

**NATURAL AREA 42 :**  
**ROMNEY MARSH**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL**  
**SIGNIFICANCE :**

**CONSIDERABLE**

**General ornithological character:** A low-lying natural area in south-east corner of Kent, extending into East Sussex. The grazing marshes of Romney Marsh and Walland Marsh support important populations of breeding waders, and wintering wildfowl and raptors. Although drainage for agriculture has greatly reduced the area of wet grassland, the natural area remains of considerable ornithological significance.

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Wintering Bewick's Swan, Shelduck, Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal.	
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Bewick's Swan Gadwall	Shelduck Wigeon Shoveler Teal Grey Partridge Lapwing Barn Owl Pochard
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Snipe, Redshank, Yellow Wagtail, Sedge Warbler, Linnet, Tree Sparrow, Corn Bunting. Wintering Hen Harrier, Merlin and Short-eared Owl.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Garganey.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Grazing marsh, open water.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Loss of natural and semi-natural habitats as a result of agricultural intensification, development, mineral extraction and sea-level rise.
- Recreational disturbance to breeding and wintering birds.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain populations of key species within the natural area.
2. Maintain present area of grazing marsh and, where possible, create new areas on intensively managed farmland.

NATURAL AREA 43 :  
LOW WEALD

ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE:

SOME

**General ornithological character:** The essentially flat landscape of the Low Weald is of rather limited ornithological interest; that which occurs is centred on the remaining semi-natural woods and damp pastures.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i> Nightjar	<i>List 2</i> Grey Partridge Lapwing Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Redshank, Snipe, Kingfisher, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Yellow Wagtail, Nightingale, Redstart, Whitethroat.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Hawfinch.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Semi-natural woods, lowland wet grassland.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of management of existing semi-natural habitats.
- Pressure for land-use change on sites with semi-natural habitats.
- Opportunities for habitat creation.

**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).
2. Maintain and, where possible, restore traditional management to remaining wet grasslands.
3. Maximise opportunities for habitat creation on farmland of low existing wildlife interest; where possible expand/link-up existing semi-natural habitats.

**NATURAL AREA 44 :**  
**HIGH WEALD**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL**  
**SIGNIFICANCE :**

**NOTABLE**

**General ornithological character:** This natural area is one of the most heavily wooded in England and supports the typical range of species associated with semi-natural woods and lowland farmland. There is a major tract of lowland heath (Ashdown Forest) characterised by the typical heathland specialists, and remnants of wet meadows in association with other riparian habitats. However, the main ornithological interest of this natural areas is the extensive grazing marshes of the Pevensey Levels, which support an important assemblage of breeding and wintering waterfowl, together with the reedbeds at Icklesham.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Nightjar Woodlark Dartford Warbler Garganey Marsh Warbler Bearded Tit	Shelduck Goshawk Grey Partridge Lapwing Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Hobby, Stonechat, Kingfisher, Whinchat, Redstart, Nightingale, Yellow Wagtail, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Hawfinch, Tree Sparrow, Snipe, Redshank.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Dartford Warbler, Nightingale.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Woodlark, Whinchat, Curlew, Garganey, Marsh Warbler, Spotted Crake, Buzzard.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Grazing marsh and wet meadows, reedbeds, semi-natural woods, lowland heath.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of management of existing areas of lowland heath and wet grassland.
- Increasing recreational pressure within Ashdown Forest and other heathland areas.
- Pressure for land-use change on all existing semi-natural habitats.
- Hydrological threats to and lack of management of remaining riparian habitats.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the management of grazing marsh on the Pevensey Levels.
2. Maintain and, where appropriate, restore traditional management to areas of lowland heath (and remaining wet meadows). Restore/re-create heathland on areas of low existing wildlife interest; where possible link-up/expand existing areas of lowland heath.
3. Encourage management of Icklesham reedbeds.
4. Manage semi-natural woods to maintain and, where appropriate, increase breeding bird populations (eg restoration of coppicing and ride management, and maintenance of old/dead wood features).

**NATURAL AREA 45 :**  
**SOUTH DOWNS**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL**  
**SIGNIFICANCE :**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** The ornithological interest of this natural area is split between the intensively-managed farmland, with its typical range of the more common species, and the remnants of semi-natural habitats that were formerly much more widespread; in particular, chalk downland and scrub, semi natural woodland and river valley wetlands (especially within the Arun Valley).

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Gadwall Pochard Nightjar	Shoveler Grey Partridge Lapwing Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Redshank, Snipe, Hobby, Turtle Dove, Yellow Wagtail, Nightingale, Stonechat, Whitethroat, Linnet, Corn Bunting, Kingfisher.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Wheatear, Stone Curlew, Nightjar, Whinchat, Dartford Warbler, Raven.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Lowland wet grassland, semi-natural woods, chalk downland and scrub, farmland.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Habitat management to encourage the return of breeding Stone Curlew, with appropriate species protection measures if successful.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of grazing on existing chalk downland.
- Periodic 'scrub-bashing' causing local declines in scrub breeding bird populations.
- Disturbance to Stone Curlews nesting on arable farmland.
- Hydrological threats to floodplain wetlands.
- Ongoing implementation of South Downs ESA.

**Key objectives:**

1. Manage open chalk grassland to enhance its ornithological interest, such that this does not conflict with other conservation objectives, eg creating areas of bare ground in association with short turf to encourage the return of breeding Stone Curlews.
2. Expand the area and, where possible, link remnants of existing chalk downland along South Downs, and the wet meadows in the Arun and Adur valleys.
3. Manage grassland scrub to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance its breeding birds; favour rotational management of scrub rather than 'scrub-bashing', maximising the structural diversity.
4. Maximise benefits to breeding birds from the South Downs ESA.

**NATURAL AREA 46 :  
GREENSAND**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**CONSIDERABLE**

**General ornithological character:** The main ornithological interest of this natural area is centred on the isolated remnants of formerly more extensive areas of lowland heath. Whilst the natural area includes some of the largest remaining blocks of wet and dry heath in south-east England (eg Thursley and Frensham Commons), many of these fragments are small and no longer support the full range of characteristic heathland birds. Consequently, a large proportion of the Nightjar and Woodlark now nest in clear-felled/re-stocked conifer woods planted on former heathland. The natural area also includes several freshwater wetlands, notably Amberley Wild Brooks, Waltham Brooks & Thursley and Ockley Bogs.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Nightjar Woodlark Dartford Warbler Bewick's Swan Garganey	Wigeon Shoveler Teal Grey Partridge Lapwing Golden Plover Curlew Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Hobby, Stonechat, Redstart, Snipe, Nightingale. Wintering Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Woodlark, Dartford Warbler, Nightjar.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Garganey, Whinchat.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Lowland heath, semi-natural woods, conifer plantations, lowland wet grassland.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of management of existing heathland.
- Increasing recreational pressure on heathland.
- Pressure for land-use change on existing semi-natural habitats and commercial forestry.
- Hydrological threats to freshwater wetlands.
- Opportunities for habitat re-creation.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, where appropriate, restore traditional management to existing fragments of lowland heath.
2. Restore or re-create lowland heath on forestry (and farmland) of low existing wildlife interest. Where possible, expand the area or link-up existing heathland fragments.
3. Ensure forestry plantations are managed in a manner sympathetic to their breeding Nightjar and Woodlark populations.
4. Maintain and, where possible, enhance management of freshwater wetlands and semi-natural woods.

**NATURAL AREA 47 :**  
**HAMPSHIRE CHALK**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL**  
**SIGNIFICANCE :**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** Most of this natural area is now intensively farmed. This is reflected in its rather limited ornithological interest, which is based on the remnants of semi-natural habitats that were formerly much more extensive, in particular, chalk grassland. The area does, however, retain a small population of breeding Stone Curlew, which undoubtedly interact with the nearby Salisbury Plain-Porton Down stronghold.

Internationally important species		
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Stone Curlew	Barn Owl Quail Grey Partridge Golden Plover Lapwing
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Hobby, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Redshank, Wheatear, Snipe, Turtle Dove, Nightingale, Whitethroat, Linnets, Corn Bunting, Wintering Hen Harrier, Merlin and Short-eared Owl.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Stone Curlew.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Nightjar, Wheatear, Firecrest.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Chalk grassland and scrub, riparian habitats in Test and Itchen valleys, farmland, semi-natural woods.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Ongoing species protection/management work for Stone Curlews.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of management of semi-natural habitats, particularly chalk grassland and associated scrub, and river valley wetlands.
- Periodic 'scrub-bashing' causing local declines in scrub breeding bird populations.
- Water quality/quantity issues on rivers.
- Ongoing implementation of the Test Valley ESA.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and increase the numbers and distribution of breeding Stone Curlews within the natural area with the appropriate species-specific and habitat-based measures. Seek to relocate nesting pairs back onto semi-natural habitats with the appropriate management.
2. Maintain and, where possible, restore traditional management to existing semi-natural grasslands. Re-create new areas; expand/link-up existing fragments where possible.
3. Manage grassland scrub and semi-natural woods to benefit breeding bird populations; favour rotational scrub management in preference to 'scrub-bashing'.
4. Maximise benefits to birds of the Test Valley ESA.

**General ornithological character:** Although much of this natural area is now intensively farmed arable land, the remnants of formerly more extensive semi-natural habitats are of some importance. Semi-natural woodland, such as the Forest of Bere, supports typical species including breeding Nightjar. Coastal wetlands, originally reclaimed from saltmarsh, support an important assemblage of breeding birds including Bearded Tit, large numbers of wintering waterfowl and low numbers of wintering raptors. Portsdown Hill, an out-lyer of the Hampshire Chalk, supports Stonechat and the typical species associated with scrub. Large numbers of Brent Goose and Wigeon regularly move inland to feed on the marshes and farmland.

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Wintering Brent Goose, Wigeon.	
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Brent Goose Nightjar Cetti's Warbler Bearded Tit	Shelduck Wigeon Pintail Teal Shoveler Grey Partridge Lapwing Redshank Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Hobby, Snipe, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Nightingale, Stonechat, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Tree Sparrow, Hawfinch, Corn Bunting. Low numbers of wintering Hen Harrier, Merlin and Short-eared Owl.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Buzzard, Quail, Woodlark, Dartford Warbler.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Coastal grazing marsh, scrapes and reedbeds, semi-natural woods, farmland, chalk grassland and scrub.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Consider provision of 'alternative feeding areas' for wintering wildfowl on farmland.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Potential threat of relative sea-level rise on important freshwater wetlands on coast.
- Loss of important bird habitat through lack of management of semi-natural habitats.
- Opportunities for habitat (re-)creation on farmland.

**Key objectives:**

1. Protect areas of coastal grazing marsh, open water and reedbeds; manage appropriately to maximise value for important bird species.
2. Maintain and appropriately manage remaining areas of semi-natural woods and chalk grassland (including scrub).
3. Maximise opportunities for habitat (re-)creation on farmland, extending or linking existing semi-natural habitats where appropriate.

**NATURAL AREA 49 :  
ISLE OF WIGHT**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**NOTABLE**

**General ornithological character:** The majority of this natural area consists of intensively farmed arable land of low ornithological interest. Remaining semi-natural habitats include fragments of unimproved chalk downland and heath, coastal grazing marsh and deciduous woodland. The extensive grazing marshes at Brading are particularly important for breeding and wintering waterfowl, as well as low numbers of wintering raptors. Coastal cliffs provide the nest sites for a few pairs of Peregrine and Raven.

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Wintering Brent Goose.	
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Brent Goose Cetti's Warbler	Wigeon Teal Peregrine Grey Partridge Lapwing Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Snipe, Redshank, Nightingale, Stonechat, Corn Bunting (Shelduck). Low numbers of wintering Hen Harrier, Merlin and Short-eared Owl.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Pochard, Buzzard, Nightjar, Dartford Warbler, Raven.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Coastal grazing marsh, chalk downland and lowland heath, semi-natural woods, farmland.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Opportunistic species protection and habitat management measures for rare breeders, as appropriate.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Agricultural intensification.
- Opportunities for habitat (re-)creation on farmland.
- Lack of or inappropriate management of remaining semi-natural habitats.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, where possible, increase present area of semi-natural habitats with the appropriate management.
2. Maximise opportunities for habitat (re-)creation on farmland, extending or linking existing semi-natural habitats where possible.



**NATURAL AREA 50 :  
NEW FOREST**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**OUTSTANDING**

**General ornithological character:** A natural area of outstanding ornithological interest, especially for rare breeding birds associated with the extensive deciduous woodland and heathland habitats of the New Forest. Floodplain grasslands within the Avon Valley support important numbers of breeding waders and internationally important numbers of wintering Bewick's Swans among other wildfowl (as well as passage Black-tailed Godwit). Adjacent flooded gravel pits are also important for wintering wildfowl.

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Wintering Bewick's Swan, Gadwall.	
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Bewick's Swan Gadwall Pochard Cetti's Warbler Dartford Warbler Woodlark Nightjar	Wigeon Shoveler Teal Honey Buzzard Golden Plover Lapwing Curlew Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Hobby, Little Ringed Plover, Snipe, Redshank, Kingfisher, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Buzzard, Nightingale, Redstart, Whinchat, Stonechat, Wheatear, Hawfinch. Wintering Hen Harrier and passage Black-tailed Godwit.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Cetti's Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Woodlark, Bewick's Swan, Nightjar.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Honey Buzzard, Goshawk, Ringed Plover, Firecrest.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Lowland heath and mire, semi-natural woods, conifer plantation, lowland wet grassland, flooded gravel pits.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Implement species-specific management for heathland birds as appropriate. Protect rare breeding species, such as Honey Buzzard, from disturbance.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of management and increasing recreational pressure within the New Forest.
- Heathland restoration/re-creation.
- Hydrological threats to and lack of management of remaining floodplain wetlands.
- Protection of rare breeding birds.
- Ongoing implementation of the Avon Valley ESA.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, where possible, restore traditional management regimes to lowland heath, mires, grassland and woodland within the New Forest to benefit their special birds.
2. Restore/re-create habitats typical of these areas (and other parts of the natural area); where possible, extend/link-up existing semi-natural habitats.
3. Maintain and, where possible, restore/enhance management of existing lowland wet grasslands. Re-create, where appropriate. Maximise benefit to breeding and wintering wetland birds of the Avon Valley ESA.
4. Ensure consents for new sand/gravel extraction include after-use plans that contain the appropriate habitat creation.

**NATURAL AREA 51 :  
SOUTH WESSEX DOWNS**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**CONSIDERABLE**

**General ornithological character:** A large area of rolling downland, which rises to several hundred metres in places. Much has been subject to agricultural intensification and supports the range of species typical of lowland farmland. The surviving unimproved chalk downland of Salisbury Plain represents the largest remaining area of such habitat in western Europe. Breeding species include Stone Curlew and Quail, species now rare elsewhere in Britain.

Internationally important species	
EN high priority	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"><i>List 1</i></div> <div style="text-align: center;"><i>List 2</i></div> </div>
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Stone Curlew</div> <div style="text-align: center;">                     Quail                      Grey Partridge                      Golden Plover                      Lapwing                      Barn Owl                 </div> </div>
Other notable species	Breeding Hobby, Buzzard. Wintering Hen Harrier, Merlin and Short-eared Owl.
'Core Area' species	Stone Curlew, Quail, Grey Partridge.
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Montagu's Harrier, Corncrake, Wheatear.
Key bird habitats	Unimproved chalk downland, farmland.
Species specific action	Protect breeding Stone Curlew and wintering raptor roosts from disturbance. Manage sites on downland and adjacent arable (particularly set-aside) land to provide very short turf/hare ground for nesting Stone Curlew.
Additional monitoring required	Annual monitoring of late summer gatherings of Stone Curlew to assess breeding productivity.

**Key issues:**

- Loss of suitable chalk downland habitat due to agricultural intensification and lack of appropriate management.
- Disturbance of rare breeding species, including by bird watchers.
- Ongoing implementation of the South Wessex Downs ESA.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, if possible, increase populations of rare breeding birds, especially Stone Curlew, using the appropriate species-specific and habitat-based measures. Seek to re-locate nesting Stone Curlew back onto semi-natural grassland with suitable management.
2. Maintain present area of unimproved chalk downland using the appropriate management. Increase the area of downland by restoring adjacent arable land to permanent pasture.
3. Ongoing preparation and implementation of Salisbury Plain management plan.
4. Maximise benefits to birds of the South Wessex Downs ESA.

**NATURAL AREA 52 :  
DORSET HEATHS**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**OUTSTANDING**

**General ornithological character:** This natural area includes extensive areas of lowland heath supporting important populations of characteristic heathland birds, although there has been much loss of this habitat over recent decades to forestry (including Ringwood Forest), farmland and development. The remaining areas of lowland wet grassland along river valleys are of importance for breeding waders and, together with the adjacent flooded gravel pits, wintering wildfowl.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Bewick's Swan Nightjar Woodlark Cetti's Warbler Dartford Warbler	Hen Harrier Merlin Quail Grey Partridge Lapwing Curlew Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Buzzard, Hobby, Snipe, Redshank, Kingfisher, Nightingale, Redstart, Whinchat, Stonechat, Wheatear.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Dartford Warbler, Nightjar, Woodlark, Quail.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Honey Buzzard? Firecrest? Yellow Wagtail.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Lowland heathland mire, semi-natural deciduous woodland, conifer plantation, lowland wet grassland.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Protect rare breeding species from disturbance.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of management and increasing recreational pressure on many heathland areas.
- Heathland restoration/re-creation.
- Lack of management of remaining lowland wet grassland.
- Mineral extraction.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, where possible, restore traditional management to lowland heath, mires and wet grassland.
2. Restore/re-create habitats typical of the area, where possible, extend or link existing semi-natural habitats.
3. Ensure consents for new sand/gravel extraction include appropriate habitat creation plans.

**NATURAL AREA 53 :**  
**ISLES OF PORTLAND AND PURBECK**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL**  
**SIGNIFICANCE :**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** A natural area of some ornithological interest, centred mainly on remaining areas of uncultivated chalk downland. The majority of the area is now intensively managed pasture or arable and of limited value to most birds. The relatively small remaining areas of woodland support the typical species.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>  Nightjar	<i>List 2</i>  Grey Partridge Lapwing Curlew Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Buzzard, Hobby, Kingfisher, Stonechat.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Quail, Woodlark, Wheatear, Whinchat, Redstart, Nightingale.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Chalk downland, farmland semi-natural woods.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Loss of chalk downland, mainly through invasion of scrub due to lack of grazing.
- Management of remaining semi-natural woodlands.
- Opportunities for habitat creation on farmland.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, where possible, increase area of chalk downland.
2. Manage semi-natural woods to benefit breeding birds.

**NATURAL AREA 54 :**  
**WESSEX VALES**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL**  
**SIGNIFICANCE:**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** This natural area consists of mosaic of fragmented semi-natural woods, neutral and acid grasslands and dry heath, set in a matrix of intensively managed grasslands with well-developed hedgerow networks. These habitats support the typical range of the more common species associated with them, with small numbers of Dartford Warbler present on the edge of its range on the few areas of gorse heath. Rivers and streams provide additional bird habitats.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Lapwing
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Buzzard, Nightingale, Dipper, Kingfisher.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Dartford Warbler, Barn Owl, Cirl Bunting.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Semi-natural woods, farmland, gorse heathland.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage gorse to retain its suitability for Dartford Warblers.</li> <li>• Encourage expansion of the Barn Owl population by providing nest boxes and suitable rough grassland feeding habitats as appropriate.</li> </ul>	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of or inappropriate management of semi-natural habitats.
- Water quality/quantity issues.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, if possible, enhance the small Dartford Warbler population within the natural area with the appropriate habitat management.
2. Manage semi-natural woods to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance their breeding bird populations.
3. Encourage management of farmland that is sympathetic to its bird populations.
4. Promote the sympathetic management of watercourses and riparian habitats.

<b>NATURAL AREA 55 : BLACKDOWNS</b>	<b>ORNITHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE:</b>	<b>SOME</b>
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**General ornithological character:** An area of hill-land of rather limited ornithological significance, the main bird habitats consist of the small, fragmented remains of semi-natural habitats, in particular, unimproved grassland, lowland heath and mire, semi-natural woods and hedgerows.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Buzzard, Hobby, Kingfisher, Dipper, Nightingale, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Raven. Small numbers of breeding Lapwing and Curlew.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Buzzard.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Woodlark, Stonechat, Nightjar, Cirl Bunting.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Unimproved pasture, lowland heath, semi-natural woods and hedgerows, riparian habitats.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Encourage creation of grass strips to provide hunting habitat for Barn Owls, also providing nest boxes as appropriate.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of management of remaining semi-natural habitats.
- Opportunities for habitat re-creation on farmland.
- Intensification of farming practices.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain present area of semi-natural habitats with the appropriate traditional management.
2. Extend or re-create semi-natural habitats on farmland of low-existing nature conservation interest, extending or linking existing fragments where possible.

**NATURAL AREA 56 :**  
**DEVON REDLAND**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL**  
**SIGNIFICANCE :**

**CONSIDERABLE**

**General ornithological character:** The ornithological interest of this natural area is concerned with two main aspects. Firstly, the East Devon Heaths and Haldon Heaths, which support nationally important population of species associated with this much reduced habitat. Secondly, the area continues to be one of the main strongholds for the Cirl Bunting, which is largely restricted to the coastal fringe of south Devon. The area also supports the typical range of species associated with lowland farmland and the south-west rivers.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Nightjar Woodlark Dartford Warbler Cirl Bunting	Honey Buzzard Goshawk Peregrine Grey Partridge Lapwing Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Hobby, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Dipper, Whitethroat, Linnets, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (Annual records of breeding Scrin). Wintering Hen Harrier.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Cirl Bunting, Dartford Warbler, Nightjar.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Quail, Curlew, Stonechat, Dartford Warbler, Raven, Scrin.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Lowland heath, conifer plantations, farmland, rivers and streams.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	1. Manage breeding and wintering habitat for Cirl Buntings. 2. Species management for heathland birds as appropriate.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of management of existing heathland.
- Increasing recreational pressure on lowland heath, with resulting disturbance problems.
- Agricultural changes causing declines in farmland birds, particularly the Cirl Bunting.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain natural area as a stronghold for Cirl Bunting. Implement management to maintain existing breeding and wintering habitats and, where appropriate, create/restore in new and former areas.
2. Maintain and, where appropriate, restore traditional management to existing fragments of lowland heath. Implement species-specific management for rare heathland birds as necessary. Re-create heathland vegetation; where possible, expand or link existing fragments.
3. Manage farmland to benefit birds.

**NATURAL AREA 57 :**  
**SOUTH DEVON**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL**  
**SIGNIFICANCE :**

**NOTABLE**

**General ornithological character:** A natural area of notable ornithological interest, it consists of a complex pattern of fragmented calcareous grasslands, lowland heath and semi-natural woods set in an intensively managed agricultural landscape. The overriding significance of the area for birds is that it supports most of the country's Cirl Bunting population and will therefore play the principal role in maintaining this rare and vulnerable species as a British bird.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Cirl Bunting Woodlark Nightjar	Grey Partridge Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Buzzard, Kingfisher, Dipper, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Redstart, Stonechat, Raven, Linnet (Grey Wagtail).	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Cirl Bunting, Buzzard.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Lapwing, Curlew, Wheatear, Nightingale, Black Redstart, Corn Bunting, Hoopoe.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Farmland, semi-natural woods and grasslands, lowland heath, flooded clay pits.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manage hedges and adjacent fields to provide suitable breeding and wintering habitats for Cirl Buntings.</li> <li>2. Implement species action plans for Woodlark and Nightjar.</li> </ol>	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Status of Cirl Bunting population.
- Agricultural changes causing declines in farmland birds.
- Pressure for land-use change and a lack of management of semi-natural habitats.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain the natural area as the main stronghold for Britain's Cirl Bunting population. Implement the appropriate species-specific and habitat-based management to ensure that populations are maintained and increased where appropriate. Extend management to areas formerly occupied by Cirl Buntings in recent years.
2. Manage remaining semi-natural habitats and intervening farmland to benefit birds.



**NATURAL AREA 58 :**  
**BODMIN MOOR**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL**  
**SIGNIFICANCE :**

**NOTABLE**

**General ornithological character:** An assemblage of species typical of the moorland fringe elsewhere - an avifauna dominated by open scrub country species, with passerines on the moorland and waders on the improved pasture in winter.

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Wintering Golden Plover.	
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Golden Plover Lapwing Curlew
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Buzzard, Snipe, Dipper, Whinchat, Stonechat, Wheatear, Redstart, Raven (Grey Wagtail). Wintering raptors.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Buzzard, Stonechat, Whinchat, Wheatear, wintering Golden Plover.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Merlin, Peregrine, Nightjar, Dunlin (intermittent).	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Wet moorland, shrubby heath and improved pastures.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>	Quantification of wintering wader population.	

**Key issues:**

- Poaching and overgrazing of shrub moorland.
- Intensification of management on hill farms.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain existing range and number of core area species, in particular manage improved/semi-improved permanent pasture to benefit the internationally important Golden Plover population.

**NATURAL AREA 59 :**  
**CORNISH KILLAS AND GRANITE**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL**  
**SIGNIFICANCE :**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** A natural area of rather limited ornithological interest, that which does occur is centred on the complex pattern of fragmented heaths, mires, scrub and semi-natural woods, which are set in an intensively managed agricultural landscape characterised by extensive hedgerow networks. Several species that were formerly more widespread within the natural area are now very rare breeders or have ceased to breed in recent decades.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Buzzard, Kingfisher, Dipper, Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat, Stonechat, Linnet, Raven. Wintering Hen Harrier.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Lapwing, Quail, Grey Partridge, Peregrine, Nightjar, Curlew, Cirl Bunting, Dartford Warbler, Redstart, Corn Bunting, Woodlark.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Farmland, semi-natural woods, scrub and heathland.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Agricultural change/intensification and the loss/poor management of hedgerows.
- Lack of management of remaining semi-natural habitats and pressure for land-use change.

**Key objectives:**

1. Manage semi-natural habitats and the intervening farmland in a manner sympathetic to their bird populations.
2. Undertake species-specific management to safeguard very rare or returning species as opportunities for such action arise.

**NATURAL AREA 60 :  
THE LIZARD**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** The Lizard peninsular retains large areas of heathland, on serpentine rock, dominated by gorse and Cornish heath. It has remained uncultivated due to regular waterlogging in places and many large rocks. Loe Pool is the largest area of naturally occurring freshwater in Cornwall and supports low numbers of wintering ducks.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Cetti's Warbler	Peregrine Oystercatcher Lapwing Curlew Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Buzzard, Stonechat, Wheatear, Sedge Warbler, Raven, Linnet, Corn Bunting. Small numbers of wintering Gadwall, Shoveler, Pochard, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Peregrine and Short-eared Owl.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Grey Partridge, Quail, Nightjar, Dartford Warbler, Cirl Bunting, Corn Bunting.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Gorse and Cornish heath dominated heathland, freshwater lake.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Loss of heath vegetation.
- Drainage of wet areas.
- Intensification of agriculture.

**Key objectives:**

1. Retain present range and distribution of high priority species.
2. Regain Cirl Bunting as a regular breeding species.

**NATURAL AREA 61 :  
DARTMOOR**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**NOTABLE**

**General ornithological character:** An upland area characterised by a western upland breeding bird assemblage, with typical open moorland species supplemented by a diverse western oakwood breeding assemblage. The result is a fairly unique mix of breeding species, with several present on the southernmost edge of their west Palearctic range (Red Grouse, Golden Plover and Dunlin).

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Breeding Peregrine.	
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>  Dunlin Woodlark	<i>List 2</i>  Goshawk Peregrine Red Grouse Lapwing Golden Plover Curlew Barn Owl
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Buzzard, Hobby, Snipe, Kingfisher, Dipper, Redstart, Whinchat, Stonechat, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Raven (Pic Flycatcher, Wood Warbler and Grey Wagtail), Wintering Hen Harrier.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Golden Plover, Dunlin, Whinchat, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel, Raven, Wood Warbler, Buzzard.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Merlin, Black Grouse, Teal, Goosander, Nightjar, Dartford Warbler.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Oak woodland, grass moorland, rocky cliffs, shrub heath, blanket bog, valley mire.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Consider species-specific management to maintain and enhance small Golden Plover and Dunlin populations.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>	Include main upland wader areas in national long-term breeding bird monitoring scheme.	

**Key issues:**

- Overgrazing or, possibly, lack of burning management in core area for Red Grouse and breeding waders.
- Acidification of freshwaters.
- Management of western oakwoods.
- Recreational disturbance.
- Implementation of Dartmoor ESA.
- Intensification of management on hill farms.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain current distribution and number of upland breeding species.
2. Increase the numbers and area occupied by Red Grouse, Golden Plover and Dunlin to maintain sustainable populations of these high priority species in SW England.
3. Manage western oakwoods to benefit their bird populations.
4. Maximise benefits to breeding birds of the Dartmoor ESA.

NATURAL AREA 62 : CULM MEASURES	ORNITHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE :	NOTABLE
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**General ornithological character:** A natural area of notable ornithological interest, consisting mainly of acidic wet pastures (known as the 'Culm Grasslands') which are a poor habitat for breeding waders, although Curlew are supported in reasonable numbers. This well-hedged area does, however, support the typical range of species associated with lowland pasture and semi-natural woods.

Internationally important species					
EN high priority	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><i>List 1</i></td> <td><i>List 2</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Curlew Barn Owl</td> </tr> </table>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>		Curlew Barn Owl
<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>				
	Curlew Barn Owl				
Other notable species	Breeding Buzzard, Snipe, Kingfisher, Dipper, Whitethroat, Raven, (Grey Wagtail), Wintering Hen Harrier.				
'Core Area' species	Barn Owl, Buzzard.				
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Corncrake, Grey Partridge, Lapwing, Sedge Warbler, Whinchat, Stonechat, Corn Bunting, Cirl Bunting.				
Key bird habitats	Acid wet pastures, woods, rivers.				
Species specific action	Maintain uncultivated grass margins to provide hunting habitat for Barn Owl; provide nest boxes as appropriate.				
Additional monitoring required					

**Key issues:**

- Continued loss of Culm Grasslands.
- Nest disturbance of Barn Owl and Curlew.
- Water quality/quantity issues.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain and, where possible, enhance the management of Culm Grasslands to benefit breeding birds, in particular, encouraging the patterns of land use that are required by Barn Owls and Curlews.
2. Manage hedges and broad-leaf woods to benefit breeding birds.

**NATURAL AREA 63 :  
EXMOOR AND THE QUANTOCKS**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**NOTABLE**

**General ornithological character:** An area dominated by passerines - those typical of the open moors and those of the wooded valleys, with notable local populations of their avian predators (especially Merlin).

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Nightjar	Merlin Peregrine
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Buzzard, Dipper, Redstart, Whinchat, Stonechat, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel, Raven, Linnet. (Grey Wagtail, Pied Flycatcher and Wood Warbler). Wintering Hen Harrier.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Buzzard, Dipper, Whinchat, Stonechat, Wheatear, Pied Flycatcher, Wood Warbler, Redstart.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Red Grouse, Black Grouse, Lapwing, Curlew, Snipe, Cirl Bunting.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Heather moorland, deciduous woods in river valleys.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>	Annual monitoring of breeding Merlin population, together with an investigation of reasons why Merlin numbers fail to increase despite good breeding success and apparently suitable unoccupied habitats.	

**Key issues:**

- Lack of grazing but with overgrazing in places.
- Bracken control.
- Rhododendron invasion of woods and heaths.
- Recreational disturbance to breeding birds.
- Ongoing implementation of Exmoor ESA.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maintain present distribution and numbers of high priority and notable species.
2. Institute appropriate management of gorse, scrub and livestock and, where possible, enhance grazing to retain breeding passerine populations.
3. Increase number of breeding pairs of Merlin.
4. Maximise the benefit to breeding birds of the Exmoor ESA.

**NATURAL AREA 64 :  
VALE OF TAUNTON**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE:**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** This natural area is characterised by intensively managed farmland (mostly grass) with a scattering of unimproved, neutral grasslands and small woods, particularly on the more sloping terrain. Along with the extensive hedgerow networks that remain in some areas, these habitats support the typical range of the more common species associated with lowland farmland and woods.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Buzzard, Nightingale, Redstart, Dipper.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>		
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Semi-natural woods, scrub.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of or inappropriate management of semi-natural habitats.
- Opportunities for habitat re-creation/restoration on farmland.

**Key objectives:**

1. Manage semi-natural woods to maintain and, where possible, enhance their breeding bird populations, eg restoring coppicing/ride management and retaining old/deadwood features.
2. Encourage the management of farmland that is sympathetic to its bird populations.

NATURAL AREA 65 :  
MID-SOMERSET HILLS

ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE:

SOME

**General ornithological character:** A natural area of some ornithological interest, it comprises of a series of heavily wooded limestone ridges with scrub and calcareous grassland which intertwine with the wetland habitats of the Somerset Levels. Whilst the woodlands and scrub support the typical range of the more common species associated with these habitats, this natural area is more important for invertebrates, particularly butterflies.

Internationally important species		
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
Other notable species	Breeding Buzzard, Nightingale, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Whitethroat.	
'Core Area' species		
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Redstart, Lapwing.	
Key bird habitats	Semi-natural woods, scrub.	
Species specific action		
Additional monitoring required		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of management of semi-natural habitats.
- Unsympathetic woodland management.

**Key objectives:**

1. Manage semi-natural woods and grassland scrub to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance their breeding bird populations. For example, restoration of coppicing and ride management, and maintenance of old/dead wood features in semi-natural woods, and favouring rotational management of scrub rather than 'scrub-basting', maximising its structural diversity.
2. Ensure management for birds does not conflict with management for rare invertebrates and plants.



**NATURAL AREA 66 :**  
**MENDIPS**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL**  
**SIGNIFICANCE :**

**SOME**

**General ornithological character:** This natural area is characterised by intensively managed calcareous grassland, mixed with a smaller number of arable fields, set in a well-hedged, rolling landscape. The area therefore supports the typical range of common lowland farmland species. This rather limited ornithological interest is added to by a large number of small woods.

<b>Internationally important species</b>		
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Peregrine Grey Partridge Lapwing
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Stonechat, Whinchat, Buzzard, Snipe, Nightingale, Redstart, Whitethroat, Linnet.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>		
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Nightjar, Curlew, Barn Owl, Wheatear, Whinchat, Stonechat, Dartford Warbler, Cirl Bunting, Corn Bunting.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Limestone grassland, farmland.	
<b>Species specific action</b>		
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Lack of management of existing semi-natural habitats.
- Continuing declines of lowland farmland birds.
- Opportunities for habitat creation on farmland.

**Key objectives:**

1. Manage semi-natural woods to benefit their bird populations (eg restoration of coppicing and ride management).
2. Maximise opportunities for habitat (re-)creation on farmland of low-existing wildlife interest. Where possible expand or link-up existing fragments of semi-natural habitats.
3. Manage farmland in a manner sympathetic to its bird populations, including hedgerows.

**NATURAL AREA 67 :  
LEVELS AND MOORS**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SIGNIFICANCE :**

**OUTSTANDING**

**General ornithological character:** A natural area of outstanding ornithological significance for both breeding and wintering birds, and in particular, waterfowl. The Somerset Levels and Moors is one of the largest areas of traditionally managed lowland wet grassland, fen and raised mire in Britain. These areas support internationally important concentrations of wintering waterfowl (averaging in excess of 40,000 birds) and formerly one of the country's most important breeding water populations, although numbers have much declined since the war. There are also large areas of grassland that have been improved and are now intensively managed. The natural area also includes the 'Flatlands', an area of lowland wet grassland adjacent to the Severn Estuary, and several open water bodies, such as Cheddar Reservoir.

<b>Internationally important species</b>	Wintering Bewick's Swan, Lapwing, Curlew	
<b>EN high priority</b>	<i>List 1</i> Black-tailed Godwit Nightjar Bewick's Swan	<i>List 2</i> Lapwing Curlew Wigeon Teal Golden Plover
<b>Other notable species</b>	Breeding Snipe, Redshank, Kingfisher, Yellow Wagtail, Whinchat, Sedge Warbler, Wintering Ruff and passage Whimbrel.	
<b>'Core Area' species</b>	Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Bewick's Swan.	
<b>Extinct/very rare breeding species</b>	Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Black-tailed Godwit.	
<b>Key bird habitats</b>	Lowland wet grassland, raised mire, fen.	
<b>Species specific action</b>	Undertake species-specific management for rare breeders as necessary.	
<b>Additional monitoring required</b>		

**Key issues:**

- Ongoing implementation of Somerset Levels and Moors ESA.
- Hydrological threats and a lack of management of existing semi-natural wetland habitats.
- Habitat restoration/re-creation following peat-extraction.
- Creation of large reedbeds.

**Key objectives:**

1. Maximise benefits to both breeding and non-breeding bird populations from the Somerset Levels and Moors ESA.
2. Maintain and, where possible, restore traditional management to existing semi-natural grasslands, fen and raised mires. Where possible, expand or link-up the remaining fragments with the appropriate habitat re-creation.
3. Create extensive wet reedbeds, of greater than 20 ha in area, where appropriate.