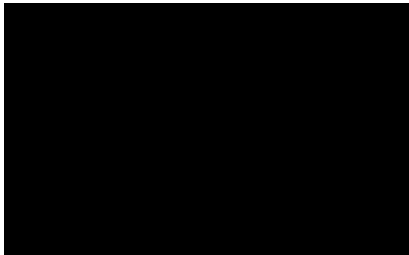
From: [REDACTED]
To: new.case@beis.ecase.co.uk
Subject: FW: *Not a constituent* FW: Rare Bird - The Stone Curlew
Date: 25 January 2024 12:40:46
Attachments: [REDACTED]

From: Secretary Of State (Energy Security) <Secretary.State@energysecurity.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 11:50 AM
To: BEIS Correspondence <correspondence@energysecurity.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: *Not a constituent* FW: Rare Bird - The Stone Curlew

Hi team,

Please log for TO response.

Thanks,



Amaya Pinnock (*she/her*)
Business Manager to the Secretary of State
[\[REDACTED\]@energysecurity.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@energysecurity.gov.uk)
Mobile: [REDACTED]

From: COUTINHO, Claire C <[\[REDACTED\]@parliament.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.uk)>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 11:40 AM
To: Secretary Of State (Energy Security) <Secretary.State@energysecurity.gov.uk>
Subject: *Not a constituent* FW: Rare Bird - The Stone Curlew

Lewis Ilsley | **Senior Parliamentary Assistant**

Office of Claire Coutinho MP | Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero | Member of Parliament for East Surrey
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA | [REDACTED]

You can follow Claire on [REDACTED]

From: Homan, Linda <[\[REDACTED\]@aru.ac.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@aru.ac.uk)>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 11:09 AM
To: COUTINHO, Claire C <[\[REDACTED\]@parliament.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.uk)>
Subject: Rare Bird - The Stone Curlew

Dear Claire,

I would like to draw your attention to the rare bird who will be negatively affected by the Sunnica scheme.

The Stone Curlew is an extremely rare and endangered bird. In 2004 a study by Thompson et al. noted the estimated breeding population of under 300 pairs of Stone Curlew and that in the UK. This low number

was attributed to a marked decrease in the numbers mainly due to **habitat change or loss**, resulting in the bird no longer breeding on many of its traditional nesting grounds. Today (2024), the estimated breeding pairs of these birds is just 365. This was last documented by the British Ornithological Society in 2020 (BTO, 2020). So, as it is clearly evident from the low figures, just +65 in 20 years, I urge the Secretary of State to say no to the Sunnica scheme to save these rare birds. As noted in the report from 2004, changes to breeding habit is the main cause of decrease in breeding.

In light of the damage to habitat, including the areas surrounding the actual spots where these birds breed, I would like the Secretary of State to remember the government's commitment to halt land degradation by 2030. The Sunnica scheme would degrade the land for 40 years from being suitable for this rare breed of bird. Also, this is unique land which has a combination of factors which these birds are known to favour- open ground (Gov.UK, 2023) (**not** ground covered in solar panels), and in particular "spring sown crops and pig fields" (Hawkes, et al, 2021), all of which have been the surrounding farm land for many years on these proposed sites; and these have been shown to be selected by these birds for night time foraging (ibid).

Due to the rare status of these birds, a 2004 scheme in the Chilterns area of South England, recommended that farmers are paid to create habitats for the Stone Curlew (Green, 2000). Although I have no update on this, it can be seen by the 2020 latest figures that an increase in just 65 pairs since 2004 evidences that these birds still struggle to exist. Hawkes et al. (2021) studied the foraging range of Stone Curlews by tagging with GPS trackers and found that their "foraging locations were close to the nest-site during the nesting period (90% within 1 km) or day-roost during post-breeding (90% within 5 km), but birds travelled up to 4.1 km from these sites during nesting and 13 km post-breeding." This emphasises the importance of not disturbing the landscape for up to 13km surrounding the nesting sites.

Conserving natural habitats, especially in light of known endangered species, echoes recent government attention. In the Environment Improvement Plan 2023, the government state how they have made commitments during the UK's Presidency of the UN Climate Summit COP26, and signed a pledge to halt deforestation and land degradation by 2030. They also agreed a new global deal for nature at the UN Nature Summit COP15 in Montreal, Canada, which sets a framework for turning the tide and restoring our global environment (Gov.UK, 2023).

I urge the Secretary of State to take into considerations all of the evidence that has been presented before now, and to leave this land alone, but also add to note the very real concerns of the impact of this scheme for this rare bird.

References

BTO (2020). British Trust for Ornithology. APEPA4. Population Estimates of Birds in Great Britain and the United Kingdom. British Trust for Ornithology. Available at:

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan>

Green, R.E., Tyler, G.A. and Bowden, C.G.R. (2000) 'Habitat selection, ranging behaviour and diet of the stone curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*) in southern England', *Journal of zoology.*, 250(2), pp. 161–183.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7998.2000.tb01067.x>.

Hawkes, R.W., Smart, J., Brown, A., Green, R.E., Jones, H. and Dolman, P.M. (2021) 'Effects of experimental land management on habitat use by Eurasian Stone-curlews', *Animal conservation.*, 24(5), pp. 743–755.

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Thompson, S., Hazel, A., Bailey, N., Bayliss, J. and Lee, J. (2004) 'Identifying potential breeding sites for the stone curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*) in the UK', *Journal for nature conservation.*, 12(4), pp. 229–235.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2004.07.002>.

Best wishes,

Linda

Pronouns: She/Her

Linda Homan - Senior Lecturer – Social Work [Book a meeting with me](#).

Part-Time. [REDACTED]

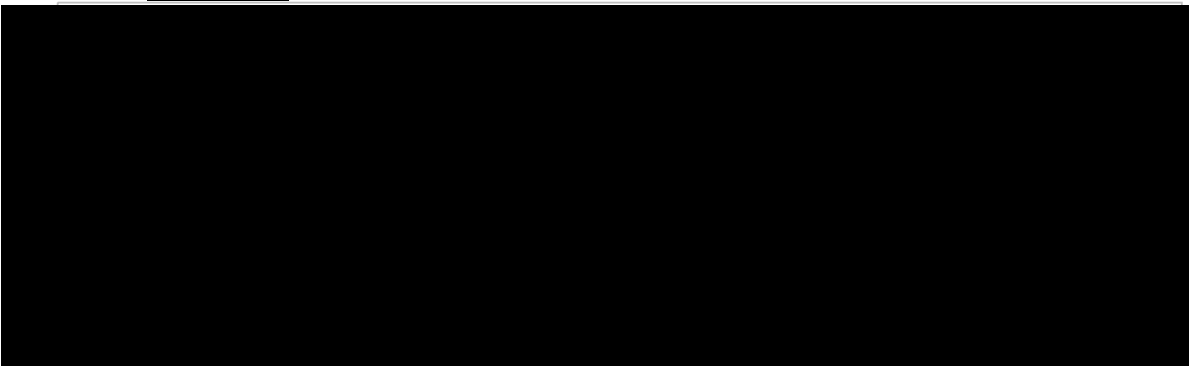
Academic Lead for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - ARU-P

PDT Time Slot: Face to face: Wednesday Lunchtime 1-2pm UHP Floor 2
On Teams by appointment Monday 10:30-12:30

PG Cert Mental Health - Approved Mental Health Professional, MA, BSc (Hons) Social Work, PG Cert Learning and Teaching, JNC Youth Work, Executive Diploma in Management (CMI), Fellow HEA, Certificate in Adlerian Counselling. DBT and EMDR Trained. Social Work Registration Number (Social Work England): SW55119.



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