

## 1. SNA details

<b>SNA name:</b>	Okehampton
<b>SNA unique number:</b>	467
<b>SNA area (ha):</b>	1,785.45



## 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>	Upland Mixed Ashwoods, Upland Oakwood, Wet Woodland, Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Hedges, Rivers.

This SNA includes the wooded river valleys of the East and West Okement rivers on the North side of Dartmoor and their confluence in Okehampton where they meet to form the River Okement. The southern part of this SNA is within the Dartmoor National Park boundary and includes some upland areas.

The steep valley sides of the East and West Okement rivers support areas of upland oakwood, upland mixed ashwoods and wet woodland. An area of lowland meadow occurs on the steep valley side of the West Okement River along with areas of purple moor grass and rush pasture which is also found in the floodplain of the valley bottom and alongside Moor Brook further up onto the moor. An area of dry acid grassland occurs alongside the East Okement river further up onto the moor.

To the North of Okehampton there is a large area of conifer plantation which is listed on the Devon ancient woodland inventory. Although most of this is now forestry, aerial photos show there could be some areas of semi-natural habitat (grassland, possibly culm and semi-natural woodland) remaining in the stream valley to the west of the plantation and up through parsonage wood which have yet to be surveyed.

Important species or species assemblage	Status
Sessile oak, the predominant species of upland oak woods.	
Woodland flora e.g. Wood Anemone, Pignut, Sanicle, Common Cow-wheat.	Ancient woodland indicator plant species
Lichens in oakwoods e.g. 79 species recorded at Halstock Wood including <i>Graphina ruiziana</i> , a species local to Dartmoor.	
Breeding woodland birds (30 species recorded at Halstock Wood) e.g. Wood Warbler, Redstart. Largest colony of Pied Flycatcher in South west England recorded in the woods along the East Okement.	
Bats e.g. Brown Long-Eared Bat, Lesser Horseshoe Bat, Pipistrelle, Whiskered Bat.	S.41 (Brown Long-Eared Bat and Lesser Horseshoe)
Common Dormouse	S.41; DBAP
Otter	S.41; DBAP
Notable plants associated with purple moor grass and rush pasture e.g. Ivy-leaved Bellflower, Petty Whin.	Devon notable plants
Butterflies associated with purple moor grass and rush pasture e.g. Marsh Fritillary, Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary.	S.41 (Marsh Fritillary & Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary) DBAP, Nationally notable (Marsh Fritillary)

See Appendix 1 for further species recorded in SNA 467.

Meldon quarry and Meldon Aplite quarry add geological interest to this SNA with their exposures of cherts, siliceous shales & tuffs of the greystone foundation and rare minerals.

## 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
SSSI	Halstock Wood	Upland sessile oakwood, supporting a wide range of plants and birds.
SSSI	Okehampton Park Flush	Rich & interesting site with wet, marshy grassland, flush, scattered scrub & open woodland.
SSSI, SAC	Dartmoor	Blanket bogs, European dry heaths, North Atlantic wet heaths, old sessile oak woods; southern damselfly, otter, salmon.
SSSI	North Dartmoor	One of the largest areas of upland semi-natural habitat in southern Britain, with western blanket bog, mixed valley mires, lichens & upland breeding birds.
SSSI	Meldon Aplite Quarry	Two quarries in the Meldon Aplite with rare minerals.
SSSI	Meldon Quarry	Quarry with exposures of cherts, siliceous shales & tuffs of the Greystone Foundation.

The Southern part of this SNA is within the Dartmoor National Park boundary.

In addition the SNA includes 10 County Wildlife Sites covering habitats including: ancient semi-natural woodland, wet woodland, culm grassland, valley mire, semi-improved neutral and acid grassland, swamp, scrub and bracken.

There is also a Regionally Important Geological Sites which is selected for it's good exposure of Meldon slate along the East Okement river.

### 3. UK BAP Priority habitat maintenance and restoration

**targets for SNA no 467** (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	Upland Oakwood	Upland Mixed Ashwoods	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Woodland TOTAL	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture	Lowland Meadow	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Fens	TOTAL
Minimum area *	58		0.56	58.56	1	0.25	9	5	74
Maximum area #	58	5	0.56	63.56	18	3	9	15	109

\* 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

#### 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 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.

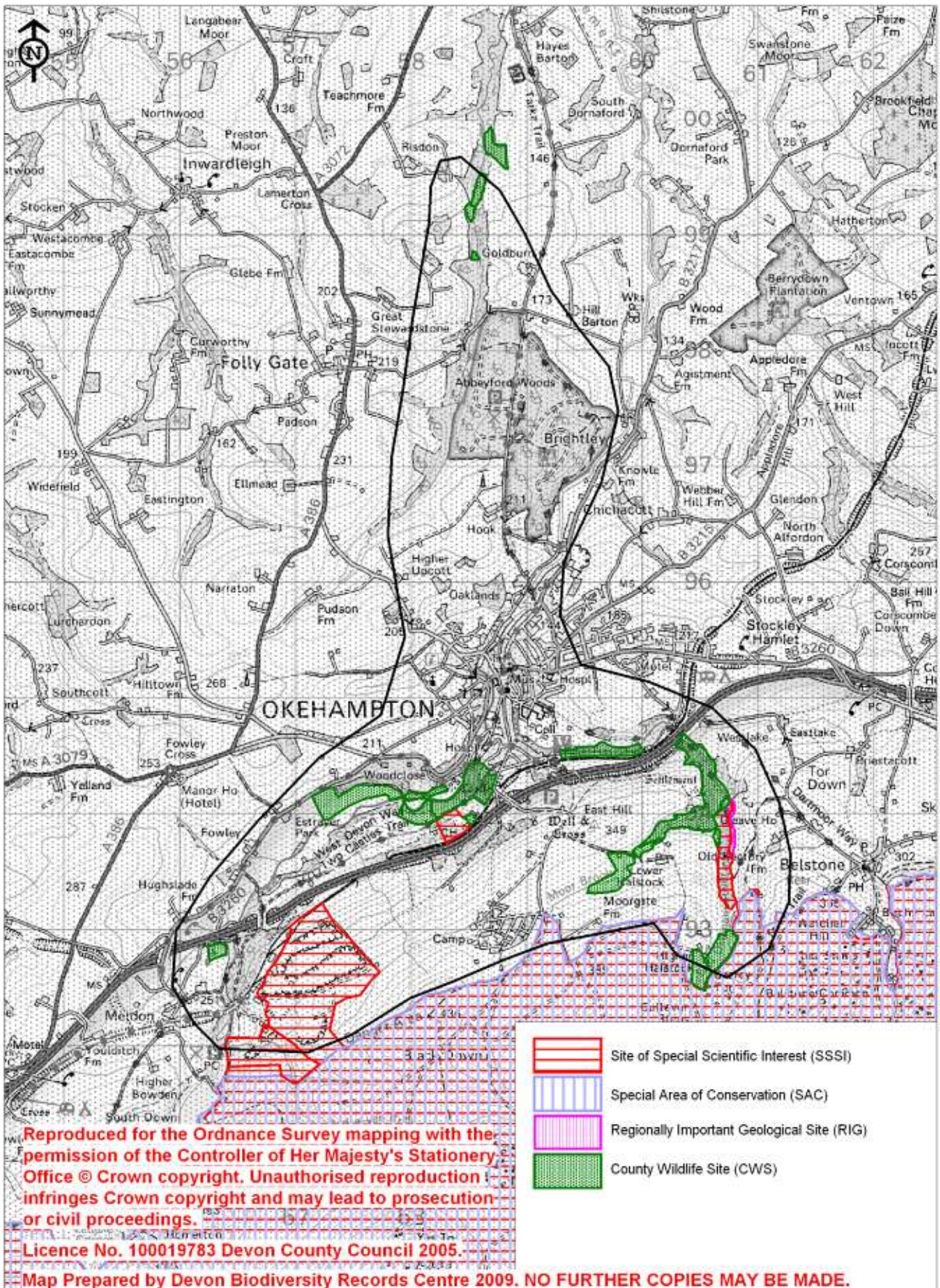
#### **6. Other information**

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 467 (2009)

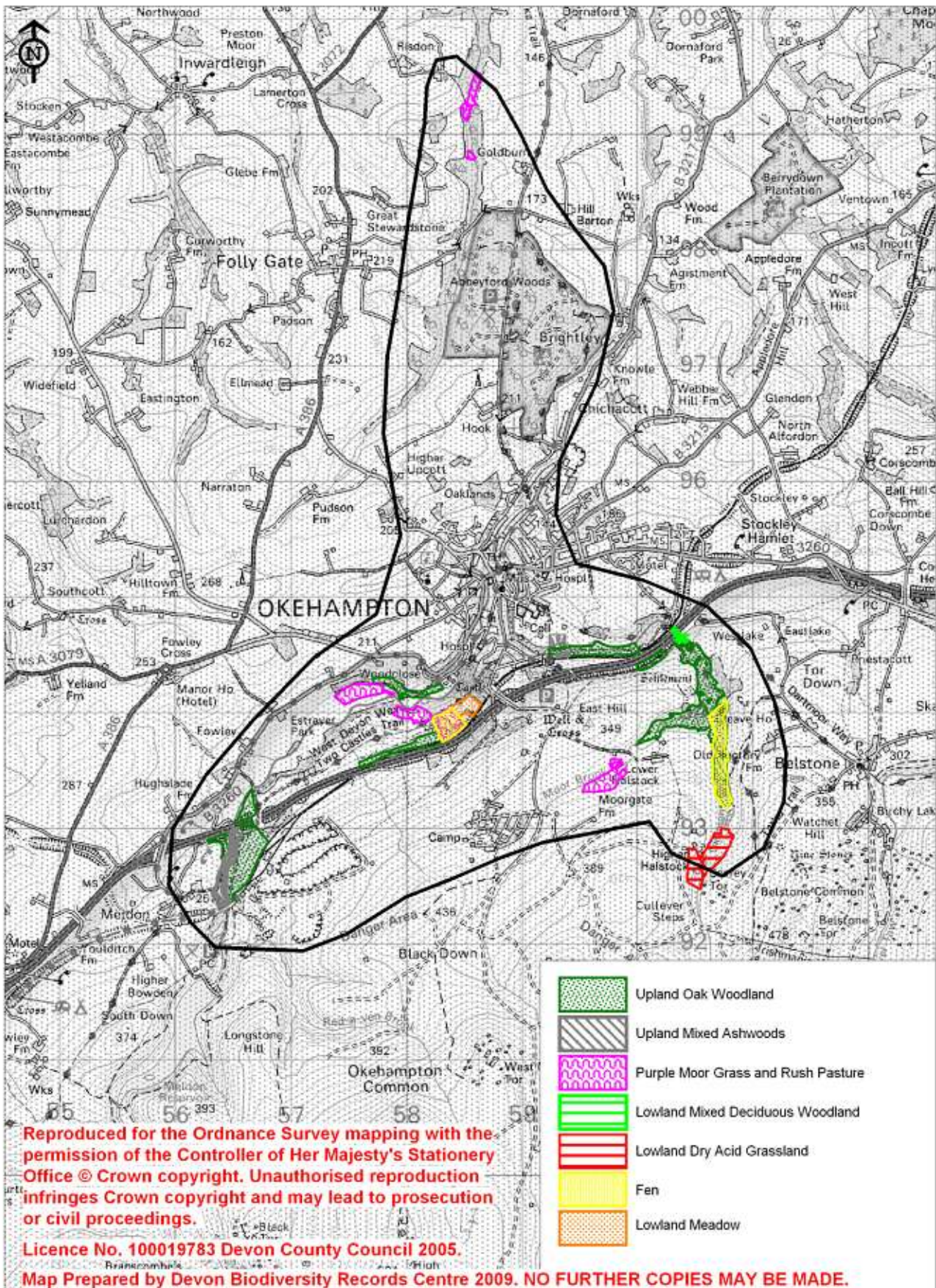


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# Selected UKBAP priority habitats within SNA 467 (2009)



**Appendix 1: Legally protected and notable species records within SNA 467 (2009)**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Status</b>
45 Khz Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus 45kHz	WCA
a Long-eared Bat	Plecotus spp.	WCA
Badger	Meles meles	WCA
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	DBAP; Amber
Blunt-Flowered Rush	Juncus subnodulosus	DN2
Bottle Sedge	Carex rostrata	DN3
Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	S.41; Nb
Brown Long-Eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	S.41
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	S.41; Red
Cinnabar	Tyria jacobaeae	S.41
Common Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius	S.41; DBAP
Common Frog	Rana temporaria	WCA
Dark Green Fritillary	Argynnis aglaja	Decline
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	Red
Floating Spike-Rush	Eleogiton fluitans	DN2
Grasshopper Warbler	Locustella naevia	S.41; Red
Great Burnet	Sanguisorba officinalis	DN3
Ivy-Leaved Bellflower	Wahlenbergia hederacea	DN3
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros	S.41
Marsh Fritillary	Eurodryas aurinia	S.41; DBAP; Nb
Marsh Tit	Parus palustris	Red
Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	Amber
Narrow Buckler-Fern	Dryopteris carthusiana	DN3
Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	S.41; DBAP; Red
Otter	Lutra lutra	S.41; DBAP
Petty Whin	Genista anglica	DN3
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	WCA
Primrose	Primula vulgaris	DBAP
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	Red
Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	DA
Royal Fern	Osmunda regalis	DN3
Slow-Worm	Anguis fragilis	S.41
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria selene	S.41; Decline
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Red
Viviparous Lizard	Lacerta vivipara	S.41
Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera	S.41
Welsh Poppy	Meconopsis cambrica	NS
Whiskered Bat	Myotis mystacinus	WCA
Wild Clary	Salvia verbenaca	DN1

**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 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.
- 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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