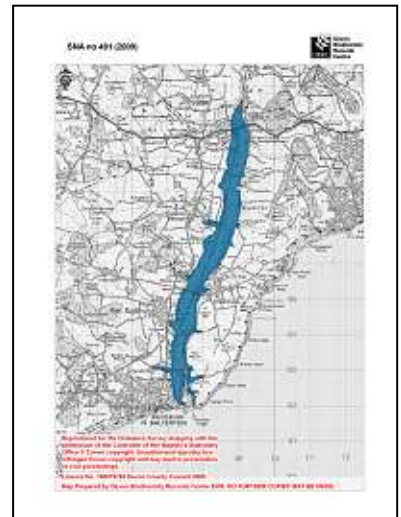


## 1. SNA details

<b>SNA name:</b>	River Otter Valley
<b>SNA unique number:</b>	491
<b>SNA area (ha):</b>	453.43



## 2. Summary of nature conservation interest

### Priority BAP habitats:

<b>Main Regional Nature Map habitat:</b>	Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh
<b>Other Regional Nature Map habitat(s):</b>	
<b>Other UK BAP habitats:</b>	Coastal Saltmarsh, Mudflats, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Reedbeds, Maritime Cliff & Slope, Lowland Meadows, Hedges, Rivers.

This SNA consists of the grazing marsh and arable farmland alongside the River Otter from Newton Popplefield down to the mouth of the estuary at Budleigh Salterton. Although it doesn't include the actual estuary mouth, it includes some of the estuary mudflats as well as areas of coastal saltmarsh, reedbed and maritime cliff & slope. Lowland meadows and areas of lowland mixed deciduous woodland adjacent to the river are included in the SNA boundary. This variety of habitats supports high numbers of breeding and overwintering bird species and the area is an important feeding station for birds from the nearby Exe Estuary. Species rich ditches occur in some of the areas of grazing marsh.

<b>Important species or species assemblage</b>	<b>Status</b>
Breeding birds e.g. Serins, all 3 species of Woodpecker, Shelduck, Reed and Sedge Warbler.	Red (Lesser Spotted Woodpecker) Amber (Serins, Green Woodpecker, Shelduck)
Overwintering birds e.g. Firecrest, Siskin, Water Rail and Dunlin.	Amber (Firecrest, Water Rail, Dunlin)
Large numbers of Curlew and Lapwing	S.41; Amber DBAP (Curlew)
Rare Farmland birds e.g. Grey Partridge, Turtle Dove.	S.41; Red
Invertebrates in the ditches of Otter Meadows	
Otter	S.41; DBAP
Bats e.g. 55 Khz Pipistelle, Brown Long-Eared Bat, Lesser Horseshoe Bat.	S.41
Devon notable plants associated with coastal saltmarsh e.g. Sea Aster, Salt Marsh Rush	Devon notable species
Great Green BushCricket	DBAP

## 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/DWT reserve	Otter Estuary	Estuary with saltmarsh and associated habitats

This SNA is within the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

In addition the SNA includes 1 County Wildlife Site which is semi-improved neutral grassland with remnant unimproved marshy grassland and species-rich ditches.

There are no Regionally Important Geological Sites.

## 3. UK BAP Priority habitat maintenance and restoration targets for SNA no 491 (the measurement unit is hectare unless stated otherwise)

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

UK BAP priority habitat	Coastal & floodplain grazing marsh	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Reedbeds	Mudflats	Maritime Cliff & Slope	Lowland Meadow	Coastal Saltmarsh	TOTAL
Minimum area *				0.1	0.25			0.35
Maximum area #	183	8	17	0.48	0.89	2	7	218.37

\* *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.

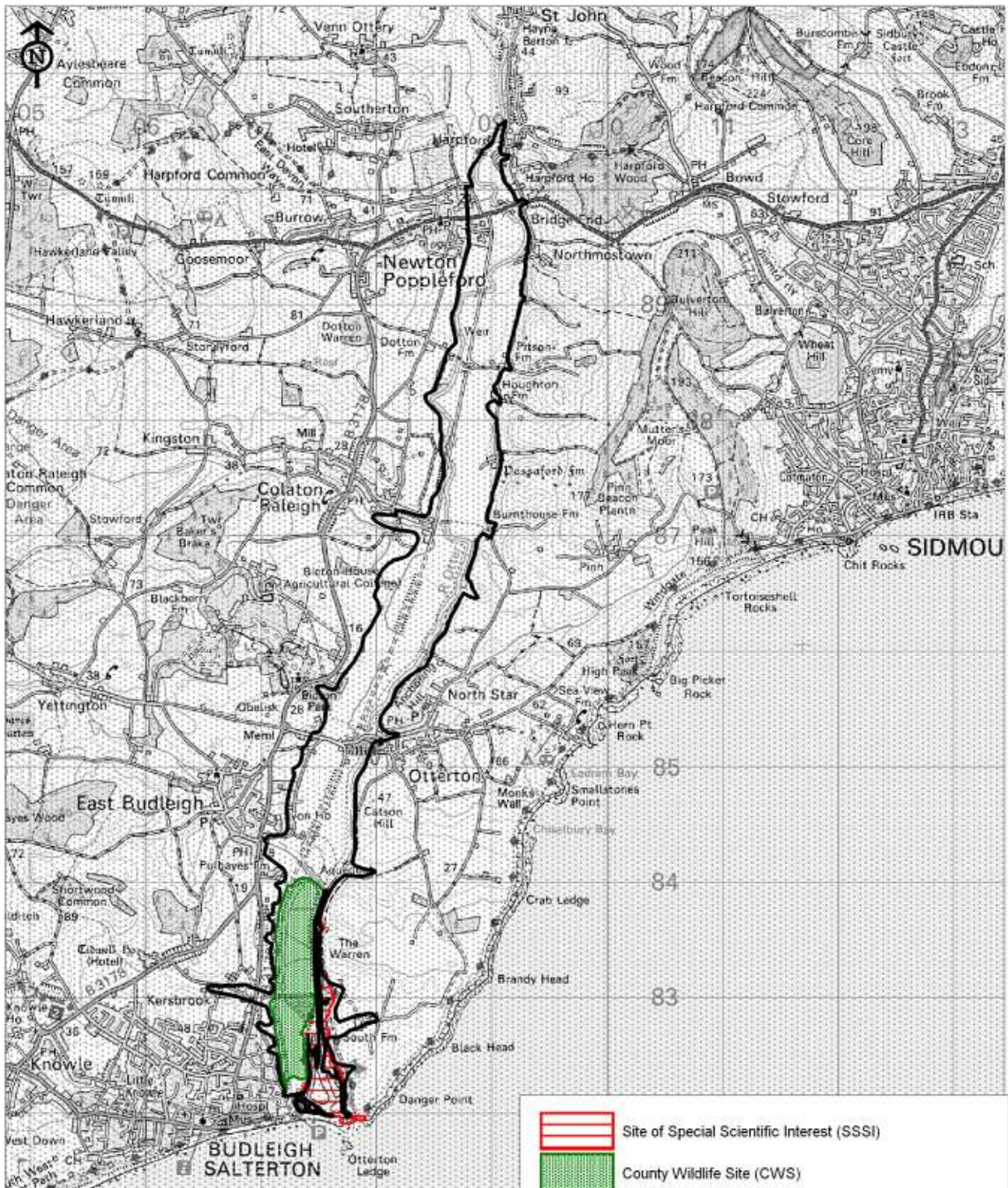
### **6. Other information**

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 491 (2009)

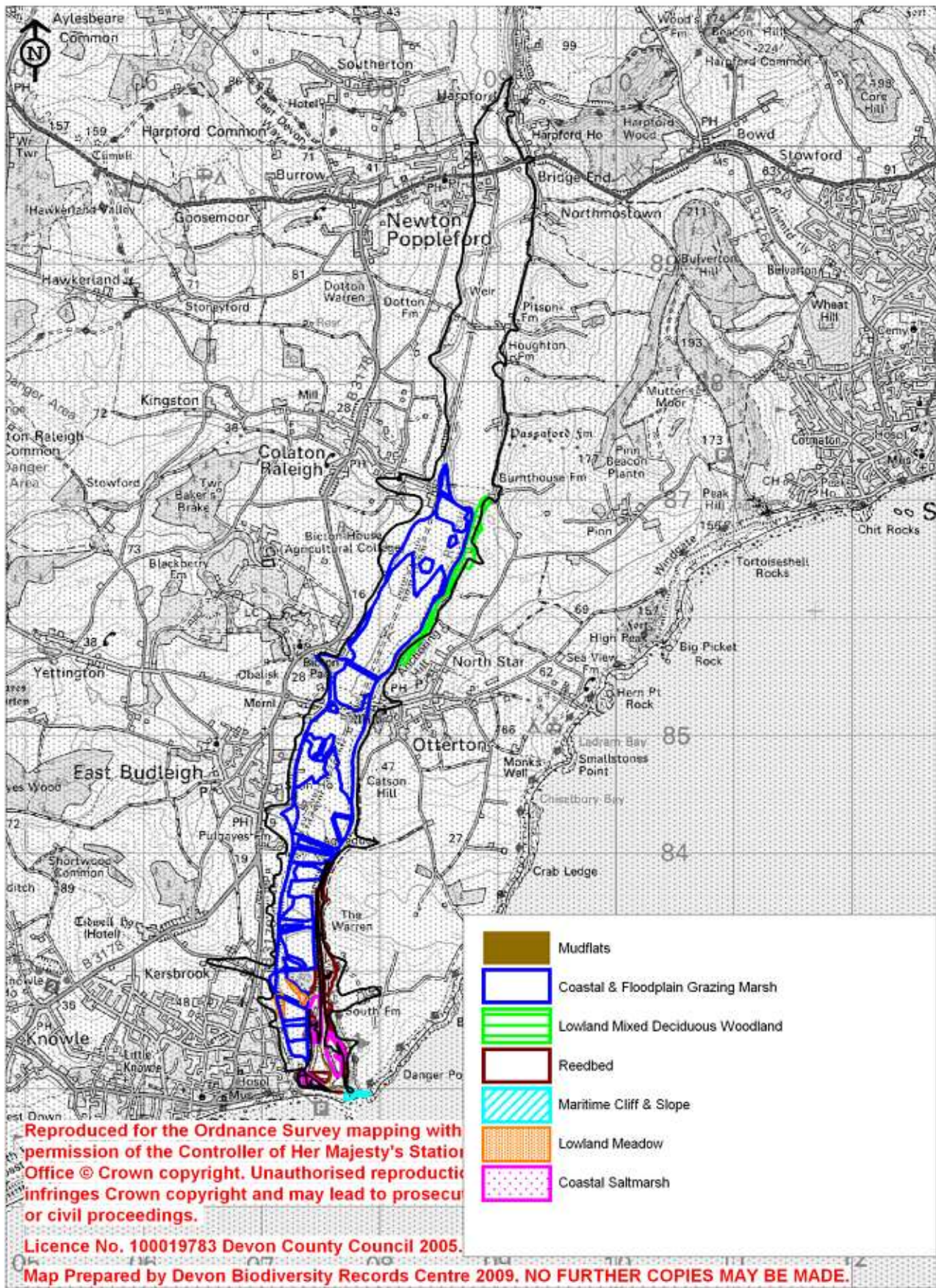


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# UK BAP priority habitats within SNA no 491 (2009)



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Appendix 1: Legally protected & notable species recorded within SNA no 491 (2009)

Common name	Scientific name	Status
55 Khz Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus 55kHz	S.41
a Fly	Dioxya bidentis	Nb
Annual Sea-Blite	Suaeda maritima	DN2
Atheta obfuscata	Atheta obfuscata	N
Athyroglossa ordinata	Athyroglossa ordinata	pRDB1
Badger	Meles meles	WCA
Black-Headed Gull	Larus ridibundus	Amber
Brent Goose	Branta bernicla	Amber
Brookweed	Samolus valerandi	DN2
Brown Long-Eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	S.41
Carpelimus similis	Carpelimus similis	N
Carpelimus subtilis	Carpelimus subtilis	N
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	WCA
Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinelloides	DN3
Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	Amber
Curlew	Numenius arquata	S.41; DBAP; Amber
Deleaster dichrous	Deleaster dichrous	Nb
Distant Sedge	Carex distans	DN2
Divided Sedge	Carex divisa	S.41; NS; DN1; DR
Dwarf Chickweed	Moenchia erecta	DN2
Freshwater pea mussel	Pisidium tenuilineatum	S.41
Galingale	Cyperus longus	NS; DN1; DR
Great Green Bush Cricket	Tettigonia viridissima	DBAP
Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi	Decline
Grey Club-Rush	Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	DN2
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	Amber
Harvest Mouse	Micromys minutus	S.41
Hilara albiventris	Hilara albiventris	Nb
Hilara pseudochorica	Hilara pseudochorica	Nb
Hydrosmeeta thinobioides	Hydrosmeeta thinobioides	N
Hydrosmeeta septentrionum	Hydrosmeeta septentrionum	N
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	Amber
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	S.41; Amber
Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Larus fuscus	Amber
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros	S.41
Lesser Pond-Sedge	Carex acutiformis	DN2
Lesser Sea-Spurrey	Spergularia marina	DN3
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	Amber
Lonchoptera meijeri	Lonchoptera meijeri	Nb
Lonchoptera nigrociliata	Lonchoptera nigrociliata	Nb
Marsh Arrowgrass	Triglochin palustre	DN1
Noctule	Nyctalus noctula	S.41
Ochtheophilus andalusiacus	Ochtheophilus andalusiacus	N
One-Glumed Spike-Rush	Eleocharis uniglumis	DN1; DR
Otter	Lutra lutra	S.41; DBAP
Red Goosefoot	Chenopodium rubrum	DN1; DR
Redshank	Tringa totanus	Amber
Reflexed Meadow-Grass	Puccinellia distans	DN2

Common name	Scientific name	Status
Rhaphium fractum	Rhaphium fractum	Nb
Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	DA
Round-Fruited Rush	Juncus compressus	DN1
Saltmarsh Rush	Juncus gerardii	DN3
Sea Aster	Aster tripolium	DN3
Sea Couch	Elytrigia atherica	DN3
Sea Meadow-Grass	Puccinellia maritima	DN2
Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	Amber
Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	S.41
Strawberry Clover	Trifolium fragiferum	DN1
Tabanus cordiger	Tabanus cordiger	Nb
Tachys parvulus	Tachys parvulus	Nb
Teal	Anas crecca	Amber
Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera	S.41
Water Rail	Rallus aquaticus	Amber
Wigeon	Anas penelope	Amber
Wild Celery	Apium graveolens	DN3

- 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.
- 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
- 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.
- pRDB1** **potential Red Data Book 1:** Endangered. Taxa in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the casual factors continue to operate. Included are taxa whose numbers have been reduced to a critical level or whose habitat has been so drastically reduced that they are deemed to be in immediate danger. Also included are taxa which are believed to have become extinct recently, but if rediscovered will need special protection.