

Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*

Status

Widespread in Great Britain, though having a patchy distribution and generally uncommon. However it may be locally abundant. Has suffered a massive decline in abundance and number of populations throughout the range, particularly in the 1960s and 1970s. Populations are mostly, but not exclusively, found in lowland areas. Total population in Great Britain is estimated at around 400,000 adult individuals in c. 18,000 populations (probably c. 90% in England)

Habitat requirements

Breeding ponds that are of approximately neutral pH and free of fish with contiguous terrestrial habitat (usually in excess of 0.4 ha to sustain a viable population). The terrestrial habitat needs to contain a diversity of vegetation or physical structure.

Legal protection and listing

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5
Bern Convention Appendix II
Habitats & Species Directive Annexes II, IV
Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations Schedule 2
Biodiversity Action Plan short list
English Nature Species Recovery Programme (grant aid projects)

BAP lead partners

Froglife (Herpetofauna Conservation International Ltd)
British Herpetological Society
Herpetological Conservation Trust

Natural areas prioritisation rationale

Assigning priority to such a widespread species is difficult, and to a degree subjective. High priority areas were selected on the basis of large numbers of records and / or a general understanding that these areas have large populations of the species. All other Natural Areas in which there are records or where the species is believed to occur are included as Medium priority (except for one where its occurrence is believed to be due to introduction). This covers the fact that the species has an almost ubiquitous distribution and that conservation needs (i.e. declines and opportunities for enhancement) will be throughout England. For simplicity, no maritime Natural Areas have been included (though the species is found on coastal sites around England).

nb. Urban Mersey basin (26), The Fens (37) and Midlands Plateau (43) were omitted from the ENTEC report despite having been identified as being high priority.

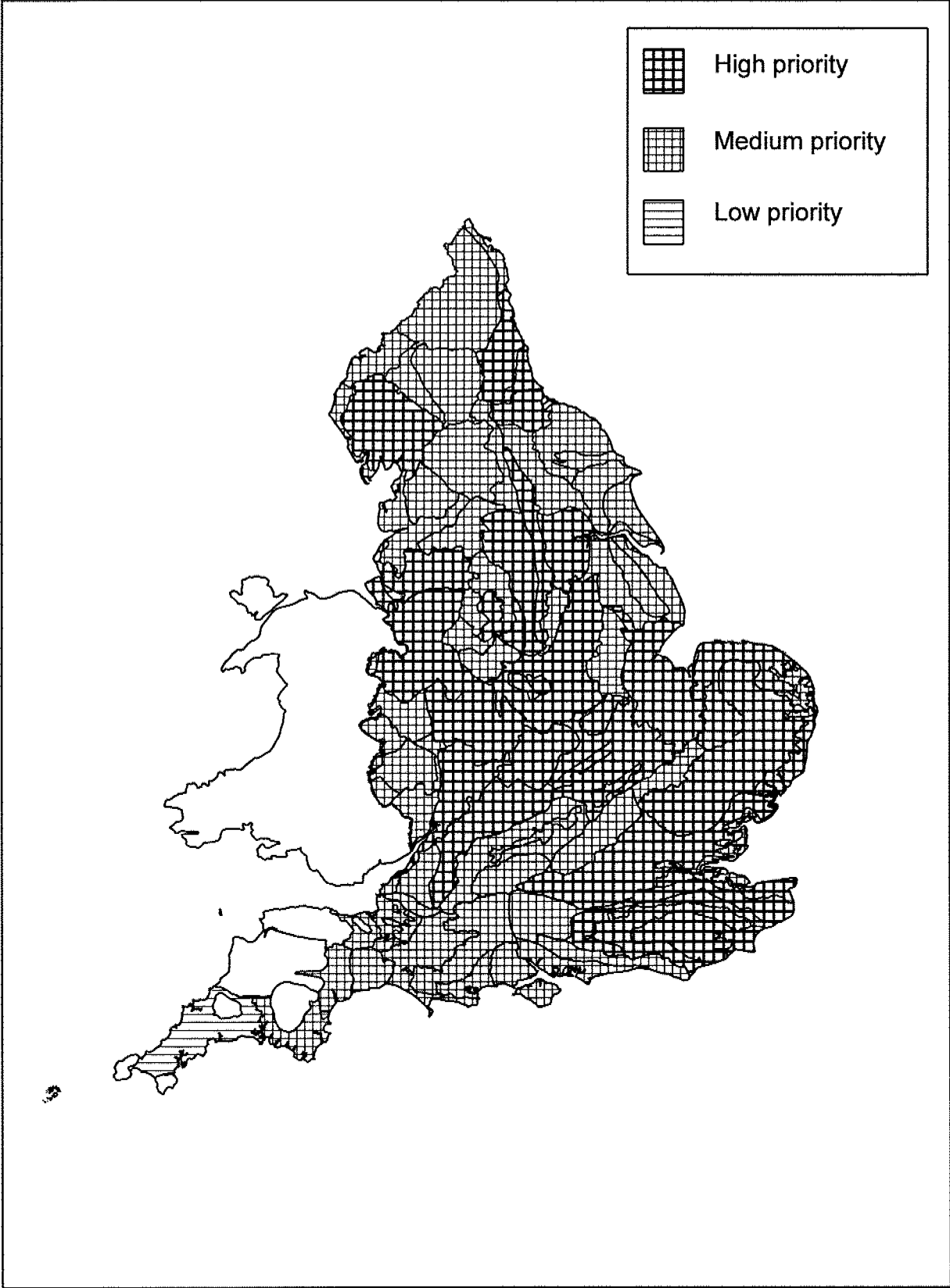
Code	Natural area	Priority	Notes / Rationale
1	North Northumberland Coastal Plain	Medium	
2	Border Uplands	Medium	
3	Solway Basin	Medium	
4	North Pennines	Medium	
5	Northumbria Coal Measures	High	
6	Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau	High	

Code	Natural area	Priority	Notes / Rationale
7	Tees Lowlands	High	
8	Yorkshire Dales	Medium	
9	Eden Valley	Medium	
10	Cumbria Fells and Dales	High	Contains internationally important population
11	West Cumbria Coastal Plain	Medium	
12	Forest of Bowland	Medium	
13	Lancashire Plain and Valleys	Medium	
14	Southern Pennines	Medium	
15	Pennine Dales Fringe	Medium	
16	Vale of York and Mowbray	Medium	
17	North York Moors and Hills	Medium	
18	Vale of Pickering	Medium	
19	Yorkshire Wolds	Medium	
20	Holderness	Medium	
21	Humber Estuary	Medium	
22	Humberhead Levels	High	
23	Southern Magnesian Limestone	High	Contains internationally important population
24	Coal Measures	High	
25	Dark Peak	Medium	
26	Urban Mersey Basin	High	
27	Mosses and Meres	High	
28	Potteries and Churnet Valley	Medium	
29	South West Peak	Medium	
30	White Peak	High	
31	Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent	High	
32	Sherwood	Medium	
33	Trent Valley and Rises	High	
34	North Lincolnshire Coversands and Clay Vales	Medium	
35	Lincolnshire Wolds	Medium	No BRC records were available for this area
36	Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes	Medium	
37	The Fens	High	Contains internationally important population
38	Lincolnshire and Rutland Limestone	Medium	
39	Charnwood	High	
40	Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands	Medium	
41	Oswestry Uplands	Medium	
42	Shropshire Hills	Medium	
43	Midlands Plateau	High	
44	Midland Clay Pastures	Medium	

Code	Natural area	Priority	Notes / Rationale
45	Rockingham Forest	High	
46	Breckland	High	
47	North Norfolk	High	
48	The Broads	Medium	
49	Suffolk Coast and Heaths	High	
50	East Anglian Plain	High	
51	East Anglian Chalk	Medium	
52	West Anglian Plain	High	
53	Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge	High	
54	Yardley-Whittlewood Ridge	High	
55	Cotswolds	High	
56	Severn and Avon Vales	High	
57	Malvern Hills and Teme Valley	Medium	
58	Clun and North West Herefordshire Hills	Medium	
59	Central Herefordshire	Medium	
60	Black Mountains and Golden Valley	Medium	
61	Dean Plateau and Wye Valley	Medium	
62	Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges	Medium	
63	Thames and Avon Vales	High	
64	Midvale Ridge	Medium	
65	Chilterns	Medium	
66	London Basin	High	
67	Greater Thames Estuary	Medium	
68	North Kent Plain	High	
69	North Downs	High	
70	Wealden Greensand	High	
71	Romney Marshes	High	Contains internationally important population
72	High Weald	High	
73	Low Weald	High	
74	South Downs	Medium	
75	South Coast Plain and Hampshire Lowlands	Medium	
76	Isle of Wight	Medium	
77	New Forest	Medium	
78	Hampshire Downs	Medium	
79	Berkshire and Marlborough Downs	Medium	
80	South Wessex Downs	Medium	
81	Dorset Heaths	Medium	
82	Isles of Portland and Purbeck	Medium	
83	Wessex Vales	Medium	
84	Mendip Hills	Medium	

Code	Natural area	Priority	Notes / Rationale
85	Somerset Levels and Moors	Medium	
86	Mid Somerset Hills	Medium	
88	Vale of Taunton and Quantock Fringes	Medium	
89	Blackdowns	Medium	
90	Devon Redlands	Medium	
91	South Devon	Medium	
95	Cornish Killas and Granites	Low	Believed to be introduced population

Triturus cristatus



Sand lizard *Lacerta agilis*

Status

Nationally threatened with naturally occurring populations being confined to lowland heathlands of Dorset, Surrey & Hampshire and the sand dunes of the Merseyside coast. Translocations have resulted in populations in W. Sussex, Devon, Cornwall, North Wales and the Isle of Coll. There are around 8,000 adult animals in c. 225 populations (> 95% in England).

Habitat requirements

Open dry heath or sand dune with dense, uneven structured vegetation with patches of open (sandy) ground for egg laying nearby or as part of the matrix of the habitat. The species is most abundant on slopes and embankments which have a southerly aspect.

Legal protection and listing

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5
Bern Convention Appendix II
Habitats & Species Directive Annex IV
Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations Schedule 2
Biodiversity Action Plan short list
English Nature Species Recovery Programme

BAP lead partners

Herpetological Conservation Trust

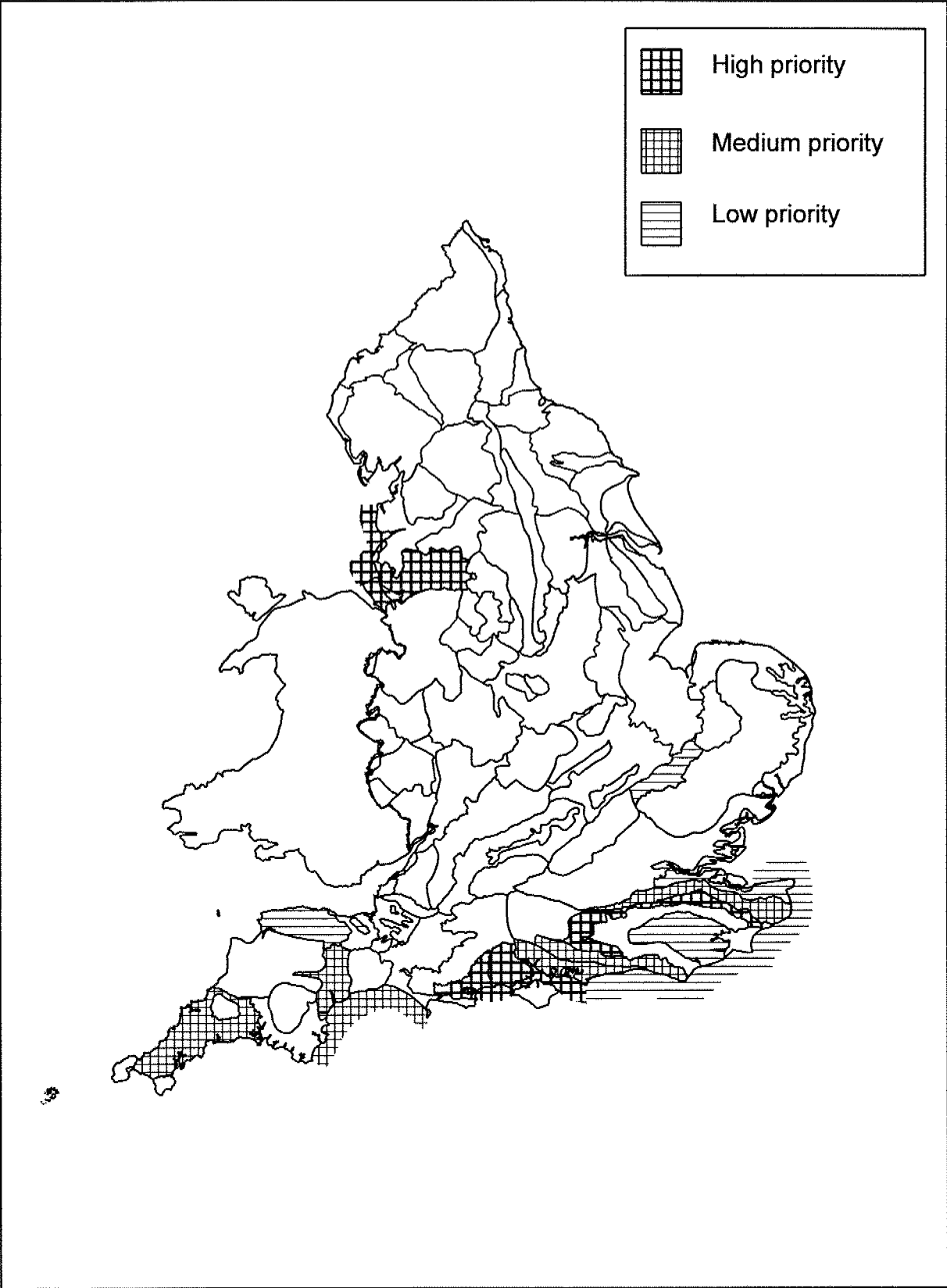
Natural areas prioritisation rationale

Natural Areas with large or long established populations are listed as a High priority. Areas with recently introduced populations, or where effort should be made to consider re-introduction are listed as a Medium priority although the continued survival of the populations in this area is important. Areas with (re)introduction potential are all listed as Low priority, although in some of these there is a greater opportunity for translocation than others and the desire to see the species returned may have a greater local support than others. In some of these areas, while translocation may be considered desirable, the possibility for it happening may be limited at least in the short term. This is because of the absence of suitable or potentially re-creatable habitat.

Code	Natural area	Priority	Rationale
26	Urban Mersey Basin	High	Important native population on coastal dunes; further re-introduction potential to coastal and heath sites (x-ref NA 117)
51	East Anglian Chalk	Low	Re-introduction potential at single site with historic records
68	North Kent Plain	Low	Historic records: scope for re-introduction likely to be very low (x-ref NAs 106/107)
70	Wealden Greensand	High	Existing population
72	High Weald	Low	Historic records on coastal sites : re-introduction potential low (x-ref to NA 108)
74	South Downs	Medium	Reintroduction potential to chalk heath site

Code	Natural area	Priority	Rationale
75	South Coast Plain and Hampshire Lowlands	Medium	Introduced population established on coastal dune site (x-ref to NA109)
77	New Forest	High	Re-introduced populations established
81	Dorset Heaths	High	Main strong hold for species in Great Britain
87	Exmoor and the Quantocks	Low	Translocation potential to coastal dune site (X-ref to NA 114)
90	Devon Redlands	Medium	Re-introduced population established at coastal dune site (X-ref to NA 111)
95	Cornish Killas and Granites	Medium	Re-introduced population established on coastal dune site; potential for further translocation (x-ref to NA 114)
106	North Kent Coast	Low	Historic records : re-introduction potential low (x-ref to NA 68)
107	East Kent Coast	Low	Historic records : re-introduction potential low (x-ref to NA 68, 69)
108	Folkestone to Selsey Bill	Low	Historic records : re-introduction potential low (x-ref to NA 70, 72)
109	Solent and Poole Bay	High	Native sand dune, cliff and coastal heath and re-introduced populations, plus potential sites (x-ref to NAs 75,77, 81)
111	Lyme Bay	Medium	Re-introduced population established at coastal dune site (X-ref to NA 90)
114	Land's End to Minehead	Medium	Re-introduced population established and potential for further translocation at coastal sites (x-ref NA 87, 95)
117	Liverpool Bay	High	Important native population on coastal dunes; further re-introduction potential (x-ref NA 26)

Lacerta agilis



Pool frog *Rana lessonae*

Status

Only recently has serious consideration been given to the possibility that this species may be native. A review of the species former location and contemporary records from the 18th and 19th Centuries, morphological, behavioural studies and investigation of calls suggest the 'British' populations may have been different to those found elsewhere in Europe. Archaeological evidence (though now refuted) gave further evidence to this possibility. A single site remains where a possibly native population occurred, although no animals have been seen there since 1993. A single male animal from that population is in captivity. It is possible that the species is ecologically extinct as a native species (if, indeed, it actually was native). Ironically, pool frogs of non-native origin have become established quite widely in southern and scem, along with other closely related 'green frog' species (edible frog *R. kl. esculenta* and marsh frog *R. ridibunda*) to be spreading. The possibility of native status has led to proposals for protection, and further study and habitat management through the Species Recovery Programme.

Habitat requirements

Requires unshaded and preferably fish free breeding pools. Populations in areas with clusters of five or more ponds seem most viable. Terrestrial habitats tend to be open, grassland or 'tussocky' vegetation that allows sunlight to the ground. These habitats would include pasture farmland and open, lightly grazed common land.

Legal protection and listing

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 proposed for inclusion on Schedule 5 (at QQR 3)
Habitats & Species Directive Annex IV
Biodiversity Action Plan middle list
English Nature Species Recovery Programme

BAP lead partners

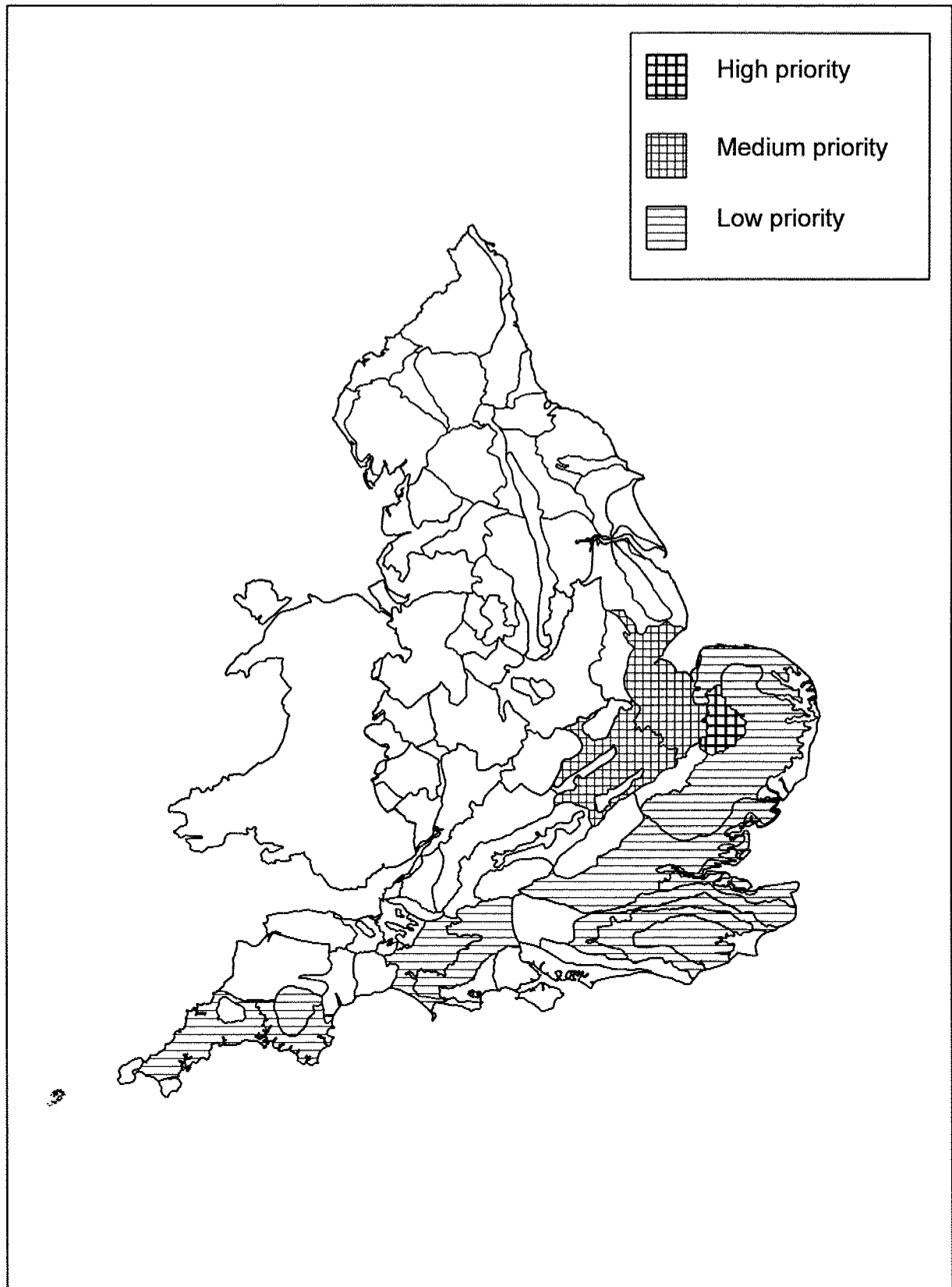
Not yet announced, though English Nature are working with Herpetological Conservation Trust and British Herpetological Society

Natural areas prioritisation rationale

The Natural Area with the last 'British' populations is listed as High priority. Other areas where historic records indicate pool frogs occurred, or where based on extrapolation of this information suggest that populations could have occurred, have been listed as Medium priority since these might (though highly unlikely) still have small native populations. More significantly, should it be shown that the species was native, these would be targeted for re-introduction effort. Other possible 'introduction areas' are listed as Low priority. Natural Areas with established populations of pool frogs, often with other non-native 'green frogs', have also been listed as Low priority since the significance of these populations in conservation terms, and implication resulting from changes in legislation, need to be assessed (note may of these are likely to be edible frogs *R. kl. esculenta* and presence of pool frogs has not been confirmed).

Code	Natural area	Priority	Rationale
37	The Fens	Medium	Possible former range. Low potential for re-introduction to inland and coastal sites (x-ref to NA 102)
46	Breckland	High	Last known 'native' site.
47	North Norfolk	Low	Proximity to former site; possible introduction potential
50	East Anglian	Low	Proximity to former site; possible introduction potential
52	West Anglian Plain	Medium	Former colony known, but lost in 19th C. Re-introduction potential
66	London Basin	Low	Introduced population
67	Greater Thames Estuary	Low	Introduced population
68	North Kent Plain	Low	Introduced population
69	North Downs	Low	Introduced population
70	Wealden Greensand	Low	Introduced population
72	High Weald	Low	Introduced population
73	Low Weald and Pevensey	Low	Introduced population
80	South Wessex Downs	Low	Introduced population
83	Wessex Vales	Low	Introduced population
91	South Devon	Low	Introduced population
92	Dartmoor	Low	Introduced population
95	Cornish Killas and Granites	Low	Introduced population

Rana lessonae



Marine turtles

Status

Marine turtles are recorded in British waters in most years. Originally considered as vagrants, at least two species, the leatherback *Dermochelys coriacea* and the loggerhead *Caretta caretta*, occur sufficiently regularly to be considered regular visitors. These seem to be associated with the Gulf Stream and in particular with the movement of large numbers of jellyfish (main food species for the leatherback). Three other species have been recorded but are considered to be vagrant; these are Kemp's ridley *Lepidochelys kempii*, green turtle *Chelonia mydas* and the hawksbill *Eretmochelys imbricata*. Turtles are most commonly seen off Ireland and western Great Britain.

Habitat requirements

Breeding requires warm, usually sandy, beaches; no turtle species breed in Britain. Generally found in warm seas, but leatherback, and to a lesser extent, loggerhead are found in northerly waters.

Legal protection and listing

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5
Bern Convention Appendix II
Bonn Convention Appendix I
CITES Appendix I
Habitats & Species Directive Annex IV
Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations Schedule 2
Biodiversity Action Plan middle list

BAP lead partners

Not yet announced.

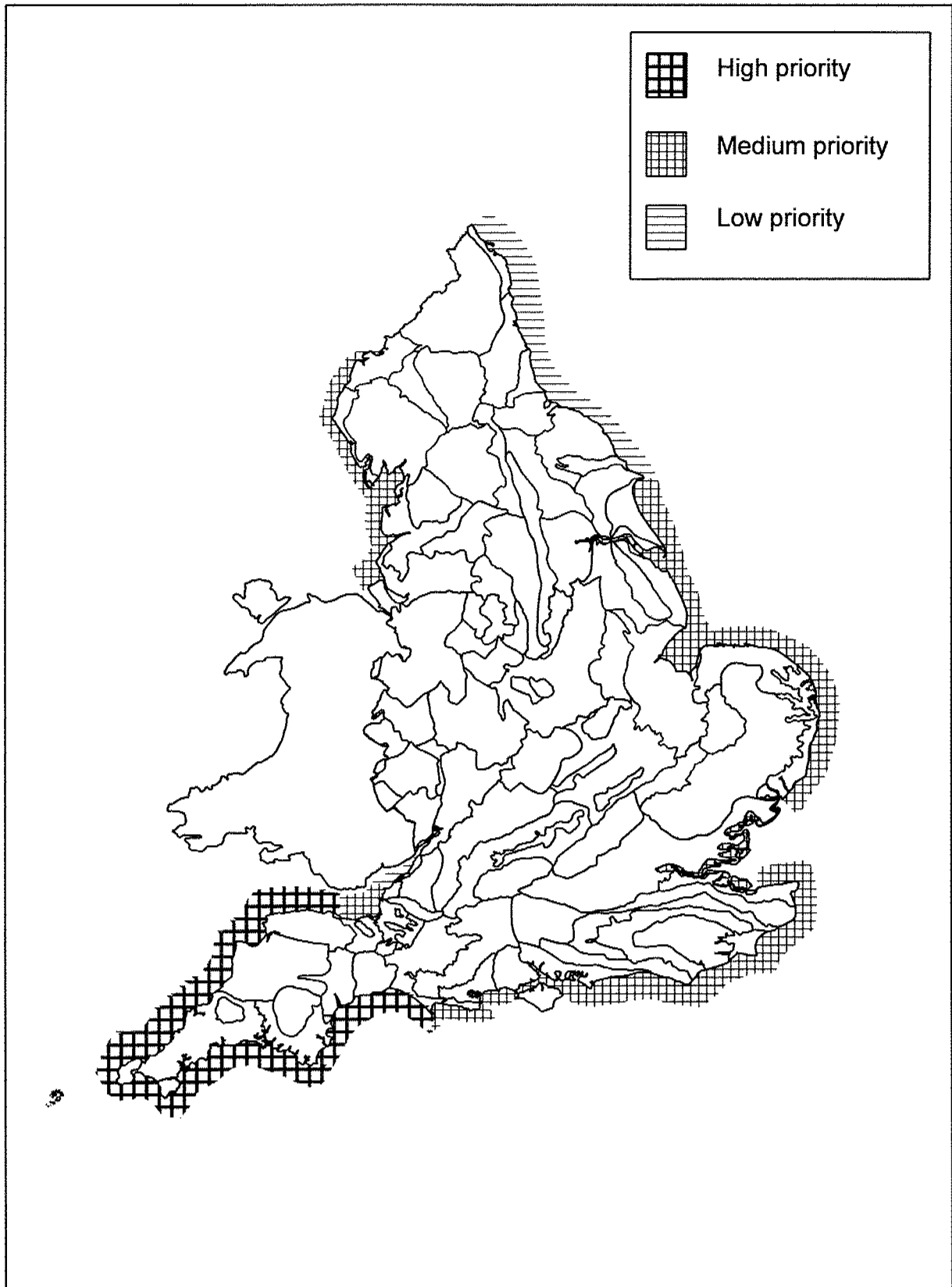
Natural areas prioritisation rationale

Marine turtles are most commonly recorded in British Waters to the west of Britain. As such the south western areas are considered high priority. However there are occasional records from elsewhere and so there is decreasing priority assigned to more northern and more eastern areas. In all maritime Natural Areas marine turtles should feature as a conservation priority given their high level of international threat (reflected by their highly protected status) and the fact that they are susceptible to injury and capture through fishing and pollution (and notably through dumping of plastics at sea [which get ingested in mistake for jelly fish]).

Code	Natural area	Priority	Notes / Rationale
67	Greater Thames Estuary	Medium	
98	Northumberland Coast	Low	
99	Tyne to Tees Coast	Low	
100	Saltburn to Bridlington	Low	
101	Bridlington to Skegness	Medium	
102	The Wash	Medium	
103	Old Hunstanton to Sheringham	Medium	
104	Sheringham to Lowestoft	Medium	
105	Suffolk Coast	Medium	
106	North Kent Coast	Medium	

Code	Natural area	Priority	Notes / Rationale
107	East Kent Coast	Medium	
108	Folkestone to Selsey Bill	Medium	
109	Solent and Poole Bay	Medium	
110	South Devon Coast	Medium	
111	Lyme Bay	High	Greatest number of records in south west
112	Start Point to Land's End	High	Greatest number of records in south west
113	Isles of Scilly	High	Greatest number of records in south west
114	Land's End to Minehead	High	Greatest number of records in south west
115	Bridgwater Bay	Medium	
116	Severn Estuary	Low	
117	Liverpool bay	Medium	
118	Morecambe Bay	Medium	
119	Cumbrian Coast	Medium	
120	Solway Firth	Medium	

Marine turtles



Section 2: Other species

Common seal *Phoca vitulina*

Status

Widely distributed around the British coastline, though with most main breeding populations around the Scottish coast. In England, the main concentration is in the Wash, with smaller breeding groups elsewhere around the East Anglian coast. Relatively uncommon around the south and west coasts.

Habitat requirements

The common seal is the characteristic seal of sandbanks, mudbanks and estuaries, though they will also haul-out on rocky shores.

Legal protection and listing

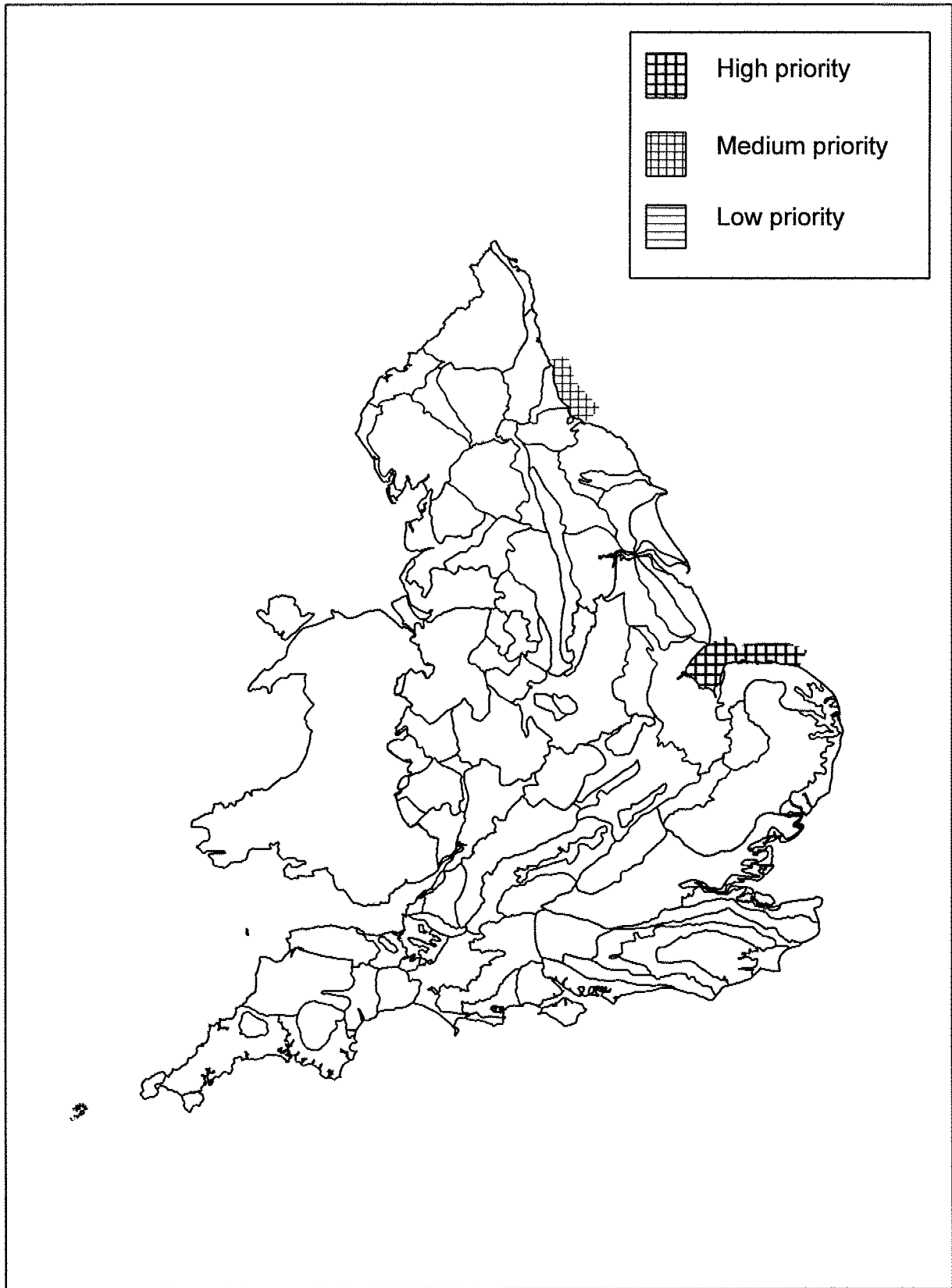
Conservation of Seals Act 1970

Natural areas prioritisation rationale

Data from ITE, the Handbook of British Mammals and NERC annual reports. High priority natural areas are those with traditional common seal breeding sites.

Code	Natural area	Priority
99	Tyne to Tees Coast	Medium
102	The Wash	High
103	Old Hunstanton to Sheringham	High

Phoca vitulina



Grey seal *Halichoerus grypus*

Status

Populations increasing, probably in response to reduced persecution following legal protection. Widespread around the British coast, but most UK breeding sites are around the Scottish coast, with only a few percent of births being on the English or Welsh coasts.

Habitat requirements

The typical seal of exposed rocky coasts, with the largest breeding sites on uninhabited islands. Small groups may also breed on sandbanks (eg Donna Nook, Lincs.)

Legal protection and listing

Conservation of Seals Act 1970

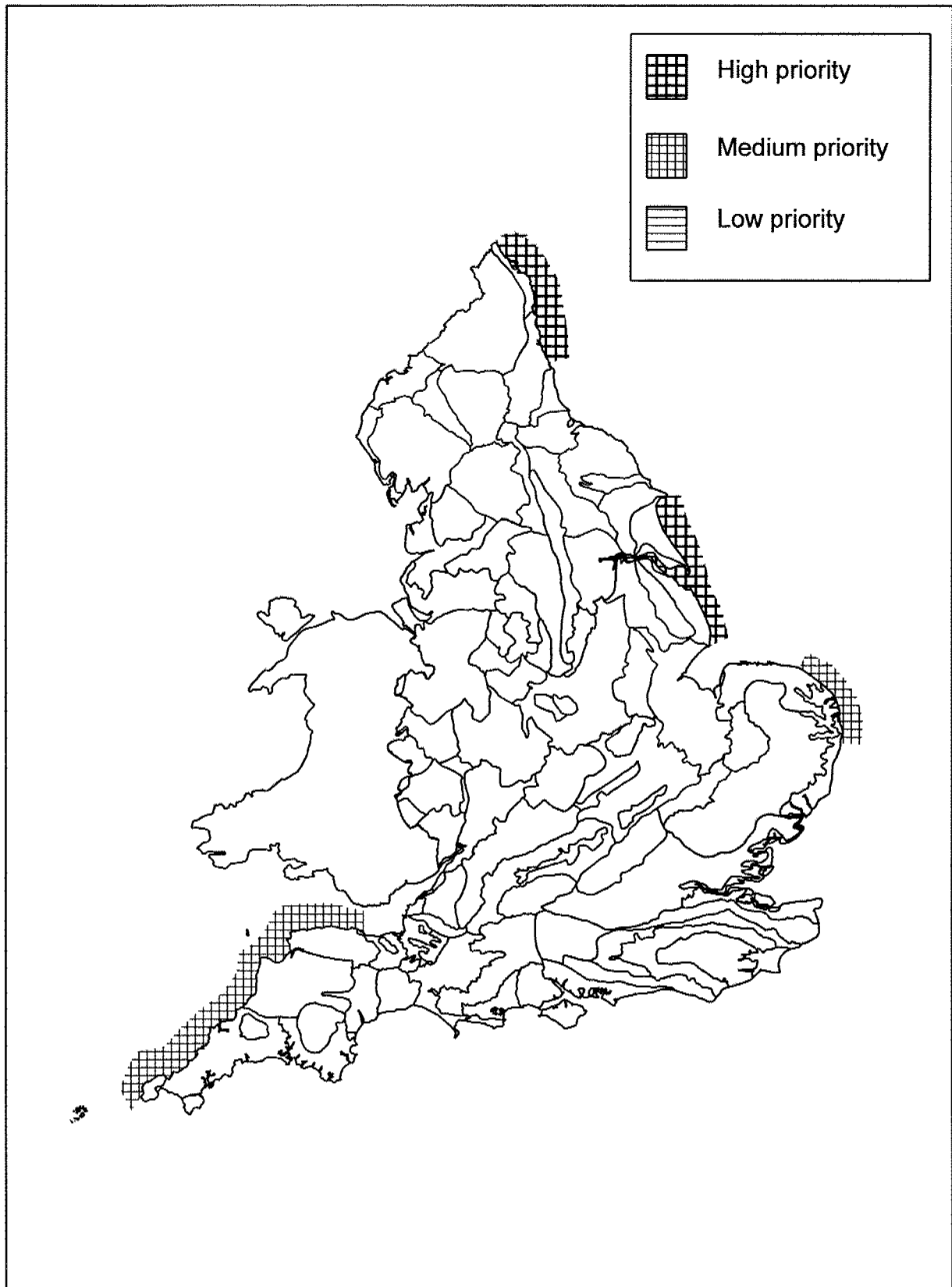
Natural areas prioritisation rationale

Data from ITE, the Handbook of British Mammals and NERC Annual Reports

High priority natural areas are those with significant breeding groups, medium priority natural areas are those with smaller breeding groups.

Code	Natural area	Priority
113	Isles of Scilly	High
98	Northumberland Coast	High
101	Bridlington to Skegness	High
104	Sheringham to Lowestoft	Medium
114	Land's End to Minehead	Medium

Halichoerus grypus



Lesser white-toothed shrew *Crocidura suaveolens*

Status

Confined to the Isles of Scilly, where it appears to be reasonably widespread and common. Widespread in continental Europe.

Habitat requirements

Wide range of habitats, including stone walls, rough grass and shorelines.

Legal protection and listing

Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 6

Natural areas prioritisation rationale

Data from ITE and the Handbook of British Mammals. The species is only found in one Natural area, the Isles of Scilly (113), where it is a High priority.



Isles of Scilly NA

Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*

Status

Distributed across southern England and reaching into the midlands, though at low density. Occasional records from a wider area, though no evidence of breeding populations. This distribution does not seem to have changed significantly this century. English population probably about 15,000 (RBM), though low reliability is attached to this estimate.

Habitat preferences

Well adapted to an anthropogenic environment, with all known roosts being in buildings. Forages in a wide range of habitats, including parkland, downland, grazed pasture and around street lights.

Legal protection and listing

Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 5

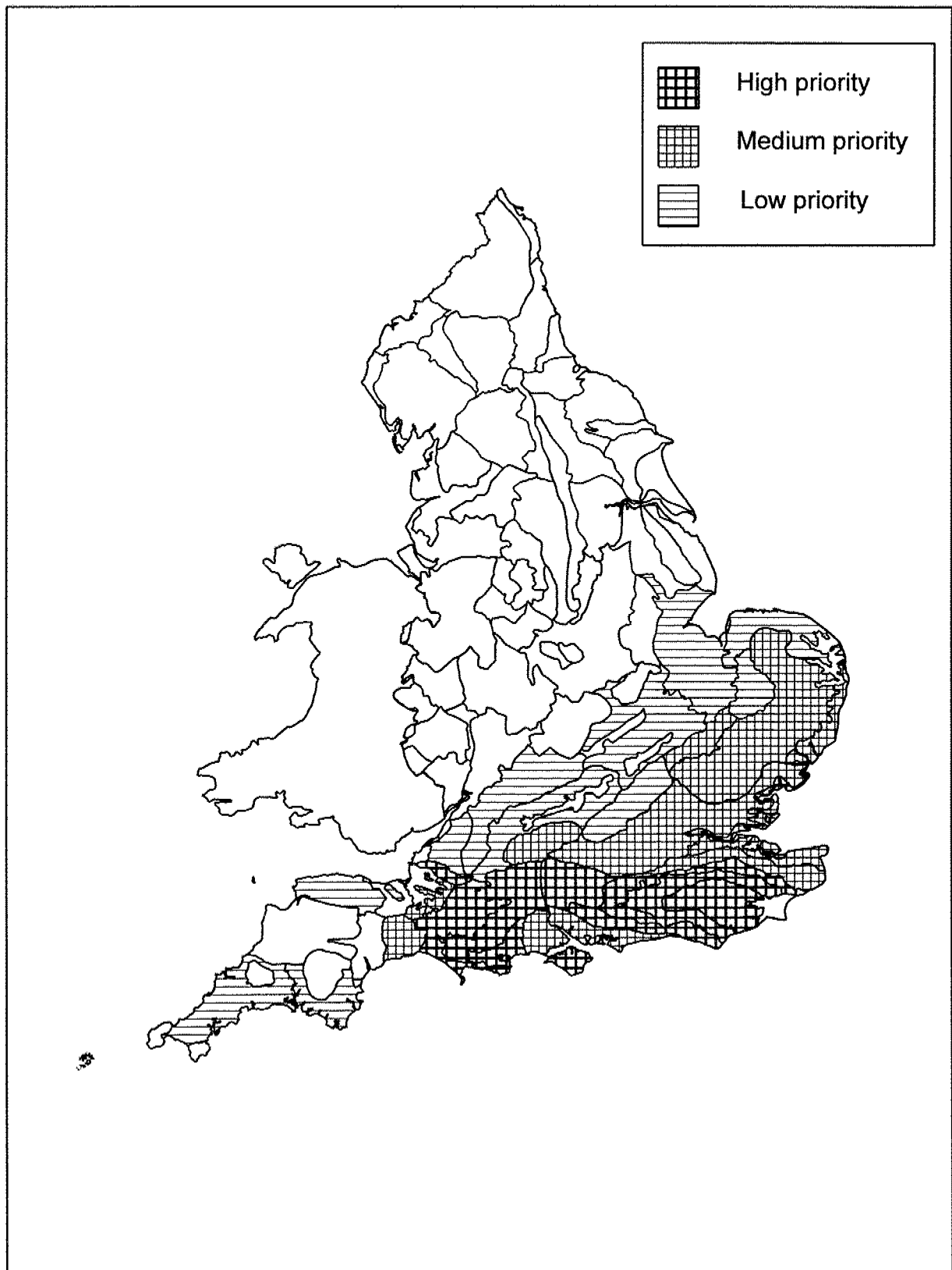
Natural areas prioritisation rationale

Data from English Nature's Batdata database, based largely on enquiries about bats supplemented by some reports of roosts. Natural areas have been prioritised based on an interpretation of the density of records (no of records per square km.), areas with a high density of roosts being considered high priority.

Code	Natural area	Priority
70	Wealden Greensand	High
72	High Weald	High
73	Low Weald	High
74	South Downs	High
76	Isle of Wight	High
78	Hampshire Downs	High
80	South Wessex Downs	High
81	Dorset Heaths	High
82	Isles of Portland and Purbeck	High
83	Wessex Vales	High
84	Mendip Hills	High
49	Suffolk Coast and Heaths	Medium
50	East Anglian Plain	Medium
51	East Anglian Chalk	Medium
66	London Basin	Medium
67	Greater Thames Estuary	Medium
68	North Kent Plain	Medium
69	North Downs	Medium
75	South Coast Plain and Hampshire Lowlands	Medium
77	New Forest	Medium
79	Berkshire and Marlborough Downs	Medium
86	Mid Somerset Hills	Medium

Code	Natural area	Priority
89	Blackdowns	Medium
37	The Fens	Low
46	Breckland	Low
47	North Norfolk	Low
52	West Anglian Plain	Low
55	Cotswolds	Low
62	Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges	Low
63	Thames and Avon Vales	Low
65	Chilterns	Low
87	Exmoor and the Quantocks	Low
91	South Devon	Low
95	Cornish Killas and Granites	Low

Eptesicus serotinus



Smooth snake *Coronella austriaca*

Status

Nationally threatened with naturally occurring populations being confined to lowland heathlands of Dorset, Surrey & Hampshire. Translocations have resulted in populations in W. Sussex.² Formerly recorded in Berkshire, Wiltshire and possibly Devon. Population estimates vary between 1,500 and 10,000 adult animals in c. 90 populations (all the UK population is found in England).

Habitat requirements

Open dry heath with dense, uneven structured vegetation but is found on adjacent and associated habitats (bogs, grassland, forest margins). The species is most abundant on slopes and embankments which have a southerly aspect.

Legal protection and listing

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5
Bern Convention Appendix II
Habitats & Species Directive Annex IV
Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations Schedule 2
English Nature Species Recovery Programme

BAP lead partners

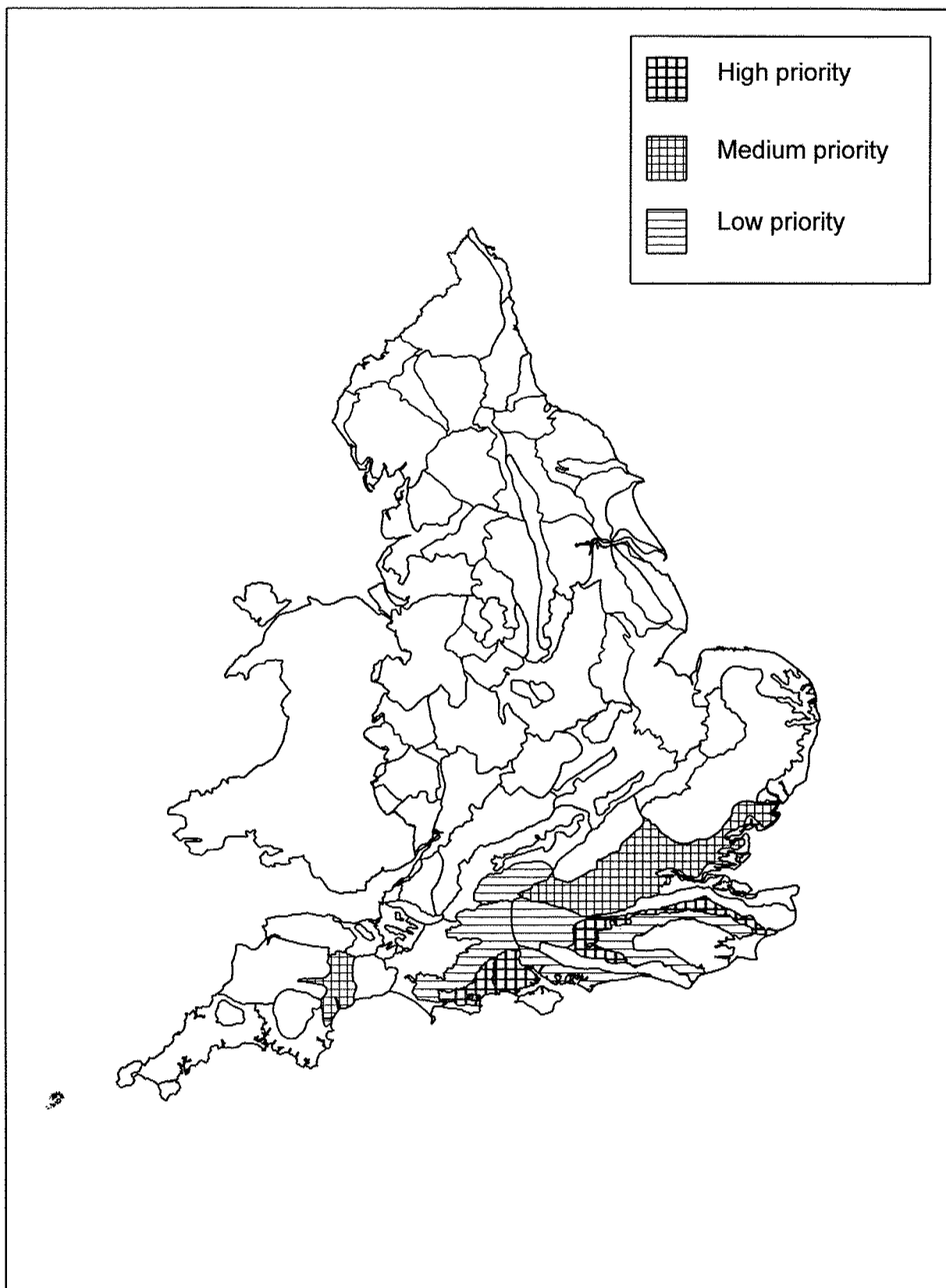
Not a BAP species, but will be addressed through Heathland HAP.
Lead organisation for SRP work : Herpetological Conservation Trust

Natural areas prioritisation rationale

Natural Areas with large or long established populations are listed as a High priority. Areas where there are recent historic records and where effort should be made to consider re-introduction (or where there is a need for survey) are listed as a Medium priority. Areas with only slight (re)introduction potential or where records are dubious or peripheral to the Natural Area are all listed as Low priority. In some of these areas, while translocation may be considered desirable, the possibility for it happening may be limited at least in the short term. This is because of the absence of suitable or potentially re-creatable habitat and relates to the need to integrate conservation of this species with the Heathland Habitat Action Plan.

Code	Natural area	Priority	Rationale
66	London Basin	Medium	Former records in N. Hampshire & Berkshire: re-introduction potential
70	Wealden Greensand	High	Existing and (re)introduced populations
73	Low Weald and Pevensey	Low	Former records; low re-introduction potential
75	South Coast Plain and Hampshire Lowlands	Low	Occasional records, nativeness debatable; low re-introduction potential
77	New Forest	High	Important existing population
78	Hampshire Downs	Low	Populations formerly at peripheral sites; low reintroduction potential.
79	Berkshire and Marlborough Downs	Low	Old (erroneous ?) record; low reintroduction potential
80	South Wessex Downs	Low	Populations formerly at peripheral sites; low reintroduction potential

Coronella austriaca



Code	Natural area	Priority	Rationale
81	Dorset Heaths	High	Main strong hold for species in Great Britain
90	Devon Redlands	Medium	Old records may be attributable to heaths here; survey required