

WETLAND BIRDS SPECIES ACTION PLAN

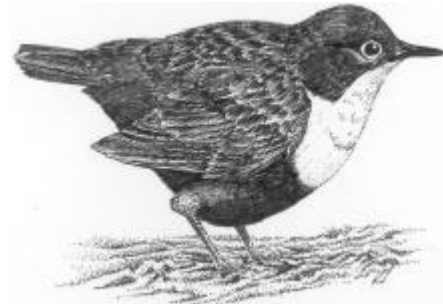
1. INTRODUCTION

This Species Action Plan covers three bird species that are generally associated with similar wetland habitats, and are important indicators of the quality of the wetland environment.

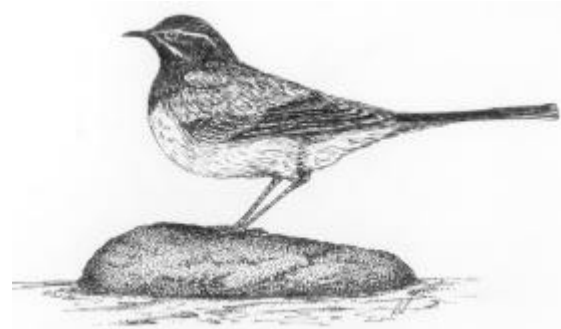
The three species are:

- **Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*
- **Grey wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*
- **Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Relevant Legislation/Species Status			
	Dipper	Grey wagtail	Kingfisher
priority species (P) or species of conservation concern (S)	S	S	S
EC Birds Directive 1979	-	-	Annex 1
Berne Convention 1982	App. II	App. II	App. II
Bonn Convention 1979	-	-	-
CITES 1975	-	-	-
WCA 1981	Part I Section 1	Part I Section 1	Part I Section 1 Sch. 1
Birds of Conservation Concern List ³⁰	-	-	Amber
Other Species Status	RDB Birds: candidate	-	-



dipper © CCBC 2002



grey wagtail © CCBC 2002

2. CURRENT STATUS

2.1 Caerphilly County Borough

The dipper, grey wagtail and kingfisher all require a high quality of water with good populations of aquatic invertebrates or small fish. Since the demise of the coal mining industry in south Wales, rivers have all but returned to their former state, holding healthy populations of invertebrates, and a wide variety of fish species.



kingfisher © CCBC 2002

All of these wetland birds are also good indicators of the quality and health of the aquatic environment. They are currently found along the rivers and streams within the county borough, and both the grey wagtail and kingfisher are frequently found alongside areas of still water. Only the dipper is confined to river and stream channels, requiring areas of swift moving water commonly associated with the upper and parts of the middle reaches of river courses. **Maps 2.16** (dipper), **2.17** (grey wagtail) and **2.18** (kingfisher) show the current population distribution of these species in Caerphilly county borough.

2.2 Links with Habitats

- **Wetlands (rivers and streams)**
- **Wetlands** (lakes and reservoirs) - grey wagtail and kingfisher
- *Common Land* (wet areas)
- Wet farmland - grey wagtail
- Rock faces bordering rivers and streams (used as nest sites)
- Man-made features (post-industrial; retaining walls, dressed stone channelling and bridges (following or crossing water courses - used as nest sites) - dipper and grey wagtail

3. CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPECIES

- Lack of suitable nest sites can limit the breeding density (dipper).
- Rapid river level changes within the county borough means that safe and undisturbed nest sites may be a limiting population factor.
- Modifications to river channels and embankments contribute further to river level rise and may remove or reduce suitable nest sites for wagtails and kingfishers.
- Bridge renovation may deprive dippers and grey wagtails of nest sites, but the incorporation of nest cavities/ledges in bridge and wall-retaining works maintains nesting sites.
- Accidental discharge of raw sewage from ageing sewage pipes reduce water quality and have an effect upon aquatic food sources, particularly on rivers where the sewage pipe is constructed either on or adjacent to the river bed.
- Industrial effluent discharges can have profound effects upon all aquatic populations, particularly accidental or intentional discharges of concentrated chemical solutions.
- Mine water discharge.

4. CURRENT ACTION

- 4.1 All three species will have benefited from work undertaken by the EA over the past decade. Modifications to river channels, the creation of weirs and the management of bank-side trees and vegetation have all assisted in providing a more suitable environment for fish and aquatic invertebrates. The provision of large block stone river defences has inadvertently provided additional nesting areas for all three species, as well as creating suitable perches for feeding. The weirs also create new areas of relatively still water and riffle, allowing a possible expansion of the range of dippers along the length of the rivers.
- 4.2 The Gwent Ornithological Society and Glamorgan Bird Club gather information from their members on the distribution of these wetland birds and both bodies publish annual bird reports^{17, 18, 19}. The BTO Breeding Bird Survey also contributes to the monitoring and recording of these wetland bird species⁶.

5. OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

5.1 UK Objectives and Targets

Not applicable to these species.

5.2 Caerphilly Objectives and Targets

5.2.1 Survey all suitable watercourses to develop a better picture of the number of breeding pairs or territories held (Target: 2005).

5.2.2 Maintain present breeding populations of these species (Target: ongoing).

5.2.3 Provide relevant data to planners, developers and organisations involved in river maintenance work, to allow consideration or mitigation where work is carried out on or near watercourses (Target: ongoing).

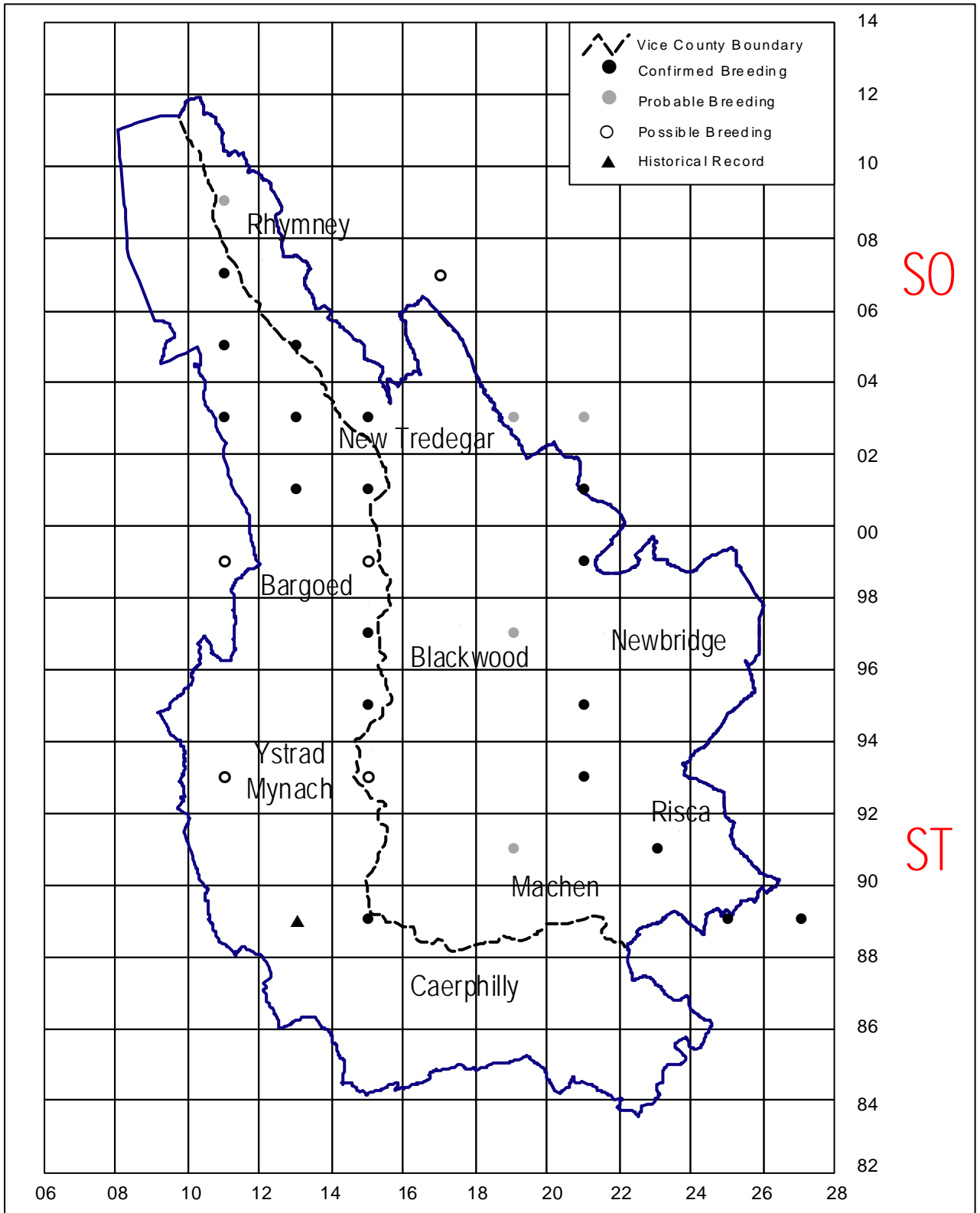
6. ACTION AND KEY TARGETS

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 sites with significant numbers of wetland birds as SINCLNR.	CCBC	CCW									✓
6.2 Site Safeguard and Management											
6.2.1 Adopt and promote a sympathetic approach to the management of riparian habitats.	EA	CCBC landowners	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.3 Species Management and Protection											
6.3.1 Encourage the provision of nest boxes on bridges for the dipper and grey wagtail. Introduce a nest box scheme after suitable sites have been identified in action 6.5.2.	CCBC	EA Schools volunteers				✓					
6.3.2 Continue to implement wildlife legislation.	Gwent Police	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.4 Advisory											
6.4.1 Educate and inform the general public of the requirements and importance of these species, particularly their importance as environmental indicators for the state of our watercourses.	EA	GWT GLWT CCBC RSPB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.5 Future Research and Monitoring											
6.5.1 Survey all suitable watercourses to identify the current distribution of these species in the county borough.	GBC GOS	BTO	✘								
6.5.2 Continue to monitor these species in the county borough.	GBC GOS	BTO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✘ Survey year to be determined.

Action	Key Partners		Year to be complete or in place by:								
	Lead	Partners	2003	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.6 Communications and Publicity											
6.6.1 Produce and disseminate information leaflets to Country Parks and other CCBC property/facilities.	CBP	-		✓							

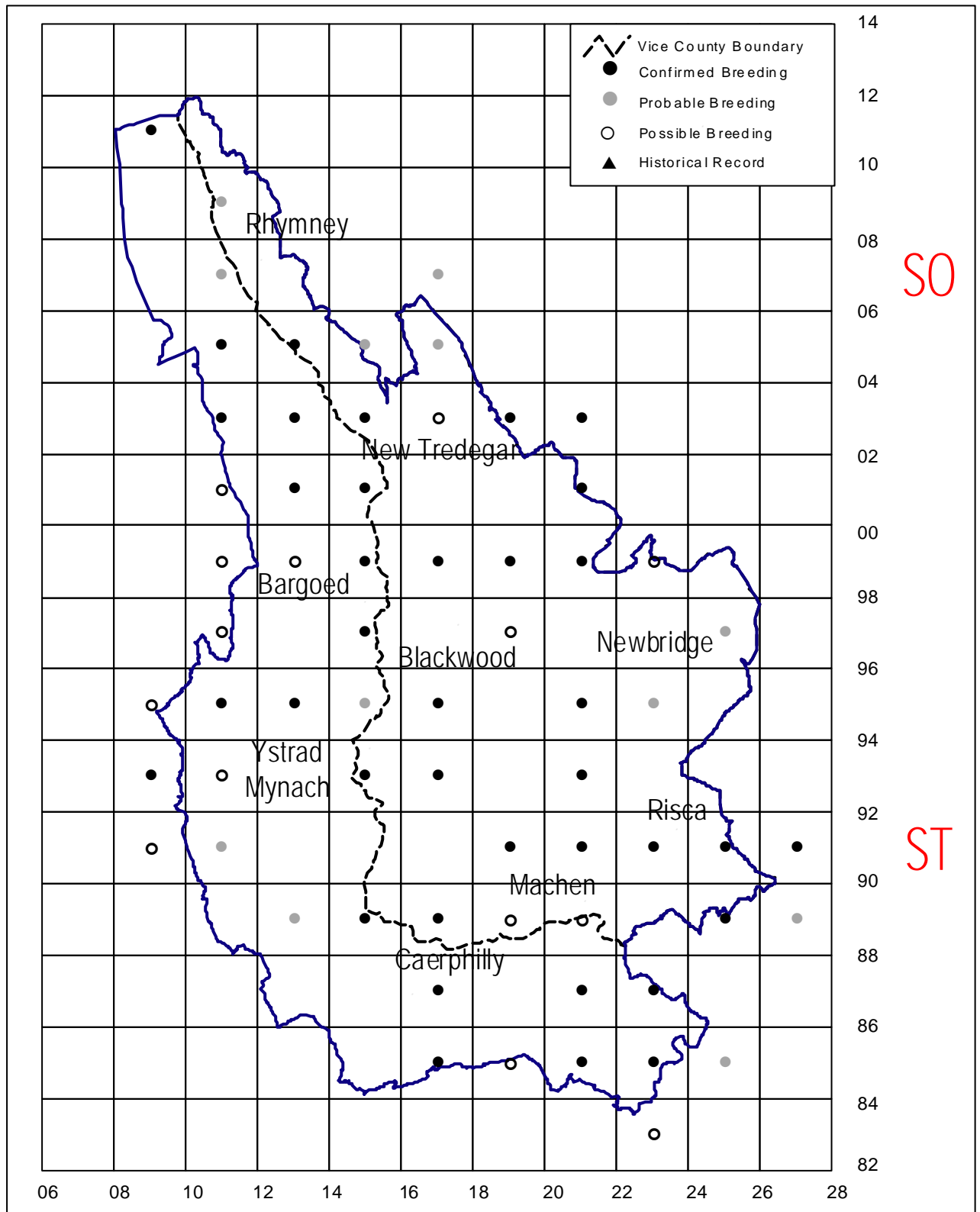
MAP 2.16 - DIPPER



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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.

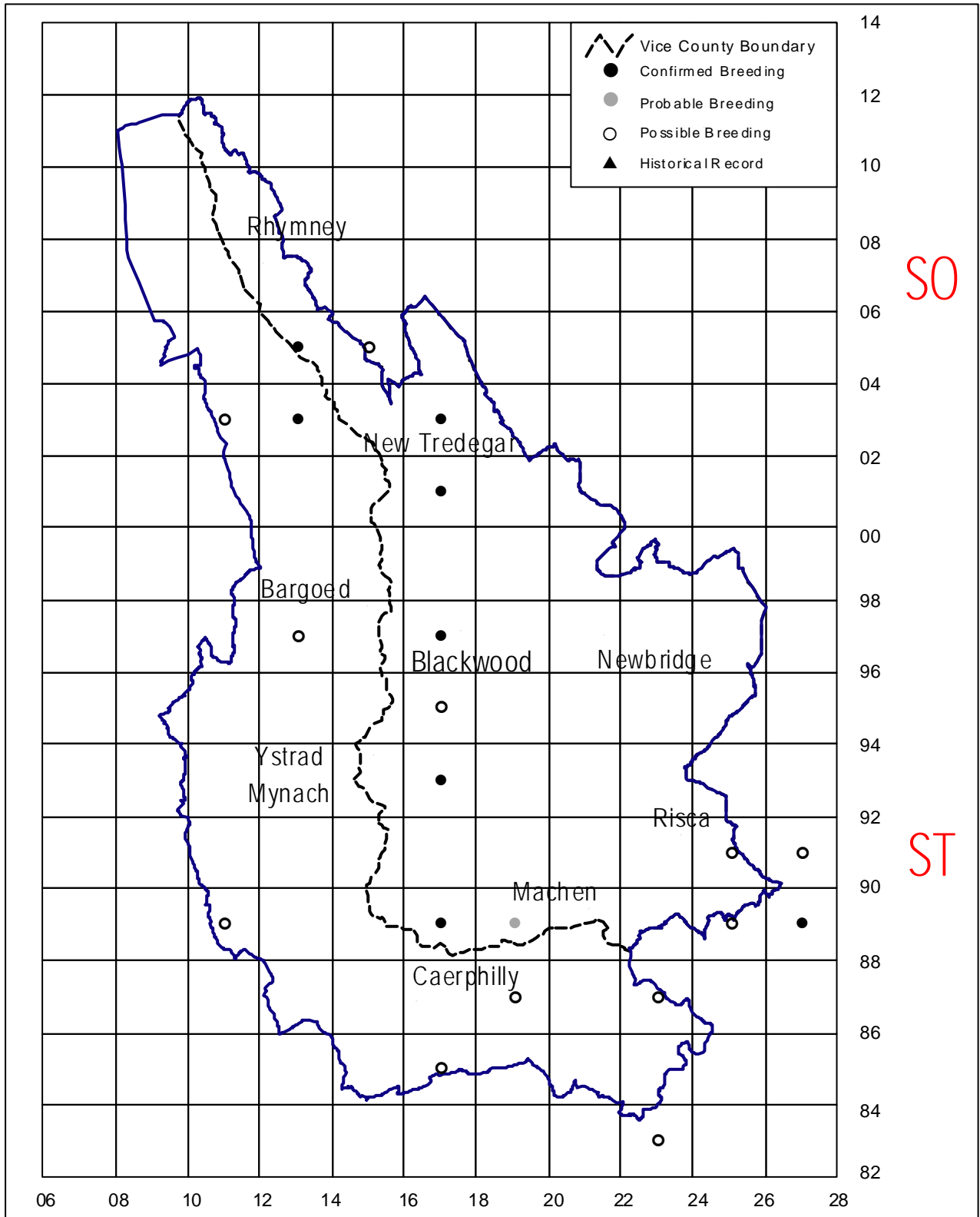
MAP 2.17 - GREY WAGTAIL



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MAP 2.18 - KINGFISHER



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