



OBJECTIVE	TARGET	PROGRESS	PLAN STATUS	
			2008-2010	2011-2018
A. To maintain the size of the regularly wintering population.	ongoing	Our target has not been achieved. Despite the management and restoration of 24ha of existing reed beds (at 7 sites over 1.5ha) plus an expansion of the habitat by another 22ha (at 5 sites over 1.5ha), the number of bitterns overwintering has halved.	↑	↓
B. To increase the size of the regularly wintering population to at least six birds.	2015	Our target has not been achieved. A maximum of 2 birds has over-wintered since 2013 at Ladywalk and Brandon Marsh, the only overwintering sites in the county		
C. To increase the range by having wintering bitterns regularly present on at least three sites.	2018	Our target has not been achieved. Bitterns only overwinter at 2 sites.		
D. To secure at least one breeding pair of bitterns in the county.	2018	Our target has not been achieved. No breeding is occurring at either site.		
Key to status: 2010: ↑ Any improvement ↔ No change ↓ Decline 2018: ↑ Good progress ↑ Some progress ↔ No change ↓ Decline				

PROPOSED ACTIONS	BY	REPORTED PROGRESS	NO.OF SITES/ ITEMS	TOTAL AREA/ LENGTH	ACTION STATUS
					↑ ↑ ↔ ↓
PL1. Ensure that all known bittern sites are considered for designation as Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs), including Ladywalk Reserve at the earliest opportunity.	Ongoing	Achieved. 4 sites designated (Brandon Marsh is already a SSSI): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ladywalk Reserve • Kingsbury Water Park • Bishops Bowl Quarry • New Waters (Warwick Castle Park) 	4 sites		↑
PL2. Include in Local Development Plans appropriate policies for the after-use of mineral workings and other land which would favour reed bed development.	2015	No progress. WCC: has no specific policies for reed bed creation.			↔
SM1. Enhance any sites which are important for bitterns by increasing the area and importantly the width of reed-bed which meets the species' needs, including those of wintering birds.	Ongoing	Achieved. Creation of new reed beds over 1.5ha to increase the extent of the habitat available to bitterns by: Tame Valley Wetlands Scheme 2014-2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2ha of open water and reed bed created. • 6ha of reed bed created at Middleton Lakes (RSPB) in the HLF-funded reed bed 	5 sites	22.1ha	↑

		<p>project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.5ha of reed bed created at Kingsbury Water Park (WCC). <p>Warwick District Council: in 2000 Wetland development at the Leam Valley Local Nature Reserve involved the creation of a mosaic of wetland habitats including 1.6ha of reed bed.</p> <p>Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015/6: 9ha created in Phase III of reed bed programme at Brandon Marsh 			
SM2. Continue with the development of the new reed beds at Brandon Marsh Phase 4, aiming at a maximum of a further 5ha.	2018	No progress.			
RM1. Annually monitor the bittern population in Warwickshire.	Ongoing	<p>Achieved but the number of over-wintering birds has halved.</p> <p>West Midland Bird Club: at Ladywalk Nature Reserve: up to 3 birds (on one occasion possibly 4) have overwintered in every year since 1993/4 (except for 1994/5). There are now only one/two wintering bitterns most years and there are no regular summer records or breeding.</p> <p>WWT: at Brandon Marsh up to 4 birds have overwintered since 2010 but since 2013 only one/two.</p>	2 sites		
CP1. Use the bittern to promote the importance of reed beds and their conservation.	Ongoing	<p>In progress.</p> <p>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: the habitat needs of bitterns form an integral part of many training days.</p>			