

Species and Habitat Action Plan Assessment Form

Please refer to the accompanying guidance for information about how to complete this form and an explanation of terms used

Field 1: Action Plan details

Species/Habitat Action Plan	Wryneck
Lead Partner/Agency	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Steering Group/Other organisations	<i>Steering group in existence? Please state yes or no. Please list the organisations represented. No</i>
Work programme in existence?	<i>Please state yes or no. If in existence, please use the agreed work programme to update Field 3 and Table B.</i> No formal work programme in existence but working to previously written RSPB wryneck species action plan.

Field 2: Objectives and targets overview

Please list the targets for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the target is applicable, and additional comments including the rationale for new targets. For each new target please add new sequential paragraph numbers and target text. Please provide information about progress and country disaggregation in Table A for all targets.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Comments
4.1 Retain the wryneck as a regular breeding species in the UK.	✓			✓		Wryneck is now extinct as a breeder in England and Wales.
4.2 Ensure that sufficient suitable habitat in the Scottish breeding area is maintained to support a population of wrynecks.				✓		Apparently suitable habitat does not appear to be a limiting factor at present.

Field 3: Proposed actions overview

Please list the proposed actions for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the action is applicable. For each new action please add new sequential paragraph numbers and action text. If the action is regarded as significant (please see guidance) indicate this in the box and provide further details in Table B. For actions not regarded as significant simply state if the action is ongoing or complete. Remember any action which is being dropped from the workplan will be regarded as significant for the first round of reporting.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
5.1.1 Ensure the protection of remaining fragments of mature pine and broadleaved forest in Strathspey and the restoration or expansion of these habitats into appropriate areas.				✓		✓	Ongoing
5.2.1 Ensure that appropriate protection is given to any regularly used nesting localities.				✓		✓	Ongoing
5.2.2 Manage or encourage management of Caledonian pine forest reserves to promote mature and over mature components, with a high proportion of standing dead trees.				✓		✓	Ongoing

5.2.3 In the light of the conclusions of 5.5.2, consider whether a programme of experimental habitat management of appropriate sites is necessary.				✓		✓	Not started
5.3.1 Ensure that breeding pairs of wrynecks found in Scotland or England in future years are monitored, and protected from disturbance or persecution.				✓		✓	Ongoing
5.5.1 Ensure all recent nest sites are checked annually and monitor all breeding attempts. Liaise with the Rare Birds Breeding Panel to obtain additional information.				✓		✓	Ongoing
5.5.2 Investigate wryneck ecology through a desk study of food and habitat requirements of European populations, particular Scandinavian.				✓		✓	Not started
5.6.1 Ensure that breeding sites of wrynecks are kept confidential, in liaison with Bird Information Services.				✓		✓	Ongoing

Field 4: Assessment of status

Please tick the appropriate category to indicate the assessment of status of the species or habitat, for each country/region where appropriate, and provide a statement supporting the category selected.

	Not appropriate	Recovered	Signs of recovery	No change	Declining	Lost	Insufficient information
UK					✓		
England						✓	
Northern Ireland	✓						
Scotland				✓			
Wales						✓	
Brief text description justifying assessment of status: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region)							
<p>Wryneck is now extinct as a breeding species in England and Wales (and was at this status when this plan was published). In Scotland colonisation may be occurring, albeit very slowly with no more than one single confirmed breeding attempt in any one year. However, numbers of territorial birds fluctuate greatly, and are linked to prevailing weather conditions during spring migration i.e. some years are better than others.</p>							

Field 5: Summary statement

Please provide an overview of plan implementation, including new factors affecting the species or habitat which will accelerate or constrain progress towards meeting of the targets. Where a factor results in new action(s) please cross-reference back to the relevant numbers under Field 3 and Table B.

Wryneck is now a very rare breeder in the UK and is currently confined to a very small number of localities in north Scotland. Where territorial birds are detected some effort is made to monitor them, but there are no comprehensive annual surveys. All breeding information, where available, is recorded and sent to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel for collation. Numbers of territorial birds fluctuate annually and are linked to prevailing weather conditions during the spring migration i.e. some years are better than others with 1999 being better than average (five to ten birds). There is some evidence that numbers may again be increasing and successful breeding has been recorded in recent years, including 1999.

Some protection of key areas has been achieved through SSSI/SPA designation of key Caledonian pinewood areas. Positive management of such areas is being delivered through the Forestry Commissions' Woodland Grant Scheme and implementation of the native pinewood habitat action plan has also had positive benefits. However, shortage of suitable nesting habitat in north Scotland is not believed to be a limiting factor. Detailed study of food and habitat requirements has not been carried out but knowledge of feeding and habitat requirements is sufficient to provide outline advice on management of pinewoods for this species.

Field 6: Signing off

Please 'sign off' the form below to confirm that steering group members or key contacts have been consulted and agreed the information provided.

Contact details	Lead Partner	Contact Point
Name	Colin Crooke	Dr Andy Douse
Organisation	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Scottish Natural Heritage
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	07 October 1999	29 October 1999

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC

Biodiversity Information Service

Produced by JNCC's Biodiversity Information Service, 31/07/03

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Table A: Action Plan objectives and targets (Copiable table)

For each target please state how, if applicable, it has been disaggregated to the country level. Please insert the paragraph number, UK target and country-specific disaggregated target(s) into the table. Please tick the appropriate category to indicate progress against published and disaggregated targets. For each target please copy the table and detail the (existing or new [new paragraph numbers should run sequentially, under relevant headings in the published volumes]) paragraph number, target text and an assessment of progress.

Objective/target (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.1 Retain the wryneck as a regular breeding species in the UK.				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
UK			✓		
England				✓	
Northern Ireland	✓				
Scotland			✓		
Wales				✓	
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
The small breeding population in Scotland has been retained in recent years but this species status is precarious and it appears now to be extinct in both England and Wales.					

Objective/target (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.2 Ensure that sufficient suitable habitat in the Scottish breeding area is maintained to support a population of wrynecks.				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
UK	✓				
England	✓				
Northern Ireland	✓				
Scotland			✓		
Wales	✓				
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
Native pinewood extent has been maintained since the production of this plan and suitable habitat is not thought to be currently limiting the population of this species in Scotland.					

Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)

For each significant action please copy and complete the table below.

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	

Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>		
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>		
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>