

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	Marsh warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
Lead Partner/Agency	RSPB/The Wildlife Trusts (Worcestershire) Environment Agency
Steering Group/Other organisations	<i>Steering group in existence? Please state yes or no. Please list the organisations represented.</i> Yes; RSPB, WWT, EN, WCCP (White Cliffe Countryside Project), EA, Medway River Project
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> Initial work programme as a result of first meeting of lead partners in July 1999 in existence

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 the marsh warbler as a British breeding species		X				
4.2 In the long term, encourage a natural expansion of the marsh warbler population through maintenance of suitable habitat in former, current and future breeding areas.		X				

Field 3: Proposed actions overview

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

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 Incorporate appropriate riparian habitat management prescriptions into Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAP's) to benefit marsh warblers		X					Worcestershire: Warwickshire Avon LEAP (November 1998). MW not specifically mentioned, but implementation of local BAP is an action and MW has own SAP in BAP. EA Midlands Region Biodiversity Strategy (June 1999) has MW SAP and proposed actions. Kentish Stour LEAP (consultation draft) has actions for marsh warbler in it.
5.2 Safeguard existing or recently abandoned breeding sites by carrying out appropriate habitat management particularly scrub removal and maintenance of high water tables		X				X	Ongoing management work being carried out at one main Kentish site (a number of separate areas within this). Note; at most important site in country, high water tables are not an issue.
5.3 Protect regularly occupied breeding sites from any potentially damaging developments		X					Ongoing. EA with Parish Council paid for bollards at main Kent site to reduce 4WD activity and damage which has proved successful. Ongoing at other sites.
5.4 Where appropriate consider notifying regular breeding sites as SSSI's		X					Worcestershire: All recent breeding sites already notified Level I for SSSI because of MW. Kent: Most important site is mainly SSSI but some areas where the species breeds within this site are not legally protected.
5.5 Ensure the adequate wardening of occupied marsh warbler sites takes place to prevent undue disturbance and persecution by egg collectors		X					Worcestershire : Ongoing wardening of WWT reserves. No formal wardening of Kent sites.

5.6 Promote appropriate management of marsh warbler sites		X				X	Ongoing. RSPB/EA technical report in production will promote habitat management for the species. Medway River Project contacted and have visited main Kent site with a view to carrying out active management on second site in Kent this winter. Ongoing management (scrub clearance etc) in Worcester on WWT reserves.
5.7 Ensure continued monitoring of marsh warblers in Britain through the Rare Birds Breeding Panel		X					Ongoing. RBBP collate information annually and report it. Raise profile of species with Kent Ornithological Society to ensure coverage and reporting of habitats and breeding attempts in order to identify opportunities for management.
5.8 Collate information on the habitats of marsh warblers in Britain	X						Ongoing. There is a need for a more systematic and comprehensive approach to collating any information on this species' breeding habitat.
5.9 Acquire information on marsh warbler ecology from researchers in Europe and East Africa, in order to learn more about the factors determining habitat requirements during the breeding season, and survival on migration and during winter	X						Ongoing from contacts via WWT in Poland and New Zealand.

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)							
<p>Although in the 1999 breeding season there has been an apparent increase in the number of pairs and sites occupied by the species in the south-east of England (although the full national picture through the RBBP has not yet been formed) this is well within the normal variation for this species (eg it is still less than the high numbers that were present in 1990 and 1994 in Kent). At one site in Kent marsh warblers do have appeared to have responded to management. For the first time no birds were present in Worcestershire. There are as yet no signs of a persistent recovery.</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.

Initial meeting of lead partners (RSPB/WWT) in July 1999. First work programme produced covering first six months as a result of meeting. Ongoing work by RSPB and WWT both directly as habitat management and through habitat protection with support of EA and others continues and is being extended in Kent by RSPB.

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	Simon Busuttill (Dungeness Area Manager)/Helen Woodman (Worcestershire Reserves Manager)	Rob Pilcher
Organisation	RSPB/The Wildlife Trusts	Environment Agency
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	7/10/99	7/10/99

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC

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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 Maintain the marsh warbler as a British breeding species				
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):					
Species maintained as a breeding species in England. Some cause for concern that for the first time in recent times no birds were present in Worcestershire but population continued to occupy new sites in Kent and Sussex at least.					
Objective/target (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.2 In the long term, encourage a natural expansion of the marsh warbler population through maintenance of suitable habitat in former, current and future breeding areas.				
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):					
The timescale for this is not defined. There are several steps that need to be made to approach this including greater knowledge of the species' habitat requirements away from the former stronghold in Worcester and the management required to maintain these habitats. Even breeding data from this season (1999) is not fully collated yet. Historic records exist for this species ~(at least since 1940's).					

Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)

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

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.2 Safeguard existing or recently abandoned breeding sites by carrying out appropriate habitat management particularly scrub removal and maintenance of high water tables RSPB/WWT/EA	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Worcester 1999 - wardening/monitoring carried out by WWT 2000/01/02 -wardening/monitoring will continue. Habitat management/protection planned pollarding and fencing. Kent 1999 - management work at key site and monitoring carried out through partnership. RSPB to continue and extend management work at key site in Kent between 2000 and 2002. 2000 - Management work at at least one other Kent site to be undertaken by a countryside project. Major sites in West and East Sussex being looked at in terms of management through RSPB	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
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> WWT - NVC and invertebrate surveys on 5 sites. Results awaited, due Nov 1999. 50 acre wetland created in Avon Valley, some habitat suitable for MW will be allowed to develop naturally. WWT/EA - Discussions on current and future management including possible transfer of leases from less sympathetic leasees to WWT. RSPB - habitat management work at key site by RSPB funded by EA. In 1999 3 prs marsh warbler used habitat managed for species in last three years. Population at the site has now stabilised following several years of decline.	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i> RSPB/EA/ WWT
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>	South-east England - No obvious constraints so far. Principles of habitat management for the species being extended to sites where species regularly occurs and disseminated through technical report. There is a need for formal wardening due to threats from disturbance and egg collectors. Worcestershire - Lack of target species .	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	

Next steps	<p><i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i></p> <p>South-east England (Kent and Sussex) List all sites where species does or has occurred - Oct 1999 Prioritise management opportunities at these sites - Dec 1999 Investigate habitat expansion opportunities - 1999-2000 Liaise with owners/management bodies 2000 Facilitate sharing of information on habitat requirements and necessary management - this through; 1. survey of sites and habitat appraisal; 2. site visits to sites where species is breeding 3 technical report - Ongoing Seek funding for habitat management and/or wardening - Ongoing Seek further partners - Ongoing</p> <p>Worcestershire Liaise with owners/management bodies Facilitate sharing of information on habitat requirements and necessary management - this through; 1. Survey of sites and habitat appraisal; 2. site visits to sites where species is breeding</p>	
Output and timescale	Habitat management for marsh warblers incorporated into management plans, work programmes etc at two additional sites (making total of three sites in south-east) Technical report produced (RSPB/EA)	<i>Action by</i> RSPB

Published action/organisation(s) responsible	5.6 Promote appropriate management of marsh warbler sites	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	EA/RSPB/WWT	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Worcestershire: WWT consultees for Avon Valley Water Level Management Plan. Due 2000. Other actions towards this objective listed elsewhere	
Output and timescale	<i>Due 2000</i>	<i>Action by</i> EA funded
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>	Ongoing	
Next steps	Await draft from consultants.	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>

