

GREY PARTRIDGE *PERDIX PERDIX* SPECIES ACTION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

The grey partridge is considered to be one of the bird species most in need of urgent conservation action, and is of particular concern locally due to its massive decline in the Caerphilly county borough area.

Relevant Legislation/Species Status	
priority species (P) or species of conservation concern (S)	P
EC Birds Directive 1979	Annex II/2, III
Berne Convention 1982	App. II
Bonn Convention 1979	-
CITES 1975	Annex A
WCA 1981	Part I Section 1
Birds of Conservation Concern List ³⁰	Red
Other Species Status	RDB Birds: RDB3
Other Legislation	Ground Game Act 1880



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2. CURRENT STATUS

2.1 UK, Wales and Caerphilly County Borough

In areas of historic low abundance such as Caerphilly county borough, declines have sometimes exceeded 95% and it is approaching extinction in some districts. The grey partridge is a species primarily of arable farmland and unimproved grassland, preferring continuous grass or herbage not much higher than its head, flanked or interspersed with hedges, scrub or rough herbage to provide cover and for nest sites. It also seeks bare, preferably dusty ground. In Caerphilly county borough there is a cluster of records from the Cefn Gelligaer and Nelson Bog regions (see **Map 2.5**).

2.2 Links with Habitats

- **Species-rich Grasslands** (rhos pasture and other unimproved grazing meadows)
- *Coedcae/Ffridd*
- *Heathland* (upland)
- *Common Land*

3. CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPECIES

- Nationally, the intensification of arable farming with the reduction of food sources due to the increased use of pesticides and herbicides is of significant importance in its decline.
- The intensification of agriculture contributes to the loss of nesting sites through the removal of hedgerows and the destruction of important breeding habitats such as rough grassland. This also includes switching to silage cutting instead of haymaking.

- Reduction in winter food supplies due to autumn sown crops leading to no winter stubble fields is another nationally important factor.
- On common land, increased human disturbance during the breeding season may well be a factor in its decline, as could any increase in densities of grazing stock.
- The effects of hunting on an already depleted species will also have a significant effect.

4. CURRENT ACTION

- 4.1 The Hedgerow Regulations (1997) control the removal of hedgerows¹¹.
- 4.2 The Tir Gofal (CCW) scheme provides grant aid for farmers to encourage environmentally sensitive management.
- 4.3 The Game Conservation Trust encourages creation of suitable conditions for the species, such as providing nest sites by leaving wide field margins, chick feeding areas in conservation headlands and winter foraging sites by stubble retention.
- 4.4 Although the species is not monitored systematically, the Gwent Ornithological Society and Glamorgan Bird Club gather information from its members on the distribution of the grey partridge and other birds, and both bodies publish annual bird reports^{17, 18, 19}.
- 4.5 BTO's Breeding Bird Survey contributes to the monitoring of breeding populations⁶.

5. OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

5.1 UK Objectives and Targets

- 5.1.1 Halt the decline by 2005.
- 5.1.2 Ensure the population is above 150,000 pairs by 2010.
- 5.1.3 Maintain, and where possible enhance, the current range of this species.

5.2 Caerphilly Objectives and Targets

- 5.2.1 Halt the decline in both range and numbers by 2005.
- 5.2.2 Maintain, and where possible enhance, the current range of this species. (Target: ongoing and by 2010)

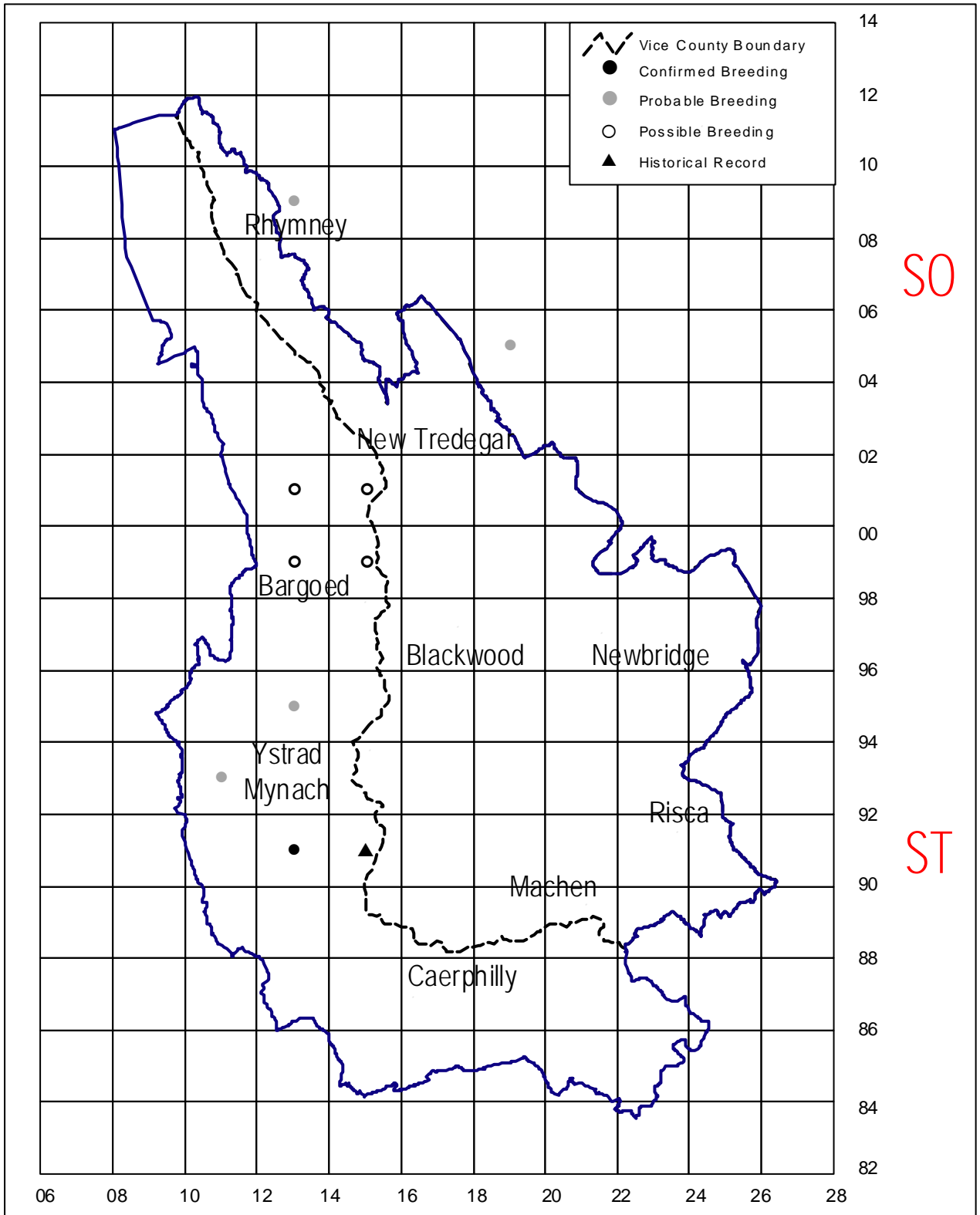
6. ACTION AND KEY PARTNERS

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											
No action proposed at present.	-	-									

Action	Key Partners		Year to be complete or in place by								
	Lead	Partners	2003	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.2 Site Safeguard and Management											
6.2.1 Consider establishing management practices on CCBC owned land to benefit the grey partridge.	CCBC	-	✓					✓			
6.3 Species Management and Protection											
6.3.1 Continue to implement wildlife legislation.	Gwent Police	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.4 Advisory											
No action proposed at present.	-	-									
6.5 Future Research and Monitoring											
6.5.1 Survey and monitor the residual population.	GBC GOS	CCW CCBC	✘								
6.6 Communications and Publicity											
6.6.1 Increase the provision of information and management advice to farmers and other land managers about the grey partridge, and other farmland species, and its conservation requirements.	CBP	RSPB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✘ Survey year to be determined.

MAP 2.5 - GREY PARTRIDGE



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Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwg Ordnans gyda chaniatad 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.