

## Predator and Pest Control- Mammalian Predators

You have learned about how farmers and gamekeepers can control some predators to protect bird species of conservation importance.

### **Vocational scenario**

You are the owner of a mixed farm. You are keen to encourage some birds of conservation concern such as the **grey partridge and lapwing**.

You have also noticed an increase in foxes on the farm and have seen a fox carrying a freshly killed partridge hen. You need to write a plan to enhance the habitats on the farm to encourage the target species and you also need to consider how you will control the foxes on the farm which are threatening the red list farmland birds.

Thinking question-Foxes can be legally trapped or shot. **Why might a landowner want to choose a control method that does not kill the fox?**

**Activity 1-answer these questions and then use the answers to create a habitat enhancement and predator control plan.**

Research the best habitats for lapwing and the grey partridge.

Research the habitats for foxes and what they eat.

What do you notice about the foxes and the lapwing and partridges' habitats?

What time of year do you think predator control is particularly important to protect ground nesting birds?

How do you think that the increase of the foxes - is connected to the decrease in birds such as grey partridge and lapwing?

**Activity 2-use the answers from activity 1 to create a plan to increase the lapwing and grey partridge on your farm.**

