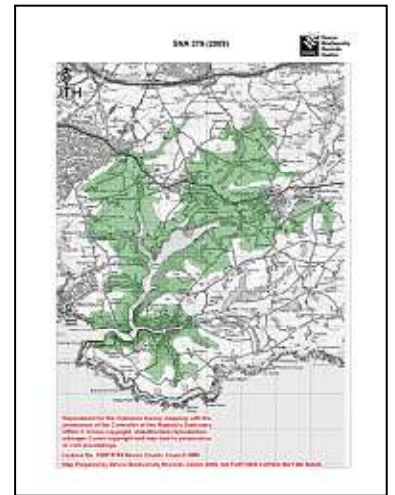


## 1. SNA details

<b>SNA name:</b>	Yealm Estuary Hinterland
<b>SNA unique number:</b>	379
<b>SNA area (ha):</b>	2,023.34



## 2. Summary of nature conservation interest

### Priority BAP habitats

<b>Main Regional Nature Map habitat:</b>	Woodland
<b>Other Regional Nature Map habitat(s):</b>	
<b>Other UK BAP habitats:</b>	Lowland mixed woodland, wet woodland, lowland beech & yew woodland, lowland meadow, maritime cliff and slope, hedges, rivers, open water

This is a woodland SNA situated around the Yealm Estuary. The Yealm Estuary is a SSSI and a County Wildlife Site, but since it is also a separate SNA (no. 1127, designated for mudflats) it has not been considered as part of this profile.

The SNA is partly within the South Devon AONB, and also overlaps with SNA 1185 (Maritime Cliff and Slope). It consists of steep wooded valleys around the estuary, rising from sea level to 115 metres, with some species-rich unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland. The rest of the land is farmland, some of which is important for cirl buntings. The SNA also includes the town of Noss Mayo. The southern end of the SNA is mainly low cliffs and slopes of scrub and woodland, which is important for breeding and migrant birds. There are 17 ancient woodlands within the SNA, most of which are also County Wildlife Sites. Some of the ancient woodlands have been replanted with conifers or broadleaves, though some of them are still in good condition, and are species-rich. There are also several secondary woodlands along the river valleys. One of the woods contains one of the largest heronries in Devon.

<b>Important species or species assemblage</b>	<b>Status</b>
Reptiles and amphibians e.g. Adder, Common Toad	S. 41 (Adder, Common Toad)
Devon Notable plants e.g. Almond Willow, Cyclamen, English Scurvygrass, Great Burnet, Imperforate St. John's-Wort, Jacob's-Ladder, Large-Flowered Mullein, Orpine, River Water-Crowfoot, Sea Aster, Sea Meadow-Grass, Sea Purslane, Smooth Brome, Wood Calamint, Yellow Vetch	NR (Jacob's-Ladder) NS (Large-Flowered Mullein, Yellow Vetch) S. 41 (Wood Calamint) Devon Notable Plants
42 Ancient Woodland Indicators including Primrose, Wild Service-Tree	DBAP (Primrose) Devon Notable Plants
Birds e.g. Barn Owl, Black-Tailed Godwit, Bullfinch, Cirl Bunting, Curlew, Marsh Tit, Scaup, Skylark	S. 41 (Bullfinch, Cirl Bunting, Curlew, Scaup, Skylark) DBAP (Barn Owl, Cirl Bunting, Curlew) Red (Black-Tailed Godwit, Cirl Bunting, Marsh Tit, Scaup, Skylark) Amber (Barn Owl, Bullfinch, Curlew)
Mammals e.g. Brown Hare, Hedgehog, Otter	S. 41 (Brown Hare, Hedgehog, Otter) DBAP (Brown Hare, Otter)
Bats e.g. Brown Long-Eared Bat, Greater Horseshoe Bat, Lesser Horseshoe Bat, Pipistrelle	S. 41 (Brown Long-Eared Bat, Greater Horseshoe Bat, Lesser Horseshoe Bat, Pipistrelle) DBAP (Greater Horseshoe Bat)
Invertebrates e.g. Grayling, Great Green Bush Cricket, Grey Bush Cricket, Purple Hairstreak, Wall Brown	S. 41 (Grayling, Great Green Bush Cricket, Wall Brown) Nb (Grey Bush Cricket) Decline (Purple Hairstreak)

See Appendix 1 for further species recorded in SNA 379

## 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	Plymouth Sound and Estuaries	Estuaries, mudflats, sandbanks, large shallow inlets and bays
SSSI	Wembury Point	Coastal grassland, gorse and scrub with bird interest
gSSSI	Wheal Emily	Vein carrying lead-antimony mineralisation

In addition the SNA includes 14 County Wildlife Sites covering habitats including: Ancient semi-natural woodland, secondary broadleaved woodland, broadleaved and conifer plantations, unimproved & semi-improved neutral grassland, coastal grassland, lake, swamp, scrub and mixed farmland with bird interest

There are also five Regionally Important Geological Sites.

- Venn (Brixton) Quarry - Quarry with a good display of Devonian corals & stromatoporoids
- Chittleburn Railway Cutting - Excellent section through a calcareous variant of Middle Devonian slate with some tuffaceous beds
- Steer Point - Quarry used for brick making. Variations in the state of oxidation and iron content
- Spriddlestone Quarry - Quarry showing the second phase of Variscan folding in Devonian rocks
- Rounds Nest Quarry - Quarry of middle Devonian limestone and dolomite. Caves and a lime kiln

## 3. UK BAP Priority habitat maintenance and restoration targets for SNA no 379

(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	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Wet Woodland	Lowland beech & yew woodland <sup>1</sup>	Woodland TOTAL	Lowland Meadow	Maritime Cliff and Slope	TOTAL
Minimum area *						0.25	
Maximum area #	357	2	34		11	339	

\* current extent of habitat = a + b

a) sum of all the areas of criterion 1 polygons (*Definitely is*)

b) number of criterion 2 polygons multiplied by the minimum mappable unit for that habitat (*Definitely present within polygon but not mappable*)  
 [criterion 3 polygons not included] (*Probably the Priority Habitat but some uncertainty of interpretation*)

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

<sup>1</sup> The Accuracy of this habitat data is questionable as this habitat type is not usually found in Devon. These areas of woodland are more likely to be lowland mixed deciduous woodland.

## **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 semi-natural broadleaved woodland:

- 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.

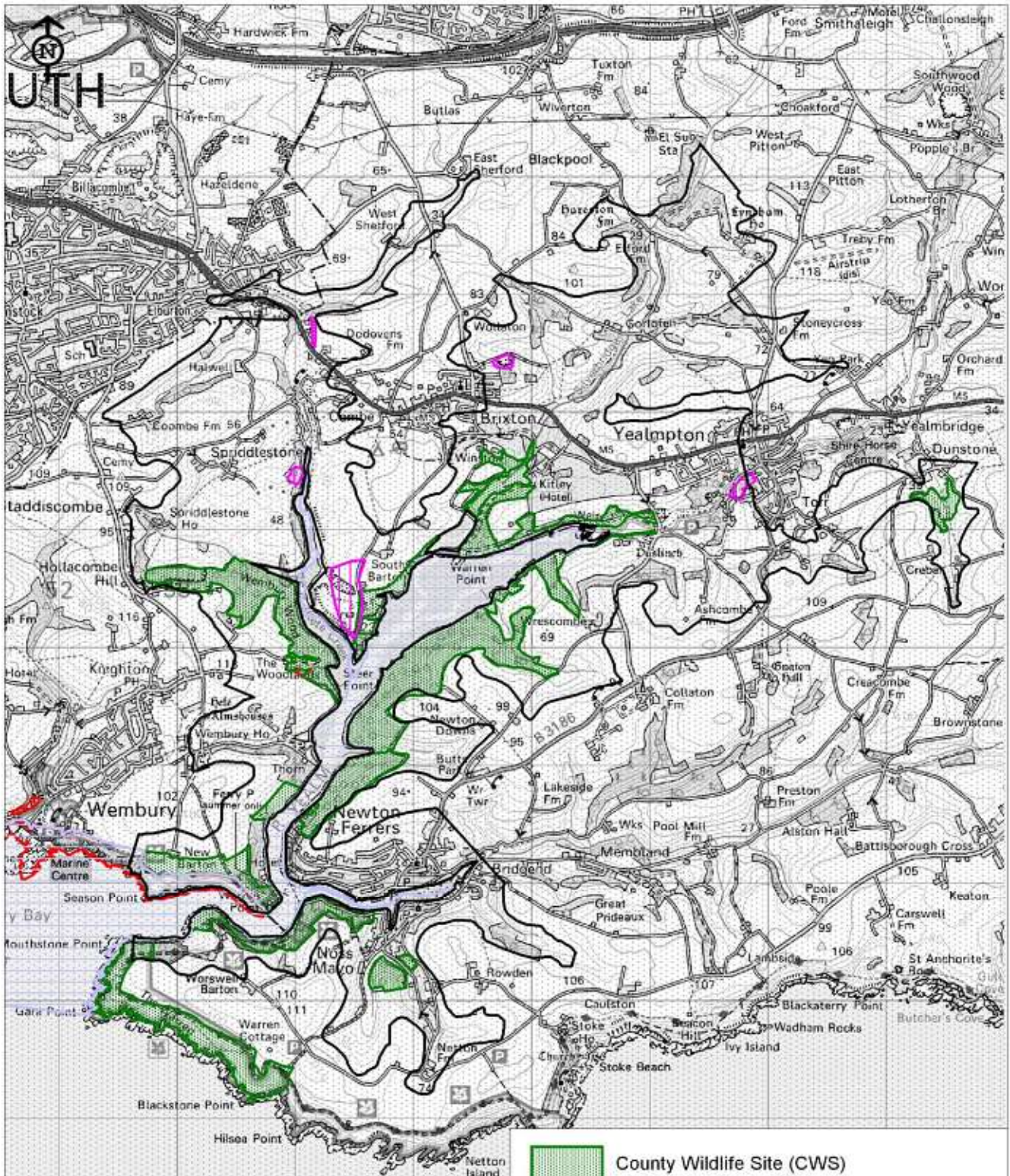
### **6. Other information**

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 379 (2009)



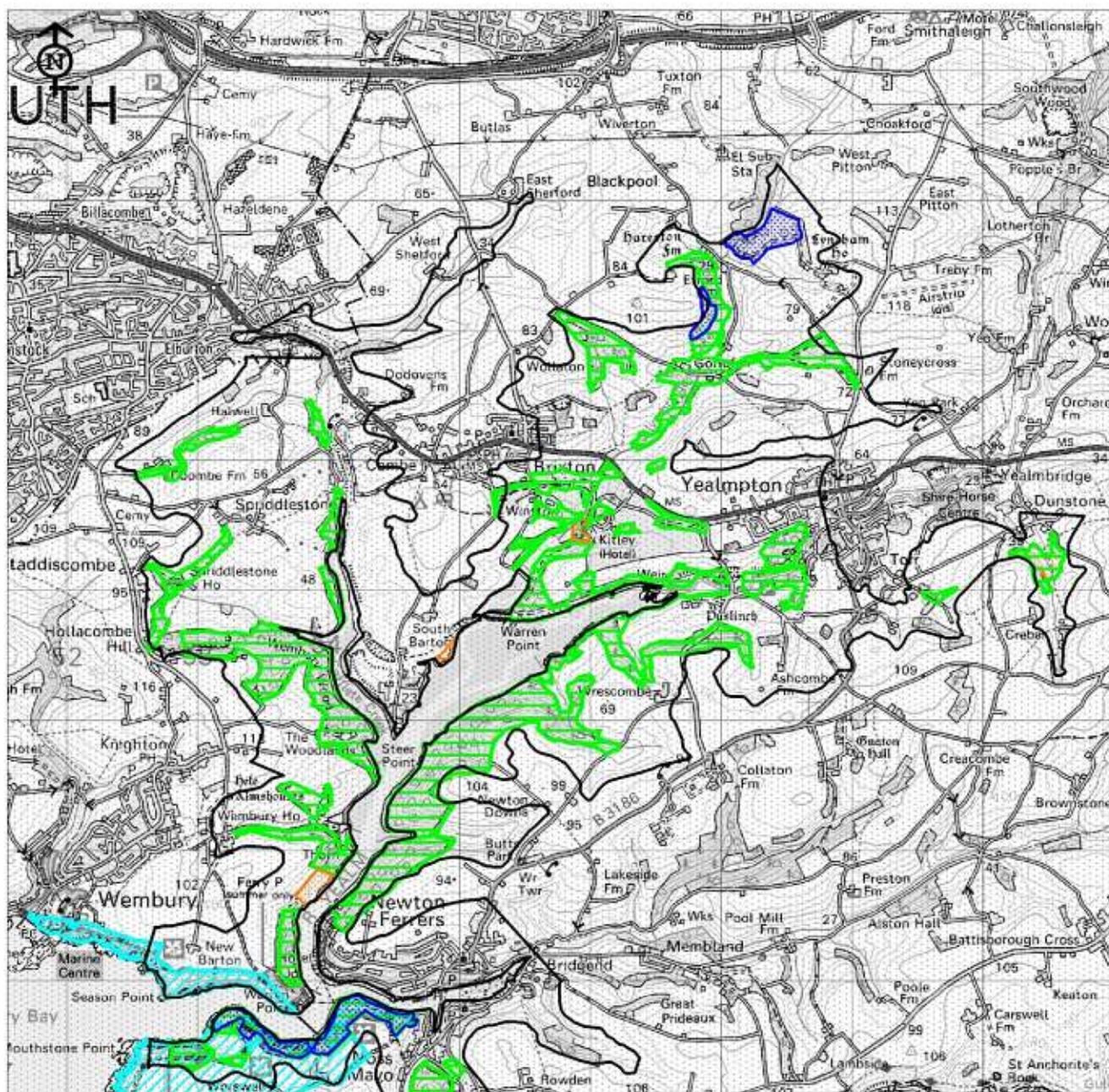
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-  County Wildlife Site (CWS)
-  Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS)
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

# Selected UKBAP Habitats within SNA 379 (2009)



-  Maritime Cliff and Slope
-  Lowland Meadow
-  Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
-  Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland\*
-  Wet Woodland

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\* The Accuracy of this habitat data is questionable as this habitat type is not usually found in Devon. These areas of woodland are more likely to be lowland mixed deciduous woodland.

Appendix 1: Legally protected and notable species recorded in SNA 379

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Status</b>
a Bat	Chiroptera	WCA
Adder	Vipera berus	WCA, S. 41
Almond Willow	Salix triandra	DN1
Badger	Meles meles	WCA
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	WCA, DBAP; Amber
Black-Tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa	WCA, Red
Bluebell	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	WCA
Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus	S. 41; DBAP
Brown Long-Eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	WCA, S. 41
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	UKBAP(P); Amber
Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus	WCA, S. 41; DBAP; Red
Common Frog	Rana temporaria	WCA
Common Shrew	Sorex araneus	WCA
Common Toad	Bufo bufo	WCA, S. 41
Curlew	Numenius arquata	S. 41; DBAP; Amber
Cyclamen	Cyclamen hederifolium	DN1
English Scurvygrass	Cochlearia anglica	DN2
Gadwall	Anas strepera	Amber
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	Amber
Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula	WCA, Amber
Grayling	Hipparchia semele	S. 41
Great Burnet	Sanguisorba officinalis	DN3
Great Green Bush Cricket	Tettigonia viridissima	DBAP
Greater Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus ferrumequinum	WCA, S. 41; DBAP
Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	Amber
Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	WCA
Grey Bush Cricket	Platycleis albopunctata	Nb
Hedgehog	Erinaceus europaeus	WCA, S. 41
Hobby	Falco subbuteo	WCA
Imperforate St. John's-Wort	Hypericum maculatum	DN2
Jacob's-Ladder	Polemonium caeruleum	NR
Japanese Knotweed	Fallopia japonica	WCA
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	WCA, Amber
Large-Flowered Mullein	Verbascum virgatum	NS; DN2
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros	WCA, S. 41
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	Amber
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Amber
Marsh Tit	Parus palustris	Red
Mute Swan	Cygnus olor	Amber
Orpine	Sedum telephium	DN3
Otter	Lutra lutra	WCA, S. 41; DBAP
Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	Amber
Pintail	Anas acuta	WCA, Amber
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	WCA, S. 41
Pochard	Aythya ferina	Amber
Primrose	Primula vulgaris	DBAP
Purple Hairstreak	Quercusia quercus	Decline
River Water-Crowfoot	Ranunculus fluitans	DN2
Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	DA
Scaup	Aythya marila	WCA, S. 41; Red
Sea Aster	Aster tripolium	DN3
Sea Meadow-Grass	Puccinellia maritima	DN2
Sea Purslane	Atriplex portulacoides	DN2
Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	Amber
Shoveler	Anas clypeata	Amber

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Status</b>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	S. 41; Red
Smooth Brome	<i>Bromus racemosus</i>	DN2
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Amber
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Amber
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	S. 41
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Amber
Water Shrew	<i>Neomys fodiens</i>	WCA
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Amber
Wild Service-Tree	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	DN2
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber
Wood Calamint	<i>Clinopodium menthifolium</i>	WCA, S. 41
Yellow Vetch	<i>Vicia lutea</i>	NS; DN1; DR

- WCA**                    **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)**
- DA**                    **Deer Act 1991:** deer protected under the Deer Act.
- S. 41**                    **Species of principal importance in England (i.e. English BAP priority species)** – 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:** Selected 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 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.
- 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.