Definitions of Favourable Condition for designated features of interest



These definitions relate to all designated features on the SSSI, whether designated as SSSI, SPA, SAC or Ramsar features.

Three Moors Team Renslade House Bonhay Road Exeter, EX4 3AW Enquiry Service 0300 060 3900 enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

Name of Site of Special Scientific Inter	est (SSSI)						
North Dartmoor							
Names of designated international sites							
Special Area for Conservation (SAC)	Dartmoor						
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Not applicable						
Ramsar	Not applicable						
Relationship between site designation	S						
Dartmoor SAC comprises three SSSIs No	orth Dartmoor, South Dartmoor and East Dartmoor.						
Within North Dartmoor SSSI the Europea	n (SAC) and National (SSSI) designations cover						
almost the same area.							

Status of this VersionFinalPrepared by08/10/2014Date of this version08/10/2014Date of generic guidance onCommon Standards Monitoring							
Date of this version 08/10/2014							
Date of generic guidance on Common Standards Monitorin							
CSM Guidance for Woodland CSM Guidance For Birds (Au CSM Guidance For Mammals	Common Standards Monitoring (CSM) Guidance for Upland Habitats (July 2009) CSM Guidance for Woodland (2004) CSM Guidance For Birds (August 2004) CSM Guidance For Mammals (August 2004) CSM for Earth Science Sites (February 2004)						
Other notes/version history 0.5							
Quality assurance information							
Checked by Name Date 16 December 20 Signature	014						

Definitions of Favourable Condition: notes for users

Definitions of Favourable Condition

The definitions comprise one or more condition definitions for the special interest features at this site. These are subject to periodic review and may be updated to reflect new information or knowledge. They will be used by Natural England to determine if a site is in a favourable condition. The standards for favourable condition have been developed and are applied throughout the UK.

Standards for favourable condition are defined with particular reference to the specific designated features listed in Table 1, and are based on a selected set of attributes for features which most effectively define favourable condition as set out in Tables 2, 2a and 3. When an SSSI's features meet these attributes, then they are said to be in 'favourable condition'.

Explanatory text for Tables 2 and 3

Tables 2, 2a and 3 set out the measures of condition which we will use to provide evidence to support our assessment of whether features are in favourable condition. They have been tailored by local staff to reflect the particular characteristics and site-specific circumstances of individual sites. Quality Assurance has ensured that such site-specific tailoring remains within a nationally consistent set of standards. The tables include an audit trail to provide a summary of the reasoning behind any site-specific targets etc. In some cases the requirements of features or designations may conflict; the detailed basis for any reconciliation of conflicts on this site may be recorded elsewhere.

Use under the Habitats Regulations

The Definitions of Favourable Condition (DFCs) are used to periodically measure and assess the condition of both notified SSSI features and designated European Site features.

Where SSSIs also form part of a European Site (such as a SAC or SPA), a separate document containing specific European Site Conservation Objectives will have been prepared. These objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and the Habitats Directive 1992. They are for use when either the appropriate nature conservation body or a competent authority is required to make an 'appropriate assessment' of the likely effects of a proposed plan or project on the integrity of a European Site under the relevant parts of the respective legislation. The European Site Conservation Objectives are available at www.naturalengland.org.uk.

The concepts of 'site integrity' and 'favourable condition' are similar and the assessment of a feature's condition will measure attributes that also represent aspects of a site's ecological integrity. However, the periodic determination of a feature's condition is separate from a judgement about the effect upon a site's overall integrity. This is because the DFCs do not represent a comprehensive or definitive list of all of the elements that might contribute to site integrity, merely those that are most appropriate to monitor in order to rapidly determine the present condition of a feature. The full range of factors that are components of a site's integrity, and which may need to be considered by an appropriate assessment, will be specified in the European Site Conservation Objectives. Some of the information contained within the DFCs may however contribute to such assessments.

Table 1 Individual designated interest features

BAP Broad Habitat type / Geological Site Type	Specific designated features	Explanatory description of the feature for clarification	SSSI designated interest features	interest	SPA bird populations dependency on specific habitats			Ramsar criteria applicable to specific habitats			
Acid				SAC designated interest features	Annex 1 species	Migratory species	Waterfowl assemblage	1a Wetland characteristics	2a Hosting rare species &c	3a 20000 waterfowl	3c 1% of population
Acid Grassland -	U3 - Agrostis curtisii grassland	Upland dry acidic grassland. Often	*								
upland	U4 - Festuca ovina - Agrostis capillaris - Galium saxatile grassland	dominated by more palatable grass species such as Festuca ovina except the Nardus	*								
	U5 - Nardus stricta - Galium saxatile grassland	community. Usually with Galium saxatile and Potentilla erecta	*								
Bogs	M1 - Sphagnum auriculatum bog pool community	Blanket bog and valley mire. Blanket bog typically found on flatter areas	*	*							
	M2 - Sphagnum cuspidatum/recurvum (fallax) bog pool community	above 450m contour usually with over 50cm peat depth but often on deep peat up to 7m. Valley mires typically	*	*							
	M3 - Eriophorum angustifolium bog pool community	found in valley bottoms or depressions. Sometimes <i>Molinia</i> dominated where old peat cuttings or	*	*							
	M17 - Scirpus cespitosus - Eriophorum vaginatum blanket mire	frequent burning have damaged the hydrology.	*	*							

BAP Broad Habitat type / Geological Site Type	Specific designated features	Explanatory description of the feature for clarification	interest	interest	SPA bird populations dependency on specific habitats			Ramsar criteria applicable to specific habitats			
			SSSI designated interest features	SAC designated interest features	Annex 1 species	Migratory species	Waterfowl assemblage	1a Wetland characteristics	2a Hosting rare species &c	3a 20000 waterfowl	3c 1% of population
	M21 - Narthecium ossifragum - Sphagnum papillosum mire	SAC feature = 7130 Blanket bogs	*	*							
	M25 - Molinia caerulea - Potentilla erecta mire	· .	*	*							
	M4 - Carex rostrata - Sphagnum recurvum (fallax) mire	Short sedge acidic fen and swamp, usually seen as very wet Sphagnum rich communities with high	*								
	M6 - Carex echinata - Sphagnum recurvum (fallax) /auriculatum (denticulatum) mire	Carex component around pools, along stream edge or aound spring flushes.	*								
	Breeding Bird Assemblage	Suite of upland breeding birds for Upland Moorland and Grassland Without Waterbodies	*								
Bracken	U4/20 - U4/20-related species rich bracken	Species rich acid grassland beneath a Bracken canopy	*								

BAP Broad Habitat type / Geological Site Type	Specific designated features	Explanatory description of the feature for clarification	interest	SAC designated interest features	SPA bird populations dependency on specific habitats			Ramsar criteria applicable to specific habitats			
Broadleaved			SSSI designated interest features		Annex 1 species	Migratory species	Waterfowl assemblage	1a Wetland characteristics	2a Hosting rare species &c	3a 20000 waterfowl	3c 1% of population
Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland -	W17 - Quercus petraea - Betula pubescens - Dicranum majus woodland	Western upland oak woodland rich in epiphytic lichens and bryophytes often on boulder strewn slopes at Black a Tor Copse. SAC feature = 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with llex and Blechnum in the British Isles	*	*							
upland	Lichen Assemblage										
Dwarf shrub heath - upland	H4 - Ulex gallii - Agrostis curtisii heath	Dry dwarf shrub heathland as part of a mosaic with acid grassland. Can be	*	*							
	H8 - Calluna vulgaris - Ulex gallii heath	present in either a 'wet' or dry form. The wet form being easily distinguished by Sphagnum species and	*								
	H10 - Calluna vulgaris - Erica cinerea heath	a higher frequency of Erica tetralix SAC feature = 4030 European dry heaths	*	*							
	H12 - Calluna vulgaris - Vaccinium myrtillus heath		*	*							
	M15 - Scirpus cespitosus - Erica tetralix wet heath	Wet dwarf shrub heath with Erica tetralix and Sphagnum in a mosaic	*	*							

BAP Broad Habitat type / Geological Site Type	Specific designated features	Explanatory description of the feature for clarification	interest	interest	SPA bird populations dependency on specific habitats			Ramsar criteria applicable to specific habitats			
			SSSI designated interest features	SAC designated interest features	Annex 1 species	Migratory species	Waterfowl assemblage	1a Wetland characteristics	2a Hosting rare species &c	3a 20000 waterfowl	3c 1% of population
		with dry heath, acid grassland and bogs SAC Feature = 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix									
Fen, marsh and swamp	M4 - Carex rostrata - Sphagnum recurvum (fallax) mire	Bogs, soakaways and sumps, usually seen as very wet Sphagnum rich communities around	*								
	M6 - Carex echinata - Sphagnum recurvum (fallax) /auriculatum (denticulatum) mire	pools, along stream edge or aound spring flushes with a high component of Carex species and Potamogeton.	*								
	M29 - Hypericum elodes - Potamogeton polygonifolius soakway	Totalnogoton.	*								
Finite Buried Interest	Quarternary of South West England	Blackridge Brook. Paleoecological pollen record in peat substrate.	*								
Rivers and Streams	Otter	1355 Otter. Population on many rivers arising in the SSSI.		*							
	Salmon	1106 Atlantic salmon. Population on many rivers arising in the SSSI.		*							

BAP Broad Habitat type / Geological Site Type	Specific designated features	SSSI description of the feature for clarification leatures teatures	interest	res designated res	SPA bird populations dependency on specific habitats			Ramsar criteria applicable to specific habitats			
			designate res		Annex 1 species	Migratory species	Waterfowl assemblage	1a Wetland characteristics	2a Hosting rare species &c	3a 20000 waterfowl	3c 1% of population
Short Sedge Acidic Fen	Southern damselfly	1044 Southern damselfly. Colonies at Moortown Bottom in Unit 82, Gidleigh Common.		*							

NB. Features where asterisks are in brackets (*) indicate habitats which are not notified for specific habitat interest (under the relevant designation) but because they support notified species.

Table 2 Habitat extent objectives

Extent - Dynamic balance

To maintain the designated features in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to a balance of habitat extents (extent attribute). Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards. On this site favourable condition requires the maintenance of the extent of each habitat type (either designated habitat or habitat supporting designated species). Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in extent.

Habitat Feature (BAP Broad Habitat level, or more detailed level if applicable)	Estimated extent (ha) and date of data source/estimate	Site Specific Target rai Measures	nge and	Comments
Criteria feature		Measure	Target	Comments
Acid grassland - upland	2997ha, Thomson Ecology and NE surveys 2013	Field comparison with baseline map of features, or occurrence of feature at sample points on a systematic sample grid.	There should be no measurable decline in the area of the feature.	Applies to SSSI-grade examples of U3, U4 and U5, not necessarily to areas of degraded heath
Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - upland	8ha, Thomson Ecology and NE surveys 2013	Field survey and/or aerial photography, in relation to baseline map.	No loss of ancient semi-natural stands. At least current area of recent semi-natural stands maintained, although their location may alter.	Applies only to Black-a-tor Copse. Stand loss due to natural processes e.g. in minimum intervention stands may be acceptable. Stand destruction may occur if the understorey and ground flora are irretrievably damaged even if the canopy remains intact. As a guideline, loss can be defined as at least 0.5 ha or 0.5% of the stand area, whichever is the smaller. 20% canopy cover is conventionally taken as the lower limit for an area to be considered as woodland.
Bogs, blanket bogs and valley mire	5613ha, Thomson Ecology and NE surveys 2013	Field comparison with baseline map of feature, or recording of location and number of individual patches if the feature is fragmented into very small patches (the last may be all that is practical for Rhynchosporion hollows).	There should be no measurable decline in the area of the feature.	

Habitat Feature (BAP Broad Habitat level, or more detailed level if applicable)	Estimated extent (ha) and date of data source/estimate	Site Specific Target rai Measures		Comments
Fen, marsh and swamp, short sedge acidic fen and swamp	35ha, Thomson Ecology and NE surveys 2013	Field comparison with baseline map of feature, or recording of location and number of individual patches if the feature is fragmented into very small patches.	There should be no measurable decline in the area of the feature.	
Bogs, soakway and sump (upland)	135ha, Thomson Ecology and NE surveys 2013	Field comparison with baseline map of feature, or recording of location and number of individual patches if the feature is fragmented into very small patches.	There should be no measurable decline in the area of the feature.	
Dwarf-shrub heath – upland, dry	3615ha, Thomson Ecology and NE surveys 2013	Field comparison with baseline map of features.	There should be no measurable decline in the area of the feature.	Qualifiers: Exclude recently burned ground
Bracken, U1e, U3, U4a, U4c, U4/20- related (species-rich bracken)	403ha Thomson Ecology and NE surveys 2013	Total area mapped in relation to baseline	No loss without prior consent	recoverable reduction = unfavourable; non-recoverable reduction = partially destroyed
Dwarf shrub heath – upland, wet	324ha, Thomson Ecology and NE surveys 2013	Field comparison with baseline map of features.	There should be no measurable decline, in the area of the feature.	

Rationale for habitat extent attribute

(Include methods of estimation (measures), and the approximate degree of change which these are capable of detecting).

No baseline data exists for this site. The extent of the habitats was not established at SSSI notification or re-notification. Data exists for the SAC habitat areas, i.e. the SAC lists proportions of the SAC area that are covered by the notified habitats. However, the SAC comprises 3 component SSSIs, North Dartmoor being one of them. The SAC data is not useful, therefore, in establishing a baseline extent for the notified habitats for North Dartmoor. Site surveys were undertaken by Thomson Ecology and NE staff during 2013 and the extent estimate is derived from mapping carried out during those surveys.

Habitats were surveyed using a JNCC Phase 2 habitat survey methodology. Accuracy of the mapping is to 1ha minimum stand size. Stands less than 1ha were mapped, where appropriate, as mosaics with other habitats.

Balance of the SSSI area not listed as one of the notified habitat feature types is classed as site fabric.

Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)

Other Notes

Table 2a Species population objectives

	To maintain the designated species in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to their population attributes. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards.
Population balance	On this site favourable condition requires the maintenance of the population of each designated species or assemblage. Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in size of population or assemblage.

Species Feature (species or assemblage)	List supporting BAP Broad Habitats	Population Attribute (e.g. presence/absence, population size or assemblage score)	Site Specific Target range (specify geographical range target applies i.e. site, BAI more specific)	ge over which	Comments	
Criteria feature		Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Target	Comments	Use for CA?
Woodland lichens (Special habitat 28)	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - upland	Niche availability	Mapping, aerial photographs	No loss of area of woodland	Loss can come about through felling of trees.	Yes
Woodland lichens (Special habitat 28)	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - upland	Lichen communities, presence/absence of particular species	Visual assessment of presence of species listed in 'Target'	Mycoblastis affinis, Usnea filipendula, Sphaerophorus melanocarpus, Arthonia stellaris, Micaria botyroides, M. cinerea, M. violacea, Gyalideopsis muscicola, Bryoria smithii, Massalongia carnosa, Ochrolechia tartarea, Pilophorus strumaticus and Parmelia discordans.	National Nature Reserve files at Yarner Wood are the best source on Lichen Feature	Yes
Breeding bird assemblage of upland moorland without waterbodies	Acid grassland - upland Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - upland Bogs, blanket bogs and valley mire Fen, marsh and swamp, short sedge acidic fen and swamp Bogs, soakway and sump (upland)	Habitat extent	Record the extent of all habitat types used by the feature (the habitat reporting categories are a useful guide to categorising habitat types for birds). Use aerial photographs and /or Phase 2 habitat survey to assess extent of broad habitat types.	Maintain the area of habitats that are used by the feature in the site within acceptable limits: Extent of all habitats used by the feature should be maintained - losses of 5% or more of any relevant habitat type unacceptable.		Yes

Species Feature (species or assemblage)	List supporting BAP Broad Habitats	Population Attribute (e.g. presence/absence, population size or assemblage score)	Site Specific Target range (specify geographical ranget target applies i.e. site, BAI more specific)	ge over which	Comments	
Criteria feature	Dwarf-shrub heath — upland, dry Dwarf shrub heath — upland, wet Bracken, U1e, U3, U4a, U4c, U4/20-related (species-rich bracken)	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Target	Comments	Use for CA?
Breeding bird assemblage of upland moorland without waterbodies	Acid grassland - upland Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - upland Bogs, blanket bogs and valley mire Fen, marsh and swamp, short sedge acidic fen and swamp Bogs, soakway and sump (upland) Dwarf-shrub heath — upland, dry Dwarf shrub heath — upland, wet Bracken, U1e, U3, U4a, U4c, U4/20-related (species-rich bracken)	Baseline Assemblage score (BTO index) = 24.5 taken from Scientific Information file Species (score) = Buzzard (3), Red Grouse (1), Golden Plover (2), Dunlin (3), Snipe (2), Curlew (2), Whinchat (2), Stonechat (2), Wheatear (2), Ring Ouzel (2.5), Raven (3)	Record presence/absence of breeding species within the assemblage. Methods of survey will be a combination of those given in Part 2 depending on the species within the assemblage. Breeding must be confirmed as proven or probable according to generic proof of breeding codes (Appendix 1). A count of the numbers of breeding pairs/units in a site is not needed. On the basis of presence/absence recalculate the assemblage score using the SSSI Guidelines for the relevant habitat. The species present at designation and each monitoring event do not need to be the same as this is a score-based assessment only.	Maintain assemblage diversity: If the total score calculated for a breeding bird assemblage falls by the equivalent of 25% or more in points then the assemblage is in unfavourable condition.	Devon Birds, RSPB and BTO are good sources of data on bird populations. Devon birds publish 'Bird Reports' annually with information on breeding birds gathered by members.	Yes

Species Feature (species or assemblage)	List supporting BAP Broad Habitats	Population Attribute (e.g. presence/absence, population size or assemblage score)	Site Specific Target range and Measures (specify geographical range over which target applies i.e. site, BAP broad habitat or more specific)		Comments	
Criteria feature		Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Target	Comments	Use for CA?
Atlantic Salmon (Salmo salar)	Rivers and streams	Adult run	Fish counters where available Rod catch data	Total run size at least matching an agreed reference level, including a seasonal pattern of migration characteristic of the river and maintenance of the multi-sea-winter component.	Comprehensive guidance on determining favourable condition in relation to adult salmon population parameters can be obtained in *Cowx, 2002. Need to establish baseline	Yes
Otter	Rivers and streams	Otter population – inland waterways	Presence/absence	Otters present on site.	Only SAC feature	Yes
Southern damselfly	Fen, marsh and swamp	Southern damselfly population size of 50 from SAC notification	Population size	Southern damselfly population = or >50	Only SAC feature	Yes

Rationale for species population attributes

(Include methods of estimation (measures), and the approximate degree of change which these are capable of detecting).

Species populations attribute for Southern damselfly taken from SAC notification data.

Assemblage of Breeding Birds score based on Mudge G P, Crooke C H, Booth R G and Smith S E A (1979) An ecological study of bird populations and vegetation on open moorland areas of Dartmoor, 1979. A report to RSPB and Dartmoor National Park Authority.

Data on adult population run of Atlantic salmon are sparse and inconclusive. Survey data presented in Environment Agency Waterbody Information Packs (2011) shows that Salmon are present in some watercourses but at a very low level. The surveys focus on whole waterbodies which arise in the SAC rather than the parts that are within designated sites making the data for SAC populations difficult to assess. More targeted survey data would be useful and should be sought in the future.

Data on Otter population size are sparse. Similar to the comments on Salmon data Otter population size within the SAC has not been assessed specifically. Survey data should be sought in the future.

Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)
Southern damselfly target taken from SAC notification data since it is a SAC only feature.
Other Notes

Table 3 Site specific Habitat/geological condition objectives

Table 3a. To maintain the **acid grassland (upland)** at North Dartmoor SSSI in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:

Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)

Site-specific	standards defining	favourable condition			
Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for CA?
Acid grassland (upland) U3 - Agrostis curtisii grassland	Physical structure — indicators of litter, and of ground disturbance due to herbivore and human activity.	Assess against visual estimate at 1 m2 scale.	The percentage of the ground cover for which dead plant litter forms a "thatch" or "felt", in patches more than 2 cm across, should be less than 10%.	Exclude bare ground or bare rock. Exclude dead leaves which are mostly upright, and scattered litter which does not form a "thatch" or "felt".	Yes
U4 - Festuca ovina - Agrostis capillaris - Galium saxatile grassland U5 - Nardus stricta - Galium saxatile grassland U4/20 - U4/20-related species rich bracken	indicators of litter, and of ground disturbance due to herbivore and human activity.	Assess in the following two ways: (a) for diffuse/scattered disturbance of the ground, not on clearly defined paths or tracks, by visual estimate at 4 m2 scale; and (b) for distinct and clearly defined paths and tracks (exclude constructed tracks) by visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location.		Disturbed bare ground is where a substrate of bare humus, bare peat, bare mineral soil, bare gravel, or soil covered only by an algal mat, has its surface broken and imprinted by hoof marks, wallows, human foot prints, or vehicle and machinery tracks. The emphasis is on 'disturbed' rather than 'bare'. Failure of this target should also be recorded if any evidence of this is found while walking between sample locations.	
	Vegetation composition — cover of invasive,	Assess at two scales, and should be met at both scales:	Less than 1% of vegetation cover should consist of, collectively, Arrhenatherum	Never found to be a problem on this site	No
	,		elatius, Cirsium arvense, Cirsium vulgare,	ans site	

Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for CA?
	species that are undesirable when over- abundant.	m2; and b) Against visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible	Cynosurus cristatus, large docks (excluding Rumex acetosa), Lolium perenne, Senecio jacobaea, Urtica dioica. Less than 10% of vegetation cover should		Yes
	Vegetation composition — cover positive indicators	Assess against visual estimate at 1 m2 scale.	consist of Juncus effusus At least 4 positive indicator species from the following list should be present list: Galium saxatile, Potentilla erecta, Rumex acetosella, Anthoxatum odoratum, Festuca ovina, Agrostis capillaris, Pluerozium		Tes
	l l	Assess against visual estimate at 1 m2 scale.	schreberi, Agrostis curtisii, Nardus stricta. More than 10% of the vegetation cover should consist of forbs.		Yes
	species.	Assess against visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location.	Less than 10% of vegetation cover should be made up of bracken and/or scattered		Yes Yes
	Vegetation composition — indicators of current grazing.	Assess against visual estimate at 1 m2 scale.	The percentage of vegetation cover made up of Juncus squarrosus and/or Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus should be less than 33%.		Yes
		1 m2 scale. If a moss layer is present the height of the leaf tips	At least 25% of the live leaves and/or flowering shoots of vascular plants should be more than 5 cm above the ground surface, and at least 25% should be less than 5 cm above the ground surface.	Exclude grass inflorescences.	Yes

Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site

Standards apply only to those areas mapped as Upland Acid Grassland of relevant NVC in Annex 1 Maps 1-4. There is no evidence that the Acid Grassland feature was present at other locations since notification. More species poor communities not conforming to the feature types are treated as site fabric.

Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)

Most of Dartmoor's acid grassland is relatively species-poor, though areas of herb-rich grassland do exist. There are extensive areas which mingle with subalpine dry dwarf shrub heath in a mosaic, where it is likely that the acid grassland has been created through over-grazing or burning of the heath at some point in the past.

Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)
(The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad

habitat type and any dependent designated species).

The targets are based on CSM guidance for Upland Acidic Grasslands (2009) These measures have been selected to reflect the local character of the Acid Grassland feature using results from previous condition assessments and notification documents.

Invasive 'weedy' species have never been found to be a problem at this site so that generic target is not used for assessing condition

Other Notes

Variations from the generic guidance agreed with Upland Specialist November 2014

Table 3b. To maintain the **Bogs** at **North Dartmoor SSSI** in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:

Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)

Standards apply to areas mapped as BAP Broad Habitat Bog of relevant NVC community types as shown on maps in Annex 1

Site-specific s	tandards defining fav	ourable condition	1		
Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for CA?
valley bog (upland) M1 - Sphagnum auriculatum bog pool community M2 - Sphagnum cuspidatum/recurvum (fallax) bog pool community	frequency of indicator species. Vegetation composition — cover of indicator species.	estimate at 4 m2 scale. Score each Sphagnum sp. separately. Assess against visual	Menyanthes trifoliata, Narthecium ossifragum, non-crustose lichens, Pleurocarpous mosses, Racomitrium lanuginosum, Rhynchospora alba, Sphagnum spp., Trichophorum	recurvum p.p.) scores one if other species of Sphagnum are present, but scores zero if it is the only species of Sphagnum present. In valley bog it scores as one.	Yes Yes
	cover of other species	estimate for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location.	Less than 1% of vegetation cover should be made up of non-native species. Less than 10% of vegetation cover should be made up of a scattered native trees and scrub.		Yes

Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for CA?
ossifragum - Sphagnum papillosum nire mire M25 - Molinia caerulea Potentilla erecta mire M29 - Hypericum Blodes - Potamogeton	Vegetation structure — indicators of browsing.	Assess against visual estimate at 4 m2 scale. Assessment is best done in late winter through spring.	Less than 50% of the last complete growing season's shoots of dwarf-shrub species (collectively), should shows signs of browsing. In pioneer stage regrowth, less than 66% of the shoots of the last complete growing season's shoots of the dwarf-shrubs (collectively) should show signs of browsing.		Yes
olygonifolius soakway	Vegetation structure — disturbance	Assess against visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location.	There should be no observable signs of burning into the moss, liverwort or lichen layer or exposure of peat surface due to burning.		Yes
		Assess against visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location	(a) Slopes greater than 1 in 3, and all the		Yes
	Physical structure — peat erosion.		The extent of eroding peat should be less than the extent of stable re-deposited peat and new growth of bog vegetation within the feature		Yes
	Physical structure — indicators of ground disturbance due to herbivore and human activity.	Assess against visual estimate at 4 m2 scale.	Less than 10% of the Sphagnum cover should be crushed, broken, and/or pulled-up.		Yes

Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site

Standards apply to areas mapped as BAP Broad Habitat Bog of relevant NVC community types as shown on maps 1-4. There is no evidence that the Blanket Bog feature was found at other locations since notification.

Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)

Cover of other species such as Agrostis capillaris, Holcus Ianatus, Phragmites australis, Pteridium aquilinum, Ranunculus repens is not an issue in North Dartmoor so this generic target has been removed.

Some of the positive indicator species in the generic tables do not occur or are extremely scarce within North Dartmoor SSSI and have therefore been removed as indicators i.e. Empetrum nigrum, Myrica gale, Carex bigelowii, Potentilla palustris, Epilobium palustre, Salix repens, Betula nana, Genista anglica. To use these species as indicators would give a false impression that the site is 'failing' when there's no evidence that these species have ever formed a significant part of the vegetation community within the SSSI.

The target for positive indicator species found at sample points for blanket bog habitats has been reduced from 6 to 4 to reflect the relative species poverty of North Dartmoor's blanket bog communities. There is no evidence that the species frequency was ever high enough to justify a target of 6 species per sample.

The proportion of dwarf shrub shoots browsed target for bogs and heaths has been increased from <33% to <50%. The target of <50% was agreed following a consultation exercise with the Forest of Dartmoor Commoners Association, The Dartmoor Commoners Council, Dartmoor National Park and NFU. The target of 33% was seen as unachievable and too low for the local context. Surveys have found that this 33% target is consistently failed, largely it is thought, due to the limited heather cover of Dartmoor's bogs. This is an interim target which will be kept under review and if evidence is found that it isn't appropriate to Dartmoor it will be revised in future iterations of the FCT.

Generic text in 'comments' relating to 'excluding cool burns' from assessment has been removed. No consents for burning in the bog features as any burn would be classed as detrimental.

Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)

(The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species).

The targets are based on CSM guidance for blanket bogs (2009) These measures have been selected to reflect the local character of the blanket bog feature using results from previous condition assessments and notification documents.

Other Notes

Most of the blanket bog on North Dartmoor appears to have been degraded at some point in the past by a combination of historic management practices resulting in an extensive network of erosion channels and gullies. There is evidence that large areas were cut for domestic peat fuel. There are some areas where drains have been cut for commercial peat extraction.

Variations from the generic guidance agreed with Upland Specialist November 2014

Table 3c. To maintain the **Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - upland** at **North Dartmoor SSSI** in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:

Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)
Standards apply to Black-a-Tor Copse, unit 91 only.

Criteria	Attribute term	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for
feature	in guidance				CA?
	Natural processes	structured walk and/or transects.	Understorey (2-5m) present over at least 5% of total stand area. Canopy cover present over 50-75% of stand area. At least three age classes spread across the average life expectancy of the commonest trees. some areas of relatively undisturbed mature/old growth stands or a scatter of large trees allowed to grow to over-maturity/death on site (e.g. a minimum of 10% of the woodland or 5-10 trees per ha). A minimum of 3 fallen lying trees >20 cm diameter per ha and 4 trees per ha allowed to die standing.		Yes
		structured walk and/or transects.	At least 95% cover of site-native or acceptable naturalised species in any one storey/layer. Death, destruction or replacement of native woodland species through effects of introduced fauna or other external unnatural factors not more than 10% by number or area in a five year period.	Sycamore and Beech not native at this site	Yes
				Black a Tor Copse is the only major British site for the lichen <i>Bryoria smithii</i> which	Yes

Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for CA?
		to feature.	50-75% woodland area to be closed canopy to support Atlantic Woodland	grows on Oak tree trunks. The lichen Parmelia disscordans is found on boulders between the copse and the crags of Black Tor. The only known English site for this species	
	potential	structured walk and/or transects.	Signs of seedlings growing through to saplings to young trees at sufficient density to maintain canopy density over a 50 yr. period (or equivalent regrowth from coppice stumps). No more than 20% of areas regenerated by planting. All planting material of locally native stock. No planting in sites where it has not occurred in the last 15 years.		Yes
Lichen Assemblage	Composition		Presence of Mycoblastis affinis, Usnea filipendula, Sphaerophorus melanocarpus, Arthonia stellaris, Micaria botyroides, M. cinerea, M. violacea, Gyalideopsis muscicola, Bryoria smithii, Massalongia carnosa, Ochrolechia tartarea, Pilophorus strumaticus and Parmelia discordans.		Yes
	Shade		A mosaic of open glades and a closed tree canopy to be maintained, retaining diversity of light and shade, humid and well ventilated conditions around trees and rocks. Tree trunks should be at least 90% free of ivy, bramble or other shading plants	additional components of the overall	Yes

Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site

The only woodland within the North Dartmoor SSSI boundary is found at Black a Tor Copse. No woodland has been recorded at any other locations.

Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)

No evidence that Sycamore or Beech could be considered 'native' to this site so they have been excluded from contributing to the composition target.

Woodland regeneration target increased from 10 years to 50 years. This is a grazed site and grazing is critical for the maintenance of the Woodland Lichens interest feature. Without grazing the lower plants would be shaded out by growth of ground flora. 50 year regeneration time span is appropriate for this site, Oak is a long lived species and there is little danger of loss of woodland cover.

Understorey cover target changed from 20% to 5% to reflect the need to maintain an open structure for the benefit of the Woodland Lichen interest feature.

Lichen Assemblage feature targets incorporated within the Woodland Feature table for simplicity.

Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)

(The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species).

Based on JNCC, (2004), Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Woodland

Other Notes

Variations from the generic guidance agreed with Upland Specialist November 2014

Table 3d. To maintain the **Dwarf-shrub heath – upland, dry** at **North Dartmoor SSSI** in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:

Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)

Standards apply to areas mapped as BAP Broad Habitat Dwarf-shrub heath – upland, dry of relevant NVC community types as shown on maps in Annex 1

Does not apply to areas designated as Scheduled Monuments

Site-speci	fic standards defin	ing favourable condition	n		
Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for CA?
	indicators of heavy		Less than 50% of the last complete growing season's shoots of dwarf-shrub species collectively, should shows signs of browsing.		Yes
14 - Ulex gallii - Agrostis curtisii eath	-	late winter through spring.	In pioneer stage regrowth, less than 66% of the last complete growing season's shoots of the dwarf-shrubs (collectively) should show signs of browsing.		Yes
H8 - Calluna vulgaris - Ulex gallii heath	bryophytes and lichens.		At least 1 species of moss or liverwort or non- crustose lichen should be present	Qualifiers: Exclude Polytrichum spp. and Campylopus spp.	Yes
H10 - Calluna ulgaris - Erica inerea heath H12 - Calluna ulgaris - Yaccinium	Vegetation composition —cover and frequency of dwarf-shrubs.		At least 50% of vegetation cover should be made up of Calluna vulgaris, Erica spp. Vaccinium spp. Ulex gallii, Agrostis curtisii	Exclude dead heather, bare rock, recently burnt areas and pioneer phase heath from the assessment of the live dwarfshrub canopy cover.	Yes
nyrtillus heath			At least 25% of dwarf-shrub cover should be made up of: Calluna vulgaris, Erica spp. Racomitrium lanuginosum, Vaccinium spp		Yes
			Less than 50% of dwarf shrub cover should be made up of Ulex gallii		Yes
			At least two indicator species should be present		Yes

Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for CA?
			from Calluna vulgaris, Erica spp., Racomitrium lanuginosum, Vaccinium spp. Agrostis curtisii		
	Vegetation composition — cover of other	Assess against visual estimate for as much of the	Less than 1% of vegetation cover should be made up of non-native species.		Yes
	species	feature as is visible while standing at a sample location.	Less than 10% of the vegetation cover should be		Yes
			Less than 20% of the vegetation cover should be made up of scattered native trees and scrub.		Yes
		Assess at two scales and should be met at both scales: (a) against visual estimate at 4 m2 scale; and (b) against visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location.			Yes
	disturbance	If a feature is viewed at a distance, and/or there is uncertainty about whether or not a burn has actually	There should be no signs of burning and other disturbance inside the boundaries of the following sensitive areas: (a) Vegetation severely wind-clipped, mostly forming a mat less than 10 cm thick.(b) Areas where soils are thin and less than 5 cm deep.(c) Slopes greater than 1 in 3 (18°), and all the sides of gullies(d) Ground with abundant, and/or an almost continuous carpet of Sphagnum, liverworts and/or lichens.(e) Areas with noticeably uneven structure, at a spatial scale of around 1 m2 or less. The unevenness (e.g. more commonly found in very old heather stands) will relate to distinct, often large, spreading dwarf-shrub bushes. The dwarf-shrub canopy will not be completely continuous, and some of its upper surface may be twice as high as other parts. Layering is likely to be present and may be common.(f) Pools, wet hollows,	Failure of this target should also be recorded if any evidence of this is found while walking between sample locations.	Yes

Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for CA?
			of the edge of watercourses.		
			Outside areas identified above, all growth phases of heather should occur throughout the area. At least 10% of the heather should be in the late mature growth phase.		Yes
	indicators of ground disturbance due to herbivore and human activity.	Assess in the following two ways: (a) for diffuse/scattered disturbance of the ground, not on clearly defined paths or tracks, by visual estimate at 4 m2 scale; and(b) for distinct and clearly defined paths and tracks (exclude constructed tracks) by visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location.	up of disturbed bare ground*.	Exclude recently burnt ground. Disturbed bare ground is where a substrate of bare humus, bare peat, bare mineral soil, bare gravel, or soil covered only by an algal mat, has its surface broken and imprinted by hoof marks, wallows, human foot prints, or vehicle and machinery tracks. The emphasis is on 'disturbed' rather than 'bare'.	

Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site

Dartmoor has a relatively high proportion of the National historic environment resource and is recognised as an Internationally significant historic landscape. Remains of every period of human occupation and activity exist in a palimpsest making this landscape especially valuable.

Partners, including English Heritage and Dartmoor National Park, have worked with us to agree a landscape scale 'Vision for Dartmoor'. This recognises the value of the historic environment and we have agreed that management in areas of high historic value, particularly Scheduled Monuments, should be managed primarily to maintain the value of the historic resource.

These sites amount to a small proportion of the SSSI area and exist largely in areas of acid grassland within a mosaic of heath and bog. In this context the management of these limited areas for the historic interest should not compromise the recovery or maintenance of the SSSI features.

Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)

The proportion of dwarf shrub shoots browsed target for bogs and heaths has been increased from <33% to <50%. The target of <50% was agreed following a consultation exercise with the Forest of Dartmoor Commoners Association, The Dartmoor Commoners Council, Dartmoor National Park and NFU. The target of 33% was seen as unachievable and too low for the local context. Surveys have found that this 33% target is consistently failed, largely it is thought, due to the fragmented nature of Dartmoor's heaths. This interim target will be kept under review and if evidence shows it to be inappropriate it will be revised in future iterations of the FCT.

Weedy species (Cirsium arvense, Cirsium vulgare, large docks (excluding Rumex acetosa), , Ranunculus repens, or Urtica dioica) have never been fond to be a problem in North Dartmoor so this generic target has been removed.

Indicator species chose to reflect important elements of the notified heath communities.

Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)

(The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species).

The targets are based on CSM guidance for Dwarf Shrub Heath Upland (2009) These measures have been selected to reflect the local character of the heath feature using results from previous condition assessments and notification documents

Other Notes

ions from the generic guida	ince agreed with opi	iana opeciansi Nov	- CITIDEI 2014		

Table 3e. To maintain the **Dwarf-shrub heath – upland, wet** at **North Dartmoor SSSI** in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:

Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)

Standards apply to areas mapped as BAP Broad Habitat Dwarf-shrub heath – upland, wet of relevant NVC community types as shown on maps in Annex 1

Does not apply to areas designated as Scheduled Monuments

Site-specific standards defining favourable condition						
Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for CA?	
Wet heath (upland) M15 - Scirpus cespitosus - Erica tetralix wet heath	Vegetation composition — frequency of indicator species		Erica tetralix should be present within a 20m radius of the centre of the quadrat.		Yes	
	Vegetation structure — indicators of browsing.	4 m2 scale. Assessment is best done in late winter through spring.	Less than 50% of the last complete growing season's shoots of dwarf-shrub species collectively, should shows signs of browsing.		Yes	
			In pioneer stage regrowth, , less than 66% of the last complete growing season's shoots of the dwarf-shrubs (collectively) should show signs of browsing.	Exclude "pioneer" areas created by temporary heavy browsing and trampling in the same year as when the monitoring is being undertaken.	Yes	
	_		None of the following should make up more than 75% of vegetation cover: (a) dwarf-shrubs; or (b) graminoids.		Yes	
	cover.	for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a	At least 50% of vegetation cover should consist of species from Erica spp. Calluna vulgaris, Vaccinium spp, Spagnum spp. and at least 20% of the vegetation cover should consist of Erica spp and Calluna vulgaris		Yes	

Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Measure Site-specific Targets		Use for CA?	
			Less than 10% of vegetation cover should be made up of bracken.		Yes	
			Less than 10% of vegetation cover should be made up of scattered native trees and scrub.		Yes	
			Less than 1% of vegetation cover should be made up of non-native species.		Yes	
		m2 scale; and (b) against visual estimate for as	Less than 10% of the vegetation cover should consist of Juncus effusus.		Yes	
	Vegetation structure — disturbance	for as much of the feature as is	There should be no observable signs of burning into the moss, liverwort or lichen layer or exposure of peat surface due to burning.		Yes	
		If a feature is viewed at a distance, and there is uncertainty about whether or not a burn has actually entered the feature, then	inside the boundaries of the following sensitive areas: (a) Vegetation severely wind-clipped, mostly forming a mat	Failure of this target should also be recorded if any evidence of this is found while walking between sample locations.	Yes	

Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	for CA?
		inside the feature, it is considered damaging).	and all the sides of gullies(d) Ground with abundant, and/or an almost continuous carpet of Sphagnum, liverworts and/or lichens.(e) Areas with noticeably uneven structure, at a spatial scale of around 1 m2 or less. The unevenness (e.g. more commonly found in very old heather stands) will relate to distinct, often large, spreading dwarf-shrub bushes. The dwarf-shrub canopy will not be completely continuous, and some of its upper surface may be twice as high as other parts. Layering is likely to be present and may be common.(f) Pools, wet hollows, haggs and erosion gullies, and within 5 – 10 metres of the edge of watercourses.		
	structure — indicators of ground disturbance due to herbivore and human activity.	4 m2 scale. Assess in the following two ways:			Yes Yes
	Physical structure — indicators of	Assess against visual estimate	Less than 10% of the total feature area, should show signs of active† drainage, resulting from ditches or heavy trampling or tracking.	Qualifiers: Failure of target (1) should also be recorded if any evidence of this is found while walking between sample locations. † Drainage should be considered active if it has altered, or is likely to alter, or remove, the original	Yes

Site-specific standards defining favourable condition						
Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for CA?	
	erosion.			vegetation, and facilitate the removal of water from the site.		
		Assess against visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location.	The extent of eroding peat and/or mineral soil should be less than the extent of re-deposited peat and/or mineral soil and new growth of wet heath and/or bog vegetation within the feature.	Redeposited peat/mineral soil occurs on relatively level ground at the downward slope end of erosion gullies. On peat it is often characterised by scattered shoots of <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> . Once established, further deposition and colonisation can extend up the gully floor.	Yes	

Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site

Dartmoor has a relatively high proportion of the National historic environment resource and is recognised as an Internationally significant historic landscape. Remains of every period of human occupation and activity exist in a palimpsest making this landscape especially valuable.

Partners, including English Heritage and Dartmoor National Park, have worked with us to agree a landscape scale 'Vision for Dartmoor'. This recognises the value of the historic environment and we have agreed that management in areas of high historic value, particularly Scheduled Monuments, should be managed primarily to maintain the value of the historic resource.

These sites amount to a small proportion of the SSSI area and exist largely in areas of acid grassland within a mosaic of heath and bog. In this context the management of these limited areas for the historic interest should not compromise the recovery or maintenance of the SSSI features

Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)

The proportion of dwarf shrub shoots browsed target for bogs and heaths has been increased from <33% to <50%. The target of <50% was agreed following a consultation exercise with the Forest of Dartmoor Commoners Association, The Dartmoor Commoners Council, Dartmoor National Park and NFU. The target of 33% was seen as unachievable and too low for the local context. Surveys have found that this 33% target is consistently failed, largely it is thought, due to the fragmented nature of Dartmoor's heaths. This interim target will be kept under review and if evidence shows it to be inappropriate it will be revised in future iterations of the FCT.

Generic scattered trees and scrub target reduced from 20% to 10% as there is very little scrub and no evidence that it has ever been a significant component of the wet heath habitat.

Indicator species chosen to reflect the important components of the notified wet heath features.

Generic target for weedy species Agrostis capillaris, Holcus Ianatus, Phragmites australis, Ranunculus repens removed as these have never been found to be a problem in North Dartmoor.

Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)

(The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species).

The targets are based on CSM guidance for Dwarf shrub heath upland wet (2009) These measures have been selected to reflect the local character of the wet heath feature using results from previous condition assessments and notification documents

Other Notes

Variations from the generic guidance agreed with Upland Specialist November 2014

Table 3f. To maintain the **Finite buried interest** at **North Dartmoor SSSI** in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:

Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)

Blackridge Brook only at OS grid ref SX579841

Site-specific standards defining favourable condition					
Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Target	Comments	Use for CA?
Finite buried interest (FB)	Condition of features of interest	Visual / fixed-point photography	The features of interest remain intact: the area marked as containing important palaeogene deposits at Blackridge Brook should not have diminished compared to the maps in the site electronic science files		Yes
	Vegetation	Visual / fixed-point photography	Vegetation is not inhibiting excavation of, nor damaging the features of interest. Vegetation cover should remain predominantly acid grassland and upland heath		Yes
	Agricultural practices	Visual / fixed-point photography	There are no inappropriate agricultural practices, such as trenching, damaging the features of interest.		Yes
	Tree planting	Visual / fixed-point photography	There is no unconsented tree planting inhibiting excavation of or damaging the features of interest.		Yes
	Tipping or landfill	Visual / fixed-point photography	There is no unconsented tipping or landfill inhibiting excavation of or damaging the features of interest.		Yes
	Engineering works	Visual / fixed-point photography	There are no unconsented engineering works, such as building or trenching, inhibiting excavation of or damaging the features of interest.		Yes

Site-specific standards defining favourable condition						
Criteria	Attribute term in	Measure	Target	Comments	Use for CA?	
feature	guidance					
	Recreational activities	Visual / fixed-point photography	There are no inappropriate recreational activities, such as off-road driving, damaging the features of interest.		Yes	
	Geological specimen collecting	Visual / fixed-point photography	Specimen collecting is not damaging the features of interest.		Yes	

Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site

Black Ridge Brook, according to the SMB, provides an important palynological record of the Flandrian vegetation history and environmental change on north Dartmoor. The pollen sequence covers the whole period from the late Devensian/Flandrian boundary almost to the present day and is supported by radiocarbon dating. In addition to the relatively long record, the site provides pollen evidence for local tree cover and relatively early burning.

Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)

No variations from generic guidance

Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)

(The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species).

Other I	Notes
---------	-------

Table 3g. To maintain the **Short Sedge Acidic Fen** at **North Dartmoor SSSI** in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:

Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)

Does not apply to areas designated as Scheduled Monuments
Standards apply to areas mapped as Bogs of the relevant Short Sedge Acidic Fen NVC community types as shown on maps in Annex 1. Do not include the fringing areas of rush in assessments.

Criteria	Attribute term in	Measure	Target	Comments	Use for CA?
feature	guidance				
Short-sedge acidic fen (upland) M4 - Carex rostrata - Sphagnum recurvum	Vegetation structure — indicators of current grazing.	Assess against visual estimate at the 4 m2 scale. If a moss layer is present the height of the leaf tips and flowering shoots should be estimated from the upper surface of the moss, otherwise from the upper surface of the soil or plant litter.	For fens and flushes, at least 50% of live leaves and flowering shoots of vascular plants should more than 15 cm above the ground surface.	Exclude grass inflorescences and well-developed tussocks e.g. of <i>Molinia</i> or <i>Juncus</i> spp.	Yes
(fallax) mire M6 - Carex echinata - Sphagnum recurvum (fallax) /auriculatum	Vegetation composition A	Assess against visual estimate at 4 m2 scale.	For M4, M6 there should be at least 2 indicator species present in the vegetation cover.	Indicators use: small to medium Carex sized spp. Hydrocotyle vulgaris Sphagnum spp., , Eriophorum angustifolium, Juncus acutiflorus, Menyanthes trifoliata, Potentilla erecta, Ranunculus flammula, Succisa pratensis, Viola palustris	Yes
(denticulatum) mire			There should be at least 1 species from the following: small to medium sized Carex spp., Hydrocotyle vulgaris, Potentilla palustris, Sphagnum spp.		Yes
	Vegetation composition — cover	Assess against visual estimate at 4 m2 scale.	At least 50% of vegetation cover should be made up of indicator species (25% from each of groups i and ii).	Group i: small to medium Carex sized spp. Hydrocotyle vulgaris Potentilla palustris Sphagnum spp. Group ii: Epilobium palustre, Eriophorum angustifolium, Juncus	Yes

Definitions of Favourable Condition: North Dartmoor v.0.5 Final 16/11/2014

Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Target	Comments	Use for CA?
				acutiflorus, Menyanthes trifoliata, Potentilla erecta, Ranunculus flammula, Succisa pratensis, Viola palustris	
		Assess against visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample	Less than 1% of vegetation cover should be made up of non-native species.		Yes
		location.	Less than 10% of vegetation cover should be made up of scattered native trees and scrub.	Exclude Myrica gale	Yes
		Assess at two scales, and should be met at both scales: (a) against visual estimate at 4 m2 scale; and (b) against visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible	Less than 10% of the vegetation cover should consist of <i>Juncus effusus</i> .		Yes
		while standing at a sample location.	Less than 10% of the ground cover should be disturbed bare ground*.	Disturbed bare ground is where a substrate of bare humus, bare peat, bare mineral soil, bare gravel, or soil covered only by an algal mat, has its surface broken and imprinted by hoof marks, wallows, human foot prints, or vehicle and machinery tracks. The emphasis is on 'disturbed' rather than 'bare'.	Yes
	Physical structure — indicators of increased active drainage and drying-out, or ground disturbance due to herbivore and human activity.	Assess in the following two ways: (a) for diffuse/scattered disturbance of the ground, not on clearly defined paths or tracks, by visual estimate at 4 m2 scale; and (b) for distinct and clearly defined paths and tracks (exclude constructed tracks) by visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a	Less than 10% of the total feature area, should show signs of active† drainage, resulting from ditches or heavy trampling or tracking.	Failure of this target should also be recorded if any evidence of this is found while walking between sample locations. † Drainage should be considered active if it has altered, or is likely to alter, or remove, the original vegetation, and facilitate the removal of water from the site.	Yes

Definitions of Favourable Condition: North Dartmoor v.0.5 Final 16/11/2014

Criteria feature	Attribute term in guidance	Measure	Target	Comments	Use for CA?
		sample location.			
		Assess against visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location.			

Audit Trail

Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site

Standards apply only to areas mapped as Bogs of the relevant Short Sedge Acidic Fen NVC community types as shown on maps in Annex 1. There is no evidence that this feature was ever present at other locations.

Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)

Anthoxanthum odoratum, Epilobium hirsutum, Holcus lanatus, Phragmites australis, Ranunculus repens have never been found to be a problem in North Dartmoor so this target has been removed.

Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)

(The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species).

The targets are based on Uplands CSM guidance (2009) These measures have been selected to reflect the local character of the Fen feature using results from previous condition assessments and notification documents

Other Notes

Many (most) of the valley mires on North Dartmoor are small and scattered along the valley floors. Few of them correspond well to published NVC communities.

Table 3h. To maintain the **Soakaway and Sump** at **North Dartmoor SSSI** in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:

Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)

Does not apply to areas designated as Scheduled Monuments

Standards apply to areas mapped as Bogs of relevant the Soakaway and Sump NVC community types as shown on maps in Annex 1

Criteria	Attribute term in	Measure	Target	Comments	Use for
feature	guidance				CA?
Soakway and sump (upland) M29 -	Vegetation composition - cover	Assess against visual estimate at 4 m2 scale.	Either Hypericum elodes or Potamogeton polygonifolius should be present in the vegetation cover.		Yes
Hypericum eloides - Potamogeton polygonifolius soakaway			At least 75% of vegetation cover should be made up of the following indicator species: Carex spp., Hypericum elodes, Potamogeton polygonifolius, Sphagnum spp.		Yes
		Assess against visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample	Less than 1% of vegetation cover should be made up of non-native species.		Yes
		location.	Less than 10% of vegetation cover should be made up of scattered native trees and scrub.		Yes
		Assess against visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location. Assess against visual	Less than 20% of vegetation cover should be made up of <i>Molinia caerulea</i> .		Yes
		estimate at 4 m2 scale.	Less than 10% of vegetation cover should be made up of other graminoids.	Include Juncus acutiflorus and Juncus effusus, but exclude Molinia and sedges, in the assessment of "other graminoids".	Yes

Criteria	Attribute term in	Measure	Target	Comments	Use for
feature	guidance				CA?
	Physical structure — indicators of increased active drainage and drying-out, and ground disturbance due to herbivore and human activity.	Assess against visual estimate at 4 m2 scale.	Less than 25% of the ground cover, of each soakaway, should be disturbed bare ground*.	Disturbed bare ground is where a substrate of bare humus, bare peat, bare mineral soil, bare gravel, or soil covered only by an algal mat, has its surface broken and imprinted by hoof marks, wallows, human foot prints, or vehicle and machinery tracks. The emphasis is on 'disturbed' rather than 'bare'.	Yes
		Assess against the aggregate of visual estimates for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at all sample locations.	Over the whole feature scanned from sample locations, less than 10% of ground cover should be disturbed bare ground*.	Disturbed bare ground is where a substrate of bare humus, bare peat, bare mineral soil, bare gravel, or soil covered only by an algal mat, has its surface broken and imprinted by hoof marks, wallows, human foot prints, or vehicle and machinery tracks. The emphasis is on 'disturbed' rather than 'bare'.	Yes
		Assess against visual estimate for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location.	Less than 10% of the total feature area, should show signs of active† drainage, resulting from ditches or heavy trampling or tracking.	Failure of this target should also be recorded if any evidence of this is found while walking between sample locations. † Drainage should be considered active if it has altered, or is likely to alter, or remove, the original vegetation, and facilitate the removal of water from the site.	Yes

Audit Trail

Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site

Standards apply only to areas mapped as Bogs of the relevant Short Sedge Acidic Fen NVC community types as shown on maps in Annex 1. There is no evidence that this feature was ever present at other locations.

Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)

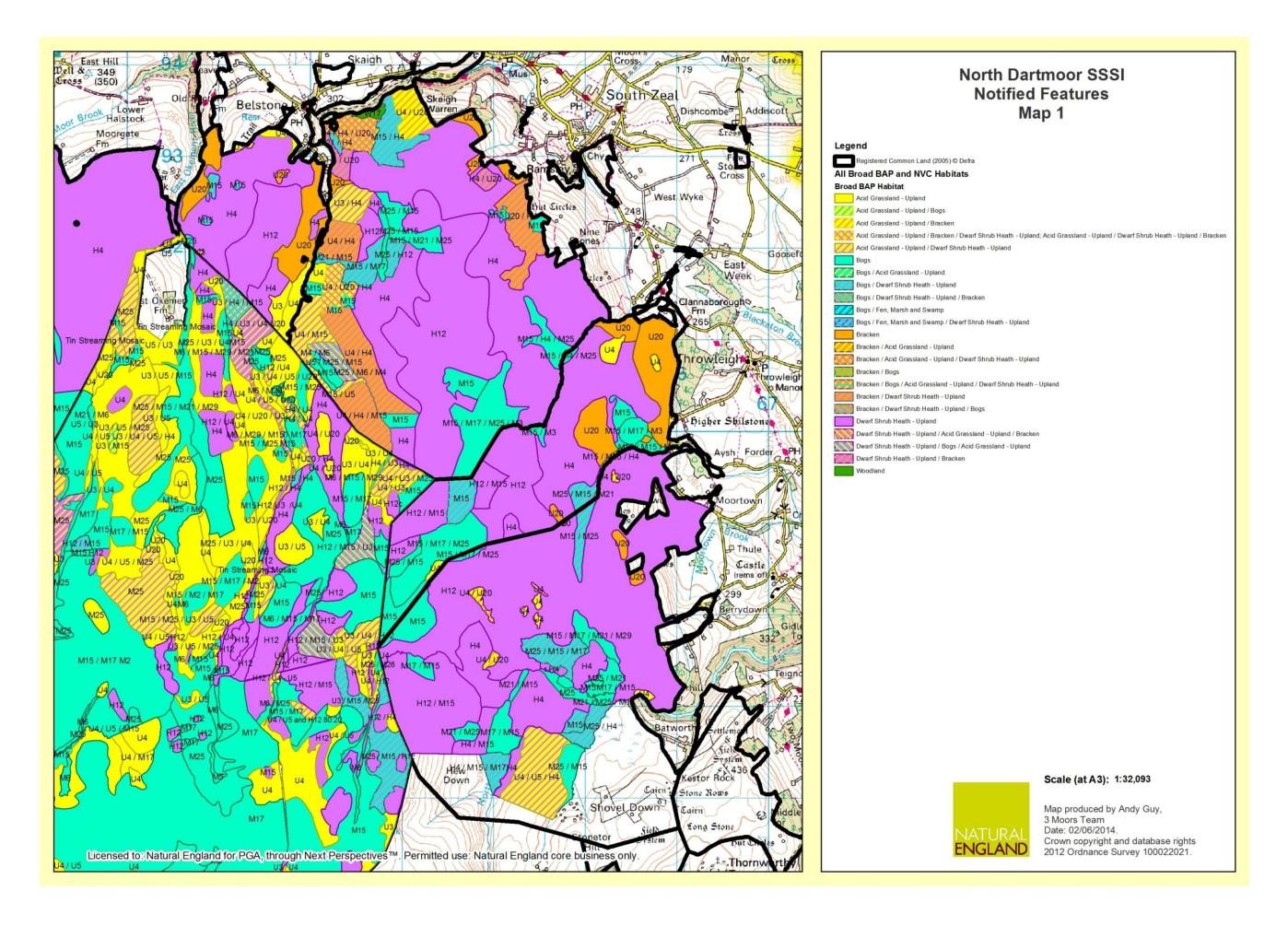
No variations from generic guidance

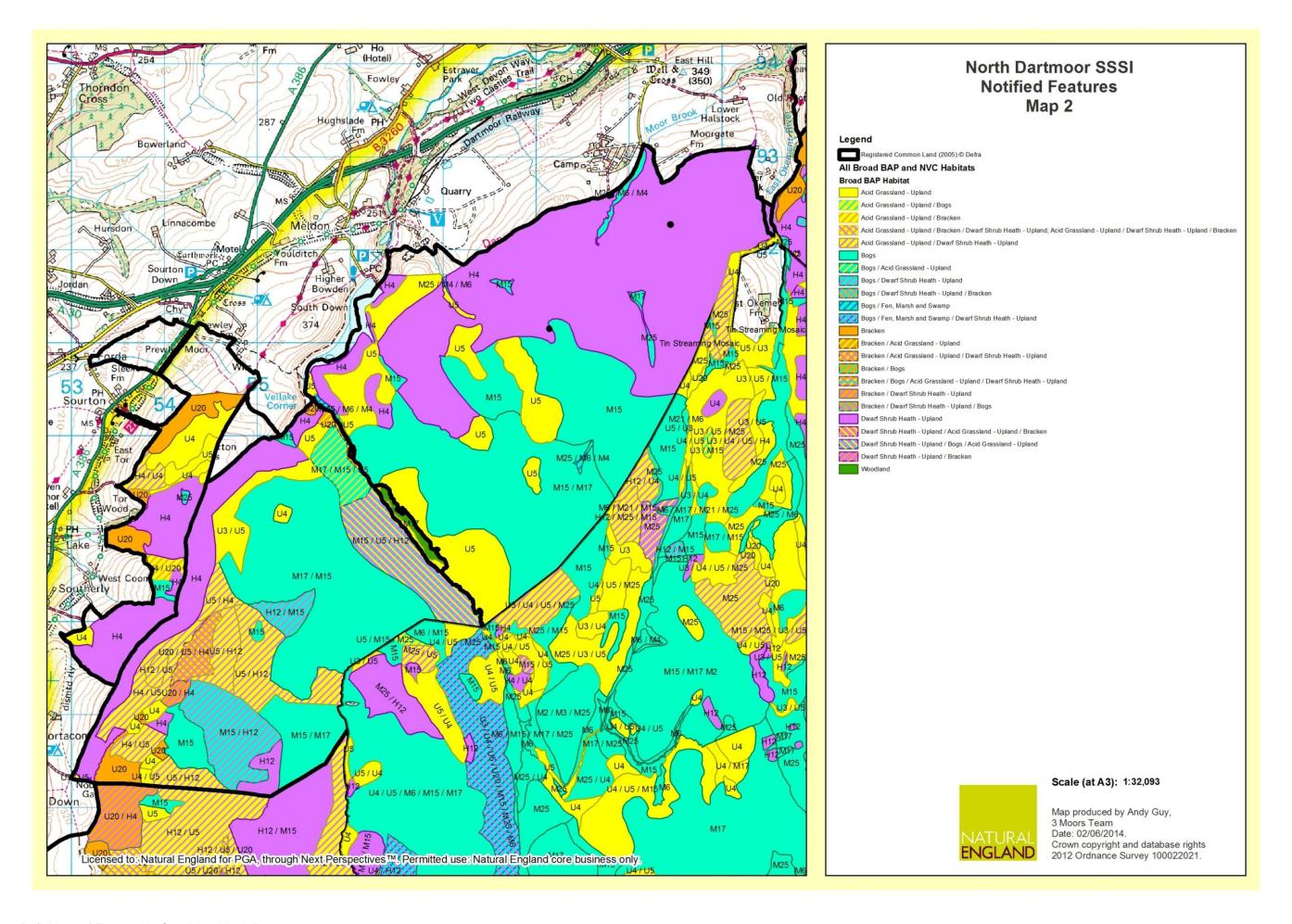
Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)

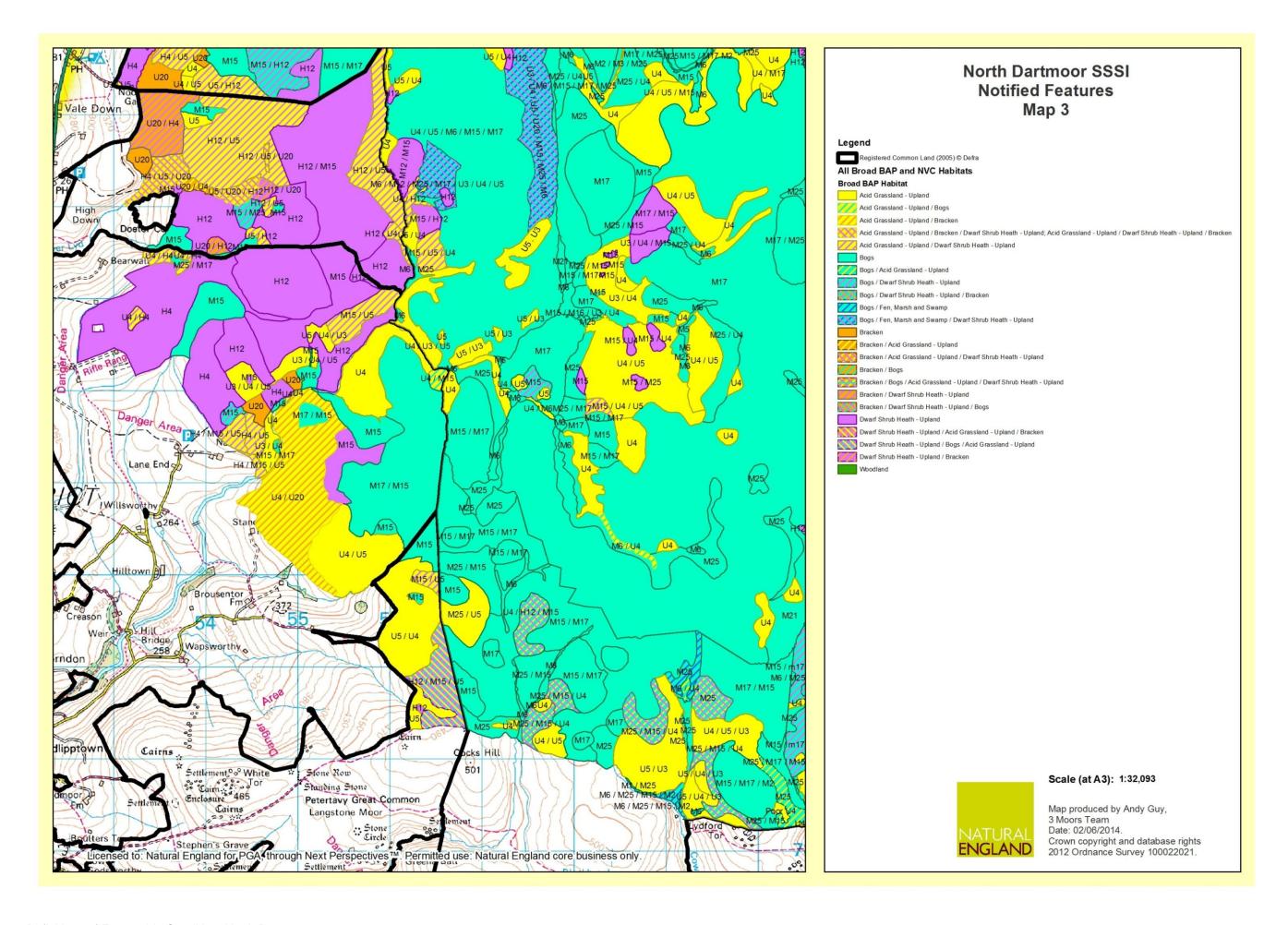
(The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species).

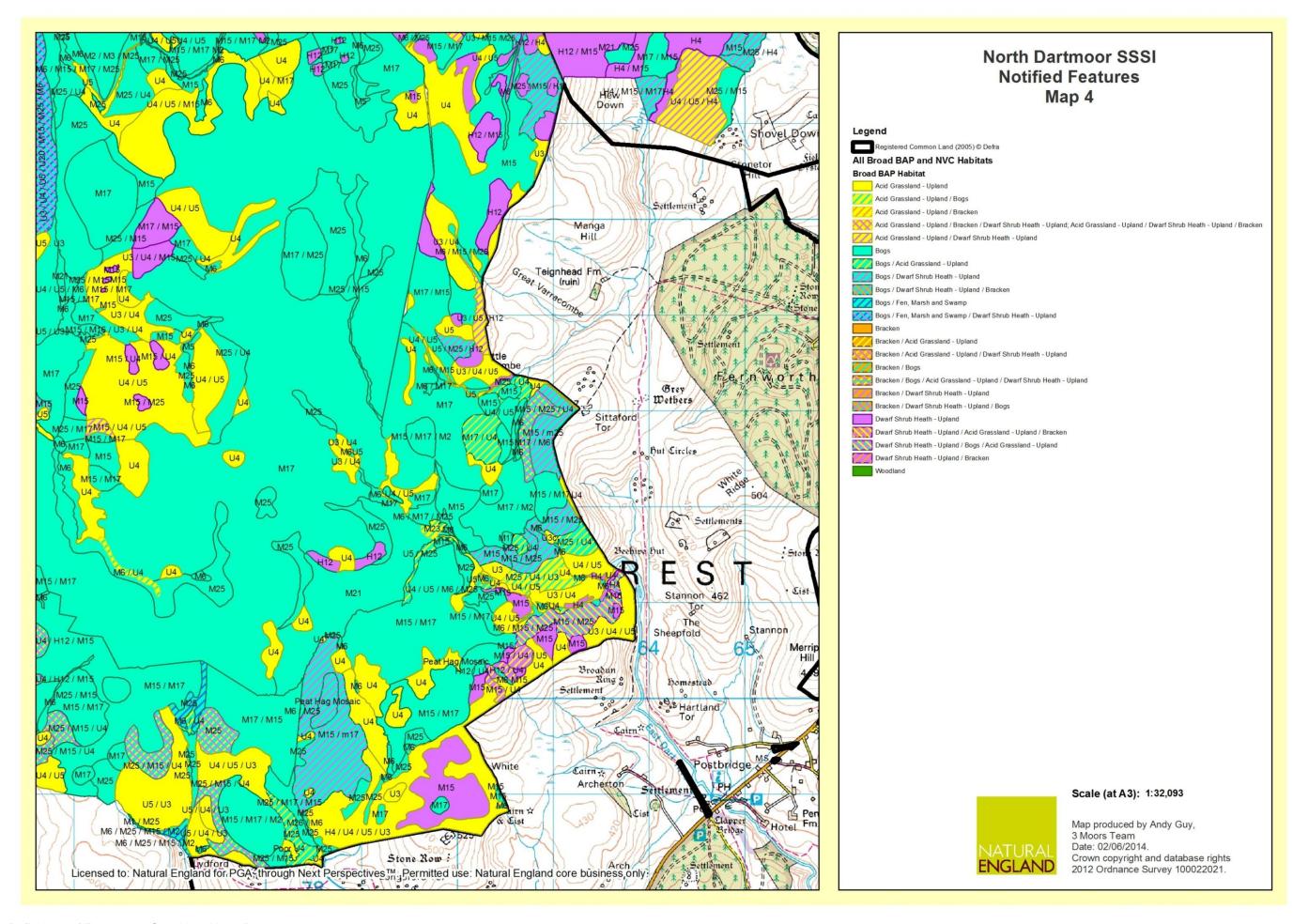
The targets are based on Uplands CSM guidance (2009) These measures have been selected to reflect the local character of the Soakaway and Sump feature using results from previous condition assessments and notification documents

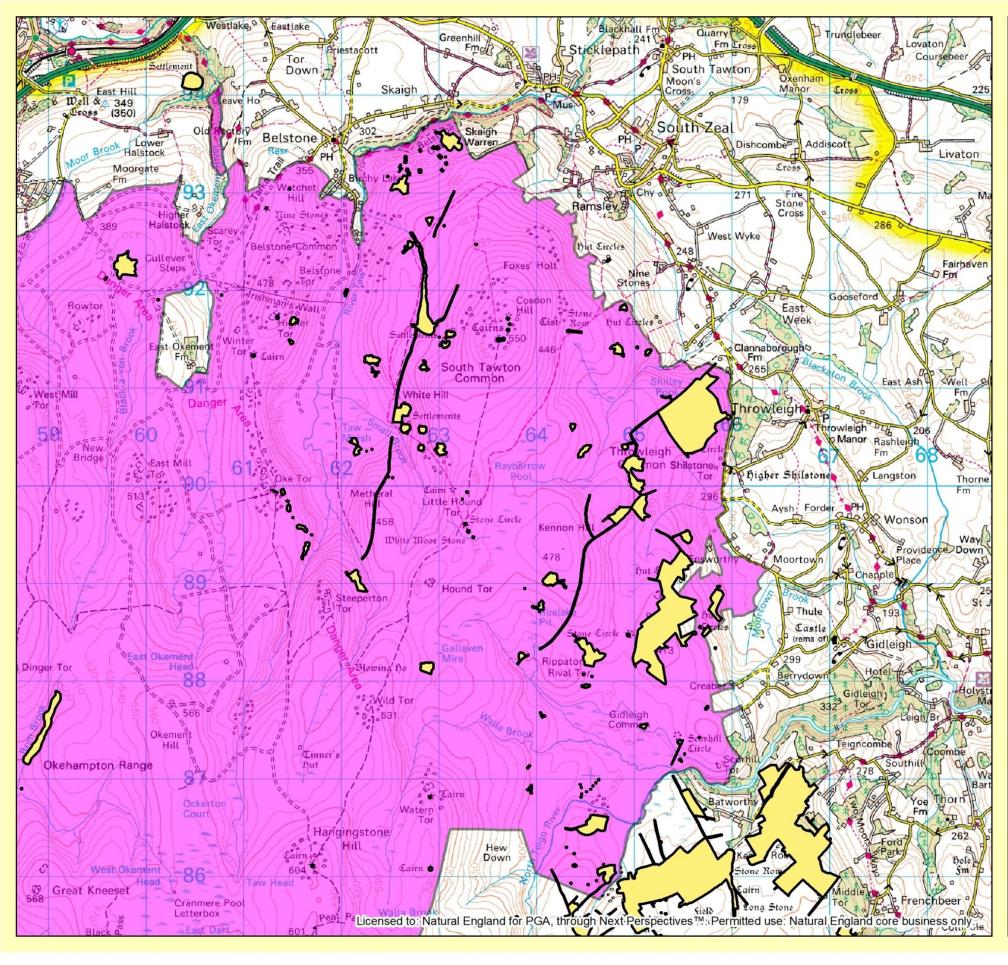
Other Notes











Annex 3 Map 5 North Dartmoor SSSI Scheduled Monuments

Legend

Scheduled Monuments © English Heritage

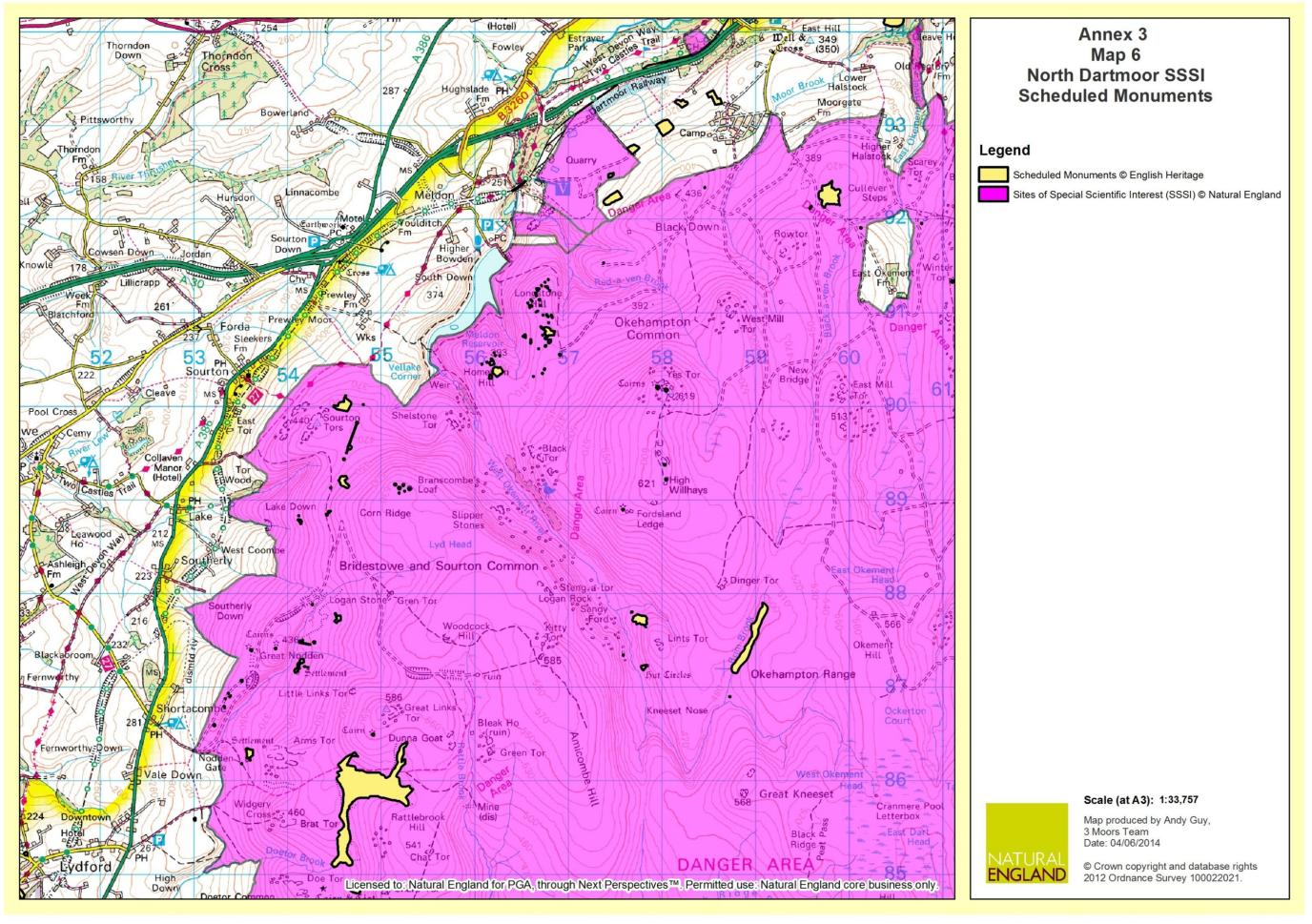
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) © Natural England

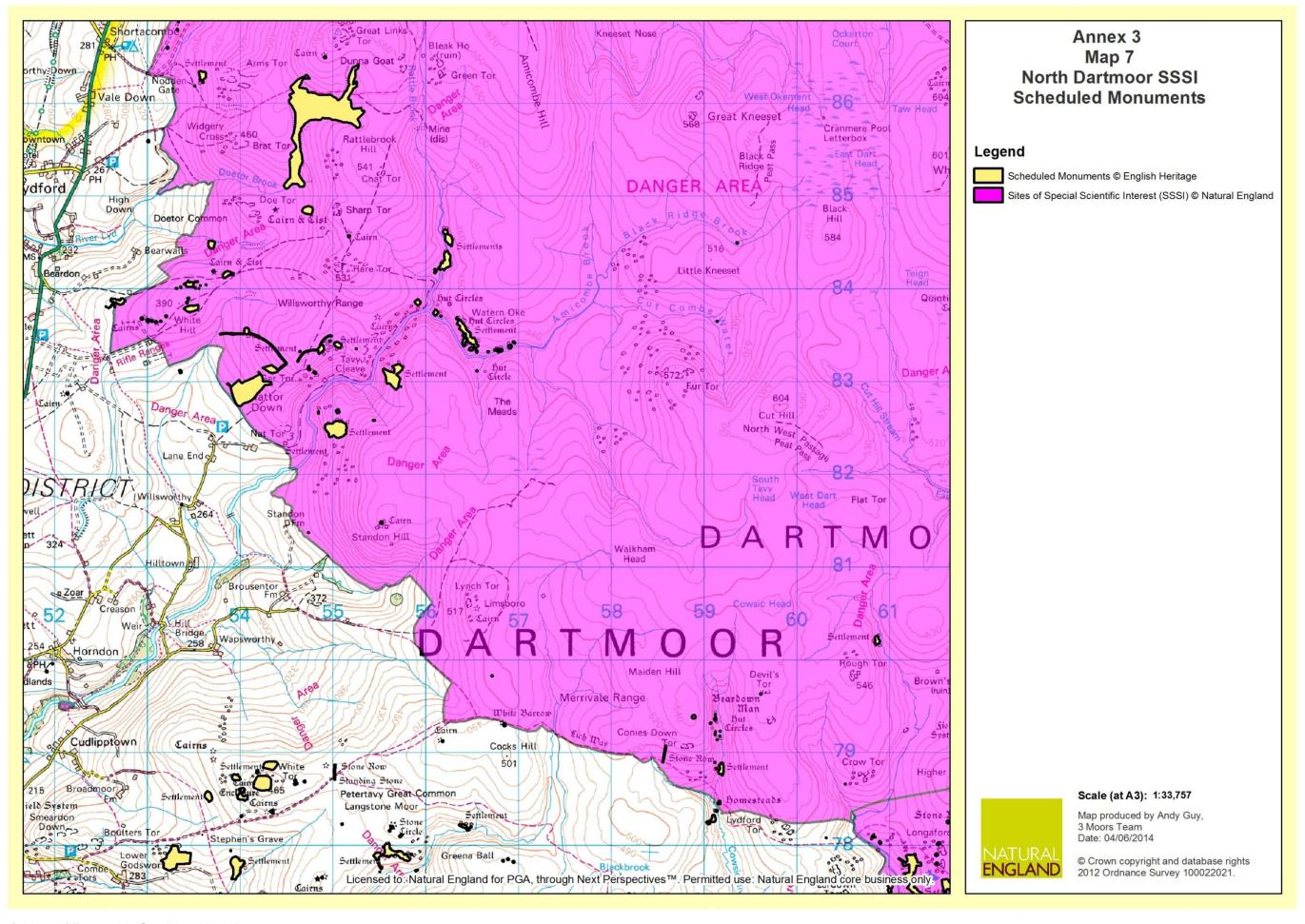


Scale (at A3): 1:33,757

Map produced by Andy Guy, 3 Moors Team Date: 04/06/2014

© Crown copyright and database rights 2012 Ordnance Survey 100022021.





Annex 2 Location of features by unit

Unit number	Unit Name	Main habitat	L1 feature	L2 Features	SAC features
74	Peter Tavy	Dwarf shrub heath - upland	D5 - Heathland: Dry Heath/Acid Grassland Mosaic	Wet heath (upland)	4010 North Atlantic wet heaths
75	Willsworthy and Standon Hill	Dwarf shrub heath - upland	D5 - Heathland: Dry Heath/Acid Grassland Mosaic	Blanket bog and valley bog (upland), Subalpine dwarf-shrub heath, Wet heath (upland), acid grassland, upland breeding birds S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra	7140 Blanket bog, 4010 North Atlantic wet heaths, 4030 European dry heaths S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra
76	Lydford Common	Dwarf shrub heath - upland	D5 - Heathland: Dry Heath/Acid Grassland Mosaic	Subalpine dwarf-shrub heath, Wet heath (upland), acid grassland	4010 North Atlantic wet heaths, 4030 European dry heaths
77	Bridestowe Common	Dwarf shrub heath - upland	D5 - Heathland: Dry Heath/Acid Grassland Mosaic	Subalpine dwarf-shrub heath, Wet heath (upland), acid grassland S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra	4010 North Atlantic wet heaths, 4030 European dry heaths S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra
78	Okehampton Common	Dwarf shrub heath - upland	D5 - Heathland: Dry Heath/Acid Grassland Mosaic	Subalpine dwarf-shrub heath, Wet heath (upland) S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra	4010 North Atlantic wet heaths, 4030 European dry heaths S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra
79	Belstone Common	Dwarf shrub heath - upland	D5 - Heathland: Dry Heath/Acid Grassland Mosaic	Wet heath (upland), acid grassland S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra	4010 North Atlantic wet heaths S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar

Definitions of Favourable Condition: North Dartmoor v.0.5 Final 16/11/2014

Unit number	Unit Name	Main habitat	L1 feature	L2 Features	SAC features
					S1355 - otter, lutra lutra
80	South Tawton Common	Dwarf shrub heath - upland	D5 - Heathland: Dry Heath/Acid Grassland Mosaic	Subalpine dwarf-shrub heath, Wet heath (upland), fen marsh and swamp S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra	4010 North Atlantic wet heaths, 4030 European dry heaths S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra
81	Throwleigh Common	Dwarf shrub heath - upland	D5 - Heathland: Dry Heath/Acid Grassland Mosaic	Subalpine dwarf-shrub heath, Wet heath (upland)	4010 North Atlantic wet heaths, 4030 European dry heaths
82	Gidleigh Common	Dwarf shrub heath - upland	D5 - Heathland: Dry Heath/Acid Grassland Mosaic	Subalpine dwarf-shrub heath, Wet heath (upland), fen marsh and swamp S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra	4010 North Atlantic wet heaths, 4030 European dry heaths, 1044 Southern damselfly S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra
83	Hangingstone Hill	Bogs - upland	E1 Mire: Bog	Blanket bog and valley bog (upland), Subalpine dwarf-shrub heath, Wet heath (upland)	H7130 - blanket bog
84	Winney's Down	Bogs - upland	E1 Mire: Bog	Blanket bog and valley bog (upland), Wet heath (upland) S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra	H7130 Blanket bog S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra
85	Brown's House	Bogs - upland	E1 Mire: Bog	Blanket bog and valley bog (upland), Subalpine dwarf-shrub heath, Wet heath (upland) S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter,	H7130 Blanket bog S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra

Unit number	Unit Name	Main habitat	L1 feature	L2 Features	SAC features
				lutra lutra	
86	Western quarter	Bogs - upland	E1 Mire: Bog	Blanket bog and valley bog (upland), acid grassland S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra	H7130 Blanket bog S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra
87	North 2B	Bogs - upland	E1 Mire: Bog	Blanket bog and valley bog (upland), breeding bird assemblage	H7130 Blanket bog
88	Amicombe Hill	Bogs - upland	E1 Mire: Bog	Blanket bog and valley bog (upland), Subalpine dwarf-shrub heath, Wet heath (upland) S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra	H7130 Blanket bog S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra
89	Okehampton Range	Bogs - upland	E1 Mire: Bog	Blanket bog and valley bog (upland), Subalpine dwarf-shrub heath, Wet heath (upland), S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra	H7130 Blanket bog S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra
90	Steeperton Ridge	Dwarf shrub heath - upland	Dwarf shrub heath - upland	Subalpine dwarf-shrub heath, Wet heath (upland), Blanket bog and valley bog (upland) S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra	4010 North Atlantic wet heaths, 4030 European dry heaths S1106 - atlantic salmon, salmo salar S1355 - otter, lutra lutra

Unit number	Unit Name	Main habitat	L1 feature	L2 Features	SAC features
91	Blackator Copse	Broadleaved, Mixed And Yew Woodland - Upland	A111 - Woodland: Broadleaved, Semi- Natural	H91A0 - old sessile oak woods with ilex and blechnum in the uk. Assemblages of breeding birds - upland moorland and grassland without water bodies. Lichen Assemblage	91A0 Old sessile oak woods