

Conservation Designations UK Taxa – constituent lists

The Conservation Designations spreadsheet is compiled from a number of constituent lists. This document provides details about these constituent lists. For notes on interpreting legislative lists please see the Appendix within this document.

There are three categories of constituent lists, these are:

1. Lists associated with International Conventions and Directives
2. Lists based on Status
3. Lists associated with domestic legislation

Lists associated with International Conventions and Directives

The relevant international Conventions and Directives are as follows:

Convention/ Directive	Description
Bern Convention	The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention) was adopted in Bern, Switzerland in 1979, and came into force in 1982. The principal aims of the Convention are to ensure conservation and protection of all wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats (listed in Appendices I and II of the Convention), to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species) listed in Appendix III. To this end the Convention imposes legal obligations on contracting parties, protecting over 500 wild plant species and more than 1000 wild animal species.
Bonn Convention	The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention or CMS) was adopted in Bonn, Germany in 1979 and came into force in 1985. Contracting Parties work together to conserve migratory species and their habitats by providing strict protection for endangered migratory species (listed in Appendix 1 of the Convention), concluding multilateral Agreements for the conservation and management of migratory species which require or would benefit from international cooperation (listed in Appendix 2), and by undertaking co-operative research activities
Birds Directive	In 1979, the European Community adopted Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (PDF 209KB) (the 'Birds Directive'), in response to the 1979 Bern Convention on the conservation of European habitats and species (the 'Bern Convention'). The Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe. It sets broad objectives for a wide range of activities, although the precise legal mechanisms for their achievement are at the discretion of each Member State (in the UK delivery is via several different statutes).

Habitats and species directive	<p>In 1992 the European Community adopted Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive). This is the means by which the Community meets its obligations as a signatory of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention). The provisions of the Directive requires Member States to introduce a range of measures including the protection of species listed in the Annexes; to undertake surveillance of habitats and species and produce a report every six years on the implementation of the Directive. The 169 habitats listed in Annex I of the Directive and the 623 species listed in Annex II, are to be protected by means of a network of sites. Each Member State is required to prepare and propose a national list of sites, which will be evaluated in order to form a European network of Sites of Community Importance (SCIs). These will eventually be designated by Member States as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and along with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the EC Birds Directive, form a network of protected areas known as Natura 2000.</p>
EC Cites	<p>The 'Washington' Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, more commonly known as CITES, aims to protect certain plants and animals by regulating and monitoring their international trade to prevent it reaching unsustainable levels. The Convention entered into force in 1975, and the UK became a Party in 1976.</p>

The specific lists included in the Conservation Designation compilation from these international Conventions and Directives are as follows:

Convention/ Directive	Designation	Description
Bern Convention	Appendix 1	Special protection (‘appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures’) for the plant taxa listed, including prohibition of deliberate picking, collecting, cutting, uprooting and, as appropriate, possession or sale.
Bern Convention	Appendix 2	Special protection (‘appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures’) for the animal taxa listed, including: all forms of deliberate capture and keeping and deliberate killing; the deliberate damage to or destruction of breeding or resting sites; the deliberate disturbance of wild fauna, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing and hibernation, insofar as disturbance would be significant in relation to the objectives of this Convention; the deliberate destruction or taking of eggs from the wild or keeping these eggs even if empty; the possession of and internal trade in these animals, alive or dead, including stuffed animals and any readily recognisable part or derivative thereof, where this would contribute to the effectiveness of the provisions of this article.

Bern Convention	Appendix 3	Special protection through 'appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures', of the listed wild fauna species.
Bonn Convention	Appendix 1	Endangered migratory species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range, and for which Range States are obliged to prohibit taking and to take protective measures to conserve. (Note that taking may be permitted in some circumstances as outlined in Article III.5.)
Bonn Convention	Appendix 2	Migratory species having an unfavourable conservation status for which Range States are encouraged to conclude international agreements for their benefit.
Birds Directive	Annex 1	Birds which are the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. As appropriate, Special Protection Areas to be established to assist conservation measures. Note that the contents of this annex have been updated in April 2003 following the Treaty of Accession.
Birds Directive	Annex 2.1	Birds which may potentially be hunted under national legislation within the geographical land and sea area to which the Directive applies. (Note that some species are protected by the national legislation of some Member States although hunting would potentially be legal under the Directive).
Birds Directive	Annex 2.2	Birds which may potentially be hunted under national legislation only within certain specified Member States. (Note that some species are protected by the national legislation of some Member States although hunting would potentially be legal under the Directive).
Habitats and species directive	Annex 2 - priority species	Species which are endangered, the conservation of which the Community has a particular responsibility in view of the proportion of their natural range which falls within the territory of the Community. They require the designation of special areas of conservation.
Habitats and species directive	Annex 2 - non-priority species	Animal and plant species of Community interest (i.e. endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic in the European Community) whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation. Note that the contents of this annex have been updated in April 2003 following the Treaty of Accession.
Habitats and species directive	Annex 4	Animal and plant species of Community interest (i.e. endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic in the European Community) in need of strict protection. They are protected from killing, disturbance or the destruction of them or their habitat. Note that the contents of this annex have been updated in April 2003 following the Treaty of Accession.
Habitats and species directive	Annex 5	Animal and plant species of Community interest whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures
EC Cites	Annex A	All CITES Appendix I species. Some CITES Appendix II and III species, for which the EU has adopted stricter domestic measures. Some non-CITES species

EC Cites	Annex B	All other CITES Appendix II species not listed in Annex A. Some CITES Appendix III species. Some non-CITES species
EC Cites	Annex C	All other CITES Appendix III species not listed in Annex A or Annex B
EC Cites	Annex D	Some CITES Appendix III species for which the EU holds a reservation (CITES reservations: English, French, Spanish). Some non-CITES species

Lists based on Status

The relevant status lists are as follows:

Status	Description
Red listed and rare species	A collection of taxonomically based published "red lists" using IUCN criteria, together with auxiliary lists of rare and scarce species. In the UK, Red and amber lists for birds do not follow the IUCN criteria.
UK Biodiversity Action Plan List	2007 UK Priority Species List. See the UK BAP priority species webpages for further information.
Country Biodiversity Lists	Species of principal importance in England, Scotland and Wales (NERC section 41 and 42 lists and Scottish Biodiversity List).

Red lists based on IUCN Criteria

The IUCN have recently reviewed their categories and criteria to produce a clearer, more open, and easy-to-use system, the 2001 Categories and Criteria (ver 3.1). For more details visit the [IUCN website](#). The current spreadsheet of conservation designations includes Red List assessments made using the pre-1994, 1994 and 2001 Red List Categories and Criteria.

Designation	Description
Extinct	Taxa which are no longer known to exist in the wild after repeated searches of their localities and other known likely places.
Extinct in the Wild	A taxon is Extinct in the wild when it is known to survive only in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population (or populations) well outside the past range. A taxon is presumed extinct in the wild when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual) throughout its range have failed to record an individual. Surveys should be over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form.
Critically Endangered	A taxon is Critically Endangered when it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as defined by any of the criteria A to E.
Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct)	'Possibly Extinct' and 'Possibly Extinct in the Wild' have been developed to identify Critically Endangered species that are likely to already be extinct (or extinct in the wild), but for which confirmation is required.
Endangered	A taxon is Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Endangered, and it is therefore considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

Vulnerable	A taxon is Vulnerable when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Vulnerable, and it is therefore considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
Near Threatened	A taxon is Near Threatened when it has been evaluated against the criteria but does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable now (or Lower risk- conservation dependant in the pre 1994 criteria), but is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future. In Britain, this category includes species which occur in 15 or fewer hectads but do not qualify as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable.
Rare	Taxa with small populations that are not at present Endangered or Vulnerable, but are at risk. (In GB, this was interpreted as species which exist in fifteen or fewer 10km squares). Category not in 1994 or 2001 criteria, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.
Lower risk - conservation dependent	Taxa which are the focus of a continuing taxon-specific or habitat-specific conservation programme targeted towards the taxon in question, the cessation of which would result in the taxon qualifying for one of the threatened categories above within a period of five years. Category not in 1994 or 2001 criteria, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.
Lower risk - least concern	A taxon is Least Concern when it has been evaluated against the criteria and does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened (or Lower Risk - conservation dependant, or Nationally Scarce in Britain). Widespread and abundant taxa are included in this category.
Data Deficient	A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known, but appropriate data on abundance and/or distribution are lacking. Data Deficient is therefore not a category of threat or Lower Risk. Listing of taxa in this category indicates that more information is required and acknowledges the possibility that future research will show that a threatened category is appropriate.
Not Evaluated	A taxon is Not Evaluated when it is has not yet been evaluated against the criteria
Not Applicable	A taxon that occurs in the region but has been excluded from the regional Red List for a specific reason

Local Red Lists

Numerous 'Red Lists' have been produced by many different organisations and individuals covering geographical sub-units of GB/UK: regions, counties, districts and even parishes. These follow widely varying criteria and are not produced to a common standard. The SSA project does not cover or endorse these and they are not included on the Conservation Designations Spreadsheet. However, those involved in conservation practice covering a specific area of GB/UK may wish to use these local lists in determining conservation priorities locally. They should always be viewed in a national and international context.

Red listed and rare species - not based on IUCN Criteria

Designation	Description
Nationally rare without IUCN designation	Occurring in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria.

Nationally scarce species without an IUCN designation	Occurring in 16-100 hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria.
Bird Population Status: red	Red list species are those that are Globally Threatened according to IUCN criteria; those whose population or range has declined rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.
Bird Population Status: amber	Amber list species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years; those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeders; and those with internationally important or localised populations.
Nationally rare	Occurring in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain
Nationally rare marine species	Species which occur in eight or fewer 10km X 10km grid squares containing sea (or water of marine saline influence) within the three mile territorial limit
Nationally scarce	Taxa which are recorded in 16-100 hectads (10km squares) but not included in one of the Red List Categories
Nationally scarce marine species	Species which occur in nine to 55 10km X 10km grid squares containing sea (or water of marine saline influence) within the three mile territorial limit

UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species list

Designation	Description
Priority Species	Taxa identified as priorities for conservation action under the UK BAP process.

Lists associated with domestic legislation

National Legislation	Description
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Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	<p>Protected Birds, Animals and Plants are listed in Schedules 1, 5 and 8 respectively of the Wildlife and Countryside Act.</p> <p>Schedule 1: The Act makes it an offence (with exception to species listed in Schedule 2) to intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests. Special penalties are available for offences related to birds listed on Schedule 1, for which there are additional offences of disturbing these birds at their nests, or their dependent young. The Secretary of State may also designate Areas of Special Protection (subject to exceptions) to provide further protection to birds. The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking birds, restricts the sale and possession of captive bred birds, and sets standards for keeping birds in captivity.</p> <p>Schedule 5: The Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to intentionally kill, injure, or take, possess, or trade in any wild animal listed in Schedule 5, and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places. The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking wild animals.</p> <p>Schedule 8: The Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to pick, uproot, trade in, or possess (for the purposes of trade) any wild plant listed in Schedule 8, and prohibits the unauthorised intentional uprooting of such plants.</p>
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985	The principle legislation for wildlife protection in Northern Ireland. The Schedules mirror those in the Wildlife and Countryside Act.
The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994	This is a transposition of the Habitats Directive into UK legislation. Schedule 2: European protected species of animals Schedule 3: Animals which may not be taken or killed in certain ways Schedule 4: European protected species of plants.
The Conservation (Nature Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland)	This is a transposition of the Habitats Directive into NI legislation. Schedule 2: European protected species of animals Schedule 3: Animals which may not be taken or killed in certain ways Schedule 4: European protected species of plants.
Protection of Badgers Act (1992)	Subject to exceptions, this Act makes it an offence to take, injure, kill, treat cruelly, sell, possess or mark a badger, or to interfere with its sett.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Designation	Description
Schedule 1 Part 1	Birds which are protected by special penalties at all times
Schedule 1 Part 2	Birds which are protected by special penalties during the close season
Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (killing/injuring)	Section 9.1. Animals which are protected from intentional killing or injuring
Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (taking)	Section 9.1 Animals which are protected from taking
Schedule 5 Section 9.2	Section 9.2 Animals which are protected from being possessed or controlled (live or dead)

Schedule 5 Section 9.4a	Section 9.4 Animals which are protected from intentional damage or destruction to any structure or place used for shelter or protection
Schedule 5 Section 9.4b	Section 9.4 Animals which are protected from intentional disturbance while occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection
Schedule 5 Section 9.5a	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being sold, offered for sale or being held or transported for sale either live or dead, whole or part
Schedule 5 Section 9.5b	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being published or advertised as being for sale
Schedule 8	Plants which are protected from: intentional picking, uprooting or destruction (Section 13 1a); selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale (live or dead, part or derivative) (Section 13 2a); advertising (any of these) for buying or selling (Section 13 2b).

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Designation	Description
Schedule 1 Part 1	Birds which are protected by special penalties at all times.
Schedule 1 Part 2	Birds which are protected by special penalties during the close season
Schedule 5	Animals which are protected at all times
Schedule 8 - Part 1	Plants which are protected from intentional picking, removal or destruction and from selling (in whole or part) and from advertising for sale.
Schedule 8 - Part 2	Plants which may not be sold.

Appendix

Notes on interpreting legislative lists

The taxa listed for legislative reasons are in all cases included on either an annex or a schedule attached to either domestic or international legislation. In this sense "international legislation" includes certain international Conventions to which the UK Government is committed.

Where taxa are listed on an international legislative list, JNCC has excluded those species that have never naturally occurred within UK territorial limits. This filter for UK species should not however be regarded as definitive and as of April 2005, there is no mechanism applied to all taxonomic groups to keep this up to date, nor indeed to define what is meant by "naturally occurring". For birds, we have used the list published by the British Ornithologists Union to define which of the birds are relevant to Britain.

There are a number of pieces of legislation that use a higher taxonomic level for designating species. For example, on Bern the Family Gruidae is listed and all species are included. We have attempted to identify what "taxa" this includes at the species level, so that we can build a picture for each species of all the designations that are relevant to it. This presents a number of difficulties in interpreting what species are actually protected. The legislation often does not give a clear indication of the taxonomic reference source; this sometimes makes it

difficult to determine what species are protected and therefore it is entirely open to interpretation. For the species designations list, there are 80 higher level designations and these will have resulted in additional species being incorporated into the master list.

The following reference sources (and checklists) were used for enumerating the higher level designations:

Birds Birds of the Western Palaearctic Vols. I to IX (for the taxonomy)
 The British Ornithologists Union British List (for the species names)

Plants List of Vascular Plants of the British Isles, D. H. Kent (1992)

Mammals, Turtles, Cetacea JNCC compilation

Fish Freshwater Fishes, P. S. Maitland and R.N. Campbell (1992)