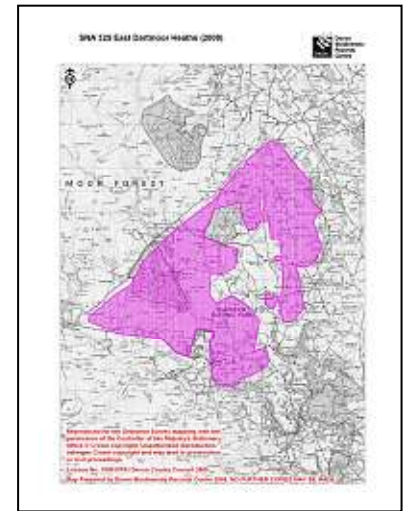


## 1. SNA details

<b>SNA name:</b>	East Dartmoor Heaths
<b>SNA unique number:</b>	325
<b>SNA area (ha):</b>	4,513.30



## 2. Summary of nature conservation interest

### Priority BAP habitats

<b>Main Regional Nature Map habitat:</b>	Upland heath
<b>Other Regional Nature Map habitat(s):</b>	Blanket bog
<b>Other UK BAP habitats:</b>	Upland oak woodland, Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, lowland meadow, lowland heathland, upland heathland, Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture, Lowland dry acid grassland, Blanket bog, Fens, Hedges, Rivers.

This is a very large SNA in the centre of Dartmoor and much of it is upland above 300 metres above sea level. The East Dart River and Walla Brook run through the area. This SNA encircles the West Webburn Valley Mire 624 SNA and includes part of the Postbridge hay meadows 608 SNA. A number of Tors are present and conifer plantation woodland (not included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory). The upland parts of the SNA are largely unenclosed, treeless and grazed by cattle, sheep and ponies.

There are at least eleven UK BAP priority habitats, making this a very diverse SNA. The greatest proportion is covered by fen (but note the uncertainty over the mapping), followed by Upland heath. Blanket bog is the next most common habitat, with much smaller proportions of Lowland meadow and Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture. Only a very small area of the SNA is deciduous woodland and is part of the Dart Valley DWT nature reserve.

<b>Important species or species assemblage</b>	<b>Status</b>
Birds including Nightjar, song thrush, reed bunting	All S.41 DBAP, Red (Nightjar) Red (Nightjar, song thrush) Amber (reed bunting)
Birds of Prey (records just outside SNA boundary) Hen harrier, Red kite	Red (Hen harrier) Amber (Red kite)
Moorland birds including Dartford warbler, Stone chat	Amber
Farmland birds (from RSPB) including Lapwing and Woodlark	S.41, Red (Woodlark) Amber (Lapwing)
Fritillary butterflies – Small pearl-bordered, Pearl-bordered, Marsh, Dark green, High brown.	S.41 (Marsh, Small pearl-bordered, High brown) Decline (Dark Green, Small pearl-bordered) DBAP (Pearl-bordered, Marsh)
Moths including Mullien wave, Ear moth, White ermine.	S.41
Plants of sandy ground e.g. Annual Knawel (damp areas) and Allseed (dry areas)	S.41 DN1 (Annual knawel) DN1, DR (Allseed)
Lesser Horseshoe Bat (records just outside SNA boundary)	S.41, Habitats Directive

See Appendix 1 for further species recorded in SNA 325 East Dartmoor Heaths.

This SNA contains granite features of geological interest and old tin workings.

## Nature conservation designations

Please refer to a site's formal citation for a complete consideration of the reasons for its designation.

Designation	Site Name	Description
SAC	Dartmoor	Blanket bogs, European dry heaths, North Atlantic wet heaths, old sessile oak woods; southern damselfly, otter, salmon
SAC	South Dartmoor Woods	Extensive areas of ancient semi-natural oak woodland
SSSI	East Dartmoor	The largest area of heather moorland remaining on Dartmoor, with submontane acidic dwarf shrub heath, acidic grassland & valley mires
gSSSI	Laughter Quarry	Important site for its assemblage of periglacial & granite weathering features typical of Dartmoor slopes

In addition, the SNA includes nine County Wildlife Sites covering habitats including: Valley mire and acid flush, unimproved acid and marshy grassland and hay meadow.

There are also three Regionally Important Geological Sites selected because of their granite or as a major Dartmoor tin working.

There is a Devon Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve at Dart Valley.

The site is within Dartmoor National Park.

## 3. UK BAP Priority habitat maintenance and restoration targets for SNA no 325

(the measurement unit is hectare unless stated otherwise and is rounded up/down)

**Maintenance targets** (current extent of habitat) – 100 % favourable condition (based on NBN habitat layers)

UK BAP priority habitat	Upland oakwood	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Woodland TOTAL	Lowland Meadow	Lowland Heathland	Lowland dry acid grassland	Upland heathland	Fens++	Blanket Bog	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture	TOTAL
Minimum area *	3	0.72	4	20	0.75	0.08	0	0	0	2	31
Maximum area #	3	0.72	4	21	6	0.08	1111	1209	220	19	2594

\* current extent of habitat = a + b

a) sum of all the areas of criterion 1 polygons

*b) number of criterion 2 polygons multiplied by the minimum mappable unit for that habitat*

*[criterion 3 polygons not included]*

*# current extent of habitat = criterion 1 + criterion 2 + criterion 3*

++The NBN habitat layer has a large area in this SNA mapped as 'lowland fen' however there is some doubt over the accuracy of this. Little reference could be found to fen habitat in survey data relating to this area and there is often confusion over the definition of fen and how it overlaps with mire, swamp and bog.

## **Theoretical restoration/creation targets using Rebuilding Biodiversity (RB) methodology:**

The Rebuilding Biodiversity in the South West Technical Manual, November 2005 suggests the following restoration/creation targets for a Strategic Nature Area profile where the priority habitat is upland heath:

60% cover of priority habitat  
0% cover of other semi-natural habitat  
40% cover of other land uses.

This SNA will be further developed as follows:

## **4. Opportunities for habitat restoration and creation in the SNA**

This is an optional but desirable section to be completed by local experts and which would outline the practical opportunities for habitat restoration and creation on the ground. This may include emphasising the importance of an SNA for habitats additional to the primary one for which it was identified or, indeed, for particular species.

This section can also be used to develop more realistic habitat restoration targets, which could then be used to refine the theoretical targets listed above.

## **5. Constraints to habitat restoration and creation in the SNA**

As above, but in this case outlining the constraints to habitat restoration and creation in the SNA.

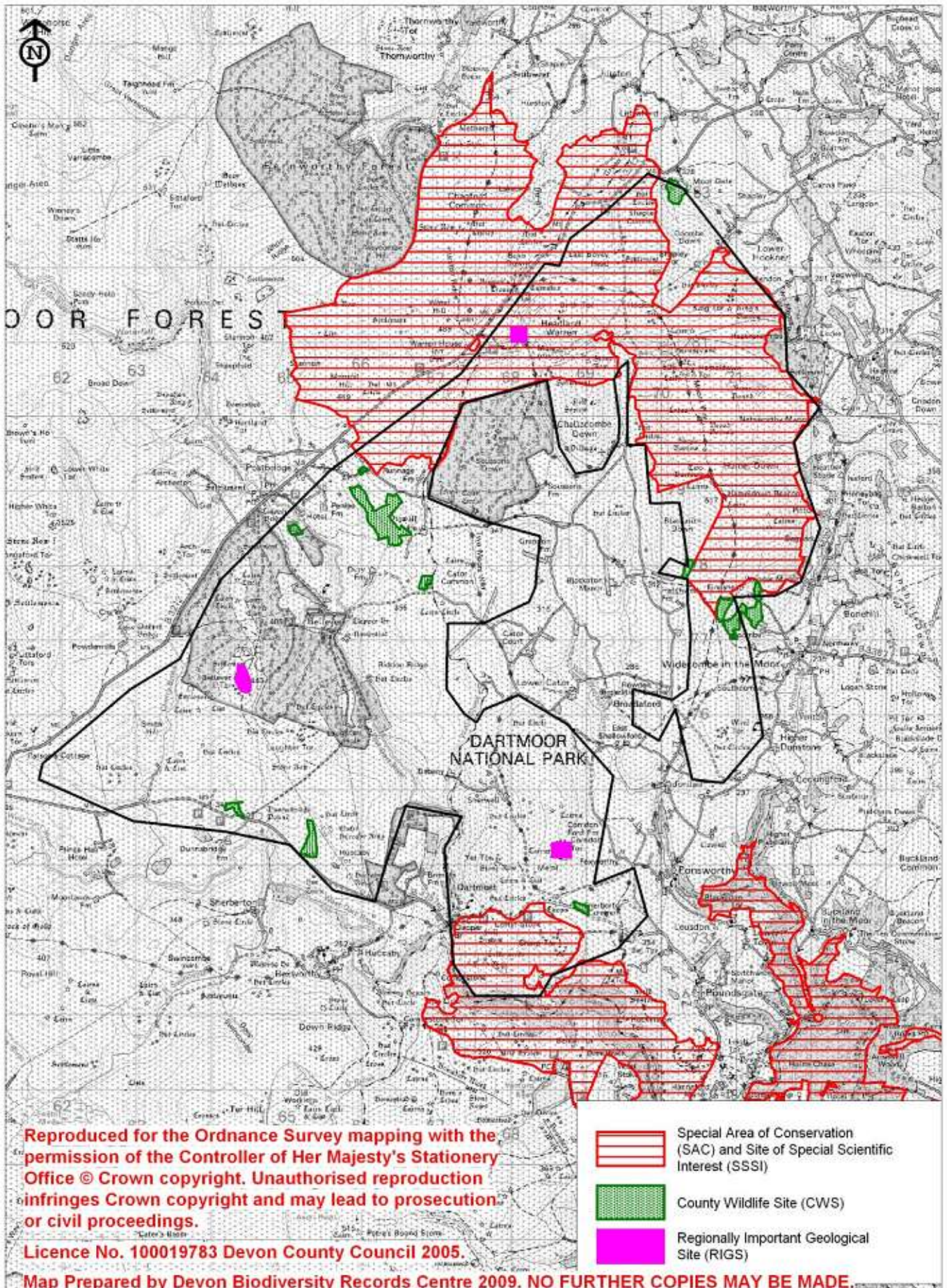
## **6. Other information**

This is another optional section reliant upon local knowledge of the SNA. This section can be used for any other information that might be useful. It may be particularly useful for those SNAs within which there current projects or for which projects are planned.

Contents could include:

- Restoration targets for BAP habitats additional to the main nature map habitat.
- Maps detailing areas for restoration
- Nature conservation objectives
- And so on.

# Designated sites within SNA 325 East Dartmoor heaths (2009)





Appendix 1: Legally protected and notable species within SNA 325 East Dartmoor Heaths

Common name	Scientific name	Status
55 Khz Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> 55kHz	S.41
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	S.41
Allseed	<i>Radiola linoides</i>	DN1; DR
Alternate Water-Milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum</i> <i>alterniflorum</i>	DN2
Annual Knawel	<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	S.41; DN1
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	WCA
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	DBAP; Amber
Bat SP.	<i>Chiroptera</i>	WCA
Beautiful Brocade	<i>Lacania contigua</i>	Nb
Brown Long-Eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	S.41
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	S.41
Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	<i>Oenanthe</i> <i>pimpinelloides</i>	DN3
Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	WCA
Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>	Decline
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	Amber
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	S.41; Decline
Dusky Brocade	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	S.41
Ear Moth	<i>Amphipoea oculatea</i>	S.41
Floating Spike-Rush	<i>Eleogiton fluitans</i>	DN2
Great Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	DN3
Greater Butterfly-Orchid	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	DN1
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Decline
High Brown Fritillary	<i>Argynnis adippe</i>	S.41; RDB2
Ivy-Leaved Bellflower	<i>Wahlenbergia</i> <i>hederacea</i>	DN3
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	WCA
Knotgrass	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	S.41
Marsh Fritillary	<i>Eurodryas aurinia</i>	S.41; DBAP; Nb
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber
Mullein Wave	<i>Scopula</i> <i>marginipunctata</i>	S.41
Narrow Buckler-Fern	<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	DN3
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	S.41; DBAP; Red
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	S.41; DBAP
Palmate Newt	<i>Triturus helveticus</i>	WCA
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	S.41; DBAP; Nb
Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	WCA
Red-Necked Footman	<i>Atolmis rubricollis</i>	Nb
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	S.41; Amber
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	DA
Round-leaved Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus omiophyllus</i>	DN1
Slow-Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	S.41
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha</i> <i>pamphilus</i>	S.41
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>	S.41; Decline
Small Square-Spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	S.41
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	S.41; Red

Common name	Scientific name	Status
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Amber
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	S.41
Waved Carpet	<i>Hydrelia sylvata</i>	Na
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	S.41

**WCA** **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)**

**DA** **Deer Act 1991:** deer protected under the Deer Act.

**S.41** **Species or habitat of principal importance in England (i.e. English BAP priority species / habitats – see Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006))**

**DBAP** **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan species:** these have been identified as species of key conservation concern in Devon.

**NR** **Nationally Rare:** 1-15 10km squares in Atlas of British Flora 1962.

**NS** **Nationally Scarce:** 15-100 10km squares in Atlas of British Flora 1962.

**Devon Notable Species:** species recorded from 2km squares Atlas of Devon Flora 1984 (R.B. Ivimey-Cook, Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Exeter).

**DN1** **Devon Notable<sup>1</sup>:** 1-25 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.

**DN2** **Devon Notable<sup>2</sup>:** 26-50 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.

**DN3** **Devon Notable<sup>3</sup>:** Selected species recorded from over 50 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.

**DR** **Devon Rarity:** native species recorded from 3 or fewer localities within Devon.

**Na** **Nationally Notable A:** known from 30 or fewer 10km squares. Taken from the Invertebrate Site Register.

**Nb** **Nationally Notable B:** known from 100 or fewer 10km squares. Taken from the Invertebrate Site Register.

**Decline** Substantial local decline in Devon

**Red List** Bird species of high conservation concern, such as those whose population or range is rapidly declining, recently or historically, and those of global conservation concern.

**Amber List** Bird species of medium conservation concern, such as those whose population is in moderate decline, rare breeders, internationally important and localised species and those of unfavourable conservation status in Europe.