

## 1. SNA details

<b>SNA name:</b>	North Dartmoor
<b>SNA unique number:</b>	524
<b>SNA area (ha):</b>	25,525.65



## 2. Summary of nature conservation interest

### Priority BAP habitats:

<b>Main Regional Nature Map habitat:</b>	Upland Heath
<b>Other Regional Nature Map habitat(s):</b>	Blanket Bog (Western Heath and Heather Moorland)
<b>Other UK BAP habitats:</b>	Lowland dry acid grassland, lowland meadow, purple moor grass and rush pasture, fen, lowland heathland, upland heathland, blanket bog, upland mixed ashwood, upland oakwood, wet woodland, hedges, rivers

This SNA is within the Dartmoor National Park, and consists mainly of blanket bog, upland heathland and moorland. Over half of this central heathland/moorland area is covered by the Dartmoor SAC, and the North and East Dartmoor SSSIs. The North Dartmoor SSSI is one of the largest areas of upland semi-natural habitat in southern Britain, while East Dartmoor SSSI is the largest areas of heather moorland on Dartmoor. There are also two National Nature Reserves, with good examples of high altitude oak woodland. The area is important for several moorland birds, as well as invertebrates, lichens, mosses and liverworts.

At the highest point, the land is 610 metres above sea level, going down to 65 metres in the valleys. The land around the edge of the SNA is mainly farmland, with ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland, secondary woodland and conifer plantations.

The SNA overlaps with SNAs 467 (Okehampton Woods) and 627 (Tor Valley) and is adjacent to SNAs 322 (Lane End valley mires), 325 (East Dartmoor Heaths), 391, 555 (South Dartmoor) and 577 (Walkham valley woodlands).

<b>Important species or species assemblage</b>	<b>Status</b>
Reptiles and amphibians e.g. Adder, Common Frog, Grass Snake, Palmate Newt, Viviparous Lizard	S.41 (Adder, Grass Snake, Viviparous Lizard)
Moorland birds e.g. Curlew, Dunlin, Golden Plover, Red Grouse, Ring Ouzel, Snipe Wheatear, Whinchat	S.41 (Curlew) DBAP (Curlew, Dunlin) Red (Ring Ouzel) Amber (Curlew, Golden Plover, Red Grouse, Snipe, Wheatear, Whinchat)
Birds e.g. Barn Owl, Bullfinch, Cuckoo, Fieldfare, Hen Harrier, Lapwing, Nightjar, Red Kite, Redwing, Reed Bunting, Skylark	S.41 (Cuckoo, Nightjar) DBAP (Barn Owl, Bullfinch, Nightjar) Red (Cuckoo, Fieldfare, Hen Harrier, Lapwing, Nightjar, Redwing, Skylark) Amber (Barn Owl, Bullfinch, Curlew, Red Kite, Reed Bunting)
Notable plants e.g. Bog Myrtle, Bog Orchid, Bottle Sedge, Cornish Moneywort, Eyebright, Floating Spike-Rush, Greater Butterfly-Orchid, Ivy-Leaved Bellflower, Lesser	S.41 (Eyebright, Lesser Butterfly-Orchid) DBAP (Primrose) NS (Bog Orchid, Cornish Moneywort) Devon Notable plants

Important species or species assemblage	Status
Butterfly-Orchid, Narrow Buckler-Fern, Petty Whin, Primrose, White Beak-Sedge	
Butterflies e.g. Brown Hairstreak, Grayling, Grizzled Skipper, High Brown Fritillary, Marsh Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Heath, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Wall Brown	S.41 (Brown Hairstreak, Grayling, Grizzled Skipper, High Brown Fritillary, Marsh Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Heath, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Wall Brown, Wood White) DBAP (Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Marsh Fritillary) Nb (Brown Hairstreak, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Wood White, Marsh Fritillary) Decline (Grizzled Skipper, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary)
UKBAP moths e.g. Brindled Beauty, Buff Ermine, Cinnabar, Dotted Carpet, Ear Moth, Galium Carpet, Knotgrass, Small Phoenix, The Anomalous, White Ermine	Nb (Dotted Carpet)
Dragonflies e.g. Keeled Skimmer, Red-Eyed Damselfly, Small Red Damselfly, Southern Damselfly	S.41 (Southern Damselfly) DBAP (Southern Damselfly) KeyD (I) (Southern Damselfly) KeyD (N) (Keeled Skimmer, Small Red Damselfly) KeyD (R) (Red-Eyed Damselfly) Nb (Small Red Damselfly)
Brown Long-Eared Bat, Lesser Horseshoe Bat, Natterer's Bat, Pipistrelle, Whiskered Bat	S.41 (Brown Long-Eared Bat, Lesser Horseshoe Bat)
Brown Hare, Common Dormouse, Otter	S.41 and DBAP

See Appendix 1 for further species recorded in SNA 524

## 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	Dartmoor	Blanket bogs, European dry heaths, North Atlantic wet heaths, old sessile oak woods; southern damselfly, otter, salmon
NNR	Wistman's Wood	A small upland oakwood in the valley of the West Dart River. It is important for the mosses and lichens that festoon the trees and granite boulders found on the site
NNR	Black-a-Tor Copse	One of Britain's best examples of high altitude oak woodland and is nationally important for the variety of lichens and mosses that clothe the trees and rocks.
SSSI	East Dartmoor	The largest area of heather moorland remaining on Dartmoor, with submontane acidic dwarf shrub heath, acidic grassland & valley mires
SSSI	Halstock Wood	Upland sessile oakwood, supporting a wide range of plants and 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
SSSI	Merrivale	An area of outstanding geomorphological importance for its assemblage of tors & periglacial landforms.
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	Okehampton Park Flush	Rich & interesting site with wet, marshy grassland, flush, scattered scrub & open woodland
SSSI	Two Bridges Quarry	One of the most important geomorphological sites in South West England with heavily decomposed granite & more sound bedrock
SSSI	Wistman's Wood	A rare relict example of the ancient high-level woodlands of

Designation	Site Name	Description
		Dartmoor, with acid grassland, heath & mire communities
gSSSI	Cholwell Brook	Stream through deformed, interbedded, turbidite sandstones & shales of the Upper Culm Crackington Formation

In addition the SNA includes 25 County Wildlife Sites covering habitats including: Unimproved and semi-improved acid, neutral and marshy grassland; Culm grassland, fen, heath and valley mire; semi-natural ancient woodland, secondary woodland, wet woodland.

There are also five Regionally Important Geological Sites:

- Belstone Cleave & Ivy Tor, a good section in the Lower Carboniferous including the volcanoes
- East Okement river section, good exposure of Meldon Slate with Lenticles Formation
- Ramsley Mine, former Copper mine with mine dumps on a moorland hillside
- Sourton Tors, exposures of typical agglomerate and dolerite in the Lower Carboniferous succession north of Dartmoor
- Wheal Betsy, a former mine showing examples of mineralisation with rarer elements

### 3. UK BAP Priority habitat maintenance and restoration targets for SNA no 524 (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	Blanket Bog	Fen <sup>1</sup>	Upland mixed Ashwoods	Upland Oakwood	Wet Woodland	Woodland TOTAL	Lowland Meadow	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture	Lowland Heathland	Upland Heathland	TOTAL
Minimum area *		5	5	86	1	92	3.25	11	5.5	2.5	0.5	119.75
Maximum area #	3446	1377	5	86	1	92	8	13	54	7	1512	6509

\* 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 NBN habitat layer has a large area in this SNA mapped as 'lowland fen' however there is some doubt over the accuracy of this. Little reference could be found to fen habitat in survey data relating to this area and there is often confusion over the definition of fen and how it overlaps with mire, swamp and bog.

## **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 Upland Heath:

- 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.

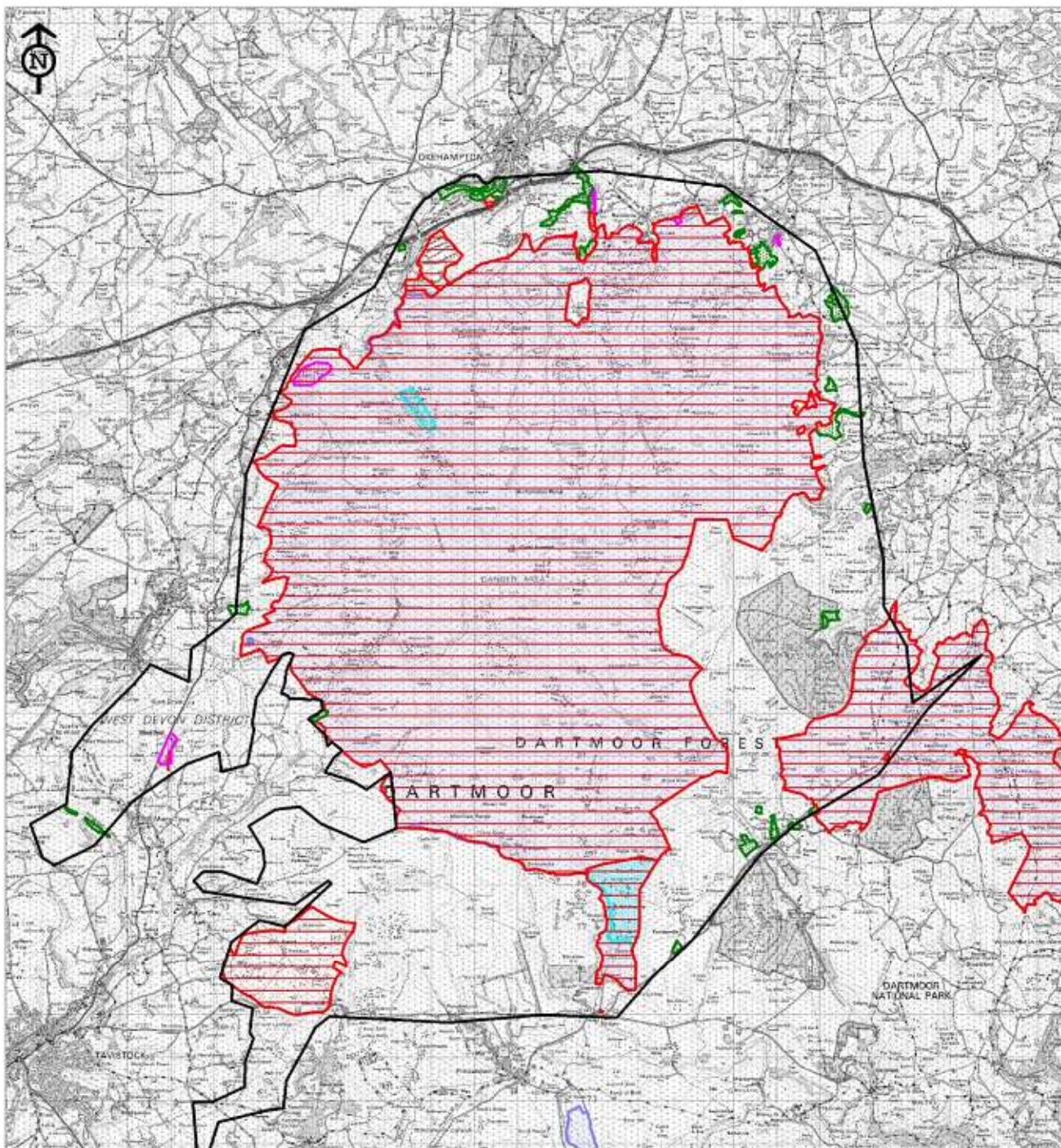
### **6. Other information**






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 524 (North Dartmoor) (2009)



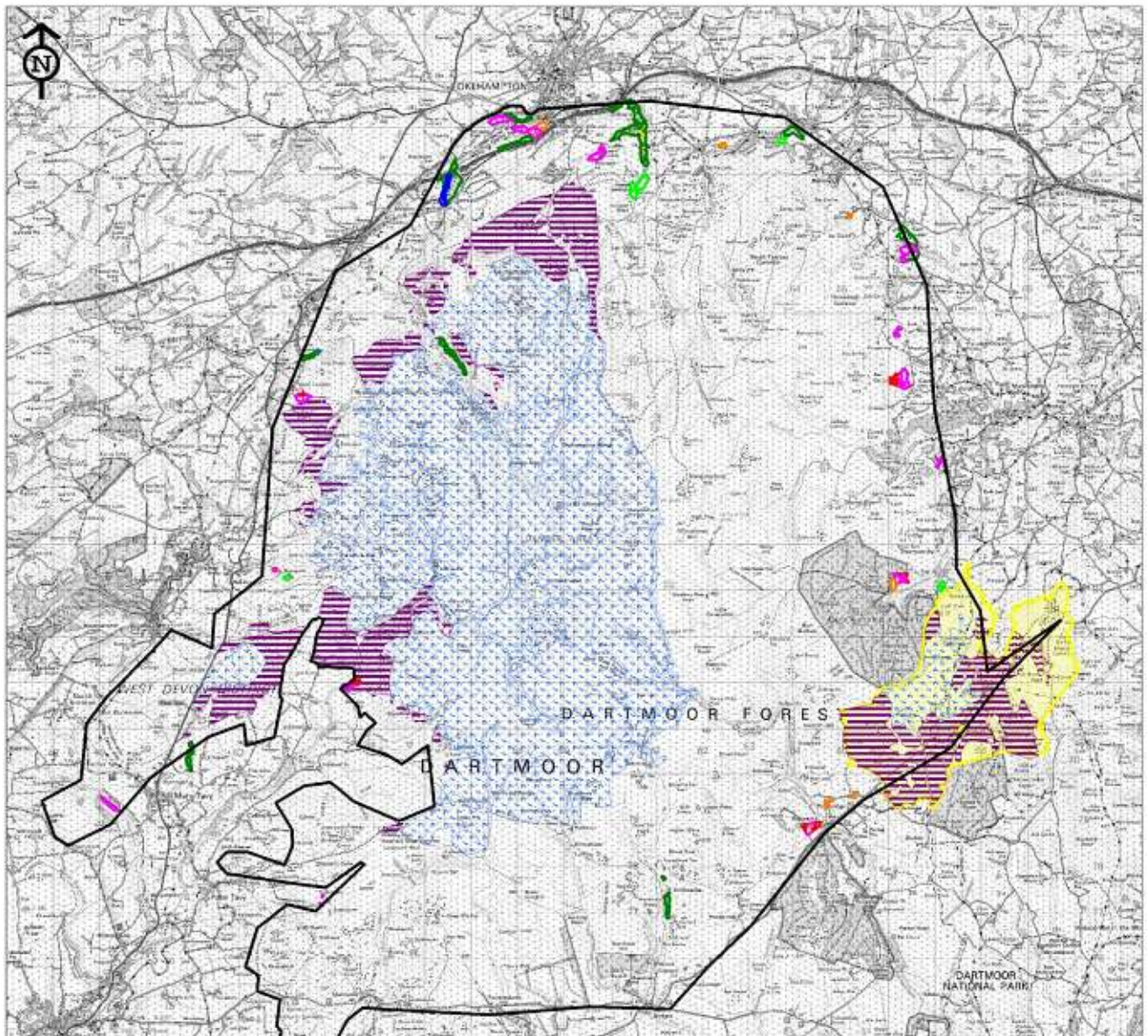
-  County Wildlife Site (CWS)
-  Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS)
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
-  National Nature Reserve (NNR)



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Selected UKBAP Habitats within SNA 524  
(North Dartmoor) (2009)



-  Upland Heathland
-  Lowland Heathland
-  Fen
-  Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture
-  Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
-  Blanket Bog
-  Lowland Meadow
-  Upland Oakwood
-  Upland Mixed Ashwoods
-  Wet Woodland

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Appendix 1: Legally protected and notable species within SNA 524 North Dartmoor

Common name	Scientific name	Status
a Bat	Chiroptera	WCA
Adder	Vipera berus	WCA, S.41
Badger	Meles meles	WCA
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	WCA, DBAP; Amber
Bluebell	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	WCA
Blunt-Flowered Rush	Juncus subnodulosus	DN2
Bog Myrtle	Myrica gale	DN1
Bog Orchid	Hammarbya paludosa	NS; DN1; DR
Bottle Sedge	Carex rostrata	DN3
Brindled Beauty	Lycia hirtaria	S.41
Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	WCA, S.41; Nb
Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus	S.41; DBAP
Brown Long-Eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	WCA, S.41
Buff Ermine	Spilosoma luteum	S.41
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	UKBAP(P); Amber
Cinnabar	Tyria jacobaeae	S.41
Common Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius	WCA, S.41; DBAP
Common Frog	Rana temporaria	WCA
Cornish Moneywort	Sibthorpia europaea	NS; DN3
Cowslip	Primula veris	DN3
Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	S.41; Red
Curlew	Numenius arquata	S.41; DBAP; Amber
Dark Green Fritillary	Argynnis aglaja	Decline
Dotted Carpet	Alcis jubata	Nb
Dunlin	Calidris alpina	Red
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	Amber
Ear Moth	Amphipoea oculea	S.41
Eyebright	Euphrasia vigursii	S.41; NR
Fallow Deer	Dama dama	DA
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	WCA, Red
Floating Spike-Rush	Eleogiton fluitans	DN2
Galium Carpet	Epirrhoe galiata	S.41
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	Amber
Golden plover	Pluvialis apricaria	Amber
Grass Snake	Natrix natrix	WCA, S.41
Grayling	Hipparchia semele	S.41
Great Burnet	Sanguisorba officinalis	DN3
Greater Butterfly-Orchid	Platanthera chlorantha	DN1
Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi	Decline
Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus malvae	S.41; Decline
Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus	WCA, Red
High Brown Fritillary	Argynnis adippe	WCA, S.41
House Martin	Delichon urbica	Amber
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	S.41; Red
Ivy-Leaved Bellflower	Wahlenbergia hederacea	DN3
Japanese Knotweed	Fallopia japonica	WCA
Keeled Skimmer	Orthetrum coerulescens	KeyD (N)
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	Amber
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	WCA, Amber
Knotgrass	Acronicta rumicis	S.41
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	S.41; Red
Lesser Butterfly-Orchid	Platanthera bifolia	S.41; DN3
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros	WCA, S.41
Marsh Fritillary	Eurodryas aurinia	WCA, S.41; DBAP; Nb

Common name	Scientific name	Status
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Amber
Narrow Buckler-Fern	<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	DN3
Natterer's Bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	WCA
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	S.41; DBAP; Red
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	WCA, S.41; DBAP
Palmate Newt	<i>Triturus helveticus</i>	WCA
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	WCA, S.41; DBAP; Nb
Petty Whin	<i>Genista anglica</i>	DN3
Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	WCA
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	DBAP
Purple Hairstreak	<i>Quercusia quercus</i>	Decline
Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	Amber
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	WCA, Amber
Red-Eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>	KeyD (R)
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	WCA, Red
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	S.41; Amber
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	S.41; Red
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	DA
Round-leaved Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus omiophyllus</i>	DN1
Royal Fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	DN3
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	S.41; Red
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	S.41
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>	S.41; Decline
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	S.41
Small Red Damselfly	<i>Ceriagrion tenellum</i>	Nb; KeyD (N)
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	S.41; Red
Southern Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>	WCA, S.41; DBAP; KeyD (I)
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Amber
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Amber
The Anomalous	<i>Stilbia anomala</i>	S.41
Viviparous Lizard	<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>	WCA, S.41
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	S.41
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Amber
Whiskered Bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	WCA
White Beak-Sedge	<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	DN2
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	S.41
Wild Clary	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	DN1
Wood Club-Rush	<i>Scirpus sylvaticus</i>	DN3
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	WCA, S.41; Nb

- 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.
- 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:** 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.
- KeyD (I)**        **Internationally Important Key Dragonfly Species:** those which are rare in Great Britain (RDB3 and found in less than 1% of the 10km squares in Britain) i.e. Southern damselfly (*Coenagrion mercuriale*).
- KeyD (N)**        **Nationally Important Key Dragonfly Species:** those which have been recorded in less than 10% of 10km squares in Britain. Those occurring in Devon are White-legged damselfly (*Platycnemis pennipes*) Scarce blue-tailed damselfly (*Ischnura pumilio*) Small red damselfly (*Ceragrion tenellum*) Hairy dragonfly (*Brachytron pratense*) Downy emerald (*Cordulia aenea*) and Keeled skimmer (*Orthoetrum coerulescens*).
- KeyD (R)**        **Regionally Important Key Dragonfly Species:** those which have been recorded in 10-20% of the 10km squares in Britain: Red-eyed damselfly (*Erythromma najas*) and Ruddy darter (*Sympetrum sanguineum*).