



# **Curlew Recovery South Lakes**

# **Annual Report**

# **2023-2024**

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Registered Charity No 1201723

[linktr.ee/curlewslakes](https://linktr.ee/curlewslakes)  
[curlewrecoverysl@gmail.com](mailto:curlewrecoverysl@gmail.com)

## Curlew Recovery South Lakes (CRSL)

# Highlights - 2023-24

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- ❖ In the 2023 breeding season, CRSL monitored 18 pairs and recorded 4 or maybe 5 chicks fledge. This is not enough for a stable population but up from only 1 in previous years. It compares favourably with large professional run projects and the team's knowledge and skills are growing each year.
- ❖ At the end of this reporting period, CRSL was awarded a significant grant from Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) to provide equipment and resources for habitat management and seasonal fieldworkers in recognition of the success of the work to date.





## Curlew Recovery South Lakes (CRSL) Background

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- CRSL became a charity on 26 Jan 2023.
- It grew from the work of dedicated volunteers working in their local community to help curlew survive and thrive. The farming community and relationships between the group and the farmers have always been central to our work.
- CRSL is recognised as a leading volunteer-led curlew conservation programme, with operations centred on the Lyth Valley, and a growing network across South Lakes.
- CRSL continues to innovate and test novel technologies, having been one of the first to trial thermal drones in 2020 and 2021 and using Canvis for mapping in 2024.



# A word from the Chair

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I am pleased to share this report on the first full year for Curlew Recovery South Lakes.

The success of our small charity reflects the terrific support from local people, farmers, gamekeepers, donors, funders, volunteers, bird ringers and curlew experts.

In 2023 we found more nests than ever, expanded our operations geographically and continued to test new conservation tools to secure better breeding success for our local curlew population.

❖ **Barny Sykes, Chair, Curlew Recovery South Lakes**



Barny Sykes, right with  
Susannah Bleakley, Trustee.

# Conservation Activities

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Core to our work is locating and fencing nests. Curlews breed in farmland and the nests are vulnerable to predation and can be damaged by agricultural operations.

At the start of the season, we hold survey days to bring volunteers together and start the process of nest finding.

Once nest are located, they are fenced with the permission of farmers. Nest cameras and thermal loggers are used for monitoring.

When chicks hatch the chicks are ringed with professional bird ringers. In 2023 we used colour flags for the first time. Each family is then monitored by volunteers locating the birds from a distance each day.



**Curlew Recovery South Lakes** @CurlewSLakes · May 28, 2023

Here's some of our [#curlew](#) nests. Silage cut, not the nests. ☀️ Our team locate and fence nests.

[#Farmers](#) are ace [100](#) [#Teamwork](#) ⚡ Respect to our [#FarmingHeroes](#) You can help too! We need more fences, please give [checkout.justgiving.com/clxn46adb7](https://checkout.justgiving.com/clxn46adb7) 🍁

Reply to [@DJMarti28657381](#)



# 2023 breeding season results

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- 13 nests fenced
- 14 broods monitored
- 25 chicks hatched
- 4 chicks fledged





# Conservation Headlines

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- Strong community and volunteer support
- Canvis used for mapping, citizen science (see page 8)
- FiPL funded Scoping Report reviewed options for conservation and gave strategic action plan
- 5 nests lost to predation before fencing leading to change to 'fence when found' and not wait for full clutch
- More nests found than ever before
- Used trail cameras to identify predator presence
- Dry weather created problem with some chicks failing to hatch from hard shells
- Monitored each curlew family every day
- More chicks fledged than previous years.



# Use of Technology 1

## Canvis Mapping

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❖ **Canvis** is an app-based mapping tool that we used in 2024 to allow anyone to share records of curlew sightings and where curlew had been heard. Early season this helped to map and pool records from the community and our fieldworkers. Thanks to Matt Sanderson of Furness Mapping Services for developing the interface for us pro bono.





# Use of Technology 2

## Audio Moths

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❖ **Audio Moths** are relatively low cost remote listening devices that can be placed in the landscape and used for ecological research. David Jarrett from Durham University worked with us, using our field locations as part of his PhD research in acoustic monitoring of curlew alarm calls.

❖ These recorded the following numbers of species:

- Brigsteer Moss: 63 Species
- Levens Moss: 79 Species
- Crook: 71 Species



David Jarratt

# Capacity Building Visits

❖ We were pleased to host visit from Patrick Laurie, Working for Waders; Clive White, Nidderdale; Ryan Burrell, Curlew Recovery Partnership, and Phil Miller, Bowland.



**Curlew Recovery South Lakes** @CurlewSLakes · Jun 21, 2023

Raising our game for a visit from @curlewrecovery with Cadillac-quality trailers and the best chauffeurs. 😊 Buckle up for another day of "high-speed" adventures with our dedicated team! Safety? No reported incidents! 🤪 #QuadBikeCruisers 🤪 @RyanABurrell



View on 4 others



**Curlew Recovery South Lakes** @CurlewSLakes · May 5, 2023

From curlew botherers to curlew brothers! 🤪🐦  
Pure joy and excitement for @Gallowaygrouse and @BarneySykes on finding #12 nest ❤️🚀 #curlews #curlewroyalty #PatrickLaurie #nestfinding





# Engagement, raising awareness

❖ We were featured by Fiona Morley Patterson on ITV Border News, gained a following of over 1200 on Twitter, 250 on Facebook, invited to give 18 talks to community and farmer groups, and made regular reports in the local Parish News.



**Curlew Recovery South Lakes** @CurlewSLakes · May 25, 2023

We made the [#FrontPage](#) - what next?

Book 📖, Film 🎥 or TV programme 📺

Ok, it's only the parish news 🤔





# Farmland Curlew Award – Taylor family of Crook

- ❖ George and Emma Taylor and their sons Samuel, Charlie and Ben are a key part of our group. We were delighted that their work was recognised with the Farmland Curlew Award for the North of England.



# Generous Friends – Thank you

Our success in finding nests meant that by May we were running out of nest fencing equipment. A huge thanks to Phil Miller, of RSPB Bowland who lent us a boot-load of kit.

## Grants and Donations:

- £3,796 from 20 individuals
- £3,774 from
  - Underbarrow Parish Council
  - Helsington Parish Council
  - Morecambe Bay Facilitation Fund
  - Westmorland and Furness Council
  - Cumbria County Council
- Notice of significant award from Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)





# Financial Summary

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**Period Ended 31 March 2024**

**Receipts:**

• Capital grants	£44,509
• Revenue grants	£8,160
• Donations	£7,570
Total receipts for the period:	£60,239

**Payments:**

• Running costs	£8,284
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**Asset Purchases:**

• Equipment costs	£49,638
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Cash at bank at period end	£2,317
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# Trustees – Curlew Recovery South Lakes

❖ The trustees for this period were: Barny Sykes, (Chair), Sue King and Susannah Bleakley (Joint Secretary), David Sharpe (Treasurer), Stephen Wilkinson and Richard Griffiths.





# Curlew Recovery South Lakes (CRSL)

Volunteers working in their community to help curlew survive and thrive.  
Without this work, curlews will be lost as breeding birds in our landscape – the calls of curlews will no longer echo through our valleys in Spring.

Our sincere thanks to all the local people, farmers, gamekeepers, donors, funders, volunteers, bird ringers and curlew experts who support our work.

[linktr.ee/curlewslakes](https://linktr.ee/curlewslakes)  
[curlewrecoverysl@gmail.com](mailto:curlewrecoverysl@gmail.com)  
Registered Charity No 1201723

**Curlew Recovery South Lakes**  
**Financial Statements**  
**for the period ended 31 March 2024**





**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Curlew Recovery South Lakes

**On accounts for the  
period ended**

31 March 2024

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1201723

**Set out on pages**

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31/03/2024.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

29/11/24

**Name:**

Christopher Brown

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

ICAEW

**Address:**

Ingalls, Libra House, Murley Moss Business Village,

Kendal

LA9 7RL



# Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	25/01/2023	To	31/03/2024
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## Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
FIPL capital grants	-	44,509	-	44,509	-
FIPL revenue grant	-	8,160	-	8,160	-
Donations :					
Gift Aid	500	-	-	500	-
Other	7,070	-	-	7,070	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>7,570</b>	<b>52,669</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>60,239</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>7,570</b>	<b>52,669</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>60,239</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Insurance	378	-	-	378	-
Small equipment purchases	590	-	-	590	-
Stationery, and office expenses	120	-	-	120	-
Consultancy fees	6,757	-	-	6,757	-
Travel expenses	211	211	-	422	-
Room hire	17	-	-	17	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>8,073</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,284</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
<b>Equipment and habitat protection</b>	<b>5,129</b>	<b>44,509</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,638</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>5,129</b>	<b>44,509</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,638</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>13,202</b>	<b>44,720</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,922</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 5,632</b>	<b>7,949</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,317</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this period end</b>	<b>- 5,632</b>	<b>7,949</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,317</b>	<b>-</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	- 5,632	7,949	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>- 5,632</b>	<b>7,949</b>	<b>-</b>

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

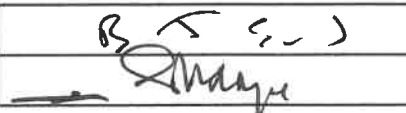

		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details			
	Prepaid insurance	231	-	-
	FIPL capital grants receivable	-	3,456	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>				
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Equipment and habitat protection	Restricted	44,509	-
	Equipment and habitat protection	Unrestricted	5,129	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities and guarantees</b>	Accountancy Fees	Unrestricted	600	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf  
of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	B S SYKES	29.11.24
	D K SHARPE	28.11.24



**Curlew Recovery South Lakes**  
**Financial Statements**  
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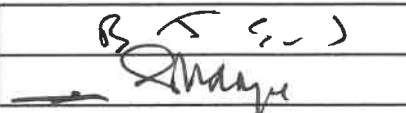

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