

1. SNA details

SNA name:	South Dartmoor
SNA unique number:	555
SNA area (ha):	18,956.33



2. Summary of nature conservation interest

Priority BAP habitats:

Main Regional Nature Map habitat:	Upland Heath
Other Regional Nature Map habitat(s):	Blanket Bog (Western Heath and Heather Moorland)
Other UK BAP habitats:	Upland oakwood, wet woodland, purple moor grass and rush pasture, lowland meadow, lowland dry acid grassland, fen, hedges, rivers

This SNA is mostly within the Dartmoor National Park, and consists mainly of blanket bog, upland heathland and moorland. Over half of the heathland and moorland area is covered by the Dartmoor SAC, and the South Dartmoor SSSI. The South Dartmoor SSSI contains some of the most extensive areas of blanket bog, mixed valley mire and unimproved acidic grassland - heathland mosaic in southern Britain. There is also a National Nature Reserve, with high altitude oak woodland, and five woodland SSSIs. Although the main habitat is upland heath, there are important woodlands that support over 40 species of bryophytes, and several rare lichens. The area is important for several moorland birds, as well as invertebrates, lichens, mosses and liverworts.

At the highest point, the land is 510 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. There are china clay quarries at the southern end of the SNA, which support important dragonfly and damselfly populations. The SNA overlaps with SNAs 375 (upland heath) 496 (woodland) and 609 (neutral grassland) and is adjacent to SNAs 577 and 578 (woodland).

Important species or species assemblage	Status
Bats e.g. Pipistrelle, Brown Long-Eared Bat, Whiskered Bat	S.41 (Brown Long-Eared Bat)
Reptiles e.g. Adder, Grass Snake, Slow-Worm, Viviparous Lizard	S.41 (Adder, Grass Snake, Viviparous Lizard, Slow-Worm)
Moorland birds e.g. Dunlin, Golden Plover, Hen Harrier, Meadow Pipit, Pochard, Red Grouse, Reed Bunting, Short-eared Owl, Skylark, Snipe, Stonechat, Wheatear, Whinchat	UKBAP(P) (Linnet, Reed Bunting, Skylark) Red (Dunlin, Hen Harrier, Linnet, Skylark) Amber (Dartford Warbler, Golden Plover, Meadow Pipit, Peregrine, Pochard, Red Grouse, Reed Bunting, Short-eared Owl, Snipe, Stonechat, Wheatear, Whinchat)
Woodland birds e.g. Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Pied Flycatcher, Raven, Redstart, Tawny Owl, Wood Warbler	Birds of upland oakwoods (Buzzard, Wood Warbler, Pied Flycatcher, Redstart) UKBAP(P), Red (Wood Warbler) Amber (Pied Flycatcher, Redstart)
Mammals e.g. Common Dormouse, Otter	S.41 & DBAP
Butterflies e.g. Dark Green Fritillary, Grayling, Green Hairstreak, High Brown Fritillary, Marsh Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Purple Hairstreak, Small Heath, Small Pearl-bordered	S.41 (Grayling, High Brown Fritillary, Marsh Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Heath, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Wall Brown) DBAP, Nb (Marsh Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary) Decline (Dark Green Fritillary, Green Hairstreak, Purple

Important species or species assemblage	Status
Fritillary, Wall Brown	Hairstreak, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary)
Dragonflies & damselflies e.g. Keeled Skimmer, Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly, Southern Damselfly	Nb (Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly, Southern Damselfly) DBAP (Southern Damselfly) KeyD (I) (Southern Damselfly) KeyD (N) (Keeled Skimmer, Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly)
Mire species e.g. Bog Asphodel, Bottle Sedge, Marsh Clubmoss, Round-leaved Sundew, 7 species of Sphagnum including <i>Sphagnum imbricatum</i> , White Beak-Sedge	S.41 (Marsh Clubmoss) Rare (<i>Sphagnum imbricatum</i>) Devon Notable Plants (Bottle Sedge, White Beak-Sedge)
Devon Notable plants e.g. Great Burnet, Greater Butterfly-Orchid, Ivy-Leaved Bellflower, Primrose, Round-leaved Crowfoot	DBAP (Primrose) Devon Notable Plants
Bryophytes e.g. <i>Dicranum flagellare</i> , <i>Harpanthus scutatus</i> , <i>Jamesoniella autumnalis</i>	Unknown elsewhere in Devon (from SSSI citation)
Lowland old forest lichens e.g. <i>Alectoria subcana</i> , <i>Arthonia didyma</i> , <i>Cetrelia cetrarioides</i> , <i>Enterographa hutchinsiae</i> , <i>Haematomma elatinum</i> , <i>Lobaria pulmonaria</i> , <i>L. laetevirens</i> , <i>L. scrobiculata</i> , <i>Pamelion laevigatae</i> , <i>Pannaria pityrea</i> , <i>Parmelia reddenda</i> , <i>Porina coralloidea</i> , <i>Ochrolechia inversa</i> , <i>Sticta limbata</i> , <i>Thelotrema lepadinum</i>	Locally rare species (<i>Alectoria subcana</i> , <i>Cetrelia cetrarioides</i> , <i>Enterographa hutchinsiae</i> , <i>Ochrolechia inversa</i> , <i>Porina coralloidea</i>) (from SSSI citation)
Lichens of exposed, upland oakwoods with a high rainfall e.g. <i>Alectoria fuscescens</i> , <i>Cladonia</i> spp., <i>Graphina ruiziana</i> , <i>Ochrolechia androgyna</i> , <i>Parmelia laevigata</i> , <i>P. endochlora</i> , <i>P. taylorensis</i> , <i>Sphaerophorus globosus</i>	Rare species (<i>Parmelia endochlora</i> and <i>Graphina ruiziana</i>) (from SSSI citation)

See Appendix 1 for further species recorded in SNA 555

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
SAC	South Dartmoor Woods	Extensive areas of ancient semi-natural oak woodland
NNR	Dendles Wood	An area of upland oak-beech woodland located in a narrow gorge of the River Yealm. The woodland is rich in ferns, mosses and lichens.
SSSI	Dendles Wood	Ancient upland oakwood with rich lichen & moss flora & high numbers of breeding birds
SSSI	Holne Woodlands	Extensive area of ancient semi-natural oak woodland with nationally important lichen communities
SSSI	Piles Copse	Ancient high-level Dartmoor oak woodland
SSSI	Shaugh Prior Woods	Ancient oak woodland which support a rich lichen & moss flora including some rare & local species of lichen
SSSI	South Dartmoor	Some of the most extensive areas of blanket bog, mixed valley mire & unimproved acidic grassland/heathland mosaic in SW England.

Designation	Site Name	Description
SSSI	Tor Royal Bog	One of the best examples of blanket mire in Devon, & is an important representative of such mires in South West Britain.

In addition the SNA includes 10 County Wildlife Sites covering habitats including: semi natural ancient woodland, wet woodland, unimproved acid, neutral and marshy grassland, heath and valley mire.

There are also five Regionally Important Geological Sites:

- Legis Tor, Hen Tor - Granite tors with elvan dykes
- Great Trowelsworthy Tors - A fine exposure of the trowelworthite Dartmoor Granite
- Dewerstone - Fine exposures of small feldspar megacrystic variant of the Dartmoor Granite
- Sweltor & Foggintor Quarries - Quarry with typical non-megacrystic and megacrystic granite
- O Brook - A good example of stream tin workings

3. UK BAP Priority habitat maintenance and restoration

targets for SNA no 555 (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	Fen	Blanket Bog	Upland Oakwood	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture	Lowland Meadow	Upland Heathland	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	TOTAL
Minimum area *			147	7.5	20.5		4.25	
Maximum area #	5000	1862	147	28	21	133	46	

* 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

The majority of the blanket bog, and a lot of upland heath has been mapped as criterion 4 (Not Present but close to definition).

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.

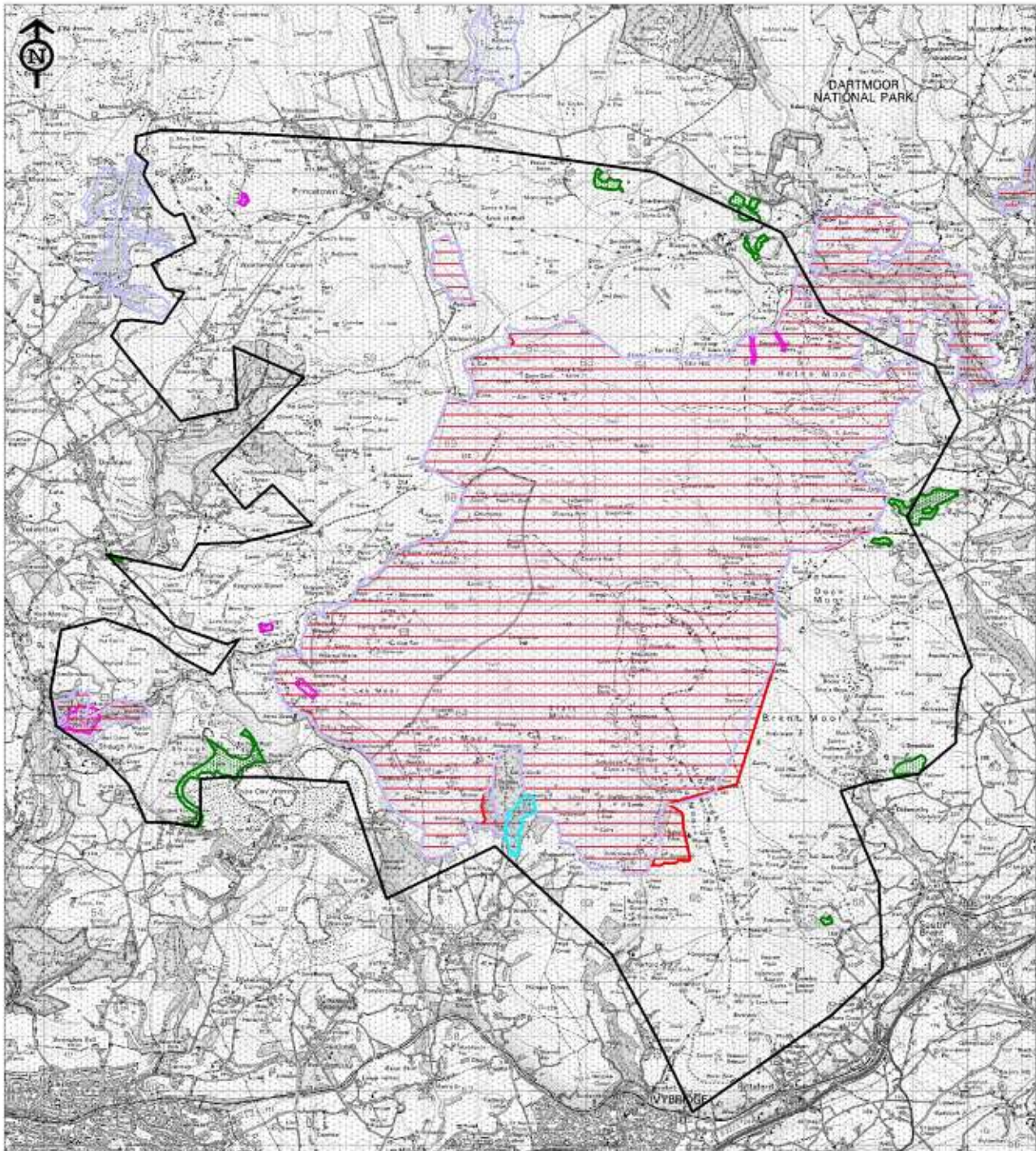
6. Other information

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 555 South Dartmoor (2009)



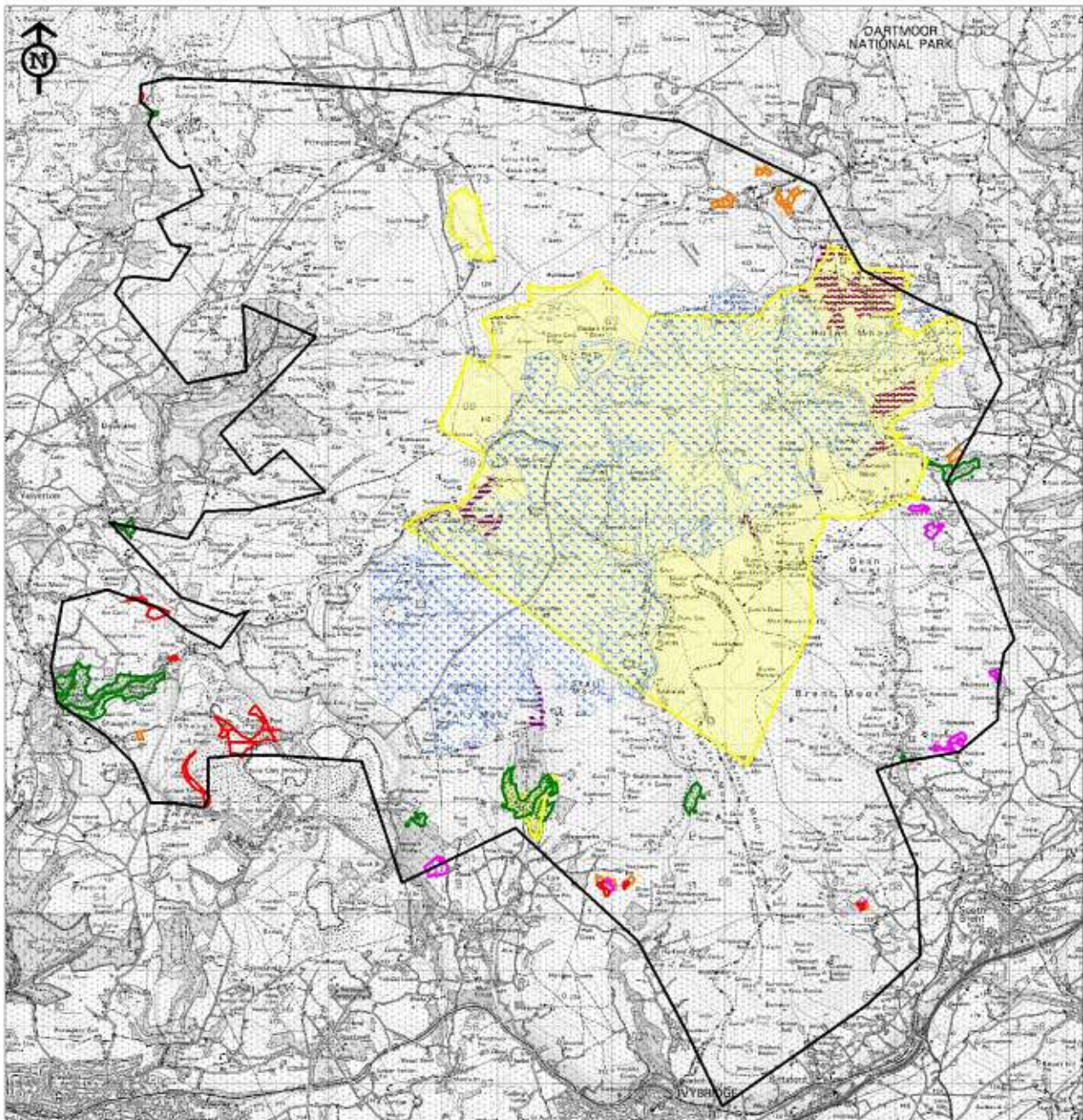
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-  County Wildlife Site (CWS)
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS)
-  National Nature Reserve (NNR)
-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

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Selected UKBAP Habitats within SNA 555 South Dartmoor (2009)



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

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Appendix 1: Legally protected and notable species recorded in SNA 555

Common name	Scientific name	Status
45 Khz Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus 45kHz	WCA
A bat	Chiroptera	WCA
a Long-eared Bat	Plecotus spp.	WCA
Adder	Vipera berus	WCA, S.41
Badger	Meles meles	WCA
Bottle Sedge	Carex rostrata	DN3
Brown Long-Eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	WCA, S.41
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	S.41; Amber
Common Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius	WCA, S.41; DBAP
Common Frog	Rana temporaria	WCA
Common Shrew	Sorex araneus	WCA
Dark Green Fritillary	Argynnis aglaja	Decline
Dartford Warbler	Sylvia undata	WCA, Amber
Dunlin	Calidris alpina	Red
Fallow Deer	Dama dama	DA
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
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	Amber
Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus	WCA, Red
High Brown Fritillary	Argynnis adippe	WCA, S.41
House Martin	Delichon urbica	Amber
Ivy-Leaved Bellflower	Wahlenbergia hederacea	DN3
Japanese Knotweed	Fallopia japonica	WCA
Keeled Skimmer	Orthetrum coerulescens	KeyD (N)
Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	S.41; Red
Marsh Clubmoss	Lycopodiella inundata	S.41
Marsh Fritillary	Eurodryas aurinia	WCA, S.41; DBAP; Nb
Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis	Amber
Otter	Lutra lutra	WCA, S.41; DBAP
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria euphrosyne	WCA, S.41; DBAP; Nb
Peregrine	Falco peregrinus	WCA, Amber
Pied flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca	Amber
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	WCA
Pochard	Aythya ferina	Amber
Primrose	Primula vulgaris	DBAP
Purple Hairstreak	Quercusia quercus	Decline
Pygmy Shrew	Sorex minutus	WCA
Red Grouse	Lagopus lagopus	Amber
Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	Amber
Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	S.41; Amber
Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	DA
Round-leaved Crowfoot	Ranunculus omiophyllus	DN1
Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly	Ischnura pumilio	Nb; KeyD (N)
Short-eared Owl	Asio flammeus	Amber
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	S.41; Red
Slow-Worm	Anguis fragilis	WCA, S.41
Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	S.41
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria selene	S.41; Decline
Smooth Newt	Triturus vulgaris	WCA
Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	Amber
Southern Damselfly	Coenagrion mercuriale	WCA, S.41; DBAP; KeyD (I)

Common name	Scientific name	Status
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Amber
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Amber
Viviparous Lizard	<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>	WCA, S.41
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	S.41
Water Shrew	<i>Neomys fodiens</i>	WCA
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Amber
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Amber
Whiskered Bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	WCA
White Beak-Sedge	<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	DN2
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	S.41; Red

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.

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.

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 (*Playcnemis pennipes*) Scarce blue-tailed damselfly (*Ischnura pumilio*) Small red damselfly (*Ceriatagrion tenellum*) Hairy dragonfly (*Brachytron pratense*) Downy emerald (*Cordulia aenea*) and Keeled skimmer (*Orthoetrum coerulescens*).