



Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

CHAPTER 69

This is an extract from a scanned copy of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, **as at the time when it received Royal Assent**. The Act remains one of the most important pieces of wildlife legislation in Great Britain, but it is important to be aware that **this document does not represent the Act as it currently stands**.

Please Note:

- Since the passing of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 there have been various amendments to the text of the Act, most significantly through the [Countryside and Rights of Way \(CROW\) Act 2000](#) (in England and Wales) and the [Nature Conservation \(Scotland\) Act 2004](#) (in Scotland), but also through other legislation including the Local Government Act 1985, the Water Act 1989, and the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (**PLEASE NOTE:** This is not a complete list of amending legislation).
- There have also been changes to the species listed in the schedules, through Variations to the Schedules Orders. There is a statutory five-yearly review of Schedules 5 and 8 (protected wild animals and plant respectively), undertaken by the statutory conservation agencies and coordinated through JNCC, but changes to the Schedules can be made by the Secretary of State at any time, if it is considered necessary because of a threat of extinction or in response to international obligations. JNCC maintain a central spreadsheet of [conservation designations for all taxa](#) which includes any changes to the Schedules of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act.
- When citing any legislation, it is important to check whether any parts of it have been amended (or repealed) by later Acts or Statutory Instruments. Most UK legislation introduced since 1988 is available online from the website of the Office of Public Sector Information <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation>. If necessary, a qualified legal adviser should be consulted for definitive guidance over what legislation may be applicable, and its interpretation.

The remaining parts of this original text of the act can be found at www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3614



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CHAPTER 69

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART I

WILDLIFE

Protection of birds

Section

1. Protection of wild birds, their nests and eggs.
2. Exceptions to s. 1.
3. Areas of special protection.
4. Exceptions to ss. 1 and 3.
5. Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds.
6. Sale etc. of live or dead wild birds, eggs etc.
7. Registration etc. of certain captive wild birds.
8. Protection of captive birds.

Protection of other animals

9. Protection of certain wild animals.
10. Exceptions to s. 9.
11. Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild animals.
12. Protection of certain mammals.

Protection of plants

13. Protection of wild plants.

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18. Attempts to commit offences etc.
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20. Summary prosecutions.
21. Penalties, forfeitures etc.

Section

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24. Functions of Nature Conservancy Council.
25. Functions of local authorities.
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NATIONAL PARKS*Nature conservation*

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