

**PART II      ORNITHOLOGICAL PROFILES FOR ENGLAND'S NATURAL AREAS**

**NATURAL AREA: 1 :**  
**NORTHUMBERLAND COASTAL PLAIN**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE: SOME**

**General ornithological character:** A low-lying coastal plain, the majority of which is intensively managed farmland. A natural area of notable ornithological interest, with the principal bird habitats being coastal ponds and lagoons, grasslands, lowland heath and wooded river valleys. Artificial habitats such as the reed-fringed coastal pools at Druridge and Cresswell have increased the bird interest, particularly for wildfowl.

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Wintering Whooper Swan.	
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Whooper Swan Greylag Goose Wigeon Pintail Grey Partridge Golden Plover Lapwing Curlew Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Redshank, Snipe, Kingfisher, Yellow Wagtail, Dipper, Redstart, Whinchat, Stonechat, Wheatear, Sedge Warbler, Tree Sparrow, Corn Bunting. (Small numbers of breeding Shelduck and Oystercatcher, and wintering Pink-footed Goose and Shoveler.)	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Nightjar, Quail, Garganey, Pochard.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Reed-fringed coastal pools, grasslands and lowland heath, wooded river valleys, farmland.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Species protection work for breeding Ruff &amp; Black-tailed Godwit.</li> <li>2. Management of alternative feeding area for wintering wildfowl to minimise conflicts with farmers.</li> </ol>	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of management of wetland habitats.
- Conflicts between wildfowl and farmers.
- Continuing declines in farmland birds.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, where possible, increase area of semi-natural grasslands and heathlands in order to extend the distribution and increase the number of key bird species. Expand or link existing areas, where possible.
2. Manage man-made coastal wetlands to maximise their ornithological interest, in particular, increase present area of reedbed and wet grassland.
3. Provision of alternative feeding areas for wintering wildfowl.

**NATURAL AREA 2 :  
BORDER UPLANDS**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**CONSIDERABLE**

**General ornithological character:** A diverse upland bird fauna on open moorland and enclosed farmland. A large part of the natural area is afforested, with large conifer forests such as Kielder and small plantations. The area also supports a small colony of Black-necked Grebes, a rare breeding species in Britain.

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Breeding Peregrine, Red Grouse, Curlew.	
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Black-necked Grebe    Black Grouse Merlin                    Grey Partridge Peregrine                Golden Plover Goshawk                 Lapwing Red Grouse              Curlew
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Buzzard, Snipe, Short-eared Owl, Dipper, Whinchat, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel (Grey Wagtail).	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Merlin, Red Grouse, Golden Plover, Curlew, Goshawk.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Hen Harrier, Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Raven, Barn Owl, Black-necked Grebe.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Acid grassland, blanket bog, upland heath and rough pastures, lakes and conifer forests and enclosed upland farms.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protection of newly colonising raptors.</li> <li>2. Sympathetic management of conifer forests to maintain and enhance populations of Goshawk and forest-nesting Merlins.</li> <li>3. Species protection and habitat management for Black-necked Grebes.</li> </ol>	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>	Must include area and its birds in national breeding bird monitoring scheme. Maintain annual raptor monitoring.	

**Key issues:**

- Overgrazing.
- Inappropriate moorland management.
- Illegal persecution of raptors.
- Intensification of management on enclosed farmland.
- Afforestation of semi-natural habitats and subsequent forest management.

**Key objectives:**

1. Retain existing distribution and numbers of high priority and other notable species.
2. Increase numbers of rare and vulnerable species to attain self-sustaining populations. Encourage re-colonisation of locally extinct species with the appropriate species protection measures.
3. Maintain and, where possible, restore sympathetic upland management practices.
4. Manage conifer forests in a manner sympathetic to their birds.

**NATURAL AREA 3 :  
NORTHERN PENNINES**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**OUTSTANDING**

**General ornithological character:** A diverse upland breeding bird fauna, with high densities of waders and certain raptors on open moors and very dense populations of breeding waders on enclosed farmland.

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Breeding Peregrine, Red Grouse, Curlew, Twite.	
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>  Dunlin	<i>List 2</i>  Merlin Peregrine Red Grouse Black Grouse Grey Partridge Golden Plover Lapwing Curlew Twite
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Buzzard, Redshank, Snipe, Short-eared Owl, Dipper, Yellow Wagtail, Whinchat, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel. (Small numbers of breeding Wigeon.)	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Merlin, Red Grouse, Black Grouse, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Curlew.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Hen Harrier, Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Dotterel, Raven, Nightjar.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Shrub moors, blanket bogs, flushes, acid grasslands, semi-improved pastures and allotments	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Increased species protection if populations of rare birds expand or locally extinct species re-colonise.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>	Inclusion of area and its birds in national breeding bird monitoring scheme is essential. Maintain annual raptor monitoring.	

**Key issues:**

- Overgrazing.
- Poor management of some moorland areas.
- Recreational disturbance.
- Illegal persecution of raptors.
- Agricultural improvement of enclosed farmland.
- Ongoing implementation of the Pennine Dales ESA.

**Key objectives:**

1. Retain existing distribution and numbers of high priority and other notable species.
2. Increase numbers of Black Grouse, Buzzard and rare/locally extinct species.
3. Maintain and, where possible, restore traditional upland management practices.
4. Maximise benefits to birds of the Pennine Dales ESA, particularly breeding waders and Yellow Wagtail.

**General ornithological character:** A natural area of rather limited ornithological interest, it encompasses the major river valleys of the North and South Tyne, and its tributaries. A succession of semi-natural and man-made wetlands form the most notable bird habitats, supporting moderate numbers of breeding waders and wildfowl. The steep-sided valleys are characterised by semi-natural woods which support the typical species. The remainder of the natural area consists of intensively managed farmland or built-up areas and is generally of limited bird interest.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Grey Partridge Golden Plover Lapwing Curlew
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Redshank, Snipe, Kittiwake, Kingfisher, Yellow Wagtail, Dipper, Redstart, Whinchat, Corn Bunting. (Low numbers of breeding Oystercatcher and Shoveler, and wintering wildfowl and raptors.)	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Hobby, Quail, Barn Owl.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Freshwater wetlands including mining subsidence pits, semi-natural woods, riparian habitats, farmland.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Hydrological threats to, and a lack of management of, freshwater wetlands.
- Pressure for land use change on semi-natural habitats.
- Opportunities for habitat creation on farmland and reclaimed industrial/mining sites.
- Water quality/quantity issues on running waters.

**Key objectives:**

1. Manage semi-natural wetlands to benefit vulnerable bird species. Seek to increase available breeding habitats with the appropriate habitat creation and management.
2. Manage semi-natural woods to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance breeding bird populations.

**NATURAL AREA 5 :  
DURHAM MAGNESIUM LIMESTONE**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE:**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** A natural area dominated by pasture and arable farmland and is generally of limited ornithological interest. Man-made wetlands and steep-sided wooded river valleys provide the main bird habitats. There are small numbers of breeding waders and wildfowl, including the occasional pair of Pintail and Garganey, two rare breeding birds.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Grey Partridge
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Redshank, Little Ringed Plover, Snipe, Kingfisher, Yellow Wagtail, Whinchat, Corn Bunting. (Very Small numbers of breeding Oystercatcher, Pochard, and Shelduck.)	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Garganey, Pintail, Quail, Barn Owl, Pochard, Osprey.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Man-made wetlands, farmland, semi-natural woods.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Opportunistic species protection measures for occasional breeders.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of management of remaining semi-natural habitats and man-made wetlands.
- Opportunities for habitat creation on farmland.
- Recreational disturbance on man-made waterbodies.

**Key objectives:**

1. Manage semi-natural woods to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance breeding bird populations.
2. Manage man-made wetlands to benefit breeding and wintering waterbirds.

**NATURAL AREA 6 :  
LOWER TEES**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE:**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** The main bird habitats of the Lower Tees catchment consist of freshwater wetlands originating from mining subsidence pools and extraction sites; such areas were formerly reclaimed from the Tees estuary. The main bird interest of these sites is breeding waders (particularly Little Ringed Plover and Redshank) and Common Tern, and roosting waders during the winter and spring/autumn passage periods. There is a marked interchange of birds between the Tees estuary and this natural area, which can, at times, hold large numbers of roosting waders.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Redshank, Little Ringed Plover, Common Tern. Large numbers of roosting waders from the Tees Estuary.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>		
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Man-made freshwater wetlands and derelict industrial land.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Disturbance to both breeding and non-breeding birds.
- Pressure for land-use change/development of derelict land.
- Opportunities for habitat creation.

**Key objectives:**

1. Minimise disturbance to breeding birds and roosting waders.
2. Maximise benefits of habitat creation on derelict land to the key bird species present in the wider Tees estuary area.

**General ornithological character:** A diverse upland bird fauna characterised by birds of enclosed farmland and open moorland.

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Breeding Peregrine, Red Grouse, Curlew, Twite.	
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Merlin Golden Plover Dunlin Peregrine Red Grouse Grey Partridge Lapwing Curlew Twite
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Redshank, Snipe, Short-eared Owl, Dipper, Kingfisher, Yellow Wagtail, Whinchat, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel, Raven.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Golden Plover, Red Grouse, Wheatear, Merlin, Curlew, Whinchat.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Hen Harrier, Goshawk, Buzzard, Black Grouse, Dotterel, Barn Owl.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Shrub heath, acid grassland and enclosed pastures.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Implement species action plans for high priority species, including species protection work at key raptor sites. EN's funding of a Species Officer post, with RSPB and YDNP, to co-ordinate wardening, monitoring and other species protection work, should be continued.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>	Whole suite of upland breeding species needs inclusion in national breeding bird monitoring scheme. Maintain and enhance existing raptor monitoring schemes.	

**Key issues:**

- Designation of upland SPAs.
- Over-grazing.
- Illegal persecution of raptors and Raven.
- Poor or inappropriate heather management.
- Lack of clear upland objectives.
- Agricultural improvement of pastures.
- Ongoing implementation of the Pennine Dales ESA.
- Conflicts between fish-eating birds and fisheries interests.
- Recreational disturbance to breeding birds.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain current distribution and number of high priority and other notable species.
2. Increase populations of Black Grouse, Peregrine, Buzzard, Hen Harrier and Raven.
3. Maintain and, where appropriate, restore traditional management practices associated with the uplands.
4. Maximise benefits to birds of the Pennine Dales ESA.



**NATURAL AREA 8 :  
THE VALES OF YORKSHIRE**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE:                    CONSIDERABLE**

**General ornithological character:** A large and flat natural area composed of the Vales of York, Pickering and Mowbray, which are generally of low ornithological interest but with some very notable exceptions, especially the Lower Derwent Valley, Strensall and Skipwith Common.

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Breeding Curlew.  Wintering Teal. Wigeon.		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>	
	Bewick's Swan Gadwall Pochard Nightjar	Whooper Swan Wigeon Teal Shoveler Pintail	Grey Partridge Quail Lapwing Golden Plover Curlew Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Redshank, Snipe, Little Ringed Plover, Yellow Wagtail, Corn Bunting, (Passage Whimbrel, Dunlin and Oystercatcher.)		
<b>'Core Area' species</b>			
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Cormorant, Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit, Garganey, Black-necked Grebe, Hobby, Woodlark.		
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Wet meadows, riparian habitats and flooded gravel pits, lowland heath, farmland.		
<b>Species specific action</b>	Species protection measures for rare breeders in the Lower Derwent Valley.		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>			

**Key issues:**

- Pressure for land use change, particularly agricultural intensification, on existing semi-natural habitats.
- Inappropriate management of remaining semi-natural habitats.
- Hydrological threats to wet meadows.
- Habitat quality and water quality of rivers.
- Opportunities for the improved management of heathland through the Coversands and Peatlands WES.
- Opportunities for habitat (re-)creation on farmland.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, where appropriate, restore traditional management to existing wet grasslands and heath.
2. Re-create semi-natural wet grasslands and heathland where appropriate, expanding or linking existing remnants if possible.
3. Maintain and, where necessary, restore the habitat quality of rivers and riparian habitats.

**NATURAL AREA 9 :  
NORTH YORK MOORS**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**CONSIDERABLE**

**General ornithological character:** A depauperate moorland bird fauna associated with heather or bracken dominated uplands, with a rich woodland bird assemblage in river valleys dissecting the upland areas, and large areas of coniferous plantations supporting several important species.

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Breeding Red Grouse, Curlew.	
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>  Nightjar	<i>List 2</i>  Goshawk Merlin Red Grouse Lapwing Golden Plover Curlew
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Snipe, Short-eared Owl, Dipper, Redstart, Wheatear, Whinchat, Ring Ouzel (Grey Wagtail, Pied Flycatcher, Wood Warbler).	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Merlin, Red Grouse, Curlew, Wood Warbler, Pied Flycatcher, Redstart.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Honey Buzzard, Buzzard, Hen Harrier, Peregrine.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Heather moorland, bracken slopes, unimproved pasture, oak woodlands, conifer plantations, rivers.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Implementation of species action plans for key species.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>	Ensure area and birds are monitored as part of national breeding bird monitoring scheme.	

**Key issues:**

- Upland management - aims and objectives need clarifying.
- Overgrazing and management of sheep flocks (stock-feeding, shepherding, grazing intensity and over-grazing in semi-natural woods).
- Recreational disturbance to breeding birds.
- Predator control.
- Illegal persecution of raptors.
- Agricultural improvement of upland pastures.
- Bracken control.

**Key objectives:**

1. Retain distribution and number of high priority and other notable species.
2. Increase populations of very rare species. Encourage re-colonisation by locally extinct species with the appropriate species management measures.
3. Maintain and, where necessary, restore moorland management that is sympathetic to wildlife.
4. Maintain existing semi-natural woods with the appropriate management. Restore sympathetic management to over-grazed and re-planted woods.

**NATURAL AREA 10 :  
YORKSHIRE WOLDS**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE:**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** This natural area is characterised by a range of low chalky hills of rather limited ornithological interest.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Grey Partridge Lapwing Curlew
<b>Other notable species</b>	Corn Bunting.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Corn Bunting (?)	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>		
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Chalk grassland with associated base-rich flushes and ponds, farmland, small woods.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Inappropriate management of remaining semi-natural habitats, usually either high stocking rates or a lack of management.
- Water quality/quantity issues.
- Opportunities for habitat creation.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, where necessary, restore traditional management to chalk grasslands, maintaining suitable grazing regimes for Lapwing and Curlew where appropriate.
2. Restore/re-create calcareous grassland on farmland of low existing wildlife interest, expanding/linking existing fragments where possible.
3. Encourage restoration of traditional management to semi-natural woods.

**NATURAL AREA 11 :  
PLAIN OF HOLDERNESS**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE:**

**NOTABLE**

**General ornithological character:** This natural area is characterised by low, flat, intensively cultivated arable land of generally low ornithological interest. In general, bird populations are either spread thinly over the plain, such as Barn Owl, or are concentrated in certain areas, such as waterbirds and passage Little Gulls at Horsea Mere SPA. Brent Geese from the Humber estuary fly in to feed on arable land, mainly in the Spurn Bright area, with large numbers of waders roosting on farmland at high tide.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Dark-bellied Brent Goose Gadwall	Greylag Goose Shoveler Pochard Barn Owl Lapwing Grey Partridge
<b>Other notable species</b>	Corn Bunting, Yellow Wagtail, Reed Warbler. (Passage Little Gull.)	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Kingfisher, Short-eared Owl, Long-eared Owl, Snipe.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Freshwater lake (Horsea Mere), and reservoirs, farmland, small woods and plantations.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manage alternative feeding areas for Brent Geese.</li> <li>2. Encourage creation of grass strips for hunting Barn Owls; provide nest boxes as appropriate.</li> </ol>	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>	An assessment of the importance of farmland within the natural area for roosting waders from the Humber estuary.	

**Key issues:**

- Brent Geese feeding on arable land.
- Recreational disturbance to waterfowl at Horsea Mere and Taplow Hill Reservoir.
- Opportunities for habitat creation on farmland.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, where possible, improve water quality to freshwater wetlands.
2. Minimise recreational disturbance within freshwater habitats.
3. Provision of alternative feeding areas for Brent Geese.
4. Manage semi-natural woods and new plantations to benefit breeding birds.

**NATURAL AREA 12 :  
SOUTHERN PENNINES**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**OUTSTANDING**

**General ornithological character:** A diverse moorland and upland fringe bird fauna, characterised by relatively high densities of breeding waders and large populations of avian predators.

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Breeding Peregrine, Red Grouse, Curlew, Twite.	
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>  Dunlin	<i>List 2</i>  Goshawk Merlin Peregrine Red Grouse Golden Plover Lapwing Curlew Redshank Twite
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Snipe, Short-eared Owl, Dipper, Whinchat, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Red Grouse, Merlin, Golden Plover, Dunlin, Curlew, Twite.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Golden Eagle, Buzzard, Hen Harrier, Raven, Black Grouse.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Shrub moorland, blanket bog, acid grassland, bracken slopes, rock edges and enclosed farmland.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Implementation of action plans for high priority species. Appropriate species protection measures at key sites should newly establishing species warrant this.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>	Encourage continued monitoring of breeding raptor populations. Ensure area is represented in national breeding bird monitoring programme.	

**Key issues:**

- Overgrazing of heaths.
- Recreational disturbance and the impacts of erosion.
- Moorland management - what do we want and what is appropriate?
- Predator control.
- Intensification of management on enclosed farmland.
- Bracken control.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain present range and number of all high priority and other notable species.
2. Increase number of locally rare species, such as Hen Harrier, to self sustaining population levels.
3. Encourage re-colonisation of locally extinct species with the appropriate species protection measures.
4. Maintain and, where possible, restore traditional upland management practices.

**NATURAL AREA 13 :  
COAL MEASURES**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** A natural area of limited ornithological interest. Freshwater wetlands, in particular, the Fairburn Ings and mining subsidence pools, support some breeding and wintering waterbirds. The intervening mixed farmland and semi-natural woods support the typical range of common lowland species.

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Wintering Whooper Swan.	
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i> Gadwall Pochard	<i>List 2</i> Whooper Swan Shoveler Lapwing Grey Partridge
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Redstart, Whinchat, Little Ringed Plover, Black Redstart (small numbers of breeding and wintering waterbirds).	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Nightjar, Garganey, Black-necked Grebe.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Freshwater wetlands (subsidence pools), semi-natural woods, farmland	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Pressure for land-use change on semi-natural habitats.
- Opportunities for habitat creation on farmland.
- Proximity of semi-natural habitats to large urban populations and consequent opportunities for 'showing birds to people'.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, where possible, enhance the management of semi-natural freshwater and woodland habitats. Create new reedbeds and lowland wet grassland on disused mineral extraction sites.
2. Manage farmland to benefit birds

**NATURAL AREA 14 :**  
**SOUTHERN MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL**  
**SIGNIFICANCE :**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** The principal bird interest in this natural area is found in the remaining semi-natural woods that occur within steep-sided valleys. Most of the area is, however, gently undulating and intensively cultivated, and generally of limited ornithological interest.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Grey Partridge Golden Plover Lapwing
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Hawfinch, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Redstart.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>		
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Farmland, semi-natural woods.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of management of semi-natural woods.
- Opportunities for habitat creation on farmland.

**Key objectives:**

1. Manage semi-natural woods to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance breeding bird populations (eg restoration of coppicing and ride management, and maintenance of old/deadwood features).

**NATURAL AREA 15 :  
HUMBERHEAD LEVELS**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE : NOTABLE**

**General ornithological character:** A natural area dominated by intensive arable farming, but with significant yet localised areas of permanent pasture. The lowland raised mire complex in the east of the area (Thorne and Hatfield Moors) is an outstanding ornithological feature, supporting large numbers of breeding Nightjar and Nightingale and some wintering raptors. Most of the remaining bird interest is concentrated on man-made wetlands and floodplain grassland along the Don, Ouse and Idle rivers.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Gadwall Pochard Nightjar	Teal Shoveler Grey Partridge Golden Plover Lapwing Curlew Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Hobby, Little Ringed Plover, Redshank, Snipe, Common Tern, Kingfisher, Nightingale, Whinchat, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Corn Bunting. (Small numbers of breeding Shelduck and Oystercatcher, and wintering Bewick's and Whooper Swans, Hen Harrier, Merlin and Short-eared Owl.)	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Nightjar.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Quail.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Lowland raised mire, lowland wet grassland, man-made wetlands, farmland.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Manage habitat for breeding Nightjar at Thorne and Hatfield Moors.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Wetland restoration on peatlands following peat extraction.
- Hydrological threats to and lack of management of peatland/freshwater habitats.
- Opportunities for habitat (re-)creation on farmland.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain as a 'core area' for breeding Nightjar with the appropriate habitat management on lowland raised mires.
2. Maintain and, where appropriate, increase present area of lowland raised mire, peatlands and wet grassland habitats with the appropriate management. Where possible, expand or link existing fragments.
3. Maintain and, where possible, increase area of semi-natural woodland on farmland of low existing wildlife interest.
4. Minimise disturbance to wintering waterbirds from recreational and industrial activities.



**NATURAL AREA 16 :  
COVERSANDS**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** The ornithological interest of this natural area is centred on the last remnants of formerly more extensive areas of lowland heath and, to a lesser extent, woodland. Some sites retain breeding Nightjar, Woodlark and Curlew.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Nightjar Woodlark	Curlew Lapwing Grey Partridge
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Snipe, Nightingale.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>		
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Lowland heath, semi-natural woods.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Undertake species-specific management to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance Nightjar and Woodlark populations.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of management of remaining heathland.
- Pressure for land-use change on existing semi-natural habitats.
- Opportunities for habitat (re-)creation on farmland.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, where appropriate, restore traditional management to remaining fragments of lowland heath, building on the successes of the Coversands WES.
2. Restore/re-create lowland heath on woodland and farmland of low existing wildlife interest, expanding or linking existing heathland areas where possible.
3. Maintain and, where possible, enhance management of semi-natural woods.

**NATURAL AREA 17 :  
SHERWOOD FOREST**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE:**

**NOTABLE**

**General ornithological character:** A natural area of some ornithological interest which is centred on the large remaining blocks of semi-natural woodland. Areas of ancient woodland and wood pasture support typical species, including Redstart and Hawiinch. Where woodland has been cleared, open heathland has often developed supporting breeding Nightjar and, in smaller numbers, Woodlark (and formerly Stonechat). Open water within parks holds limited numbers of breeding and wintering wildfowl, and often has fringing aquatic vegetation which is rare elsewhere within the natural area.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Gadwall Nightjar Woodlark	Grey Partridge Lapwing
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Hobby, Kingfisher, Lesser spotted Woodpecker, Redstart, Whinchat, Hawfinch, (Long-eared Owl, Tree Pipit, Wood Warbler).	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Pochard, Goshawk, Honey Buzzard, Buzzard, Barn Owl, Stonechat, Nightingale.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Semi-natural woods, conifer plantations, lowland heath, lakes.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Species protection measures for rare breeders.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Loss of ancient woodland/wood pasture to development. Conversion to plantations.
- Loss and lack of management of heathland.
- Opportunities for habitat re-creation on farmland.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain present area of ancient woodland and wood-pasture. Enhance breeding bird populations with the appropriate management (eg coppicing, ride management, maintain old/dead wood etc.).
2. Maintain and, where possible, increase area of lowland heath. Expand or link existing fragments if possible.
3. Maximise benefits to birds of new and existing conifer plantations.

**NATURAL AREA 18 :  
TRENT VALLEY AND LEVELS**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE:**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** This large natural area consists mostly of arable farmland and improved grasslands. The breeding and wintering bird interest is concentrated on man-made water bodies in the Trent Valley. The remaining floodplain grasslands and semi-natural woodland provide locally important bird habitats. The Trent Valley is an important inland migration route.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Gadwall Pochard	Teal Shoveler Grey Partridge Golden Plover Lapwing Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Little Ringed Plover, Hobby, Redshank, Oystercatcher, Common Tern, Kingfisher, Nightingale, Corn Bunting, Tree Sparrow.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Buzzard, Quail, Curlew.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Floodplain grassland, reservoirs and flooded gravel pits, semi-natural woods, farmland.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Development of new National Forest.
- Continued sand and gravel extraction in river valleys.
- Opportunities for habitat (re-)creation on farmland.
- Recreational disturbance to wildfowl on man-made water-bodies.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, where appropriate, restore/enhance traditional management of existing wet grassland and semi-natural woods.
2. Re-create new freshwater and broad-leaf woodland habitats. Where possible, expand or link existing semi-natural habitats.
3. Ensure habitat creation plans for disused gravel pits are appropriate. Ensure after-use plans are included in consents for new mineral extraction sites.

**NATURAL AREA 19 :  
CHARNWOOD FOREST**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE:**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** Charnwood Forest natural area comprises a series of rocky hills bisected by wide valleys which are almost upland in nature (Charnwood was known locally as the 'Midland Dartmoor'). The extensive areas of semi-natural habitats support a range of species absent from the surrounding, intensively farmed countryside including breeding Wheatear, Whinchat and Hawfinch, and low numbers of wintering raptors. However, in the past, Charnwood supported a number of other species associated with both lowland and upland heaths. Deciduous woodland, wet and dry heath and grassland are all well represented. The valleys are more intensively farmed, and areas of permanent grassland support Golden Plover in winter. Several reservoirs (eg Swithland Reservoir) on the edge of the 'Forest' provide locally important bird habitats, supporting low numbers of wintering wildfowl.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Gadwall	Grey Partridge Golden Plover Lapwing
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Common Tern, Kingfisher, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Wheatear, Whinchat, Tree Sparrow, Hawfinch (also Ringed Plover). Low numbers of wintering wildfowl and raptors.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Hobby, Little Ringed Plover, Redshank, Barn Owl, Nightjar, Whinchat.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Wet and dry heath, semi-natural deciduous woodland, farmland, reservoirs.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Specialised habitat management to encourage the return of extinct species.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Development of new National Forest.
- Threats/opportunities associated with future mineral extraction.
- Habitat loss and degradation through lack of appropriate management, eg bracken domination of former grassland and heath.
- Increasing levels of recreation.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain present areas of semi-natural deciduous woodland, wet and dry heath, and grassland; manage appropriately in order to maximise bird interest.
2. Restore/re-create lowland heath with the appropriate management.
3. Minimise recreational disturbance to sensitive areas for breeding birds.

NATURAL AREA 20 :  
LINCOLNSHIRE LIMESTONE

ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :

SOME

**General ornithological character:** An intensively cultivated natural area with the remaining ornithological interest centred on remnants of heathland, deciduous woodland and a few small man-made lakes. The southern half of the area still has areas of semi-natural woodland supporting the typical species including Hawfinch. Flooded quarries support low numbers of wintering wildfowl and breeding Little Ringed Plover. Farmland supports the range of typical species, including occasional breeding Quail and wintering Golden Plover.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Grey Partridge Lapwing Golden Plover Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Snipe, Little Ringed Plover, Kingfisher, Nightingale, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Corn Bunting, Hawfinch.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Quail, Stone Curlew, Nightjar.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Lowland heath, semi-natural woods, flooded quarries/pits, farmland.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Manage remaining heathland fragments to encourage breeding Nightjar and possibly Stone Curlew.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Opportunities for habitat (re-)creation on farmland.
- Lack of appropriate management on existing semi-natural habitats.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain present area of lowland heath with the appropriate management. Where appropriate, re-create heathland on adjacent farmland.
2. Maintain present area of deciduous woodland and encourage management that will enhance their bird interest (eg restoration of coppicing and ride management, and maintenance of old/deadwood features).