

BROCKHOLES WETLAND NATURE RESERVE - UK BAP CONSERVATION OUTCOMES

LOWLAND MEADOW (UK Priority Habitat)

Current extent and condition

- 31ha heavily modified post-industrial land and improved pasture.
- Some small areas of unimproved species rich grassland remain.

Proposed actions

- Existing grassland will be managed to improve species diversity.
- Considerable areas of disturbed land will be reseeded to create MG4 grassland.

Long-term management

- Extensive cattle grazing and/or mowing to develop MG4 grassland.
- Seasonally wet conditions will be maintained.

Objectives

- Rehabilitate 31ha of post-industrial land with aim of achieving species-rich grassland.
- Maintain and increase populations of breeding Skylark and wader species.
- Create terrestrial habitat for Great Crested Newt.
- Create feeding habitat for Pipistrelle Bat.

Relevant UK BAP targets

Attempt to re-establish 500 ha.

Arrest the depletion of existing resource

Maintain breeding range of Skylarks.

Reverse population decline of Skylarks on lowland farmland.

Relevant North West Region BAP targets

Re-establish grassland of wildlife value: 20ha by 2010.

Relevant Lancashire LBAP targets

Halt the loss of existing species-rich neutral grassland.

Achieve favourable conservation status on all neutral grassland on BHS-qualifying sites.

Re-establish or restore 10.5 ha of new species-rich lowland meadow.

Seek to secure sympathetic management of habitat for Skylarks.

FLOODPLAIN GRAZING MARSH (UK Priority Habitat)

Current extent and condition

- 10.5ha drained and improved pasture.

Proposed actions

- Pasture will be rewetted through drain blockage and excavation of shallow scrapes.
- Disturbed land will be seeded with appropriate species and rewetted.

Long-term management

- Extensive cattle grazing to produce suitable sward for breeding waders (Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Snipe and Redshank) and Skylark (UK Priority).

Objectives

- Rehabilitate 10.5ha of floodplain grazing marsh with aim of achieving species-rich, semi-natural condition.
- Create 8.5ha of floodplain grazing marsh on ground disturbed by quarrying operations contiguous with existing pasture.
- Maintain and increase populations of breeding Skylark and wader species.

Relevant UK BAP targets

Rehabilitate 5000ha outside of ESAs.

Create 2500ha outside of ESAs.

Maintain breeding range of Skylarks.

Reverse population decline of Skylarks on lowland farmland.

Relevant North West Region BAP targets

Restore 600ha degraded grazing marsh by 2010.

Re-establish new areas of grazing marsh, 50ha by 2010.

WET WOODLAND (UK Priority Habitat)

Current extent and condition

- 5ha mature woodland comprised of site-native wet woodland species, contiguous with large block of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland SSSI. Area currently drained as a result of quarrying operations.
- 2ha recent plantation contiguous with above.
- The crane fly *Lipsothrix nigristigma* (UK Priority Species), for which this is the type locality, has been recently rediscovered on a contiguous site.

Proposed actions

- All woodland will be rewetted through drain blockage and establishment of hydrological continuity with remainder of site.
- Carry out survey of site and surrounding woodlands to determine the status of *Lipsothrix nigristigma*.

Long-term management

- Removal of non-native and invasive species.
- Control of hydrology to provide wet conditions.
- Ensure suitable habitat exists for *Lipsothrix nigristigma*.

Objectives

- Bring into favourable condition 5ha of Ancient Semi-natural wet woodland
- Enhance condition of 2ha of plantation wet woodland.
- Create conditions for survival and spread of *Lipsothrix nigristigma*.

Relevant UK BAP targets

Maintain the total extent and distribution of wet woodlands.

Maintain the current area of ancient semi-natural wet woodlands.

Complete establishment of a further 3,375 ha of wet woodland on unwooded sites or by conversion of plantations by 2015

Achieve favourable condition over 70% of the designated sites by 2010.

Complete establishment of 3,375 ha of wet woodland on unwooded sites or by conversion of plantations by 2010.

*Maintain populations of *Lipsothrix nigristigma* at all known sites.*

*Ensure that there are 10 viable populations *Lipsothrix nigristigma* in existence by 2010.*

Relevant North West Region BAP targets

Restore damaged/ degraded wet woodland: 175ha by 2010.

Relevant Lancashire LBAP targets

Achieve favourable condition of ancient semi-natural woodlands within SSSIs by 2005 and in other ancient and semi-natural woodlands by 2010.

Identify and encourage the restoration to site native species on 20% of the area (c.200 ha) of former ancient semi-natural woodland by 2010 and 50% by 2015.

Promote public awareness and understanding of Lancashire's woodland resource.

STANDING OPEN WATER (UK Broad Habitat)

Current extent and condition

- 35ha of mesotrophic freshwater lagoons created by recent quarrying activities, supporting regionally important assemblages of wetland breeding birds and dragonflies, and of wintering and passage waterfowl.

Proposed actions

- Gain control of hydrology through installation of sluices and/or pumps in order to manage water levels of lagoons to suit a diverse range of species.
- Establish suitable marginal and aquatic vegetation.
- Create 2ha reedbed on disused sludge lagoons.

Long-term management

- Zoning of potentially disturbing recreational activities away from areas of high conservation value.
- Ensure sufficient suitable breeding habitat for wetland bird species including Reed Bunting (UK Priority Species).
- Ensure sufficient suitable fish stocks to support Otters (UK Priority Species).

Objectives

- Increase diversity of breeding birds and other species.
- Increase population size of key wetland species including Reed Bunting.
- Assist re-colonisation by Otters of this area of the River Ribble.
- Create suitable habitat for possible re-colonisation by Water Voles.

Relevant UK BAP targets

In the long term, see a sustained recovery in numbers of Reed Buntings so that the BBS index is at least 50% higher than 1996 levels, in both wetland and farmland habitats, by 2008.

By 2010, restore breeding Otters to all catchments and coastal areas where they have been recorded since 1960.

Relevant North West Region BAP targets

Realise habitat creation opportunities in existing and new lakes, reservoirs and gravel pits, including the creation of reedbeds and other edge habitats.

Create new reedbed habitat: 150ha by 2010.

Relevant Lancashire LBAP targets

Create 30 ha of new reedbeds by 2010.

Promote small scale reedbed creation (0.5-2 ha) throughout the Lancashire Plain and Valleys Natural Area.

Ensure that breeding Reed Buntings remain present in good numbers throughout their range.

Promote the Reed Bunting as a flagship species in the Lancashire BAP.

By 2010 restore breeding Otters to all catchments where they have been recorded since 1960.

Promote the Otter as a flagship species in the Lancashire BAP.

Improve bankside habitat along Lancashire's rivers and streams.

Promote the importance of Lancashire's rivers and streams as habitats and wildlife corridors.

PONDS OF HIGH ECOLOGICAL QUALITY / CONSERVATION VALUE (UKBAP under construction)

Current extent and condition

- One pond and one wet ditch support a small range of plant and animal species.
- A population of Great Crested Newts (UK Priority Species) exists within 1km of the site.

Proposed actions

- Create a minimum of 12 ponds, wet ditches and scrapes to form a coherent pondscape, supporting a diversity of plant and animal species.
- Create at least 2 ponds to support breeding Great Crested Newts.
- Create suitable terrestrial habitat for Great Crested Newts.
- Monitor natural colonisation by Great Crested Newts and consider introductions if this fails.
- Create water bodies with suitable Water Vole habitat.

Long-term management

- Continue to create new ponds so that a range of ages exists on site.

Objectives

- Maintain and create a range of small wetlands for the benefit of a diversity of plant and animal species.
- Create suitable habitats to support a population of Great Crested Newts.

Relevant UK BAP targets

Establish populations of Great Crested Newts in appropriate unoccupied sites, ensuring that the species is found in sites that are representative of the range of habitats used and the geographic distribution.

Maintain the geographical range of the Great Crested Newt.

Maintain the viability of existing Great Crested Newt populations.

Relevant Lancashire LBAP targets

Maintain the range, distribution and viability of existing populations of Great Crested Newts.

Assist the natural establishment of new self-sustaining populations of Great Crested Newts through the restoration of 'pondways' and of landscapes rich in ponds (so-called 'pondscapes').

Establish new populations of Great Crested Newts at suitable sites within the species' historic range in Lancashire.

Establish Great Crested Newt as a 'flagship' species for ponds.

HEDGEROWS

Current extent and condition

- Around 250m of species-poor, fragmented hedgerow remains of a once extensive network destroyed by quarrying operations.
- Small numbers of birds continue to breed in this habitat, including the UK Priority Species Tree Sparrow and Song Thrush.

Proposed actions

- Plant a minimum of 2 km of connected, species-rich hedgerow and restore derelict hedges.

Objectives

- Create a series of wildlife corridors connecting all habitats of the site with the surrounding woodlands and other habitats.
- Extend breeding habitat for a range of species, including Tree Sparrow and Song Thrush.
- Provide feeding habitat for a range of species including the UK Priority Species Pipistrelle Bat.

Relevant UK BAP targets

Maintain geographical range and increase population size and of Tree Sparrow and Song Thrush.

Maintain and restore the existing population size and geographical range of Pipistrellus pipistrellus/pygmaeus.

Relevant Lancashire LBAP targets

Maintain and improve opportunities for bats to roost, feed and hibernate.

For the benefit of bats, promote planting and suitable management of hedgerows to increase linkage between feeding areas, and incorporate water bodies, new woodland and flight lines for bats into landscape strategies and landscape proposals arising from development.

POST INDUSTRIAL SITES OF HIGH NATURE CONSERVATION VALUE (UKBAP under construction)

Current extent and condition

- 112ha of heavily modified post-industrial land. Some small areas of semi-natural habitat remain.

Proposed actions

- To create and modify 112ha of habitats (see above).
- Buildings, roads and other hard infrastructure will be modified for ecological gain where appropriate.

Long-term management

- See above for specific actions.

Objectives

- Site will be restored for nature conservation and quiet leisure.

Relevant UK BAP targets

To be determined

Relevant Lancashire LBAP targets

Manage and enhance the biodiversity of quarries and gravel pits.