

Botaurus stellaris (Bittern)

Full report outputted on the 30/07/2003 17:25:01

1. Status of the habitat / species

Please give your most accurate assessment of the status of your species or habitat for the UK and for each country. Leave the row blank where the species or habitat does not occur in that country.

	Amount:	Units:	Year:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	31	Displaying males ▼	2002	Full survey ▼	Unpublished RSPB survey
E	31	Displaying males ▼	2002	Full survey ▼	Unpublished RSPB survey
NI	0	Displaying males ▼	2002	Full survey ▼	Unpublished RSPB survey
S	0	Displaying males ▼	2002	Full survey ▼	Unpublished RSPB survey
W	0	Displaying males ▼	2002	Full survey ▼	Unpublished RSPB survey

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2. Trend in Biological Status

Please give your best estimate of the current trend for your species or habitat for the UK, and each appropriate country, using the following categories. Please give an estimate unless there is absolutely no information on which to assess status.

	Trend:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	Increasing	Full survey	Unpublished RSPB data
E	Increasing	Full survey	Unpublished RSPB data
NI	Not applicable (does not occur in this country)		
S	Not applicable (does not occur in this country)		
W	Lost (pre BAP publication)		

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3. Status of knowledge

To what extent is our scientific knowledge of the habitat / species (e.g research information, autecological knowledge, knowledge for effective re-introduction or habitat restoration/re-creation) sufficient to deliver the plan targets?

Please give an assessment for the UK overall but if there is significant difference in knowledge between different countries this should be noted.

Status of knowledge: Know ledge sufficient to make some impact, but more research needed.

Notes:

Good results from rehabilitating some existing large reedbeds but other key sites not delivering their full potential. Productivity still not good at many sites - a food supply problem for nesting females suspected. Bitterns have not yet occupied any newly created reedbeds. Therefore research on water quality and suitability of fish habitats needed to increase our understanding of existing sites and how to ensure newly created reedbeds are suitable for bitterns.

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4. Progress on targets

Each of the revised targets from the 2001 Targets Review is listed below.

For each one please give a qualitative assessment of progress for the UK and each country. You can also enter quantitative information on progress by entering data in each of the target boxes and entering the current amount in the amount box. For more information see Help.

T1: Arrest the decline of the bittern, maintaining at least 20 booming birds.

Target start date:

1995

Target end date:

ongoing

Target units:

Displaying males

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Target exceeded (plan progress)	20	31	Full survey	Yes
E	Target exceeded (plan progress)	20	31	Full survey	Yes
NI					
S					
W					

T2: Start to increase the population before the year 2000.

Target start date:

1995

Target end date:

2000

Target units:

Displaying males

Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
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UK	Target achieved	21	22	Full survey	Yes
E	Target achieved	21	22	Full survey	Yes
NI					
S					
W					

T3: Arrest the decline of the bittern, maintaining its present range.

Target start date:

1995

Target end date:

ongoing

Target units:

Sites/ Populations

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Target achieved	10	19	Full survey	Yes
E	Target achieved	10	19	Full survey	Yes

NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

T4: Start to increase the range before the year 2000.

Target start date:	<input type="text" value="1995"/>
Target end date:	<input type="text" value="2000"/>
Target units:	<input type="text" value="Sites/ Populations"/>

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text" value="Target achieved"/>	<input type="text" value="12"/>	<input type="text" value="19"/>	<input type="text" value="Full survey"/>	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
E	<input type="text" value="Target achieved"/>	<input type="text" value="12"/>	<input type="text" value="19"/>	<input type="text" value="Full survey"/>	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

W

T5: Increase the population to 50 booming males by 2010.

Target start date:

Target end date:

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text" value="Some progress (on schedule)"/>	<input type="text" value="50"/>	<input type="text" value="31"/>	<input type="text" value="Full survey"/>	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
E	<input type="text" value="Some progress (on schedule)"/>	<input type="text" value="49"/>	<input type="text" value="31"/>	<input type="text" value="Full survey"/>	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text" value="No progress"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="Full survey"/>	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>

T6: Achieve a population of not less than 100 booming males by 2020.

Target start date: 1995

Target end date: 2020

Target units: Displaying males

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Some progress (on schedule)	100	31	Full survey	Yes
E	Some progress (on schedule)	95	31	Full survey	Yes
NI					
S					
W	No progress	5	0	Full survey	Yes

T7: Increase the number of sites containing booming males to 22 by 2010.

Target start date: 2001

Target end date:		2010			
Target units:		Sites/ Populations			
	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Some progress (ahead of schedule)	22	19	Full survey	Yes
E	Some progress (ahead of schedule)	21	19	Full survey	Yes
NI					
S					
W	No progress	1	0	Full survey	Yes

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5. Current factors affecting the habitat

When your plan was published the factors (threats) that were thought to be causing loss or decline were listed (in section 2). Re-assessing the current situation may help prioritise actions for your species or habitat. In addition, this enables identification of the main threats to biodiversity across all plans. It is useful to assess whether the importance of different factors is changing and whether there are new issues emerging.

The threat section from the original plan is duplicated below, and a first attempt at categorising the threats has been made. Please confirm that you agree with the categorisation of the original threats identified in the plan (by deleting any wrongly categorised threats and adding the correct category). Please also add to the list any significant threats that have emerged recently, being mindful of environmental issues that have increased in profile or been recognised since plan publication (e.g. climate change). Once you are happy that the list contains all the threats identified in the published plan together with any new ones, please rank them in order of severity (1= highest threat). If the situation has changed and one of the published threats is no longer significant, please leave this in the list but give this rank = 0.

Current factors affecting the habitat from the original publication:

- 2.1 Loss of suitable large reedbeds through seral succession, inappropriate management (particularly drainage and water abstraction) and fragmentation.
- 2.2 Degradation of habitat through water pollution, pesticide and heavy metal pollution.
- 2.3 Food availability, especially of eels, affected by inappropriate habitat management and pollution.
- 2.4 Salt water intrusion into coastal reedbeds.
- 2.5 Problems due to small population size.

Keyworded factors:

To add factors click the add button, to delete factors check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Rank:	Keyword:
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Changes in native species dynamics Decline in food source / prey
<input type="checkbox"/>	0	Habitat loss / degradation - extraction/drainage Drainage (for agriculture)
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Habitat loss / degradation - infrastructure development Coastal defence works

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	Habitat loss / degradation Natural succession
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	Intrinsic Factors Low population density / size
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	Pollution - land Agricultural (other agro-chemicals)

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6. Constraints (optional)

Select the three most significant constraints to achieving the targets of the plan, and indicate the order of priority (1-3 with 1 being the most significant constraint). Only include constraints that are acting as a real blockage to delivering the plan targets or leading to a substantial delay in their delivery. For each constraint, please indicate whether you feel that it is within the ability of the lead partner or steering group to resolve the constraint.

Constraint 1:	
Constraint keyword:	Country:
Species and habitat management Habitat creation / restoration - not achieved	<input type="checkbox"/> UK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W
Solution:	Solution type:

Appropriate habitat restoration has not been implemented at all key large reedbeds. Site action plan reviews needed.

Management

Able to resolve:

Constraint 2:

Constraint keyword:

Country:

Species and habitat management | Habitat quality declining (including due to poor management)

- UK E NI S
- W

Solution:

Solution type:

Currently a large fraction of occupied sites are threatened by salt water inundation. This needs to be addressed by the creation of more inland reedbeds and better protection for existing sites.

Management

Able to resolve:

Constraint 3:

Constraint keyword:

Country:

Research, survey and information Habitat creation/restoration techniques poorly understood		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UK	<input type="checkbox"/>	E	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI	<input type="checkbox"/>	S
		<input type="checkbox"/>	W						
Solution:					Solution type:				
Complete current research programme					Research				
Able to resolve:					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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7. Steering Group

Please list all organisations that are represented on the steering group for your species/habitat (include all organisations that have contributed either directly or by correspondence within the last 3 years). Where a steering group does not exist please leave this form blank.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

8. Other Groups/Organisations

Please list any additional groups/organisations that are actively involved in implementing your action plan. (This is to try to assess which groups are involved where there is no steering group and any additional contributors). If you do not have any other organisations involved, click here.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete: Organisation:

- Aggregate Industries
- Broads Authority
- Countryside Council for Wales
- English Nature
- Environment Agency
- EU LIFE
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Landowners
- Lee Valley Regional Park Authority
- Local Authorities
- National Trust
- Other minerals extraction companies

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Wildlife Trusts

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9. Linkages to LBAPs

a) Which of the following most accurately describes your interaction with LBAPs, up to now?

Little or no contact with LBAPs.

b) If you have been in contact with LBAPs how was it initiated?

c) Irrespective of current contact, how important do you consider LBAP co-ordinated action will be in achieving the targets of the plan? Select from category:

Slightly important

d) If you consider LBAP action to be anything other than unimportant, which of the following forms of engagement do you think would be appropriate? (Note, you may tick more than one category.)

- Indirect contact (e.g. posting information on UKBAP website, sharing work programmes, meeting schedules, articles in Biodiversity News, newsletter)

- Provision of generic information on habitat and/or species (e.g. advice and guidance on habitat/species ecology and management)
- Direct provision of advice (e.g. proactive approach to LBAP, response to consultations from LBAPs, advice on LBAP target setting)
- Reciprocal attendance at meetings
- Development of collaborative projects

Other (please specify):

LBAPs could play a role in bittern conservation by influencing Local Authority planning policy on identifying and safeguarding sites of reedbed creation and actual creation projects on the ground.

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10. Successes (optional)

Have there been key successes in the implementation of your plan that should be drawn to the attention of government, the wider BAP partnership, or the public? Please give a brief description (i.e. 2-3 sentences) of up to three successes and allocate a topic area to each of them:

Success 1:

Description:	Country:
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Successful demonstration that breeding bitterns respond positively to reedbed habitat restoration eg Minsmere, Norfolk Broads, Humberside.

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Species and habitat management | Habitat creation / restoration - achieved

Success 2:

Description:

Significant new reedbeds being created

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Species and habitat management | Habitat creation / restoration - achieved

Success 3:

Description:

Country:

Research findings implemented leading to increases in bittern numbers and distribution. Standardised annual monitoring in place.

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Research, survey and information | Autecology - improved know ledge

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Thankyou for answering the questions. You have not yet completed all of the questions. You can go back and answer the additional ones or edit the ones you have already answered whenever you want.

Sign-off:

When you have completed all of the questions that you are able to, you must sign off your reporting.

I agree that the steering group (if present) have agreed the information in this report and that the following contact point has also signed it off:

Contact point: **email:**

Your name:

Date: