



HEN HARRIER PROJECT Ltd

RBAPS Conference 22/06/2018

Lessons
Learned in

A New Agri
Environment
Programme



Opportunity



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- Address real issues affecting farmers in the Breeding Hen Harrier SPAs
- Improve the economic and environmental sustainability of agriculture in these areas
- Achieve a shift in attitudes to Hen Harrier conservation
- Increase the population of Hen Harriers

Constraints



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Time

- Project Commencement date
- Time limited, it must be completed by Spring 2023
- A longer development phase means a shortened delivery phase

Funds

- Funds are finite

Regulatory

- No area based payments permitted in an EIP
- No double payments with other schemes

More Constraints



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Expectations of Stakeholders

- All funds should be directed to farmers
 - Landscape level challenges demand investment at a landscape level, e.g. nest protection
- Payments should issue as soon as possible
- High payment rates needed as compensation for designation
- Minimal additional overheads
- Compatibility with existing programmes, i.e. ANC, BPS, GLAS
- Stakeholders have different and often conflicting objectives

Seasonal Issues



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- Habitat Assessments must be done in the summer
- Advisors are unavailable during BPS Application season
- BPS data will be unavailable until August/ September

Need for Concurrent Action

Organisation

Human Resources
Recruitment/ Training
Accountancy
Infrastructure
Premises/ Equipment
Sub Contractors and Suppliers

Programme Design and Development

Client Relationship
Methodology
Score cards/ Payment Systems/ Admin
Procedures
Developing an Advisory Resource
Training
Documentation
Terms and Conditions/ Forms/ Contracts/
Web Site

Farmer Communication

Consultation
Programme Information
How to apply
Scoring system
How payments are calculated



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Setting Objectives/ Timelines



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Key Decisions

- Programme would launch before the end of 2017
- Payment structure would have 3 components
 - Habitat payment
 - Supporting Actions Payment
 - Hen Harrier Payment
- Payments would commence in Autumn 2018

Other Activities

- Hen Harrier Monitoring
 - Baseline survey in 2017
 - Annual Surveys
- Nest Protection
 - 10 Nest Protection Officers
 - Recruited
 - Trained
 - Equipped
- Development of Feed Blocks to support Cattle grazing in the uplands
 - Partnership developed with industry, Dawn Meats and Devenish Nutrition
 - Farmers recruited for trials
 - Bespoke feed blocks supplied
 - Cattle weighed



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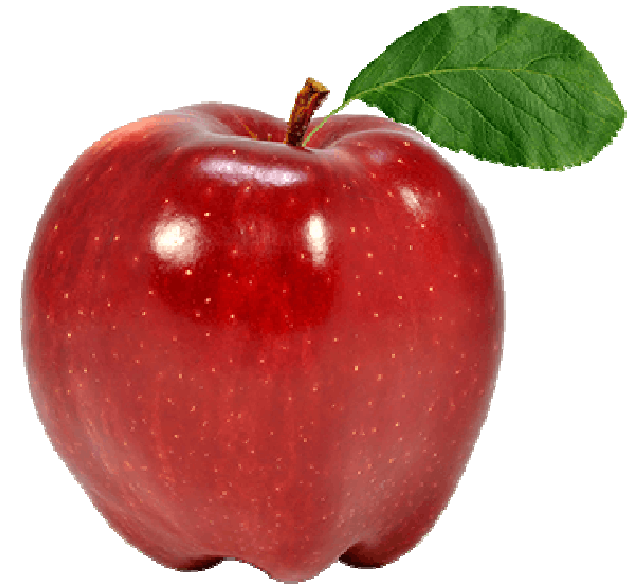
Lets Digress



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Beer or Cider

- Beer
 - Make it in a month
 - If its not great, you can try again immediately
- Cider
 - You need apples
 - apples don't keep that well
 - If you make a mistake, you need to wait till next year to get more apples



16th Century Portuguese route to India

- Ships must be in East Africa by mid summer for the monsoon winds across the Indian Ocean
- Miss this by a few weeks and a year is added on to the round trip.



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What does this mean for us ?

Roll Out of a Results Based Programme



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Enabling Measures for habitat assessments and payment claims need to be in place on time

- Farm Plans
- Contracts
- Advisor training
- Payment claims system

Miss the deadline for this and everything including payments will be put back by a year.

Managing Expectations - Communication



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- No payments in 2017
- Available funds are finite
- A results based programme is not compensation for designation
- A results based programme is an opportunity, there are no guarantees about payments before the farm has been scored
- Payment system is more complicated than traditional area based schemes
- If payments are to be worthwhile then
 - Not every farmer can be accommodated
 - Not every ha can be paid on
- The Programme also has to deliver a result
 - For farmers,
 - for hen harriers,
 - for DAFM
- Staggered intake is needed
- No farmer is going to get a windfall out of this

Current Status

- 70 Advisors trained
- 694 applicants selected
- Approx. 650 plans completed
- 350 farmers under contract
 - 14,000 ha
 - 25% of the land declared under BPS in the Hen Harrier SPA network
- Contracts arriving daily
 - Expect to have 650 farms under contract, assessed and paid this summer
 - 24,000 ha
 - 43% of the land in the Hen Harrier SPA network



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