

GREEN WOODPECKER *PICUS VIRIDIS* SPECIES ACTION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

The green woodpecker is listed in the UKBAP as a species of conservation concern and is considered to be important in Caerphilly county borough.

Relevant Legislation/Species Status	
priority species (P) or species of conservation concern (S)	S
EC Birds Directive 1979	-
Berne Convention 1982	-
Bonn Convention 1979	-
CITES 1975	-
WCA 1981	Part I Section 1
Birds of Conservation Concern List ³⁰	Amber



© CCBC 2002

2. CURRENT STATUS

2.1 UK and Wales

The green woodpecker is most abundant south of a line between Pembrokeshire and The Wash.

Gwent (VC35) has been identified as a stronghold of the species and within Glamorgan (VC41) it is generally regarded as scarcer in the upland valleys. Although it appears to be holding it's own throughout most of its range in Europe, fluctuations occur in northern parts and research shows an overall decline across its whole range. It is generally of an unfavourable conservation status in Europe.

2.2 Caerphilly County Borough

The green woodpecker is a species of valley oak and ash woodlands, visiting higher woodland in summer. It also frequents pasture, ffridd/coedcae and the upland commons. It needs the presence of mature trees in order to breed, but also requires close cropped turf exposed to the sun, where ants, its staple diet, are found. Breeding records occur throughout the county borough except in the far north. **Map 2.4** shows the current distribution of confirmed, probable and possible breeding green woodpecker sites, and they have been recorded in the following SINC: Cwm Afon Railway Line (45), Craig y fedw (159) and Gypsy Lane Wetland (164).

2.3 Links with Habitats

- *Wetlands*
- **Deciduous Woodlands** (upland oak and mixed ash woodlands)
- *Wildlife Corridors*
- *Species-rich Grasslands*
- *Common Land*
- *Coedcae/ffridd*
- *Heathland*
- mature trees and short turf

3. CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPECIES

- Some steep ffridd/coedcae, which used to be rich in ant colonies, has been lost as feeding areas, due to ploughing, re-seeding and fertilising or land reclamation schemes.
- The species has shown itself to be susceptible to fatalities during hard winters.

4. CURRENT ACTION

- 4.1 The Glamorgan Bird Club and Gwent Ornithological Society both publish annual bird reports^{17, 18, 19}. The Gwent Ornithological Society has completed Atlas survey work. The BTO Breeding Bird Survey also contributes to the monitoring of the population⁶.
- 4.2 The Welsh Ornithological Society has targeted this species for research.

5. OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

5.1 UK Objectives and Targets

Not applicable to this species.

5.2 Caerphilly Objectives and Targets

- 5.2.1 Maintain the current distribution and breeding population of the green woodpecker in the county borough (Target: ongoing).
- 5.2.2 Protect and enhance suitable breeding and feeding habitats through appropriate management (Target: ongoing).

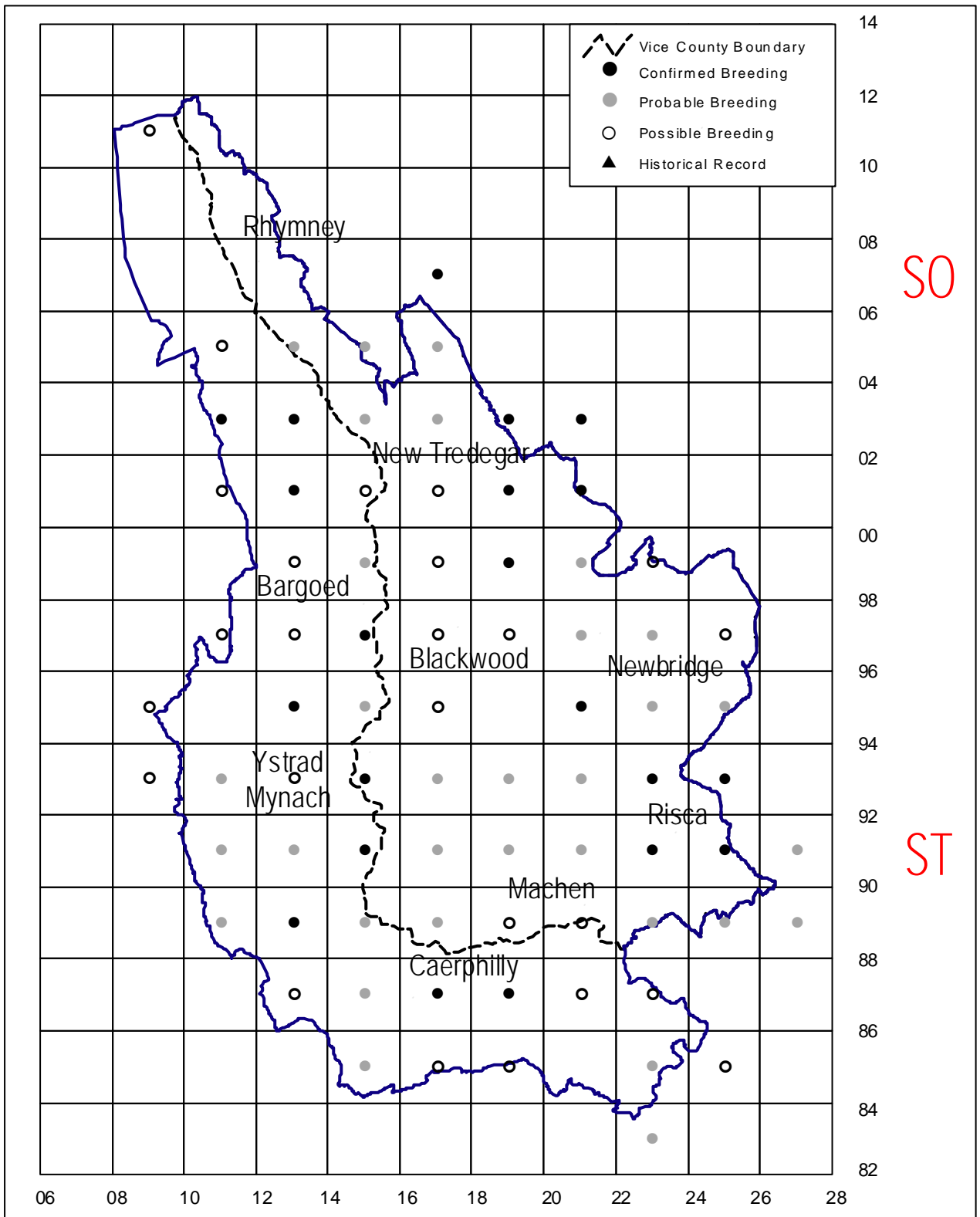
6. ACTION AND KEY PARTNERS

Action	Key Partners		Year to be complete or in place by								
	Lead	Partners	2003	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.1 Policy and Legislation											
6.1.1 Seek to designate important nest and feeding sites as SIN C, benefiting the green woodpecker and a number of other species.	CCBC	-									✓
6.2 Site Safeguard and Management											
6.2.1 Seek to introduce appropriate management on SIN C sites, in particular woodland and grassland habitat.	CCBC	-			✓						✓
6.3 Species Management and Protection											
6.3.1 Continue to implement wildlife legislation.	Gwent Police	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.4 Advisory											
6.4.1 Advise land managers, farmers and others of the green woodpecker's habitat requirements.	CCBC	FUW NFU NAWAD Coed Cymru	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Action	Key Partners		Year to be complete or in place by									
	Lead	Partners	2003	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
6.5 Future Research and Monitoring												
6.5.1 Survey to identify the current status in the VC41 section of the area to augment the Gwent data, followed by continued monitoring of the whole area.	GBC	GOS CCBC	✕		✓		✓				✓	
6.6 Communications and Publicity												
6.6.1 As the largest and most brightly coloured breeding woodpecker, it is an ideal example to promote biodiversity to the general public (e.g. through a public participation survey). Its links with less 'photogenic' invertebrates could be stressed to illustrate the interdependence of species.	CBP	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✕ Survey year to be determined.

MAP 2.4 - GREEN WOODPECKER



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Caerphilly County Borough Council, LA09004L, 2001.

Atgynhychwyd o fapiau yr Arolwg Ordnans gyda chaniatod rheolwr Llyfrfa ei Mawrhydi hawlfraint y Goron. Mae atgynhychu heb awdurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron. Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, LA09004L, 2001.