

1. SNA details

SNA name:	Rackenford Moor
SNA unique number:	330
SNA area (ha):	173.75



2. Summary of nature conservation interest

Priority BAP habitats:

Main Regional Nature Map habitat:	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture
Other Regional Nature Map habitat(s):	
Other UK BAP habitats:	Hedges, Lowland heathland, Fens, Wet woodland.

This SNA is one of a number of similar SNA's at Knowstone and Rackenford, divided by the North Devon Relief Road. Together they form the largest single area of Culm grassland in Devon. Rackenford Moor contains high quality Culm grassland across its' western half, which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (therefore of international importance) and as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Except for one CWS, the whole eastern half of the site contains no designated sites and only small areas of Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture and lowland heathland. Patches of dry and wet lowland heathland are also present within the SNA. The land is between 250 and 280 metres above sea level and rising to the east.

The following species have been recorded within this SNA:

Important species or species assemblage	Status
Birds found on Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture e.g. Curlew	S.41, DBAP, Amber
Other priority birds e.g. Tree pipit, Grasshopper warbler, Reed bunting, Cuckoo	All S.41 Red (Tree pipit, grasshopper warbler, Cuckoo) Amber (Reed bunting)
Typical butterflies of Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture e.g. Marsh fritillary, Small heath	All S.41 DBAP, Nb (Marsh fritillary)
Moths including Small square spot, Dusky Brocade, Ghost moth	S.41
Lesser butterfly orchid, typical of the main habitat	S.41, DN3
Notable plants including Bithynian vetch	NS, DN1, DR

See Appendix 1 for further species recorded in SNA 330.

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	Culm Grassland	Culm grassland: wet and dry heath, species rich <i>Molinia</i> mire & rush pasture. Plant, bird & invertebrate interest.
SSSI	Hares Down, Knowstone and Rackenford Moors	Lowland heathland; Lowland mixed deciduous woodland; Purple moor grass and rush pasture; Wet woodland

In addition the SNA includes one County Wildlife Site covering habitats including: Culm grassland - *Molinia* mire. The Rackenford and Knowstone DWT reserve is present within the SNA area.

There are no Regionally Important Geological Sites present.

3. UK BAP Priority habitat maintenance and restoration

targets for SNA no 330 (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	Wet Woodland	Lowland Heathland	Fens**	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture	TOTAL
Minimum area *	9	6	0	0.25	15
Maximum area #	9	10	49	39	107

* 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 purple moor grass & rush pasture.

- 30% cover of priority habitat
- 30% 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.

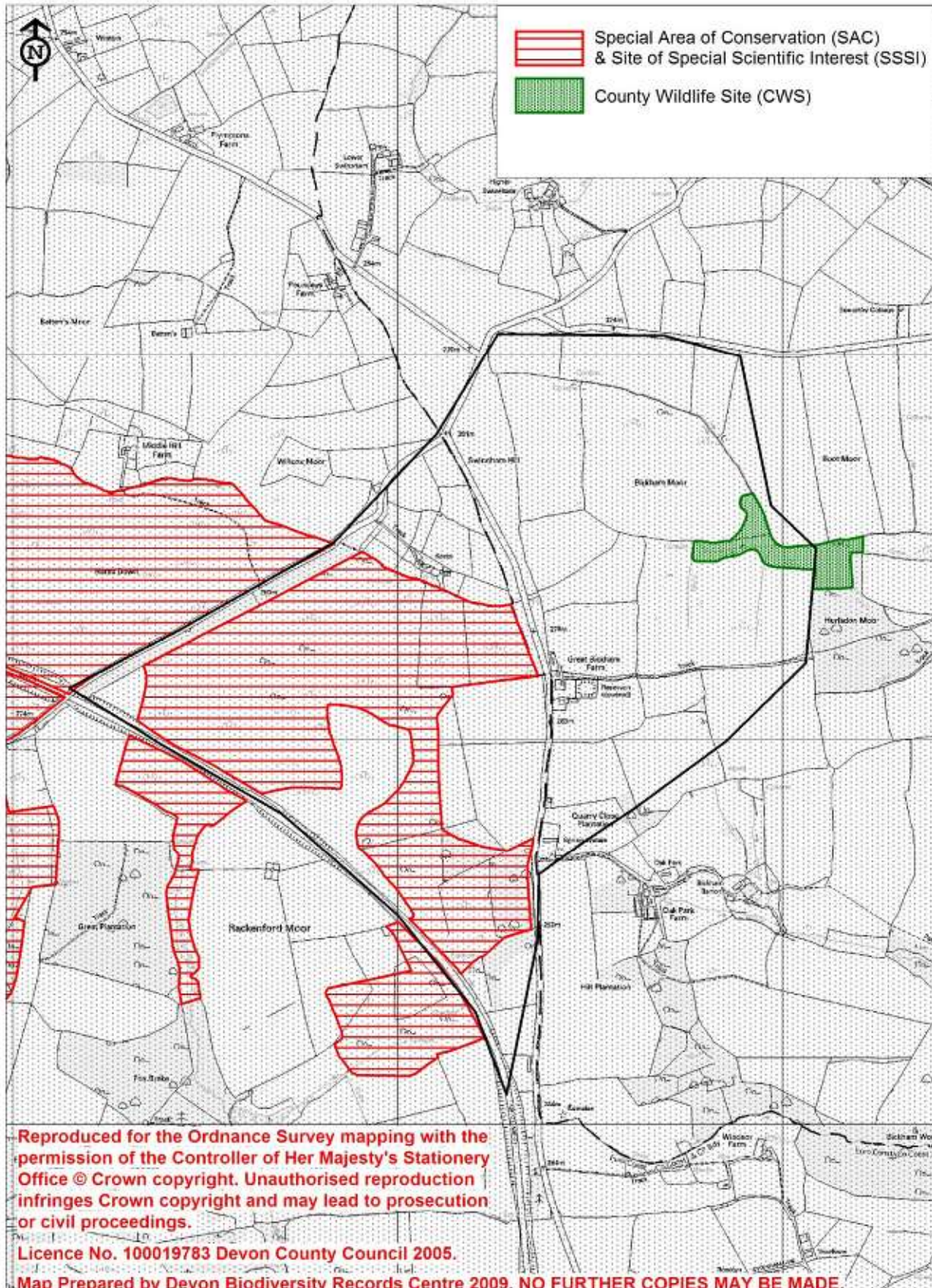
6. Other information

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.

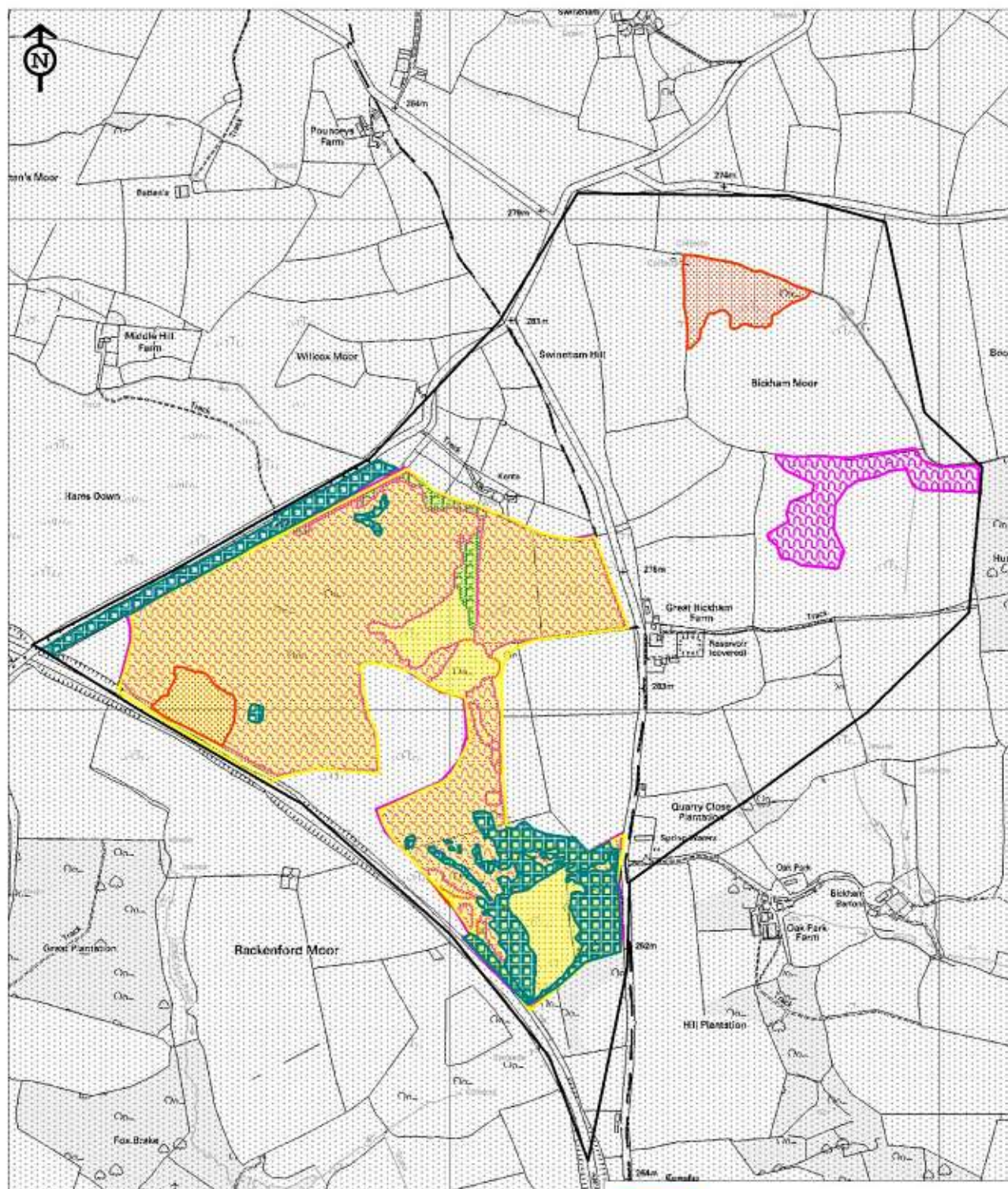
Contents could include:

- 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 330 Rackenford Moor (2009)



**Selected UK BAP priority habitats
within SNA 330 Rackenford Moor (2009)**



Reproduced for the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

Licence No. 100019783 Devon County Council 2005.

Map Prepared by Devon Biodiversity Records Centre 2009. NO FURTHER COPIES MAY BE MADE.

-  Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture
-  Lowland heathland
-  Wet woodland
-  Fen

Appendix 1: Legally protected and notable species found within SNA 330 Rackenford Moor

Common name	Scientific name	Status
Beautiful Brocade	<i>Lacania contigua</i>	Nb
Bithynian Vetch	<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	NS; DN1; DR
Bottle Sedge	<i>Carex rostrata</i>	DN3
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	WCA
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	S.41; Red
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	S.41; DBAP; Amber
Double Line	<i>Mythimna turca</i>	Na
Dusky Brocade	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	S.41
Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	S.41
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	S.41; Red
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Decline
Lesser Butterfly-orchid	<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	S.41; DN3
Marsh Fritillary	<i>Eurodryas aurinia</i>	S.41; DBAP; Nb
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber
Minor Shoulder-Knot	<i>Brachylochia viminalis</i>	S.41
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	S.41; DBAP
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	DA
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Amber
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Red
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	S.41; Amber
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	DA
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	S.41; Red
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	S.41
Small Square-Spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	S.41
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Amber
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	S.41; Red
Waved Carpet	<i>Hydrelia sylvata</i>	Na
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber

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 / habitat)** – 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 in the Atlas of Devon Flora 1984 (R.B. Ivimey-Cook, Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Exeter).

DN1 **Devon Notable¹:** 1-25 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.

DN2 **Devon Notable²:** 26-50 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.

- DN3** **Devon Notable³**: 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.

Draft