

1. SNA details

SNA name:	Cheldon
SNA unique number:	540
SNA area (ha):	1,683.59



2. Summary of nature conservation interest

Priority BAP habitats:

Main Regional Nature Map habitat:	Woodland
Other Regional Nature Map habitat(s):	
Other UK BAP habitats:	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Meadows, Hedges, Rivers.

This SNA includes part of the Little Dart River valley that runs from West Worlington down to Chawleigh as well as the coombe leading down to it from Winswood moor, Winswood Moor itself and the valley woodlands around the Huntacott Water. Many of the woodlands that occur on these steep valley sides are listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory and are designated County Wildlife Sites for ancient semi-natural woodland.

Woodland types that occur include: Oak standards with hazel coppice; oak-ash woodland; wet woodland with alders and secondary woodland dominated by sycamore. There are also non-natives planted and some areas of plantation.

Areas of purple moor grass & rush pasture occur in this SNA with the most extensive area being at Winswood Moor. There are also some areas of unimproved neutral grassland with fungal interest.

Important species or species assemblage	Status
Ancient Woodland Indicator plants (22 species recorded in one woodland) e.g. Moschatel, Pignut, Wood Anemone.	
Woodland birds e.g. Goldcrest, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker.	Amber (Goldcrest)
Mosses and lichens in woodlands	
Wood butterflies and moths e.g. Speckled Wood, Orange tip, Silver-Washed Fritillary.	
Brown Long-eared bat	S.41
Otter	S.41; DBAP
Common Dormouse	S.41; DBAP
Brown Hare	S.41; DBAP

See Appendix 1 for further species that have been recorded in this SNA.

Nature conservation designations

There are no statutory sites within this SNA.

The SNA includes 17 County Wildlife Sites covering habitats including: Ancient semi-natural woodland and secondary broadleaved woodland, ancient semi-natural woodland partly replanted with conifers and non-native broadleaves, culm grassland, unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland.

There are no Regionally Important Geological Sites.

3. UK BAP Priority habitat maintenance and restoration

targets for SNA no 540 (the measurement unit is hectare unless stated otherwise and rounded up/down)

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

UK BAP priority habitat	Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Lowland beech & yew woodland	Woodland TOTAL	TOTAL
Minimum area *					
Maximum area #	13	177	10 **	187	200

* 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 accuracy of this habitat data is questionable as this habitat type is not usually found in Devon. These areas of woodland are more likely to be lowland mixed deciduous woodland.

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.

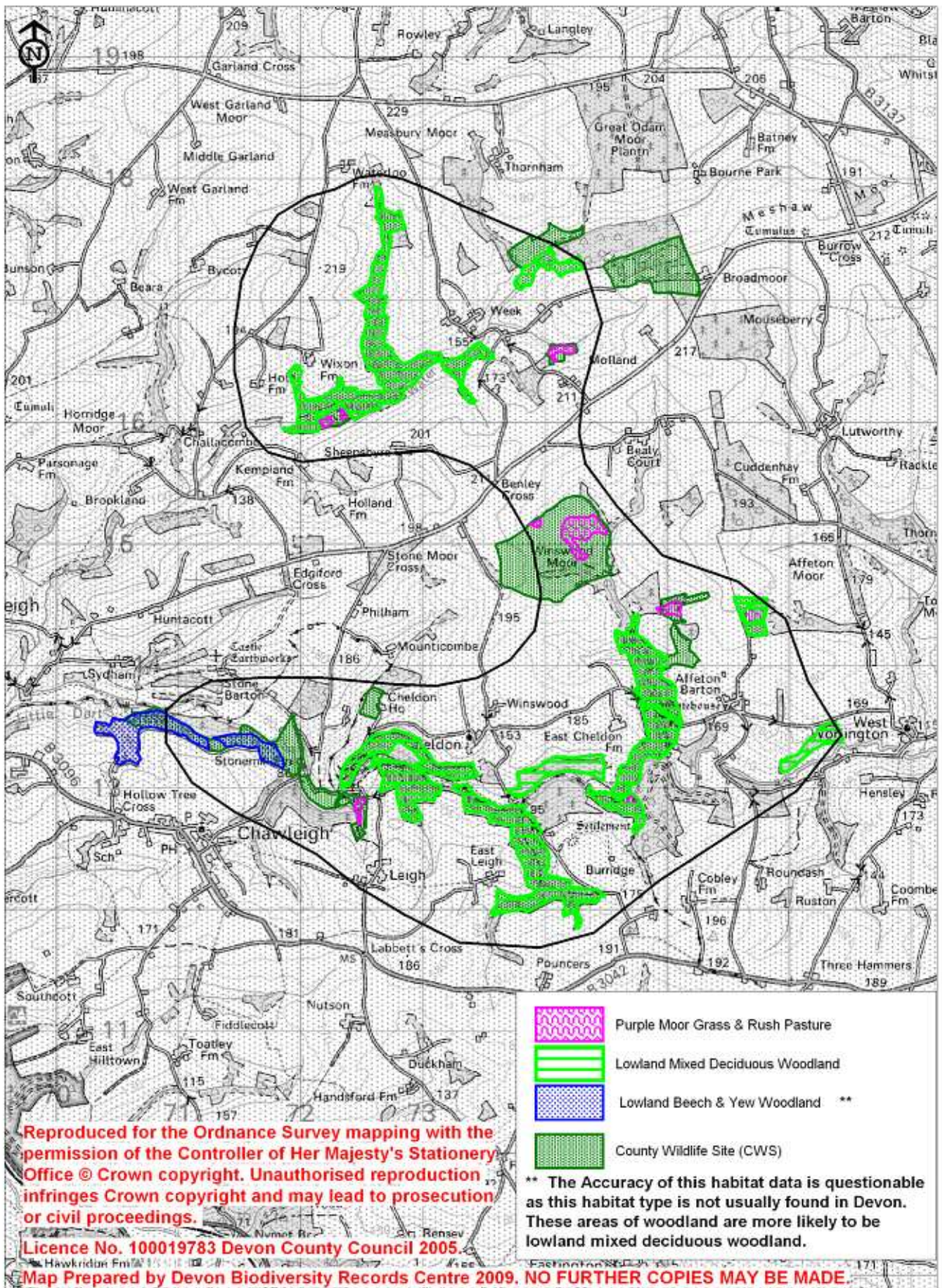
6. Other information

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.

Statutory sites and UKBAP priority habitats within SNA no 540 (2009)



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Map Prepared by Devon Biodiversity Records Centre 2009. NO FURTHER COPIES MAY BE MADE.

Appendix 1: Legally protected and notable species records within SNA no 540

Common name	Scientific name	Status
a Long-eared Bat	Plecotus spp.	WCA
Badger	Meles meles	WCA
Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	S.41; Nb
Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus	S.41; DBAP
Brown Long-eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	S.41
Common Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius	S.41; DBAP
Common Frog	Rana temporaria	WCA
Cowslip	Primula veris	DN3
Galingale	Cyperus longus	NS; DN1; DR
Marsh Fritillary	Eurodryas aurinia	S.41; DBAP; Nb
Otter	Lutra lutra	S.41; DBAP
Pale Sedge	Carex pallescens	DN2
Primrose	Primula vulgaris	DBAP
Purple Hairstreak	Quercusia quercus	Decline
Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	DA
Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	Amber
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	S.41; Red
Smooth Brome	Bromus racemosus	DN2
Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Amber
Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera	S.41
Willow Tit	Parus montanus	Red
Wood Club-rush	Scirpus sylvaticus	DN3

- WCA** **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)**
- DA** **Deer Act 1991:** deer protected under the Deer Act.
- S.41** **U 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 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.
- 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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