The status of UK SPAs in the 2000s: the Third Network Review
Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

1. Legal status and legislative or conservation status changes since 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birds Directive Article 4 status</th>
<th>Annex I; migratory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IUCN Red List status and change:</td>
<td>Least Concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BOCC 3 (2009) – Red</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2a. Population size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Population sizes (pairs)</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Selection thresholds</th>
<th>Totals in species’ SPA suite</th>
<th>Proportion in SPA suite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GB</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>RBBP; Holling <em>et al.</em> 2012</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All-Ireland</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biogeographic – Europe</td>
<td>5,550,000</td>
<td>BirdLife International 2004</td>
<td>55,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2b. Population trend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period of trend</th>
<th>UK trend</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long-term UK trend</td>
<td>1980 to 2008</td>
<td>-90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term UK trend</td>
<td>1996 to 2008</td>
<td>-37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2c. Site Provision Index

The background and methodology for the Site Provision Index is presented elsewhere in this report. It was not possible to calculate an index for Red-backed Shrike.

3. Changes to the SPA suite since the 2001 Review

Red-backed Shrike was not assessed in the 2001 SPA Review.

4. Relevant site-related recommendations within international and national (BAP) action plans

No international or national action or management plan has been developed for this species.

5. Projected impact of climate change on the SPA suite

In the period of this Review there have been two analyses to model the effects of climate change on UK’s birds. The *Climatic atlas of European breeding birds* (Huntley *et al.* 2007) modelled current distributions against current climate and then projected these to reflect models of future climatic
change. This predicted the distribution of European breeding birds at and beyond the end of the 21st century. However, the technique makes no allowance for how bird habitats will change and move. For example, some species may be unable to extend their geographical range into areas made potentially suitable by climate change because of lack of suitable habitat. Caveats as to the limitations of the method are presented in the Climatic Atlas and should be read alongside any summary interpretation presented below.

For breeding Red-backed Shrike, the Climatic Atlas predicts a widespread distribution in southern and eastern England.

The Climate Change Impacts on Avian Interests of Protected Area Networks (CHAINSPAN) project (Pearce-Higgins et al. 2011) used more sophisticated modelling techniques, specifically in relation to some of the qualifying species using the UK SPA network. In particular, they modelled future abundance as well as presence/absence. Their report gives a number of interpretive caveats.

Climate modelling can provide important information as to anticipated future changes in distribution and abundance, but this information should be interpreted with caution. Pearce-Higgins et al. stress the important role of habitat management within SPAs as an important adaptation measure. This will help improve site-quality as well as reduce the severity of other pressures on populations.

Red-backed Shrikes were not assessed by CHAINSPAN.

6. Assessment of SPA suite by this Review

Cropped habitat assessment
Not relevant therefore not assessed by the SPAR SWG Cropped Habitats Information Project (Baker & Stroud 2007).

Overall assessment of sufficiency of SPA suite:
- Population numbers: Insufficient
- Range coverage: Insufficient
- Ecological sufficiency: Insufficient

Additional conservation measures recommended?
Consideration of the need for and provision of, additional conservation measures (outwith this SPA Review) is required.

7. Scientific advice regarding SPA suite

SPA provision should be sought for Red-backed Shrike as feasible.

8. Recommendations regarding survey and monitoring

Continue to encourage annual population monitoring, and reporting via Rare Breeding Birds Panel including all negative data.

9. Distribution map for non-breeding Red-backed Shrike SPA suite

No SPAs have previously been selected for Red-backed Shrike.
10. References


11. SPA suite

No SPAs have previously been selected for Red-backed Shrike.