

## 1. SNA details

<b>SNA name:</b>	Upper Teign Valley
<b>SNA unique number:</b>	627
<b>SNA area (ha):</b>	1,178.89



## 2. Summary of nature conservation interest

### Priority BAP habitats

<b>Main Regional Nature Map habitat:</b>	Woodland
<b>Other Regional Nature Map habitat(s):</b>	
<b>Other UK BAP habitats:</b>	Upland oakwood, upland ashwood, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, wet woodland, purple moor grass and rush pasture, lowland meadow, lowland dry acid grassland, hedges, rivers

This is a large SNA, within the boundary of Dartmoor National Park. It is on the northern side of Dartmoor, to the east of the Dartmoor SAC. It is a woodland SNA, with several ancient woodlands, including the Rushford Wood SSSI. The SSSI supports a wide variety of lichens, mosses and ferns; over 130 species of lichen have been recorded including several rare species, and one (*Leptogium palmatum*) which was thought to be extinct in the British Isles.

The SNA consists of a series of steep-sided valleys, and is between 145 and 340 meters above sea level. There are several UKBAP priority habitats present, including upland and lowland woodlands, purple moor grass and rush pasture, wet woodland, and unimproved acid and neutral grassland. The rest of the SNA is farmland, with several conifer plantations, and some small urban areas.

The boundary and designation of the SNA has been changed since the South West Nature Map was first created. It was originally designated for purple moor grass and rush pasture, but the majority of that habitat is now within a separate SNA (628). It also overlaps with SNA 524 (upland heath).

<b>Important species or species assemblage</b>	<b>Status</b>
Brandt's Bat, Brown Long-Eared Bat, Lesser Horseshoe Bat, Pipistrelle, Whiskered Bat	S.41 (Brown Long-Eared Bat, Lesser Horseshoe Bat)
Butterflies: Brown Hairstreak, Dark Green Fritillary, Grayling, Green Hairstreak, Marsh Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Heath, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Wall Brown, Wood White	S.41 (Brown Hairstreak, Grayling, Marsh Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Heath, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Wall Brown, Wood White) DBAP (Marsh Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary) Nationally Notable (Brown Hairstreak, Marsh Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Wood White) Local Decline (Dark Green Fritillary, Green Hairstreak, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary)
Brown Hare, Common Dormouse, Hedgehog, Otter	S.41 (Brown Hare, Common Dormouse, Hedgehog, Otter) DBAP (Brown Hare, Common Dormouse, Otter)
Bullfinch, Fieldfare, House Sparrow, Marsh Tit, Redwing, Song Thrush, Starling, Willow Warbler	S.41 (Bullfinch) Red (Fieldfare, House Sparrow, Marsh Tit, Redwing, Song Thrush, Starling) Amber (Bullfinch, Willow Warbler)
Devon Notable flowering plants: Cowslip, Ivy-Leaved Bellflower, Marsh Valerian, Primrose, Red Hemp-Nettle, Royal Fern	S.41 (Red Hemp-Nettle) DBAP (Primrose) Nationally Scarce (Red Hemp-Nettle)

Rare lichens: <i>Phylctis agelaea</i> , <i>Buellia erubescens</i> , <i>Coniocybe furfuracea</i> , <i>Catillaria atropurpurea</i> , <i>Leptogium palmatum</i>	Nationally Scarce ( <i>Buellia erubescens</i> )
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See Appendix 1 for further species recorded in SNA 627

## 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
SSSI	Rushford Wood	Pedunculate oak/hazel woodland with areas of ancient oakwood, varied flora & rare & interesting lichens

In addition the SNA includes six County Wildlife Sites covering habitats including: Semi natural ancient woodland, planted ancient woodland, semi-natural oak-ash woodland, wet woodland, valley mire, unimproved neutral grassland and marshy grassland

There is also one Regionally Important Geological Site, Gidleigh Tor which is the only location where aplitic rock of possible sedimentary origin may be seen clearly.

## 3. UK BAP Priority habitat maintenance and restoration

**targets for SNA no 627** (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	Upland Oakwood	Upland Mixed Ashwoods	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Wet Woodland	Woodland TOTAL	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture	Lowland Meadow	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	TOTAL
Minimum area *	40	4	9	2	55	1.5	6.75	5.5	68.75
Maximum area #	40	4	9	2	55	2	11	6	74

\* 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

## **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 woodland:

- 30% cover of priority habitat
- 30% cover of other semi-natural habitat
- 40% cover of other land uses.

*This SNA 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.

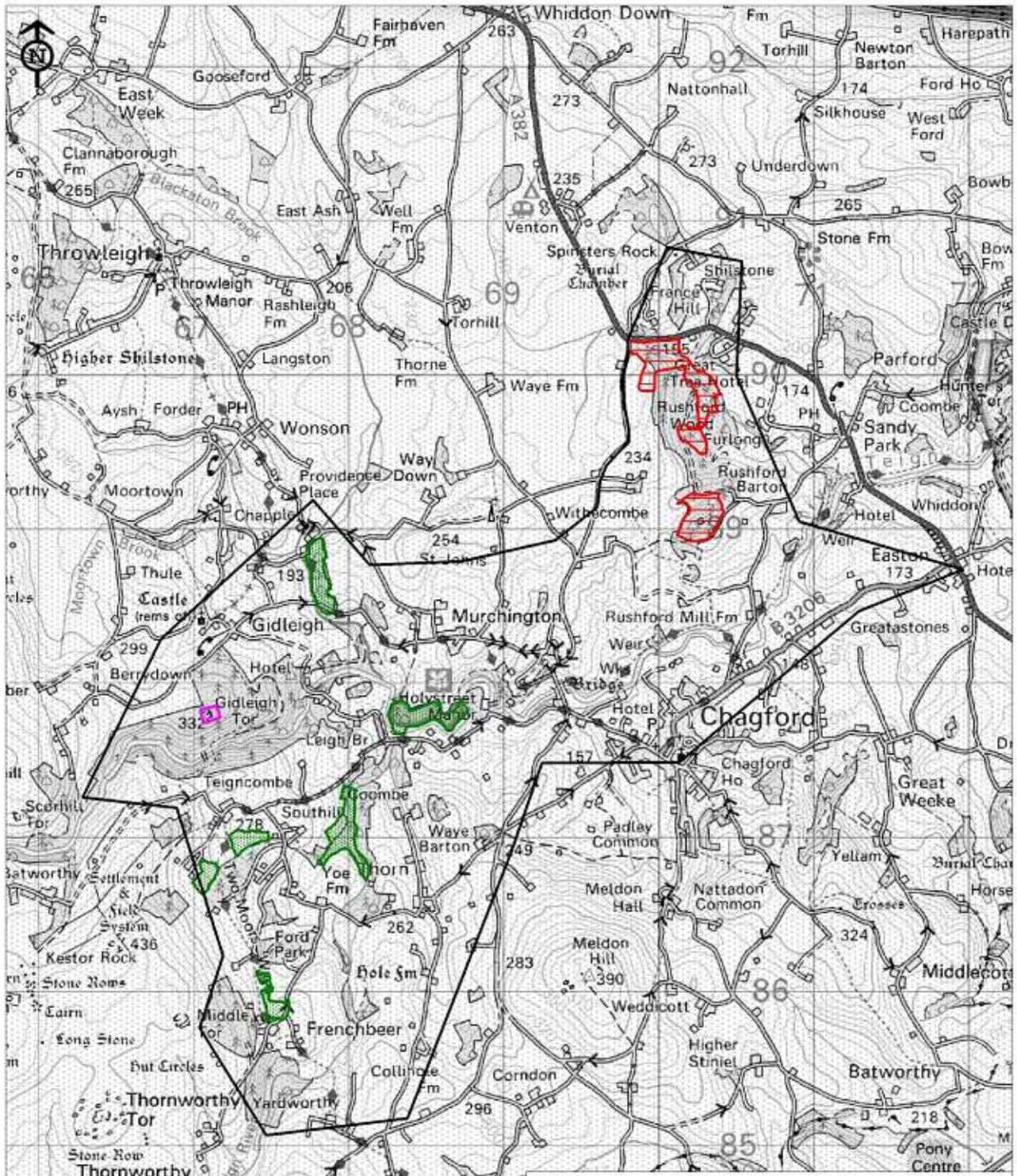
### **6. Other information**

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 627 (Tor Valley) (2009)



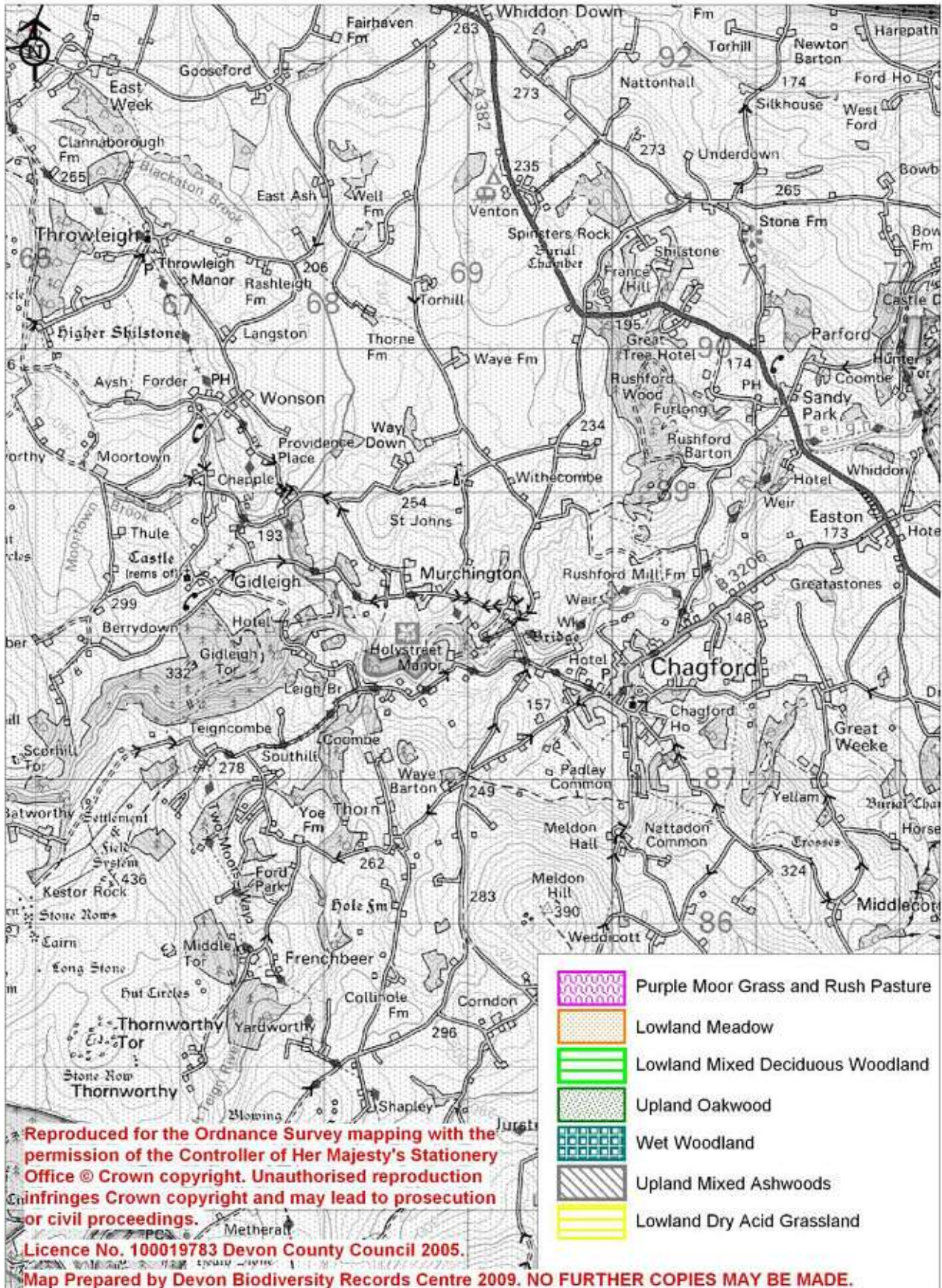
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-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  County Wildlife Site (CWS)
-  Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS)

# Selected UKBAP Habitats within SNA 627 (Tor Valley) (2009)



Appendix 1: Legally protected and notable species found within SNA 627 Tor Valley

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Status</b>
A bat	Chiroptera	WCA
a Long-eared Bat	Plecotus spp.	WCA
Badger	Meles meles	WCA
Bluebell	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	WCA
Brandt's Bat	Myotis brandti	WCA
Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	WCA, S.41; Nb
Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus	S.41; DBAP
Brown Long-Eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	WCA, S.41
<i>Buellia erubescens</i>	<i>Buellia erubescens</i>	NS
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	S.41; Amber
Common Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius	WCA, S.41; DBAP
Common Frog	Rana temporaria	WCA
Common Shrew	Sorex araneus	WCA
Cowslip	Primula veris	DN3
Dark Green Fritillary	Argynnis aglaja	Decline
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	Amber
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	WCA, Red
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	Amber
Grayling	Hipparchia semele	S.41
Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi	Decline
Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	Amber
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	Amber
Hedgehog	Erinaceus europaeus	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
Large Copper	Lycaena dispar	WCA
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros	WCA, S.41
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Amber
Marsh Fritillary	Eurodryas aurinia	WCA, S.41; DBAP; Nb
Marsh Tit	Parus palustris	Red
Marsh Valerian	Valeriana dioica	DN3
Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	Amber
Otter	Lutra lutra	WCA, S.41; DBAP
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria euphrosyne	WCA, S.41; DBAP; Nb
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	WCA
Primrose	Primula vulgaris	DBAP
Pygmy Shrew	Sorex minutus	WCA
Red Hemp-Nettle	Galeopsis angustifolia	S.41; NS; DN1
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	WCA, Red
Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	DA
Royal Fern	Osmunda regalis	DN3
Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	S.41
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria selene	S.41; Decline
Smooth Newt	Triturus vulgaris	WCA
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	S.41; Red
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Red
Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Amber
Swift	Apus apus	Amber
Viviparous Lizard	Lacerta vivipara	WCA, S.41
Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera	S.41
Whiskered Bat	Myotis mystacinus	WCA
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	Amber
Wood White	Leptidea sinapis	WCA, S.41; Nb

<b>WCA</b>	<b>Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)</b>
<b>DA</b>	<b>Deer Act 1991:</b> deer protected under the Deer Act.
<b>S.41</b>	<b>Species or habitat of principal importance in England (i.e. English BAP priority species / habitats</b> – see Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)
<b>DBAP</b>	<b>Devon Biodiversity Action Plan species:</b> these have been identified as species of key conservation concern in Devon.
<b>NS</b>	<b>Nationally Scarce:</b> 15-100 10km squares in Atlas of British Flora 1962.

**Devon Notable Species:** species recorded from 2km squares Atlas of Devon Flora 1984 (R.B. Ivimey-Cook, Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Exeter):

Selected species recorded from over 50 2km squares in the Atlas of Devon Flora 1984 (R.B. Ivimey-Cook, Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Exeter).

<b>DN1</b>	<b>Devon Notable<sup>1</sup>:</b> 1-25 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.
<b>DN3</b>	<b>Devon Notable<sup>3</sup>:</b> Selected species recorded from over 50 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.
<b>Nb</b>	<b>Nationally Notable B:</b> known from 100 or fewer 10km squares. Taken from the Invertebrate Site Register.
<b>Decline</b>	Substantial local decline in Devon
<b>Red List</b>	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.
<b>Amber List</b>	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.