Appendix 26: Biodiversity Action Plan Summary

Sawtry Internal Drainage Board



Biodiversity Action Plan Summary for Sawtry Internal Drainage Board (342)

The actions listed in this appendix summarise Sawtry Internal Drainage Board's Biodiversity Action Plan as a part of the larger Middle Level Biodiversity Action Plan. The plan has been prepared in accordance with the commitment in the Implementation Plan of the DEFRA Internal Drainage Board Review for IDBs to produce their own Biodiversity Action Plans by April, 2010.

It also demonstrates the Board's commitment to fulfilling its duty as a public body under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to conserve biodiversity.

Many of the Board's activities have benefits for biodiversity, not least its water level management and ditch maintenance work. This Biodiversity Action Plan will help the Board to maximise the biodiversity benefits of its activities and demonstrate its contribution to the Government's UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets.

The Board has adopted the Biodiversity Action Plan as one of its policies and is committed to its implementation. It will review the plan periodically and update it as appropriate.

	Date
Anthony Darby Chairman of the Board	

This Biodiversity Action Plan is a public statement by the Board of its biodiversity objectives and the methods by which it intends to achieve them.

We would welcome appropriate involvement in the delivery of the Plan from interested organisations, companies, and individuals.

You can contact us about this Biodiversity Action Plan by writing to the following address:

Sawtry Internal Drainage Board Middle Level Offices Dartford Road March Cambs PE15 8AF

or by email: admin@middlelevel.gov.uk

Further information is available on the Middle Level Commissioners' website: http://www.middlelevel.gov.uk/

or from the Environmental Officer employed by the Board to advise on biodiversity matters: cliff.carson@middlelevel.gov.uk

Biodiversity Audit

Map

The location map shows the drainage district, adopted drains, Middle Level main drains and any relevant designated sites and ditches of biodiversity interest.

Designated Sites

- International sites: 1
 - o Woodwalton Fen (Ramsar, SAC)
- National and local statutory sites: 1
 - Woodwalton Fen (SSSI, NNR)
- County Wildlife Sites : none
 - adjacent to Five Arches Pits East, Lady's Wood, Riddy Wood and Woodwalton RSV County Wildlife Sites
- Scheduled monuments: 2
 - o Castle Hill Motte & Bailey castle
 - Sawtry Abbey

Habitats

Key habitats for Sawtry IDB:

- Drainage ditch
- Reedbed
- Fen
- · Open water

Species

Key species for Sawtry IDB:

- Water vole
- Otter
- Bats
- Kingfisher
- Barn owl

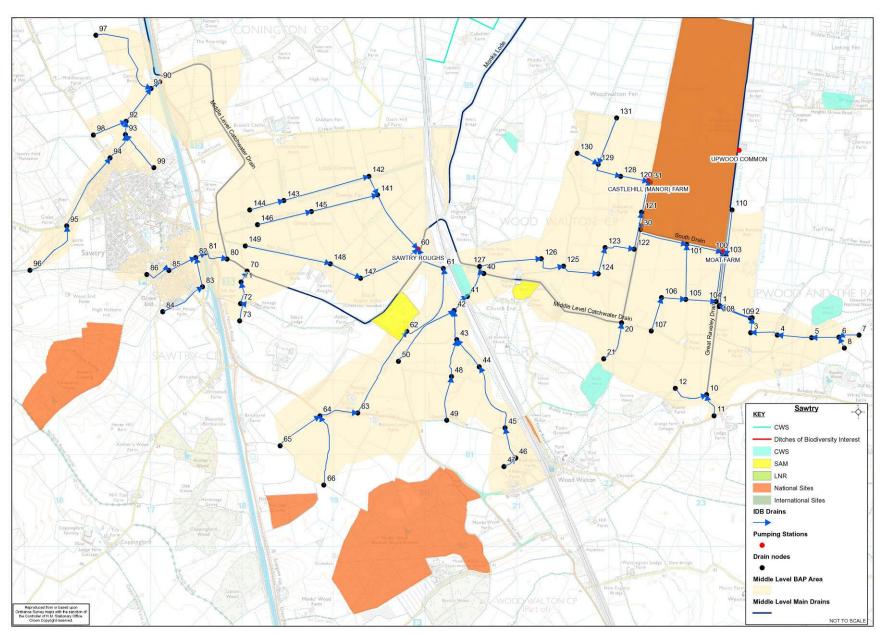
Procedural

Training and capital works are covered by a Procedural Action Plan.

Notes

Water voles have been recorded on some of the IDB drains and at Woodwalton Fen, and will be assumed to be present when carrying out work. Otters use the Great Raveley Drain and probably also the Middle Level Catchwater Drain. A list of species recorded in the drainage district is provided at the end of this document. The list is restricted to BAP species and species listed under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

Location Map



Drainage Ditch Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Reporting
	Manage ditches for 1 biodiversity as well as for drainage	1.1	Establish and maintain a management plan for routine IDB operations incorporating key biodiversity features	Environmental Officer	2015	Plan finalised and followed each year	Annual after plan created
1		1.2	Look for opportunities to provide natural erosion protection such as marginal plant ledges when re-profiling ditches	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	If re-profiling is carried out, opportunities identified	Annual
	1.3	Provide natural erosion protection as in 1.2 if opportunities available	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	Length of ditch with ledge / natural vegetation revetment	Annual if opportunities available	
2	Identify ditches of conservation interest and manage appropriately	2.2	Ensure appropriate management of ditches for priority species	Environmental Officer, Plantlife, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	Specified in management plan	Annual
3	Support the Environmental Officer in working with landowners to benefit wildlife in the district	3.1	Refer private landowners to the Environmental Officer for advice on creating field margin buffer zones and wildlife-friendly ditch management	Environmental Officer, Natural England, Wildlife Trust, FWAG	Ongoing	Number of contacts received and passed to Environmental Officer	Annual
4	Control invasive species	4.1	Report any sightings of non- native invasive species immediately to the Environmental Officer and control as appropriate (see Appendix F for species list)	Environmental Officer, Environment Agency, Plantlife, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	Reports to Environmental Officer	Annual
5	Plant black poplars to increase existing population	5.1	Identify suitable sites and plant at least 2 young black poplars	Environmental Officer	2015	Number of trees planted	2015 with annual progress reports

Reedbed Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Reporting
1	Identify, assess and map any areas of reedbed over 0.5ha in size	1.1	Pass details of any known areas to MLC Environmental Officer	Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Environment Agency	2012	Review of reedbed areas carried out	2013
2	Support appropriate reedbed creation	2.2	Manage the District adopted drains, where possible, to assist private landowners who wish to create areas of reedbed on their own land	Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency	Ongoing	(a) Number of requests received (b) Number of landowners assisted	In response to approaches
3	Take conservation value of reedbed into account when planning and carrying out ditch and river maintenance	3.2	Where reeds are present, commence mowing or cleansing work outside the bird breeding season (7 th April – 15 th July). Where reeds are growing in water be aware of the potential for late-nesting reed warblers being present until late August and avoid mowing in that location. In exceptional circumstances where this is not possible, seek advice from the Environmental Officer.	Environmental Officer, Wildlife Trust, RSPB	Ongoing	Reeds not cut during bird nesting season	Annual

Fen Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Reporting
1	Identify, assess and map areas of existing fen habitat	1.1	Pass details of any known areas to Environmental Officer	Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Environment Agency	2012	Review of potential fen areas carried out	2013
3	Support conservation measures for existing major fen sites	3.1	Contribute to implementation of WLMP for Woodwalton Fen and Holme Fen	Natural England, Environment Agency, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	WLMP actions implemented where within IDB's control	Annual

Open Water Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Reporting		
	Promote the creation of ponds, lakes and reservoirs in appropriate areas	1.1	Consider pond creation as mitigation when a ditch has to be filled in or culverted	Local authorities, Amphibian & Reptile Conservation, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	(a) Number of mitigation opportunities (b) Number of ponds created	Annual		
1		reservoirs in	reservoirs in	1.2	Support creation of flood storage areas and reservoirs	Environment Agency, Natural England, Wildlife Trust, RSPB	Ongoing	Number of projects involved with	Annual
		1.3	Assist private landowners with advice, information or contacts as necessary	Amphibian & Reptile Conservation, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	(a) Number of information requests (b) Number responded to	Annual		
2	Look for opportunities to create open water habitat when managing ditches	2.1	Create a pool at an appropriate ditch junction when re-profiling (see the Drainage Channel Biodiversity Manual, technique CL3))	Environmental Officer	2010	One pool successfully created	When created or every 5 years		

Water Vole Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Reporting
1	Manage ditches according to the law and to best practice	1.1	Assume water voles are present when carrying out works (discuss special circumstances with the Environmental Officer) and follow the ADA water vole mitigation guide	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	Measures incorporated in management plans	Annual
	for water vole	1.2	Publicise good practice for rat control near drainage ditches	Environmental Officer, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	Good practice publicised	Annual

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	Enhance drainage	2.1	Look for opportunities to add a marginal shelf when re-profiling banks	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	(a) Opportunities identified (b) Measures taken	Annual
2 ditch habitat to benefit water vo	benefit water vole	2.2	Consider using coir roll to stabilise banks and provide marginal vegetation	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	(a) Sites considered (b) Measures taken	Annual
2	Monitor water vole populations	3.1	Set up a survey programme to monitor water vole populations	Environmental Officer, Wildlife Trust	2010	Surveys carried out	Annual
3		3.2	Provide data on water vole to the relevant Biological Records Centres	Environmental Officer, CPBRC, NBIS	Ongoing	Data sent via Environmental Officer annually	Annual
4	Control mink as necessary	4.2	Carry out mink control as part of the Middle Level programme and report all sightings to the Environmental Officer	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	(a) Number of trapping days (b) Number of mink caught	Annual

Otter Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Reporting
1	Improve otter habitat	1.1	Identify and maintain existing key bushes and trees near watercourses likely to be important for otters	Environmental Officer	2012 and ongoing	Sites identified and listed in management plans	Annual
2	Monitor otter populations	2.3	Ensure any dead otters are reported to the Environmental Officer and transferred to the Environment Agency for post mortem	Environment Agency	Ongoing	Otters reported to Environmental Officer, if found	Annual
3	Reduce otter deaths related to eel and crayfish trapping and road traffic	3.1	Report incidents of suspected illegal netting, trapping or fishing to the Environment Agency Fisheries Officers and the MLC Environmental Officer	Environment Agency, Angling Clubs & syndicates	Ongoing	Incidents reported, if discovered	Annual

Bats Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Reporting
	1 Improve habitat for bats	1.1	Put up at least 2 bat boxes at appropriate sites, e.g. pumping stations	Bat Conservation Trust	2015	Number of bat boxes sited	2015 with annual progress report
1		1.2	Pollard suitable trees to provide bat roosts		Ongoing	Number of trees pollarded	Annual
		1.3	Identify potential sites for a bat hibernaculum, e.g. in disused buildings or tunnels	Environmental Officer , Bat Conservation Trust	As opportunities arise	(a) Potential sites looked for (b) Site created	Annual
Collect information of bat population		2.1	Monitor bat boxes	Bat Conservation Trust	2015 onwards	(a) Number of boxes monitored (b) Number of boxes used by bats	Annual
	bat populations	2.2	Pass bat box information to CPBRC and NBIS	Environmental Officer, CPBRC, NBIS	2015 onwards	Data via Environmental Officer annually	Annual

Kingfisher Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Reporting
1	Improve the quality of	1.1	Provide at least 2 potential nest holes in sheet pilings	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	Number of nest sites provided	2015 with annual progress report
	kingfisher habitat	1.2	Leave kingfisher fishing perches where possible (e.g. occasional branch)	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	Number of perch sites left	Annual

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2	Collect records of kingfisher breeding between March and July	2.1	Note sightings of potential breeding kingfisher and pass information to CPBRC and NBIS via the Environmental Officer	Environmental Officer, CPBRC, NBIS	Ongoing	Data sent via Environmental Officer annually	Annual	
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Barn Owl Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Reporting
Improve the 1 quality of barn owl habitat	Improve the	1.1	Put up at least 2 barn owl nest boxes in suitable locations	Wildlife Conservation Partnership	2015	Number of nest boxes provided	2015 with annual progress report
	1.2	Pollard suitable trees to provide natural nest sites	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	Number of trees pollarded	Annual	
Collect records 2 of barn owl presence	2.1	Monitor nest boxes for use. Have occupied boxes checked for success by licensed barn owl ringers.	Wildlife Conservation Partnership	2015	(a) Number of nest boxes checked by licensed ringers (b) Number of nest boxes used	Annual once boxes installed	
	presence	2.2	Pass barn owl box information to CPBRC and NBIS	Environmental Officer, Wildlife Conservation Partnership, CPBRC, NBIS	2015	Data sent via Environmental Officer annually	Annual once boxes installed

Procedural Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Reporting
1	Provide training on IDB BAP and conservation management of drainage channels for all relevant staff by 2013	1.1	Establish programme of 1-day courses for IDB staff and members	Environmental Officer, Wildlife Trust, Natural England, other specialists	2013	(a) Number of courses held (b) Number of Board members / staff attending courses	Annual
		1.2	Establish suitable training for contractors' staff	Environmental Officer, Contractors	2013	Contractors attended training course	Annual
2	Take biodiversity into account when planning and undertaking capital works	2.1	Consult with the Environmental Officer and choose the best possible mitigation solutions for biodiversity, e.g. fish-friendly pumps	Environmental Officer	Ongoing	(a) Number of capital schemes undertaken (b) Number of schemes commented on	Annual

Species list for Sawtry IDB using data from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre:

Designation	Taxon Group	Common Name	Scientific Name
UKBAP	bird	Common Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula
UKBAP	bird	Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus
UNDAF	bild	Common Grasshopper	Cuculus carlorus
UKBAP	bird	Warbler	Locustella naevia
UKBAP	bird	Common Linnet	Carduelis cannabina
UKBAP	bird	Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris
UKBAP	bird	Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra
UKBAP	bird	Eurasian Curlew	Numenius arquata
UKBAP	bird	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus
UKBAP	bird	European Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus
UKBAP	bird	European Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur
UKBAP	bird	Grey Partridge	Perdix perdix
UKBAP	bird	Hawfinch	Coccothraustes coccothraustes
UKBAP	bird	Hedge Accentor	Prunella modularis
UKBAP	bird	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus
UKBAP	bird	Lesser Redpoll	Carduelis cabaret
UKBAP	bird	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos minor
UKBAP	bird	Marsh Tit	Poecile palustris
UKBAP	bird	Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus
UKBAP	bird	Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus
UKBAP	bird	Sky Lark	Alauda arvensis
UKBAP	bird	Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos
UKBAP	bird	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata
UKBAP	bird	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis
UKBAP	bird	Willow Tit	Poecile montanus
UKBAP	bird	Wood Warbler	Phylloscopus sibilatrix
UKBAP	bird	Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava
UKBAP	bird	Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella
UKBAP	flowering plant	Crested Cow-wheat	Melampyrum cristatum
UKBAP	flowering plant	Fen Violet	Viola persicifolia
UKBAP	flowering plant	Greater Water-parsnip	Sium latifolium
UKBAP	flowering plant	Three-Lobed Crowfoot	Ranunculus tripartitus
UKBAP	flowering plant	True Fox-sedge	Carex vulpina
UKBAP	flowering plant	Tubular Water-dropwort	Oenanthe fistulosa
UKBAP	insect - butterfly	Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae
UKBAP	insect - butterfly	Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus malvae
UKBAP	insect - butterfly	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria euphrosyne
UKBAP	insect - butterfly	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus
UKBAP	insect - butterfly	Wall	Lasiommata megera
UKBAP	insect - butterfly	White Admiral	Limenitis camilla
UKBAP	insect - butterfly	White-letter Hairstreak	Satyrium w-album
UKBAP	insect - butterfly	Wood White	Leptidea sinapis
UKBAP	insect - moth	Beaded Chestnut	Agrochola lychnidis
UKBAP	insect - moth	Blood-Vein	Timandra comae
UKBAP	insect - moth	Brindled Beauty	Lycia hirtaria
UKBAP	insect - moth	Broom Moth	Melanchra pisi
UKBAP	insect - moth	Brown-spot Pinion Buff Ermine	Agrochola litura
UKBAP	insect - moth	Centre-barred Sallow	Spilosoma luteum
UKBAP UKBAP	insect - moth insect - moth	Cinnabar	Atethmia centrago Tyria jacobaeae
UKBAP	insect - moth		Xanthorhoe ferrugata
UNDAF	msect - moth	Dark-barred Twin-spot	Aantiioinioe leitugala

		Carpet	
UKBAP	insect - moth	Dot Moth	Melanchra persicariae
UKBAP	insect - moth	Double Dart	Graphiphora augur
UKBAP	insect - moth	Dusky Brocade	Apamea remissa
UKBAP	insect - moth	Dusky Thorn	Ennomos fuscantaria
UKBAP	insect - moth	Dusky-lemon Sallow	Xanthia gilvago
UKBAP	insect - moth	False Mocha	Cyclophora porata
UKBAP	insect - moth	Feathered Gothic	Tholera decimalis
UKBAP	insect - moth	Figure of Eight	Diloba caeruleocephala
UKBAP	insect - moth	Flounced Chestnut	Agrochola helvola
UKBAP	insect - moth	Garden Dart	Euxoa nigricans
UKBAP	insect - moth	Garden Tiger	Arctia caja
UKBAP	insect - moth	Ghost Moth	Hepialus humuli
UKBAP	insect - moth	Green-brindled Crescent	Allophyes oxyacanthae
UKBAP	insect - moth	Grey Dagger	Acronicta psi
UKBAP	insect - moth	Hedge Rustic	Tholera cespitis
UKBAP	insect - moth	Lackey	Malacosoma neustria
UKBAP	insect - moth	Large Nutmeg	Apamea anceps
UKBAP	insect - moth	Latticed Heath	Chiasmia clathrata
UKBAP	insect - moth	Minor Shoulder-knot	Brachylomia viminalis
UKBAP	insect - moth	Mottled Rustic	Caradrina morpheus
UKBAP	insect - moth	Mouse Moth	Amphipyra tragopoginis
UKBAP	insect - moth	Oak Hook-tip	Watsonalla binaria
UKBAP	insect - moth	Oak Hook-Tip	Drepana binaria
UKBAP	insect - moth	Oak Lutestring	Cymatophorima diluta
ONDAI	III36Ct - IIIOtiI	Oak Edlesting	Cymatophorima diluta subsp.
UKBAP	insect - moth	Oak Lutestring	hartwiegi
UKBAP	insect - moth	Oblique Carpet	Orthonama vittata
UKBAP	insect - moth	Pale Eggar	Trichiura crataegi
UKBAP	insect - moth	Pale Shining Brown	Polia bombycina
UKBAP	insect - moth	Powdered Quaker	Orthosia gracilis
UKBAP	insect - moth	Rosy Minor	Mesoligia literosa
UKBAP	insect - moth	Rosy Rustic	Hydraecia micacea
UKBAP	insect - moth	Rustic	Hoplodrina blanda
UKBAP	insect - moth	Sallow	Xanthia icteritia
UKBAP	insect - moth	September Thorn	Ennomos erosaria
UKBAP	insect - moth	Shaded Broad-bar	Scotopteryx chenopodiata
UKBAP	insect - moth	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	Mythimna comma
UKBAP	insect - moth	Small Emerald	Hemistola chrysoprasaria
UKBAP	insect - moth	Small Phoenix	Ecliptopera silaceata
UKBAP	insect - moth	Small Square-spot	Diarsia rubi
UKBAP	insect - moth	Sprawler	Asteroscopus sphinx
UKBAP	insect - moth	White Ermine	Spilosoma lubricipeda
UKBAP	insect - moth	White-spotted Pinion	Cosmia diffinis
OND/II	terrestrial	Willia opolica i illion	ocenna annino
UKBAP	mammal	Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus
	terrestrial		. ,
UKBAP	mammal	Harvest Mouse	Micromys minutus
	terrestrial		
UKBAP	mammal	Hazel Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Barn Owl	Tyto alba
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Bearded Tit	Panurus biarmicus
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Bewick's Swan	Cygnus columbianus
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Brambling	Fringilla montifringilla

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WCA Schedule 1	bird	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Common Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Eurasian Dotterel	Charadrius morinellus
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Eurasian Wryneck	Jynx torquilla
WCA Schedule 1	bird	European Honey-buzzard	Pernis apivorus
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Firecrest	Regulus ignicapilla
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Garganey	Anas querquedula
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Great Bittern	Botaurus stellaris
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Greater Scaup	Aythya marila
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Hobby	Falco subbuteo
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Merlin	Falco columbarius
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Northern Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Pied Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Red Kite	Milvus milvus
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Redwing	Turdus iliacus
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Spotted Crake	Porzana porzana
WCA Schedule 1	bird	Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus
WCA Schedule 5	amphibian	Great crested newt	Triturus cristatus
WCA Schedule 5	bat	Barbastelle	Barbastella barbastellus
WCA Schedule 5	bat	Bat unspecified	Chiroptera
WCA Schedule 5	bat	Brown long-eared Bat	Plecotus auritus
WCA Schedule 5	bat	Leisler's Bat	Nyctalus leisleri
WCA Schedule 5	bat	Noctule	Nyctalus noctula
	terrestrial	•	
WCA Schedule 5	mammal	Otter	Lutra lutra
WCA Schedule 5	terrestrial	Water Vole	Arvicala tarractria
WOA Scriedule 3	mammal	vvalei voie	Arvicola terrestris