

# Trafford's Biodiversity Action Plan



## Habitat Action Plan

### Grey Partridge - *Perdix perdix*

#### Current Status.

Grey partridge numbers have declined drastically in the UK. Between 1969 and 1990, there was a reduction of 50%. There are currently an estimated 150,000 breeding pairs. Decline has been patchy with some areas remaining relatively stable, while in other areas, notably the West of England, numbers have plummeted by around 95%. They are practically extinct in Northern Ireland.

#### National

The RSPB, with countryside agencies and the Game Conservancy Trust has prepared an Action Plan for the grey partridge. The Game Conservancy Trust promotes the maintenance of suitable habitat for these birds. It encourages land managers to protect nest sites, to ensure that there is adequate cover, to provide summer and winter feeding areas, and to control predators.

#### Local

Trafford has only one recorded site, at Carrington Moss, where two breeding pairs have been recorded. The birds require a habitat with wide hedgerows, set-aside scrub and winter stubble. This is in decline at Carrington. There are other potential sites in the South of the borough where this type of habitat could be available, but it would be reliant on the extension of wildlife-friendly farming practices.

#### Planning Policy and Legislation

The grey partridge is protected under the Games Act (1967). Shooting is only allowed in Season. The species is listed in the EC Birds Directive (Annex III/I) and under the Bern Convention (Appendix III).

#### Character sites in Trafford

Carrington Moss  
Farmland in the south of the Borough

#### Notable Species

#### Current factors causing loss or decline in Trafford.

- Farming practices leading to loss of habitat and in particular, the loss of broad hedgerows to the flail and cultivation, the small quantity of land left to return to scrub, and the lack of winter stubble which provides feeding grounds for the birds.

#### Associated Species Action Plans

Bluebell  
Bats  
Bullfinch

#### Associated Habitat Action Plans

Ancient/  
Species Rich  
Hedgerows

Lowland  
wood parks  
and pasture

Roadside  
verges

**Links to other BAPs for further information**

Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan

Cheshire Countdown

UK BAP

**Objectives**

- To protect and preserve existing habitat for breeding pairs on Carrington Moss.
- To extend the range of habitat in South Trafford through the encouragement of wildlife-friendly farming practices.

**Local Targets**

- To encourage land managers to adopt farming practices which would provide suitable habitat for the grey partridge to breed and rear young. This will include leaving areas to develop into scrub, letting hedgerows grow wide at the base (and tall) and growing crops to leave winter stubble.
- To raise awareness amongst farmers and land management agencies of the decline of the grey partridge.

**Current Action**

- To include the grey partridge in the Trafford BAP.
- To explore ways of halting the decline in this species locally.

**Future Action**

- To work in partnership with others to monitor the numbers of grey partridge in Trafford.
- To continue to encourage farming and land management practices which could provide potential territory for grey partridge.

**Key Contact**

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