

# Research collaborations : the red-billed chough

The red-billed chough that can be seen on the Canterbury coat of arms was once widespread in coastal areas but today it is Britain's most endangered corvid, mostly due to changes in farming practises.



Image: A red-billed chough perched on a broken tree trunk.

After decades of restoration, the chalk grasslands of East Kent now provide the perfect conditions for its return to the White Cliffs. A new project proposes to bring back the chough later this year.

An interdisciplinary team from Christ Church has completed a study involving focus groups and interviews to understand how local communities along proposed reintroduction sites perceive the chough and the plans for its return.

**6 - 10 birds**

will be released as a pilot in Dover in the summer of 2022

**200 years**

the red-billed chough has been missing from Kent

Fewer than  
**450 pairs**  
remain in the wild in the UK

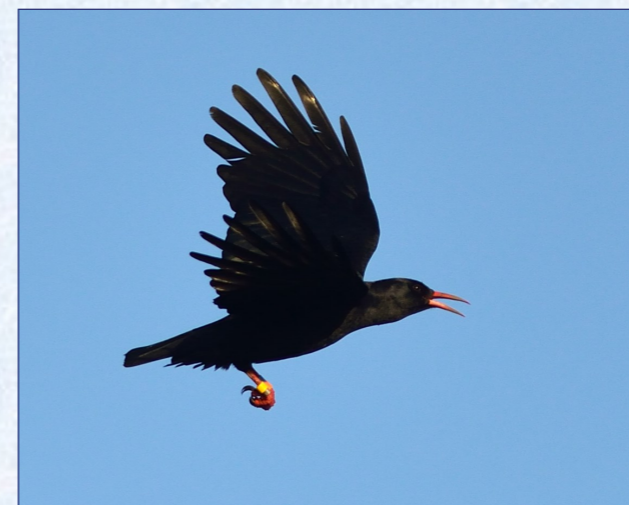
## A collaborative reintroduction project, informed by research

This study will inform the reintroduction project, a collaboration between Kent Wildlife Trust, Wildwood Trust and other partners.

Their overarching vision is to establish a population that can connect with others along the southern coast, so that the chough is once again integral to the landscape and culture of the coastal communities of Kent and southern Britain.

*"I think, to have a vertebrate in the UK go extinct in 2022, or whenever, you know, in the 21st century is unforgivable. And so I think it is one of those species that puts it as that flagship so I think there's something ... in there about highlighting that the UK, England's wildlife is in threat but we can do something about it."*

— a focus group participant



Images: a red-billed chough in flight (left) and a chattering of red-billed choughs on a rocky outcropping (right).

### Find out more:

[www.canterbury.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/sustainability)

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