

# Back from the Brink – Species summary

## Woodlark

**BftB project:** IP07 Shifting Sands – Securing a future for the Brecks

**Project lead organisation:** Natural England

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<b>Species name – common &amp; scientific</b>	Woodlark ( <i>Lullula arborea</i> )
<b>Photograph</b>	 <p>© RSPB / Back from the Brink</p>
<b>Taxon group</b>	Family: Alaudidae
<b>Conservation status</b>	IUCN: least concern
<b>UK distribution</b>	Mainly found breeding in eastern and southern England Breckland is a secondary stronghold.
<b>Habitat associations</b>	Woodland edge
<b>BftB work carried out:</b>	
<b>Survey &amp; Monitoring</b>	<p>Woodlark monitoring is undertaken by FE as part of regular forestry activity but has continued during the project in areas where BftB works have taken place. Corridor creation is a potential recovery solution that is being trialled and monitored during this project. Limited results will be available due to late start of habitat creation. Baseline monitoring was completed in 2018 &amp; 2019, but official surveys were not possible in 2020 or 2021 due to covid restrictions.</p> <p>Forestry England/Thetford bird group (BTO) protocol: point count recording singing males; searching for nests.</p> <p>Forest-wide point counts are done by Thetford Bird Group in spring annually, recording singing males and finding nests. Unfortunately no surveying was possible in spring 2020 or 2021 due to covid restrictions.</p>

	Forest wide monitoring will continue on an annual basis going forwards, by Thetford bird group volunteers.
<b>Sites habitat management works</b>	Works to widen forest corridors would increase habitat suitability.
<b>Conservation 'interventions' incl. reintroductions &amp; translocations</b>	No direct interventions other than habitat scale works (widened forest rides and ground disturbance)
<b>Technical advice provision</b>	None produced by project
<b>Wider engagement &amp; advocacy activities?</b>	None
<b>BftB results obtained:</b>	
<b>Recorded Distribution (in BftB focal areas)</b>	There were 3 pairs on independent territories on new rides anecdotally (this would be capacity if all nesting, so really good result), this is an increase from 1 established pair from previous years 2019 (& anecdotally 2020, pre-works). Hopefully this result will be confirmed by official surveys in 2022.
<b>Recorded Abundance of species populations</b>	Same as above.
<b>Species Recovery Curve progress made</b>	Baseline: 1 Current estimated: 4
<b>Recommendations for future work:-</b>	The disturbance that's planned will be ideal for Woodlark foraging, usually they nest in the sparse areas. Rides could be not wide enough, they're narrower than would be typical and there's some doubt about how effective they'll be, but our evidence (anecdotal) of presence of Woodlark shows otherwise.
<b>Overview of plans for future monitoring:-</b>	Forest wide monitoring will continue using vols (Thetford bird group). 2022 will be nightjar & woodlark 7-year surveys undertaken by FE as part of SPA monitoring.