



## **CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR CURLEW COUNTRY VOLUNTEERS AND SURVEYORS**

1. Please follow all instructions and guidance from Curlew Country Staff, including Health and Safety advice. Do not carry out tasks or activities which you have not received training for.

Lone Working – when working alone the risks you face are greater as you may not have someone in the near vicinity to help. When you plan to work out in the countryside you must inform Curlew Country Staff and or someone else (e.g. family member), where you are going, for how long, the expected return time and your contact details (mobile number).

2. Use rights of way and highways for your work and do not stray from them, other than when specifically agreed with Curlew Country who will have also sought permission from the farmer or land manager.
3. Try not to be intrusive. For example, sitting for long periods with binoculars focussed on land where people live and work as this can be unsettling, if the landowner does not know what you are doing.
4. Do introduce yourself to the landowner if you see them and tell them what you are doing and who you are doing it for. If you believe that you are talking to the landowner or farmer, please show them your Curlew Country ID / consent letter and tell them anything that you have seen on their land. Please be sensitive to their needs. The curlew breeding season is also a very busy time in the farming calendar and farmers may not want to stop and talk.
5. Always carry your Curlew Country Permission Letter with you while volunteering or surveying. This will be issued annually by Curlew Country.
6. Use stiles or gates and avoid climbing over fences wherever possible. If gates must be climbed, cross as near as possible to the hinge end.
7. Create as little disturbance as possible – noise, litter etc. Follow the Countryside Code.

Please see Curlew Country's 'The Countryside Quiz' at: <https://curlewcountry.org/the-countryside-code-quiz/> Or the Countryside Code Online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>

8. Keep dogs strictly under control, on leads as they can frighten away birds and harm livestock. You are more likely to see Curlew without dogs.
9. Do not park in gateways or block public highways.
10. Should you spot a nest or chicks, do not approach it. Inform the Curlew Country Staff about the sightings.

Please refer to the Curlew Observation film for best techniques for surveying/viewing breeding Curlew: <https://curlewcountry.org/2020/04/20/curlew-observation-training-film/>

11. There is a balance to be struck between engaging the public and inadvertently encouraging unskilled observers to disturb curlew. If others, ask what you are doing please say that you are collecting biological data. If you can show them curlews flying or feeding in a relaxed fashion, please do engage them more if you wish. Curlew Country will provide leaflets to hand out to people if they wish to know more.
12. There are legal requirements about sharing of data. It should only be shared on a need-to-know basis, so please do not disclose details of your findings to others. This includes site details, numbers and types of birds and names of landowners/land managers.
13. Do not prolong your visit or repeatedly visit the same spot, unless working with Curlew Country to pin down a nest or chicks more precisely.
14. In the event of an emergency contact 999 immediately. Once emergency services have been contacted, contact the Curlew Country Office 01743 296100.

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Signed\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_