

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	Woodlark
Lead Partner/Agency	RSPB
Steering Group/Other organisations	Steering group in existence? Please state yes or no. Please list the organisations represented. No
Work programme in existence?	Please state yes or no. If in existence, please use the agreed work programme to update Field 3 and Table B. No

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 Maintain a population of around 1500 breeding pairs of woodlark within the existing range of around 90 ten km squares.		X			X	
4.2 Increase the range of the woodlark from 90 to 120 ten km squares, including the recolonisation of Wales and south-west England, by 2008, coupled with further increases in the population.		X			X	

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 that clear targets for the woodlark are incorporated into appropriate site management plans, particularly land managed by the MoD and local authorities.		X				Yes	Ongoing
5.1.2 Prepare and implement an Endangered Species Action Plan for woodlarks on FE land, to include specific targets for woodlarks in Forest Design Plans in forests within their current and former range.		X				Yes	Started but not complete

5.1.3 Take full account of the requirements of the woodlark when considering felling and restocking proposals.		X				Yes	Ongoing
5.1.4 Encourage the development of extensively-managed, mixed agricultural systems to provide suitable rough grassland and spring-sown cereals with winter stubbles, through appropriate agri-environment schemes.		X			X	Yes	Ongoing
5.1.5 Encourage the uptake of schemes supporting the reversion of arable land to heathland through ESAs and Countryside Stewardship.		X				Yes	Ongoing
5.1.6 Seek to extend the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme (WES) to other key areas of lowland heathland in England		X				Yes	Not started
5.2.1 Consider notifying heathland sites important for woodlarks as SSSI/ASSIs.		X				Yes	Ongoing
5.2.2 Designate as SPAs areas of 'special interest' that support nationally important populations of woodlarks (subject to current guidelines) and encourage their appropriate management.		X				Yes	Ongoing
5.2.3 Seek to achieve favourable conservation status' of the woodlark by measures complementary to SPAs. This will include projects to maintain, enhance and restore heathland adjacent to SPAs (eg through agri-environment schemes).		X				Yes	Ongoing
5.2.4 Protect nationally important localities for woodlarks from damaging developments and land use change using the planning process.		X				Yes	Ongoing
5.2.5 Incorporate suitable policies for the conservation of lowland heathland into Development Plans, Regional Government Strategies, Indicative Forestry Strategies and Heathland Strategies.		X			X	Yes	Ongoing
5.2.6 Seek to secure long-term funding for county heathland management projects.	X	X			X	Yes	Ongoing
5.2.7 Introduce or continue management for woodlarks on heathland nature reserves.		X				Yes	Ongoing
5.4.1 Produce specific advisory material for the management of heathland and forestry plantations for woodlarks.		X				Yes	Ongoing
5.4.2 Revise the leaflet produced for farmers in Devon in the light of new information from the 1997 breeding survey.		X				Yes	Not started
5.4.3 Promote effective management of set-aside for breeding and wintering birds, including woodlark.		X			X	Yes	Ongoing
5.5.1 Monitor the UK breeding population of woodlarks every 10 years through the statutory agencies'/RSPB programme of scarce bird monitoring (next survey due in 2007).	X	x			X	No	Ongoing
5.5.2 Consider the need for habitat usage survey and monitoring in the south-west.		X				Yes	started but not complete

5.6.1 Use the woodlark as a species to support the conservation of heathland and extensively managed mixed farmland.		X				No	Ongoing
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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							X
England							X
Northern Ireland	X						
Scotland	X						
Wales							X
Brief text description justifying assessment of status: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region)							
Insufficient information and insufficient time since plan was published to provide a definitive assessment. However, the information that is available suggests that population is continuing recent increases in numbers and may be starting to recover former range.							

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.

Progress with this plan is partly dependent on progress of the lowland heathland habitat action plan in encouraging bare ground and short heathland; the re-creation of new heathland habitat; and in the management of young forestry plantations. The provision of clearfell and young forestry plantations and the management of these sites in the initial years after planting has made a significant contribution to the increase in this species in the last decade. Care will have to be taken to ensure that any changes in forestry practice, in particular felling cycles but also plant spacing, ground treatment, herbicide regimes etc, will not have detrimental affects on the recovery of the population of this species. FE have begun the process of producing an Endangered Species Plan for woodlarks on their land.

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	Robin Wynde	Roderick Leslie
Organisation	RSPB	FE
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	18.10.99	1.11.99

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC

Biodiversity Information Service
 Joint Nature Conservation Committee
 Monkstone House
 City Road
 Peterborough PE1 1JY
 Tel: 01733 562626
 Fax: 01733 555948
 E-mail: lpr99@jncc.gov.uk

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 Maintain a population of around 1500 breeding pairs of woodlark within the existing range of around 90 ten km squares.				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
UK					X
England					X
Northern Ireland	X				
Scotland	X				
Wales					X
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
<p>There has been no systematic national survey since 1997 but local information would suggest that this target has been achieved to date. For example surveys in Breckland show that the population there increased from 430 pairs in 1997 to 549 pairs in 1998 (28% increase), populations on both heathland and in the forest showed an increase.</p>					

Objective/target (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.2 Increase the range of the woodlark from 90 to 120 ten km squares, including the recolonisation of Wales and south-west England, by 2008, coupled with further increases in the population				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
UK					X
England					X
Northern Ireland	X				
Scotland	X				
Wales					X
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
<p>There has been no systematic survey of woodlark numbers or range since 1997 to assess progress. However, there are indications that the species is beginning to recover parts of its former range. This target has not yet been divided into separate country targets.</p>					