

1. SNA details

SNA name:	Lower Exe Valley
SNA unique number:	370
SNA area (ha):	697.03



2. Summary of nature conservation interest

Priority BAP habitats:

Main Regional Nature Map habitat:	Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh
Other Regional Nature Map habitat(s):	
Other UK BAP habitats:	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland, Lowland Meadows, Hedges, Rivers.

This SNA follows the River Exe from Tiverton down to just below Thorveton where it adjoins SNA 493. Aerial photos (2006) show the land buffering the river to be mostly arable land with some floodplain grazing marsh. Some edges of woodland from the valley sides cross into the SNA and there is also some lowland meadow and wet woodland within the SNA. DBRC holds little information relating to this area, but species likely to be important include:

Important species or species assemblage	Status
Flowering plants associated with grazing marsh e.g. flowering rush, parsley water-dropwort, corky-fruited water dropwort, frogbit, marsh arrowgrass.	Devon notable plant species
Populations of freshwater invertebrates.	
Waders and Waterfowl associated with rivers and grazing marshes.	
Freshwater fish	
Otter	S.41; DBAP
Riparian birds e.g. Kingfisher .	Amber
Amphibians and reptiles e.g. Grass snake , newts, frogs.	S.41
Farmland birds e.g. Grey Partridge , Barn Owl, skylark.	S.41; Red
Populations of dragonflies & damselflies.	

Species in **bold** have been recorded within this SNA.

See Appendix 1 for records of legally protected and notable species recorded in this SNA.

Nature conservation designations

There is one Local Nature Reserve in this SNA.

In addition the SNA partially includes 4 County Wildlife Sites covering habitats including: Ancient semi-natural woodland, secondary broadleaved woodland, unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland.

There are no Regionally Important Geological Sites within this SNA.

3. UK BAP Priority habitat maintenance and restoration targets for SNA no 370

(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	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Undetermined Woodland	Wet Woodland	Woodland TOTAL	Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Lowland Meadows	TOTAL
Minimum area *							
Maximum area #	15	2	3	20	333	1	354

* 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

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 coastal and floodplain grazing marsh:

- 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.

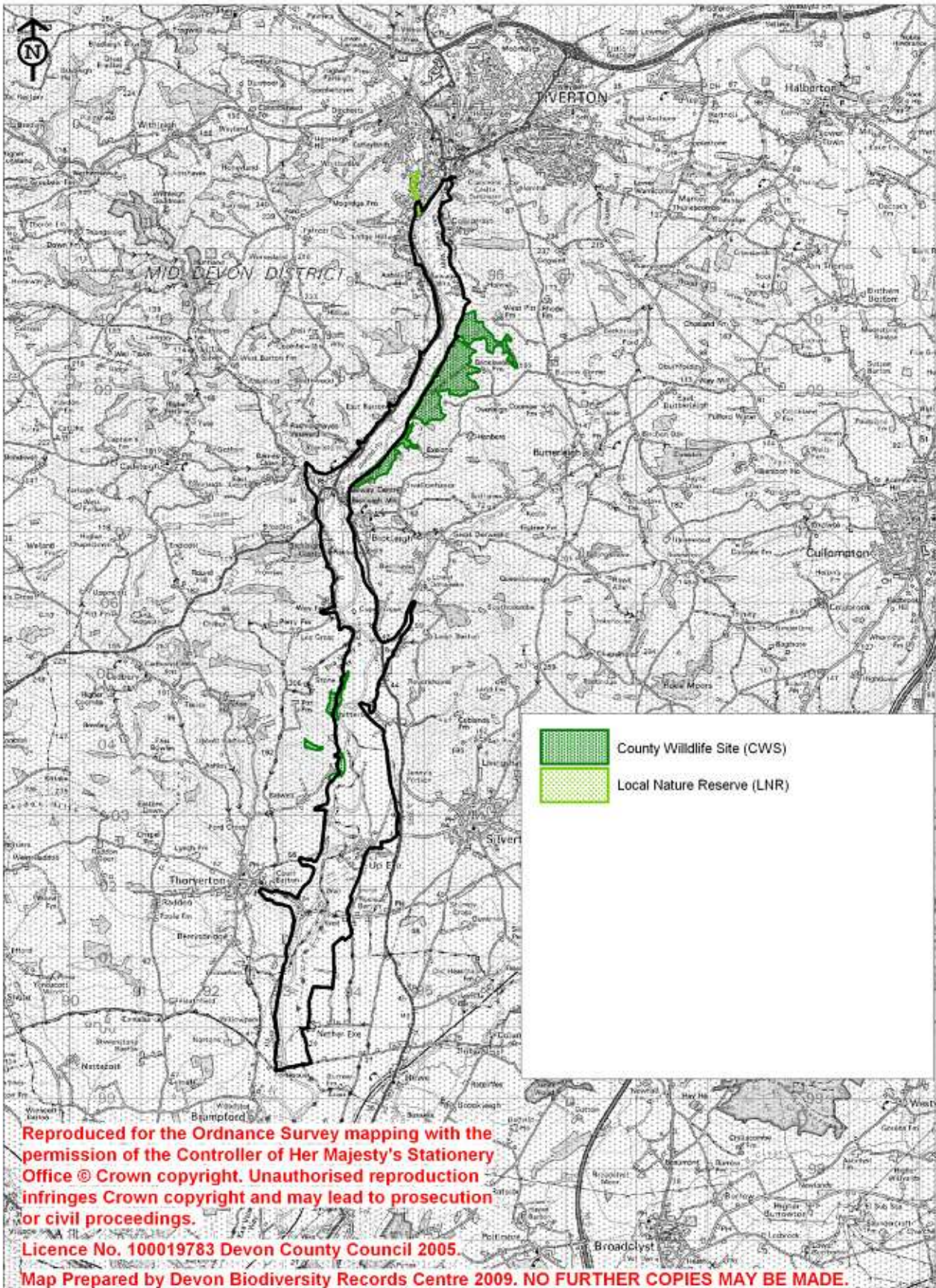
6. Other information

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.

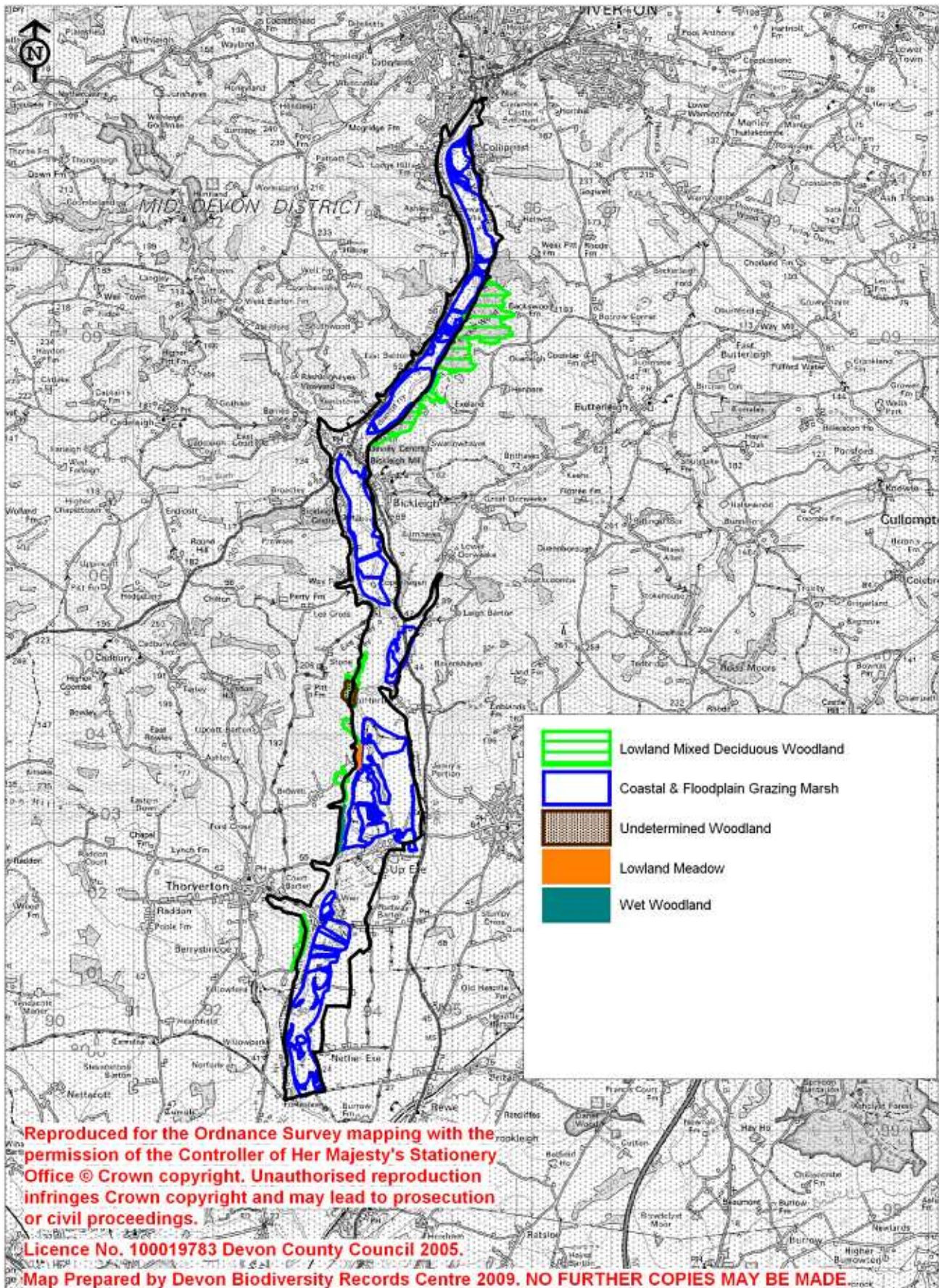
Contents could include:

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

Designated sites within SNA no 370 (2009)



UKBAP priority habitat within SNA no 370 (2009)



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Appendix 1: Legally protected and notable species records within SNA no 370

Common name	Scientific name	Status
a Beetle	Neobisnius prolixus	RDB K
a Long-eared Bat	Plecotus spp.	WCA
a Rove Beetle	Hydrosmecta thinoioides	N
a Water Beetle	Hydraena rufipes	Nb
Badger	Meles meles	WCA
Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	S.41; Nb
Grass Snake	Natrix natrix	S.41
Hedgehog	Erinaceus europaeus	S.41
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	Amber
Otter	Lutra lutra	S.41; DBAP
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	WCA
Primrose	Primula vulgaris	DBAP
River Water-Crowfoot	Ranunculus fluitans	DN2
Water Shrew	Neomys fodiens	WCA

- WCA** **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)**
- 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.
- DN2** **Devon Notable²:** 26-50 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.
- Nb** **Nationally Notable B:** known from 100 or fewer 10km squares. Taken from the Invertebrate Site Register.
- 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.
- RDB K** **Red Data Book K- Insufficiently Known** Taxa that are suspected but not definitely known to belong to any of the Red Data Book 1-3, 5, I categories (*i.e.* Endangered, Vulnerable, Rare, Endemic and Indeterminate) because of lack of information.
- N** **Nationally Notable (Scarce):** Species that are estimated to occur within the range of 16 to 100 10km squares of the National Grid. The subdividing of this category into Notable A and Notable B species has not been attempted as their status is often too poorly known to be more precisely estimated.