

Choughs are protected by law. During the nesting season (March to July) look out for signs of disturbance:

- Alarm calls & agitation
- Taking flight, circling, mobbing or dive bombing



Courtesy Andy Hay

Avoid disturbance:

- Use binoculars so you can keep your distance - let them come to you
- Keep pets under control
- Be prepared to back off or take an alternative route

In the spring and summer, volunteers keep watch over nests to help keep the choughs safe and monitor the growing population.



Courtesy Eleanor Reast

How can you help?

See a chough, let us know:
cornishchoughs@rspb.org.uk

Volunteer for choughs:
cornishchoughs.org/volunteer

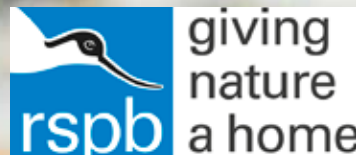
Find out more:
[@cornishchoughs](https://twitter.com/cornishchoughs)
cornishchoughs.org

The Cornish Chough Conservation Network includes RSPB, National Trust, Natural England, farmers, volunteers and local communities working together to:

- Provide and secure habitat where choughs can thrive
- Protect nests from disturbance and monitor the growing population
- Promote awareness of the importance of managed coastal sites for wildlife



National Trust



Cornish Choughs



Courtesy Richard Bedford



Courtesy Richard Bedford

Know your choughs

A chough is a small crow that is bigger than a jackdaw. It's long red bill and red legs makes it unmistakably a chough



Jackdaw

Legend has it that when King Arthur was killed in battle, his soul entered the body of a chough

What are choughs?

- a cultural symbol of Cornwall
- a type of crow that lives by the sea

Tell me more...

- They nest in caves, cliff crevices and mineshafts
- They like short grassland and soft soil where they can probe with their long bills to find food
- Choughs feed on beetles, ant larvae, leather jackets (daddy long legs larvae) and other bugs. In the winter they may also eat grain

Grazing cattle and ponies help keep the clifftops in good condition for choughs and rare plants



Look out for them probing the soil and cow pats for tasty insect larvae. Listen out for the distinctive 'cheeow' call



Their flight is very acrobatic including gliding and soaring, sweeping dives, hurtling rolls and tumbling manoeuvres. Look for the finger-like tips of the flight feathers

Images courtesy RSPB

Chough history

- Choughs became extinct from Cornwall in 1973 due to loss of habitat and persecution
- In 2001, three wild choughs arrived from Ireland and settled on The Lizard
- Choughs have bred in Cornwall ever since. The numbers are small but the population is slowly growing

When and where can you see them?

- Choughs are found here all year round as long as you know where to look!
- The main areas in Cornwall are the tip of the Lizard and in the far west
- Choughs can also be found in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man

the Crowns - Botallack



The Lizard



Courtesy Tony Blunden