

4. CURRENT ACTION IN GWYNEDD

4.1 Site and habitat protection

- Polecats may occur in terrestrial or coastal areas of Gwynedd identified as potential Wildlife Sites, or designated as LNR, SSSI, NNR, candidate SAC or SPA, however no details are available.



4.2 Management and programmes of action

- A bilingual information leaflet: *The Polecat*, has been produced by the Vincent Wildlife Trust (1998).
- Grant Schemes for woodland management (e.g. Woodland Grant Scheme) and agri-environmental management (e.g. Tir Gofal) may contribute towards maintaining and enhancing habitat suitable for the polecat.

4.3 Survey, research and monitoring

- A study was carried out during the 1990s concentrating mainly on polecat road casualties ²
- An abundance monitoring exercise based on polecat road casualties was carried out by Vincent Wildlife Trust during 2002 and continued in 2003
- There is an ongoing national survey programme by the Vincent Wildlife Trust, who also maintain a database of reported polecat sightings

5. ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES

1. To maintain and expand existing populations of the polecat in Gwynedd.
2. To improve awareness and tolerance of polecats

North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT)

University of Wales Bangor (UWB)

7.3 Opportunities

Volunteers, students, farming unions, landowners and managers, gamekeepers, poultry keepers

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Photograph: J Birks/Vincent Wildlife Trust

9. ABBREVIATIONS

BAP: Biodiversity Action Plan, HAP: Habitat Action Plan, JNCC: Joint Nature Conservation Committee, LBAP: Local Biodiversity Action Plan, LNR: Local Nature Reserve, NNR: National Nature Reserve, SAC: Special Area of Conservation, SAP: Species Action Plan, SPA: Special Protection Area, SSSI: Site of Special Scientific Interest

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¹ Birks, J.D.S. and Macmillan, H.J. 2001. *The Vincent Wildlife Trust - Review of 1997 - 2000*. The Vincent Wildlife Trust.

² Birks & Kitchener, 1999. *The Distribution and Status of the Polecat in Britain in the 1990's*, The Vincent Wildlife Trust.