

## 5. Finding Out More

### 5.1 Getting Involved

We can all play a part in protecting Dartmoor's biodiversity. Indeed, it won't flourish unless some of us do take a pro-active role. You **can** make a difference!



© DNPA

*Wild daffodils at Steps Bridge*

If you are a land owner or manager or simply live on Dartmoor, you can carry out **practical work** to protect your local wildlife. The agencies listed in Table 5 will be able to provide practical advice and sometimes financial and practical support to help you carry out your own ideas for biodiversity action on your land, or in your local community.

You can join a **conservation volunteer group** by contacting the Devon Wildlife Trust (who have vacancies for a range of volunteers from practical workers to sales personnel); the Dartmoor National Park Authority (Ranger Service); the National Trust or English Nature (both of whom organise dedicated groups of local volunteers to work on their own land on Dartmoor).

You can **learn more and share your interest** with others by joining local groups which regularly exchange information on wildlife and organise field trips, walks and practical work for all ages and levels of fitness.

There are local specialist groups for almost every form of wildlife from birds to butterflies. Their central addresses are shown in Table 5. The Dartmoor National Park Authority organises various activities, including guided wildlife walks and talks which give a general introduction to Dartmoor's wildlife. The Devon Wildlife Trust often has informative open days at its Dartmoor reserves and both the Wildlife Trust and the RSPB arrange activities through local groups including clubs for children and young people. The National Trust owns a good range of habitats on Dartmoor including moorland and woodland and provide guided walks, talks and activities for children. If you want to **teach yourself** about wildlife and nature conservation, there are appropriate evening classes in many towns and villages in and around the National Park and most booksellers and libraries now have an excellent selection of illustrated books on wildlife. The DNPA Information Centres also sell wildlife identification guides that are particularly relevant to Dartmoor (the High Moorland Visitor Centre in Princetown is open all year).

You can **contribute to recording wildlife** either by sending in interesting records of the wildlife you have seen to the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre or the Dartmoor National Park Authority, or by contacting one of the specialist groups mentioned below which regularly carry out survey and monitoring work on Dartmoor.

You can make sure that **your impact on biodiversity is minimised** (and that you see more wildlife) by following the DNPA's Codes of Guidance on recreational use.

Above all, **enjoy** the wonderful wildlife resource that is Dartmoor's natural heritage!

## 5.2 Sources of Advice and Information

There are many organisations and agencies which provide advice and information on different aspects of Dartmoor’s biodiversity, and the management necessary to protect and enhance it. The table below lists the main sources and their key areas of responsibility, including those organisations providing local activities which you can join.



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Snipe

**Table 5. Main sources of advice and information on Dartmoor’s wildlife and conservation management**

Organisation	Key responsibilities	Advice	Info	Grants	Local activities
<b>British Dragonfly Society Devon Group</b> Leader: Dave Smallshire 8 Twindlebeer Chudleigh Newton Abbot Devon TQ13 0JP	Records and monitors dragonflies and damselflies in Devon.	●	●		●
<b>Butterfly Conservation Devon branch</b> Chairman: Paul Butter 2 Gulpit Cottage Glasshouse Lane Exeter Devon EX2 7BZ	Study and conservation of butterfly species. Carries out monitoring of rare species on Dartmoor.	●	●		●
<b>Dartmoor National Park Authority</b> Parke Haytor Road Bovey Tracey Newton Abbot Devon TQ13 9JQ Tel 01626 832093 www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk	Conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of Dartmoor; promotion of opportunities for public enjoyment where this doesn't conflict with the above. Owns and manages land, provides advice, information, grants, etc. to landowners and the public.	●	●	●	●

(cont.)

**Table 5. Main sources of advice and information on Dartmoor's wildlife and conservation management (cont.)**

Organisation	Key responsibilities	Advice	Info	Grants	Local activities
<b>Dartmoor Preservation Association</b> Secretary: The Old Duchy Hotel Princetown Yelverton Devon PL20 6QF 01822 890646 <a href="http://www.dartmoor-preservation-assoc.org.uk">www.dartmoor-preservation-assoc.org.uk</a>	An amenity society formed in 1883 to protect and preserve the wild, natural beauty of Dartmoor's landscape; to maintain public access and protect the Moor's antiquities.				●
<b>Dartmoor Society</b> PO Box 38 Tavistock Devon PL19 0XJ <a href="http://www.dartmoorsociety.co.uk">www.dartmoorsociety.co.uk</a>	Launched in 1998 to be an independent voice for those who find Dartmoor a source of livelihood or inspiration and to safeguard, amongst other things, distinctive creatures and plants; to foster research and to share knowledge.				●
<b>Devonshire Association</b> Bowhill Dunsford Road Exeter Devon EX4 1LQ	Promotes study of the Devon environment. Has an active botanical section, which studies and records Dartmoor flora. Gives small grants in support of research projects relating to Devon.		●	●	●
<b>Devon Bat Group</b> Contact: Chris Shaw Higher Kingsmoor Black Torrington Beaworthy Devon EX21 5JN Tel 01409 231364	Promotes protection of bat species in Devon. Carries out surveys and provides advice.	●	●		●
<b>Devon Birdwatching &amp; Preservation Society</b> Conservation Officer: Bob Jones Skomer Grenofen Tavistock Devon PL19 9NE	Promotes protection of birds and their habitats throughout Devon. Manages refuges on Dartmoor, carries out recording and organises local field visits.		●		●

(cont.)

Table 5. Main sources of advice and information on Dartmoor's wildlife and conservation management (cont.)

Organisation	Key responsibilities	Advice	Info	Grants	Local activities
<b>Devon Fungus Study Group</b> Membership Sec: Rowley Regis Oak Mill East Budleigh Devon EX9 7DW	Promotes study and conservation of fungi throughout Devon.	●	●		●
<b>Devon Invertebrate Forum</b> Chairman: Peter Smithers, Dept of Biological Sciences University of Plymouth Drakes Circus Plymouth Devon PL4 8AA	Co-ordinates and carries out invertebrate studies throughout Devon.		●		●
<b>Devon Mammal Group</b> Chairman: Mike Williams c/o Environment Agency Exminster House Miller Way Exminster Devon EX6 8AS	Promotes the study and conservation of mammals in Devon.				●
<b>Devon Moth Group</b> Mr R McCormick 36 Paradise Road Teignmouth Devon TQ14 8NR	Carries out moth recording throughout Devon, including monitoring Dartmoor sites.		●		●
<b>Devon Biodiversity Records Centre</b> Shirehampton House 35-37 St David's Hill Exeter Devon EX4 4DA Tel 01392 279244	Co-ordinates biodiversity recording throughout Devon.		●		

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**Table 5. Main sources of advice and information on Dartmoor’s wildlife and conservation management (cont.)**

Organisation	Key responsibilities	Advice	Info	Grants	Local activities
<p><b>Devon RIGS Group</b>                      Secretary:                      5 Tuns Lane                      Silverton                      Exeter                      Devon                      EX5 4HY                      Tel 01392 860464</p>	<p>Promotes geological and earth science conservation in Devon; carries out surveys and monitoring of geological sites.</p>	●	●		●
<p><b>Devon Wildlife Trust</b>                      Shirehampton House                      35-37 St David’s Hill                      Exeter                      Devon                      EX4 4DA                      Tel 01392 279244  <a href="http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/devon/">www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/devon/</a></p>	<p>Conservation and care of wildlife and wild places in Devon. Manages seven nature reserves on Dartmoor and has local groups of supporters.</p>	●	●		●
<p><b>English Nature</b>                      Devon Team                      Level 2                      Renslade House                      Bonhay Road                      Exeter                      Devon                      EX4 3AW                      Tel:01392 889770  <a href="http://www.englishnature.gov.uk">www.englishnature.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Promotes the conservation of the wildlife and natural features of England, directly and with others. Has local office in Exeter.</p>	●	●	●	
<p><b>Environment Agency</b>                      Exminster House                      Miller Way                      Exminster                      Devon                      EX6 8AS                      Tel: 01392 444000  <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk">www.environment-agency.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Has wide range of duties and powers relating to environmental management, particularly water, waste management and pollution.</p>	●	●		
<p><b>Farming and Rural Conservation Agency</b>                      5 Hanover Court                      Manaton Close                      Matford Business Park                      Exeter                      Devon                      EX2 8PF                      Tel: 01392 824434</p>	<p>An executive agency of MAFF, which provides advice to MAFF on the integration of farming and conservation, environmental protection, rural land use and diversification. Runs the Dartmoor ESA and Countryside Stewardship on behalf of MAFF.</p>	●	●	●	

(cont.)

Table 5. Main sources of advice and information on Dartmoor’s wildlife and conservation management (cont.)

Organisation	Key responsibilities	Advice	Info	Grants	Local activities
<p><b>Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (Devon group)</b>                      c/o MAFF                      Clyst House                      Winslade Park                      Exeter                      Devon                      EX5 1DY                      Tel: 01392 266368/69</p>	<p>Gives advice on integrating farming with wildlife conservation.</p>	●	●		
<p><b>Forestry Commission</b>                      South West England Conservancy                      Mamhead Castle                      Mamhead                      Exeter                      Devon                      EX6 8HD                      Tel: 01626 890666</p>	<p>Drives and implements forest policy throughout Britain, particularly the four main programmes within the English Forestry Strategy. Protects and expands Britain’s forests and woodlands to increase their value to society and the environment including biodiversity. Works in partnership to support focussed target projects, and provides advice and grant aid to landowners.</p>	●	●	●	
<p><b>Forest Enterprise</b>                      Peninsula Forest District                      Bullers Hill                      Kennford                      Exeter                      Devon                      EX6 7XR                      Tel 01392 832262</p>	<p>Manages public woodlands throughout Dartmoor to multi purpose objectives, the England Forest Strategy, UKWAS, the UK Forest Accord and biodiversity principles.</p>		●		
<p><b>Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</b>                      Regional Service Centre                      Clyst House                      Winslade Park                      Exeter                      EX5 1DY                      Tel: 01392 266032                      www.maff.gov.uk</p>	<p>Ensures that consumers benefit from sustainably produced and competitively priced food and contributes to the well being of rural communities. Responsible for the Dartmoor ESA and agricultural support mechanisms.</p>	●		●	

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Table 5. Main sources of advice and information on Dartmoor's wildlife and conservation management (cont.)

Organisation	Key responsibilities	Advice	Info	Grants	Local activities
<b>Moor Trees</b> 5 Parkfield Road Topsham Exeter Devon EX3 0DR Tel: 01392 876635	Plans to restore areas of wild, natural forest on Dartmoor.		●		●
<b>National Trust Dartmoor Office</b> Home Farm Parke Haytor Road Bovey Tracey Newton Abbot Devon TQ13 9JQ Tel 01626 834748 <a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk">www.nationaltrust.org.uk</a>	Owns and manages around 2,000 ha of woodland and moorland on Dartmoor. Welcomes volunteers on practical tasks.				●
<b>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds SW Office</b> Keble House Southernhay Gardens Exeter Devon EX1 1NT Tel: 01392 432691 <a href="http://www.rspb.com">www.rspb.com</a>	Promotes the diversity, populations and distribution of birds and other wildlife, through the protection and re-creation of habitats. Champions the conservation of birds and other wildlife in the UK and world-wide. Has local groups of supporters.	●	●		●

## 5.3 Keeping up to Date

This Biodiversity Action Plan and the Dartmoor Biodiversity Newsletter are available on the Internet on the Dartmoor National Park Authority's home page

[www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk](http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk).

The Action Plan will be reprinted at least every five years, but in the meantime the web site will be updated annually. The *Dartmoor Biodiversity Newsletter* will also be placed on this web site. You are welcome to download this information for personal and educational use.

If you wish to receive a paper copy of subsequent revisions of the Action Plan, please contact the Dartmoor National Park Authority, requesting that your name be put on a mailing list at Parke, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9JQ.

Tel 01626 832093.

Fax 01626 834684.

E-mail:

[reception@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk](mailto:reception@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk)



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*Moorland habitats, Vitifer and Birch Tor*

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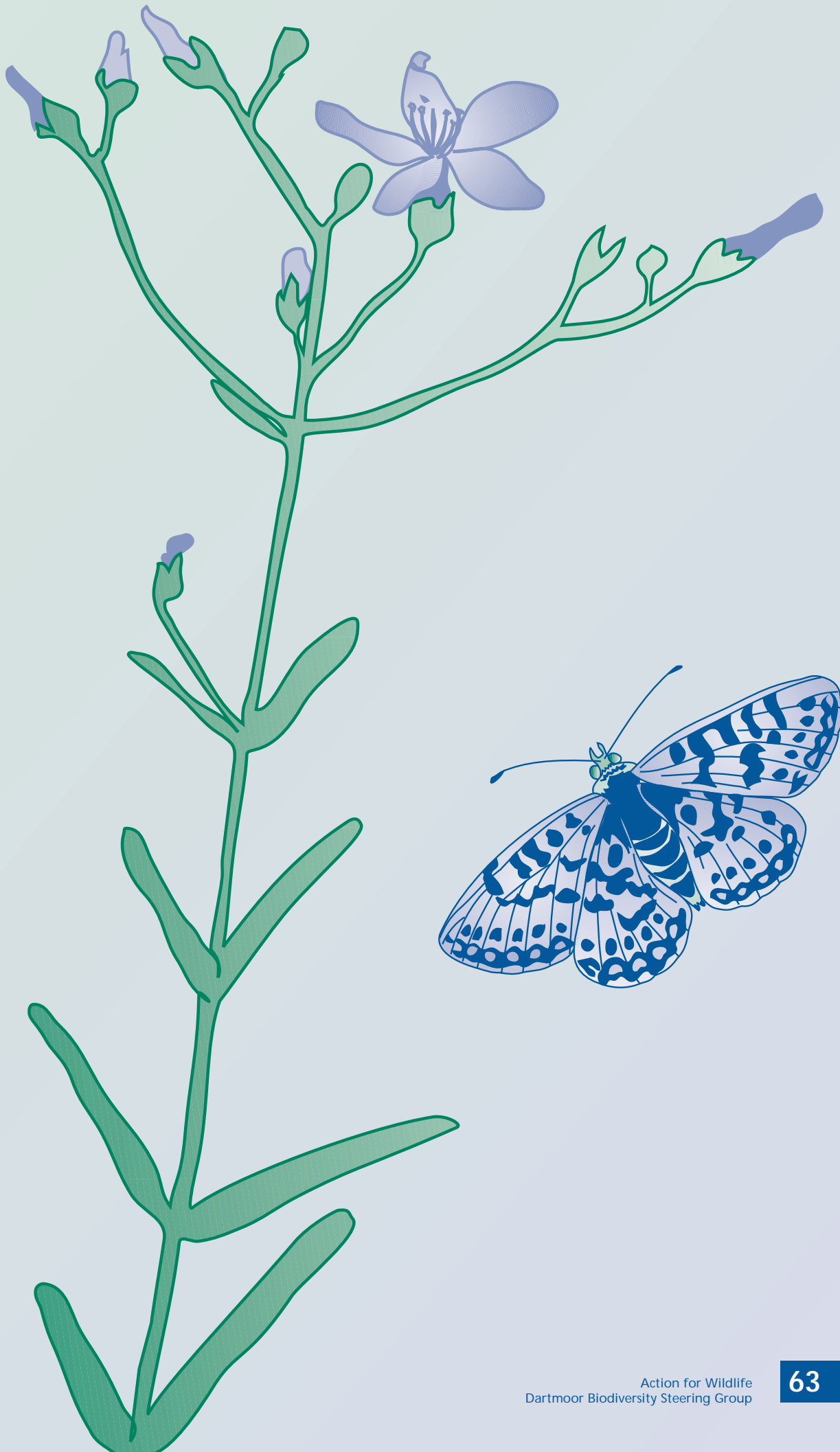
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# Appendix 1. The Action Plans