

12.7 BIRDS

Application (all bird guidelines)

For the purposes of these guidelines acceptable evidence of breeding by bird species includes: the presence of a territorial male; singing birds heard on three consecutive dates, repeated sightings of the species concerned in suitable habitat during the breeding season; pair behaviour during the breeding season; birds seen nest-building or carrying food or faecal sacs; fledgling birds seen; or an occupied nest is found.

Account should also be taken of the fact that birds are generally far more mobile than other animals; many show well defined, but sometimes complex patterns of migration. This means that sites other than breeding sites are also essential to their well being. Such areas may include those regularly used for major pre- or post-breeding gatherings, migration staging posts, moulting and during different stages of the winter.

Eligible sites will exclude domestic and industrial buildings whether or not they are in use. When determining the boundaries of the Local Wildlife Site consideration should be made of breeding and roosting sites.

For the purposes of these guidelines 'regularly' will be judged by the species being recorded in at least 4 of the most recent years 5 years for which data are available.

Bird Selection Guidelines

Sites that meet one or more of the following guidelines will be eligible for designation as a Local Wildlife Site.

Bi1 Any site which regularly supports 0.5% or more of the total British breeding population of any native bird species.

Application

This guideline could be used for any site where breeding birds are known and may include habitats or features used for activities associated with breeding including feeding and display.

Justification

The threshold for the selection of nationally important sites (SSSIs) is 1% of the total population. A number of non-statutory site systems have used a figure of 0.5% as being indicative of an important site at County level: this figure has been adopted in these guidelines.

Bi2 Any site which regularly supports 0.5% or more of the total British non-breeding population of any native bird species.

Application

This guideline is likely to be applied to wintering bird populations, but would also be applicable in other seasons.

Justification

The threshold for the selection of nationally important sites (SSSIs) is 1% of the total population. A number of non-statutory site systems have used a figure of 0.5% as being indicative of an important site at County level: this figure has been adopted in these guidelines.

Bi3 Any site that regularly supports a breeding population of a species on the UK 'Red List' of Birds of Conservation Concern 3 (Eaton *et al*, 2009) or the UK BAP Priority Bird species list or subsequent amendments.

Application

Many of the species included on these lists are common and widespread within the county, making designation inappropriate. Therefore, this guideline should only be applied following discussions with Derbyshire Ornithological Society and other local experts to determine whether particular species under consideration are appropriate for site designations. Decisions should be based on current knowledge of the distribution, rarity and population trends of individual species at the time, both at national, regional and county level.

Sites should support at least 1 breeding pair of any of the species under consideration and species should be listed on one or either of the lists, including any subsequent amendments.

Breeding must be confirmed for at least two of the last three years. Boundaries for these sites must reflect the habitat in which these species use for breeding and any other specific habitat requirements for feeding juveniles.

Justification

The species listed on the Red List of the 'Birds of Conservation Concern 3' (Eaton *et al*, 2009) and the UK BAP Priority Species list, include species which are uncommon to rare in Derbyshire and which are therefore a conservation priority within the county.

Bi4 Sites that regularly support a breeding population of a species considered as a rare breeding bird in Derbyshire.

Application:

This applies to species with fewer than 20 breeding pairs in Derbyshire or to a species with fewer than 50 breeding pairs restricted to 10 sites or less.

The frequency of a species as a breeding bird within the county should be quantified by consultation with Derbyshire Ornithological Society and reference to the Derbyshire Breeding Birds Atlas when this is published.

The boundaries for the sites should reflect the habitat requirements for breeding and for feeding juveniles.

Justification

These birds are rare in Derbyshire and merit protection.

Bi 5 Any site which regularly supports a good assemblage of breeding bird species characteristic of the habitat in which they are recorded.

Application

This guideline should be applied to any habitat or site which regularly supports a good assemblage of breeding bird species characteristic of the habitat in which they are recorded. This guideline should be applied to the habitats listed in Tables 11a – 11d. The list of birds and the scores given to them have been taken from the Guidelines for the Biological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 1998) and have been adapted to reflect the priorities for the county. The selection thresholds have been chosen to reflect assemblages of significance in Derbyshire. Information to assess a site must be gathered for at least 2 of the last three years.

Justification

If a site has these assemblages it is considered to be important in that it provides breeding habitat for some of the priority and threatened bird species of the county.

Table 11a - Wetland habitats, including reedbed, open water, and fen.			
Mute Swan	2	Snipe	5
Shelduck	4	Kingfisher	2
Gadwall	3	Curlew	4
Little Grebe	2	Redshank	4
Water Rail	4	Cuckoo	2
Garganey	5	Ringed Plover	3
Shoveler	4	Yellow Wagtail	2
Great Crested Grebe	2	Little Ringed Plover	3
Grey Heron	3	Grasshopper Warbler	4
Tufted Duck	3	Sedge Warbler	1
Lapwing	4	Reed Bunting	1
Black-necked Grebe	5	Reed Warbler	1
Grey Wagtail	1	Common Tern	3
Dipper	2		
Selection threshold value 15			

Table 11b - Upland moorland and grassland without water bodies			
Teal	3	Redshank	2
Hen harrier	5	Tree Pipit	2
Buzzard	3	Meadow Pipit	1
Merlin	4	Raven	3
Peregrine	4	Twite	5
Red Grouse	1	Whinchat	2
Golden Plover	3	Stonechat	3
Dunlin	4	Wheatear	2
Snipe	2	Ring Ouzel	3
Curlew	2	Short-eared owl	3
Lapwing	3	Skylark	2
Cuckoo	2		
Selection threshold value 15			

Table 11c – Woodland			
Grey heron	3	Willow Warbler	1
Goshawk	5	Pied Flycatcher	3
Sparrowhawk	1	Firecrest	5
Buzzard	3	Marsh Tit	3
Woodcock	3	Willow Tit	3
Stock Dove	1	Coal Tit	1
Cuckoo	2	Nuthatch	2
Tawny owl	1	Treecreeper	1
Long-eared Owl	3	Jay	1
Nightjar	4	Goldcrest	1
Green Woodpecker	2	Siskin	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	Common Crossbill	3
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	5	Bullfinch	1
Redstart	3	Hawfinch	5
Garden Warbler	1	Song Thrush	2
Blackcap	1	Spotted Flycatcher	3
Wood Warbler	3	Tree Pipit	2
Chiffchaff	1	Redpoll	2
Tree sparrow	3		
Selection threshold value 17			

Table 11d - Farmland Mosaic			
Turtle Dove	3	Grasshopper Warbler	4
Cuckoo	2	Whitethroat	1
Long-eared Owl	3	Lesser Whitethroat	1
Yellowhammer	2	Garden Warbler	1
Tree Pipit	3	Blackcap	1
Whinchat	2	Linnet	2
Stonechat	2	Reed Bunting	2
Tree Sparrow	3	Grey Partridge	3
Corn Bunting	3	Skylark	2
Lapwing	4	Hobby	4
Little Owl	4	Barn Owl	4
Yellow Wagtail	2	Song Thrush	2
Bullfinch	1	Spotted Flycatcher	3
Selected threshold value 13			

Bi6 Any site which regularly supports a significant breeding population of wader species.

Application.

This guideline should be applied to sites which support:

3 pairs of breeding Lapwing;

or 3 pairs of breeding Snipe;

or 3 pairs of breeding Curlew;

or 3 pairs of breeding Redshank

or 8 breeding pairs comprising two or more of the above species

This guideline should be applied to individual fields or clusters of adjacent fields which are managed in a similar way. The current level of knowledge in the County does not permit use of a breeding density measurement in this guideline or a composite index based on two or more of the above species. Although they can be of considerable importance for breeding Lapwing, arable fields or short term leys or other disturbed land are not covered by this guideline.

Justification

Breeding wader populations have declined within the UK especially in the lowlands due to agricultural change. Remaining areas of suitable habitat are increasingly important for these species in Derbyshire.

Bi7 Any site from which the following have been recorded:

a) 45 breeding bird species or

b) 60 breeding and wintering bird species or

c) 100 breeding, wintering and passage bird species.

Application

This guideline may be applied to sites which offer an exceptional range of habitat opportunities for birds. Any authentic record of species making active use of the site in the five years prior to site assessment may be included.

Justification

Complex habitats mosaics may be very valuable for birds, including sites which are of particular importance to passage migrants and winter visitors outside the breeding season. The SSSI selection guideline is 70 breeding species, 90 wintering species or 150 passage species.

Bi8 Any site that supports a significant wintering wildfowl population.

Application.

This guideline should be applied to sites where Wetlands Birds Surveys (WeBS) are carried out on a regular basis. Consideration should only be given to sites assessed by the Derbyshire Ornithological Society and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust to be one of the most significant sites in the county.

Further data analysis is required prior to implementation of this guideline.

Justification.

The protection of key wintering bird sites in Derbyshire will contribute to the conservation of wintering bird species regionally and/or within the UK.

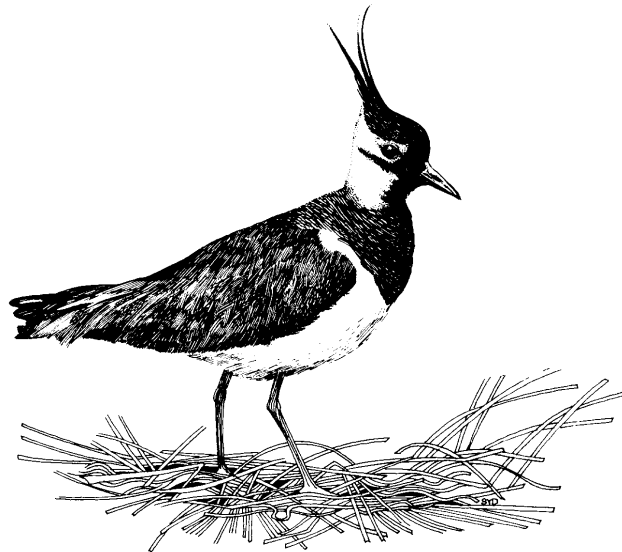
Bi9 Any site that supports a significant population of a colonial nesting bird.

Application.

Sites supporting significant populations of bird species that nest colonially such as Swift, Sand Martin and Heron may be included under this guideline. Further information should be sought from Derbyshire Ornithological Society in determining how significant a site may be for a particular species in the county.

Justification.

Birds that nest in colonies may be especially vulnerable to the loss of a site and where necessary these sites should be protected.



Lapwing