



PARTNERIAETH TIRWEDD Y
CARNEDDAU
LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP



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Title	2023 Twite Breeding Survey in Ogwen Valley
Organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Brief description of supply	The Carneddau Landscape Partnership is seeking a bird surveyor to monitor the breeding population of twite in the Ogwen Valley
Estimated duration	Start date: Monday 1st th May 2023 Finish date: Friday 25 th August 2023
Contact	Jack Slattery RSPB Conservation Officer jack.slattery@rspb.org.uk
Response deadline	17.00 on Friday 24th February 2023

IMPORTANT: Please submit your bid by the response deadline electronically to cyflwyniadau@eryri.llyw.cymru or via post to the SNPA Headquarters in an anonymous, sealed envelope, bearing the title *“Confidential: Bid – Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme - 2023 Twite Breeding Survey in Ogwen Valley”* and addressed to:

Director of Corporate Services,
Snowdonia National Park Authority,
National Park Offices,
Penrhyndeudraeth,
Gwynedd,
LL48 6LF



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Part 1: Background

1. Partnership vision

The [Carneddau Landscape Partnership](#)'s vision is to help conserve the threatened heritage of the Carneddau by increasing understanding and enjoyment of the cultural and natural heritage of the area across a wide range of communities, individuals and organisations.

The Carneddau is an area of northern Snowdonia dominated by mountainous uplands including two of Wales' five 1000m peaks. Its lower slopes have a varied landscape of traditional 'ffridd' pasture, woodland, heath and lowland grassland.

With support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), a partnership of organisations has developed a scheme to help people discover, record, celebrate and care for the cultural and natural heritage of the Carneddau. A £1.7 million grant from the NLHF will help deliver the five-year scheme, worth over £4 million.

The Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme will promote a positive future for the Carneddau in collaboration with a broad range of communities, individuals and organisations, by increasing understanding of its history, cultural traditions and wildlife. It will conserve the area's heritage by demonstrating sustainable farming that protects rare habitats, species and archaeological remains, and by recording place names and memories.

The Carneddau Landscape Partnership's core aims are to:

- Protect rare habitats and species, nationally important archaeological remains and distinctive landscape features.
- Keep the traditions, knowledge, and place names of the landscape alive.
- Promote sustainable land use practices.
- Help as broad an audience as possible to discover, record, conserve and celebrate the Carneddau through events, activities, training, new interpretation and better access whilst maintaining the overall number of visitors within sustainable levels.

Objectives of the landscape partnership scheme:

- To enhance the management, interpretation and condition of the heritage of the Carneddau.
- To make a difference to the way people think about the Carneddau, developing skills, knowledge and understanding of its heritage. The scheme will offer opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in different activities, with an emphasis on physical and social activities that promote health and well-being. These will include volunteering, outdoor activities and citizen science projects.
- To benefit communities by reducing negative environmental impacts on the Carneddau. Projects will focus on enhancing habitats and species through changes in land management practices; lowering flood risk through increasing water retention in the uplands; increasing carbon capture as a result of improvement to peat habitats; improving historic landscape character; and reducing damage to scheduled monuments.



2. Our partners

Lead partner (accountable body):

- Snowdonia National Park Authority

Core partners:

- Cadw
- the National Trust
- Natural Resources Wales
- Snowdonia National Park Authority
- Snowdonia Society

Delivery partners:

- Abergwyngregyn Regeneration Company
- Bangor University (Henfaes Research Centre, University Farm)
- British Mountaineering Council
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Cymdeithas Enwau Lleoedd / Welsh Place Name Society
- Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
- Gwynedd Council
- National Trust
- Natural Resources Wales
- Outdoor Partnership
- Partneriaeth Ogwen
- Penmaenmawr Museum and Historical Society
- Plantlife Cymru
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Snowdonia Active
- Snowdonia National Park Authority
- Snowdonia Society
- University of Sheffield Department of Archaeology

Wider Partnership:

- Carneddau Pony Association
- Farmers' Union Wales
- National Farming Union Wales



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3. The project

The last breeding population of twite in Wales occupies the Ogwen Valley. Twite return each spring to nest underneath heather and bracken on the steep-sided slopes of the Carneddau and Glyderau mountain ranges. They primarily feed on seeds, and a programme of hay meadow creation and restoration is already underway as part of the Landscape Partnership to provide them with food throughout spring, summer and autumn. To establish a baseline that will be used to monitor the effectiveness of this conservation programme, we are commissioning for a survey of twite breeding in the Ogwen Valley and a report on completion.

You are invited to quote in competition with others to provide the services specified below:

- A) Twite breeding bird survey in Ogwen Valley.
- B) Report.

These services are to be completed by the Friday 25th August 2023.



Part 2: Specification

1. Contract requirements

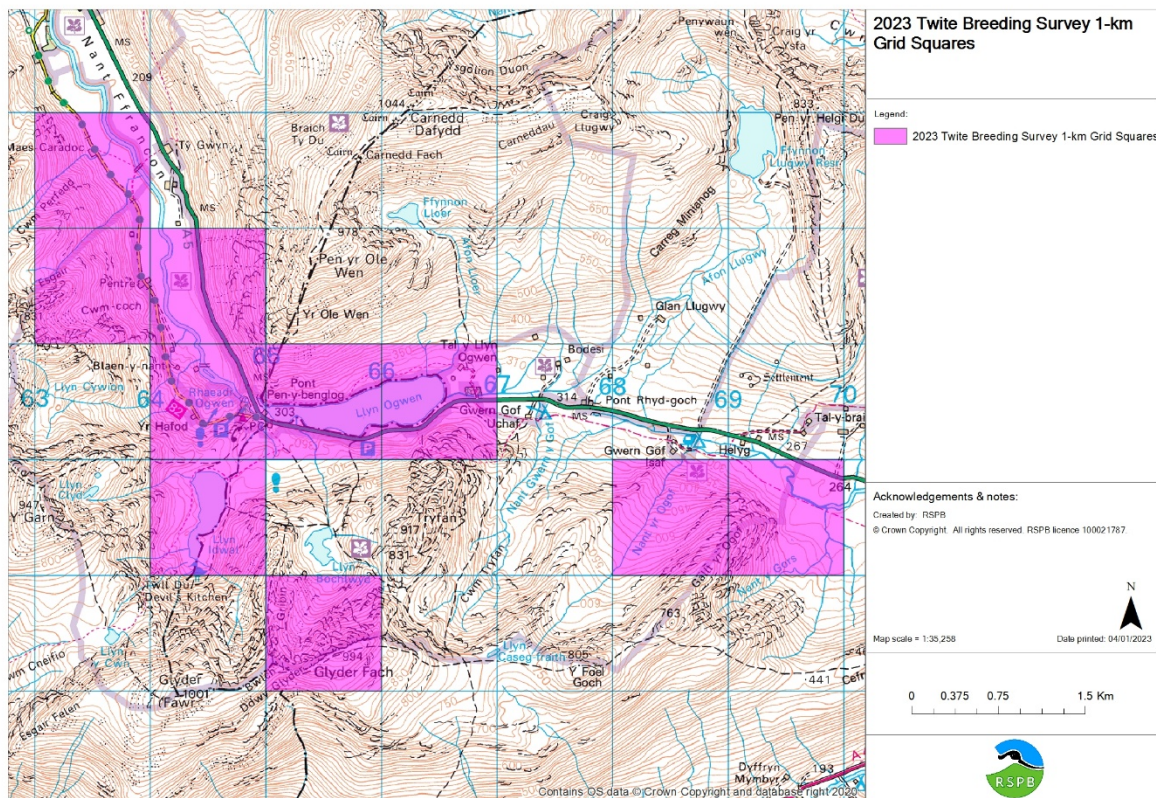
The successful contractor will supply services A and B to which the following points will apply:

A. Twite breeding bird survey in Ogwen Valley:

- The appointed contractor will be responsible for:
 - i. Visiting 10 1-km grid squares in Ogwen Valley between three time periods (Visit 1: 1st May – 26th May; Visit 2: 27th May – 15th June; Visit 3: 16th June – 9th July) and surveying for twite using the method provided in the Appendix.
 - ii. Providing risk assessments and complying to any health and safety restrictions imposed by the RSPB, landowners/land managers and other project partners.
 - iii. Progress updates in a format to be agreed between the contractor and the RSPB.
 - iv. Providing maps of survey results and data recording sheets.
 - v. Data entry into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.
- The appointed contractor will have experience:
 - i. Surveying upland birds; ideally twite.
 - ii. Navigating mountainous terrain.
 - iii. Data inputting.
- The RSPB will provide:
 - i. 1-km grid squares to be surveyed.
 - ii. Landowner/land manager permissions.

B. Report:

- The appointed contractor will be responsible for
 - i. A report comprising a summary, introduction, method, results and discussion. The discussion will include a review of previous survey data and an assessment of trends.
- The appointed contractor will have experience:
 - i. Report writing,
- The RSPB will provide:
 - i. Previous survey results.



2. Outputs, indicators and targets

Output	Indicator	Target
10 1-km grid squares visited in Ogwen Valley between three time periods (Visit 1: 1st May – 26th May; Visit 2: 27th May – 15th June; Visit 3: 16th June – 9th July) and surveyed for twite	Maps, recording sheets, Excel spreadsheet and report of survey results	Friday 25 th August



Part 3: Contractual information

1. Contract management & client obligations

The contract will be managed on a day-to-day basis by RSPB Conservation Officer Jack Slattery on behalf of the Carneddau Landscape Partnership led by the Snowdonia National Park Authority.

The contract manager will:

- Provide relevant maps and contacts necessary to undertake the work promptly;
- Work with the contractor to engage partners and/or other stakeholders in the project;
- Respond to requests for comment on drafts of the Excel spreadsheet and report within an agreed timescale.

The milestones and detailed timetable will be discussed and agreed with the successful supplier before commencement of the project. The successful supplier will be asked to provide regular updates on the progress of the work.

The appointment may be terminated by the client, Snowdonia National Park Authority, on payment of all fees up to the date of termination.

2. Copyright

All material produced under this commission shall belong to the client together with the copyright on all documents, plans, data, illustrations and other materials.

3. Expected contract dates

Start date: Monday 1stth May 2023.

End date: Friday 25th August 2023.



Part 4: How to submit a bid

1. What to include in your bid submission

Bid submissions should include the following:

- Company details, including contact information;
- An outline of the skills and experience of the company, including CVs for each member of the proposed team;
- Risk assessment for surveying in a mountainous environment;
- Evidence of public liability insurance and employers' liability insurance if applicable;
- Timetable of delivery;
- Fee proposal, including expenses and a costed breakdown of supplying services A and B.

2. Selection criteria & weightings

Tenders will be appraised on a 60% Quality / 40% Price basis.

The quality appraisal will take into account the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Degree of skills and experience shown within the team to successfully complete the survey and report	40
Overall approach/strategy and capacity to deliver the work within the specified timeframe	20
Ability to demonstrate value for money, including a realistic, costed breakdown of activity, expenses and any additional services/benefits that might add value to the project (Price).	40



3. Scoring matrix

The quality criteria will be scored according to the following matrix:

Quality Scoring Matrix (Minimum Threshold = 3)			
Capability	Evidence Provided	Score	Remark
Bidder is likely to be able to meet the needs of the Authority.	Evidence is consistent, comprehensive, compelling, directly relevant to the project in all respects and highly credible (by being substantiated by independent sources where possible.)	5	Absolute Confidence
	Evidence is sufficient (in qualitative terms), convincing, and credible.	4	Confidence
Small risk that bidder will not be able to meet the needs of the Authority.	Evidence has minor gaps, or to a small extent is unconvincing, lacks credibility or irrelevant to the project.	3	Minor Concerns
Moderate risk that the bidder will not be able to meet the needs of the Authority	Evidence has moderate gaps, is unconvincing.	2	Moderate Concerns
Significant risk that the bidder will not be able to meet the needs of the Authority.	Evidence has major gaps, is unconvincing in many respects, lacks credibility, or largely irrelevant to the project.	1	Major Concerns
Bidder will not be able to meet the needs of the Authority.	No evidence or misleading evidence.	0	Not acceptable

4. Submission, selection & contract award

Stage	Date
Proposal return deadline	17:00 on Friday 24 th February 2023
Notification of decision	Before Friday 17 th March 2023



Please submit your bid by 17:00 noon on Friday 24th February 2023 electronically to cyflwyniadau@eryri.llyw.cymru or via post to the SNPA Headquarters in an anonymous, sealed envelope, bearing the title “Confidential: Bid – Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme - 2023 Twite Breeding Survey in Ogwen Valley” and addressed to:

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The appointment will be made by exchange of correspondence. A contract will be drafted to be signed before commencement of the project.

5. Bid rules

The bidding documents of any company / team who canvas the members of staff of the RSPB or other organisations involved in the Carneddau Landscape Partnership, either directly or indirectly in regards to awarding this contract, will not be considered. The bids of any company who undertake the following will also not be considered:

1. Agreeing not to bid or agreeing on a bid value with another company.
2. Offering or agreeing to pay or to give a sum of money directly or indirectly to anyone to do or not to do anything in regards to this bid.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds reserves the right to reject any offer.

6. Contact information

All enquiries regarding this brief should, in the first instance, be addressed to Jack Slattery via email to jack.slattery@rspb.org.uk, or alternatively by telephone on 07548 155210.

The deadline for enquiries is Friday 24th February 2023.



Appendix

Twite Breeding Survey in Ogwen Valley Method

The overall objective of this work is to evaluate the population response of breeding twite to the habitat management implemented through the Carneddau Landscape Partnership scheme. A three-visit method is used, based largely on that employed for the 1999 national survey, but with some important modifications.

Before the survey

- Surveyor to check with the RSPB that the necessary permissions are in place prior to accessing survey sites.
- Surveyor to provide risk assessment, identify site specific risks and carry the correct equipment and PPE prior to accessing survey sites.
- Surveyor to prepare maps of site, including drawing transect locations and knowing transect grid references to follow.
- Surveyor to become familiar with twite song, calls and alarm call <https://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Linaria-flavirostris?pg=1> and key identifying features of twite.

Survey methods

Each study site should be visited three times, once in each of the following periods:

- Visit 1: 1 May – 26 May
- Visit 2: 27 May – 15 June
- Visit 3: 16 June – 9 July

Survey visits should be carried out between 07:30 and 18:30 BST. The survey involves approaching all suitable twite nesting habitat to within 100m at each site. Suitable nesting habitat is defined as areas of bracken, heather and other dwarf shrubs (e.g. blackberry, cross-leaved heath, etc), boulders and crags/cliffs (e.g. old quarries). The composition and distribution of these habitats varies markedly between study sites but, in general, the sites fall into two groups: (i) those with more or less continuous suitable habitat; (ii) those where it is confined to a series of separate patches.

In both cases, sites are best surveyed by walking a series of parallel transects spaced at 200m intervals. Importantly, this transect method ensures that all ground is covered to within 100m of all parts of the square, but you should still allow for deviation from the transect route for closer checks of potentially 'interesting' habitat features or hidden areas (e.g. bracken patches). Transects can run either north-south or east-west and their direction **does not** have to be the same on different visits to a square (though it is usually a good idea to have them run parallel to the contour lines on steep ground).

Generally, one observer will conduct each survey visit to a site, although for some of the larger sites a site can be divided between two people for surveying. During the course of the 3 visits to each site it is important that each observer conducts at least one of the visits (i.e. so that each site is surveyed at least once by each observer and all 3 visits are not by the same observer). Where different observers are surveying adjacent areas of the same site simultaneously, then compare bird registrations along transect boundaries to try to avoid double counting birds which fall on or close to the boundary.



Record the number, location and activity of all twite seen or heard on to large scale maps using standard BTO bird activity map symbols. For each observation, record a 6-figure grid reference, bird sex, behaviour and any colour ring details. Record all other upland birds heard/seen in survey area onto the maps, discounting those which are very abundant (e.g. meadow pipit).

To attempt to avoid double-counting of individual birds record the location and movement of birds on a field map using the standard symbols. Use your own judgement to discount records of birds which have moved ahead of you. Take care when mapping out bird locations. When plotting bird locations and movements, refer to a GPS reading (or positions of nearby field boundaries and other landmarks) to determine your own position on the map accurately and then try to accurately estimate distance and direction of bird locations from your own position. On moorland, it is good practice to refer to your GPS reading frequently to ensure you know where you are on the map and are not straying from the transect route.

Use a different copy of the relevant map for each survey visit to a site and complete a data sheet for each survey visit to each site. Data sheets should be filled in as you survey (at least for all observations of Twite), or immediately after completion of the survey visit (otherwise it may be difficult to remember which records were thought to be of the same bird/pair etc.). Input data onto Excel spreadsheet.

Surveys should not be undertaken during wet or excessively windy weather (not greater than Beaufort force 5), or when low cloud or mist obscures visibility. If necessary, halt a survey if weather conditions deteriorate and complete the survey of that site whenever weather improves. If a survey visit cannot be completed on the same day, return as soon as weather allows the following day to complete the survey.

Twite breeding behaviours

- Singing and calling – Chortling, rambling song.
- Display flight – Males show off pink rump, show flight into air, parachute down to ground with stiff wings. Males will display to other females, not just the female in their pair.
- Male perched on vegetation (potential mate guarding behaviour).
- Male/female reluctant to leave an area.
- Male/female alarm calling.
- Female coming up off the ground – It is likely she has left a nest (early in the season they may feed on moorland, but usually just for nesting and they travel to in byre farms to feed).
- Flushed from patches of bracken/heather – Sign likely have a nest nearby.
- Returning to a similar area.
- Carrying nest material.
- Nest building/carrying nesting material – Female builds the nest whilst the male keeps watch. Male always accompanies female when she is gathering nesting material, then perches in vegetation mate guarding when she is nest building. Look for where female drops into the vegetation and where she comes out.

Egg incubation – Females will lay 1 egg per day up to clutch size and start incubating when the last egg is laid. Incubation is for 11 days and it will be 15 days before fledging. When female is incubating the eggs, the male will bring her food. He will perch nearby and use contact call to



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communicate with female. Sometimes the female will come up off the nest too. First nest in May, second in June if conditions are right.

Feeding chicks – Nests will have more activity if the eggs have hatched, with adults going backwards and forward to the nests. When chicks are 3 – 4 days old, female will still brood the young and the male will bring food. When chicks are 5 – 6 days old female also foraging. They will come in and out as a pair, male usually first then will start mate guarding, then female. The female is much more cautious, she may hang around for longer before going in and she may remain on the nest for longer than the male.