

## 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

<b>Species/Habitat Action Plan</b>	Red-necked phalarope ( <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i> )
<b>Lead Partner/Agency</b>	RSPB
<b>Steering Group/Other organisations</b>	<i>No steering group as yet, liaison with SNH has taken place (northern Isles), correspondence group formed with SNH, SERAD, RSPB.</i>
<b>Work programme in existence?</b>	<i>No overall workplan as yet though RSPB Nature Reserve Management Plans exist for sites in Shetland and the Hebrides (covering 80-90% of UK population in 1998). Over-arching work programme in prep.</i>

### 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 In the short term, maintain the red-necked phalarope as a breeding species in the UK, with at least 35-40 breeding males at 10 sites.	*			*		UK Population has declined from 35-40 males in 1995 to 19 in 1998 and 21 in 1999. In 1998 the species bred on 8 (poss. 9), sites including Fetlar, Unst and the Outer Hebrides. In 1999 breeding occurred on at least 16 sites including a site in the Inner Hebrides.
4.2 By 2003, increase the north Shetland breeding population to 55-60 breeding males at 16 sites on Fetlar and Unst				*		Work on-going with one new site being created (and used) and 3 historic sites being brought into favourable management since 1997. Existing sites continue to be managed for phalaropes by RSPB (with 50% funding from SNH for capital works). Shetland population occurs on 10 sites, 7 on Fetlar (4 in 1998) and 3 on Unst.
4.3 By 2005, increase the breeding population in the Hebrides to 10 breeding males on at least three sites.				*		In 1998 breeding occurred on at least 4 sites in the Hebrides and included 5 males. In 1999 at least 5 sites were used with 6 males present.
4.4 Enable range expansion to a number of previously occupied sites within mainland Shetland, north Orkney and Tiree.  <i>Suggest that this is changed to remove locational detail (esp. Tiree). This can be done with a full stop after "previously occupied sites" or by having the locations as ..... "the Northern Isles and Hebrides".</i>				*		No breeding phalaropes on Mainland Shetland. Elsewhere, engineering and hydrological work by RSPB (with 50% funding from SNH) has occurred on two previously occupied sites and one entirely new site since 1997, with breeding attempts at two of these sites, including the newly created site. As yet, no successful breeding in Orkney, though birds were present on at least 2 sites in 1998 and 1999 without breeding proven.

**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 changes in agricultural systems within breeding areas do not cause deterioration in nesting habitat, water levels or water quality.	*			*		*	On-going
5.1.2 Ensure that prescriptions for Shetland, Western Isles and Argyll Islands ESA's produce good wetland for breeding red-necked phalaropes in the traditional range.				*		*	On going
5.2.1 Ensure that any regular breeding sites are appropriately protected by statutory mechanisms or voluntary agreements.	*			*		*	On-going
5.2.2 Review the management of sites for red-necked phalaropes, and ensure appropriate grazing and management of vegetation succession.	*			*		*	On-going
5.2.3 Continue to negotiate management agreements over existing and potentially suitable breeding sites for phalaropes in the traditional range.	*			*		*	On-going
5.2.4 Ensure that existing water management and drainage at breeding sites are appropriate, and that changes do not adversely affect any existing or potential breeding sites.	*			*		*	On-going
5.3.1 Establish exclosures around phalarope nesting pools to prevent trampling during nesting season.	*			*		*	On-going
5.3.2 Ensure disturbance to red-necked phalaropes from birdwatchers is minimised	*			*		*	On-going.
<b>5.3.3 Protect species from egg collection</b>	*			*		*	<b>New Action (proposed)</b>
5.4.1 Ensure landowners and managers are aware of the presence, legal status and conservation requirements of this species, and promote the appropriate habitat management.	*			*		*	On-going
5.5.1 Undertake annual monitoring of phalarope numbers and productivity, and provide information to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.	*			*		*	On-going
5.5.2 In conjunction with NGO's review results of their large-scale experimental management; disseminate and implement findings accordingly	*			*		*	On-going

5.5.3 Undertake regular vegetation monitoring at existing and potential breeding sites to ensure that suitable breeding habitat is maintained	*			*		*	On-going
5.6.1 Retain viewing facilities over a successful breeding site on Mires of Funzie, Fetlar.						*	On-going.
5.6.2 Provide information to highlight the decline and importance of the species.	*			*			On-going

**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>The UK breeding population of red-necked phalarope steadily increased from around 20 breeding males in 1991 to around 40 in 1996. The last two years has seen the UK population drop back to 21 breeding males in 1999. At the same time as numbers have declined, at least 5 additional sites have been occupied. This may be as a result of appropriate site management and engineering at 2 historic sites (one last used in 1992, one newly created in 1997). The last two summers have been poor early in the season and this may also explain some of the decline with birds not making it back to breeding sites in Shetland. The current population bred on 14 (possibly 15) sites, 4 (possibly 5) in the Hebrides (including 2 males at one site), 2 on Unst (3 males) and 8 on Fetlar. In 1999 one site held three males, four sites held 2 males and the rest only 1 male. This highlights the precarious condition of the UK population and vulnerability to site change or egg collection. For example, up to 50% of the nests in the Hebrides may have been robbed in 1998.</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.

RSPB involvement with this species has resulted in more detailed knowledge of its breeding ecology and habitat requirements, as summarised in O'Brien (1997). Over the past 12 years RSPB, with the help of SNH have secured management agreements at 8 sites in Shetland, 2 in the Outer Hebrides and 1 in the Inner Hebrides. At all of these sites habitat management, including suitable grazing and hydrological regimes have been implemented. Positive responses from phalaropes have occurred with new sites now used. However, the last two years, 98 and 99, have seen poor weather early in the breeding season and this may explain the low numbers in these years. Though the range has expanded to include new or historic sites the low numbers now occupying each of the breeding sites gives cause for concern. This is particularly important with egg collecting still occurring. Egg collection at this level is seriously endangering the viability of this population. Given that it is the male phalarope that carries out incubation and the females may disperse from the nesting site, egg removal may end breeding at a particular site in a given year, unless another female turns up. 5.3.3 is a new proposed action to attempt to give higher levels of protection to nest sites, especially those in the Hebrides where clutches are known to have been taken as recently as 1998.

Another possible constraint is the continued fragility of agricultural activity in these remote, island sites. The best grazing management for mire sites would be achieved by cattle, however cattle numbers are continuing to decline in most of these areas and graziers are less willing to use marginal, mire areas for grazing. Without grazing management the vegetation of these mire sites would change to be unsuitable for phalaropes and other biodiversity, areas of open water will also reduce in size and number. Future management agreements and grazing lets will need to take these factors into consideration, possibly including economic incentives for grazing in the phalarope mires.

**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.

<b>Contact details</b>	<b>Lead Partner</b>	<b>Contact Point</b>
<b>Name</b>	Dr David Beaumont	Dr Andy Douse
<b>Organisation</b>	RSPB	SNH
<b>Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)</b>	26/10/99	

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC

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 Joint Nature Conservation Committee  
 Monkstone House  
 City Road  
 Peterborough PE1 1JY  
 Tel: 01733 562626  
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 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.

<b>Objective/target</b> (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.1 In the short term, maintain the red -necked phalarope as a breeding species in the UK, with at least 35-40 breeding males at 10 sites.				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Not appropriate</b>	<b>Target achieved</b>	<b>Some progress</b>	<b>No progress</b>	<b>Insufficient information</b>
UK			*		
England	*				
Northern Ireland	*				
Scotland			*		
Wales	*				
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
<p><b>Numbers of breeding red-necked phalaropes in the UK have declined from a high point in 1996-97 to 21 breeding males in the 1999 season. Despite this, the range and number of sites have increased. This is thought to reflect a redistribution of breeding activity when the population was high, in 1996 and 1997 for example, followed by a general population decline (due to unknown factors) over the last two seasons.</b></p>					
<b>Objective/target</b> (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.2 By 2003, increase the north Shetland breeding population to 55-60 breeding males at 16 sites on Fetlar and Unst				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Not appropriate</b>	<b>Target achieved</b>	<b>Some progress</b>	<b>No progress</b>	<b>Insufficient information</b>
UK			*		
England	*				
Northern Ireland	*				
Scotland			*		
Wales	*				
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					
<p><b>As for 4.1, some progress towards the target number of sites, but none towards population increase.</b></p>					
<b>Objective/target</b> (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.3 By 2005, increase the breeding population in the Hebrides to 10 breeding males on at least three sites.				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Not appropriate</b>	<b>Target achieved</b>	<b>Some progress</b>	<b>No progress</b>	<b>Insufficient information</b>
UK			*		
England	*				
Northern Ireland	*				
Scotland			*		
Wales	*				

Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):

**Little progress towards increases in the breeding population with egg collecting known to be a continuing problem (two clutches recovered from a collector from 1 site and season in 1998). The number of sites with confirmed breeding has increased to 5 in 1999 (on 3 islands) with potential sites still remaining. Two of these sites (plus a historic site) are under RSPB management agreements, the others are on SSSI land but receive no specific phalarope management.**

<b>Objective/target</b> (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.4 Enable range expansion to a number of previously occupied sites within the Northern Isles and Hebrides.				
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Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>			*		
<i>England</i>	*				
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	*				
<i>Scotland</i>			*		
<i>Wales</i>	*				

Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):

**No phalaropes have occurred at the historic sites on Mainland Shetland or north Orkney and no pro-active management is being undertaken at present here. Pro-active management has been successful elsewhere and new and historic sites were successfully used in 1998 and 1999 in Shetland and the Hebrides.**

**Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)**

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

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.1.1 Ensure that changes in agricultural systems within breeding areas do not cause deterioration in nesting habitat, water levels or water quality NoSWA, SAC, SEPA, SNH, SOAEFD (now SERAD)	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	<i>Seek to use opportunities under RSS scheme to benefit red-necked phalaropes. This should be planned via site by site management agreements in the breeding areas within the Northern Isles and Hebrides. SNH, SERAD, SEPA and RSPB should work together on this educating land managers and advisors (SAC and FWAG for example)</i>	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	no	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	To date RSPB have engaged in management agreements covering 9 breeding sites in Shetland and the Hebrides. These agreements specify grazing and hydrological regimes and allow site maintenance and monitoring.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<i>All regular breeding sites to have suitable management agreements by end of plan.</i>	Action by RSPB/SNH/ /SERAD
<b>Constraints to action</b> (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.)	On-going deterioration of agricultural system in phalarope areas has led to reduced livestock availability, especially cattle (reluctance to graze in mires). This could lead to successional vegetative changes to mires, loss of open water and the need for more frequent mechanical intervention. ESA's are flexible and can be tailored to benefit phalaropes, it is unknown at present if Rural Stewardship Scheme (RSS) will retain this flexibility. RSS will promote introduction/retention of native breeds of cattle in crofting areas, this could have benefits.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	On-going	
<b>Next steps</b>	Continued management and review of existing agreements, additional agreements to cover new or potential sites, review of support to encourage continued livestock (cattle), husbandry at these sites	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<i>Secured management of these sites by appropriate grazing and hydrological regimes</i>	Action by RSPB/SNH/ SERAD

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.1.2 Ensure that prescriptions for Shetland, Western Isles and Argyll Islands ESA's produce good habitat for breeding red-necked phalaropes in the traditional range. NoSWA, SAC, SEPA, SNH, SOAEFD (now SERAD)	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>		
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>		
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	All sites in Shetland are in ESA areas. Some sites in the Hebrides are within ESA.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		<i>Action by</i>
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>	Uncertainty over future merged scheme (RSS) and operation of rural development rules.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On going	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Await format of RSS, ensure adequate liaison between SERAD, SAC, FWAG in appropriate sites.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		<i>Action by</i> <b>SERAD</b>

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.2.1 Ensure that any regular breeding sites are appropriately protected by statutory mechanisms or voluntary agreements. (SNH, SERAD)	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>		
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>		
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	Some regular breeding sites designated specifically for red-necked phalarope. Other sites designated for other wildlife interest. 9 sites in management agreements with RSPB. Remaining sites not designated or in management agreement.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		Action by SNH
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>	Reluctance of SNH to designate new sites.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On going	
<b>Next steps</b>	Monitoring sites outwith designations	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		Action by SNH

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.2.2 Review the management of sites for red-necked phalaropes, and ensure appropriate grazing and management of vegetation succession. SAC, SNH, SERAD	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)		
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> (Please state yes or no.)	Management plans in existencs for RSPB managed sites.	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	RSPB regularly review Management Plans for each site (Full review every 5 years). Also monitoring of site characteristics (vegetation, hydrology, open water)- ongoing at sites in Shetland and Hebrides.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Coordination and review of management in each area to result in management handbook/case study by 2003.	Action by RSPB/SNH
<b>Constraints to action</b> (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.)	At present 36% of sites without management agreement and therefore not in regular monitoring programmes. Low numbers of breeding birds at each site therefore it would be difficult to account for factors affecting breeding success. This prescription doesn't allow for work on potential sites or recent, historic sites.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	On-going	
<b>Next steps</b>	Need to include the regular and historic breeding sites in a standard monitoring programme.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Complete monitoring programme and review and collation of management of all regular breeding sites by 2003.	Action by RSPB/SNH

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.2.3 Continue to negotiate management agreements over existing and potentially suitable breeding sites for phalaropes in the traditional range. SNH	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Management plans in existence for 9 RSPB managed sites. Regular review of agreements undertaken.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	On-going programme of reviewing and renewing existing RSPB management agreements. Further negotiation of pro-active management agreements by RSPB/SNH.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<i>Production of agreed management plans for each regular breeding site by 2003.</i>	<i>Action by RSPB/SNH</i>
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>	Funding: Cost of agreements, especially where engineering works needed on historic sites. Staff resources: Remoteness of some sites and lack of staff presence for monitoring or habitat management. Reductions in livestock and agricultural infrastructure in these areas will have additional cost implications for pro-active management activities.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Agreed workplan needed for renewal and addition of site management agreements.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Agreed management plans for all regular and some historic breeding sites to allow pro-active management.	<i>Action by RSPB/SNH</i>

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.2.4 Ensure that existing water management and drainage at breeding sites are appropriate, and that changes do not adversely affect any existing or potential breeding sites SAC, SEPA, SNH, SERAD	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Management plans in existence for 9 RSPB managed sites.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Hydrological control at all of RSPB management agreement areas	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	On-going hydrological management and maintenance of control mechanisms at RSPB sites. Funding from SNH for capital works in Shetland and Hebrides.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<i>Control of hydrology and maintenance of suitable hydrological conditions at all regular breeding sites (where possible) by 2003.</i>	<i>Action by RSPB/SNH</i>
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>	44% of sites not in RSPB management agreements. Low numbers of breeding birds per site. Potential sites not really collated in a strategic way for pro-active management. Funding: Costs of engineering and hydrological works can be high. Lack of staff at some sites to regulate hydrological controls. Lack of physical access to some potential and existing sites. No ongoing assessment of conditions at potential/historic sites.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Collate list of existing and potential breeding sites and prioritise / assess suitability for hydrological control and management.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Prioritised list of sites with reference to hydrological management needs and feasibility	<i>Action by RSPB/SNH</i>

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.3.1 Establish exclosures around phalarope nesting pools to prevent trampling during nesting season. SNH, SERAD <b>Suggest - Provide infrastructure to allow livestock management at phalarope sites.</b>	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Management plans in existence for 9 RSPB managed sites. Fences and/or appropriate grazing regimes in place.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	Stock fencing around the hydrological unit is more appropriate as this will allow controlled grazing to occur during late summer (and later if possible), and stock exclusion during nesting period.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<i>Appropriate grazing regimes secured at each regular breeding site and 5 potential/historic sites.</i>	Action by RSPB/SNH
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>	44% of sites not in RSPB management agreement. This action may conflict with site owner(s). Costs of fencing, especially in difficult terrain. All exclosures must be with access gates for livestock and machinery. Availability of livestock to graze in late summer/autumn/winter.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On going	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>By 2003 all current breeding sites and 5 historic/potential sites not in existing management agreements should have appropriate grazing regimes in place with fencing if necessary.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Grazing regimes assessed and adjusted to appropriate requirements by 2003 for all current and 5 historic/potential sites.	Action by RSPB/SNH

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.3.2 Ensure disturbance to red-necked phalaropes from birdwatchers is minimised SNH	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Management plans in existence for 9 RSPB managed sites. All but one have no publicity and disturbance kept to a minimum. The one visitor site is in accordance with Action 5.6.1. Photographers are regulated by the need for a licence from SNH.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	Not an easily disturbed species, however provision of viewing facilities at Funzie (Fetlar), removes pressure from other sites in Shetland. Hebridean sites not appropriate for viewing. One RSPB warden dedicated to Shetland phalarope sites plus RSPB staff in Hebrides undertake regular patrols in breeding season.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<i>Continued patrol of all sites (while monitoring breeding success) to ensure no disturbance from bird watchers. Direction of bird watchers in Shetland to Funzie.</i>	Action by RSPB/SNH
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>	Remoteness of Hebridean sites means regular patrol is difficult. RSPB staff (4) in the Hebrides are working on other priorities and not solely on phalaropes. Sites without management agreements are unlikely to be patrolled at all.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>The RSPB sites have a no publicity policy and no visitors to be on-site (outside a purpose built RSPB hide) during breeding season. All sites outside management agreement areas need to have a system of regular checks.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Plan for regular site monitoring on all current breeding sites to be produced by 2001	Action by RSPB/SNH

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	<b>5.3.3 Protect species from egg collection</b>	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Regular, co-ordinated site monitoring for all current/potential sites, during breeding season. Highlight the vulnerability of this species to local staff and local police. Starting 1999/2000.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	no	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	<b>Still a desirable species for egg collectors. 2 clutches lost from one Hebridean site in one season (1998), and recovered in collection. 9 clutches found in collections since 1982 with no locality data. A report in prep (Thomas RSPB), places phalaropes as 11th of 60 species most vulnerable to egg collection..</b>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<i>Information leaflet for SNH/RSPB staff, WLO's and local police in Hebrides and Northern Isles. Reduce egg collection of this species to no clutches between 2000 and 2005</i>	<i>Action by RSPB/SNH</i>
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>	RSPB have coordinated site watches in the past but lack of resources and site remoteness hamper this activity.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On going	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Discuss need for information with WLO's and local police stations. Provision of targetted resources to patrol sites and possibly re-establish site watches. Need a plan of action in place by next breeding season and improved liaison and between police SNH and RSPB.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Reduced incidence of egg collecting to zero for the remainder of this plan.	<i>Action by SNH/RSPB</i>

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.4.1 Ensure landowners and managers are aware of the presence, legal status and conservation requirements of this species, and promote the appropriate habitat management. SAC, SNH, SERAD	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Pro-active contact with landowners and site managers for current breeding sites and historic/potential sites.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	Most landowners and managers currently with red-necked phalaropes as regular breeding birds have been contacted by RSPB and/or SNH. Owners and managers of sites new in 1998 and 1999 need contacting as do those owning or managing sites of historic/potential interest. Agricultural and agri-environment scheme advisors need to be made aware of species ecology, status and requirements..	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<i>landowners and managers of all current and at least 5 historic/potential breeding sites contacted by 2002</i>	<i>Action by RSPB/SNH</i>
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>	Lack of knowledge of landowner or manager. Crofted land and/or multiple land managers (eg. Common grazings or skatald). Absentee landowner. New landowner / manager.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Identification of contact targets and co-ordinated effort to make contact or update contact.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	By 2001, all landowners and managers of current breeding sites aware of species legal status, vulnerability and ecology.	<i>Action by RSPB/SNH</i>

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.1 Undertake annual monitoring of phalarope numbers and productivity, and provide information to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. SNH	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Management plans in existence for 9 RSPB managed sites. Regular (annual), monitoring of sites a requirement in each plan.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	Monitoring of regular sites undertaken by RSPB staff. Productivity monitoring and colour ringing scheme ongoing in Shetland, by RSPB staff..	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<i>Full productivity figures for Shetland sites, breeding activity noted for other RSPB monitored sites.</i>	<i>Action by RSPB/SNH</i>
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>	Remoteness of sites. Lack of resources. Site characteristics can result in difficult and unsafe working conditions.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Produce schedule for monitoring all current breeding sites and allow for additional sites to come into the programme. Plan for additional resources where necessary. Needs to be done each year from 2000 until 2005.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Full site use and some productivity statistics from all breeding sites the seasons 2000 to 2005.	<i>Action by RSPB/SNH</i>

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.2 In conjunction with NGO's review results of their large-scale experimental management; disseminate and implement findings accordingly SNH	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Experimental management completed on sites in Shetland and Hebrides. Two years of breeding data collected.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>		
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	Report from research by O'Brien (1997) still in prep. Update needed for last 2 years findings. Paper published in RSPB Conservation Review (1997), O'Brien, Newbery and Suddaby (ISBN 0-903138-99-9)	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Paper published in RSPB Conservation Review (1997), O'Brien, Newbery and Suddaby (ISBN 0-903138-99-9)	<i>Action by</i> RSPB
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>		
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Started but not yet complete	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		<i>Action by</i>

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.3 Undertake regular vegetation monitoring at existing and potential breeding sites to ensure that suitable breeding habitat is maintained SNH	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Only detailed workplans are RSPB site Management Plans for 8 sites in Shetland and 2 sites in the Hebrides.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	RSPB monitoring for 4 sites on Fetlar initiated in 1988 (Evans, RSPB), NVC survey for these sites done in 1991 (Tickner, RSPB). More comprehensive survey/monitoring undertaken in 1996 (Hannah and Thiel, RSPB), including historic and current sites on Mainland, Fetlar and Unst. Repeat surveys should be undertaken in 2001. Off Shetland, little or no formal vegetation monitoring for historic sites, one Hebridean site monitored since 1997.	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<i>Regular reports using standard and consistent vegetation monitoring techniques, desirable for all known regular breeding sites and some of the historic sites ( with current habitat suitability ie site potential), in mind.</i>	Action by RSPB/SNH
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>	36% of sites without agreed management plans and monitoring schedules. Some of sites with management agreements are difficult to access due to ground conditions. More sites need to have detailed monitoring schedules and management plans. Appropriate equipment needed for H&S of field workers. Sets of aerial photos (time series if possible) should be compiled and analysed to assess changes, site by site - current and historical.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Repeat monitoring of RSPB sites due in 2001. Other sites need addressing at the same time with a combination of field work, fixed point photography and aerial photo analysis..</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Complete assessment of habitat suitability of all regular breeding sites and 12 historic sites by 2003.	Action by RSPB/SNH

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.6.1 Retain viewing facilities over a successful breeding site on Mires of Funzie, Fetlar SNH	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Planned for in RSPB site management plan.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	RSPB maintain hide and interpretation facilities	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<i>Continued provision of hide.</i>	<i>Action by RSPB/SNH</i>
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>	Resources. Continuation of site management agreement with crofter. Continued use by phalaropes of this site.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Regular review RSPB Management Plan and maintenance schedule..</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	Continued hide and ability to view phalaropes at Mires of Funzie.	<i>Action by RSPB/SNH</i>

<b>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.6.2 Provide information to highlight the decline and importance of the species. SNH	
<b>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</b> <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	On-going publications on research findings, experimental management, vulnerability of this species to egg collection etc.	
<b>Action/workplan undertaken?</b> <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	yes	
<b>Description of work taken and organisation responsible</b>	Last publication of information - 1997 (O'Brien, RSPB)	
<b>Output and timescale</b>	<i>On-going production of material and information</i>	<i>Action by RSPB/SNH</i>
<b>Constraints to action</b> <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>	Publicity to be done with care so as not to reveal site location information.	
<b>Action complete or ongoing?</b> <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
<b>Next steps</b>	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
<b>Output and timescale</b>		<i>Action by</i>