

# Push and pull: can habitat management resolve a conflict between wind energy and Montagu's Harrier?

A concept based on radio telemetry and observational studies in Northern Germany

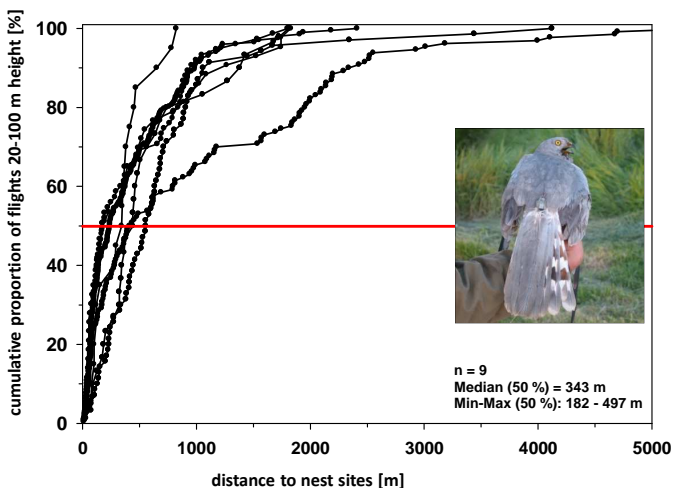
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## What do we need to know?

Behavioural data on habitat utilisation in this region (telemetry study) (GRAJETZKY & NEHLS 2013).

- flight activity results in relation to nest sites and feeding areas,
- map with high and low collision risk areas.

Result: 50% of flight activity in risk height (20-100m) occurs within 343 m of the nest site.



## The actual situation:

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*) is a rare species in Europe, patchily distributed.

The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein holds a small core breeding region with some 50-60 breeding pairs.

Preferred nesting habitat changed to agricultural crops (barley etc.).

## The problem to solve:

Breeding area of 6,200 ha, up to 9 breeding pairs/year, some 130 wind turbines.

- Considerable overlap of nest sites and wind farm areas
- Harriers show no avoidance of wind turbines
- Conflict: Harriers nesting close to wind farms have a high collision risk.

## The aim:

One habitat management concept for the entire region, to attract the harriers to

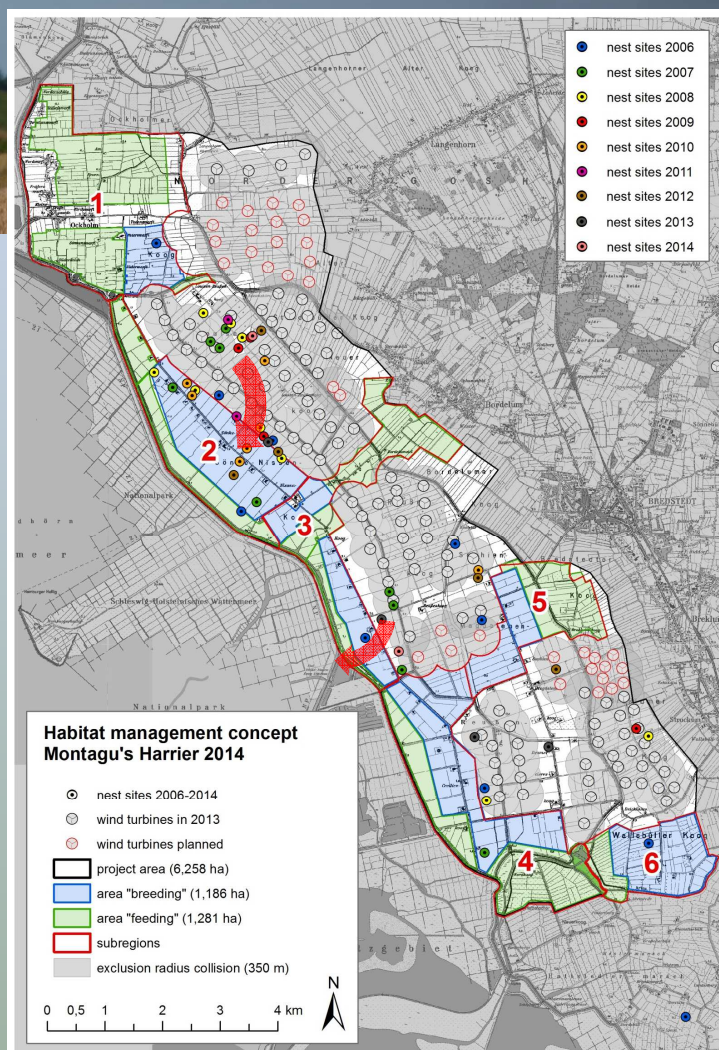
- breeding sites outside the high-collision risk areas (350 m);
- feeding sites away from the wind turbine concentrations.

## The tools (to push and pull):

Cooperation between wind farm(ers) and local farmers brought together 19 wind farm providers:

- to create and manage breeding and foraging habitats;
- to monitor, document and report to the authorities;
- to comply with scientific supervision and state and county nature conservation administration
- to comply with impact assessment for strictly protected species
- for 20 years, incl. experimental management practices.

Project start in 2014.



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