

**From:** [Jowitt, Adrian \(NE\)](#)  
**To:** [Jowitt, Adrian \(NE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: France as possible donor population  
**Date:** 11 November 2016 10:47:18

---

---

**From:** Jowitt, Adrian (NE)  
**Sent:** 03 November 2016 09:50  
**To:** Cooke, Rob (NE); Philip Merricks; 'Christopher Price' (christopher.price@cla.org.uk); Redpath, Steve; 'Teresa Dent'; Jemima Parry-Jones; Saunders, Richard (NE); 'Raeder, Alex'  
**Subject:** France as possible donor population

All

Yesterday I had a conversation with [REDACTED] who works for Chizé Centre for Biological Studies (part the French National Centre for Scientific Research). [REDACTED] is one of the main people working on and responsible for harriers in France. This was a positive conversation so I thought I would share straight away.

What I have learnt is:

- There are an estimated 9000 pairs of Hen Harriers in France. The population is showing a long term declining trend – agricultural intensification etc. Main issue is food availability, intensification means less voles and passerines.
- There is a very big scheme of harrier nest protection there. They protect between 1000-2000 Monty nests and 6-800 HH nests. Protection means, for birds nesting in crops leaving a small area of crop around the nest and fencing it from predators. This work is carried out by a team of 200-300 very well organised volunteers. Other birds nest in forestry and semi natural habitats.
- [REDACTED] believes France could be a donor population. Every year they rescue a large number of clutches/chicks and also it would be possible (as visiting nests anyway) to remove single eggs from large clutches with no impact on productivity.
- They have oodles of experience in rearing harriers – most with Monty's but also HHs and the difference not that great anyway.
- Only barrier would be the administrative ones but that should be possible.
- We discussed that it would be good to visit what they are doing there – Jemima perhaps you and I might want to trundle over next spring as if you have not seen the rearing facilities they might be interesting from the BM perspective also ?

So very positive. All we need now is some money !

I am having a conversation with [REDACTED] who is also involved with Harrier conservation in France later this week, [REDACTED] If that

conversation brings new information I'll also share.

AJ

\*\*\*\*\*

Adrian Jowitt  
Principal Adviser

Natural England

Home based

Home office: 01242 602408

Mob. 07770 731445

[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

**We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.**

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.