



UK priority species pages – Version 2

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SPECIES PAGES FOR 2007 UK BAP PRIORITY SPECIES

(see endnotes for an explanation of the various components of this compilation).

Crex crex (Linnaeus, 1758)

Corn Crane

1 General information

Level 1	Birds
Level 2	bird
On 1997 UK BAP list	Species Action Plan

2 UK BAP criteriaⁱ

1. International threat	2. International responsibility (2a) + moderate decline in UK (2b)	3. Marked decline in the UK	4. Other important factor(s)
False	False	False	True

3 Evidence for Criteriaⁱⁱ

Criterion 1	
Criterion 2a	
Criterion 2b	
Criterion 3	
Criterion 4	Retain from existing BAP list; although some recovery in core range, species has long way to go to recover original status and factors driving decline across UK are still operating

4 Distribution by Country

England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	International Waters
Y	Y	Y	Y	

5 Distribution Information

Distribution data source	Stage 1 information
Distribution data notes	
number of sites (where less than or equal to 10)	
Units used for number of sites	

6 Actions identified by expertsⁱⁱⁱ

Action number	Action text	Reporting category
1	Support and promote adequate funding, correct working and uptake of corncrake grant scheme prescriptions in Scotland and Northern Ireland.	Wider "landscape" action
2	Promote the instigation of appropriate corncrake management in areas with potential for high recolonisation and continue re-introduction to past range outside of areas where natural re-colonisation is likely.	Species-specific management action
3	Promote the retention of traditional cattle systems in crofting areas	Wider "landscape" action
4	Ensure annual monitoring of breeding numbers in core areas and periodic suveys of habitat at key sites	Species-specific monitoring/survey
5	Outside designated sites and scheme areas, seek to reduce damage to nests and mortality of adults and young from mowing operations by wardening and promoting corncrake friendly techniques.	Species-specific management action
6	Research, identify and implement new means of providing species' requirements on land subject to new useage patterns, particularly land coming out of agricultural use (in current range), land used to grow new crops (in and beyond current range).	Species-specific research

8 Additional information from specialists^{iv}

Attribute	Value
NBN current scientific name	Crex crex
NBN common name	Corn Crane
classification level 1	Birds
classification level 2	bird
Latest UK Population/extent Estimate	1040
Units of measurement	calling males
decline over observed years	14
decline over 25 years	33
decline over 25 years	14
Additional comments/ information	Trend between estimates in 1970 and 2003
fraction of European countries where taxon is Red-listed (where	-
Crit1 satisfied Yes/No/ Unknown	no
Confidence in assesment crit 1	high
Additional comments/ information including confidence in assessm	European IUCN assessment used (from Birds in Europe 2, 2004)

pcnt of European population in UK	0.04
Crit2 satisfied Yes/No/ Unknown	no
Confidence in assesment crit 2	high
Crit3 satisfied Yes/No/ Unknown	No
Confidence in assesment crit 3	high
Factor	Retain from existing BAP list; although some recovery in core range, species has long way to go to recover original status and factors driving decline across UK are still operating
Crit4 satisfied (Yes/ No/ Unknown)	yes
Confidence in assesment crit 4	high

10 Species designations^v

Abbreviation	Reporting Category	Designation	Designation description	Year	Source
Bern:A2	Bern Convention	Appendix 2	Special protection (‘appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures’) for the animal taxa listed, including: all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing; the deliberate damage to or destruction of breeding or resting sites; the deliberate disturbance of wild fauna, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing and hibernation, insofar as disturbance would be significant in relation to the objectives of this Convention; the deliberate destruction or taking of eggs from the wild or keeping these eggs even if empty; the possession of and internal trade in these animals, alive or dead, including stuffed animals and any readily recognisable part or derivative thereof, where this would contribute to the effectiveness of the provisions of this article.	1979	Bern Convention
BirdsDir:A1	Birds Directive	Annex 1	Birds which are the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. As appropriate, Special Protection Areas to be established to assist conservation measures. Note that the contents of this annex have been updated in April 2003 following the Treaty of Accession.	1985	Birds directive
CMS_AEWA:A2	Convention	AEWA	Conservation of migratory waterbirds, giving	2008	Agreement on the Conservation of African-

	on Migratory Species	Annex II	special attention to endangered species as well as to those with an unfavourable conservation status.		Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)
CMS_Bonn:A2	Convention on Migratory Species	Bonn Appendix 2	Migratory species having an unfavourable conservation status for which Range States are encouraged to conclude international agreements for their benefit.	1997	Bonn Convention
England NERC S.41	Biodiversity Lists - England	England NERC S.41	Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.	2008	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41) and Wales (section 42)
NI_Priority	Biodiversity Lists - Northern Ireland	Priority Species (Northern Ireland)	The Northern Ireland Priority List of threatened species requiring conservation action in Northern Ireland. Criteria have been developed to ensure that Priority Species have been chosen using a scientific basis (See http://www.habitas.org.uk/priority/criteria.html). The list is designed to assist those involved in the conservation of biodiversity by guiding decisions on where to target action and invest resources.	2010	Northern Ireland Priority Species List, March 2010
Scottish Biodiversity List	Biodiversity Lists - Scotland	Scottish Biodiversity List	The Scottish Biodiversity List is a list of flora, fauna and habitats considered by the Scottish Ministers to be of principal importance for biodiversity conservation. The development of the list has been a collaborative effort involving a great many stakeholders overseen by scientists from the Scottish Biodiversity Forum. Completion of the list is the first time such a	2005	Scottish Biodiversity List of species of principal importance for biodiversity conservation

			<p>stocktake has been done in Scotland.</p> <p>The Scottish Biodiversity List is a tool for public bodies and others doing their Biodiversity Duty. The publication of the Scottish Biodiversity List satisfies the requirements of Section 2(4) of The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.</p>		
Wales NERC S.42	Biodiversity Lists - Wales	Wales NERC S.42	Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” covered under Section 42 (Wales) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.	2009	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41) and Wales (section 42)
BAP:2007	Biodiversity Action Plan UK list of priority species	Priority Species	The UK List of Priority Species and Habitats contains 1150 species and 65 habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).	2007	UK list of Priority Habitats and Species
Bird:Red	Red data categories - birds (not based on IUCN criteria)	Bird Population Status: red	Red list species are those that are Globally Threatened according to IUCN criteria; those whose population or range has declined rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.	2009	Birds of Conservation Concern 3 The population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Eaton et al British Birds 102 June 2009 pages 296–341 http://www.britishbirds.co.uk/BoCC3final.pdf
WACA:Sch1_part1	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Schedule 1 Part 1	Birds which are protected by special penalties at all times.	1981	Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedules 1,5 and 8 (protected birds, animals and plants)
W(NI)O:Sch1_part1	The Wildlife	Schedule 1 Part 1	Birds which are protected by special penalties at all times.	1985	Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order (1985)

	(Northern Ireland) Order 1985				
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UK BAP 2008 reporting^{vi}

(nb this only applies to species on the original 1997 UK BAP priority species list)

11 General status

Country	Attribute	Value
England		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Value	15
	Units	Displaying males
	Accuracy	Sample or full survey
	Adequate data	Yes
	Data on NBN	Yes
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Data source / comments	14 of these birds were recorded at the Nene Washes the site of an ongoing re-introduction project. The figure there for 2007 was 5 calling males.
	Edits made by reporting group	
Northern Ireland		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Value	4
	Units	Displaying males
	Accuracy	Sample or full survey
	Adequate data	Yes
	Data on NBN	Yes
	Refer to LBAP data	No

	Edits made by reporting group	
Scotland		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Value	1163
	Units	Displaying males
	Accuracy	Sample or full survey
	Adequate data	Yes
	Data on NBN	Yes
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Data source / comments	The large majority of the UK population remains in Scotland. See comments in UK section above.
	Edits made by reporting group	
UK		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Value	1182
	Units	Displaying males
	Accuracy	Partial survey
	Adequate data	Yes
	Data on NBN	Yes
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Data source / comments	This figure represents a combination of: 1. a full annual RSPB survey at annually monitored sites (previously known as 'core areas'). These areas hold over 90% of the UKs corncrakes, comprising the islands listed below. 2. Surveys around the Nene Washes in Cambridgeshire, where a trial re-establishment project is underway. 3. Additional records, gathered less systematically, from the rest of the UK. 2009 is a UK Census year, and a special effort will be made to record all calling males in the

		UK, funded by EHS NI. List of Annually Monitored Sites: Orkney Lewis Harris Berneray North Uist Benbecula South Uist Barra & Vatersay Skye Canna Rum Eigg Muck Coll Tiree Mull Iona Colonsay & Oronsay Islay
	Edits made by reporting group	

7 Trends

Country	Attribute	Value
UK		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Trend	Fluctuating - probably increasing
	Accuracy	Sample or full survey
	Adequate data	Yes
	Data on NBN	Yes
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Data source / comments	The total in the Annually Monitored Sites (the Hebrides and Orkney, holding well over 90% of the UK population, see comments in UK Status section) declined by 7.8 % between 2007 and 2008, the first such decline since the conservation effort began in 1992. This might be a fluctuation due to the late spring, of little biological significance in the long term. Future annual surveys will be undertaken to monitor the situation.
	Edits made by reporting group	
England		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Trend	Increasing
	Accuracy	Sample or full survey
	Adequate data	Yes
	Data on NBN	Yes

	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Data source / comments	Data from RSPB internal reporting. This relates to an ongoing re-introduction project on the Nene Washes. 5 birds in 2007, 14 in 2008. One additional record in England also.
	Edits made by reporting group	
Northern Ireland		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Trend	Increasing
	Accuracy	Sample or full survey
	Adequate data	Yes
	Data on NBN	Yes
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Edits made by reporting group	
Scotland		
	Date	2008
	Status unknown	No
	Trend	Fluctuating - probably increasing
	Accuracy	Sample or full survey
	Adequate data	Yes
	Data on NBN	Yes
	Refer to LBAP data	No
	Data source / comments	See comments above and in status section.
	Edits made by reporting group	

8 Successes

Success text	Success category 1	Success category 2	England	NI	Scotland	Wales	Edits by reporting group
Success in securing positive management under ESA and RSS schemes, and inclusion of effective prescriptions and relatively good payment rates in nes schemes under SRDP. Also: Maintenance of RSPB/SNH/Scottish Crofting Federation Corncrake Initiative, paying for delayed mowing and corncrake-friendly grassland management techniques in areas beyond other schemes and with confirmed corncrake presence.	Funding and incentives	Agricultural schemes - delivering wildlife gains	No	No	Yes	No	
Incorporation of corncrake measures, and dissemination of appropriate agricultural advice, in agricultural support systems.	Partnership	Government support	No	No	Yes	No	
Not elaborated by Lead Partner	Policy, legislation and designation	Improved protection through site designation - international (SPA, SAC, RAMSAR)	No	No	Yes	No	
Not elaborated by Lead Partner	Research, survey and information	Monitoring surveys underway	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	

All RSPB corncrake data is now available on the NBN. Published analyses show that corncrake conservation measures as implemented explain the population increase since the 1990s.	Research, survey and information	Data access/exchange - achieved or started	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Trial re-establishment poroject undwerway and showing positive signs.	Research, survey and information	Ex-situ / reintroduction techniques - studies completed or underway	Yes	No	No	No	

9 Threats

Threat category 1	Threat category 2	England	NI	Scotland	Wales	Edits made by reporting group
Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture	Abandonment of marginal land	No	No	Yes	No	
Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture	Inappropriate grazing (due to timing or livestock type)	No	No	Yes	No	
Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture	Intensive grassland management	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	

Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture	Loss of field margins	No	No	Yes	No	
Habitat loss / degradation - management practice	Demise of traditional practices	No	No	Yes	No	

15 Constraints

Rank	Constraint category 1	Constraint category 2	Constraint summary	England	NI	Scotland	Wales	Solution category	Solution summary
1	Species and habitat management	Farming practice - causing problems	There is some evidence of agricultural abandonment in some key areas. If this proceeds, the species' future will be severely compromised.	No	No	Yes	No	Legislation and policies	Adequate maintenance of agriculture in key areas

4	Funding and incentives	Agricultural schemes - not delivering wildlife gains	The corncrake's future depends to a large extent on the impact of the new Scottish Rural Development Programme. Corncrake prescriptions under the schemes are good. However, the entire programme is poorly funded in relation to other member states, there is evidently a shortfall in relation to biodiversity targets, and future uptake rates might not be sufficient to achieve population and range increases.	No	No	Yes	No	Funding, resources and incentive schemes	Corncrake measures under the SRDP must be applied-for (successfully) by farmers and crofters in key areas.
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10 State of Knowledge

State of knowledge category	Notes	Edits made by reporting group
Knowledge sufficient to effectively deliver the plan targets	The corncrake is unusual in that: 1. Detailed annual surveys are undertaken in Annually Monitored Sites, which hold over 90% of the population. 2. A dedicated programme of autecological research and post-hoc analysis means that we understand the species' requirements and how practically to deliver them sufficiently well, and that we know, once implemented, they have (up till now) worked well in	

	terms of population response	
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ENDNOTES

ⁱ An explanation of these criteria is included at Annex 3 of [UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Report on the Species and Habitat Review](#). BRIG (ed. Ant Maddock) 2007. This review was organised in two stages. Stage 1 looked at the scientific evidence for selecting the UK List of Priority Species and Habitats while stage 2 considered the conservation action needed for these species and habitats and provided signposts to the means of implementing action.

ⁱⁱ The information on evidence and the species distribution is as presented on the UK BAP website. Users can download a spreadsheet of the [Stage 1 species evidence](#) from the home page of the UK BAP website.

ⁱⁱⁱ Actions were assigned to each and every priority species by expert groups convened at Stage 2 of the Review process. These were subsequently categorised into “signpost categories”. This information is as shown on the UK BAP website See the link for [categorisation \(signposting\) of UK priority species](#).

^{iv} This information has been derived from Stage 1 of the priority species review, and is presented in the “marine”, “terrestrial invertebrates” and “other terrestrial species” sheets within the spreadsheet of the [Stage 1 species evidence](#). The information presented here varies according to the taxonomic group. Please note that some of these data have been written for other Expert Group members and may not be of great value to a wider audience.

^v Information on conservation designations has been extracted from JNCC’s collation of information on [species designations](#). The designations shown in version 2 of these pages are as at December 2010.

^{vi} As part of the 2008 UK BAP reporting round lead partners of national plans were asked to answer a number of specific questions. The data will be analysed and used for the UK and country level reports. All of the responses provided through BARS as part of the 2008 reporting exercise are available to [download](#). Note that in the December 2010 version of these pages (version 2) includes corrections to previously truncated text fields.