



## Natural Environment Group (NEG) Project Bidding Pro Forma

Please complete all sections and read the eligibility criteria and timescale at [http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural\\_environment\\_group/NEG\\_Projects/](http://www.solentems.org.uk/natural_environment_group/NEG_Projects/).

Project Title:	Recording Common Snipe and Jack Snipe on coastal sites using thermal imaging
Project Sponsor/Lead (and full contact details):	HCC Countryside Service, Andy Davidson, Nature Recovery Officer <a href="mailto:andrew.davidson@hants.gov.uk">andrew.davidson@hants.gov.uk</a>
Full Address that any Purchase Order should be made out to	Via email <a href="mailto:andrew.davidson@hants.gov.uk">andrew.davidson@hants.gov.uk</a> HCC Countryside Service, Castle Avenue, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UL
Project Description and Objectives:	<p>It is recognised that cryptic species, such as Common and Jack Snipe, are under-represented in the annual Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) methodology. National estimates for wintering Jack Snipe in particular are known to be very inaccurate.</p> <p><i>“The current UK wintering population estimate for jack snipe is one of the most unreliable of bird population estimate figures, and is essentially a best guess based on minimal data: one individual is assumed present per km<sup>2</sup> over 110,000km<sup>2</sup> (Musgrove, et al., 2013).”</i></p> <p>Recent advancement in technology have been demonstrated to record numbers far more accurately, using thermal imaging cameras to locate the species, both during daylight and at night.</p> <p>Current counts are undertaken by groups of volunteers walking across wet grassland sites during daylight. Thermal imaging is less intrusive and can be more targeted. It can also be used at night to understand nocturnal behaviour, for example, to what extent is neighbouring farmland used.</p> <p>During the breeding period thermal imaging</p>

	<p>cameras will also be used to better record breeding success of coastal waders. Success in finding wader chicks in particular is vastly improved with their use.</p> <p>The new equipment will be used by staff, volunteers and partners on our key Solent coast sites.</p>
What is the value of the project to the Solent European Marine Sites (SEMS), other designated sites or areas of conservation interest?	The use of thermal imaging equipment will massively improve our knowledge of wintering Common and Jack Snipe numbers, as well as habitat use, both roosting and foraging. It will also improve our understanding of breeding waders and success of their young.
Project Outputs:	<p>Engagement and training of volunteers supporting the monitoring of HCC coastal sites.</p> <p>Improved counting of under-recorded wintering wader species on Solent coastal SSSI and SPA sites.</p> <p>Improved understanding of distribution and habitat use on Solent coastal sites by Common Snipe and Jack Snipe.</p> <p>Improved understanding of breeding wader species.</p>
Project Timescale and Milestones:	Purchase of equipment May 2022 for use with breeding birds 2022. Recruitment of new volunteers and working with existing summer 2022. Sept 2022 training in use and recording of wintering birds 2022-23, 5 surveys each on at least 3 sites.
Overall Project Cost (£): <i>Please detail other funding sources secured/sought.</i>	£6,420 for the purchase three Pulsar Helion 2 XQ38F thermal imaging scopes
Funding contribution sought from NEG (£): <i>The amount requested should be match funded.</i>	£6,420 for three imaging scopes. It is intended that we will support 600 volunteer hours including training and survey time. Plus staff time in training and support.
Will the project still go ahead without NEG funding?	
Geographical coverage of the project: <i>The project must cover some aspect of the coastal or marine environment of the Solent.</i>	Principally the HCC Solent coastal sites at Lymington/Keyhaven, River Hamble, Chilling/Brownwich, Titchfield Haven and Hayling Island.
Please list any project partners:	Bird Aware Solent. Independent BTO ringers and ringing groups.
Additional information to support the Bid:	

**Submission date: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Please email completed forms to [solentforum@hants.gov.uk](mailto:solentforum@hants.gov.uk) by the last day of February. **Important: If you do not get a receipt for your application please phone the office.**