



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Protocol for the production of England and Wales confirmed illegal raptor poisoning maps for the period 2007-2011

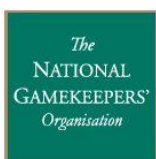
February 2013



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



The Moorland Association



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Protocol for the production of England and Wales confirmed illegal raptor poisoning maps for the period 2007-2011

Background

The England and Wales Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group (RPPDG) are actively working together considering the illegal poisoning of raptors and agree that: -

- A useful way of presenting information is through the production of maps indicating the location of confirmed incidents of illegal raptor poisoning.
- In order to build trust and understanding it is recognised that transparency is key and this document has therefore been prepared and agreed with the full support of all members of the RPPDG.
- It is intended that the maps will further partnership working and will assist partners in preventative, enforcement and educational activities identified by the group.

The Protocol

- Maps should be produced outlining the number and location of incidents of confirmed illegal poisoning (abuse) of birds of prey for each calendar year and rolling five-year totals. They are not intended to map incidents of pesticide misuse.
- It is the intention of the RPPDG that for the purposes of consistency at UK level, maps indicating incidents of confirmed raptor persecution in England and Wales will be produced using criteria previously utilised in Scotland.
- As such
 1. Maps will indicate the number of confirmed illegal poisoning incidents and not the number of raptors killed. An incident will involve the confirmed poisoning of one or more birds of prey.
 2. The data used to inform the maps will be that produced for the Chemical Regulation Directorate (CRD) and Welsh Government on the basis of chemical analysis and interpretation by the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) in their reports on pesticides poisoning.
 3. The maps will identify only incidents of confirmed illegal poisoning where raptors (including owls) are involved. Incidents that only involve other wildlife or domestic animals and incidents where only baits have been recovered will not be included in this mapping work.
 4. Incidents will be plotted on maps so as to identify only the 10km OS grid square in which the birds were found.
 5. Where there is more than one incident in any 10km OS grid square the number of incidents will be grouped into a hotspot and identified by size and colour coding.
- Natural England will produce draft-poisoning maps as soon as possible each year, to be agreed by the RPPDG at the next scheduled meeting.
- After the maps have been agreed a press release will be issued by the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime (PAW). The maps will be published on the PAW

website. Members of the RPPDG are asked to provide a statement of commitment to accompany the press release and to consider publishing the maps on their own websites.

- Members of the RPPDG will accept that the dataset produced for the CRD and Welsh Government are to be the sole reference when discussing confirmed illegal poisoning incidents involving raptors. When members of the RPPDG discuss poisoning abuse they should refer to the CRD data.

Review

This protocol will be reviewed annually by the RPPDG. The review will in particular consider whether the document might be extended to: -

- The inclusion of confirmed incidents of baits containing poison where there is the potential to kill birds of prey.
- The inclusion of data that evidences pesticide abuse produced by the Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme that is not featured within FERA reports.
- An expanded definition of incident, consistent with Home Office crime recording rules. If accepted future maps would indicate the number of birds killed.
- The mapping of other forms of raptor persecution for instance, shooting, trapping, and nest destruction or disturbance.

Note

CRD categorise pesticide abuse as incidents where a pesticide has been deliberately used in an illegal manner to poison or to try to poison animals.

CRD categorise pesticide misuse as incidents where a pesticide has not been used according to the conditions of its authorisation but often just carelessly or accidentally, without the intention of harming animals.

Membership

Members of the England and Wales Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group:

- British Association for Shooting and Conservation
- Countryside Alliance
- Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
- Moorland Association
- Natural England
- National Gamekeepers Organisation
- National Wildlife Crime Unit
- Northern England Raptor Forum
- Police Service
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Welsh Government

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This document/publication is also available on our website at:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/paw/>

Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to us at:

PAW Secretariat,
Zone 1/14,
Temple Quay House,
2 The Square,
Temple Quay,
Bristol.
BS1 6EB

Email: paw.secretariat@defra.gsi.gov.uk

PB Number PB13880