

## KESTREL *FALCO TINNUNCULUS* SPECIES ACTION PLAN

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The kestrel is not afforded priority status in the UKBAP, but it is listed as a species of conservation concern, and it is considered to be of biodiversity conservation importance locally. The UK holds approximately 15% of the European population.

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



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### 2. CURRENT STATUS

#### 2.1 UK and Wales

The kestrel is the best-known and most common British bird of prey with 51,500 pairs<sup>29</sup>. It is often seen hovering over motorway verges in search of food. However, the population has declined by more than 25% in recent years (35% in all habitats between 1971 to 1995 (RSPB)), especially in lowland England and Wales. The reason for this decline is not fully understood but could be linked to fluctuations or a reduction in prey species linked to agricultural changes. The species is currently found in all its potential UK breeding range<sup>29</sup> but has declined by 18%<sup>12</sup>.

#### 2.2 Caerphilly County Borough

Caerphilly county borough still appears to support relatively healthy populations of kestrels in association with coedcae/ffridd and upland areas. They nest on cliff and quarry ledges, trees, nest boxes, and disused industrial buildings. They remain in their territory throughout the year and are often seen hunting on roadside verges. Caerphilly county borough is one of the key areas for this species within former Monmouthshire (VC35), however, further work is required to confirm the status of the population in the area. The breeding distribution of the kestrel in the county borough is shown on **Map 2.7**.

#### 2.3 Links with Habitats

- **Wildlife Corridors** (mature hedgerow trees, roadside verges)
- *Common Land*
- *Coedcae/ffridd*
- **Post-Industrial Land** (quarries, refuse tips)
- *Urban Habitats*

### 3. CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPECIES

- Kestrels can be taken by other birds of prey.
- They can suffer from poisons present in their prey species.

- Loss of nest sites through infilling of old quarry faces.
- Disturbance at nest sites by unauthorised activities, such as climbing and shooting, although this is rare.
- Distribution appears to be effected by the availability of prey species, e.g. voles.

#### 4. CURRENT ACTION

- 4.1 The Gwent Ornithological Society and Glamorgan Bird Club gather information on the distribution of the kestrel and both groups publish annual bird reports<sup>17, 18, 19</sup>.
- 4.2 GOS Atlas work is being completed.
- 4.2 BTO's Breeding Bird Survey contributes to the monitoring of breeding populations<sup>6</sup>.
- 4.3 The RSPB Investigations Unit supports investigation of crimes such as killings, by providing specialist advice and training to the police<sup>29</sup>.
- 4.4 The RSPB also maintains a database of crimes against birds.
- 4.5 The UK Government Campaign Against the Illegal Poisoning of Wildlife is supported by the RSPB and other conservation and countryside organisations, they are also involved in educating farmers about the need to use chemicals properly and investigating wildlife poisoning incidents (Poisons Hotline = 0800 321 600 if you find a dead bird or other animal in suspicious circumstances)<sup>29</sup>.

#### 5. OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

##### 5.1 UK Objectives and Targets

Not applicable to this species.

##### 5.2 Caerphilly Objectives and Targets

- 5.2.1 Determine the status of the kestrel population in the county borough. (Target: 2005)
- 5.2.2 Maintain the numbers of breeding pairs in the county borough. (Target: ongoing)

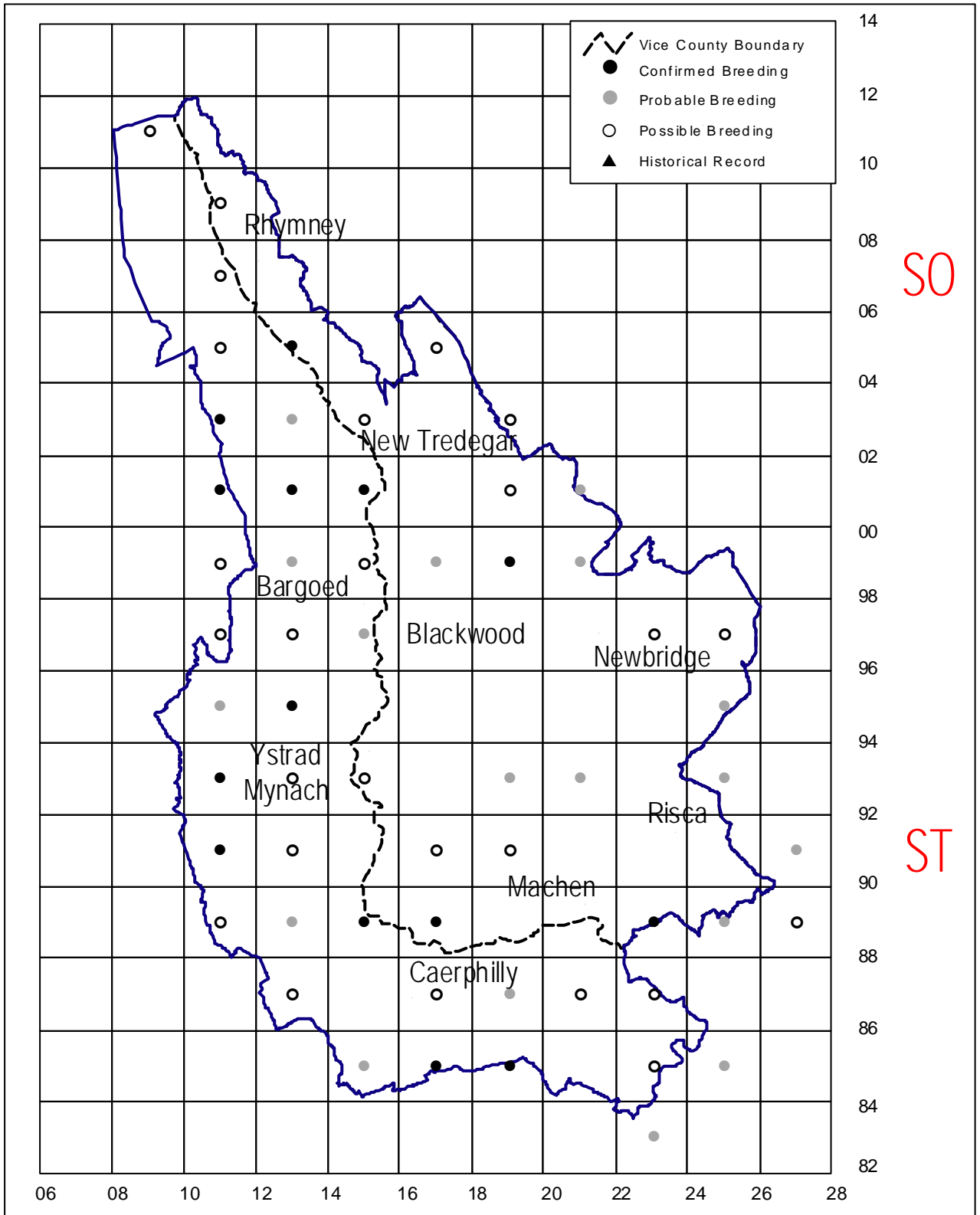
#### 6. ACTION AND KEY PARTNERS

Action	Key Partners		Year to be complete or in place by:								
	Lead	Partners	2003	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>6.1 Policy and Legislation</b>											
None proposed; all legislation is in place to protect the species at all times.	-	-									

Action	Key Partners		Year to be complete or in place by:								
	Lead	Partners	2003	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>6.2 Site Safeguard and Management</b>											
6.2.1 Identify locations where suitable habitats exist for hunting and breeding kestrels and manage sympathetically for prey species to encourage them into the area.	CCBC	CCW	✓	✓							
<b>6.3 Species Management and Protection</b>											
6.3.1 Provide nest boxes in suitable locations and within reach of suitable habitats as hunting grounds.	CCBC	RSPB	✓	✓	✓					✓	
6.3.2 Continue to implement wildlife legislation.	Gwent Police	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>6.4 Advisory</b>											
6.4.1 Ensure provision of advice to relevant organisations and land managers on conservation of kestrels and sympathetic management of suitable habitats.	CBP	CCBC CCW NAWAD RSPB FUW	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.4.2 Disseminate information regarding monitoring of nest sites to interested organisations and relevant individuals (as required).	CBP	GBC GOS CCBC RSPB	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
<b>6.5 Future Research and Monitoring</b>											
6.5.1 Survey populations of kestrel in the county borough to determine the current status of the species in the area and monitor trends (ringing).	GOS GBC	RSPB GWT GLWT BTO	✕								
<b>6.6 Communications and Publicity</b>											
6.6.1 Encourage membership of local wildlife trusts/groups in Gwent, Glamorgan and areas of Caerphilly county borough.	CBP	GWT GLWT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.6.2 Provide schools, colleges and youth clubs in the county borough with information in order to educate children, parents and teachers about the conservation status of birds of prey in their local area.	CCBC	Gwk Schools Youth Forum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.6.3 Use publicity material to discourage the use of insecticides and rodenticides.	CBP	CCBC RSPB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.6.4 Raise awareness among police, and land managers/owners and use the kestrel to promote the value of mature hedgerow trees, quarries and other habitats to the general public.	CBP	CCBC RSPB GOS GBC GWT GLWT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.6.5 Aim to maximise public involvement in surveys and nest box schemes whenever appropriate.	CBP	RSPB CCBC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✕ Survey year to be determined.

MAP 2.7 - KESTREL



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Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwg Ordnans gyda chaniatad rheolwr Llyfifa ei Mawhydi hawffraint y Goron. Mae atgynhychu heb awdurdod yn torri hawffraint y Goron. Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, LA09004L, 2001.