

1. SNA details

SNA name:	Mole and Taw Valleys
SNA unique number:	405
SNA area (ha):	1,695.32



2. Summary of nature conservation interest

Priority BAP habitats:

Main Regional Nature Map habitat:	Woodland
Other Regional Nature Map habitat(s):	
Other UK BAP habitats:	Wet Woodland, Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture, Hedges, Rivers.

This SNA includes sections of river valley for the River Mole and River Taw and their confluence at Junction Pool.

Areas of woodland occur on the steep river valley sides and coombes leading down to them. Many of these are listed on the Devon ancient woodland inventory and although many have now been replanted with conifers and non-native broadleaved species, some areas of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland remain. Semi-natural woodland types include: Mature oak with hazel coppice and diverse ground flora; oak with dense hazel, holly and rowan understorey and less ground flora; oak - ash and birch with hazel, hawthorn and holly understorey and diverse ground flora; secondary woodland with sycamore and alder and willow woodland in wetter areas.

There are also some areas of floodplain grazing marsh and purple moor grass and rush pasture in some of the fields in the valley bottoms alongside the rivers.

Important species or species assemblage	Status
Diverse woodland ground flora including ancient woodland indicator species e.g. Wood Anemone, Moschatel, Wood Sorrel, Yellow Archangel.	Ancient woodland plant indicators.
Woodland birds e.g. Great Spotted Woodpecker, Tawny Owl, Chiffchaff, Tree Creeper, Nuthatch, Goldcrest.	Amber (Goldcrest)
Fungi found on dead wood and older trees in woodlands.	
Common Dormouse	S.41; DBAP
Devon Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus devoniensis</i>)	DBAP; Nationally Scarce; Devon notable plant
Butterflies associated with woodlands or woodland rides e.g. Brown Hairstreak, Dingy Skipper, Heath Fritillary.	S.41 (Brown Hairstreak, Dingy Skipper, Heath Fritillary) Nationally notable (Brown Hairstreak, Dingy Skipper) Decline (Dingy Skipper)
Otter, Brown Hare	S.41; DBAP
Birds associated with floodplain grazing marsh/farmland e.g. Curlew, Little Egret, Barn Owl, Snipe.	S.41 (Curlew) DBAP (Curlew, Barn Owl) Amber (Curlew, Little Egret, Barn Owl, Snipe)

See Appendix 1 for further species recorded in SNA 405.

Nature conservation designations

There are no statutory sites within this SNA.

The SNA has 14 County Wildlife Sites covering habitats including: ancient semi-natural woodland, ancient semi-natural woodland partly replanted with conifers and non-native broadleaves, secondary broadleaved woodland, conifer plantation, wet woodland, culm grassland, semi-improved and unimproved neutral grassland.

There are no Regionally Important Geological Sites within this SNA.

3. UK BAP Priority habitat maintenance and restoration targets for SNA no 405

(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	Undetermined Woodland	Lowland beech & yew woodland	Woodland TOTAL	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	TOTAL
Minimum area *					1		1
Maximum area #	321	0.47	102 **	423.47	2	25	450.47

* 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

** 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 or conifer plantation.

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.

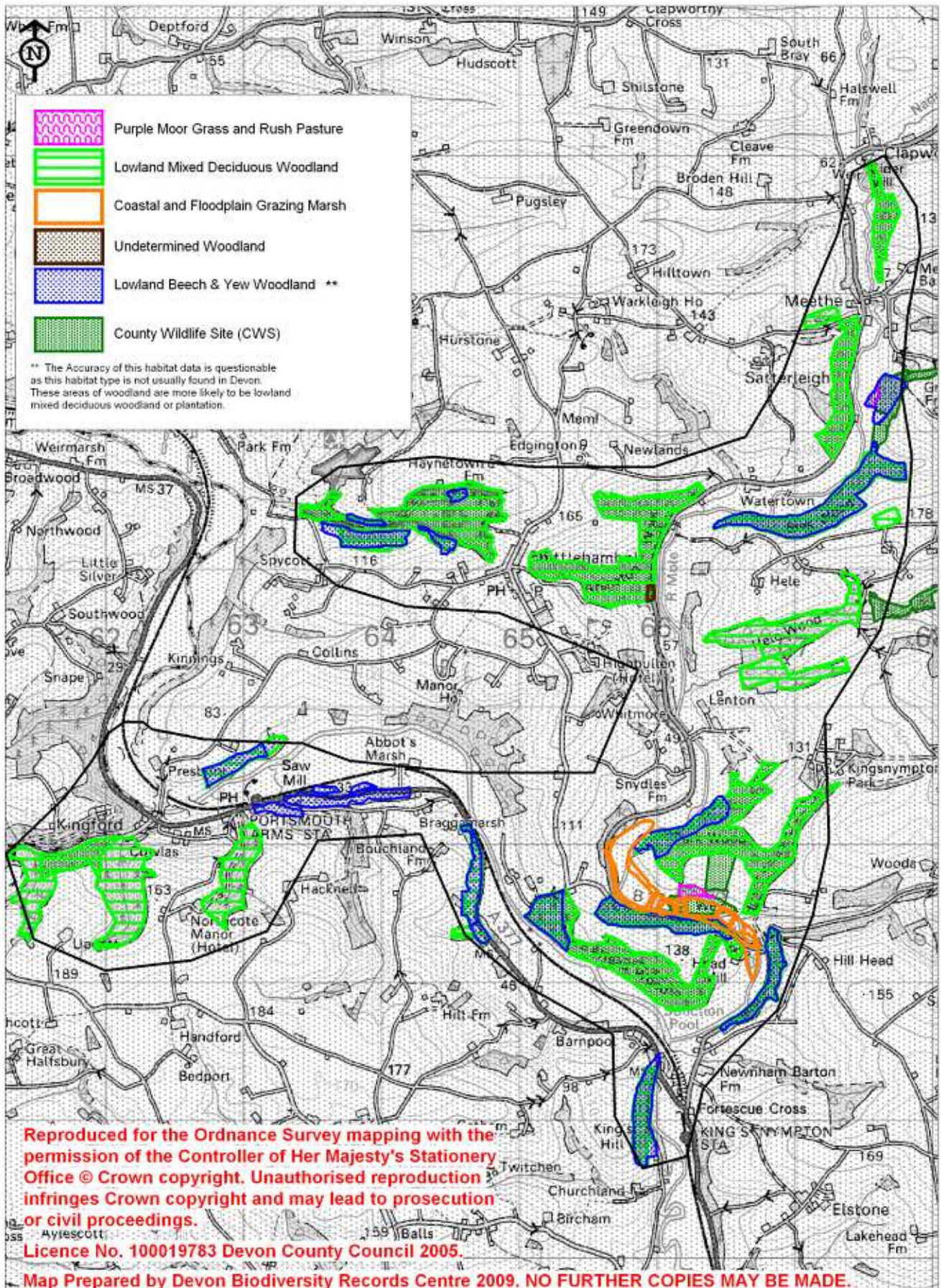
6. Other information

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 and selected UKBAP priority habitats within SNA 405 (2009)



Appendix 1: Legally protected and notable species recorded in SNA 405

Common Name	Scientific name	Status
a Bat	Chiroptera	WCA
Badger	Meles meles	WCA
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	DBAP; Amber
Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	S.41; Nb
Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus	S.41; DBAP
Common Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius	S.41; DBAP
Curlew	Numenius arquata	S.41; DBAP; Amber
Dingy Skipper	Erynnis tages	S.41; Decline
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	Amber
Heath Fritillary	Mellicta athalia	S.41; RDB2
Hedgehog	Erinaceus europaeus	S.41
House Martin	Delichon urbica	Amber
Large Heath	Coenonympha tullia	WCA
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	Amber
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Amber
Mute Swan	Cygnus olor	Amber
Otter	Lutra lutra	S.41; DBAP
Primrose	Primula vulgaris	DBAP
Round-leaved Crowfoot	Ranunculus omiophyllus	DN1
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	S.41; Red
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria selene	S.41; Decline
Smooth Brome	Bromus racemosus	DN2
Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	Amber
Stoat	Mustela erminea	CITES (UK reservation)
Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Amber
Swift	Apus apus	Amber
Teal	Anas crecca	Amber
Twiggy Miullein	Verbascum virgatum	NS; DN2
Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera	S.41
Whitebeam	Sorbus devoniensis	DBAP; NS; DN1
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	Amber
Wood Club-Rush	Scirpus sylvaticus	DN3
Wood White	Leptidea sinapis	S.41; Nb
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	S.41; Red

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.

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.

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.

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