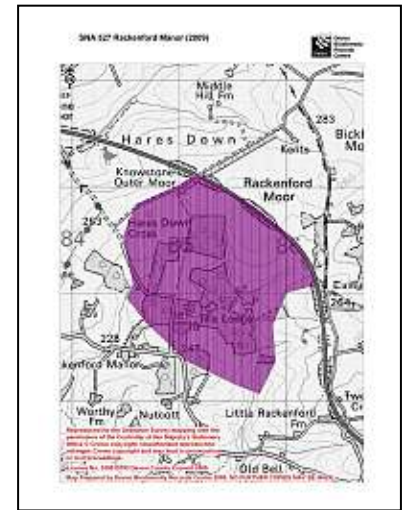


## 1. SNA details

<b>SNA name:</b>	Rackenford Manor
<b>SNA unique number:</b>	527
<b>SNA area (ha):</b>	226.65



## 2. Summary of nature conservation interest

### Priority BAP habitats:

<b>Main Regional Nature Map habitat:</b>	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture
<b>Other Regional Nature Map habitat(s):</b>	
<b>Other UK BAP habitats:</b>	Hedges, Rivers, Fens, Wet woodland.

This SNA is one of a number of similar SNA's at Knowstone and Rackenford, divided by the North Devon Relief Road. Together they form the largest single area of Culm grassland in Devon. Rackenford Manor contains scattered areas of high quality Culm grassland, much of which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (therefore of international importance) and as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Culm is generally cattle and deer grazed. There is no lowland heathland within the SNA boundary but areas wrap around it's northern borders.

From aerial photos (2006), there is woodland present but not mapped as UK BAP priority habitat. Some of this is wet woodland and conifer/mixed plantation woodland. The Little Dart River runs through but is only a stream here. Some artificial ponds have been created. The land is generally between 200 and 280 metres above sea level and undulating.

The following species have been recorded within this SNA:

<b>Important species or species assemblage</b>	<b>Status</b>
Birds found on Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture e.g. Curlew recorded just outside SNA.	S.41, DBAP, Amber
Turtle Dove	S.41, Red
Typical butterflies of Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture e.g. Marsh fritillary, Small heath	All S.41 DBAP, Nb (Marsh fritillary)
Round leaved crowfoot	DN1
Red deer (just outside SNA)	DA
Species using rivers and ponds e.g. Otter and Kingfisher	S.41, DBAP (Otter) Amber (Kingfisher)

See Appendix 1 for further species recorded in SNA 527.

## 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	Culm Grassland	Culm grassland: wet and dry heath, species rich Molinia mire & rush pasture. Plant, bird & invertebrate interest.
SSSI	Hares Down, Knowstone and Rackenford Moors	Lowland heathland; Lowland mixed deciduous woodland; Purple moor grass and rush pasture; Wet woodland

In addition the SNA includes two County Wildlife Sites covering habitats including: Mosaic of Culm grassland (Molinia mire and rush-pasture), wet and dry broadleaved woodland, pond/lake and greater tussock sedge swamp. The Rackenford and Knowstone DWT reserve is on the northern boundary with a very small overlap in area.

There are no Regionally Important Geological Sites present.

## 3. UK BAP Priority habitat maintenance and restoration

**targets for SNA no 527** (the measurement unit is hectares 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	Wet Woodland	Fens**	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture	TOTAL
Minimum area *	0.15	0	0.25	0.4
Maximum area #	0.15	29	25	54

\* 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

\*\*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 purple moor grass & rush pasture.

- 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.

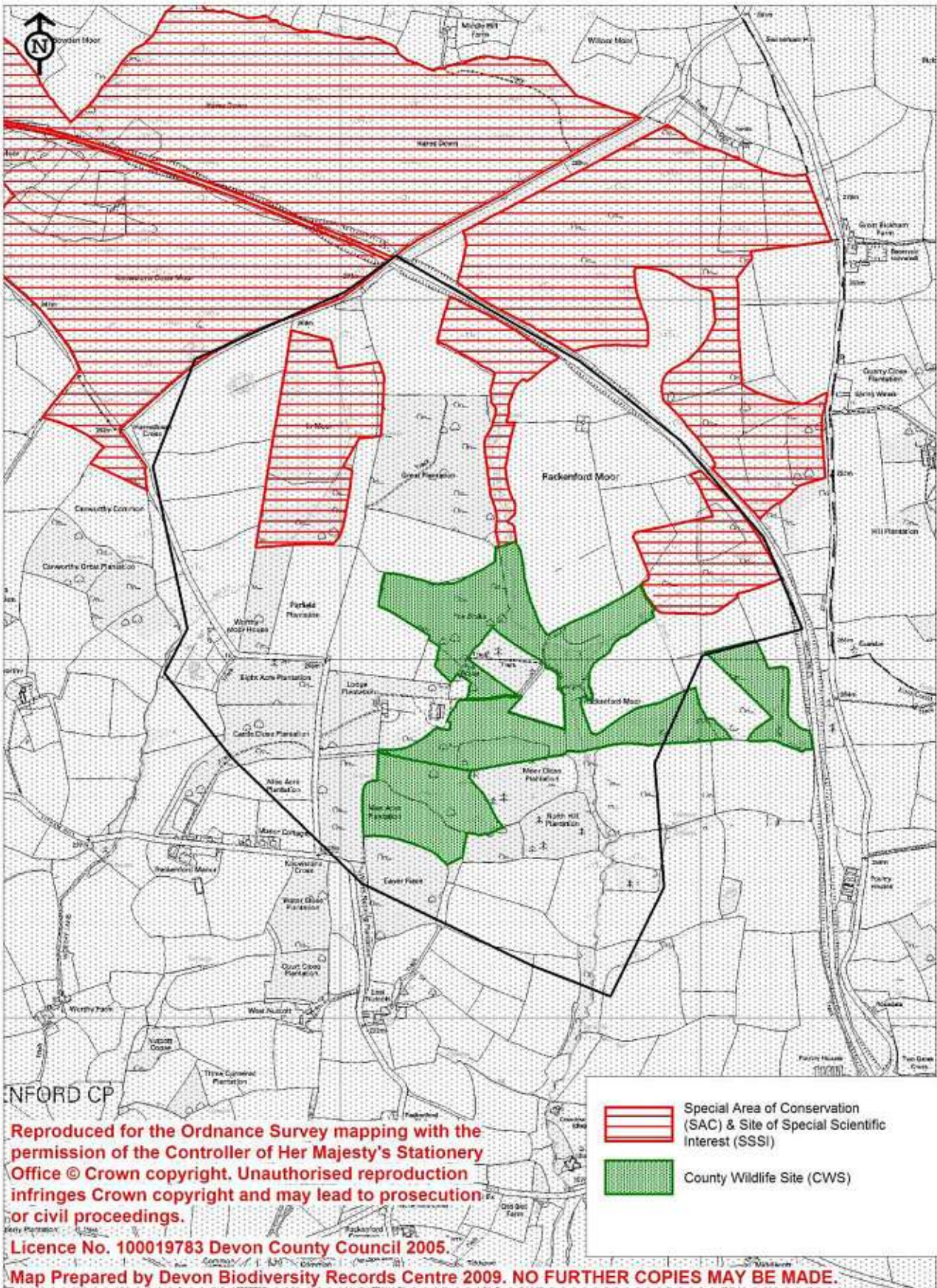
### **6. Other information**

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:

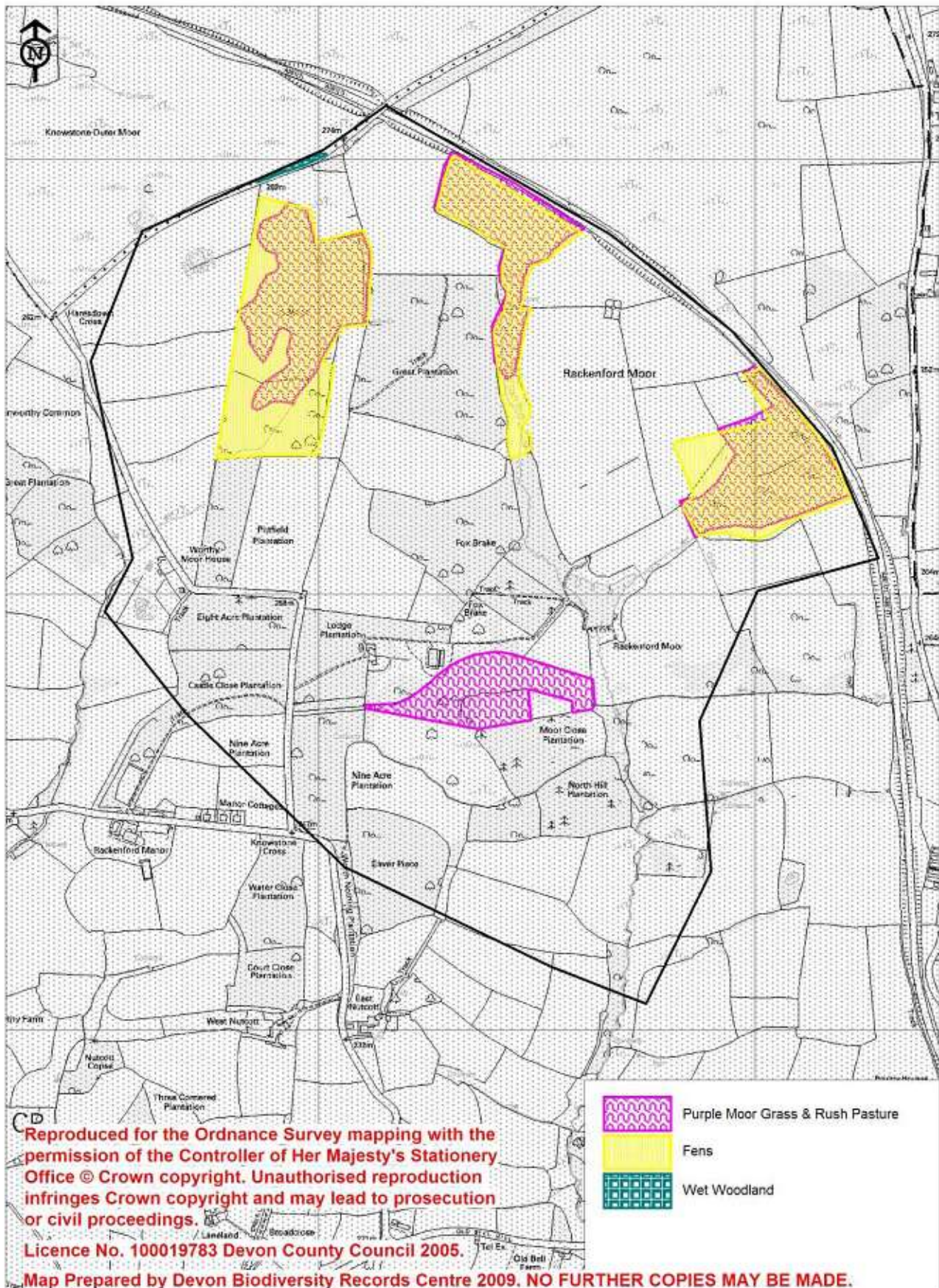
- Restoration targets for BAP habitats additional to the main nature map habitat.
- Maps detailing areas for restoration
- Nature conservation objectives
- And so on.

# Designated sites within SNA 527 Rackenford Manor



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**Selected UK BAP priority habitats within  
SNA 527 Rackenford Manor (2009)**



Appendix 1: Legally protected and notable species found within SNA 527 Rackenford Manor

Common name	Scientific name	Status
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	WCA
Bottle Sedge	<i>Carex rostrata</i>	DN3
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	WCA
Ivy-Leaved Bellflower	<i>Wahlenbergia hederacea</i>	DN3
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Amber
Marsh Fritillary	<i>Eurodryas aurinia</i>	S.41; DBAP; Nb
Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>	Red
Marsh Valerian	<i>Valeriana dioica</i>	DN3
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	S.41; DBAP
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Amber
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	DA
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	DA
Round-leaved Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus omiophyllus</i>	DN1
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	S.41
Wood Club-Rush	<i>Scirpus sylvaticus</i>	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.

**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.

**Na** **Nationally Notable A:** known from 30 or fewer 10km squares. Taken from the Invertebrate Site Register.

**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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