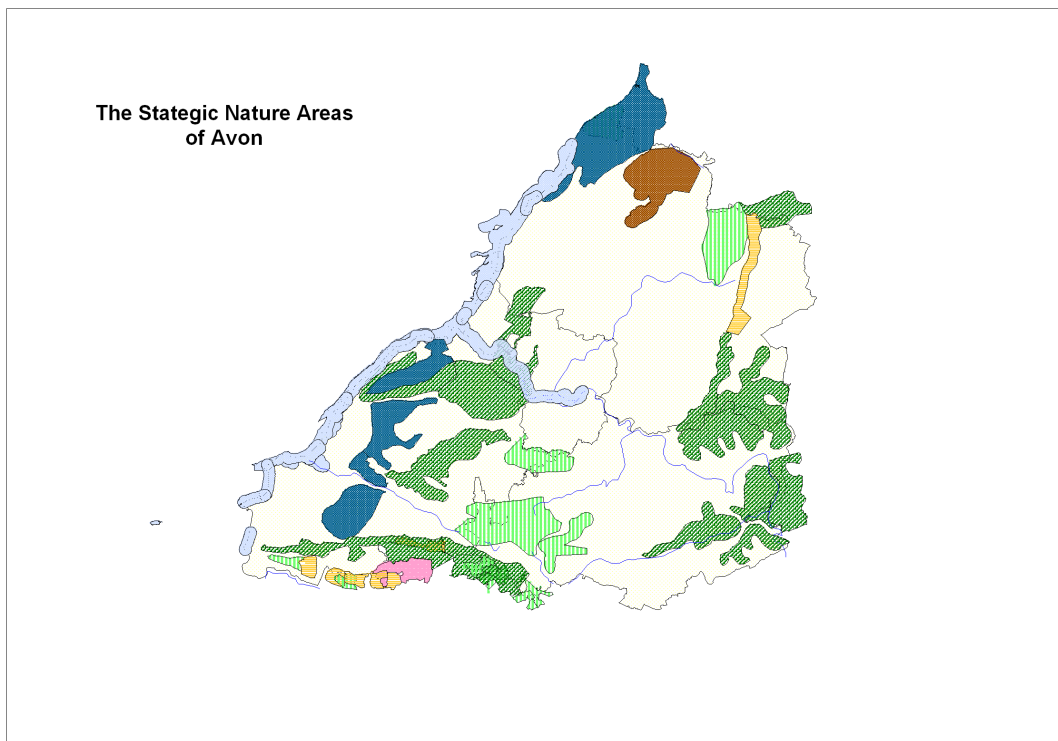


Avon BAP ATLAS 2007

Mapping UK BAP Priority Habitat
And Strategic Nature Areas
in the Avon Area



Avon
Biodiversity Action Plan



The variety of life

Acknowledgements

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Maps created with *MapInfo Professional v8.5*

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SNA Targets Methodology

- The South West National Biodiversity Network Priority Habitats Inventory (2004) currently provides the most accurate and up-to-date source of information on Priority Habitats. This information is considered valid for a period of five years from the point of collection and forms the basis for SNA analysis
- The South West Nature Map is the collaborative result of the largest consultation exercise in the region to identify regional biodiversity priorities spatially. It uses the Rebuilding Biodiversity methodology and data sets including the South West Priority Habitat Inventory.
- The South West Priority Habitats Inventory captured data using several criteria to determine the presence of Priority Habitat. Two criteria were chosen for producing the targets:
 - **Criterion 1** – the criterion ‘Definitely is’ means the whole of the area mapped (the polygon) is considered to be reliably the relevant Priority Habitat.
 - **Criterion 2** – the Criterion ‘Definitely present within the polygon but not mappable’ means that the area (the polygon) is reliably known to contain the relevant Priority Habitat but which could not be accurately mapped. The presence of Priority Habitat in these areas should meet a minimum mappable unit as defined in the relevant Habitat Definition in order for the polygon to have been mapped. Therefore the area should define a possible maximum amount (the polygon) and an absolute minimum amount (the minimum mappable unit).
 - **Criterion 3** – “Probably the Priority Habitat but some uncertainty of interpretation”
 -
- Some Priority Habitat types have not been mapped by the NBN South West Pilot Project and additional inventories have been used to fill in relevant gaps. For example, data used for the Coastal Floodplain and Grazing Marsh figures include the recent data produced by the collaboration between Somerset Environmental Records Centre and the Environment Agency, in addition to the National Inventory.
- Where additional inventories have been used it has not been possible to standardise the data so figures may include areas thought to possibly contain Priority Habitat but which could not be confirmed at the time of data capture.

Maintenance Target Methodology

- Maintenance Targets are based on the minimum current ‘known’ extent for each Priority Habitat.
- The sum of the area of each habitat meeting the Criterion ‘Definitely is’ was calculated. The calculation excludes all other criteria used in mapping the SWNBN data including those areas where Priority Habitat is known to be present but which could not be accurately mapped.
- The number of areas (polygons) for each habitat meeting the Criterion ‘Definitely present within the polygon but not mappable’ were counted and the result multiplied with the relevant ‘Minimum Mappable Unit’.
- The final results of the above calculations are added together to produce the Maintenance Target for each Priority Habitat.

Restoration/Expansion Targets Methodology

- The consultation rounds during the production of the South West Nature Map determined agreed Strategic Nature Areas based on opportunities identified from soil types, geology, landscape, existing habitats, development control, agricultural and silvicultural trends and expert opinion. These Areas included determined 'Main Habitat' with an aspiration to recreate a fixed percentage of the total of each Area with that habitat type within the next 50 years. Each habitat type is additionally coded in the Nature Map as to whether it is a 'Matrix' or a 'Patch' habitat. The fixed percentage figure for 'Patch' habitats is 30%, and that for 'Matrix' is 60%.
- For example a Strategic Nature Area with a 'Main Habitat' of Neutral Grassland (a 'Patch' habitat) is considered to be an area with potential for 30% coverage of the SNA with Lowland Meadow within the next 50 years.
- Some Strategic Nature Areas are listed with more than one 'Main Habitat' type. These are treated as 'Mosaic' areas. An example may be of a Strategic Nature Area with Woodland and Lowland Meadow 'Main Habitats'. The aspiration would be to have 30% coverage of Woodland and 30% coverage of Lowland Meadow.
- To calculate the Restoration/Expansion Target:
- The **Total Area** of each Strategic Nature Area was calculated.
- The resulting **Total Area** was then multiplied by either 30 or 60% depending upon whether the prescribed 'Main Habitat' is a 'Patch' habitat or 'Matrix' habitat. This results in the '**Projected Area**'.
- The '**Actual Area**' of existing main habitat is subtracted from the '**Projected Area**' which results in the '**Restoration/Expansion Target**'.
- The simple formula is: **Restoration/Expansion Target = Projected Area – Actual Area**. The 50 year Restoration/expansion target is then subdivided proportionately to give targets for 2010, 2020 and 2030.

Meeting Targets within SNA

- Using the NBN South West Pilot Project methodology Criterion 1 polygons are valid for 5 years from first identification in 2002. From 2007 All Criterion 1 polygons will be reclassified as Criterion 2 unless ground truthing surveys have been carried out. This will have the effect of reducing our known extent of habitat as all Criterion 2 polygon areas are calculated using the minimum mappable unit.
- To meet maintenance targets it will be necessary to carry out ground truthing exercises on all Criterion 1 polygons.
- To meet restoration targets it will be necessary to accurately map the Priority Habitat found within Criterion 2 and 3 habitat polygons.
- Surveys to identify the priority habitat can be targeted by identifying land parcels within these polygons that are more likely to be the match habitat.
- This can be done by overlaying existing Phase 1 information and selecting land parcels which have a high potential for habitat mapping and restoration.

- The Phase 1 codes have been taken from the NBN South West Pilot Project Priority Habitat Definition Statements

Priority Habitat	Phase 1 Codes selected from Phase 1 layer
Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	NG, MG, I, SNG <10m
Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture	MG, VM(B) ,BM(B), SP, S, SNG
Fen	AF, BF, VM(B), BM(B), FPM(B), SP
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	CG, SCG, NG
Lowland Meadows	NG, MG, SNG
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	AG, SAG
Lowland Heathland	
Maritime Cliff and Slope	Many Phase 1 habitat types are possible
Coastal Saltmarsh	SSM, DSM
Coastal Sand Dunes	DW, DG, DH,, DX, OD
Coastal Vegetated Shingle	O.S.symbol
Mudflats	
Saline Lagoons	-
Reedbeds	SP
Blanket Bog	BB, WB, DB
Lowland Raised Bog	RB
Lowland Mixed Deciduous woodland	BW, PBW, MW, PMW, DS, SBW, SMW, FB, FM
Lowland Wood Pasture and Parkland	BW, PBW, MW, PMW, DS, SBW, SMW, FB, FM
Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland	BW, PBW, MW, PMW, DS, SBW, SMW, FB, FM
Wet Woodland	BW, PBW, MW, PMW, DS, SBW, SMW, FB, FM
Upland Mixed Ashwoods	BW, PBW, MW, PMW, DS, SBW, SMW, FB, FM
Upland Oak Wood	BW, PBW, MW, PMW, DS, SBW, SMW, FB, FM