

Scrub Habitat Action Plan

Hawthorn scrub supporting breeding birds such as linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*), bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*), blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*) and lesser whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*).

Blackthorn scrub for brown hairstreak (*Thecla betulae*) and long-tailed tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*).

Damp, dense willow / hawthorn scrub for nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*).

In each case there will be many other species, especial3(l)-6(l)-6(7.92 Tm[H]3(4)4()-2(Scru)4(b

cycle), for which

3. Current factors affecting the habitat

There is a general lack of awareness of the importance of even species-poor scrub to the nature conservation interest of a site. The presence of scrub is seen as negative on many sites.

Management for other habitats is often incompatible with the continued presence of scrub and the encroachment of scrub onto other habitats that are viewed as more important typically leads to the scrub being removed rather than managed for its own sake.

Grazing needs to be carefully managed on sites with a scrub component. Under-grazing speeds succession to woodland, whereas over-grazing prevents scrub regeneration and growth.

Browsing by deer withx

7. Conservation Objectives

Maintain the extent and favourable condition of scrub habitat within the Bredon Hill SAC

Raise the profile and improve understanding of the biodiversity value of scrub

Encourage the management of scrub as part of a landscape-scale habitat mosaic to provide diversity of vegetation structure at the transition between woodland and grassland as well as a standalone component

Promote the importance of scrub in providing a nectar source for pollinating insects

Promote the inclusion of scrub within Green Infrastructure plans to provide diversity of habitat structure

References and further information

Barkmann, J. J. (1990). *A tentative typology of European Scrub and forest communities based on vegetation texture and structure*. *Vegetatio*, 86:131-141.

British Trust for Ornithology (2015). *Managing scrub for nightingales: A BTO Guide for Land Managers and Conservation Practitioners*. BTO.

Day, J., Symes, N and Robertson, P (2003). *The Scrub Management Handbook: Guidance on the management of scrub on nature conservation sites*. The Forum for the Application of Conservation Techniques / English Nature.

Milsom, T. P., Aegerter, J., Bishop, J. D., Allcock, J. A; Barker, D., Boatman, N. D., Hill, V., Jones, N., Marshall, J., McKay, H. V., Moore, N. P and Robertson, P. A (2003). *Review of hill-edge habitats in the uplands of England and Wales*. Central Science Laboratory Report BD1235.

Mortimer, S. R., Turner, A. J., Brown, V. K., Fuller, R. J., Good, J. E. G., Bell, S. A. Stevens, P. A., Norris, D., Bayfield, N and Ward, L. K (2000). *The nature conservation value of scrub in Britain*. JNCC report no.308.

RSBP guide to the management of scrub for birds