

Supporting guidance for Creation of Chough Nest Shelter

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Note : In November 2023, references to Scottish Natural Heritage have been amended to NatureScot.

Where old buildings become derelict, chough can lose their nest sites and find a shortage of good alternative sites.

Chough nest shelters, containing a nesting platform, are designed to provide a nest site, close to an area of suitable habitat, as an alternative to traditional nest sites such as caves and old buildings. Adults may also roost in shelters at other times of year.



Chough nest site – Credit: Andy Hay – © RSPB images

What needs to be done?

Construct the shelter according to the option requirements.

Which fields to choose?

These shelters are best located close to suitable feeding habitat, e.g. dune, or short-grazed free-draining grassland. We recommend you consult with NatureScot about the location of the shelter.

The shelters need to be erected in the first year of your contract.



Chough feeding habitat – Credit: Andy Hay – © RSPB images



Chough – Credit: Andy Hay – © RSPB images

Complementary options

You are required to combine this capital item with at least one of the following management options:

- [Chough Mown Grassland](#)
- [Chough Grazing Management](#)

Further information

Further information and advice, e.g. on standard design specifications, can be obtained from your local NatureScot office.