

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Jowitt, Adrian \(NE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Hen Harriers  
**Date:** 01 November 2016 14:17:31

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Dear Adrian,

Excuses for not replying earlier, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

As you know we are specialists in Montagu's Harriers but from a personal perspective I found a lot of nests in Hen's in the '90 on our Wadden Sea island when the specie was more or less common and stable in these years. In the meanwhile there are only 10-15 breeding pairs in the Netherlands and in the area where we do our protection and research on Monty's we do have 3-5 pairs of breeding Hen Harriers in crops like wheat and barley. Together with "Vogelbescherming Nederland" (Dutch Birdlife partner) we organize special measurements (the so called Bird Fields, see attachment for our article in Ibis) and hope to end the decline in our small part of Europe.

I suppose you are active in the group of [REDACTED] (send him my regards) and of course we follow the discussion about the high pressure from the gamekeepers in UK/Scotland related to the high amount of mortality.

My knowledge of Hen Harriers elsewhere in Europe is limited so I wonder what I can do to help you..

All the best,

[REDACTED]

Dutch Montagu's Harrier Foundation

[REDACTED]

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Op 17-10-2016 om 15:37 schreef Jowitt, Adrian (NE):

[REDACTED]

I sent this email a little while ago and it may be that you did not feel able to reply. I just wondered as I am going to be in the Netherlands next week and there is a remote chance, depending where you are based, that we might be able to have a face to face chat ?

Regards

Adrian

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**From:** Jowitt, Adrian (NE)  
**Sent:** 15 September 2016 12:09  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Hen Harriers

Ben

Firstly a quick introduction – I'm a principle Advisor working for Natural England, the governments advisors on nature conservation in England. I mainly deal with policy on a number of subject areas including invasive none native species, woodlands and, relevant to this email, Hen Harriers.

As you will probably be aware Hen Harriers are in a perilous state in England – mainly as a result of persecution. There is a real desire to turn this around by all sides involved in the issue – not just the conservationists, but also amongst the shooters. As part of this the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), with the help of a number of different organisations and input from [REDACTED] developed a [Hen Harrier recovery plan](#). The plan was published earlier this year and Natural England is taking it forward.

One of the actions in the plan is a proposal for a reintroduction into southern England. In England Hen Harriers have in recent history been associated with the grouse moors of Northern England, although historically they have bred in lowland habitats as indeed they do elsewhere in their range. A population in southern England would increase the range and the resilience of the English Hen Harrier Population and whilst Harriers are pretty faithful to the habitats they are raised in, in part explaining why they have not spread from Northern England, it is thought that a population should be established in the south there would be some movement between the different sub populations. It is early days and at the moment we are starting conversations with a number of people who would be effected by the proposals – most notably land managers in some of the areas proposed.

Obviously one thing we need to consider fairly early on is possible donor sites, our preference being to source birds from healthy populations that are already breeding in similar habitats. I am now looking to have some exploratory conversations with relevant people in countries where Hen harriers do breed in lowland habitats. I have been given your contact details by [REDACTED] and understand that you are involved in Hen harrier conservation in the Netherlands and also that you have a lot of knowledge about Hen harriers wider in Europe (?). I wonder if it would be possible to set up a call with you some time in the next couple of weeks, preferably in the week starting the 26<sup>th</sup> of Sept.

Kind regards

Adrian

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