

LIFE Project Number  
**LIFE13 BIO/UK/000315**

**Inception Report**  
**Covering the project activities from 01/06/2014 to 31/01/2015**

Reporting Date  
**27/02/2015**

LIFE+ PROJECT NAME or Acronym  
**LIFE WADERS FOR REAL**

Data Project

<b>Project location</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Project start date:</b>	01/06/2014
<b>Project end date:</b>	31/12/2018
<b>Total budget</b>	€ 1,254,638
<b>EC contribution:</b>	€ 627,319
<b>(%) of eligible costs</b>	50.00% of total eligible budget

Data Beneficiary

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## **1. List of abbreviations**

GWCT – Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust  
 NE – Natural England  
 EA – Environment Agency  
 HIWWT – Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust  
 RSPB – Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
 Defra – Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
 SROI - Social Return on Investment  
 PSC – Project Steering Committee

## **2. Executive summary (max 3 pages)**

### **2.1 General progress**

The project has initiated or completed all of its preparatory deliverables and milestones set for the first nine months. Project management and financial reporting processes have been initiated, e.g. time recording by all staff, invoice and document management systems. We have interviewed and appointed key staff and staff recruitment has been completed. We are spending to our projected budget and at this early stage no project modifications are required.

We have consulted widely on the project, holding various meetings with individuals and interested groups. Landowners, key statutory authorities and conservation groups have been informed about and have engaged with the project. Internal Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) communications staff have been briefed on the project and we have held the project launch and first steering group meeting. All A actions have been initiated and some completed.

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) has been formed and has held its first meeting. It will meet every six months (spring and autumn) to ensure the project is on course and to give advice on the issues arising.

We have researched and initiated the purchase of the consumables, equipment and vehicles required. The implementation of new habitat works will start in Q4 2015 and the tracking and monitoring of predators has started. The indirect predator control has also started.

The monitoring protocols are complete and we are preparing to start our first season of monitoring waders, predators and habitat suitability. The key elements for the assessment of restoration of ecosystem functions have been identified and we have narrowed down a list of key non-wader groups that should act as indicators of wetland

ecosystem health. We are in the process of finalizing the best methods and timing for surveying these groups.

We have initiated the work on the baseline socio economic assessment but it has not been completed. Attempting to provide this for conservation projects is a new area of work for the application of the Planning for Real process. To ensure the identification of the most appropriate method for assessing the socio-economic impact of the project we had a number of informal meetings and discussions between Planning for Real staff and the LIFE Waders for Real project staff. These meetings and discussions identified the approach we would take for the socio-economic baseline assessment.

A communications plan has been completed and approved by the Steering committee. This plan will be updated at regular intervals throughout the project delivery phase. All relevant internal staff and stakeholders have been made aware of the requirements for recognising the contribution of the EU in this project on all external documentation and communications. Project leaflets have been designed and are ready for printing. See annexe 6.1.2. These will be distributed in the next month. A project website has been developed and this is operational. A twitter address has also been established. The promotional display boards have been designed and will be made and installed on the sites identified as soon as possible. We sent out a press release in August 2014 and articles appeared in newspapers as a result.

The Planning for Real process was initiated with meetings between the project co-ordinator, senior officer and Planning for Real staff. The process was then presented at the first steering group meeting to gauge their initial reaction and to seek opinions about adjustments and improvements.

## **2.2 Assessment as to whether the project objectives and work plan are still viable.**

We believe that there are no major barriers to ensuring the project adheres to its objectives and work plan. The project has put in place the staff and management systems to deliver the project to time and quality.

We are monitoring any potential risks to the viability of the project and will inform the Project Monitoring team if there are any major issues. We have a risk register (as provided in the bid documents) and will implement the mitigation outlined in this if any problems arise.

A key platform of this project is building and maintaining a rapport with all the landowners in the project area. This element of the project has been very successful with all the landowners being aware of the project. Also through personal visits and meetings they have signed up to the principals, objectives and work plan. Another key aspect is establishing close working relations with statutory authorities. This has been done and the relevant authorities sit on our Project Steering Committee.

We now have the full complement of staff working on the project and this should ensure that we progress as planned.

## **2.3 Problems encountered.**

Scrutiny of agri-environment management plans was delayed owing to a delay in securing a suitably qualified Conservation Advisor. This work has been picked up by the Senior Officer in January and February 2015. A secondment from HIWWT for April-October 2015 has now been agreed and the Senior Officer will brief the Conservation Advisor fully in early April. We are confident that the Conservation Advisor will be able to complete the four hotspot management plans in time to meet the deliverable at the end of June 2015.

Owing to the delay in appointing the Conservation Advisor, no foot drains and scrapes have been created in Q1 2015, but these have been discussed with farmers and we are currently finalizing locations for Q4 2015.

The delay in the creation of wet in-field features is disappointing. Its impact on wader breeding success in 2015 and the overall outcome of the project is difficult to assess. However, this work was scheduled over 6 quarters (Q1 2015, Q4 2015, Q1 2016, Q4 2016, Q1 2017, Q2 2017) and we are confident that we will get back on schedule in autumn 2015. Indirect predation reduction measures will proceed as planned in 2015 and are expected to increase wader breeding success.

The potential for delays in completing the habitat works was identified in the planning stage and allowance was made in the timeframe of the project to mitigate the impacts of this.

### **3. Administrative part**

#### **3.1 Description of project management Organigramme of the project team and the project management structure.**

Project management has been split so that the Project Manager has responsibility for the financial management, project reporting and promotion of the project and results and the Senior Officer has responsibility for delivery of the conservation actions and overseeing the species monitoring.

Project progress is monitored and reviewed at meetings between the Project Manager and Senior Officer. These are held at least once a month and are backed up by phone calls and electronic communications every week.

The Project Steering Committee meets every six months (spring and autumn) to ensure the project is on course and to advise on issues arising. Project progress to date was presented at the steering group meeting in January. The PSC will be kept updated at each subsequent meeting. However, if there is an issue that the PSC needs to be aware of or needs to make a decision on then this will be addressed either at an extraordinary meeting or by email.

Project reporting processes have been initiated, e.g. time recording by all staff, invoice and document management systems. We have interviewed and appointed key staff. We have held meetings with statutory authorities and stakeholders, including landowners. Internal GWCT communications staff have been briefed on the project and we have held the project launch and first steering group meeting. All A actions have been initiated and some completed. For project organigramme see Annexe 6.4.

## **4 Technical part**

### **4.1 Actions**

#### **4.1.1 A.1 Recruitment and appointment of Key Staff Members and purchase of equipment**

We have successfully recruited all the staff required as part of the LIFE funding for this project. Details are as follows:

Paul Stephens was appointed as Project Manager in June 2014. Paul has overall responsibility for the financial management, project reporting and promotion of the project and results.

Dr Andrew Hoodless (Head of Wetland Research at GWCT) was appointed as Senior Officer in June 2014. He has responsibility for overseeing the conservation actions and monitoring programme. Andrew has covered some of the Conservation Advisor work during winter 2014/15, owing to a delay in appointing this person (see below).

Our chosen candidate for the Conservation Advisor role, Rhys Morgan, was not available to work on this project in 2014. An agreement has now been reached with Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust to second Rhys for two days per week during April-October 2015 to liaise with farmers and statutory authorities and finalize plans for habitat works in autumn 2015.

Mike Short (Senior Predation Scientist at GWCT) was appointed as Predation Manager in June 2014 to advise on and oversee the implementation of predator exclusion measures and predator monitoring.

Interviews were held for field staff in late January 2015.

Dr Kaat Brulez will be the lead Conservation Assistant and has been working on production of maps and protocols in January and February. She has other commitments during April-September 2015, but will lead the field team from October 2015 for the remainder of the project. Dr Clive Bealey, an experienced ecological consultant local to the Avon Valley, has been contracted for 55 days during March-July 2015 to lead field surveys.

Lizzie Grayshon will be employed as a Conservation Assistant from 9 March 2015. Leah Kelly and Sophie Watts will be the Seasonal Conservation Technicians during March-July 2015.

We have researched the vehicles required and are close to agreeing purchase of these. Purchase of a quad bike has been deferred to summer 2015.

#### **4.1.2 A.2 Meeting with statutory agencies and initial Stakeholder meetings**

We have consulted widely on the project, holding various meetings with individuals and interested groups, as follows:

Meeting with Alison Cross and Bob Chapman (HIWWT) 3 June 2014

Meeting with Simon Curson (NE) 30 June 2014

Farmer meeting to outline the project and engage stakeholders at Fordingbridge 9 July 2014

Planning for Real, Bristol 28 August 2014

Discussion of project with NE and Defra officials, Norwich 8 September 2014

Initial steering committee meeting and project launch, Fordingbridge 22 January 2015

Meetings with individual farmers 4 June, 19 August, 5 November, 12 November, 17 November, 21 November, 26 November, 3 December 2014, 23 January, 23 February, 24 February 2015

The outcome of these meetings is that the statutory authorities (NE and EA) are supportive of the project and willing to assist where possible to achieve the project aims. We are clear on which aspects of the conservation actions will require consents and the timescales for obtaining these.

The response by farmers has been positive and we now have a better feel for which farmers are really behind the project and those that will be easiest to work with. The four hotspots have been identified and discussed with the relevant farmers. Production of site management plans is in progress for the four hotspot sites. With NE, we have also identified sites near hotspots which would benefit from habitat improvements once work is underway at hotspots. It is hoped that these will act as expansion areas for the waders once breeding success is increased at the hotspots.

#### **4.1.3 A.3 Scrutiny agri-environment scheme management plans & Identification of 'hotspot' sites Fields and Farms**

Scrutiny of agri-environment management plans was delayed owing to a delay in securing a suitably qualified Conservation Advisor. This work has been picked up by the Senior Officer in January and February 2015. A secondment from HIWWT for April-October 2015 has now been agreed and the Senior Officer will brief the Conservation Advisor fully in early April. We are confident that the Conservation Advisor will be able to complete the four hotspot management plans in time to meet the deliverable at the end of June 2015.

The Senior Officer has already had discussions with farmers and agreed the hotspot sites, fields and farms. Predator exclusion will be trialled at these sites in spring 2015 and habitat management plans will be finalized by the end of June, ready for work to commence in August 2015.

#### **4.1.4 A.4 Write monitoring protocols for habitat, predators and waders**

Our draft monitoring protocol is complete and we are currently consulting on the mammal monitoring aspects, which may need revision before mid-March 2015. We have been in contact with Buglife about the most appropriate methods for monitoring ditch invertebrates. See annexe 6.1.7.

#### **4.1.5 C.1 Implementation of new habitat works**

Owing to the delay in appointing the Conservation Advisor, no foot drains and scrapes have been created in Q1 2015, but these have been discussed with farmers and we are currently finalizing locations for Q4 2015.

We have discussed the use of a rotary ditcher with the RSPB and one of their operators will visit the Avon Valley in spring 2015 to advise on its use at our sites. We have discussed obtaining LiDAR data with the Environment Agency, which will assist with assessing field levels and deciding on the best locations for scrapes and foot drains.

The delay in starting creation of wet in-field features is disappointing. Its impact on wader breeding success in 2015 and the overall outcome of the project is difficult to assess. However, this work was scheduled over 6 quarters (Q1 2015, Q4 2015, Q1 2016, Q4 2016, Q1 2017, Q2 2017) and we are confident that we will get back on schedule in autumn 2015. Indirect predation reduction measures will proceed in as planned in 2015 and are expected to increase wader breeding success.

#### **4.1.6 C.2 Predator Tracking and Monitoring**

The Senior Officer and Predation Manager have been familiarizing themselves with the proposed hotspot areas in January and February 2015, with a view to determining the best methods for monitoring predators and locations for catching foxes for tracking. Four GPS fox collars have been ordered and delivered and an application for a Home Office licence to fit them has been submitted, with a view to starting tracking of foxes from late March 2015.

We are currently investigating the best media for mustelid tracking tunnels. Mink rafts have been ordered for deployment in March 2015. Trail cameras to monitor mammal activity-abundance have been ordered, for deployment at each hotspot in March. Purchase of a 4WD vehicle is close to completion.

#### **4.1.7 C.3 Implementation of indirect predation reduction measures**

We have obtained 12 nest excluder cages and have been monitoring fox and corvid responses to them with trail cameras during winter 2014/15. We are in the process of ordering more ready for deployment on lapwing nests from late March.

We have sought opinions on electric fence designs and discussed our requirements with a supplier. We are currently discussing locations for predator exclusion fences with landowners, with a view to erecting them in late March once the waders are settled.

We have started to identify trees that should be taken down or pollarded and some of this work will commence at one of the hotspots before the start of the wader breeding season. The remainder of this work is scheduled for autumn 2015.

#### **4.1.8D.1 Annual monitoring of wader numbers and breeding success**

Detailed protocols for all fieldworkers for monitoring wader numbers and breeding success have been drawn up. Contracts for field staff have been issued and they will



be briefed in the first week of March, so that fieldwork can commence in mid-March. Letters have been sent to all farmers requesting access to farms and advising them of the personnel involved with the project.

We have ordered 60 iButton temperature loggers for nests and a telescope is being purchased. A laptop has also been purchased.

#### **4.1.9 D.2 Documentation of habitat actions and annual monitoring of habitat suitability**

Implementation of foot drains and scrapes in Q1 2015 has been delayed owing to the longer time taken to discuss with relevant farmers in the absence of a full-time Conservation Advisor. However, this will be moved on during summer 2015 and records will be kept of these actions as they are implemented.

A protocol for the Conservation Assistants to follow for monitoring the vegetation in fields has been drawn up and this will be implemented in April and May 2015. The contracted ecological consultant (Dr Clive Bealey) is an experienced botanist and will undertake quadrat surveys of meadow flora in June 2015. The data collected in 2015 will act as base-line information and monitoring at the same locations in future years, following the implementation of habitat actions, particularly installation of wet features, will provide a measure of change.

#### **4.1.10 D.3 Documentation and Annual monitoring of predator abundance**

The monitoring of predator abundance-activity is less straightforward than monitoring of the waders and extensive discussions have been held with recognized experts in this field. We have drafted protocols for monitoring predators and are currently seeking comments on them with a view to having a final version in mid-March. Field staff will be briefed on methods ready to start monitoring in late March 2015.

#### **4.1.11 D.4 Assessment of restoration of ecosystem functions**

We have narrowed down a list of key non-wader groups that should act as indicators of wetland ecosystem health, as follows:

##### **Grassland communities**

Changes in depth, duration, frequency, magnitude and timing of water supply can have significant implications for the type of plants that will grow in damp grasslands. We will monitor community composition at the hotspots using quadrat surveys before and after habitat works.

##### **Surface active and soil invertebrates.**

These comprise important food for many birds and small mammals. Pitfall trapping and soil sampling will be used to assess changes in abundance and species composition before and after habitat works.

##### **Dragonflies and damselflies**

These taxa are dependent on floodplain ditches and recognized wetland indicators. We aim to document changes in numbers of species and abundance.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (summer numbers and breeding success)

These ducks are ground-nesters and their productivity is likely to increase as a result of predator exclusion. They should also benefit from the proposed ditch works.

Reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, sedge warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*, Cetti's warbler *Cettia cetti* (summer numbers).

These three passerines are characteristic wetland species, but their response to management for waders is unknown. Reed buntings tend to prefer the type of grassland swards used by redshank and snipe, so may respond positively. Sedge warblers and Cetti's warblers may be negatively impacted by scrub removal.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Common Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (winter numbers).

These species all winter in the Avon Valley. We would expect them to redistribute following habitat management and make greater use of hotspot sites.

#### Bats

Several species of bats favour waterbodies and trees for foraging. There is currently debate about the net effect of management for breeding waders on bats. The restoration of in-field wet features is likely to be beneficial, but the removal of trees and scrub may disrupt commuting routes to favoured foraging areas. Our project provides an opportunity to measure changes in abundance-activity.

We are in the process of finalizing the best methods and timing for surveying these groups. It is expected that the contracted ecological consultant (Dr Clive Bealey) will undertake most of these assessments, commencing April 2015.

#### **4.1.12 D.5 Assessment of socio-economic impact of the project**

We have initiated the work on this activity but the baseline socio economic assessment has not been completed. Attempting to provide this for conservation projects is a new area of work for the application of the Planning for Real process. To ensure the identification of the most appropriate method for assessing the socio-economic impact of the project we had a number of informal meetings and discussions between Planning for Real staff and the LIFE Waders for Real project staff. These meetings and discussions identified the approach we would take for the socio-economic baseline assessment. We decided to use the Theory of Change tool as the starting point for exploring and measuring the social, economic and environmental impact of the project. And we will complete this work in the next two months.

Theory of Change is a tool which shows how a project's activities contribute to its overall mission through setting out a clear path from inputs, through activities to outputs and outcomes and describing the change a project wants to make and the steps needed to make that happen. This emergent 'plan' of inputs -> activities -> outputs -> outcomes provides a robust basis for measuring whether the intended outcomes are being achieved, and the extent of the impact and value being created.

This approach to understanding impact is part of the Social Return on Investment (SROI) methodology, an outcomes-based approach that measures impact in ways that are relevant to the people or organisations that experience or contribute to it. It tells the story of how impact (social, economic and environmental) is being created, focusing on measuring value from the bottom up and including the perspective of different stakeholder groups.

We have also decided to take a multi-stakeholder approach so that different outcomes experienced for different stakeholder groups are taken into account. We have chosen to focus on three key stakeholder groups: farmers, local residents and public sector bodies/other wildlife groups. In order to measure and report on the impact of the project it will be important to track the distance travelled. This involves understanding the starting point or baseline (i.e. the current landscape) and the full range of changes (outcomes) which are brought about for key stakeholder groups as a result of the project activity.

The socio-economic baseline assessment we have initiated will provide this picture of the current landscape in relation to the outcomes identified in the Theory of Change. Distance travelled from this baseline will provide evidence of the impact of the project. Attribution (an assessment of how much of the outcome was caused by the contribution of other organisations or people), deadweight (the amount of the outcome that would have happened anyway) and displacement (how much of the outcome displaced other outcomes) will be taken into account to ensure the credibility of this social impact analysis.

#### **4.1.13 E.1 Communications Plan and Obligatory actions**

A communications plan has been completed and approved by the Steering committee. See annexe 6.1.1. This plan will be updated at regular intervals throughout the project delivery phase. All relevant internal staff and stakeholders have been made aware of the requirements for recognising the contribution of the EU in this project on all external documentation and communications. Project leaflets have been designed and are ready for printing (see annexe 6.1.2). These will be distributed in the next month.

A project website has been developed and this is operational. The link is [www.wadersforreal.eu](http://www.wadersforreal.eu) Email: [info@wadersforreal.eu](mailto:info@wadersforreal.eu). We decided to develop the website in house and to link this across to the GWCT website. There has been a delay getting this up and running due in part to the redevelopment of the GWCT website. The planning for Real website has a page on this project. A twitter address has also been established. Through our internal communications monitoring system we will track the usage of the website and social media.

The promotional display boards have been designed and will be made and installed on the sites identified as soon as possible.

A project Logo has been designed and approved by the steering committee. It is being used on external documentation and on signage boards alongside EU Life logos.

We sent out a press release in August 2014 and articles appeared in the Western Morning News, Salisbury Journal, Southern Daily Echo and HighBeam Research. See annexes 6.4.3 to 6.4.6.

We have also been contacted by the BBC1 program 'The One Show' and we will be seeking to promote this project through this media outlet. We have good relations with BBC Radio Solent and hope to present this project on one of their shows.

#### **4.1.14 E.2 Planning for Real Implemented and organisation of events**

The Planning for Real process was initiated with meetings between the project co-ordinator, senior officer and Planning for Real staff. The process was then presented at the first steering group meeting to gauge their initial reaction and to seek opinions about adjustments and improvements. At this meeting the steering committee members identified key local organisations and stakeholders who might be engaged in the process. See annexes 6.1.3 and 6.1.5.

#### **4.1.15 F.1 Project management**

The project management process started in June 2014. Prior to this and during June there were a number of internal discussions and it was decided that the project management would be compartmentalised. The different elements are being managed by people within the organisation with the relevant skills appropriate to each particular activity. This activity is being overseen by the project co-ordinator. See the Organigramme for the details and links in annexe 6.4.1.

The inaugural project steering group meeting was held in January 2015. The next meeting will be held within the next five months. There was an initial delay due to finding suitable dates for everyone to attend including landowners and members from statutory authorities. See the report in the Annexes. At each meeting of the steering committee they will be presented with progress reports on the project management, financial management and the technical delivery of the project. The steering committee will be consulted about any major issues regarding the delivery of the project. The project launch followed on from the Steering group meeting in January. See annexes 6.1.5 and 6.1.6.

Project reporting processes have been initiated, e.g. time recording by all staff, invoice and document management systems. We have interviewed and appointed key staff. We have held meetings with statutory authorities and stakeholders, including landowners. Internal GWCT communications staff have been briefed on the project and we have held the project launch and first steering group meeting. All A actions have been initiated and some completed.

The inception report has been completed and submitted.

#### **4.1.16 F.2 Networking with other LIFE and/or non-LIFE projects**

The project co-ordinator gave a presentation at an event in London in November 2014. This was organised by Defra and was aimed at potential applicants for LIFE funding in 2015. See annexe 6.4.2. The project co-ordinator and senior officer attended the

LIFE project initiation event in London in October 2014 Andrew Hoodless will be making a presentation about the project at the International Wader Study Group in September 2015 and is hoping to make links with other relevant LIFE Projects through this. We have recently initiated email dialogue with other relevant projects concerned with addressing wader decline elsewhere in Europe.

We will seek to make links with the LIFE STREAM project and the LIFE New Forest Project as well as non-Life projects on wader conservation. We have contact with one such project in Germany.

#### **4.1.17 F.3 After LIFE Communication Plan**

Even at this early phase of the project we are considering how we will maintain the outputs and impacts beyond the life of the project. We will be seeking relevant sources of funding as well as trying to embed the ideas and ideals for maintaining and enhancing wader recovery within the Avon Valley and beyond.

### **4.2 Availability of appropriate licences and authorisations**

Following consultation with NE the local officer for the Avon valley has agreed to consents for our proposed habitat works and predator exclusion measures. We have also discussed ditch work and alterations to water courses with the EA. They have told us that we will need two different licences and indicated that these will take about three months to obtain. They have also indicated that there should be no problem in obtaining these. The landowners at the hotspot sites have agreed to the works we have proposed. We will also obtain any permissions required for the erection of permanent display boards in strategic sites.

### **4.3 Envisaged progress until next report.**

Within the next month we will complete the purchasing of consumables, equipment and vehicles required at this stage.

**C1** We will finalize the locations for the new habitat works such as foot drains and scrapes and will commence work in Q4 2015.

**C2** Predator monitoring and tracking has started and will proceed as planned throughout the next reporting period.

**C3** The range of predation reduction measures planned will be implemented by autumn 2015.

**D1** Contracts for field staff have been issued and they will be briefed in the first week of March, so that fieldwork can commence in mid-March.

**D2** A protocol for the Conservation Assistants to follow for monitoring the vegetation in fields has been drawn up and this will be implemented in April and May 2015. The contracted ecological consultant (Dr Clive Bealey) is an experienced botanist and will undertake quadrat surveys of meadow flora in June 2015.

**D3** Field staff will be briefed on methods ready to start monitoring in late March 2015.

**D4** It is expected that the contracted ecological consultant (Dr Clive Bealey) will undertake most of the assessments, commencing April 2015.

**D5** Complete the baseline socio economic assessment with stakeholder groups.

**E1** A leaflet has been designed and this will be printed and distributed to key groups and individuals in the next month. Through our internal communications monitoring system we will track the usage of the website and social media. The promotional display boards have been designed and will be made and installed on the sites identified. We will continue to promote the project and the LIFE contribution through events and external communications.

**E2** The Planning for Real process will be developed further and will run events and trials for and with key stakeholders.

**F1** The inaugural project steering group meeting was held in January 2015. The next meeting will be held within the next five months.

**F2** We will make further enquiries to identify other LIFE and non-LIFE projects which could add value to the delivery of this project. Andrew Hoodless will be making a presentation about the project at the International Wader Study Group in September 2015.

**F3** We will continue to embed the ideas and ideals for maintaining and enhancing wader recovery within the Avon Valley and beyond.

Tasks/ Activities		2014				2015				2016				2017				2018				2019			
		1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T
Overall project schedule	Propo	Start date						O		Mid-Term								X				X			
	Actual					X						X													
		X=Progress reports																							
A.1 – Recruitment and appointment of Key Staff Members and purchase of equipment	Proposed		■	■		■																			
	Actual		■																						
A.2 – Meeting with statutory agencies and initial Stakeholder meetings	Proposed			■	■	■																			
	Actual		■																						
A.3 – Scrutiny agri-environment scheme management plans & Identification of ‘hotspot’ sites Fields and Farms	Proposed			■	■																				
	Actual		■																						
A.4 – Write monitoring protocols for habitat, predators and waders	Proposed			■																					
	Actual		■																						
C.1 – Implementation of new habitat works	Proposed					■			■	■			■	■	■										
	Actual		■																						
C.2 – Predator Tracking and Monitoring	Proposed					■	■			■	■			■	■			■	■	■					
	Actual		■																						
C.3 – Implementation of indirect predation reduction measures	Proposed					■	■			■	■			■	■			■	■	■					
	Actual		■																						
D.1 – Annual monitoring of wader numbers and breeding success	Proposed						■	■			■	■			■	■			■	■	■				
	Actual		■																						
D.2 – Documentation of habitat actions and annual monitoring of habitat suitability	Proposed					■	■			■	■			■	■			■	■	■					
	Actual		■																						





## 5 Financial part

### 5.1 Putting in place of the accounting system.

The project has been given a unique project code in the accounting system RD8. All spend is being allocated to this project code under the relevant budget headings. All staff working on the project submit expenses monthly. A timesheet has been designed and sent to all relevant staff. A request for timesheets is sent to all relevant staff at the beginning of each month. All suppliers are made aware of the need to clearly state the name of the project on any invoices and to use the project code. The budget is monitored by Andrew Hoodless and James McDonald on a monthly basis. The name of the accounting system used is Exchequer.

### 5.2 Continued availability of co-financing.

GWCT as sole beneficiary is co-financing the project and at this stage does not envisage any issues in ensuring continuity of match funding. We have just completed a budget for this project for 2015, and spending to profile is expected to continue.

### 5.3 Costs incurred

Expenditure to date is 5% and the rate of spend will increase substantially once fieldwork and habitat works are underway. Due to the seasonal nature of the work more spending will occur under personnel from April 2015 onwards.

Spend on external assistance will commence from March 2015 onwards. Also spend on equipment has almost been completed since our January cut-off date. Within the last month spend on consumables has also occurred. Spend on other costs will also commence in spring 2015.

We have just finalised internally the budget for this year and this shows the project spending to profile.

Budget breakdown categories	Total cost in €	Costs incurred from the start date to 31/01/2015	% of total costs
1. Personnel	980111	43516	4.4%
2. Travel and subsistence	43315	1689	3.9%
3. External assistance	42756	0	0
4. Durable goods	48250	13510	28.0%
Infrastructure	N/A	N/A	N/A
Equipment	48250	13510	28.0%
Prototype	N/A	N/A	N/A
5. Land purchase / long-term lease	N/A	N/A	N/A
6. Consumables	39040	0	0

<b>7. Other Costs</b>	19088	0	0
<b>8. Overheads</b>	82078	4110	5.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	1254638	62825	5.0%

The costs incurred in Action A1 were less than anticipated because the time and effort involved in recruiting the staff members was less than expected. This also meant that staff time was less. This budget element will be utilised for any subsequent staff recruitment. High value equipment such as vehicles, laptops and predator monitoring components are on order but have not been paid for yet.

We expect the budget for A2 and A3 to be used in Q2 2015. There was a delay in recruiting the Conservation Advisor but further meetings with landowners and statutory authorities have been scheduled and the advisors time has been agreed so we still expect to spend to budget. We are confident that the Conservation Advisor will be able to complete the four hotspot management plans in time to meet the deliverable at the end of June 2015.

Also some communication costs have not been incurred up to January but these are being expended now.

We have not had the first invoice from Planning for Real as yet even though work has occurred.

Action number and name	Foreseen costs	Spent so far	Remaining	Projected final cost
<b>Action 1</b> "A.1 Recruitment and appointment of Key Staff Members and purchase of equipment"	11700	1543	10157	11700
<b>3436 Action 2</b> "A.2 Meeting with statutory agencies and initial Stakeholder meetings"	19400	2809	16591	19400
<b>Action 3</b> "A.3 Scrutiny agri-environment scheme management plans & Identification of 'hotspot' sites Fields and Farms "	7593	1022	6571	7593
<b>Action 4</b> "A.4 Write monitoring protocols for habitat, predators and waders"	1101	1545	-444	1545
<b>Action 5</b> "C.1 Implementation of new habitat works"	276560	496	276064	276560

<b>Action 6</b> "C.2 Predator Tracking and Monitoring "	115263	12703	102560	115263
<b>Action 7</b> "C.3 Implementation of indirect predation reduction measures"	242151	745	241406	242151
<b>Action 8</b> "D.1 Annual monitoring of wader numbers and breeding success"	40391	2528	37863	40391
<b>Action 9</b> "D.2 Documentation of habitat actions and annual monitoring of habitat suitability"	52383	1630	50753	52383
<b>Action 10</b> "D.3 Documentation and Annual monitoring of predator abundance"	44939	2582	42357	44939
<b>Action 11</b> "D.4 Assessment of restoration of ecosystem functions"	52670	761	51909	52670
<b>Action 12</b> "D.5 Assessment of socio-economic impact of the project"	16681	531	16150	16681
<b>Action 13</b> "E.1 Communications Plan and Obligatory actions"	23465	708	22757	23465
<b>Action 14</b> "E.2 Planning for Real Implemented and organisation of events"	28734	2672	26062	28734
<b>Action 15</b> "F.1 Project management"	232978	25497	207481	232978
<b>Action 16</b> "F.2 Networking with other LIFE and/or non-LIFE projects"	6551	943	5608	6551
<b>Action 17</b> "F.3 After LIFE Communication Plan"	0	0	0	0
<b>Overheads</b>	82078	4110	77968	82078
<b>TOTAL</b>	1254638	62825	1191813	1254638

We believe that project spending is on track overall and that no amendments to the budget need to be made.

## 6 Annexes

### 6.1 Deliverables & Milestones

### **6.1.1 LIFE Waders for Real Communications Plan**

See attached document.

### **6.1.2 Waders for Real Leaflet**

See attached document

### **6.1.3 Documentation for Planning for Real Meeting**

Agenda, register and notes from Planning for Real meeting to initiate implementation and socio-economic baseline assessment.

### **6.1.4 Stakeholder meeting reports.**

Reports from 4 Stakeholder meetings.

### **6.1.5 Documents for first Project Steering Committee meeting**

Agenda, register, notes and presentation from first Project Steering Committee meeting.

### **6.1.6 Programme for Project Launch**

Register and programme for Project Launch

### **6.1.7 Monitoring protocols.**

Protocols for habitat, waders and predator monitoring.

## **6.2 Maps, drawings, technical designs, technical memos etc. as appropriate.**

None at this stage.

## **6.3 Output indicators. Definition.**

See attached document.

## **6.4 Other**

### **6.4.1 Project Organigramme**

See attached document.

### **6.4.2 Networking with other LIFE projects**

Presentation at LIFE information day organised by DEFRA in the UK.

### **6.4.3 Press Release**

Press release sent out in August 2014.

#### **6.4.4 Article in Gamewise Magazine**

Article in Gamewise Magazine sent to all members.

#### **6.4.5 Letter in the Times newspaper**

See attached document.

#### **6.4.6 Press articles**

Press Articles following press release.