

1. SNA details

SNA name:	Branscombe Valley
SNA unique number:	539
SNA area (ha):	198.01



2. Summary of nature conservation interest

Priority BAP habitats:

Main Regional Nature Map habitat:	Neutral grassland (lowland meadow)
Other Regional Nature Map habitat(s):	
Other UK BAP habitats:	Hedges, Rivers, maritime cliff and slope, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, lowland calcareous grassland

This SNA in the East Devon AONB consists of the steep sided valleys of a stream leading to the sea at Branscombe. The valleys contain lowland meadow, lowland calcareous grassland and woodland, including two areas of ancient woodland. The mapped areas of neutral and calcareous grassland in the centre of the SNA area overlap to some extent. These are of high quality and contain wet calcareous flushes.

Bat species, including Greater and Lesser Horseshoe bats, which hibernate within Beer Caves to the East are known to forage and roost within this SNA area.

This SNA falls within woodland SNA 494 Southleigh and Branscombe Hills. There is a small overlap with the limestone cliffs of SNA 441 at the extreme southern end of the SNA.

A number of important species are associated with SNA 539 including:

Important species or species assemblage	Status
Lesser Horseshoe Bat (maternity roost)	S.41, Habitats Directive
Common Dormouse	S.41; DBAP
Limestone grassland plant species e.g. Horseshoe vetch, bee orchid, common rock-rose	DN1
Rare plant species e.g. Box, Ivy broomrape, Eyebright	NR (Box) NS (Ivy broomrape, Eyebright)
Linnet	S.41, Red

See Appendix 1 for further species recorded in SNA 539.

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, SSSI	Sidmouth to West Bay	Coastal scrub and unimproved calcareous grassland

In addition the SNA includes seven County Wildlife Sites covering habitats including: Unimproved neutral and calcareous grassland, ancient semi-natural & secondary mixed woodland.

There are no Regionally Important Geological Sites or nature reserves present. The SNA is within the East Devon AONB.

3. UK BAP Priority habitat maintenance and restoration targets for SNA no 539

(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	Maritime cliff and slope	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Lowland Meadow	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	TOTAL
Minimum area *	0.25	0	0	0	0.25
Maximum area #	45	18	20	19	102

* 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 lowland meadow:

- 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.

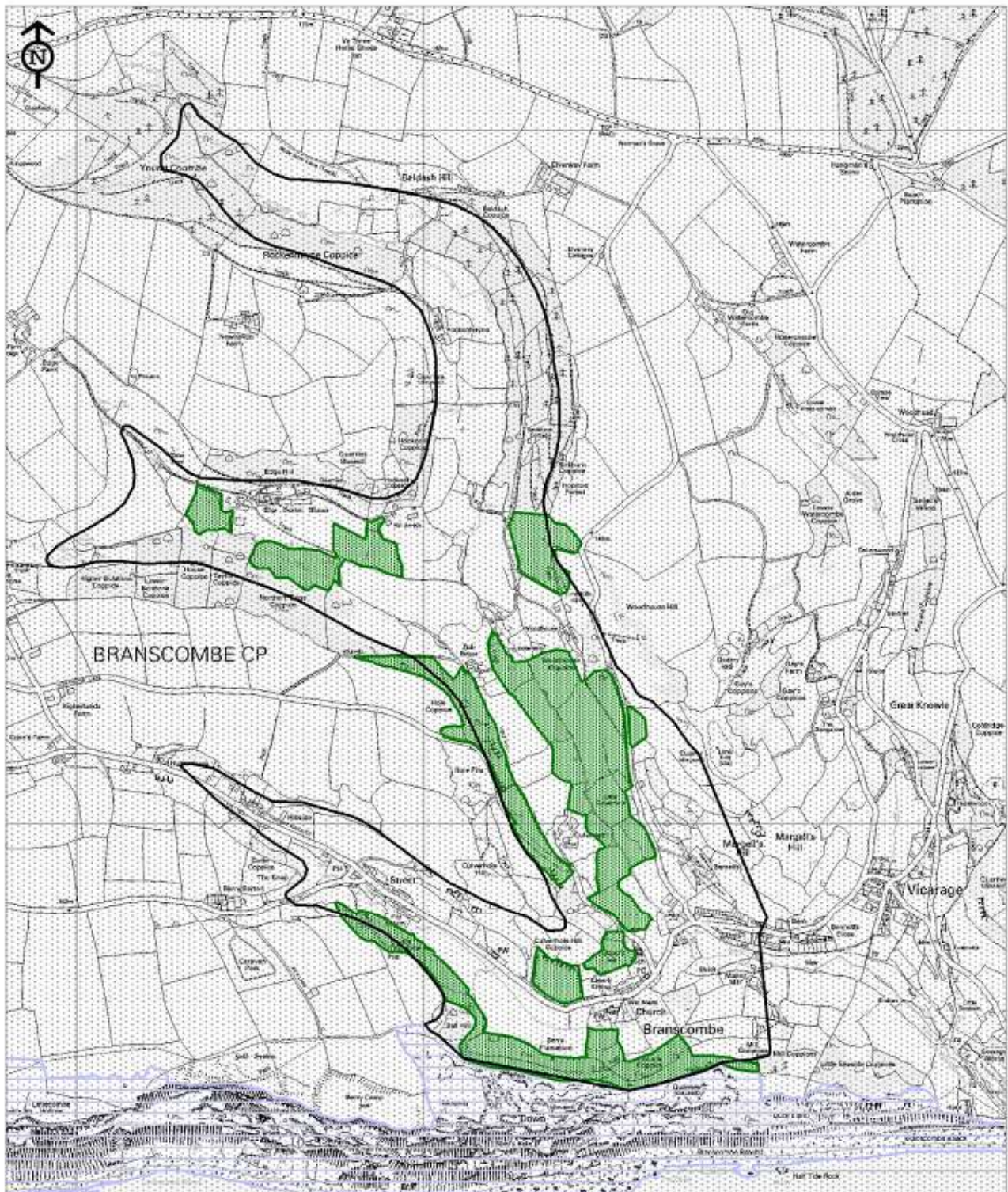
6. Other information

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 539 (2009)



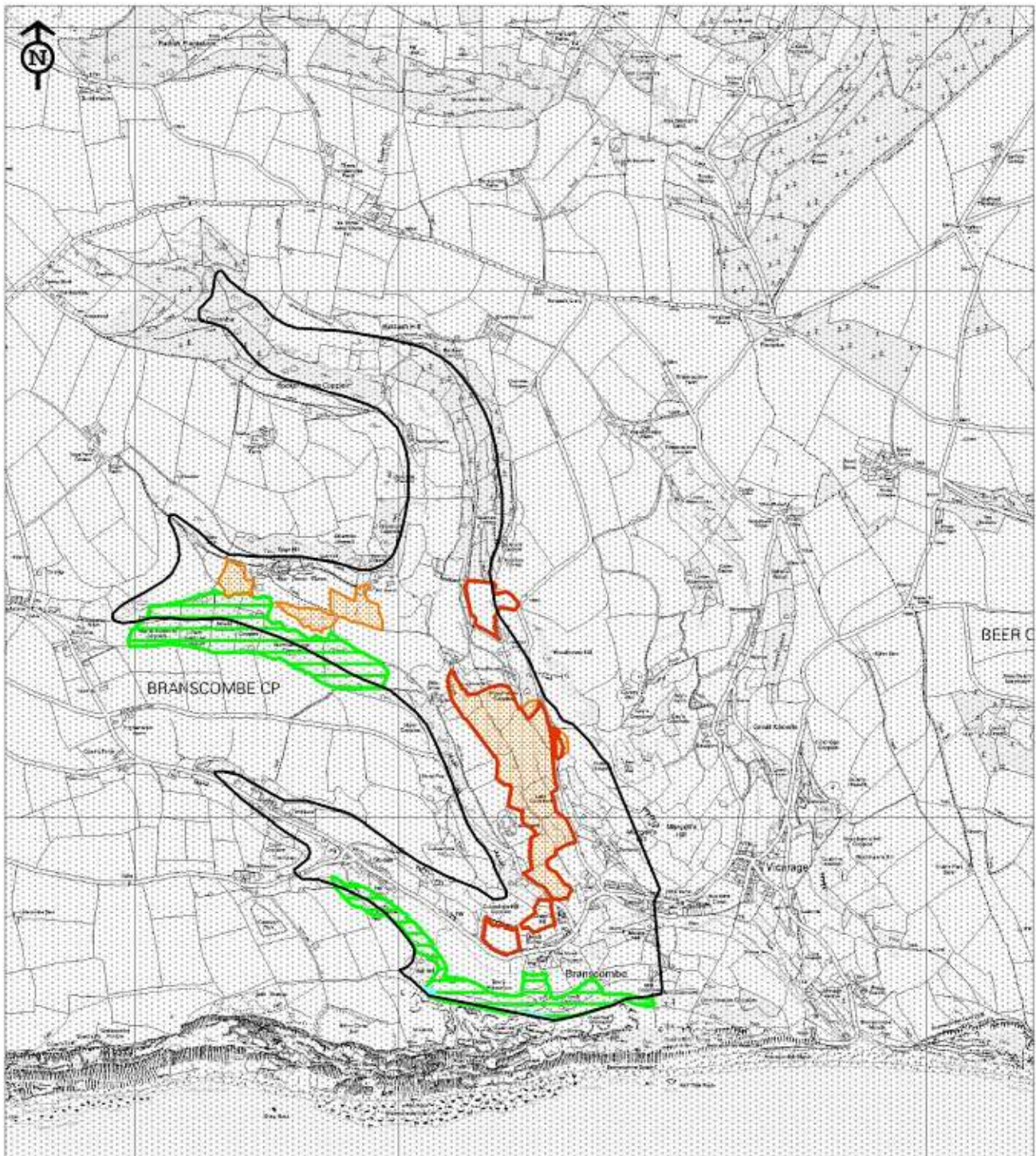
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-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC) & Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  County Wildlife Site (CWS)

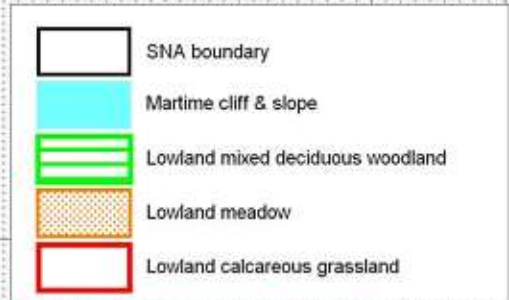
Selected UK BAP priority habitats within SNA 539 (2009)



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Appendix 1: Legally protected and notable species within SNA 539.

Common name	Scientific name	Status
a Lichen	<i>Cryptolechia carneolutea</i>	S.41
Autumn Lady's-Tresses	<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>	DN2
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	WCA
Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	DN1
Box	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	NR
Common Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	S.41; DBAP
Common Rock-Rose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	DN1
Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	DN3
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>	DN3
Downy Oat	<i>Helictotrichon pubescens</i>	DN2
Dwarf Thistle	<i>Cirsium acaule</i>	DN2
Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia pseudokernerii</i>	NS; DN1; DR
Great Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	DN3
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Amber
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber
Hoary Plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>	DN2
Horseshoe Vetch	<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	DN1
Hound's-Tongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	DN1
Ivy Broomrape	<i>Orobanche hederaceae</i>	NS; DN2
Jersey Tiger	<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i>	Nb
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber
Knotted Bur Parsley	<i>Torilis nodosa</i>	DN2
Lesser Centaury	<i>Centaureum pulchellum</i>	DN1
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	S.41
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	S.41; Red
Marsh Arrowgrass	<i>Triglochin palustre</i>	DN1
Marsh Pea	<i>Lathyrus palustris</i>	NS
Pale St. John's-Wort	<i>Hypericum montanum</i>	DN3
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	DBAP
Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	DN2
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	DA
Small Scabious	<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	DN2
Small-Flowered Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus parviflorus</i>	DN3
Spurge-Laurel	<i>Daphne laureola</i>	DN2
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Amber
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Amber
Toothwort	<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	DN1; DR
Wild Clary	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	DN1
Yellow-Wort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	DN2

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 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.
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.