

AYRSHIRE BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN : MONITORING

■ Complete
 ■ Underway
 ■ Underway - Limited Progress
 ■ Not Started

1) Core Theme Action Plan: ABAP Implementation, Reporting and Monitoring

Obj. Ref.	Objective	Target	Action Ref	Action	Target	Lead partner	Other delivery agents	Progress
CTIR-1	To ensure effective coordination of, and communication within, the ABAP Partnership to enable effective partnership working towards its overall aim	ABAP Partnership meeting held annually	CTIR-1.1	The ABAP Management Group to meet quarterly to ensure effective coordination of whole ABAP	ABAP Management Group meeting quarterly and minutes of meetings available to all ABAP partners.	ABAP Coordination	ABAP Management Group	Quarterly meetings of Steering Group agreed and underway. Minutes etc. now available on AJPU website. See below (CTIR - 1.4) for details of website.
		Regular updates on progress to ABAP website.	CTIR-1.2	The full Partnership to meet annually to share experience and contribute to the overall monitoring of effectiveness of ABAPs	ABAP Partnership meeting annually and proceedings of meetings available to all ABAP partners.	ABAP Coordination	ABAP Partnership	First annual meeting held September 2009. Partnership proceedings to be made available on web site. See below (CTIR - 1.4)
			CTIR-1.3	Widen the ABAP Partnership by publicising the ABAP projects and progress to increase number of organisations and individuals involved in promoting, using and implementing the ABAP	An increase of 25 individuals involved in delivering ABAP actions each year between 2007 and 2009	ABAP Coordination	ABAP-Management Group, ABAP-Partnership, ABAP-Partners	Not started
			CTIR-1.4	Establish Website to act as an information hub for the ABAP partnership, including core information about the ABAP works, progress on action plans and links to monitoring data	Website established with full information on the ABAP during 2008	ABAP Coordination		Website completed May 2009.
			CTIR-1.5	Maintain ABAP website to ensure current information is always available.	New material posted to the website every month. Updates on dated information made within 3 weeks of expiry	ABAP Coordination		Regular updating now available through AJPU website.
			CTIR-1.6	All Plan Leaders providing feedback on progress, issues and solutions affecting ABAP actions to ABAP Management Group	Written update to Management Group from each Plan Leader at least once a year.	ABAP Coordination	ABAP-Plan Leaders, ABAP-Management Group	Action replaced by quarterly verbal reporting of Group Leaders to Steering Group and report back at Annual meeting (see CTIR - 1.2)

CTIR-2	To ensure effective communication with Scottish BAP process, UK biodiversity process and other LBAPS	ABAP's activities known to all Scottish LBAPs, Scottish Biodiversity Group and UKBAP movement through contact with each at least once a year	CTIR-2.1	Participate in the UK and Scottish biodiversity fora to ensure effective communication	ABAP represented at all relevant Scottish and UK LBAP partner meetings	ABAP Coordination		Some progress but dependent on resources
			CTIR-2.2	Maintain regular contact with the Scottish Biodiversity Implementation team, in particular in relation to the use and interpretation of the Scottish Biodiversity List and work of the Local Implementation Group	Contact with SBIT at least once a quarter	ABAP Coordination		Contact through SBC new procedures and links to other LBAPs.
			CTIR-2.3	Carry out appropriate liaison with neighboring LBAP partnerships to share experience and identify opportunities for joint working	At least one joint action plan initiated with a neighboring LBAP by Summer 2010	ABAP Coordination		Not Started
CTIR-3	To ensure effective reporting and review of ABAP to enable monitoring of progress to targets and to contribute to reporting at a Scottish and UK level.	Full update on progress towards all actions entered into BARS every year. Annual report on progress towards objectives and aims publicly available annually	CTIR-3.1	Enter new ABAP actions and targets on BARS	ABAP fully available on BARS during 2008.	ABAP Coordination		Data on coast and record centre targets and action on BARS (Feb 2010) as above CTIR-3.1
			CTIR-3.2	Maintain current data on all action and targets on BARS, including adding new action plans as they are agreed.	Full update on progress towards all actions every year.	ABAP Coordination		As above (CTIR-3.1)
			CTIR-3.3	Complete an annual review of progress towards objectives of all action plans	Annual statement of overall progress towards objectives agreed by Management Group and published on website.	ABAP Coordination	ABAP-Management Group	Part of CTIR - 1.5
			CTIR-3.4	All action plans should be reviewed and assessed on a cyclical basis, including the need for new action plans as further information /resources become available.	Review of all action plans completed 6-months before the end of the plan and proposals for new action plans invited by the Management Group annually.	ABAP Coordination	ABAP-Management Group	Discussions started at Steering Group (see minutes)

2) Core Theme Action Plan: Data and Information

Obj. Ref.	Objective	Target	Action Ref	Action	Target	Lead partner	Other delivery agents	Progress
CTDI-1	To establish an Ayrshire-wide biological records centre	A biological records centre covering Ayrshire established, systems in place to collate data and progress identifying services needed by key users completed by Summer 2009	CTDI-1.1	Convene a regional meeting to consider geographic options for managing biological data across central/western Scotland.	Regional meeting held by October 2007	SNH		
			CTDI-1.2	Establish a management group to oversee the development of a LBRC in either in Ayrshire or a wider area	First meeting of Management group held and terms of reference and membership agreed by May 2008	NAC	AJSPTU SAyC EAyC SWT SNH	
			CTDI-1.3	Prepare and implement development programmer to setup data management systems and collate high priority datasets for Ayrshire	Suite of data policies completed by December 2008. Links with key recorders developed by April 2009 and initial base of 50,000 priority records computerized and verified.	NAC	AJSPTU SAyC EAyC SWT SNH	Programmer not required as data to be extracted from National Biodiversity Network. Links with key recorders moving forward as from August 2010, with help and assistance from NAC Ranger service.
			CTDI-1.4	Develop a funding package for LBRC for three years, linked to initial provision of services especially to LAs	Three-year funding package secured by April 2009	NAC	AJSPTU SAyC EAyC SWT SNH	
			CTDI-1.5	Set up LBRC	LBRC begins providing core service to key users by August 2009	NAC	AJSPTU SAyC EAyC SWT SNH	Record centre now displaying biodiversity records on an online GIS. What is now needed are records that are meaningful to decision makers; suitable resolution of data at an appropriate scale. Discussions are ongoing with Ayrshire Rivers Trust to pilot water vole data. North Ayrshire now has wildlife in Cunninghame digitised and now online. SWT provisional wildlife sites for North Ayrshire are now being scoped for inclusion. Data now has to be extracted from NBN as shapefiles, to make the process of local display significantly easier.

3) Habitat Action Plan: Lowland Raised Bog

Obj. Ref.	Objective	Target	Action Ref	Action	Target	Lead partner	Other delivery agents	Progress
HPLRB-1	To understand the lowland raised bog resource in Ayrshire and its condition by producing a full list of raised bogs with their size, location, ownership, vegetation cover, current condition, associated wildlife, the conservation measures already being taken and using this data to rank the sites in order of their conservation importance	Database set up and sites ranked by 2007	HPLRB-1-1	Collate and analyse available information from Lowland Raised Bog Inventory, Wildlife Sites register and species records using a GIS database	Database set up and mechanism for updating in place by December 2007	Bruce Philp, Scottish Agriculture College,	SNH	Existing information gathered and collated. All information is old (ie 1990) so only general conclusions can be drawn from it.
			HPLRB-1-2	Preparation of recording methodology and recording proforma	Proforma prepared by December 2007			Draft methodology prepared and tested. Modifications made by Gill Smart and training given to ranger services in N and E Ayrshire. Survey proforma modified to simplify and speed up survey work.
			HPLRB-1-3	Rank sites in order of their known conservation importance based on size, intactness, condition of the moss surface, associated wildlife and need for management (This ranking to be reviewed as more data becomes available)	Sites initially ranked by February 2008 which includes data on hydrology and topography.		FWAG SAC SEERAD	Initial ranking carried out. Given the nature of the existing information this is very preliminary but has provided a basis for some sort of prioritisation. Following further survey work a shorter list of priority sites has been prepared. As there are still a few sites that have not been surveyed this will still have to be provisional but can be regraded as fairly final.
			HPLRB-1-4	Contact owners and visit bogs to establish all ownership boundaries, its current use, its condition and the degree of empathy of the owner to bog restoration	All owners visited and data added to database by October 2008		FWAG SWT SEERAD SAC	More information received re South of Scotland Bog Project. Training session held at Low Moss for N&E Ayrshire Rangers. Survey work largely completed. Some bogs have been missed.
HPLRB-2	To identify the relative value of the raised bogs based on their invertebrate importance using water beetle communities as indicators.	All bogs ranked based on invertebrate surveys by 2009	HPLRB-2-1	Survey bogs for water-beetle populations using standard sampling method and expert identification of samples	Site status report produced by December 2009		Garth Foster	No progress

HPLRB-3	To safeguard the specialist wildlife of lowland raised bogs by encouraging their management through providing owners and managers with advice and guidance on best practice.	30 owners provided with guidance by 2009 20 owners visited demonstration sites by 2009	HPLRB-3-1	Make best practice advice available to bog owners by training all LRB HAP surveyors and advisors and equipping them with information for a structured programme of visits to owners	30 owners provided with management information by 2009	Gill Smart, SWT	FWAG SAC SNH	No progress to date. This will depend on completion of the first parts. Some management proposals have been prepared as part of an (unsuccessful) SRDP application for some of the priority bogs but I do not have a copy of these yet.	
			HPLRB-3-2	Provide access to two exemplar managed raised bogs for bog owners through a programme of guided site visits with appropriate literature to Dalmellington Moss and, if possible, to one other	20 owners visited demonstration sites by 2009		SNH SWT	As above. The sites mentioned above could come into management if funding was available. Discussed using SAC bogs with SNH. These had been in South Scotland Bog Project.	
HPLRB-4	To rehabilitate example lowland raised bogs in Ayrshire through, initially, remedial work on two raised bogs not currently under conservation management, including a monitoring programme and proposals for the management of further sites.	Management of two raised bogs in progress by 2009	HPLRB-4-1	Select target bogs by ranking sites on available data (see HPLRB-1-2) and their suitability for restoration	Two sites selected with the owners agreement on the work by 2008	Tommy Loudon, FWAG	SWT SNH SAC LRB Site Owners	Incidental' progress as advice is being given via the South of Scotland Bog Project. According to SNH only one owner has carried out any management. To date he has not been contacted.	
			HPLRB-4-2	Draw up proposed management actions for both bogs, cost work and seek funding	Detailed plans for conservation work complete by 2008 Conservation work funded by 2009		SWT SNH SAC	As above.	
			HPLRB-4-3	Implement management work	Programme of management work begun by 2009				Not due.
			HPLRB-4-4	Draw up and implement monitoring programme to establish the medium to long-term effects of management	Monitoring programme in place by 2009				Not due.
			HPLRB-4-5	Prepare proposals for further conservation actions for lowland raised bogs based on the experience gained during the HAP	Proposals available for consideration of ABAP Management Group by 2009				Not due.

4) Habitat Action Plan: Coastal Habitats

Obj. Ref.	Objective	Target	Action Ref	Action	Target	Lead partner	Other delivery agents	Progress
HPCH-1	To conserve, as far as possible, the condition & importance of sand dune wildlife habitat & its biodiversity in the 'south Irvine area' and identifying opportunities for habitat de-fragmentation, rehabilitation and re-creation.	Proposals for a network of potentially linked and managed biodiversity sand dune habitat sites in the 'south Irvine area' identified by 2009	HPCH-1-1	Collate all known data about the soils, habitats, plants and invertebrates of the 'south Irvine area' to define the area and to produce ranked lists of nationally and locally important plants and invertebrates	Boundary to the sand dominated area defined by June 2008 Ranked lists of plants and invertebrates produced by October 2008.	SWT	SWT SNH KAGM Carol Crawford	Gill has finalised GIS shape boundary and will circulate to all Coastal Members. Gill & Carol currently working on plants and ranking.
			HPCH-1-2	Establish contact with all relevant site owners and evaluate their reaction to the biodiversity aspects of their land	All relevant owners approached and their responses recorded by December 2008		SWT NAyC	Once GIS shape file circulated we can work on confirming land owners though most thought to be NAC, Irvine Bay Regeneration Co., Golf Courses.
			HPCH-1-3	Re-survey to Phase 1 the habitats of the area with the emphasis on identifying core areas, areas which could be linked to help with de-fragmentation, future habitat improvements and habitat management requirements.	Detailed annotated habitat map on GIS produced by September 2009		NAyC Consultant	Iain to make available link to Phase 1 mapping that we obtained from SNH. We need to check when survey took place and that tags are legible.
			HPCH-1-4	Produce biodiversity opportunities, site linkage, habitat rehabilitation, habitat enhancement and habitat management proposals for the 'south Irvine area' with stakeholders.	Proposals document produced by December 2009		SNH Nayc	Discussions took place with Irvine Bay Regeneration Company. However there was not enough confidence in known data to identify appropriate measures. (No July update on this matter)

HPCH-2	To assess the importance of the biodiversity of coastal cliff woods, coastal glen woods and coastal scrub sites and produce proposals for their management and expansion potential.	State of the coastal woodlands report with proposals for management produced by 2009	HPCH-2-1	Review all available GIS based and written record information (e.g. woodland inventories, Phase 1 maps, SSSI records/ WGS/SFGS records) in order to identify appropriate sites, establish their ownership and make contact with the owners	database of sites with boundary and ownership details and mechanism for updating established by May 2008	Bruce Davidson (EAW)	SNH FCS NTS (poss use of Girvan Community Groups who are currently involved in community woodlands)	confirm that the Native Woodland Survey data for North and South Ayrshire is officially published and available for analysis. The key to getting the best out of this is tying all the data tables together. Bruce is struggling to find the time However once he does get time it should be quite a quick process to pull together sufficient data on which to base some form of assessment of the quality/importance of these woodlands.
			HPCH-2-2	Collate and analyse existing survey information. Survey a representative sample of non-designated coastal woods and scrub areas using standard techniques	Site survey reports completed by October 2009		EAW staff Volunteers Contract surveyors	See Above.
			HPCH-2-3	Produce state of the coastal woodlands report covering the wildlife importance, management required and expansion potential, for consideration by the ABAP	Report with proposals produced by December 2009			Anticipate report produced in summer 2010.
			HPCH-2-4	Identify, seek agreement for, and commence implementation of coastal woodland management demonstration sites – 1ea in North & South Ayrshire	2 no. Publicly accessible examples of coastal woodland demonstrating practical approaches to sustainable management by December 2009		EAW Landowners	An SRDP application has been submitted for Skelmorlie Castle Woodlands but this is largely focused on control/eradication of rhododendron which will facilitate woodland regeneration in the medium term. It is also planned to submit an SOI for Hunterston Estate woodlands in the next few weeks. Again rhododendron management will be an initial priority but there is significant potential for expansion and regeneration of coastal woodland over a period.
HPCH-3	To establish the extent and abundance of the butterfly species associated with the coast and their food plants and to identify the actions needed for their conservation.	State of the coastal butterflies report with proposals for management produced by 2009	HPCH-3-1	Survey, over two seasons, five target species and their food plants through a public survey and a structured specialist survey	Produce collated and annotated records of sightings with distribution maps for all species and their food plants by May 2008 Produce site descriptions for the main butterfly populations by September 2009	David Welham BC-A	BC-SW	To date we have the 5 target species:- Small Blue, Dark Green Fritillary, Grayling, Northern Brown Argus and Dingy Skipper. Other than that little else, it was agreed that once the invertebrate data (new data sourced by GSmart on behalf of the LBAP from Glasgow Record Centre) was interrogated that this might prove useful, and if Scott were to be willing to assist we may be able to gain data from his group to assist in population data.
			HPCH-3-2	Draw up Small Blue re-introduction proposal to IUCN guidelines for consideration by the ABAP	Proposal paper produced by April 20		Keith Futter BC-SW	Gill confirmed that she, via SWT and Scott Shanks, had a strategy for the Small Blue which could act as the basis of a paper. Gill agreed that she would circulate
			HPCH-3-3	Produce state of the coastal butterflies report summarising survey results and proposing necessary conservation actions for consideration by the ABAP	Report with proposals produced by April 2010		BC-SW	Fross has emailed Scott Shanks re: this item and he has agreed to look into it on behalf of the group

HPCH-4	To establish the conservation importance of the coastal terrestrial invertebrate species, communities, the sites where they occur, the threats to their habitats and the actions needed for their conservation	State of the coastal invertebrates report with proposals for management produced by October 2010	HPCH-4-1	Collate and analyse all known data to produce ranked lists of target species based on their rarity and perceived threat to them and a descriptive lists of the sites from which they have been recorded	Ranked list of species produced by August 2008 Annotated list of notable sites produced by August 2008	SNH to lead on 1st action		As mentioned previously Gill has now received data from the Glasgow Record centre in relation to invertebrates and Ayrshire area. Information has still to be interrogated in relation to the breadth of data it has supplied e.g. species / area/location/ format.
			HPCH-4-2	Produce a structured survey plan to cover species on known sites and suitable other sites	Produce survey plan by August 2008			Awaiting outcome from HPCH-4.1
			HPCH-4-3	Implement structured survey through visiting experts, commissioned survey and volunteers	Survey sites and species as identified in survey plan by August 2010		Consultants Visiting experts	NAYs Council is undertaking a BioBlitz event in Aug 2010 which will cover some parts of the Coast - this may assist in providing additional data - mix of experts and amateurs
			HPCH-4-4	Produce state of coastal invertebrates report with proposals for conservation action	Report produced for consideration by ABAP by October 2010			Awaiting outcome from HPCH-4.3
HPCH-5	To establish the current conservation importance of the coastal plants the rare plants, the sites where they occur and the actions needed for their conservation.	State of the coastal plants report with proposals for management produced by 2009	HPCH-5-1	Collate and analyse existing data of notable coastal plants including key butterfly food plants (see HPCH-3) to produce ranked lists of target species and target sites for survey	List of target species produced by September 2008 List of target sites produced by October 2008	Carol Crawford NRC	BSBI SWT NAYC-R SNH	Carol has completed North Ayrshire and part way through South, which will be completed winter of 2010-11. Gill noted that there is additional data for Hunterston Power Station now available online in ES
			HPCH-5-2	Implement a structured survey of target coastal plants using the public, Ayrshire botanists and visiting botanists	Survey coastal plants by September 2010		BSBI SWT NAYC-R SNH NTS	While at present we do not have a structured survey target we do have two more informal ways of increasing survey material. (1) Carol and Fiona's informal conversations included selecting a top 5 and Fiona is hoping that she can gain sufficient funds for postcards that will have pic(s) of flower on one side and to get return address and data collected on the other e.g. (date, address, quantity) for the following summer season .Gill and Carol have developed an informal flora group which meets once a month or so- group is a mix, from experts to beginners. Group has managed to record some quite interesting data which will also be of interest to others especially the butterfly / invertebrate groups. In the main the group works to cover gap sites identified by HPCH -5-1. Carol felt that until HPCH -5-1 is complete she can't develop a fully structured approach to HPCH-5-2. The North Ayrshire BioBlitz also has the potential to increase flora records. Carol to send Iain a brief for plant recording by 9th July

			HPCH-5-3	Produce state of the coastal plants report including distribution maps and annotated site lists showing key areas for coastal plants and the conservation measures needed to conserve them	Report produced by December 2010			Awaiting completion of actions HPCH-5.1&5.2
HPCH-6	To assess the coastal bird species and their biodiversity importance, abundance, rate of population change and the health of their habitats including sites of importance for over-wintering, migrating and breeding species associated with the coast and any conservation actions needed.	State of the coastal birds report with proposals for management produced by 2009	HPCH-6-1	Collate and analyse existing data on coastal breeding, migrating and wintering birds and their sites supplemented with further survey if required..	Annotated list of coastal bird species produced by September 2008 Annotated list of coastal bird sites produced by September 2008	David Grant SAC	RSPB	Completed
			HPCH-6-2	Produce state of the coastal birds report along with recommendations of conservation actions needed	State of the coastal birds report produced by September 2009			Issues relate to identifying the importance of sites with respect to seasonal migration and bird numbers. Meeting actioned to discuss best way to move forward.
HPCH-7	Provide detailed guidance for decision makers on the species of importance, the places where they are currently found and the conservation measures needed to safeguard and enhance their habitats.	Produce detailed guidance on Ayrshire's coastal wildlife and its conservation within an updated Coastal Habitats action plan by 2010	HPCH-7-1	Collate, map and analyse existing data on coastal habitats, coastal conservation sites and others sites of biodiversity importance. (providing a baseline of current knowledge)	On-going GIS system for mapping importance coastal sites established by November 2008. (see CTDI – 1)	North Ayrshire Council for first action	ALL	Collation underway. Online GIS system is up and running but data is scarce. Need to identify which is available to be stored in GIS format. Meeting actioned to identify best way forward for collated data.
			HPCH-7-2	Co-ordinate and analyse all data gathered from previous objectives. Identifying biodiversity rich sites, areas needing conservation action, species needing conservation action. (providing up to date picture of coastal status)	Updated Coastal Habitats action plan produced by December 2010			Underway. Meeting of all parties of the coastal HAP is being prepared to consider best way forward based on available data and knowledge.
			HPCH- 7-3	Analyse action7-2 & provide appropriate guidance	March 2011	All		

5) Species Action Plan: Water Vole

Obj. Ref.	Objective	Target	Action Ref	Action	Target	Lead partner	Other delivery agents	Progress
SPWV-1	To establish the extent of the populations in the upper reaches of the Stinchar catchment based on the data from the 2006 survey.	The extent of the areas occupied by water vole populations identified by spring 2008	SPWV-1-1	Survey the tributaries of the Stinchar catchment using the standard water vole survey methodology, based on the 2006 survey data but extending the area of search to one kilometre beyond any known or new populations	Survey started in autumn 2007 and completed in spring 2008. All populations mapped on GIS.		Consultant	Desk top survey and GIS mapping of known colonies is complete. No survey planned due to time and funding constraints. Little progress expected over next 6 months.
			SPWV-1-2	Contact Dumfries and Galloway LBAP to establish the presence of any water vole populations contiguous with those in the Ayrshire catchment.	Any relevant population data identified by spring 2008. Any joint working arrangement with D&G agreed by spring 2008.		DGLBAP	Data received from Dumfries and Galloway LBAP, Jim Green and Galloway Fisheries Trust. Galloway Fisheries Trust are interested in the possibility of developing a joint working arrangement in Future.
SPWV-2	To establish the condition and potential of the riparian, marshland and bog habitats within the areas identified as occupied by water voles and to identify the threats to them	Annotated habitat condition maps available by spring 2008.	SPWV-2-1	Survey the habitats within the water vole areas using Phase 1 methodology with target notes on habitat condition and threats.	Survey complete by spring 2008.		Consultant	Darley Burn habitat has recovered well but still no sign of water vole activity. Darley Burn re surveyed for South Ayrshire Council, Oct 09. Plan to reintroduce captive bred water voles next year. Funding applications have been submitted. Verbal confirmation of funding from SAWET.
			SPWV-2-1	Analyse habitat maps to establish the potential extent of riparian and wetland areas within the water vole areas.	Analysis available by summer 2008		WVSAP	No formal analysis undertaken.
SPWV-3	To improve the riparian and/or wetland habitats for water voles within the areas currently occupied by the water voles	Two riparian and/or wetland improvement projects in progress by winter 2008.	SPWV-3-1	Work with the owners and fishery interests to identify which stretches of river or wetland occupied by water voles might benefit from management action	Two areas identified by spring 2008.		ART RSDSFB FWAG landowners	Areas identified. Darley Burn and surrounding area. Appropriate management for the Darley Burn site has been implemented. Garrier Burn: No further plans at moment. Slaphouse burn identified as historic watervole site. Reintroduction planned for 2011 following improvements to habitat. Improvements underway.
			SPWV-3-2	Cost identified projects and seek funding for the necessary works.	Project details confirmed and funding available by summer 2008.		FWAG	Funding secured for reintroduction projects at Darley and Slaphouse Burns. Darley reintroduction imminent. Mink monitoring is underway. Slaphouse burn habitat is improving. Reintroduction planned 2011
SPWV-4	To monitor and report on the known water vole populations in the Stinchar catchment both within any improved areas and out with such areas.	Monitoring scheme in place by spring 2008	SPWV-4-1	Design monitoring scheme for known water vole populations and develop methodology for implementation and reporting	Monitoring scheme in operation spring 2008			Farrans construction have an on site ecologist at Arrecleoch wind farm monitoring water voles and in contact with to ART. Mark Hill Windfarm will be commencing soon and it too will have an on site ecologist responsible for monitoring. ART will remain in contact with both ecologists throughout the developments. Both areas have potential for water vole projects and funding following development. No progress planned for these areas until completion of wind farm developments.

SPWV-5	To establish the presence and extent of other water vole populations in Ayrshire based on surveying any sites where voles have been reported from recently.	All sites with water vole records since 2002 surveyed by spring 2008.	SPWV-5-1	Collate all post 2002 records from commercial environmental surveys and reports from water bailiffs etc. to identify possible populations of water voles	Possible population identified by winter 2007.			ART continue to gather data and will be uploading water vole records to the new database shortly. New sightings occasionally reported. Data logged.
			SPWV-5-2	Survey all sites identified using standard water vole survey techniques.	All possible sites surveyed by spring 2008.			Training course planned for volunteers and ranger services Autumn 2010. Deetails will be circulated August 2010.

6) Species Action Plan: Farmland Birds

Obj. Ref.	Objective	Target	Action Ref	Action	Target	Lead partner	Other delivery agents	Progress
SPFB -1	To assess the distribution and significant range contractions of target farmland bird species in Ayrshire	Map key areas for target farmland bird species by December 2007	SPFB -1-1	Hold workshop with local experts to map key areas and sites for target farmland bird species based on local knowledge	Maps produced and circulated by December 2007	RSPB	SOC BTO FWAG SNH SAC SGRPID	Meeting held and maps produced to show areas of remaining species concentrations, as well as areas in most need of management.
		Identify areas of significant range contraction for target farmland bird species by December 2010	SPFB -1-2	Compare BTO atlas data from 2007/08 with SOC atlas data from 1991/97 to identify areas of significant range contraction	Map areas of significant range contraction of target species by December 2010	RSPB	SOC BTO	Not started
		Confirm the breeding status of corn bunting in Ayrshire by 2009	SPFB -1- 3	Keep and follow up any reports of breeding corn bunting	Report on the known status of corn bunting in Ayrshire in Autumn 2009	SOC	BTO RSPB FWAG	Ongoing action but none recorded in 2009
SPFB -2	To establish the potential of significantly improving the value of hedgerows and field margins for farmland birds through management	Map key areas where hedgerows and field margins are in good and poor condition by December 2007	SPFB -2-1	Hold workshop with local experts to map key areas and sites where hedgerows and field margins are in good or poor condition	Maps produced and circulated by December 2007	RSPB	SOC BTO FWAG SNH SAC SGRPID	Meeting held and maps produced to show areas of remaining species concentrations, as well as areas in most need of management.
		Identify land managers with potential to improve management of hedgerows and field margins who are keen to participate in management and demonstration projects.	SPFB -2-2	Identify 2 large commercial dairy farms within the mapped areas who are willing to improve habitats on their farms for demonstration purposes	Agreement reached with 2 commercial dairy farmers to alter management to benefit farm operations and wildlife, by February 2008	FWAG	SAC SGRPID	Not being progressed because of problems with SRDP. RSPB have considered alternative ways of delivering this through other advisors but currently opportunities look limited.
			SPFB -2-3	Identify a cluster of c.10 farmers within the mapped areas who would be receptive to improving their hedgerows and field margins for farmland birds through changes in management.	Agreement reached with c. 10 farmers to alter management to benefit farm operations and wildlife, by February 2008	FWAG	SAC SGRPID	Hoped to progress with farms to the north of Kilmarnock, particularly focusing on tree sparrow. RSPB has explored various ways of doing this but none currently look viable. Pending until opportunity for funding or advisory opportunity becomes available
			SPFB -2-4	Identify stretches of hedgerow and road verges that are managed by Local Authority Roads Departments or AMEY.	Maps produced and circulated by December 2007	SayrC	EAC NAC AMEY	South Ayrshire Council have met with roads departments to discuss the issue and which areas are cut

SPFB - 3	To demonstrate how changes in management can benefit farmland birds and be compatible with a successful commercial farm	Improve hedgerow and field margin habitats on 2 large commercial dairy farms and use to demonstrate techniques and benefits to others	SPFB -3-1	Produce plans for changes in management to improve hedgerow and field margin habitats on 2 commercial dairy farms.	2 plans written and agreed by LBAP group and farmers by April 2008	FWAG	SAC RSPB SNH SGRPID	not taken forward due to problems with SRDP and FWAG funding. RSPB considering alternative mechanisms but little progress to date.
			SPFB -3-2	Implement plans and obtain funding to do so if required	Plans implemented by December 2008	FWAG	SAC RSPB SNH SGRPID	not taken forward due to problems with SRDP and FWAG funding. RSPB considering alternative mechanisms but little progress to date.
			SPFB -3-3	Hold an event at both farms to demonstrate benefits to other farmers and advisors	Hold event at each farm during 2009	FWAG	SAC RSPB SNH SGRPID	not taken forward due to problems with SRDP and FWAG funding. RSPB considering alternative mechanisms but little progress to date.
		Improve hedgerow and field margin habitats on a cluster of c.10 farms and use to demonstrate effects on target species	SPFB -3-4	Produce plans for changes in management to improve hedgerow and field margin habitats on a cluster of c.10 farms.	Plans written and agreed by LBAP group and farmers by April 2008	FWAG	SAC RSPB SNH SGRPID	Hoped to progress with farms to the north of Kilmarnock, particularly focusing on tree sparrow. RSPB has explored various ways of doing this but none currently look viable. CEI has successfully progressed similar project around New Cumnock but outwith original target area. Pending further action until opportunity for funding or advisory opportunity becomes available
			SPFB -3-5	Implement plans and obtain funding to do so if required	Plans implemented by December 2008	FWAG	SAC RSPB SNH SGRPID	not taken forward due to problems with SRDP and FWAG funding. RSPB considering alternative mechanisms - working with Starling Learning might offer a positive way forward.
			SPFB -3-6	Monitor the changes in populations of target species on the farms with plans	Carry out baseline surveys of farms in 2008 and repeat surveys in 2009	SOC	RSPB	SOC volunteers willing to help once farms are identified
		To integrate advice on management for farmland birds within existing advice to farmers	SPFB -3-7	Attend 6 demonstration events and give advice on management for farmland birds	Attend 3 events in 2008 and 3 in 2009	RSPB	FWAG SNH SOC	LBAP group attended SRDP event at SAC. SAC held an advisory event at one of the CEI project farms.
		To integrate advice on management for farmland birds within agricultural teaching programmes	SPFB -3-8	Provide input into teaching courses at SAC	Give 1 lecture and run 1 field visit for agricultural students on farmland birds in 2008 and 2009	SAC	FWAG RSPB	RSPB delivered a lecture on management for farmland birds to agriculture students in October 2009 and gave a talk to Conservation Management students in Feb 2010

SPFB - 4	To demonstrate how changes in management can benefit farmland birds and be compatible with safe, well managed roads	Improve management of hedgerow and verge habitats on sections of road to demonstrate techniques and benefits	SPFB -4-1	Hold a workshop with road managers and conservation groups to identify opportunities to improve management of hedgerows and verges	Workshop held in February 2008 with output including a map of project areas and a list of general measures to be taken more widely	SAyC	EAC NAC AMEY RSPB FWAG SNH	South Ayrshire Council have met with roads departments to discuss the issue and degree of cutting with the aim of identifying areas where management could be altered in the Action Plan target areas. North Ayrshire Council have met with roads department to identify management areas
			SPFB -4-2	Produce plans for changes in management to improve hedgerow and verge habitats for sections of roads	Produce plans by April 2008 and implement plans during 2008	SAyC	EAC NAC AMEY RSPB FWAG SNH	Not started
			SPFB -4-3	Monitor the changes in populations of target species on the road sections with plans	Carry out baseline surveys of farms in 2008 and repeat surveys in 2009	SOC	RSPB	Not started

■ Complete
■ Underway
■ Underway - Limited Progress
■ Not Started