WHITE-CLAWED CRAYFISH PROGRESS REPORT 2011 – 2016

OD IE CENTE	TADOFT	PROGRESS		PLAN STATUS	
OBJECTIVE	TARGET			2011- 2016	
A. Review the distribution, health and status of the white- clawed crayfish within the sub-region.	2018	Achieved by the Environment Agency (EA), Local Wildlife Sites Project (LWSP), Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT), Canal & Rivers Trust (CRT).			
B. Maintain the present population and range of white-clawed crayfish.	ongoing	Not achieved: loss in 2014 of the only Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for crayfish in Warwickshire; only 2 known populations left.		$\mathbf{\Lambda}$	
C. Increase population size and range.	2020	Not achieved.			
D. Promote biosecurity measures to protect native crayfish from non-native crayfish disease threats.	ongoing	Promotion achieved but eradication target of non-native crayfish not met.			
Key to status: 2010: \uparrow Any improvement \leftrightarrow No change \checkmark Declin	e	2016: ↑Good progress ↑Some progress ↔No	change 🗸	Decline	

PROPOSED ACTIONS	BY	REPORTED PROGRESS	NO.OF SITES/ ITEMS	TOTAL AREA/ LENGTH	% OF TARGET	ACTION STATUS ↑↑↔↓
PL1. Ensure all known sites are considered for designation as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).	Ongoing	In progress. Natural England (NE): survey in 2014 revealed that crayfish had disappeared from Ensor's Pool, a SAC site; an appropriate habitat management plan is in place.			n/a	1
PL2. Ensure all known sites are considered for designation as Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs).	Ongoing	In progress. Local Wildlife Sites Project (LWSP): LWS are: • R. Alne, Henley. • Coventry Canal Basin. • Perch Hill Quarry. Potential LWS are: • R. Arrow. • Kingshurst Brook (includes Low Brook)	3 LWS 2 pLWS		n/a	^
PL3. Investigate extending the 'no-go' area for signal crayfish to include parts of the Blythe and Upper Avon catchment in Warwickshire / Solihull where known populations of white clawed crayfish still exist as and when post code areas are revised.	2018	In progress. Environment Agency (EA): currently has no plan to update the existing 'no-go' areas in the post code arrangement, but will update if it happens.			n/a	^
PL4. Use the enforcement of national and local EA fisheries byelaws in regard to preventing use of any crayfish as bait.	ongoing	Achieved. EA: it is illegal to use crayfish as bait, so law would be enforced if found to be being used.			n/a	1

PL5. Use the enforcement of policies / licences relating to keeping non-native crayfish/fish, including reviewing existing licences and ensuring licences are only issued in respect of secure sites.	ongoing	Achieved. EA: all sites that keep or wish to keep non-native crayfish have to be licensed by Defra, which includes strict bio- security conditions.				↑
SM1. Maintain the present population and range by undertaking positive habitat management works, linking populations on particular watercourses/sites to improve ecological resistance.	ongoing	 Not achieved. EA: only known populations are on R.Alne and the Coventry Canal. Assume present on R.Arrow, possibly Newbold Quarry (Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) reserve, Rugby. NE: agri-environment schemes have improved the management of riparian habitats, including uptake of 75 carr option agreements, resulting in the pollarding of 2695 willows in 2015. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT): management of alder carr at Stonebridge meadows. 	2 pops	213.55ha	n/a	÷
SM2. Maintain water quality at known sites and promote the minimisation of sedimentation and pollution and biosecurity of these watercourses.	ongoing	In progress. EA: implementation of appropriate working practices and mitigation for works by organisations such as the Canal & River Trust (previously British Waterways).			n/a	↑
SM3. Ensure a response to planning proposals regarding works to watercourses at or close to populations, especially SAC sites, strongly stating the need to minimise the impact on and, where appropriate, enhancement of habitats for the species. Embed protection within Local and Neighbourhood Plans and other strategic documents such as the Minerals Plan.	ongoing	In progress. Warwickshire Ecological Services / WWT/ EA / NE all respond to planning applications and strategic documents (subject to resources) in respect of development that might impact on existing populations and ensuring mitigation, consenting and habitat enhancement under National Planning Policy Framework.			n/a	Ŷ
SM4. Using results of RM3, establish new colonies at appropriate sites.	2020	 In progress. Canal & Rivers Trust: considering Terry's Pool at Earlswood lakes as a potential ARK site that could disperse the crayfish into the Blythe SSSI and Stratford Canal; reliant on the eDNA surveys not turning up any non-native crayfish in that catchment. EA: looking for some small headwater catchments with historic records of white clawed crayfish that have no signal crayfish in them, have good habitat/water quality, not on-line with fishery interest and limited public access. 				^
SM5. Implement appropriate and feasible measures to control the spread of crayfish plague. Eradicate non-native crayfish where they pose a threat to populations of white-clawed crayfish.	ongoing	In progress by biosecurity measures but eradication target not met.				\leftrightarrow

RM1 . Assess the existing status, presence, extent and relative abundance of each population and create a sub-region catchment risk assessment, using Buglife's 'Toolkit for development of catchment-scale conservation strategy for White-clawed Crayfish'.	ongoing	In progress. Publication and implementation of corporate Biodiversity Action Plans (e.g. Severn Trent Water (STW), Canal & Rivers Trust (CRT), etc.		n/a	1
RM2. Map the current distribution to facilitate identification of opportunities for new sites, e.g. quarries, pools and headwater streams that are isolated from high-risk water bodies, referring to Buglife's 'Using GIS to prioritise and identify regional Ark sites for White Clawed crayfish'.	2016	No progress. Sites for establishing new colonies must have no access to fish.		n/a	\leftrightarrow
RM3 . Extend surveys on appropriate watercourses to determine the extent of both native and non-native crayfish populations, with reference to historic records where appropriate.	2020	No progress. B: trapping will take place at Newbold Quarry in 2016, followed by trapping at R. Arrow and Coughton Court in 2017.	1 site	n/a	\leftrightarrow
CP1. Ensure that users of sites supporting crayfish, and in particular anglers, are made aware of the risks of spreading crayfish plague on equipment, and the legal controls on the release of non-native crayfish and promote the 'Check Clean Dry' campaign for biosecurity.		Some progress. EA: promotes the <u>Clean Check Dry</u> biosecurity campaign at all known sites with combined efforts from all partners.		n/a	1
CP2. Produce and use improved educational materials for schools and groups with regards to white-clawed crayfish, non-native species and biosecurity to encourage awareness in the local area.	ongoing	Achieved. EA: improved educational materials for schools and groups with regards to white-clawed crayfish, non-native species and biosecurity.		n/a	1