

## 1. SNA details

<b>SNA name:</b>	West Exmoor Heaths
<b>SNA unique number:</b>	347
<b>SNA area (ha):</b>	2,053.94



## 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>	
<b>Other UK BAP habitats:</b>	Blanket Bog, Upland Oakwood, Lowland Heathland, Lowland Meadows, Maritime Cliff & Slope, Hedges, Rivers.

This area is selected as an SNA for its upland heath habitat\*. Reports relating to this area show there to be a transition from lowland to upland heath within the SNA with upland heath communities occurring at relatively low altitudes (as low as 250 M) because of the cool North-facing slopes. Both wet and dry heath occur. Contours in this SNA vary from sea level up to 349M at the highest point. At the lower altitudes sessile oak woodland, scrub, acidic grassland and maritime grassland occur. Further inland areas of rush pasture, mire communities and unimproved neutral and acid grassland occur along the river valleys.

Important species or species assemblage	Status
High Brown fritillary	UKBAP(P)
Heathlands support breeding birds e.g. Wheatear, Whinchat and Stonechat.	Amber (stonechat)
Snipe and Nightjars nesting in mire and woodland edge habitats.	Amber (Snipe) S.41; DBAP; Red (Nightjar)
Rare Whitebeam species occurring in woodland areas: <i>Sorbus subcuneata</i> and <i>Sorbus Vexans</i> .	Nationally rare
Scarce plant species occurring on seacliffs e.g. Rock Stonecrop, Sea Storksbill.	Devon notable (Rock Stonecrop) Devon rarity (Sea Storksbill)

See Appendix 1 for further species recorded in this SNA.

This SNA also contains some key geological sites for interpreting the geography of the Devonian period. Geological sites at Hollowbrook and Heddon's mouth have exposures of Lynton slates - Hangman Grits.

\*Areas of heathland within this SNA have all been mapped as lowland heath on the nbn habitat layers but some of the areas mapped as lowland heathland include upland heathland areas.

## 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/SSSI	Exmoor and Quantock Oakwoods (part of)	Extensive tracts of old sessile oak with transition to heathland, with rich bryophyte & lichen flora, fritillary butterflies & bat roosts
SSSI, SAC	Exmoor Heaths	Extensive areas of heathland communities, with wide range of nationally rare & scarce plants, & a breeding colony of a nationally rare butterfly
SSSI	Exmoor Coastal Heaths - west	Extensive areas of heathland, with woodland, scrub, acidic & maritime grassland
SSSI	West Exmoor Coast and Woods (part of)	Exmoor coast & coastal valleys supporting important areas of ancient sessile oak woodland, maritime plant communities, an outstanding lichen flora in the Valley of Rocks & a rich bird population

This SNA is within Exmoor National Park.

In addition the SNA includes 11 County Wildlife Sites covering habitats including: rush pasture, mire, unimproved neutral and acid grassland, marshy grassland, semi-improved neutral and acid grassland, woodland, scrub, heath and bracken.

There are also 4 Regionally Important Geological Sites.

### 3. UK BAP Priority habitat maintenance and restoration targets for SNA no 347

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

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

UK BAP priority habitat	Upland Oak Woodland	Maritime Cliff & Slope	Lowland Heathland	TOTAL
Minimum area *			0.84	0.84
Maximum area #	11	263	510 **	784

\* 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*

\*\* **Some of the areas mapped as lowland heathland include upland heathland areas.**

### **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 profile 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.

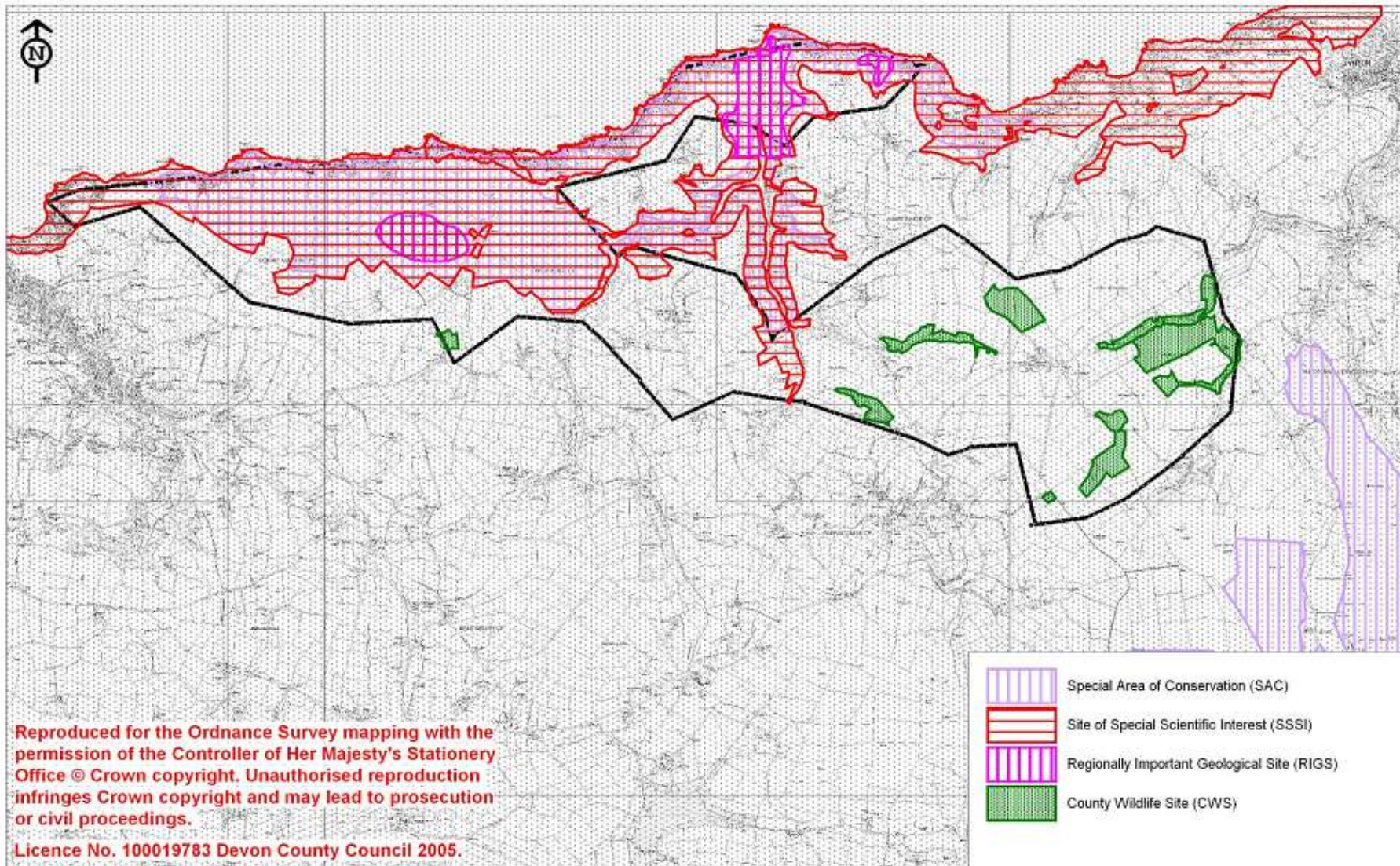
## **6. Other information**

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.

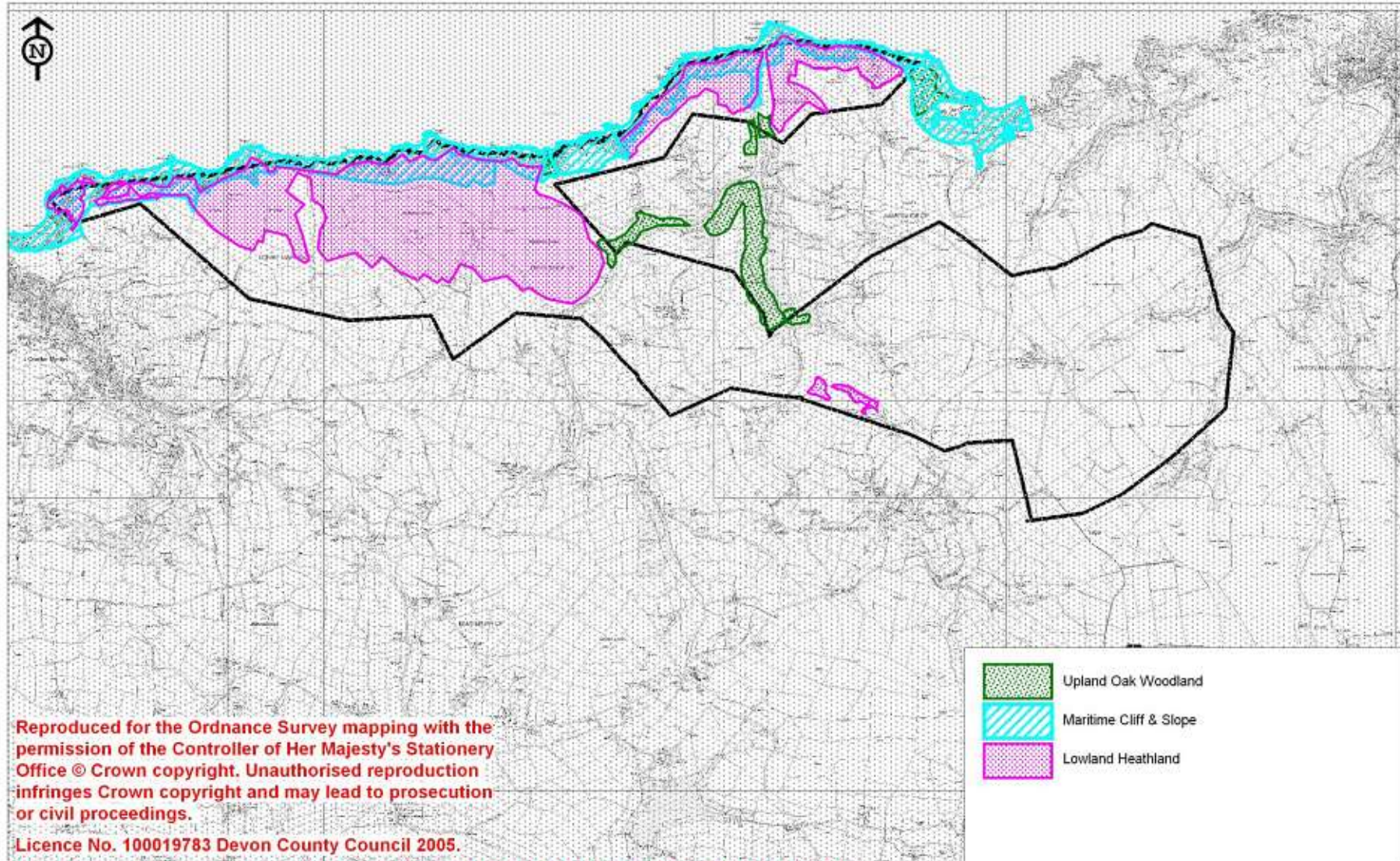
Contents could include:

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

# UKBAP priority habitats within SNA no 347 (2009)



# UKBAP priority habitats within SNA no 347 (2009)



## Appendix 1: Legally protected & notable species recorded within SNA no 347

Common name	Scientific name	Status
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	S.41
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Decline
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	S.41
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	Amber
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	S.41
Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>	Decline
French Hales	<i>Sorbus devoniensis</i>	DBAP; NS; DN1
High Brown Fritillary	<i>Argynnis adippe</i>	S.41; RDB2
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	WCA
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>	S.41; Decline
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Amber
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	S.41; DBAP
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	S.41
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	DBAP
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	S.41; DBAP; Nb
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	S.41; Decline
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	WCA
Rock Stonecrop	<i>Sedum forsterianum</i>	NS; DN1
Ivy-Leaved Bellflower	<i>Wahlenbergia hederacea</i>	DN3
Round-leaved Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus omiophyllus</i>	DN1
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	S.41; Red
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	WCA
Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>	KeyD (N)

<b>WCA</b>	<b>Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)</b>
<b>S.41</b>	<b>Species or habitat of principal importance in England (i.e. English BAP priority species / habitat)</b> – see Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006).
<b>DBAP</b>	<b>Devon Biodiversity Action Plan species:</b> these have been identified as species of key conservation concern in Devon.
<b>NS</b>	<b>Nationally Scarce:</b> 15-100 10km squares in Atlas of British Flora 1962.
	<b>Devon Notable Species:</b> species recorded from 2km squares in the Atlas of Devon Flora 1984 (R.B. Ivimey-Cook, Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Exeter).
<b>DN1</b>	<b>Devon Notable<sup>1</sup>:</b> 1-25 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.
<b>DN3</b>	<b>Devon Notable<sup>3</sup>:</b> Selected species recorded from over 50 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.
<b>Nb</b>	<b>Nationally Notable B:</b> known from 100 or fewer 10km squares. Taken from the Invertebrate Site Register.
<b>Decline</b>	Substantial local decline in Devon
<b>Red List</b>	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.
<b>Amber List</b>	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.
<b>KeyD (N)</b>	<b>Nationally Important Key Dragonfly Species:</b> those which have been recorded in less than 10% of 10km squares in Britain. Those occurring in Devon are White-legged damselfly ( <i>Platycnemis pennipes</i> ) Scarce blue-tailed damselfly ( <i>Ischnura pumilio</i> ) Small red damselfly ( <i>Ceragrion tenellum</i> ) Hairy dragonfly ( <i>Brachytron pratense</i> ) Downy emerald ( <i>Cordulia aenea</i> ) and Keeled skimmer ( <i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i> ).
<b>RDB2</b>	<b>Red Data Book 2:</b> Vulnerable. Taxa believed likely to move into the endangered category in the near future if casual factors continue to operate. Includes taxa which are still abundant but are under threat from serious adverse factors throughout their range.