



National Report Form for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU).

Introduction

Introductory remarks

This is the National Report form for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia ([Raptors MOU](#)).

The purpose of the National Report is to provide information on your country's implementation of the Raptors MOU including the Action Plan (Annex 3). The format provided here has been designed to generate information that can be synthesised in a comparable way for each future Meeting of Signatories, to give a meaningful picture of progress and reflect the achievements of Signatories and other stakeholders, but also to be as streamlined as possible to keep the work involved in reporting to a necessary minimum.

The format was tested ahead of the third Meeting of Signatories (MOS3) and formally was approved by MOS3 in 2023. The Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU will compile and analyze the National Reports and present a summary on the implementation of the Raptors MOU Action Plan to MOS4.

Reporting period

To enable proper analysis, it is important that all respondents relate their answers (throughout this form) to the same reporting period. On this occasion we are asking you to report on the period between November 2021 and April 2026.

The previous implementation survey covered the period July 2019 - October 2021, the results of which can be found in the Synthesis of national reports submitted by [Signatories and Cooperating Partners on their implementation of the MOU](#).

Instructions

Please answer all questions as fully and as accurately as you can. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information used to answer the question, particularly if a published reference or report is available.

For each relevant question there are icons that can be used to attach a document and/or provide a web link.

When working on the online version of the report, save your information by clicking on the “Save all” button inside each section. An auto-save feature also saves any changed responses every 30 seconds, and whenever you move between sections.

Guidance notes are provided throughout the format to assist you in answering the questions.

Deadline for submission: 30 June 2026

I. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Signatory State:

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including the Bailiwick of Guernsey, the Bailiwick of Jersey, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar and the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia.

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the MOU:

(All other than those mentioned above)

Report Compiler

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II. HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES

GUIDANCE:

This section invites you to summarise briefly the most important positive aspects of Raptors MOU/Action Plan implementation in your country and the areas of greatest concern.

Your answers should be based on the information contained in the body of the report: the intention is for this section to distil the technical information in the report into some very brief and simple "high-level" messages for decision-makers and for wider audiences.

Although keeping it brief, please try also to be specific where you can, e.g. "New wildlife legislation enacted in 2020 doubled penalties for poisoning birds of prey" is more informative than "stronger laws"; "50% shortfall in match-funding for GEF project on vultures" is more informative than "lack of funding".

GUIDANCE:

Please limit this specifically to the current reporting period only. For this present round of reporting, the period is from 1 November 2021 to the present.

In your country, in the reporting period, what does this report reveal about:

The most successful aspects of implementation of the MOU and/or Action Plan? (List up to five items)

1. Strengthened legislation:

- The Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024 introduced measures to tackle raptor persecution and protect upland habitats, including a licence for land used to kill or take Red Grouse. Evidence of raptor persecution on grouse moors will result in suspension or revocation of a licence.
- Since January 2025, it has been illegal in the UK to use second generation anticoagulant rodenticides in outdoor locations unless connected to a building, which should make enforcement of improper rodenticide use easier and help reduce illegal poisoning of birds of prey.
- In June 2025, the UK Government announced a ban on shot containing more than 1% lead and large calibre bullets with a lead content of more than 3% by weight for live quarry shooting across England, Scotland and Wales. Legislation came into force on 1st April 2026, with a transition period of three years for most uses of lead ammunition.

2. Reintroduction/translocation projects:

- The South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project is successfully reinforcing the formerly small, isolated and vulnerable population of Golden Eagles in the Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway, by relocating chicks from eyries further North.
- Forestry England, in partnership with the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, has reared young White-tailed Eagles taken from Scotland and released them on the Isle of Wight as part of a five-year reintroduction programme. The first successful breeding attempt took place in 2023.
- The Poole Harbour Osprey Project, led by two non-governmental organisations—Birds of Poole Harbour and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, initiated in 2017, aims to restore a breeding population of Ospreys to the South Coast of England, by translocating up to 60 Osprey chicks from Scotland and releasing them in the Poole Harbour area. Multiple pairs are now breeding in the area.

3. Habitat restoration

- Peatland restoration is taking place across areas of open upland habitat important for various UK raptors, and longer term will improve habitat for a range of prey species supporting raptor populations. 11,615 ha of peatland have been brought into active restoration through England's Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme since 2023. Scotland's Peatland ACTION programme has restored over 51,000 ha to date, supported by

a £250 million commitment to restore 250,000 ha by 2030. Wales has restored 3,600 ha of peatland and improved habitat across a further 8,000 ha.

4. Operations to address illegal killing and taking

- In 2024, the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) established the Harrier Task Force to tackle the illegal persecution of Hen Harriers. The task force, which is a partnership between NWCU and Natural England, uses innovative technology, such as tracking drones and specialised detection dogs, and strategic partnerships to detect, deter and disrupt offenders. The Task Force has been successful in preventing illegal killing of satellite tagged Hen Harriers at all eight identified hotspots.
- Operation Tantallon, which ran from 2021–2023, was a multi-agency investigation into the theft and laundering of wild Peregrine Falcons in Scotland and northern England. This international enquiry was led by Police Scotland, with investigative, intelligence and analytical support from the NWCU and further assistance from a number of partner agencies. The operation resulted in multiple successful prosecutions.
- Initiated in 2025, Operation Glassbeak is a UK-wide operation to protect Peregrine Falcons during the breeding season, led by the NWCU and supported by police forces, Natural England, the RSPB, raptor study groups and volunteer monitors. The operation identified the 12 most at-risk wild Peregrine Falcon nest sites across the UK and deployed a number of police prevention tactics, including clear signage. This led to a number of birds nesting in these at-risk sites fledging Peregrine Falcon chicks for the first time in over eight years.
- The Wales Wildlife & Rural Crime Strategy 2025–2028, a joint initiative between the police in Wales and the Welsh Government, provides the framework for partnership action to address raptor persecution in Wales. Through the Strategy, the Welsh Bird Crime Priority Group brings together the police, stakeholders and the Welsh Government to reduce bird crime in Wales, raise awareness, encourage reporting and enhance training for police and partner agencies.

5. Monitoring

- The UK has strong monitoring programmes in place for birds of prey, including the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey, which provides national breeding population trend data for commoner raptor species, and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP), which collates breeding data on rarer species.
- Occasional national surveys take place for key priority species that are not adequately monitored by annual schemes, such as the European Honey-buzzard, which was surveyed from 2020-2021, and Hen Harrier, which was surveyed in the Isle of Man in 2022 and the UK in 2023.
- The Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme partnership and the Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group monitor birds of prey in Scotland and Northern Ireland, respectively.
- Through the Nature Networks Programme, Welsh Government have funded Cudyll Cymru—a citizen science scheme monitoring four commoner raptor species in Wales (Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Eurasian Buzzard, Red Kite and Common Kestrel).

The greatest difficulties in implementing the MOU and/or Action Plan? (List up to five items)

1. Addressing illegal killing. Key challenges include:

- **Difficulty in detecting incidents in remote rural locations, and in obtaining enough evidence to be able to pursue prosecution.**
 - Innovative technology, such as tracking drones and specialised detection dogs, and strategic partnerships are being used to help detect, deter and disrupt offenders. However, these efforts are limited to high-risk species and locations, and it is likely that a number of incidents go undetected and/or unreported. Investigations in remote and rural locations are frequently hampered by a lack of evidence to identify offenders.
- **Lack of data on the scale of illegal killing of birds of prey.**

- Wildlife crimes, including those relating to birds, are not “notifiable”, meaning that they are not reported to the Home Office or included in crime statistics.
- **Lack of resources for the enforcement of legislation on illegal killing of birds of prey.**
 - Crime against birds of prey has been identified as a UK wildlife crime priority. However, it is for individual police forces to prioritise their resources.
- **Weak penalties for wildlife crimes and a lack of sentencing guidelines for raptor crime.**
 - No formal sentencing guidelines are in place for raptor crime offences, which leads to inconsistent sentencing and compounds a lack of understanding amongst judicial decisionmakers, and penalties do not fully reflect the severity of offences. There are plans to develop sentencing guidelines in Scotland.

2. Termination of attempted Hen Harrier reintroduction to southern England.

- Natural England, in partnership with the International Centre for Birds of Prey (ICBP), established a conservation breeding programme for Hen Harriers as part of a project to reintroduce this species to southern England. Ten young birds were transported to England from France to establish a captive breeding programme. Although females laid a number of eggs between 2023 and 2025, none were fertile. Following a thorough review, a decision was made to conclude the project.

The main priorities for future implementation of the MOU and/or Action Plan? (List up to five items)

1. Addressing illegal killing and taking

- The [Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy 2025–2028](#) outlines the UK police’s approach to combatting wildlife crime priorities including crimes against birds of prey. Aspects of this strategy are delivered by Tactical Delivery Groups for the five UK priority wildlife crimes, which include bird of prey crime.
- In March 2026, the UK Government published its [Land Use Framework](#). It commits to working with the gamebird shooting sector and other stakeholder groups to explore measures such as licensing and any associated conditions for recreational grouse and gamebird shooting. This process will begin with evidence gathering and any proposed changes will be subject to public consultation.
- The National Wildlife Crime Unit’s Harrier Task Force is seeking funding to employ independent facilitators and social scientists to utilise the IUCN SSC guidelines on human-wildlife conflict and coexistence to find long term solutions relating to raptor persecution on some driven grouse moors.

2. Species reintroductions

- The government has approved £1m of funding to explore a Golden Eagle reintroduction programme in England. The project will be led by the charity Restoring Upland Nature, in partnership with a group of core partners, including Forestry England.
- Forestry England, in partnership with the Roy Dennis Foundation and Exmoor National Park Authority, has secured a licence from Natural England to enable the next phase of White-tailed Eagle reintroductions in southern England, permitting the release of up to 20 birds in Exmoor National Park over the next three years. Releases at the new site will begin in August 2026.

3. Conservation of important sites

- The UK [has committed to](#) effectively conserving at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas by 2030 (“30by30”) in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish Governments have also committed to 30by30.
- Internationally important sites for birds of prey are identified through the process to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and a network of 69 raptor SPAs has been classified in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Gibraltar. The UK SPA network has been through a series of reviews, and the latest—[The status of UK SPAs in the 2000s: the Third Network Review](#)—published in 2016, assessed the sufficiency of the network for

each species. In 2025, JNCC [published](#) detailed advice and options for the classification of new sites, the addition of qualifying bird species to existing sites, and reviews of site boundaries to meet identified insufficiencies. The four countries of the UK are now developing their responses.

- Nationally important sites for birds of prey are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in Great Britain and Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) in Northern Ireland. In line with the Environment Act 2021, England's [Environmental Improvement Plan 2025](#) set an interim target that by December 2030, 50% of SSSI features will have actions on track to achieve favourable condition, and an ambition to restore 75% of protected sites to favourable condition by 2042.
- Northern Ireland's [Environmental Improvement Plan 2024](#) set a target for 95% of the features underlying the designation of ASSIs to be in, or approaching, favourable conservation condition by 2030.
- Wales has set out its approach to SSSI notification in its Nature Recovery Action Plan 2026 and will be setting ambitious targets by 2028 to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

III. RAPTOR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES AND EQUIVALENT DOCUMENTS

GUIDANCE:

A central provision of the MOU (paragraph 12) is for Signatories to prepare national or regional (e.g. EU) strategies or equivalent documents (e.g. Single Species Action Plans) for category 1 and, where appropriate, category 2 species in Table 1 in the Action Plan. The Action Plan itself foresees its listed actions being addressed by these strategies / equivalent documents.

Does a national and/or regional Raptor Conservation Strategy or equivalent document exist in relation to your country?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ In preparation
- ☒ No

Please state the title and scope of the strategy or equivalent document, and summarise the current status of its implementation or preparation (as appropriate):

Provide a copy of the document(s) concerned:

And/or provide a website link that will give access to the relevant text:

Please state the reasons why a national and/or regional Raptor Conservation Strategy or equivalent document has not been developed:

No national or regional Raptor Conservation Strategy is in place in the UK and there are no plans to develop a UK Raptor Conservation Strategy. However, Natural Resources Wales are currently exploring the need for a Wales Raptor Conservation Framework in discussion with Stakeholders. The framework would include protection, site protection, monitoring, consideration of threats, and conservation and management needs at site and wider countryside scales.

A range of strategies and documents relevant to raptor conservation are in place to address specific species and/or conservation risks, and it is the UK's view that raptor conservation is effectively implemented through these.

UK strategies and documents include, but are not limited to:

- England's [Environmental Improvement Plan 2025](#) (EIP25) is its roadmap for restoring England's environment. It sets new interim targets for the statutory Environment Act 2021 targets. These include interim targets to restore or create a total of 250,000 ha of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside of protected sites by December 2030, and by December 2030 for 50% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest features to have actions on track to achieve favourable condition.
- In Scotland, the [Scottish Biodiversity Strategy](#) sets out the ambition to restore nature by 2045, including a series of six-year rolling delivery plans that include a comprehensive set of cross-sectoral actions, cutting across policy areas to put nature at the centre of a sustainable economy and thriving communities.
- The [Scottish Biodiversity Delivery Plan 2024 to 2030](#) includes actions to help farmers and crofters transition to practices generating substantial regeneration in biodiversity and ecosystem health, via a new agricultural support system, and reaches across other areas of policy including education, planning and development, the economy, agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

- Northern Ireland's [Environmental Improvement Plan](#) forms the basis for a coherent and effective set of interventions that can collectively deliver real improvements in the quality of the environment. It includes several targets relating to protecting nature on land, including: at least 30% of land and freshwater protected, connected and managed for nature by 2030; and all semi-natural peatlands are conserved or restored to healthy, functioning ecosystems by 2040.

Legal protection of species

- The [Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy 2025–2028](#), which outlines the UK police's approach to combatting wildlife crime priorities including crimes against birds of prey. Aspects of this strategy are delivered by Tactical Delivery Groups for the five UK priority wildlife crimes, which include bird of prey crime.
- Wales' [Wildlife and Rural Crime Strategy 2025–2028](#) sets out priority areas (including bird crime) and key objectives.

Conservation and management of habitats and sites

- Internationally important sites for birds of prey are classified as Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The UK SPA network has been through a series of reviews, and the report on the second phase of the third review, [published in 2025](#), sets out detailed advice and options for the designation of new sites, addition of qualifying bird species to existing sites, and reviews of site boundaries.
- The [England Peat Action Plan](#), launched in 2021, sets out plans to restore, sustainably manage and protect peatlands, with an anticipated investment of over £50 million in peatland restoration as part of the Nature for Climate Fund. The plan aims to restore at least 35,000 ha of peatland by 2025, supported by a new Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme. The plan will benefit species such as Hen Harriers and Short-eared Owl.
- Wales's [National Peatland Action Programme](#) (NPAP), a five-year plan (2025–2030) of peatland restoration in Wales funded by Welsh Government and led by Natural Resources Wales. NPAP's goal is that by 2030 1,800 ha of peatland will be restored annually. Key raptor beneficiary species include breeding Hen Harrier, Merlin and Short-eared Owl.
- The [Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy to 2040](#), published by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in 2025, contains five Strategic Objectives and 26 Actions to help protect, enhance and manage peatlands sustainably.
- A [Peatland Strategy Delivery Plan for Northern Ireland](#) was published by DAERA in April 2026. This sets 14 short-term targets to help deliver peatland conservation, restoration and management by December 2027.
- The Isle of Man has updated its [Agricultural Strategy](#), which includes an aim to 'maintain and enhance biodiversity and the environment, supporting the Biodiversity Strategy and the Areas of Special Scientific Interest'.
- In Gibraltar, the [Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan](#) recognises the importance of restoration and management activities to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

Assessing and responding to threats and pressures: Disease

- The [Mitigation strategy for avian influenza in wild birds in England and Wales](#) (2026) sets out the policies and approach that The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and Welsh Government, and their delivery agencies the Animal and Plant Health Agency, Natural England and Natural Resources Wales take to avian influenza in wild birds in England and Wales, within the remit of national law. It also contains guidance for the general public and non-governmental organisations on issues which may impact them in relation to avian influenza in wild birds.
- The [Scottish wild bird high pathogenicity: avian influenza response plan](#) (2025) sets out the approach that the Scottish Government and its agencies will take to respond to an outbreak of HPAI in wild birds in Scotland.

Action/Integration across sectors

- National planning policies such as the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) in England, [National Planning Framework 4 \(NPF4\)](#) in Scotland and Northern Ireland's [Strategic Planning Policy Statement](#) state that adverse impacts of developments on biodiversity should be avoided where possible, and unavoidable impacts mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy.
- [The Developing with Nature guidance](#), which was published in support of the Scottish National Planning Framework 4, brings biodiversity to the heart of planning decision making and links to the wider health agenda.
- The [Jersey Bridging Island Plan 2022–2025](#) is the primary consideration in any planning-related decision making across Jersey and outlines policies to achieve the sustainable development of the island with a balance between social, environmental, and economic considerations.
- The Gibraltar [25 Year Environment Plan](#) includes an overarching goal to protect, conserve and enhance Gibraltar's natural capital and to ensure economic growth is consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Guernsey's [Strategy for Nature](#) sets the direction for conservation and nature management on the island. The strategy incorporates a framework of high-level objectives that encompass the latest advances in mainstreaming biodiversity and horizon scanning for pressures on nature, through increasing community awareness of nature and its health and wellbeing benefits. It has been adopted as supplementary planning guidance, ensuring that its goals and objectives can be considered when decisions on planning applications are being reached.

Does the strategy or equivalent document address all of the activities listed in Table 2 of the Action Plan?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ Partly
- ☐ No

Please state the reasons why all of the Table 2 activities are not addressed:

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IV. LEGAL PROTECTION OF SPECIES AGAINST KILLING AND UNSUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION

Are all species of migratory birds of prey (present in your country) listed in Annex I of the Raptors MOU granted full legal protection from deliberate killing and taking from the wild?

GUIDANCE:

Follow this [link](#) to see the species listed in Annex 1.

If you are answering "yes", please make sure that the statute(s) concerned is/are clearly identified by giving details of title, date, etc.

If you are answering "only partly", please be clear whether this is because legal protection only applies to some aspects, or because only some species are covered (please identify the species) or because only some areas are covered - (or any combination of these types of partial coverage); and give the reasons for this.

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ Partly
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not known

Please indicate the statute(s) concerned and summarise the provision:

England and Wales:

In England and Wales, the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 makes it an offence (with certain exceptions for species listed in Schedule 2, which do not include any species of migratory birds of prey) to intentionally:

- kill, injure, or take any wild bird;
- take, damage or destroy the nest of a wild bird included in Schedule ZA1;
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built;
- take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

Schedule ZA1 includes: Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Osprey.

If any person has in his possession or control any live or dead wild bird or any part of, or anything derived from, such a bird; or an egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg, he shall be guilty of an offence. This does not apply if the bird or egg has been lawfully taken or sold.

It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or to disturb dependent young of such a bird.

Schedule 1 includes: European Honey-buzzard, Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Gyr Falcon, Northern Goshawk, Harriers (all species), Eurasian Hobby, Red Kite, Merlin, Osprey, Snowy Owl, Peregrine Falcon.

It is an offence to sell or advertise for sale any live wild bird other than a bird included in Part I of Schedule 3 (which does not include any species listed on the Raptors MOU), or an egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg; or any dead wild bird other than a bird included in Part II or III of Schedule 3 (which do not include any species listed on the Raptors MOU), or any part of, or anything derived from, such a wild bird.

Scotland:

In Scotland, the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 makes it an offence (with certain exceptions for species listed in Schedule 2, which do not include any species of migratory birds of prey) to intentionally or recklessly:

- kill, injure, or take any wild bird;
- take, damage, destroy or otherwise interfere with the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built;
- at any other time take, damage, destroy or otherwise interfere with any nest habitually used by any wild bird included in Schedule A1;
- take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

Schedule A1 includes: Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle.

If any person has in his possession or control any live or dead wild bird or any part of, or anything derived from, such a bird; or an egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg, he shall be guilty of an offence. This does not apply if the bird or egg has been lawfully taken or sold.

It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or to disturb dependent young of such a bird. Any person who intentionally or recklessly harasses any wild bird included in Schedule 1A shall be guilty of an offence.

Schedule 1 includes: European Honey-buzzard, Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Gyrfalcon, Northern Goshawk, Harriers (all species), Eurasian Hobby, Red Kite, Merlin, Osprey, Snowy Owl, Peregrine Falcon.

Schedule 1A includes: Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Hen Harrier and Red Kite.

It is an offence to sell or advertise for sale any live wild bird or an egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg, with certain exemptions for captive-bred birds; or any dead wild bird other than a bird included in Part II or III of Schedule 3 (which do not include any migratory birds of prey), or any part of, or anything derived from, such a wild bird.

In Scotland, the Act establishes vicarious liability, where if a person (A) commits an offence relating to the killing or taking of wild birds, or the use of prohibited methods of take, while acting as the employee of a person (B) who has a legal right to kill or take a wild bird on the land where the offence occurred, person B is also guilty of the offence and may be prosecuted.

The Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024 includes a range of measures that help tackle raptor persecution. The Act gives greater powers to Scottish SPCA inspectors to allow them to search, examine and seize evidence in connection with their existing powers, and introduces a new licensing framework for grouse moors. Licence holders must comply with the Grouse Code. Evidence of raptor persecution or wildlife crime on grouse moors will result in suspension or revocation of a licence, which will act as a strong deterrent to raptor persecution. The Act introduces a five-yearly reporting obligation on the operation and effect of grouse moor licences, which must include an assessment of the conservation status, including population size and range, of Golden Eagle, Hen Harrier, Peregrine Falcon and Merlin.

Northern Ireland:

Under The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order) and amendment The Wildlife (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, it is an offence to makes it an offence (with certain exceptions) to intentionally or recklessly:

- kill, injure, or take any wild bird;
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built;
- at any other time take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird included in Schedule A1;
- obstruct or prevent any wild bird from using its nest
- take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

Schedule A1 includes: Golden Eagle, White-tailedEagle, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon and Red Kite.

If any person has in his possession or control any live or dead wild bird or any part of, or anything derived from, such a bird; or an egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg, he shall be guilty of an offence. This does not apply if the bird or egg has been lawfully taken or sold.

It is an offence intentionally or recklessly to disturb any wild bird while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or to disturb dependent young of such a bird.

It is an offence to sell or advertise for sale any live wild bird or an egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg, or any dead wild bird other than a bird included in Schedule 3 (which does not include any migratory birds of prey), or any part of, or anything derived from, such a wild bird.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Under The Animal Welfare (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2012, a person commits an offence if:

- an act or failure to act causes, or is likely to cause, an animal to be killed.
- an act of his causes a wild animal to be taken from the wild, or the taking, destruction, damage, or disturbance of a nest or eggs or roost or a wild animal, or the disturbance of a wild animal that is rearing young, or the disturbance of any dependent young of a wild animal, and he knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the act would cause the effect in question or the act was reckless.
- without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, he disturbs or harasses any wild animal with the intention of causing it distress or driving it away from a place in which it lives or which it habitually uses.

Under the Protection of Wild Birds (Alderney) Ordinance, 2005, it is an offence for any person to kill, injure or take or attempt to kill, injure or take any wild bird, or to take or destroy or (except in the ordinary course of farming or forestry operations) knowingly or wilfully to disturb eggs or nests of any wild bird (with certain exceptions).

Where without lawful authority or reasonable excuse (proof whereof lies on him) any person has in his control or possession any wild bird or the plumage or skin or part of any wild bird, or the egg or nest of any wild bird, at any time when it is unlawful to take such bird, egg or nest, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021, it is an offence for a person – deliberately or recklessly to kill, injure or take a protected wild bird, or deliberately to cause or permit another person to kill, injure or take a protected wild bird (with certain exceptions).

It is an offence for a person deliberately or recklessly to:

- take, damage or destroy the nest of a protected wild bird while the nest is in use or being built;
- obstruct access to the nest of a protected wild bird, while that nest is in use;
- disturb a protected wild bird occupying a nest;
- do any act, or carry out any activity, in relation to the nest of a protected wild bird, which has the effect of causing the deterioration of that nest.

It is an offence for a person deliberately to:

- take from a nest or disturb in a nest the eggs or dependent offspring of a protected wild bird (as specified in Schedule 5), at any time.
- take from a breeding site or disturb in a breeding or resting site the eggs or dependent offspring of a species listed in Part 1 of Schedule 5, at any time.
- take, damage or destroy any part of the breeding site of a bird of a species listed in Part 2 of Schedule 5; or obstruct access by such a bird to its breeding site while a nest on that site is in use or is being built.

It is an offence for a person deliberately or recklessly to:

- take from a breeding site or disturb in a breeding or resting site the eggs or dependent offspring of a bird of a species listed in Part 2 of Schedule 5, while that site is in use or is being built.
- take, damage or destroy any part of the breeding site of a bird of a species listed in Part 1 of Schedule 5; or obstruct access by such a bird to its breeding site or resting site, at any time.

“protected wild bird” means a wild bird of a species specified in Schedule 2. Schedule 2 includes all native migratory birds of prey.

Part 1 of Schedule 5 includes: Peregrine Falcon, Western Marsh Harrier.

Part 2 of Schedule 5 includes: Eurasian Buzzard, Eurasian Hobby, Common Kestrel, Northern Long-eared Owl, Eurasian Sparrowhawk.

It is an offence for a person, at any time, deliberately to disturb a protected wild bird of a species listed in Schedule 6.

Schedule 6 includes all native migratory birds of prey.

It is an offence for a person to have in his or her possession; to sell or advertise for sale, any protected wild bird, whether alive or dead, or any part of or anything derived from such a bird, including the eggshell of such a bird (certain exceptions apply).

It is an offence for a person to keep, or to have in his or her control or possession a protected wild bird, whether alive or dead, or the blown egg of such a bird (certain exceptions apply).

Isle of Man:

Under The Isle of Man Wildlife Act 1990 (including 2004 amendments), if any person intentionally or recklessly – kills, injures or takes any wild bird; takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or takes or destroys an egg of a wild bird, he shall be guilty of an offence.

If any person has in his possession or control any live or dead wild bird or any part of, or anything derived from, such a bird; or an egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg, he shall be guilty of an offence (certain exceptions apply).

Any person convicted of either of the above offences in relation to a species included in Schedule 1 shall be liable to a special penalty.

If any person intentionally or recklessly disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturbs any nest or egg of such a bird; or disturbs dependent young of such a bird, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

It is an offence to sell or advertise for sale any live wild bird other than a bird included in Part I of Schedule 3 (which does not include any birds of prey), or an egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg, or any dead wild bird other than a bird included in Part II or III of Schedule 3 (which does not include any birds of prey), or any part of, or anything derived from such a wild bird (with certain exceptions). Any person convicted of these offences in relation to a species included in Schedule 1 shall be liable to a special penalty.

Schedule 1 includes Eurasian Buzzard, European Honey-buzzard, Rough-legged Buzzard, Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Falcons (all species), Northern Goshawk, Harriers (all species), Black Kite, Red Kite, Osprey, Owls (all species).

Gibraltar:

Under the Nature Protection Act 1991 (as amended 2024), if any person intentionally hunts, kills, injures or takes any wild bird by any method; or takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird by any method while that bird's nest is in use or being built; or takes, damages or destroys the nest of any

wild bird included in Schedule 9; or takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird; or disturbs any wild birds, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Schedule 9 includes Lesser Kestrel.

If any person has in his possession or control any live or dead wild bird or any part of, or anything derived from, such a bird; or any egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg, he shall be guilty of an offence (certain exceptions apply).

If any person intentionally disturbs any wild bird while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturbs dependent young of such a bird, he shall be guilty of an offence.

If any person— (a) sells, offers or exposes for sale, or has in his possession or transports the purpose of sale, any live wild bird or any readily recognisable parts or derivatives thereof, an egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg; or (b) publishes or causes to be published any advertisement likely to be understood as conveying that he buys or sells, or intends to buy or sell, any of those things, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia:

In the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia (SBAs), the killing, taking, possession, and trade of wild birds is comprehensively prohibited under the Game and Wild Bird Ordinance 2008 (replicating the provisions of the Protection and Management of Game and Wild Birds Law 2003), except where specifically authorized under strict legal exemptions.

Is there legislation in place which bans the use of exposed poison baits and other toxic chemical methods of predator or pest control?

GUIDANCE:

The CMS [Guidelines to prevent the risk of poisoning to migratory birds](#) provide further background on legislative (and other) means of reducing harm to migratory birds (including raptors) from toxic chemicals.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

Please indicate the statute(s) concerned, and summarise the provision:

In England, Wales and Scotland, The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 prohibits the use of a range of means of take, including any poisonous or poisoned substance. Similar provisions are in place in Northern Ireland under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and in the Isle of Man under the Isle of Man Wildlife Act 1990 (including 2004 amendments).

Legislation to prevent risk to birds from insecticides used to protect crops:

From 1 Jan 2021, the relevant EU law in relation to the regulation of plant protection products (PPPs; pesticides) was retained in British law and kept the same official titles. Northern Ireland is still subject to existing EU law.

Relevant pesticides regulations include:

- Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 (Great Britain), which sets out approval procedures for active substances
- The Plant Protection Products Regulations 2011 (UK), which sets out how the duties in Regulation 1107/2009 can be enforced.
- The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012, which set out the requirements for sale and use of PPPs and the use, handling and storage requirements of PPPs.

- The Food and Environment Protection Act contains statutory powers to control pesticides. The mechanism by which these aims are achieved in Great Britain is set out in the Control of Pesticides Regulations (COPR) 1986.
- The Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2020 allow regulatory authorities to enforce legal requirements that apply to the placing on the market and use of PPPs throughout the supply chain.

Legislation to prevent risk from rodenticides:

Biocidal products that control rodents are regulated through:

- The GB Biocidal Products Regulation (GB BPR) in Great Britain
- The EU Biocidal Products Regulation (EU BPR) in Northern Ireland.

Since 1 January 2025, it has been illegal in the UK to use second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) in outdoor locations unless connected to a building. Although the main reason for this change was to reduce residues in non-target wildlife, this change should make enforcement of improper rodenticide use easier and in turn see a reduction in illegal poisoning of wild birds of prey.

Legislation to prevent risk from lead ammunition:

In England, lead shot has been prohibited for wildfowling since 1999 by the Environmental Protection (Restriction on Lead Shot) (England) Regulations 1999 (as amended). These regulations restricted the use of lead shot over the foreshore or over specified Sites of Special Scientific Interest, or anywhere for shooting certain species of wildfowl.

In Northern Ireland, the Environmental Protection (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 prohibit the use of lead shot for shooting with a shot gun on or over wetlands.

The use of lead shot was also restricted over wetlands in Scotland.

In June 2025, the UK Government announced new measures to ban shot containing more than 1% lead and large calibre bullets with a lead content of more than 3% by weight for live quarry shooting across England, Scotland and Wales. Legislation implementing these measures came into force in April 2026, with a transition period of three years for most uses of lead ammunition.

V. SPECIES POPULATION MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY PROGRAMMES

Have any Single or Multi-species Action Plans been published for any species of migratory bird of prey in your country?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ In preparation

Please state why not:

No Single or Multi-species Action Plans are currently being implemented for any species of migratory bird of prey in the UK. However, several initiatives focussing on the conservation of species of birds of prey in the UK are underway.

In Northern Ireland, a Northern Ireland Hen Harrier Working Group, was initiated in 2023 to work towards the recovery of the Hen Harrier population in Northern Ireland.

Please refer to the next question for details of reintroduction and population reinforcement programmes.

Have any reintroduction or restocking projects been implemented involving migratory birds of prey in accordance with prevailing international guidelines?

GUIDANCE:

One of the most relevant international guidelines documents for this question is the IUCN publication "[Guidelines for reintroductions and other conservation translocations](#)".

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

* Please give a brief summary, and indicate whether or not captive breeding is involved:

England:

Natural England, in partnership with the International Centre for Birds of Prey (ICBP), established a conservation breeding programme for Hen Harriers *Circus cyaneus* as part of a project to reintroduce this species to southern England. Ten young birds were transported to England from France to establish the breeding programme. Although females laid a number of eggs between 2023 and 2025, none were fertile. Following a thorough review, a decision was made to conclude this project.

Forestry England, in partnership with the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, has reared young White-tailed Eagles taken from Scotland and released them on the Isle of Wight as part of a five-year reintroduction programme. The first successful breeding attempt of the new population took place in 2023. By establishing a population on the south coast, it is hoped the birds will also support existing communities in France, the Netherlands and Ireland, helping to secure a long-term future of the White-tailed Eagles in Europe.

Forestry England, in partnership with the Roy Dennis Foundation and Exmoor National Park Authority, has secured a licence from Natural England to enable the next phase of White-tailed Eagle reintroductions in southern England, permitting the release of up to 20 birds in Exmoor National Park over the next three years. Releases at the new site will begin in August 2026.

The Poole Harbour Osprey Project, led by two non-governmental organisations—Birds of Poole Harbour and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation—and initiated in 2017, aims to restore a breeding

population of Ospreys to the South Coast of England, through translocating up to 60 Osprey chicks from Scotland and releasing them in the Poole Harbour area. Multiple pairs are now breeding in the area. <https://www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk/osprey/osprey-translocation/>

Forestry England have recently published a feasibility study for the recovery of the Golden Eagle in England. The study aimed to determine where in England is biologically and ecologically capable of supporting a viable population of Golden Eagle, to consider social acceptability of population recovery, and to advise on the most appropriate tool(s) and approaches for Golden Eagle recovery in England. The study confirmed that England has the capacity to sustain golden eagle populations, with eight potential 'recovery zones', mostly in the north of England, identified as being the most suitable areas. It also showed that it could take decades for Golden Eagles to naturally return from southern Scotland to successfully breed and expand across northern England. It concluded that a carefully planned reintroduction could speed up recovery.

The government has approved £1m of additional funding to explore a reintroduction programme with the potential for juveniles, six to eight weeks old, to be released next year. The project will be led by charity Restoring Upland Nature in partnership with a group of core partners, including Forestry England.

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Golden%20eagle%20recovery%20feasibility%20in%20England.pdf>

Wales:

In 2026, Eagle Reintroduction Wales (ERW), a partnership of several organisations, applied for a licence to release 64 White-tailed Sea-eagles to south-east Wales over a five-year period as part of a translocation project. As the competent licensing authority, Natural Resources Wales are currently considering the licence application and supporting documentation.

Scotland:

The South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project aims to promote the conservation and restoration of Golden Eagles and other upland species in the UK. The project is successfully reinforcing the formerly small, isolated and vulnerable population of Golden Eagles in the Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway, by relocating chicks from eyries further North and bringing them to custom built aviaries in the Moffat Hills, before releasing them into the Southern Uplands. The project is being carried out in accordance with the Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations, which is based on the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations. The project is led by charity Restoring Upland Nature. <https://www.goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk/>

Scotland is supplying donor stock chicks from the expanding reintroduced population of White-tailed Sea-eagle to the Isle of Wight reintroduction project in England under licence.

Gibraltar:

An enhanced rewilding programme is planned in Gibraltar to include the Lesser Kestrel and Little Owl.

Have any supplementary feeding initiatives been established and maintained for necrophagous birds of prey?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

Please give a brief summary:

Red Kite is the only raptor species in the UK that primarily feeds by scavenging. Feeding stations are not required to maintain the conservation status of this species in the UK. However, several privately-run feeding stations operate across the UK, encouraging public engagement and highlighting the conservation work undertaken for this species.

VI. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HABITATS AND SITES

Have any measures been implemented to improve or restore the habitats of species of birds of prey?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

Please give a brief summary:

GUIDANCE:

Please indicate what habitat type, where, and (broadly) what type of measures were involved. Comments on success (or otherwise) would also be valuable.

UK:

Internationally important sites for birds of prey are identified through the process to classify Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and a network of 67 SPAs has been classified for birds of prey in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The network has been through a series of reviews and the first phase of the Third Network Review, [published in 2016](#), assessed the sufficiency of the network on a species-by-species basis. The report on the second phase of this review, [published in 2025](#), sets out detailed advice and options for the designation of new sites, addition of qualifying bird species to existing sites, and reviews of site boundaries. The four countries of the UK are now developing their responses. A current UK-wide Merlin survey will improve our understanding of the sufficiency of the SPA network for this species.

66% of SPAs in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland were [estimated to be in favourable condition](#) in 2025 (data on the condition of SPAs in England were not available).

Nationally important sites for birds of prey are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in Great Britain, Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) in Northern Ireland, and Sites of Special Interest in the Bailiwick of Jersey. This network represents a sample of nationally important sites and there is an ongoing designations programme to consider further qualifying locations for designation as A/SSSIs.

62% of ASSIs in Northern Ireland and SSSIs in England, Wales and Scotland were [estimated to be in favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition](#) in 2025.

Statutory planning systems cover all areas of land in the UK and National Planning Frameworks guide biodiversity management.

England:

England has set legally binding targets under the [Environment Act 2021](#), which will drive action to recover species. This includes the statutory target to restore or create over 500,000 ha of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside of protected sites by 2042. The [Environmental Improvement Plan 2025](#) (EIP25) sets new interim targets for the statutory Environment Act 2021 targets. These include interim targets to restore or create a total of 250,000 ha of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside of protected sites by December 2030, and by December 2030 for 50% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest features to have actions on track to achieve favourable condition.

A key delivery lever for habitat conservation in England is the Environmental Land Management schemes, which pay farmers and land managers to deliver environmental outcomes alongside food production. These schemes include the Countryside Stewardship (CS) scheme, which funds habitat protection and improvement, including moorland management; the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), which funds actions that support sustainable farming practices, such as supporting farmland

wildlife; and the Landscape Recovery (LR) scheme, which funds large-scale, long-term, collaborative environmental projects. LR will facilitate and fund ambitious projects through bespoke, more than 20-year agreements, with projects in Round 1 expected to support the recovery of more than 250 species.

The [England Peat Action Plan](#), launched in 2021, sets out plans to restore, sustainably manage and protect peatlands, with an anticipated investment of over £50 million in peatland restoration as part of the Nature for Climate Fund. The plan aimed to restore at least 35,000 ha of peatland by 2025, supported by a new Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme, with 11,615 ha of peatland brought into active restoration since 2023. The plan will benefit species such as Hen Harriers and Short-eared Owl.

Scotland:

In Scotland, the [Natural Environment \(Scotland\) Act 2026](#) includes a requirement for ministers to set statutory nature recovery targets in relation to habitat condition or extent.

The [Scottish Biodiversity Strategy](#) sets out the ambition to restore nature by 2045, including a series of six-year rolling delivery plans that include a comprehensive set of cross-sectoral actions.

[The Scottish Biodiversity Delivery Plan 2024 to 2030](#) includes actions to help farmers and crofters transition to practices generating substantial regeneration in biodiversity and ecosystem health, via a new agricultural support system. Under the plan, a cross-agency initiative for landscape scale restoration is seeking to restore and manage a range of areas and habitats for biodiversity, which will provide broader benefits to raptors. <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-land/nature-restoration-landscape-scale>

Since 2021, the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund has provided nearly £40 million for habitat restoration and protection of native species. <https://www.nature.scot/funding-and-projects/scottish-government-nature-restoration-fund-nrf>

The Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024 includes a range of measures to help protect upland habitats. From Autumn 2026, a licence will be required to carry out muirburn (burning of heather moorland) on any land in Scotland. It will be an offence to carry out muirburn without a licence. Muirburn can only be licensed for specific reasons, and licence applicants must carry out an approved training course and confirm they will comply with the Muirburn Code, which sets out both the law and good practice relating to muirburn and aims to ensure that it avoids damage to sensitive habitats.

Peatland ACTION funding from Scottish Government primarily supports on-the-ground peatland restoration activities. In 2021, the Scottish Government announced a multi-annual investment in peatland restoration of more than £250 million up to 2030. The programme has restored over 51,000 ha to date. [Guidance](#) has been produced on the avoidance of disturbance to breeding birds.

Wales:

Wales has set out its approach to SSSI notification in its [Nature Recovery Action Plan 2026](#) and will be setting ambitious targets by 2028 to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

Welsh Government is expanding its Nature Networks Programme to help improve the condition and connectivity of protected sites and make them more resilient to climate change. Since 2022, £54 million has been allocated to the Nature Networks Fund to improve the condition, connectivity, resilience and effective management of Wales' protected sites network, whilst encouraging community engagement. Investment has been guided by Nature Network mapping, which identifies priority ecological networks between sites. Natural Resources Wales uses NNF monies to support terrestrial, freshwater and marine projects aimed at creating resilient ecological networks.

Resilient Ecological Networks (RENs) have been developed, providing a landscape scale approach for managing integrated habitat networks linking protected sites and other biodiversity hotspots across the wider landscape, providing maximum benefit for biodiversity and human well-being. Natural

Resources Wales has begun mapping RENs in some of its area statements to better understand how these networks can be integrated into wider landscapes.

Welsh Government has introduced the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023, requiring the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem resilience, and is developing the Sustainable Farming Scheme to deliver to deliver some of these requirements from 2026. Wales has implemented two key schemes in preparation for its Sustainable Farming Scheme: (1) the Integrated Natural Resources Scheme (INRS) and (2) Ffermio Bro: Farming in Designated Landscapes. These schemes promote collaborative, landscape-scale restoration of degraded ecosystems across terrestrial, inland water, and coastal areas.

INRS supports partnerships between farmers, land managers, and other stakeholders to deliver nature-based solutions such as peatland restoration, woodland creation, hedgerow and boundary restoration and wetland enhancement. Ffermio Bro focuses on designated landscapes (National Parks and National Landscapes), enabling farmers to work with management bodies to restore habitats and improve ecosystem connectivity. Both schemes embed the principles of Sustainable Land Management and provide capital and revenue funding to support on-farm restoration actions, knowledge transfer, and community engagement.

The Welsh Government launched its [National Peatland Action Programme \(NPAP\)](#) in 2020, and has restored 3,600 ha of peatland and improved habitat across a further 8,000 ha. By 2030/31, NPAP aims to increase restoration from 600 ha per annum to 1,800 ha per annum. Efforts have been led by Natural Resources Wales, with tools like the [Wales Peatland Data Portal](#) used to track progress. The programme will benefit breeding raptor species such as Merlin, Hen Harrier and Short-eared Owl. NPAP has been complemented by other peatland projects including those funded through EU LIFE, National Parks, Heritage Lottery and landowners.

Northern Ireland:

The [Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland \(EIP\)](#), required under the Environment Act 2021, was published in 2024. It includes several targets relating to protecting nature on land, including:

- By 2030: at least 30% of land and freshwater protected, connected and managed for nature;
- Develop and put into operation a Nature Recovery Plan to support nature recovery and climate resilience;
- By 2026: develop measures to support delivery of 30x30 and other Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets;
- All semi-natural peatlands are conserved or restored to healthy, functioning ecosystems by 2040;
- By 2026 develop and implement nature recovery plans and programmes, including nature-based solutions, for protected areas, priority habitats and species, nature recovery networks and other effective conservation measures (OECMs).
- By 2030: 95% of the features underlying the designation of ASSIs to be in, or approaching, favourable conservation condition;
- By 2030: create or commence restoration of 20,000 ha of wildlife rich habitat outside the protected site network (to support nature recovery networks and nature-based solutions).

The EIP Annual Progress Report 2024-2025 reported that 54% of all ASSI features in Northern Ireland were in favourable condition.

A strategy for the conservation of biodiversity in Northern Ireland is required under Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and a draft 'Nature Recovery Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2032' was published by Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in 2026.

DAERA's Environmental Farming Scheme (Higher Level) delivers bespoke management for Northern Ireland's protected sites and priority habitats and species. A new Sustainable Agriculture Programme is being co-designed with industry and other stakeholders to improve environmental sustainability,

productivity, resilience, and supply chain function. The Farming with Nature Package will focus on reversing the trend in biodiversity decline through creating and restoring habitats and supporting species recovery, including through landscape-scale projects involving collaboration between farmers.

In Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency is providing oversight to the Special EU Programmes Body's PEACEPLUS projects, delivering against investment area 5.1: Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Resilience. The investment of €40 million to the successful projects, PEAT+ and PeacePlus Nature, will focus on peatland restoration and restoring priority species such as Merlin across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. To date, peatland restoration activity has taken place on approximately 2,250 ha across Northern Ireland.

A [Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy to 2040](#), containing five Strategic Objectives and 26 Actions to help protect, enhance and manage peatlands sustainably, was published by DAERA in 2025. In 2026, DAERA published a Delivery Plan for the Peatland Strategy, setting 14 short-term targets to help deliver peatland conservation, restoration and management up to December 2027.

Isle of Man:

The Isle of Man has updated its Agricultural Strategy, which includes an aim to 'maintain and enhance biodiversity and the environment, supporting the Biodiversity Strategy and the Areas of Special Scientific Interest', and revised its Agri-Environment Scheme handbook.

In the Isle of Man, heathland is protected against destruction or inappropriate burning under the Heath Burning Act 2003, via a register of heathland and licensing provision.

Under the Climate Change Act 2021, a register of peatland is being introduced (section 8). The Act also creates an offence of peatland disturbance and includes provisions for restoration following an offence. Disturbance includes 'the digging of the peatland, planting on or removing plants from the peatland, removing turf, covering the peatland or draining the peatland'.

The Manx Peat Partnership has restored an initial 500 ha during the reporting period and a further 2,700 ha is planned over the next five years. The Slieau Mooir plantation Forest to Bog Project has been established to restore a felled upland plantation to bog, and work is planned to clear 30 ha of conifers at Glion Gill to revert to heathland.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

In Guernsey, important sites for birds of prey are designated as Sites of Special Significance (SSSs). Many designated sites cite the presence of raptors among their qualifying features, including breeding Western Marsh-harrier, Common Kestrel and Peregrine Falcons.

The States of Guernsey have launched a new Public Goods Credit Scheme for dairy farmers on the island. The aim of the scheme is to reward farm businesses for the public goods they deliver, including the preservation of permanent grasslands and other important land, which includes habitats of importance to birds of prey.

Gibraltar:

Gibraltar has two designated SPAs, both of which have migratory birds of prey listed among their interest features: Rock of Gibraltar SPA, and Southern Waters of Gibraltar SPA. The Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan recognises the importance of restoration and management activities to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

Which sites in your country listed in Table 3 of the Action Plan are designated as protected areas, or are otherwise appropriately managed taking into account the conservation requirements of migratory birds of prey?

Please indicate in this online file ([link](#)) for each of the relevant sites listed in Table 3 of Annex 3 of the MOU whether the site is (a) fully designated as a protected area or covered by an instrument ensuring proper management, (b) partially so designated/covered, or (c) not so designated/covered. If you

experience any issues accessing the online file, please contact the Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit at umberto.galloorsi@un.org to request a copy as an email attachment.

GUIDANCE:

The list is extracted from the List of internationally important sites for migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia (Table 3 of Annex 3 of the Raptors MOU) as approved by the Third Meeting of Signatories. Please answer this question in relation to the sites that are listed there. Please provide your answers in the online file by following the link above. The file will automatically save your answers.

- ☒ I have added the relevant information for my country's sites
- ☐ My country does not have sites listed

VII. ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO THREATS AND PRESSURES

Have any assessments been made of the nature, likelihood, severity or potential consequences of threats facing birds of prey, and measures identified to maintain their Favourable Conservation Status?

GUIDANCE:

“Favourable Conservation Status” should be interpreted for this question in accordance with the definition provided in Article I (1) (c) of the Convention on Migratory Species. ([Link to text here](#)).

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not known

Please give a brief summary:

Reporting requirements under the EU Birds Directive are retained in UK law. Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales, The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland, and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), the four countries of the UK must report every six years on provisions mentioned in Article 12 of the Wild Birds Directive and the results of surveillance of species' conservation status.

The first reports since the UK left the EU were published in 2026 and contain information on the pressures facing birds of prey, their impact, timing and quality of supporting evidence, as well as information on the conservation measures identified and/or implemented. Pressures are set out using a standard set of codes taken from a list produced by the EU for reporting against Article 12 of the Birds Directive.

Overview: <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/habitats-regulations-reporting-2019-to-2024/>

Report for England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/habitats-regulations-9a-report-for-england-2019-to-2024>

Report for Wales: <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/habitats-regulations-9a-report-for-wales-2019-2024/?lang=en>

Report for Scotland: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-species/legal-framework/habitats-directive-and-habitats-regulations/habitats-regulations-0>

Report for Northern Ireland: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/habitats-regulations>

Based on the assessment referred to above (or if none, on your own knowledge and judgement) please identify (tick) the three most important categories of threat affecting birds of prey in your country:

GUIDANCE:

This question asks you to identify the important pressures that are reliably known to be having an actual adverse impact on migratory birds of prey at present. Please avoid including speculative information about pressures that may be of some potential concern but whose impacts have not yet been demonstrated.

Exactly 3 selection(s)

- ☒ Direct killing and taking
- ☐ Collisions and electrocution
- ☐ Alien and/or invasive species
- ☐ Disturbance and disruption

- ☒ Habitat destruction/degradation
- ☐ Climate change
- ☐ Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.
- ☒ Other (please specify below) - Disease

Add comments here on any particular actions in response to these threats:

GUIDANCE:

You may find it helpful here to refer to actions assisted by relevant existing response tools and initiatives in the framework of mechanisms such as the CMS. Examples could include the [Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean](#) (MIKT), [Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway](#) (ITTEA), [South-West Asia Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force](#) (SWA ITB TF), the [CMS Energy Task Force](#), and the adopted [Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#).

Direct killing and taking

Illegal killing:

UK:

The [Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy 2025-2028](#) outlines the UK police's approach to combatting wildlife crime priorities including crimes against birds of prey. Aspects of this strategy are delivered by Tactical Delivery Groups for the five UK priority wildlife crimes, which include bird of prey crime and illegal wildlife trade (affecting Peregrine Falcon).

The Bird of Prey Crime Tactical Delivery Group is chaired by a senior police officer and brings conservation and shooting interests together with police and government to combat bird of prey crime. It meets quarterly to progress actions against a Tactical Delivery Plan.

In 2022, the Home Office provided funding to support a three-year project and commissioned the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) to produce the first ever [illegal wildlife trade risk assessment](#), published in 2025, which identified trade in birds of prey to be one of the key risk areas for illegal wildlife trade. Subsequently, the NWCU have published a Problem Profile on the illegal trade in birds of prey.

Birds of prey including Golden Eagles, Hen Harriers, White-tailed Eagles and Red Kites have been fitted with satellite tags, to help track their dispersal and monitor their survival. This has facilitated the detection of persecution incidents that would have otherwise gone undetected. Natural Resources Wales has also commissioned the analysis of RSPB tagged Hen Harriers to determine space use, survival and temporal peaks in mortality.

In 2024, the NWCU established the Harrier Task Force to tackle the illegal persecution of Hen Harriers. The task force, which is a partnership between NWCU and Natural England, uses innovative technology, such as tracking drones and specialised detection dogs, and strategic partnerships to detect, deter and disrupt offenders. It is data-led, relying on analysis of police data and hotspot mapping. The task force involves a mutual agreement between several regional police forces, whereby officers can be made available at short notice to investigate raptor crimes across policing area borders. A review of the Task Force is in progress and is expected to be publicly available in summer 2026. It will include an overview of confirmed crimes and their locations as well as successes and recommendations for the future.

Operation Tantallon, which ran from 2021-2023, was a multi-agency investigation into the theft and laundering of wild Peregrine Falcons in Scotland and northern England. This international enquiry was led by Police Scotland, with investigative, intelligence and analytical support from the NWCU and further assistance from a number of partner agencies. The operation resulted in multiple successful prosecutions.

Operation Easter was developed in Scotland in 1997 with the aim of tackling the theft of wild bird eggs by egg thieves and collectors. The operation is now facilitated by the NWCU in conjunction with Police Scotland and involves police forces and partner agencies across the UK. Operation Easter is an intelligence led operation, targeting egg thieves by sharing intelligence and supporting enforcement action. This allows police to adopt both proactive and reactive responses to this crime type, while utilizing all manner of investigative techniques.

Initiated in 2025, Operation Glassbeak is a UK-wide operation to protect Peregrine Falcons during the breeding season, led by the NWCU and supported by police forces, the RSPB, raptor study groups and volunteer monitors. This intelligence-led approach, coupled with analytical support, identified the 12 most at-risk wild Peregrine Falcon nest sites across the UK and deployed a number of police prevention tactics, including clear signage and cameras. This proactive preventative work led to a number of birds nesting in these at-risk sites fledging Peregrine Falcon chicks for the first time in over eight years. The operation will continue in 2026.

Launched in February 2018 by North Yorkshire Police, Operation Owl is an ongoing national campaign raising public awareness of bird of prey persecution, encouraging the public to be vigilant for signs of this criminal activity, and to report suspicious activity to the police. A range of awareness-raising materials have been produced in support of this initiative, and articles have been published on a variety of subject areas, including hiking, paddleboarding, farming and shooting.

The Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime (PAW) Forensics Working Group (FWG) encourages the use of forensic and specialist techniques to help solve wildlife crimes. The group runs a Forensic Analysis Fund that offers financial support to Police and Border Force officers seeking to carry out forensic analysis during a wildlife crime investigation. The scheme has a dedicated stream to fund post-mortem or x-ray work on recovered birds of prey where there is a suspicion of crime. The current major contributors to this scheme are Wild Justice, Defra, Natural England, the Naturewatch Foundation and the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

A DNA profiling method for Peregrine Falcons developed by SASA with funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is now available for enforcement operations and has already been employed for several investigations. The national wild Peregrine Falcon DNA database now comprises samples from over 800 birds across 139 nests has provided a key tool to detect illegal wild take.

England:

Landowners and their representatives in certain counties in England are able to apply for a licence to establish and maintain feeding stations near to Hen Harrier nests, for the purpose of reducing Red Grouse predation. Licences for diversionary feeding are offered as a legal method of enabling sustainable grouse shooting to co-exist alongside thriving Hen Harrier populations, and therefore to limit recourse to illegal killing of Hen Harriers.

The NWCU supports Friends of the Dales' Eyes in the Skies Campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the scale and nature of bird of prey crimes and educate people on how to spot and report any suspicious or illegal activity in the Yorkshire Dales.

Scotland:

In Scotland, the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024 includes a range of measures that help tackle raptor persecution. The Act gives greater powers to Scottish SPCA inspectors to allow them to search, examine and seize evidence in connection with their existing powers, and introduces a new licensing framework for grouse moors. Licence holders must comply with the Grouse Code. Evidence of raptor persecution or wildlife crime on grouse moors will result in suspension or revocation of a licence. This will act as a strong deterrent to raptor persecution. The 2024 Act also bans the use of snares in Scotland.

The Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime in Scotland (PAW Scotland) works with partners including the police, land managers, conservation groups and other non-governmental organisations to address the problem of wildlife crime throughout Scotland.

Police Scotland have secured a Victim Recovery (VR) dog for wildlife crime from the Operational Support Division. This is a major enhancement to Police Scotland's strength and commitment to wildlife crime. This resource has obvious positive implications for land searches, enhancing chances of evidence recovery and seizure. The VR dog also assists in raising public awareness and perception of wildlife crime as well as being an effective crime prevention tool.

Wales:

[Wales' Wildlife and Rural Crime Strategy 2025–2028](#) is a joint initiative between the police in Wales and the Welsh Government that provides the framework by which all partners are working together to tackle wildlife offences including raptor persecution. As part of this Strategy, the Wild Bird Crime Priority Group, made up of police, stakeholders and the Welsh Government, is working to reduce bird offences in Wales, raise awareness, encourage reporting, and enhance police and partner agency training. One of the identified key priority areas of this Group is illegal persecution of raptors.

The Welsh Government fully funds the role of Wildlife and Rural Crime Coordinator to lead the work contained within the Wales Strategy, bringing together best practices and enhancing collective efforts in combating illegal bird persecution.

Northern Ireland:

The Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime in Northern Ireland (PAW NI) consists of a number of statutory and non-government organisations who work in partnership to reduce wildlife crime by raising awareness and promoting effective enforcement.

The [Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime Northern Ireland](#) (PAW NI) Raptor Subgroup supports the implementation of plans for the monitoring, awareness and prevention of raptor persecution in Northern Ireland. The PAW NI Raptor Subgroup publishes regular reports on Bird of Prey Persecution and Poisoning in Northern Ireland, with the latest report covering 2021 and 2022:

Poisoning of animals (excluding lead poisoning):

Since 1 January 2025, it has been illegal in the UK to use second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) in outdoor locations unless connected to a building. Although the main reason for this change was to reduce residues in non-target wildlife, this change should make enforcement of improper rodenticide use easier and in turn see a reduction in illegal poisoning of wild birds of prey.

The [Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use](#) is responsible for the UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime and was established to promote responsible use of rodenticides among all user groups, including professional pest controllers, farmers and gamekeepers. CRRU promotes responsible use through a seven-point Code of Practice.

The [Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme](#) (WIIS) provides post-mortem and toxicological capabilities to police forces investigating the suspected illegal poisoning of birds of prey, and has the ability to take enforcement action against the accidental misuse or deliberate abuse of poisons impacting wildlife. The scheme is run by Natural England on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive in England, the Welsh Government in Wales, Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) in Scotland, and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Northern Ireland.

The [Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme](#) (PBMS) is a long-term, national monitoring scheme that quantifies the concentrations of contaminants in the livers and eggs of selected species of predatory birds in Britain.

In the Isle of Man, researchers have been contracted to quantify contaminants in raptor carcasses. Of six Common Kestrels and 16 Barn Owls, all contained detectable bromadiolone. The supply of bromadiolone bait by the Isle of Man government to trained farmers for rodent control has now ceased. Rodent control can still be supported under an agri-environment scheme, with a vermin

control plan that identifies the problem species, explains how control will be carried out safely, and shows how non-target species will be protected.

Habitat destruction/degradation

For information on actions to address habitat destruction/degradation, please refer to Section VI, and the next question about Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments.

Other: Disease – Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

UK:

Led by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), the Statutory Nature Conservation Organisations across the British Isles have collaborated since the 2021 outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to share information on bird carcass discoveries, testing results, and appropriate precautions and response measures. This collaboration has helped ensure a consistent understanding of the evolving situation, including disease status, emerging research and updated guidance. To support this, a webinar was held to disseminate the latest evidence, and a report has been published.

England and Wales:

The [Mitigation strategy for avian influenza in wild birds in England and Wales](#) (2026) in England and Wales sets out the policies and approach that Defra and Welsh Government, and their delivery agencies the Animal and Plant Health Agency, Natural England and Natural Resources Wales take to avian influenza in wild birds in England and Wales, within the remit of national law. It also contains guidance for the general public and nongovernmental organisations on issues which may impact them in relation to avian influenza in wild birds.

The following bodies have been involved in implementing the mitigation strategy in England and Wales: Ornithological Expert Panel, Avian Influenza Wild Bird Recovery Advisory Group, Defra Group Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Working Group, Avian Influenza Outbreak and Biosecurity Communications Stakeholder group, Welsh Wild Birds Avian Influenza Strategic Response Group, Joint Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies Working Group on Avian Influenza.

Together these bodies deliver implementation over the following broad areas: notification and reporting (including international obligations), surveillance of dead wild birds submitted via public reports and warden patrols, research, wild bird population monitoring, support for species recovery, biosecurity of natural settings, restriction on activities (ringing, access, feeding of wild birds, shooting, gamebird release), removal and disposal of dead wild birds.

In Wales, Welsh Government has established with Natural Resources Wales the Welsh Wild Birds Avian Influenza Strategic Response Group with the ability to set up species specific response groups to large mortality events, including those affecting raptors.

Scotland

The [Scottish wild bird high pathogenicity: avian influenza response plan](#) (2025) sets out the approach that the Scottish Government and its agencies will take to respond to an outbreak of HPAI in wild birds in Scotland.

The following bodies have been involved in implementing the mitigation strategy in Scotland: Scottish Government, NatureScot, The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Animal Disease Policy Group, Ornithological Expert Panel (OEP), Scottish Task Force on Avian Influenza in Wild Birds, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Public Health Scotland, Local Authorities, Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Rescue/Rehabilitation Centres.

Together these bodies deliver implementation over the following broad areas: animal health, legislative basis, pathogen and routes of incursion, wild bird surveillance, avian influenza in non-avian wildlife, guidance on carcass removal and disposal, advice for wildlife rescue/rehabilitation centres, research and monitoring, prevention of HPAI transmission to and within wild bird populations, wider measures

to mitigate the impacts of HPAI on wild birds, activities that may impact wild bird HPAI transmission and or survivability, licensing/ringing decision making framework.

NatureScot has produced two research reports on the impacts of HPAI on breeding raptors in Scotland in both the 2022 and 2023 breeding seasons, highlighting impacts on the productivity of both eagle species (Golden Eagle and White-tailed Sea-eagle) and some more localised impacts on other species.

<https://www.nature.scot/doc/naturescot-research-report-1331-analysis-scottish-raptor-monitoring-scheme-data-improve>

<https://www.nature.scot/doc/naturescot-research-report-1367-analysis-scottish-raptor-monitoring-scheme-data-improve>

Are requirements in place to ensure that proposals for activities that may have significant effects on birds of prey or their habitats are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) or Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA)?

GUIDANCE:

Helpful pointers on this subject (and reference to sources of further guidance) are given in [CMS Resolution](#)

[7.2 \(Rev.COP14\)](#) on "Impact assessment and migratory species".

Comments on the general standard and quality of EIAs/SEAs that are undertaken would be valuable.

Any use that has been made of "sensitivity mapping" techniques in this context should be mentioned here.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

Please give a brief summary of the requirements and their implementation, including the extent to which the results of these assessments are used to inform relevant consent decisions and associated mitigation measures:

There are multiple EIA Regulations in the UK. Under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017, and the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017, local authorities, when deciding whether to grant planning permission for a project, which is likely to have significant effects on the environment, are required to do so in the full knowledge of the likely significant effects, and take this into account in the decision making process. Other EIA regulations are also in place to cover other forms of development, including infrastructure projects and agricultural development resulting in the loss of priority habitats and semi-natural areas utilised by birds of prey.

An EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct and indirect significant effects of the proposed development on biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under the EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. Developments in, or partly in, a Site/Area of Special Scientific Interest are likely to require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening before planning permission can be granted.

Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004, and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004, public bodies and private companies operating in a public character are required to assess, consult on, and monitor the likely impacts their plans, programmes and strategies will have on the environment. SEA is required in limited situations, usually only where either neighbourhood plans

or supplementary planning documents could have significant environmental effects. The SEA should consider the likely significant effects on the environment, including biodiversity, flora and fauna. In most circumstances, all that is required is a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to ensure that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues.

In the UK, sites of international importance for birds are designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs). SPAs are given legal protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 in England and Wales, The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 in Scotland, and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 in Northern Ireland. This requires authorities carry out an assessment known as a Habitats Regulations Assessment/Appraisal (HRA), to ensure that development or other activities do not negatively impact the integrity of the SPA. Developments may still be approved where there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, but in these instances, compensatory measures must be taken to ensure that the overall coherence of the site is protected.

Nationally important sites for raptors are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in England, Wales and Scotland, and as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) in Northern Ireland. For all developments that require planning permission and may affect a SSSI, the local planning authority must consult with the relevant authority while it is considering the application for planning permission. Local planning authorities have a statutory duty (under Section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act in England and Wales and Section 12 of the Nature Conservation Scotland Act 2004 in Scotland) to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs. Additionally, there is protection at the National Policy level for SSSIs. This legislation and policy mean that planning permission is unlikely to be granted for many developments that damage SSSIs. However, if a planning authority intends to grant permission in such circumstances, it must notify the relevant authority of its decision and allow sufficient time for the authority to respond before works begin on site.

A recent review of the implementation of environmental assessment regimes (including EIA, SEA and HRAs) in England found that there is a lack of monitoring of ‘compliance’ to check that required actions have been taken, or of ‘effectiveness’ monitoring to ensure those actions have secured expected environmental outcomes. <https://www.theoep.org.uk/environmental-assessment-regimes-england>

Isle of Man:

The Isle of Man does not have legislation in place requiring EIA or SEA, but Chapter 7 of the Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016 (as adopted by the Town and Country Planning (Isle of Man Strategic Plan) Order 2016) states that in cases where developments are likely to have significant environmental effects, whether public or private, by virtue of their nature, size or location, EIAs will be required. Appendix 5 sets out the requirements for EIAs. The Strategic Plan is currently under review.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Under the Planning and Building (Environmental Impact) (Jersey) Order 2006, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are required for proposed developments that may have a significant impact on the environment. These include intensive agriculture, water management projects, industrial or energy installations or infrastructure projects. A Strategic Environmental Assessment is required for strategic plans or developments on a larger scale, such as urban development masterplans, strategic transport plans and waste strategies.

Jersey’s Island Plan (2022-2025) states that all development must ensure that the importance of habitats, designated sites and species is taken into account and the highest level of protection given to Sites of Special Interest, Marine Protected Areas and Ramsar sites. Applicants for development within a protected site will need to demonstrate that a proposal will not cause harm to biodiversity or geodiversity value.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Under the Land Planning and Development (Environmental Impact Assessment) Ordinance, 2007, it is legal requirement in Guernsey for certain types of development project to undergo EIA before

decisions are made on whether consent should be given. In Guernsey, SEAs investigating future strategies for inert waste disposal and water storage provision have considered potential implications on the island's Ramsar Sites and functionally linked habitats.

Gibraltar:

Under the Town Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2019, the Development and Planning Commission, when deciding whether to grant planning permission for a project, which is likely to have significant effects on the environment, is required to do so in the full knowledge of the likely significant effects, and take this into account in the decision-making process. An EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct and indirect significant effects of the proposed development on biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under the Nature Protection Act 1991 and any other domestic legislation.

Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia:

The Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance (mirroring the provisions of the Habitats Directive) and the Game and Wild Birds Ordinance (mirroring the provisions of the Birds Directive) safeguard the protection of important migratory species through very strict provisions. These include the undertaking of Appropriate Assessments (an integral part of the planning process) when Special Areas of Conservation/Special Protection Areas are affected and the rejection of activities/plans/projects when they have adverse impacts on protected habitats/species.

VIII. ACTION / INTEGRATION ACROSS SECTORS

Is the conservation of migratory birds of prey integrated within the policies of sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, transport, waste, tourism and others?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ Partly
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not known

Please give a brief summary:

UK:

The UK government and devolved governments have passed both primary and secondary legislation under which competent authorities have duties to “have regard for biodiversity”, including migratory species, when conducting all functions and decision making. Across the four countries of the UK, specific legislation is in place to embed migratory species considerations (and all biodiversity) across public bodies in respect of development and associated planning processes.

Proposed projects that are likely to have significant effects on the environment, including energy and transport infrastructure, afforestation projects and tourism developments, are subject to EIA, as described in Section VII. Developments in, or partly in, a Site/Area of Special Scientific Interest are likely to require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening before planning permission can be granted. National planning policies such as the National Planning Policy Framework in England, National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) in Scotland and Northern Ireland’s Strategic Planning Policy Statement state that adverse impacts of developments on biodiversity should be avoided where possible, and unavoidable impacts mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy.

The [National Policy Statement \(NPS\) for Electricity Networks Infrastructure \(EN-5\)](#) requires developers of nationally significant electricity infrastructure in England, and sometimes in Wales and Scotland, to consider risks to birds, with particular consideration given to feeding and hunting grounds, migration corridors and breeding grounds, where they are functionally linked to sites designated as Special Protection Areas. Developers should site lines away from, or parallel to, but not across, known flight paths, and consider design measures to reduce electrocution risks.

Agri-environment schemes are in place across the UK to pay farmers and land managers to deliver environmental outcomes alongside food production. Environmental outcomes may include the conservation or restoration of habitats used by raptors. For further detail, please refer to Section VI.

All UK afforestation projects must meet the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) to ensure trees are planted in the right place. Based on a UN-endorsed approach to sustainable forest management, the UKFS is mandatory for all publicly funded planting.

England:

In England, the Environment Act 2021 introduced several requirements to support mainstreaming. A requirement for Ministers to have due regard to the [Environmental Principles Policy Statement](#) (EPPS), which came into force in 2023, aims to ensure that environmental considerations are at the heart of government policy making.

Guidance has been provided to support woodland owners to manage their woodlands sustainably, including UKFS practice guides and a woodland wildlife toolkit.

Scotland:

In Scotland, mainstreaming of biodiversity is one of the core aims of the Scottish Biodiversity Delivery Plan 2024–2030, which reaches across other areas of policy including education, planning and development, the economy, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy also

cuts across policy areas to put nature at the centre of a sustainable economy and thriving communities.

[The Developing with Nature guidance](#), which was published in support of the Scottish National Planning Framework 4, brings biodiversity to the heart of planning decision making and links to the wider health agenda.

NatureScot has produced [updated guidance](#) in relation to collision risk modelling, monitoring and survey methods, and mitigation measures for windfarm developments and birds.

The Raptors & Forestry Joint working Group is a cross sectoral partnership chaired by Scottish Forestry with a NatureScot secretariat, developing best practice guidance relating to woodland/forest creation and management whilst conserving raptors.

Wales:

In Wales, the Programme for Government commits the Welsh Government to embedding the climate and nature emergency into everything they do. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 brings biodiversity into the central decision-making process for public bodies in Wales including development and associated planning processes. It influences biodiversity action and resourcing and the consideration of long-term impacts.

The recently launched Sustainable Farming Scheme is designed to support sustainable food production, climate adaptation, and ecosystem resilience in Wales. Welsh Government has implemented two key schemes coupled with the recent launch of the Sustainable Farming Scheme: (1) the Integrated Natural Resources Scheme (INRS) and (2) Ffermio Bro: Farming in Designated Landscapes. These schemes promote collaborative, landscape-scale restoration of degraded ecosystems across terrestrial, inland water, and coastal areas.

Isle of Man:

On the Isle of Man, the [Climate Change Act 2021](#) has integrated biodiversity into legislation and policy. It states that a public body in performing its duties must do so while ‘protecting and enhancing biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services’. Since 1 January 2025, all public bodies are required to complete [Climate Impact Assessments](#), which include consideration of biodiversity impacts, in situations when policy, strategy, project or funding decisions are to be made.

Isle of Man National Plantation Management Plans 2025–2045 are being developed and have recently undergone public consultation. The Plans identify raptors as high sensitivity features subject to legal protection, with particular emphasis on Hen Harrier due to the Island’s IBA designation for this species. Management measures focus on avoiding disturbance, maintaining suitable upland-edge habitats, and increasing structural diversity through open ground and scrub creation.

Bailiwick of Jersey:

Jersey’s long-term community vision, instigated by the Government of Jersey, is [Future Jersey](#), which sets a desired direction to inform and guide future planning by public and private organisations. The vision has ten key outcomes against which progress is measured. One concerns the protection of Jersey’s unique natural environment for future generations, to be measured through indicators including the distribution and abundance of breeding bird populations.

The Jersey Bridging Island Plan 2022-2025 (BIP) is the primary consideration in any planning-related decision making across the Island and outlines policies to achieve the sustainable development of the island with a balance between social, environmental, and economic considerations. The BIP introduces a number of key policy changes to increase the protection of Jersey’s special and unique assets from inappropriate development, and in particular the sensitive and coastal habitats that are important to migratory species.

Bailiwick of Guernsey:

Guernsey's [Strategy for Nature](#) sets a framework for the States of Guernsey, the private sector and communities to strengthen Guernsey's response to the impacts of climate change and other human-induced pressures on nature. The strategy incorporates a framework of high-level objectives that encompass the latest advances in mainstreaming biodiversity and horizon scanning for pressures on nature, through increasing community awareness of nature and its health and wellbeing benefits. It is intrinsically linked to the island's Climate Change Action Plan and Pathway to Net Zero, which both recognise the importance of nature-based solutions and ensuring nature's resilience to a changing climate. The Strategy for Nature has also been adopted as supplementary planning guidance to ensure that the goals and objectives of the strategy are considered through the planning process.

In 2015, when the first Biodiversity Strategy was adopted by the States of Guernsey, a policy obligation was placed on all government departments and committees to ensure they take account of it and, where relevant, take practical steps to protect and enhance biodiversity.

Development in Guernsey is guided by the Island Development Plan, which sets out the island's land-use policies, including a core objective to "preserve and enhance biodiversity". This includes the designation of Sites of Special Significance (SSSs), within which activities that could adversely affect a site's special interest are subject to control. Many designated sites cite the presence of raptors among their qualifying features, including breeding Western Marsh-harrier, Common Kestrel and Peregrine Falcons.

Gibraltar:

In Gibraltar, the [Environmental Governance Act 2023](#) requires the Minister for the Environment to prepare a policy statement on environmental principles and contains a general duty for public authorities to consider what actions they can take to further the objective of the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. The [Town Planning Environmental Impact Regulations 2019](#) ensure that environmental considerations are fully integrated into the planning process for certain types of development, and the [Nature Conservancy Council](#) must be consulted on plans and projects that might impact nature reserves. The Gibraltar [25 Year Environment Plan](#) includes an overarching goal to protect, conserve and enhance Gibraltar's natural capital and to ensure economic growth is consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia:

The Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance (mirroring the provisions of the Habitats Directive) and the Game and Wild Birds Ordinance (mirroring the provisions of the Birds Directive) safeguard the protection of important migratory species through very strict provisions. These include the undertaking of Appropriate Assessments (an integral part of the planning process) when Special Areas of Conservation/Special Protection Areas are affected and the rejection of activities/plans/projects when they have adverse impacts on protected habitats/species.

Have any programmes been implemented during the reporting period among government departments (other than the department that has lead responsibility for the Raptors MOU) to inform decision makers of the conservation needs of migratory birds of prey?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ Not known

Please state why not:

IX. RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Have any overall assessments been made of the status and trends of any populations of migratory birds of prey in your country, during the reporting period?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

Please give a brief summary, and highlight any particularly significant declines or increases that have been revealed for relevant species:

UK Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)

The status of birds in the UK is assessed using standardised criteria known as '[Birds of Conservation Concern](#)' (BOCC). BOCC criteria include historical decline, trends in population and range, rarity, localised distribution and international importance.

The fifth and most recent full BOCC assessment was published in 2021 (with a partial update for seabird species in 2024), and covers the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. This assessment identified the following changes in status since the previous assessment in 2015:

Montagu's Harrier moved up from Amber to Red due to a severe breeding population decline over 25 years, a long-term moderate breeding range decline and breeding rarity.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk moved up from Green to Amber due to a moderate breeding population decline over 25 years.

White-tailed Eagle moved down from Red to Amber, as it no longer qualifies for 'historical decline' thanks to further recovery of the breeding population and intense conservation efforts.

The status of the following species remained unchanged:

Amber: Short-eared Owl, Osprey, European Honey-buzzard, Western Marsh-harrier. Common Kestrel

Red: Hen Harrier, Merlin

Sources:

Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Brown, A., Hearn, R., Lock, L., Musgrove, A., Noble, D., Stroud, D. and Gregory, R. 2015. Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. *Brit. Birds*. 108: 708-746.

Stanbury, A.J., Eaton, M.A., Aebischer, N.J., Balmer, D., Brown, A.F., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D.G. & Win, I. 2021. The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. *Brit. Birds* 114: 723–747. <https://www.bto.org/our-science/publications/birds-conservation-concern/status-our-bird-populations-fifth-birds>

GB Red List

A second regional IUCN Red List of birds, using IUCN Red List criteria and covering Great Britain, was also published in 2021.

This assessment identified the following changes in status since the previous assessment in 2015:

The following species were uplisted to a higher extinction risk category:

Eurasian Sparrowhawk and Eurasian Hobby: Near Threatened to Vulnerable.

Hen Harrier: Vulnerable to Endangered.

The following species were downlisted to a lower extinction risk category:

Western Marsh-Harrier: Near Threatened to Least Concern.

All changes were assessed as genuine changes in status.

The status of the following species remained unchanged:

Near Threatened: Golden Eagle, Osprey, Northern Goshawk.

Vulnerable: Common Kestrel.

Endangered: Merlin, Short-eared Owl, White-tailed Eagle, European Honey-buzzard.

Critically Endangered: Montagu's Harrier.

Sources:

Stanbury, A., Brown, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Gillings, S., Hearn, R., Noble, D., Stroud, D. & Gregory, R. 2017. The risk of extinction for birds in Great Britain. *Brit. Birds* 110: 502–517.

Stanbury, A.J., Eaton, M.A., Aebischer, N.J., Balmer, D., Brown, A.F., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D.G. & Win, I. 2021. The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. *Brit. Birds* 114: 723–747. <https://www.bto.org/our-science/publications/birds-conservation-concern/status-our-bird-populations-fifth-birds>

Habitats Regulations reporting

Reporting requirements under the EU Birds Directive are retained in UK law. Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales, The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland, and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), the four countries of the UK must report every six years on provisions mentioned in Article 12 of the Wild Birds Directive and the results of surveillance of species' conservation status.

The first reports since the UK left the EU were published in 2026 and contain information on the current trends and populations of naturally occurring bird species, as well as a comparison of the most recent and previous conservation status assessments for the UK BoCC and extinction risk assessments for the GB Red List. For the 2019–2024 reporting period, this information was collected [at the UK level](#) by JNCC and the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

The following short-term (2012–2022) significant declines in breeding pairs were revealed in the 2019–2024 report: Common Kestrel¹, Eurasian Sparrowhawk¹, Peregrine Falcon¹.

The following long-term significant declines in breeding pairs were revealed in the 2019–2024 report: Common Kestrel (1995–2022)¹, Eurasian Sparrowhawk (1995–2022)¹, Montagu's Harrier (1998–2022; no short-term trend was available for this species)², Peregrine Falcon (1995–2022)¹.

The following short-term (2012–2022) significant increases in breeding pairs were revealed in the 2019–2024 report: Red Kite¹.

The following long-term significant increases in breeding pairs were revealed in the 2019–2024 report: Eurasian Buzzard (1995–2022)¹, European Honey-buzzard (2003–2022)², Golden Eagle (1992–2022)², Hen Harrier (1998–2022)², Merlin (1998–2022)², Osprey (1998–2022)², Red Kite (1995–2022)¹, Western Marsh-harrier (1998–2022)², White-tailed Sea-eagle (1998–2022)².

Data sources:

1. BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey data: Heywood, J.J.N., Massimino, D., Balmer, D.E., Kelly, L., Marion, S., Noble, D.G., Pearce-Higgins, J.W., White, D.M., Woodcock, P., Wotton, S. & Gillings, S. 2024. The Breeding Bird Survey 2023. BTO Research Report 765. British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford.
https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/bto_jncc_rspb_breeding_bird_survey_report_2023.pdf

2. RBBP; Eaton, M. & the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. 2024. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2022. British Birds 117: 591–656.

Wales

An assessment of the Birds of Conservation Concern of Wales was published in 2022:

<https://www.bto.org/our-work/science/publications/reports/birds-of-conservation-concern-wales>

The following species were assessed as being on the Red List: Hen Harrier, European Honey-buzzard, Common Kestrel, Merlin.

The following species were assessed as being on the Amber List: Northern Goshawk, Long-eared Owl, Western Marsh-harrier, Osprey, Short-eared Owl

Northern Ireland

An assessment of the Birds of Conservation Concern of the island of Ireland (covering both Ireland and Northern Ireland) was published in 2021:

<https://birdwatchireland.ie/app/uploads/2021/04/BOCCI-2020-2026.pdf>

The following species were assessed as being on the Red List: Snowy Owl, Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Red Kite, Common Kestrel.

The following species were assessed as being on the Amber List: Short-eared Owl, Western Marsh-harrier, Hen Harrier, Northern Goshawk, Merlin.

Isle of Man

An assessment of the Birds of Conservation Concern of the Isle of Man was published in 2021:

<https://manxbirdlife.im/conservation-project/birds-of-conservation-concern-in-the-isle-of-man/>

Please provide a copy of any relevant documents:

And/or provide a website link that will give access to relevant material:

UK Birds of Conservation Concern 5 and GB Red List (2021):

<https://www.bto.org/our-science/publications/birds-conservation-concern/status-our-bird-populations-fifth-birds>

Habitats Regulations Reporting 2019–2024:

<https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/habitats-regulations-reporting-2019-to-2024/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/habitats-regulations-9a-report-for-england-2019-to-2024>

<https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/habitats-regulations-9a-report-for-wales-2019-2024/?lang=en>

<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-species/legal-framework/habitats-directive-and-habitats-regulations/habitats-regulations-0>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/habitats-regulations>

Are any systematic and coordinated monitoring programmes operated in your country in relation to breeding populations, reproductive success or migration counts of birds of prey?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

* Please give a brief summary:

UK:

Monitoring programmes are co-funded by the Governments of the UK and non-government partners:

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB [Breeding Bird Survey](#) provides national breeding population trend data for commoner raptor species.

The BTO's [Nest Record Scheme](#) (NRS) provides productivity data for a wide range of species, and its ringing scheme provides a variety of demographic data.

The [Rare Breeding Birds Panel](#) collates breeding data on all species with fewer than 2,000 breeding pairs in the UK in order to report annually on their numbers, trends and distribution.

Occasional national surveys take place for key priority species that are not adequately monitored by annual schemes:

A British European Honey-buzzard survey took place from 2020–2021:

<https://rbbp.org.uk/2022/04/14/results-of-the-2020-21-british-honey-buzzard-survey/>

A UK and Isle of Man breeding Hen Harrier survey took place in 2022–2023:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00063657.2024.2446373?src=exp-la>

The Hen Harrier Winter Roost Survey (HHWRS) gathers data on important roost sites for Hen Harriers in the UK and further afield in Europe. The survey is administered by BTO Scotland for England and Wales, while RSPB oversees efforts in Scotland and the Isle of Man.

A 2026 UK survey of breeding Merlin is currently being undertaken.

The UK Bird Monitoring Framework—a Memorandum of Understanding between the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies, the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), the RSPB and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel—identifies gaps in understanding of bird population trends and agrees priorities for surveys to fill those gaps. In addition, it oversees and coordinates the Scarce Breeding Bird Survey, maintaining an indicative list of future priority species surveys in the UK and helping to coordinate a programme of surveys for priority species, including breeding raptors.

Scotland:

The [Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme](#) (SRMS) is a partnership of nine organisations and currently focuses primarily on the annual monitoring of the abundance, distribution and breeding success of 18 raptor species native to Scotland.

Wales:

Welsh Government, through the Nature Networks Programme, have funded 'Cudyll Cymru'—a Welsh raptor monitoring initiative launched in 2024 by the BTO. Cudyll Cymru is a citizen science scheme to determine population trend changes in four common raptor species (Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Eurasian Buzzard, Red Kite and Common Kestrel).

Northern Ireland:

The [Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group](#) monitors birds of prey in Northern Ireland by visiting known raptor breeding and wintering sites each year to check for occupancy and to record the status, distribution and breeding success of each species. They also visit previously un-surveyed areas to search for and to document new sites.

Please provide a copy of any relevant documents:

And/or provide a website link that will give access to relevant material:

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Have any guidelines or protocols been published concerning systematic or coordinated monitoring programmes for migratory birds of prey?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

* Please give the source reference(s) and a brief summary:

The Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme has published a field guide which provides expert advice on surveying and monitoring raptors. Now onto its third edition, [Raptors: A Field Guide for Surveys and Monitoring](#) details the survey techniques that should be employed to successfully survey each of the raptor species which regularly occurs in Britain.

For most species breeding in the UK, standard recording methodologies were documented in a book Bird Monitoring Methods by Gillian Gilbert, David W Gibbons and Julianne Evans, published by RSPB in 1998. These are available [on the website of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel](#). The Rare Breeding Birds Panel has also published supplementary guidance for monitoring [Hobby](#), [Long-eared Owl](#) and [Short-eared Owl](#).

Please provide a copy of any relevant document(s):

And/or provide a website link that will give access to relevant material:

<https://raptormonitoring.org/need-advice-on-monitoring>

<https://rbbp.org.uk/bird-monitoring-methods/>

<https://rbbp.org.uk/survey-methodologies/>

Does any process exist for establishing multi-stakeholder agreement about priorities for research on issues of relevance to the conservation of birds of prey?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

Please give a brief summary:

Processes are in place for establishing multi-stakeholder agreement about priorities for raptor monitoring requirements, but not for research needs more broadly.

The UK Bird Monitoring Framework—a Memorandum of Understanding between the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies, the British Trust for Ornithology, the RSPB and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel—identifies gaps in understanding of bird population trends and agrees priorities for surveys to fill those gaps. In addition, it oversees and coordinates the related Scarce Breeding Bird Survey, maintaining an indicative list of future priority species surveys in the UK and helping to coordinate a programme of surveys for priority species, including breeding raptors.

The [Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme](#) (SRMS) is a partnership of nine organisations and currently focuses primarily on the annual monitoring of the abundance, distribution and breeding success of 18 raptor species native to Scotland.

Please provide a copy of any relevant document(s):

And/or provide a website link that will give access to relevant material:

Are suitable platforms in place in your country to exchange knowledge, experience and information about the conservation of birds of prey?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ Not known

Please state why not:

There are not adequate platforms in place to exchange knowledge, experience and information about the conservation of birds of prey in the UK. However, platforms are in place to exchange information on certain raptor-related conservation issues in certain parts of the UK:

UK:

The Bird of Prey Crime Tactical Delivery Group is chaired by a senior police officer and brings conservation and shooting interests together with police and government to combat bird of prey crime. It meets quarterly to progress actions against a Tactical Delivery Plan.

Led by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), the Statutory Nature Conservation Organisations across the British Isles have collaborated since the 2021 outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to share information on bird carcass discoveries, HPAI testing results, and appropriate precautions and response measures. This collaboration has helped ensure a consistent understanding of the evolving situation, including disease status, emerging research and updated guidance. To support this, a webinar was held to disseminate the latest evidence, and a report has been published.

England and Wales:

The England and Wales White-tailed Eagle Group facilitates collaborative working and shared knowledge with those involved in White-tailed Eagle translocation projects.

Wales:

Wales' Wild Bird Crime Priority Group, made up of police, stakeholders and the Welsh Government, is working to reduce bird offences in Wales. The Group identifies key threats to birds in Wales, collaborating through police operations, officer training, intelligence sharing, and public awareness. One of the identified key priority areas of this Group is illegal persecution of raptors.

Scotland:

The Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime in Scotland (PAW Scotland) works with partners including the police, land managers, conservation groups and other non-governmental organisations to address the problem of wildlife crime throughout Scotland.

The Raptors & Forestry Joint Working Group is a cross sectoral partnership (chaired by Scottish Forestry with a NatureScot secretariat) developing best practice guidance relating to woodland/forest creation and management whilst conserving raptors in Scotland.

The National Sea Eagle Stakeholder Panel, which comprises representatives of NatureScot, non-governmental organisations and stakeholder groups, runs the [Sea Eagle Management Scheme](#), which supports livestock farmers and crofters who experience sea eagle predation impacts.

Northern Ireland:

The Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime Northern Ireland (PAW NI) Raptor Subgroup supports the implementation of plans for the monitoring, awareness and prevention of raptor persecution in Northern Ireland.

The [Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group](#) (NIRSG) promotes and encourages the conservation of Northern Ireland's raptors by working in partnership with many others including landowners, statutory

agencies, industry, academic researchers, educators, raptor rehabilitators and non-governmental organisations.

X. RAISING AWARENESS

Have any public awareness programmes been implemented during the reporting period to promote the importance of birds of prey, their migrations and their conservation needs?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

Please give a brief summary including comments on the impact and success (or otherwise) of these programmes:

The UK's National Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy 2025–2028 includes a strategic aim to raise public awareness about the impacts of wildlife crime on ecosystems, human health and community well-being.

The UK's Tactical Delivery Groups for Birds of Prey crime and CITES crime work to progress these priorities in relation to prevention, intelligence and enforcement, including awareness raising (across law enforcement agencies, partners, stakeholder communities and the public) and raising the profile via media exposure.

The National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) annually attends national shows and events to engage relevant communities, such as the Game Fair, Global BirdFair, national falconry conferences, pest control conferences, various animal trade shows, and the national shooting show. NWCU staff have written a number of articles for magazines aimed at the farming and countryside ranger communities, done numerous interviews on TV, podcasts and radio, and used YouTube and social media, highlighting wildlife crime and encouraging people to report crime to the police.

Launched in February 2018 by North Yorkshire Police, Operation Owl is an ongoing national campaign raising public awareness of bird of prey persecution, encouraging the public to be vigilant for signs of this criminal activity, and to report suspicious activity to the police. A range of awareness-raising materials have been produced in support of this initiative, such as podcasts and interviews, and articles have been published on a variety of subject areas, including hiking, paddleboarding, farming and shooting.

England:

The Harrier Task Force engages with local communities to raise the profile of Hen Harrier persecution, boost public support and encourage vigilance against wildlife crime. Officers visit identified crime hotspots and meet with land owners and land users to highlight the issue and identify ways to prevent future incidents.

The NWCU supports Friends of the Dales' Eyes in the Skies Campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the scale and nature of bird of prey crimes and educate people on how to spot and report any suspicious or illegal activity in the Yorkshire Dales.

Wales:

Cudyll Cymru, a newly developed citizen science project that monitors raptors in Wales, aims to empower local communities to learn more about raptors, foster a sense of stewardship for their habitats and actively encourage community involvement in their conservation and preservation.

Scotland:

The Scottish Government arranges exhibitions at the Royal Highland Show and the Scottish Game Fair under the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime in Scotland banner. These exhibitions raise awareness of wildlife crime and engage younger generations with the importance of conservation. The exhibitions also provide an opportunity to discuss wildlife protection laws in Scotland with the public. The exhibitions are supported by colleagues from Police Scotland and the NWCU.

Police Scotland hosted a Scottish Wildlife Crime Conference in March 2025, with a wide range of stakeholder attendees.

The [South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project](#) aims to promote the conservation and restoration of Golden Eagles and other upland species in the UK. Alongside Golden Eagle population reinforcement activities, the project carries out community outreach, education and communication activities. Moffat, Scotland's first and only 'Eagle Town' was established, where visitors and local communities can learn about and welcome their local Eagles, celebrating the return of these iconic birds through the annual Moffat Golden Eagle Festival, now in its fifth year.

Northern Ireland:

The [Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group](#) (NIRSG) promotes and encourages the conservation of Northern Ireland's raptors by working in partnership with many others including landowners, statutory agencies, industry, academic researchers, educators, raptor rehabilitators and non-governmental organisations. Public engagement and education continued to be a major focus for the NIRSG in 2025–2026. More than 500 people were reached through presentations, workshops and events across the year. In February 2025, NIRSG held a Raptor Conference, with speakers covering local, national and international raptor ecology and conservation. Other activities included school visits, children's awareness days, youth engagement through the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR) (Northern Ireland's Local Environmental Record Centre) and the Duke of Edinburgh programme, and presentations delivered to community groups, festival audiences, university students and professional networks. Media outreach helped extend this reach further, with NIRSG coverage on BBC Winterwatch and Channel 5's Love Nature. Public events such as the BTO Northern Ireland Conference and Ballynature Day provided additional opportunities for NIRSG to speak directly with birdwatchers and members of the public.

The Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime Northern Ireland (PAW NI) Raptor Subgroup supports the implementation of plans for raising awareness of raptor persecution in Northern Ireland.

Have any education programmes or teaching resources been provided during the reporting period to inform young people and students about migratory birds of prey and their conservation needs?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

Please give a brief summary:

UK:

The National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) has engaged with younger generations via university media courses, resulting in high-quality material being developed and distributed across the UK, and enhancing public knowledge.

Scotland:

The [South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project](#) runs the 'Eagle Schools' program, through which over 10,000 students across the south of Scotland learned about Eagles, following the progress of released birds as they move beyond the release sites and explore the Southern landscape.

Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia:

The Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre delivers specialized education programmes on migratory birds. The Centre hosts more than 10,000 school children every year.

XI. STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

* Have any training or other support programmes been implemented during the reporting period to strengthen the capacity of agencies responsible for the application of relevant laws and regulations?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

Please give a brief summary:

Police Wildlife Crime Officers (PWCOs) have access to the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) DISC knowledge hub—a secure online information sharing system for crime reduction schemes. This provides a secure hub for PWCOs and partners to directly access toolkits, guidance, analysis and training material for wildlife crime issues.

In 2024, the NWCU launched a modular digital training academy for PWCOs and other specialists. The digital training is aligned to the Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy and can be undertaken as a form of continuous professional development. A digital training module for bird of prey crime is in development and a CITES module is already live. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) is providing £28,000 for the development of a new forensics training module to support officers on the ground. Prior to the launch of the digital training, many PWCOs completed an in-person Wildlife Crime Foundation Course covering the key wildlife crime legislation and investigation guidance including bird crime.

The NWCU hosts an annual UK Wildlife Crime Enforcers Conference for law enforcers, statutory agencies and NGOs to share best practice in combatting wildlife crime.

In 2025, the NWCU ran joint training days with Natural England staff. Training was provided to staff on the use of handheld radio tracking equipment combined with drones for locating grounded satellite-tagged birds.

Scotland:

Police Scotland Wildlife Crime Unit runs a continual training programme, with two courses being delivered to officers throughout 2024–25:

- The Introduction to Wildlife Crime Course is primarily aimed at first responders to Wildlife Crimes to facilitate prompt and effective responses. It is relevant to all police officers in providing a basic knowledge and general understanding of the different facets of Wildlife Crime that may be reported to Police Scotland.
- The Wildlife Crime Investigators Course is delivered every year and is available to officers from all divisions. This is a more in-depth, week-long course, and is designed to equip officers with the requisite skills and knowledge to effectively investigate wildlife crimes, which are often complex and multi-faceted.

Police Scotland hosted the Scottish Wildlife Crime Conference in 2025, with the aim of bringing together enforcement agencies, statutory and non-governmental organisations to hear the latest approaches, successes and challenges of combating and preventing wildlife crime in Scotland.

Wales:

In Wales, Wales-specific wildlife and rural crime training has been put in place, with three of the four police areas in Wales having Rural Crime Teams specifically trained to address, amongst other crimes, those against wild birds. The training has improved understanding of investigations of deliberate poisoning, shooting, and habitat destruction. The Wales Bird Crime Priority Group aims to enhance police and partner agency training.

Have any training or other initiatives been implemented during the reporting period to support activities undertaken by local communities or voluntary groups in relation to birds of prey surveys, monitoring, site protection work or related outreach?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

Please give a brief summary:

Wales:

Cudyll Cymru, a newly developed citizen science project that monitors raptors in Wales, aims to empower local communities to learn more about raptors, foster a sense of stewardship for their habitats and actively encourage community involvement in their conservation and preservation.

Scotland:

In Scotland, work is ongoing to source full funding to launch the 'Raptor patch' entry level monitoring scheme initially trialled under the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme. It will seek to encourage new audiences into raptor monitoring, focussing on three commoner widespread species: Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Common Kestrel and Eurasian Buzzard.

Northern Ireland:

The [Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group](#) (NIRSG) promotes and encourages the conservation of Northern Ireland's raptors by working in partnership with many others including landowners, statutory agencies, industry, academic researchers, educators, raptor rehabilitators and non-governmental organisations. Training and capacity building were delivered by the NIRSG throughout 2025–2026. NIRSG organised Hen Harrier survey training in Slieve Beagh, provided Red Kite identification and survey training for RSPB volunteers, and delivered two training sessions in Northern Ireland for the UK National Merlin Survey 2026.

During the reporting period, has your country *provided* any new financial or other resources for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory birds of prey?

GUIDANCE:

"Other resources" in this context could include, for example, "in-kind" forms of support such as staff time or administrative infrastructure, loan of equipment, provision of data processing facilities or technology transfer. (Do not include training or mentoring schemes and other initiatives for capacity building however, as these are covered separately in the preceding two questions).

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

* Please state the beneficiary/ies concerned and the activities supported:

UK:

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) has provided funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) continuously during the reporting period and is providing £530,000 in 2026/27.

In 2022, the Home Office provided funding to support a three-year project and commissioned the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) to produce the first ever [illegal wildlife trade risk assessment](#), published in 2025, which identified trade in birds of prey to be one of the key risk areas for illegal wildlife trade. Subsequently, the NWCU have published a Problem Profile on the illegal trade in birds of prey.

The Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime (PAW) Forensics Working Group (FWG) encourages the use of forensic and specialist techniques to help solve wildlife crimes. The group runs a Forensic Analysis Fund that offers financial support to Police and Border Force officers seeking to carry out forensic analysis during a wildlife crime investigation. The scheme has a dedicated stream to fund post-mortem or x-ray work on recovered birds of prey where there is a suspicion of crime. The current major contributors to this scheme are Wild Justice, Defra, Natural England, the Naturewatch Foundation and the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

The government operates schemes such as the [Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund](#) (a competitive grant scheme) to support projects aiming to tackle the illegal wildlife trade in developing countries, including a project addressing [belief-based use of vultures](#) in West Africa.

England:

Natural England has provided funding to the NWCUC to enable the purchase and development of enhanced drone capability, allowing the Unit to deploy drone pilots to support police forces in identifying and recovering evidence of birds of prey that have been illegally killed.

Natural England has also funded the training of two specialist detection dogs to identify the presence of poisons in the environment, enabling the dogs to be deployed to locate and recover birds of prey that have been illegally poisoned in remote areas.

Scotland:

From 2023–2025, the Scottish Government provided funding to the RSPB Investigations Team, a specialist team delivering awareness raising, crime prevention and detection functions and assisting Police Scotland in criminal investigations. It has also contributed to the delivery of the NWCUC Scottish Investigative Support Officer post and has committed to funding this post in 2026/27.

Police Scotland have secured a Victim Recovery (VR) dog for wildlife crime from the Operational Support Division. This is a major enhancement to Police Scotland's strength and commitment to wildlife crime. This resource has obvious positive implications for land searches, enhancing chances of evidence recovery and seizure. The VR dog also assists in raising public awareness and perception of wildlife crime as well as being an effective crime prevention tool.

NatureScot provided funding in 2023 to assist the Hen Harrier national survey and in 2026 for the ongoing national Merlin survey. NatureScot continued to be the main funder of the Scottish Raptor monitoring Scheme. NatureScot has also recently funded satellite tags to support further research on white-tailed eagles, primarily to support evidence in relation to livestock issues.

Wales:

Natural Resources Wales has provided funding for a census of breeding Hen Harrier within the Wales Hen Harrier SPA network; a survey of breeding Merlin in Wales, as part of the 2026 UK survey; and to continue the Hen Harrier tagging programme in Wales and the subsequent analysis of the Welsh tracking data to determine space use and survival.

Welsh Government has provided funding for a census of breeding Peregrine Falcon within the Wales Peregrine Falcon SPA network; a census of breeding Merlin within parts of the Wales Merlin SPA network; and Cudyll Cymru, a newly developed citizen science raptor monitoring project.

The Welsh Government fully funds the role of Wildlife and Rural Crime Coordinator to lead the work contained within the Wales Wildlife and Rural Crime Strategy 2025–2028, bringing together best practices and enhancing collective efforts in combating illegal bird persecution.

Northern Ireland:

As part of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Environment Fund Strategic Strand project 'Safeguarding and Surveillance of Northern Ireland's Birds of Prey' (2019/20–2022/23), and the subsequent DAERA Environment Fund Strategic Fund project, 'Raptor Advisory Protection Training Outreach Reporting & Surveillance' (RAPTORS; 2023/24–2027/28), DAERA has

funded annual surveys of breeding Hen Harrier, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon within relevant Special Protection Area (SPAs) in Northern Ireland. The projects have also supported the collection of data on all other raptor species during both the breeding and non-breeding seasons, and the provision of advice, training and outreach work in Northern Ireland.

As part of the RAPTORS project, in 2023/24, DAERA funded the purchase of 10 GPS satellite tags for the tagging of Red Kites and Eurasian Buzzards in Northern Ireland, providing information on dispersal, habitat usage, winter movements, roosting, mortality of individuals, and connectivity with other Red Kite populations across Ireland. In 2024/25, the project funded satellite tracking of Red Kites and Eurasian Buzzards, and Restoration for Raptors Phase 1: Wetlands (Osprey, White-tailed Sea-eagle and Western Marsh-harrier).

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has provided funding to support the 2023 UK Hen Harrier Survey and the 2026 UK Merlin Survey (in progress) in Northern Ireland, covering costs for additional coverage of areas of suitable Hen Harrier and Merlin habitats that were not being covered by volunteers.

PEACEPLUS is a cross-border funding programme covering Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland and is supported by the European Union, the UK Government, the Government of Ireland, and the Northern Ireland administration. The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has the statutory remit for managing such EU funding programmes within Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency is providing oversight to the Special EU Programmes Body's PEACEPLUS projects, delivering against investment area 5.1: Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Resilience. PEACEPLUS delivers investment of €40 million to the successful projects, PEAT+ and PeacePlus Nature. PeacePlus Nature involves €20.8 million in funding towards delivery of 15 work packages and runs from 1st August 2025 to 31 July 2029. Work Package 12 of PeacePlus Nature specifically focusses on delivery of work for Hen Harrier and Merlin.

During the reporting period, has your country *received* any new financial or other resources for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory birds of prey?

GUIDANCE:

See guidance on interpretation of "other resources" provided in relation to the preceding question.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

Please state the source(s) concerned and the activities supported:

Northern Ireland:

PEACEPLUS is a cross-border funding Programme covering Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland and is supported by the European Union, the UK Government, the Government of Ireland, and the Northern Ireland administration. The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has the statutory remit for managing such EU funding programmes within Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency is providing oversight to the Special EU Programmes Body's PEACEPLUS projects, delivering against investment area 5.1: Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Resilience. PEACEPLUS delivers investment of €40 million to the successful projects, PEAT+ and PeacePlus Nature. PeacePlus Nature involves €20.8 million in funding towards delivery of 15 work packages and runs from 1st August 2025 to 31 July 2029. Work Package 12 of PeacePlus Nature specifically focusses on delivery of work for Hen Harrier and Merlin.

XII. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

During the reporting period, has your country participated in any international cooperation activities as provided by paragraph 8 of the MOU?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not known

Please give a brief summary:

The National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) leads on and supports international operations relating to illegal wildlife trade. The head of the NWCU is also the chair of the INTERPOL International Wildlife Crime Working Group (WCWG). This has opened avenues for collaborative working with INTERPOL and readmittance to attending the European Wildlife Enforcement Network as observers. The NWCU supplies data on illegal wildlife trade seizures to the EU-TWIX network (EU trade in wildlife information exchange group facilitated by TRAFFIC) on behalf of all UK police forces.

Operation Tantallon, which ran from 2021–2023, was a multi-agency investigation into the theft and laundering of wild Peregrine Falcons in Scotland and northern England. This international enquiry was led by Police Scotland, with investigative, intelligence and analytical support from the NWCU and further assistance from a number of partner agencies. The operation resulted in multiple successful prosecutions.

During Operation PULKA, which focussed on organised crime relating to the international egg trade, the UK worked closely with Norwegian and Australian law enforcement to dismantle an organised crime group and remove the international demand for wild bird eggs. In 2024, Operation PULKA dismantled a major transnational egg-trading network. Thousands of eggs—around 20,000 in total—were seized during coordinated warrants across the UK, with further high-value collections recovered in Australia and Norway.

The UK provides information on cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza detected in domestic and wild birds to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). WAHIS acts as an early warning system for the management of alert notices and as an ongoing global monitoring system for avian influenza and other WOAH-listed and new and emerging diseases.

The UK frequently works with other parties on initiatives that contribute to raptor conservation. The UK government takes an active role in:

- Meetings of the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean;
- Meetings of the Bern Convention, including the Bern network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds;
- CITES initiatives relating to illegal trade in birds of prey.

The government operates schemes such as the [Illegal Wildlife Trade \(IWT\) Challenge Fund](#) (a competitive grant scheme) to support projects aiming to tackle the illegal wildlife trade in developing countries, including a project addressing belief-based use of vultures in West Africa.

England

Natural England has licensed removal of Red Kite chicks from the wild in eastern England to be transported and released in southern Spain as part of conservation efforts to restore Spanish populations. This reintroduction is part of a European-wide LIFE project being led by experts in raptor biology and species translocations: Accion por el Mundo Salvaje (AMUS) and authorities in Andalucía and Extremadura in Spain, along with the RSPB and Roy Dennis Foundation, working in partnership

with the Forestry Commission to assist with the collection, and the Zoological Society of London who have been conducting health checks to ensure birds are fit for translocation.

Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia:

Police personnel from the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia (SBA Police) have provided training, guidance, and best practice input to other agencies and organisations in the field of wildlife crime enforcement, and have participated in a number of conservation seminars and enforcement forums in the United Kingdom and across Europe.

During the reporting period, has your country taken any steps to support or encourage any other Range State (s) to sign the Raptors MOU?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ Not known

Please state why not: