

Dart Biodiversity Project Final report and evaluation

No. 439 - English Nature Research Reports



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SUMMARY

PROJECT RATIONALE

- In recognition of the immense benefits provided by wildlife and wild places there has been a steady and clear movement towards developing a national strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity over the past 10 years.
- As part of this process Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) have been produced which describe and evaluate the wildlife and geology of an area and provide a focus for identifying, prioritising and implementing habitat conservation.
- Dartmoor is of great biological importance and the River Dart catchment is a Prime Biodiversity Area. Consequently a number of BAPs and other management plans relating to the area have been produced, although few new practical works have emanated from the process. With the Dartmoor BAP due for completion in 2001, a need to shift focus from identifying actions to implementing them was recognised, as was the need to test methods of implementation through a pilot project.

THE PROJECT

- The Dart Biodiversity Project commenced in 1998 with the primary focus of delivering action for wildlife on the ground. The project has had an innovative approach, providing an injection of resources and enthusiasm, co-ordinating all relevant plans and organisations, and building on the genuine enthusiasm expressed for such an approach by a wide range of potential partners.
- The Steering Group comprises:
 - Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA)
 - Environment Agency (EA)
 - English Nature (EN)
 - The Duchy of Cornwall
 - South Devon and Dartmoor Leader II
- A Project Officer was appointed in June 1998.
- The project area is the River Dart catchment on Dartmoor.
- The aim of the project is to:
 - *maintain and enhance the wildlife resource of the River Dart catchment area.*
- The objectives are to:
 - *co-ordinate and implement practical action to promote biodiversity focusing on key species and habitats;*
 - *co-ordinate and deliver relevant actions and targets for biodiversity identified in existing plans;*
 - *raise awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and gain support for conservation management amongst landowners and the public;*
 - *integrate biodiversity with all major land-uses in the Dart valley;*
 - *promote the River Dart catchment area as a model of good practice for the practical implementation of biodiversity plans.*

THE PROJECT APPROACH

- The DBP has focused on key habitats and species and has achieved action by undertaking individual work programmes with farmers, landowners, community groups, organisations, businesses and members of the public.

ACHIEVEMENTS GAINED

- The DBP has achieved real, positive benefits for wildlife on the ground by undertaking 73 work programmes.
- 50 farmers, land managers and community groups have been helped in achieving their ambitions for wildlife.
- The DBP has fulfilled its role as a pilot project and built strong foundations for future biodiversity work within the River Dart catchment and the wider Dartmoor area.
- As one of the first biodiversity projects of its kind, it has demonstrated the success of a targeted approach both locally and nationally.
- Many of the benefits gained are sustainable.

SUPPORT OFFERED BY THE DBP

- The range of support offered to farmers, landowners and others has been comprehensive and includes advice, facilitation, grant aid, labour, materials, physical works, training, production of individual BAPs, interpretative material and raising awareness.
- The ability of the DBP to back up advice with further support has been crucial.
- Facilitation has been an important area of support offered by the DBP, due to the length of time needed to achieve action and the number of consultations required.
- The allocation of grant aid has been an effective tool for securing action on the ground, although not always essential. The criteria for grant allocation have, by necessity, been general. This allows for flexibility and the ability to adapt funding to a changeable work programme at short notice.

BAP ACTIONS SUPPORTED

- Key species have been supported on 88 occasions with Atlantic salmon receiving most assistance, and key habitats supported on 91 occasions, with torrent rivers and streams receiving most assistance.
- All BAPs and existing plans have received some support. The Dartmoor BAP has received the most, with 25% of all actions identified in the BAP supported.
- 10 Species Recovery Programmes have been supported.
- All targets set by the South Devon and Dartmoor Leader II have been achieved.

RAISING AWARENESS

- 32 work programmes have raised awareness of biodiversity amongst farmers, landowners, businesses, local people and visitors.
- 39 walks and talks have been undertaken with 1,298 people attending.
- 6 items of promotional literature have been produced.
- Over, 1,300 hits have been made to the web site.
- 13 students have directly received support from the DBP, including one who has undertaken the most comprehensive water vole survey on Dartmoor to date.
- There has been considerable media coverage including magazine articles, and television interviews.
- The project has worked with 493 volunteers, who have contributed 666 days of labour.
- 9 work programmes have been educationally based, with 260 children and adults participating.

- An awareness of biodiversity amongst partners has been stimulated, resulting in a ripple effect for action amongst other organisations.

INTEGRATION WITH ALL MAJOR LAND USES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- The DBP has worked closely with farming, tourism, recreation, archaeology, educational establishments and forestry.
- 24 of the work programmes have supported Duchy of Cornwall farms.
- The DBP has also supported DNPA and ESA management agreements, SSSIs, Candidate SACs, RIGS and New Native Woodland Challenge Funding.

PROJECT FUNDING

- The budget for the DBP has been £91,950 for the 3 years.
- In addition to the core income, the DBP has attracted over £27,000 of funding for practical work.
- The largest contributor of additional income has been the EA who have provided an extra £18,500 for Salmon Restitution Work.
- The amount of funding allocated to practical work on an annual basis has been just over £12,000 with 91% spent on physical improvements on the ground, 5% on interpretation, 3% on administration and 1% on shows and events.

MANAGING THE PROJECT

- Monitoring has occurred and there are opportunities to extend this to include habitat condition changes.
- The DBP has been highly effective at communicating both internally, between Steering Group organisations and the Project Officer, and externally, with partner organisations. Solid partnerships have consequently developed between Steering Group organisations, and others.
- The Steering Group have provided considerable support - financial, facilitation, information/advice, materials and labour - and have been the main instigators of the work programmes.

THE WAY FORWARD

- Despite these successes there is still a great need for further work to support biodiversity on Dartmoor.
- Agriculture is undergoing a transformation at present, particularly in the uplands, and there are opportunities for greater biodiversity benefits from this process.
- Changes are also occurring in the biodiversity processes through the *Natura 2000* and the *CROW Act*.
- There are opportunities for expanding the work into other sectors such as community groups and tourism businesses.
- The value of a niche biodiversity project has been proven and valuable lessons have been learnt from the undertaking of the pilot project.
- A second biodiversity project (DBP II) has been agreed with funding secured until March 2002 from the current Steering Group Organisations. However, additional funding is still required to take the work forward.
- Consideration also needs to be given to long-term future work to safeguard biodiversity on Dartmoor.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of this report is to provide a summary and evaluation of the work undertaken by the Dart Biodiversity Project (DBP), between 1 June 1998 and 31 May 2001. This includes a review of the original aims and objectives of the DBP and recommendations for future work

1.1 THE DART BIODIVERSITY PROJECT RATIONALE

The protection and enhancement of wildlife and wild places has been an integral part of land management for many years, resulting in the development of a strong conservation movement. From this the concept of biodiversity has emerged, which has seen rapid and significant developments in the past 10 years, particularly with regard to policy.

Biodiversity (the variety of life on earth) provides immense benefits. It promotes spiritual and emotional well being, improves aesthetics, provides the essentials for life such as food and water, and contributes to economic prosperity. There is also a moral obligation to pass on to the next generation a world at least as rich in biodiversity as the one inherited.

In recognition of this, the *UN Convention of Biological Diversity* was signed in 1992 by over 150 world Governments at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and since ratified by 176 countries and the European Community. Article 6 of the Convention requires each contracting party to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to integrate biodiversity considerations into all activities.

This led directly to the publication of *Biodiversity: the UK Action Plan (Department of Environment 1994)* and the subsequent development of national Species and Habitat Action Plans, as well as regional and local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs). Some of these referred to Dartmoor, namely the UK, South West and Devon BAPs, providing information on key species and habitats and listing actions for conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the area.

As a first step towards securing local agreement on priorities for nature conservation within the Dartmoor Natural Area, *The Nature of Dartmoor: A Biodiversity Profile (Devon Biodiversity Partnership 1998)*, was produced by Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) and English Nature (EN). This document described and evaluated the wildlife and geology of the area and proposed key objectives for nature conservation and earth sciences, thereby providing a focus for identifying, prioritising and implementing habitat conservation. It also identified the River Dart catchment area on Dartmoor as a Prime Biodiversity Area (an area of international importance for nature conservation and an area of maximum opportunity). The area contains a number of key biodiversity habitats and species, including many Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and three candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) (a European designation under the Habitats Directive), namely Dartmoor (which includes North, South and East Dartmoor SSSIs), South Dartmoor Woods, and South Hams (which includes Buckfastleigh Caves SSSI).

As a result of the publication of *The Nature of Dartmoor*, opportunities for further enhancement of the area were identified, particularly by recreating habitats and reversing fragmentation within the area.

A number of key landowners already managed their land with nature conservation as a major objective such as the DNPA, the Duchy of Cornwall and the National Trust. There was, therefore, an opportunity to enhance biodiversity in the area, by working closely with these landowners. There was also an opportunity to work with other smaller landowners, to further benefit biodiversity.

In addition to the BAPs, other management plans relating to the River Dart catchment area were also in existence. The Local Environment Agency Plan (LEAP) for the Dart catchment (EA 1998) had recently been finalised, having undergone a comprehensive public consultation. Within the LEAP specific actions were proposed, many of which were directly concerned with practical work to maintain and enhance biodiversity, for example removing obstructions to salmon and trout migration on moorland streams.

The Duchy of Cornwall had also completed a survey of moorland management and nature conservation value in their newtakes (The Dartmoor Newtake Survey 1994) which included recommendations to maintain and enhance biodiversity. An appended Newtake Action Plan prioritised proposed actions; many of which were best carried out by the tenants. However there were some recommendations which the tenants could not reasonably be expected to undertake or which would be best achieved through co-ordination, for example the drawing up and implementation of a swaling programme.

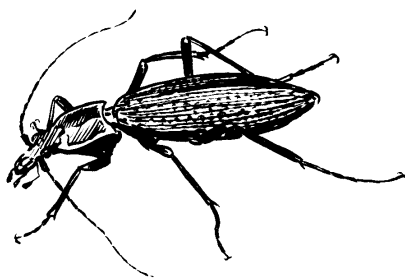
In addition, the Species Recovery Programme, initiated by English Nature in 1991, covered some of the key biodiversity species identified in the Action Plans. The aim of this Programme is to restore, maintain or enhance populations of plants and animals in severe decline or threat of extinction in England. It has become a key vehicle for delivery of BAP targets and 12 species covered by this Programme were of relevance to the River Dart catchment area.

Following on from *The Nature of Dartmoor: A Biodiversity Profile*, a Dartmoor Biodiversity Action Plan was being produced which would:

- complete the national, regional and county jigsaw and provide Action Plans to conserve important Dartmoor habitats and species that were not included in the existing regional and local plans. These include globally threatened habitats and species such as blanket bog, upland oakwood and blue ground beetle;
- include species and habitats that are important locally for Dartmoor's biodiversity such as mosses, lichens, scarce dragonflies and blanket bogs which are not included in other regional or local plans;
- interpret all the existing Action Plans in a Dartmoor context, emphasising practical delivery, spelling out what is actually going to happen, who will do it, where and when.

Many plans had been produced, as part of the drive towards enhancing biodiversity, but few new practical works had been undertaken. With the Dartmoor BAP due for completion in 2001, the time had come to shift the focus from identifying actions to implementing them on the ground. A need to test methods of implementation (including projects demonstrating good practice) was also identified, which would then be used to develop the Dartmoor BAP and make the final document as meaningful as possible. This would include encouraging local 'ownership' and involvement.

The Dart Biodiversity Project commenced in 1998 as a pilot project, with the primary focus of delivering an end product for wildlife on the ground. It was to have an innovative approach to implementing action, provide an injection of resources and enthusiasm, co-ordinate all the relevant plans and organisations, and build on the genuine enthusiasm expressed for such an approach by a wide range of potential partners.



1.2 THE STEERING GROUP

A Steering Group was convened by the DNPA in 1997 and comprises those organisations who have contributed core funding to the DBP. They are:

- Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA),
- Environment Agency (EA),
- English Nature (EN),
- The Duchy of Cornwall; and
- South Devon & Dartmoor Leader II (European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund).

The primary aim of the Steering Group was to guide the strategic direction of the DBP and meet with the Project Officer on a quarterly basis, to receive regular reports and updates on the work of the Project. Day to day management has been carried out by the DNPA.

1.3 THE PROJECT OFFICER

A Project Officer was appointed in June 1998, and has remained in post for the full 3 years. Employed by Dartmoor National Park Authority on behalf of the Steering Group, the role of the DBP Project Officer has been to implement and facilitate existing and proposed actions for priority habitats and species, by working with local farmers, landowners, Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF) Project Officers, businesses, members of the public and others. The Project Officer has also acted as a catalyst to draw down extra funds to implement the project aims and objectives.

1.4 THE PROJECT AREA

The area covered by the DBP is that part of the River Dart catchment within the boundary of Dartmoor National Park (see appendix i). The decision to limit the Project area to around a quarter of the National Park area was based on the need to concentrate resources so as not to cause dilution or fragmentation, and yet to have a large enough area to test the project approach. This area also provided synergy with the Dart LEAP and the Prime Biodiversity Area.

The project area is approximately 244 sqkm and the River Dart itself is formed from the East and West Dart rivers, and their tributaries. The upper catchment consists of open moorland with acid, peaty soil. Rainfall is high and much of the area is used for extensive grazing by cattle, sheep and ponies. The area surrounding this moorland is typified by small enclosures and is mainly used for small-scale livestock farming. The periphery of the area is on the whole steep, undulating land with many of the valley sides covered by deciduous woodland. The most southerly edge of the project area is marked by the A38 Devon Expressway, under which the River Dart flows, close to Buckfastleigh.

The area is within the Dartmoor National Park (designated in 1951) and has been covered by the Dartmoor Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) since 1994.

There are no major aquifers within the catchment and most of the water storage is in wetlands and bogs. The only reservoir within the Project area is Venford, which is one of the smaller public water supply reservoirs.

The quality of the river is high with most of the upper catchment conforming to the RE1 class of Rivers Ecosystem Classification (water of very good quality suitable for all species). Industry in the catchment is, on the whole, restricted to agriculture and tourism, although there is some light industry in the Buckfastleigh area. The Dart catchment is an area of intense recreational pressure, and is of great landscape and archaeological importance.

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2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

2.1 DBP OBJECTIVES

Objectives for the project have been taken from the original project brief and include environmental, economic and social elements.

The overall aim of the DBP is to:

- *Maintain and enhance the wildlife resource of the River Dart catchment area.*

The objectives are to:

1. *co-ordinate and implement practical action to promote biodiversity focusing on key species and habitats;*
2. *co-ordinate and deliver relevant actions and targets for biodiversity identified in existing plans;*
3. *raise awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and gain support for conservation management amongst landowners and the public;*
4. *integrate biodiversity with all major land-uses in the Dart valley;*
5. *promote the River Dart catchment area as a model of good practice for the practical implementation of biodiversity plans.*

2.2 THE DBP APPROACH

To achieve its aims and objectives, the DBP undertook individual work programmes focusing on key species and habitats. The key species and habitats were identified from the existing plans relating to the area and by the end of the third year there were 30 key species and 14 key habitats (see appendix ii).

The selection criteria for the key species were as follows:-

- *Rare* – those species threatened on a global or European scale, and which have significant populations in Dartmoor, such as otter.
- *Threatened* – those species rapidly declining throughout Great Britain, and which have a national stronghold on Dartmoor, such as dormouse.
- *Threatened* – those species which are on the extreme edge of their normal range in the Dartmoor Natural Area and are threatened in Great Britain, such as high brown fritillary
- *Endemic* – those species endemic to the UK, and which have viable populations in the Dartmoor Natural Area such, as the cave shrimp.
- *Highly characteristic*:- those species which are highly characteristic of Dartmoor, being seldom found in such numbers elsewhere in England, and which are popular with the general public, such as the buzzard.

The selection criteria for the key habitats focused on:

- those habitats within the Natural Area which are of international, national or regional importance and which are recognised as key habitats in the 1995 UK Steering Group report on Biodiversity.

Additional species were added to the list during the 3 years, namely Deptford pink and scarce blue-tailed damselfly, as and when further information on distribution or status became available.

The DBP carried out a number of promotional events and activities to encourage farmers and landowners to approach the Project for support. The DBP was promoted as a self-contained project independent of the Steering Group Organisations. A project logo and headed notepaper were designed and initially the project was based at the High Moorland Visitor Centre at Princetown. However, for logistical reasons, the project moved to the DNPA headquarters in Bovey Tracey after 18 months.

The locations of key species or habitats were provided, in the main, by the Steering Group Organisations. Contact was then made with the relevant landowner or farmer to discuss enhancement, usually through a third party with whom the farmer or landowner might already be working.

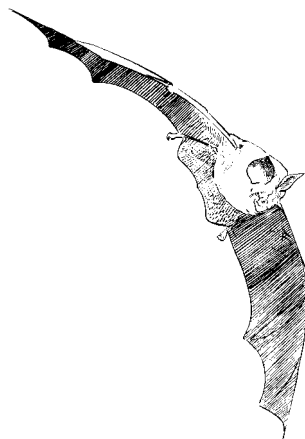
As the Project developed, a greater percentage of the work became reactive, as farmers and landowners were encouraged to approach the Project for support.

When contact had been made, a flexible approach to the needs of individual sites and owners/managers was adopted. Support was targeted at achieving the desired practical action through the use of grants, advice/information, labour, materials and assistance with administrative support/facilitation.

2.3 DBP TARGETS

To assist with the achievement of Project objectives, a number of targets were identified from the existing plans, relating to key species and habitats and were used to direct the work of the project. These are listed in appendix iii.

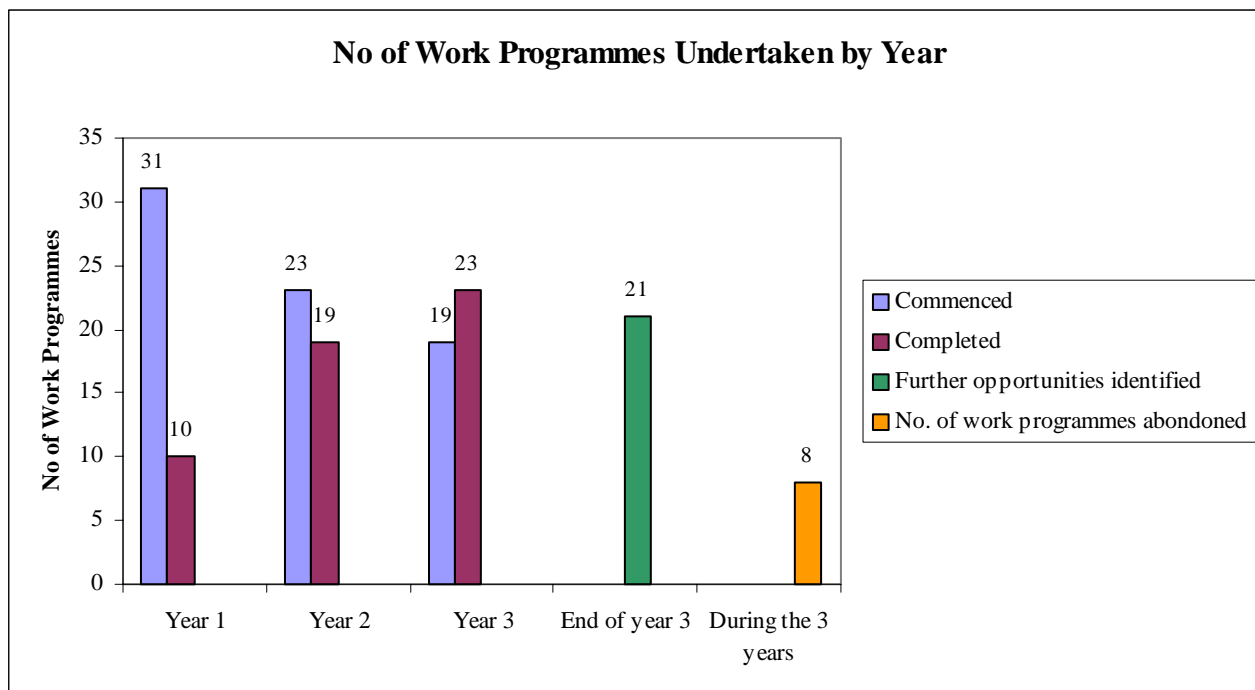
From these, targets were agreed with South Devon and Dartmoor Leader II, as a condition of their grant aid (see section 3.5.4).



3. RESULTS

3.1 WORK PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN

During the 3 years, the DBP has undertaken 73 individual work programmes, which can be broken down by year as follows:



Graph 1

These work programmes ranged from small-scale simple projects, which were completed within a short period, through to wide scale, complex projects which were undertaken over a longer period of time.

3.2 GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF WORK UNDERTAKEN

The geographical spread of the work programmes is clustered, having been located in relation to need, habitat and species, with many being on, or next to, the main river system (see appendix iv).

3.3 FULFILLMENT OF THE OVERALL AIM: -

The maintenance and enhancement of the wildlife resource of the River Dart catchment area

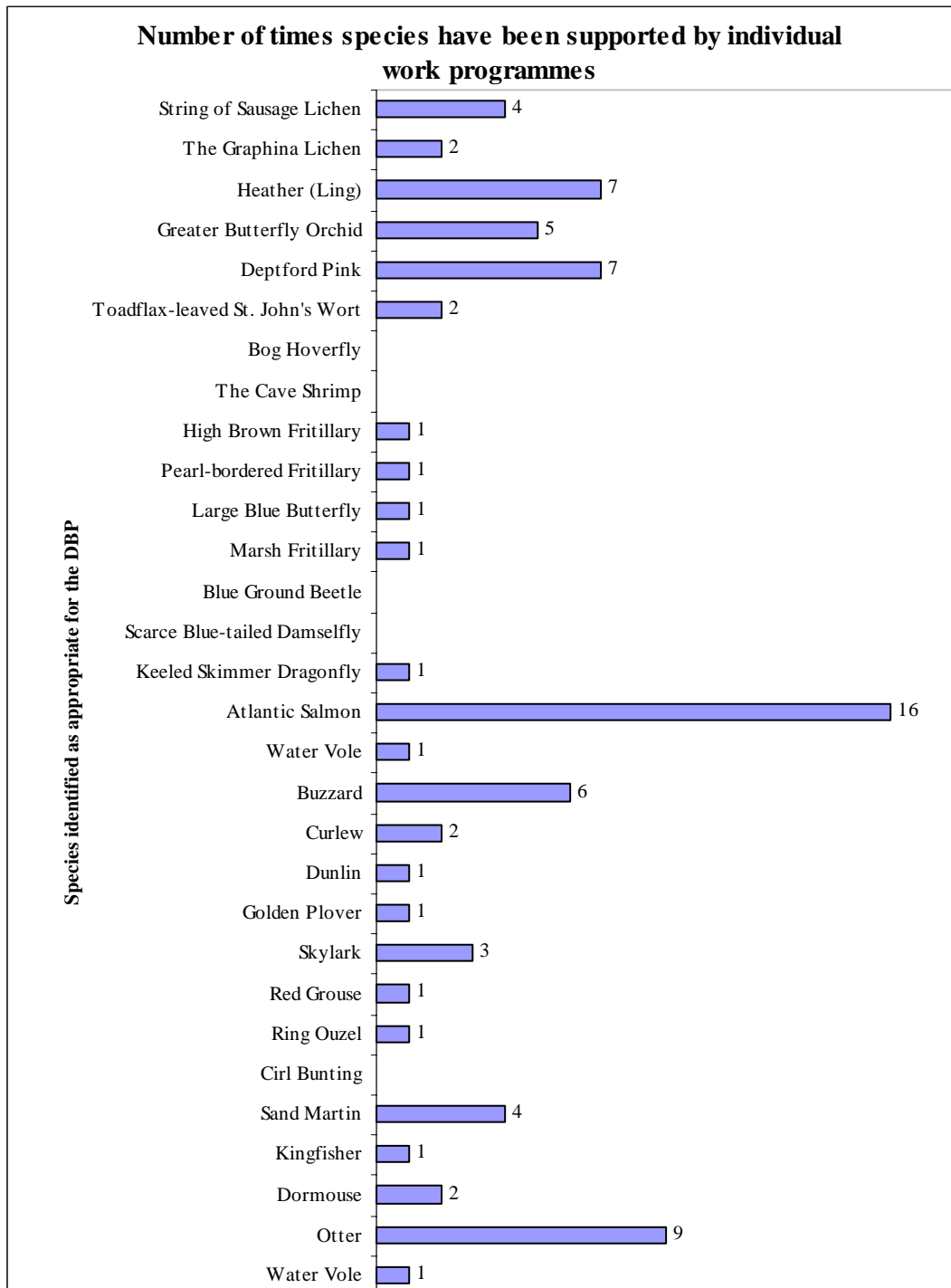
It is difficult to quantify whether the wildlife resource has been maintained and enhanced, as there is no baseline data from which the work achieved can be measured. However it is possible to review the objectives:-

3.4 FULFILLMENT OF OBJECTIVE 1

Co-ordination and implementation of practical action to promote biodiversity by focusing on key species and habitats.

3.4.1 Species

Of the 30 species identified as being appropriate for the DBP, 25 received some support. Atlantic Salmon received the most, with 16 of the work programmes providing some benefit (see graph 2).



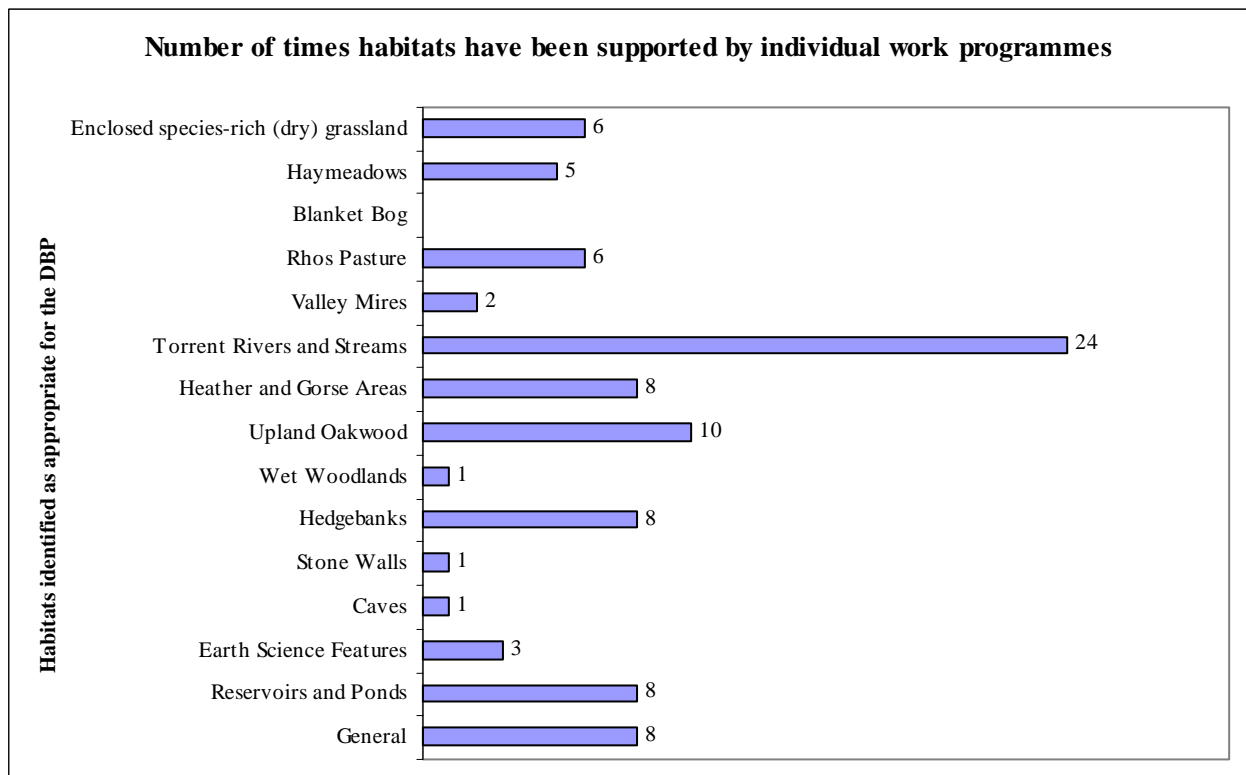
Graph 2

Five species received no support:

- Cirl Bunting.
- Blue Ground Beetle.
- Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly.
- Cave Shrimp.
- Bog hoverfly

3.4.2 Habitats

Of the 14 habitats identified as being appropriate for the DBP, all but one (blanket bog) received some support over the 3 years (see graph 3).



Graph 3

Torrent rivers and streams have received the most support with 24 of the work programmes providing benefit. Of the 73 work programmes, 8 provided general benefits eg the development of a web page and a lichen workshop.

3.4.3 Additional Statistics

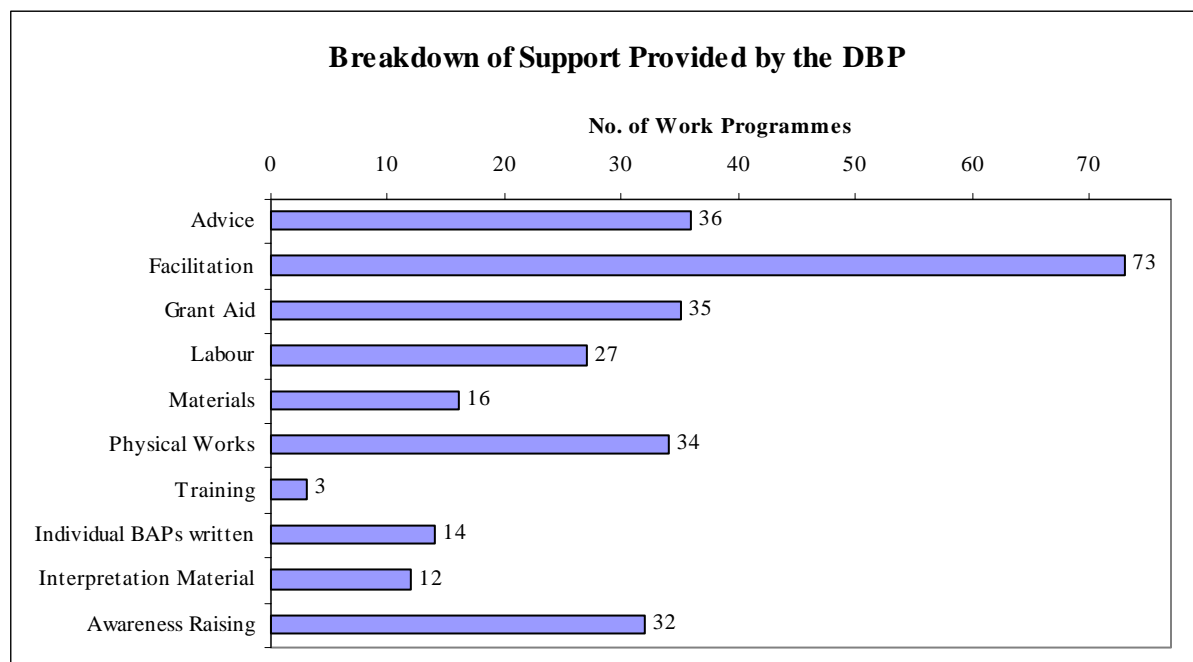
To provide a clearer picture of the achievements made by the DBP, additional statistics have been collected over the Project period (see table 1).

Table 1

STATISTICS COLLECTED ON WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE DBP OVER THE 3-YEAR PERIOD.	
Work Undertaken	Number
Archaeological features supported	2
Bat boxes erected	30
Broadleaved trees planted	700
Buffer zones created	4
Dormouse nestboxes built	115
Fruit trees planted	20
Orchard trees pruned	12
Geological features enhanced	4
Otter holts constructed	1
Ponds advised on	4
Ponds restored	1
Sand martin nest sites enhanced	3
Area of haymeadow supported	5.5 ha
Bracken grassland managed	0.89 ha
Broadleaved woodland managed	1.5 ha
Broadleaved woodland planted	0.24 ha
Conifer woodland converted to conifer	3.0 ha
Enclosed species rich grassland enhanced	6.68 ha
Moorland enhanced	6.6 ha
Rhos pasture enhanced	4.50 ha
Fencing erected	592m
Stone walls restored	20m
Hedge planted	94m
Hedge restored	298m
Riverbank enhanced	2,026m
Stream gravels enhanced	255m
Japanese knotweed sprayed	2m ²

3.4.4 Support Provided by the DBP

Whilst undertaking the 73 work programmes, the DBP provided farmers/landowners and others with a variety of support (see graph 4).



Graph 4

i) *Advice*

The DBP has provided advice for 36 of the work programmes.

ii) *Facilitation*

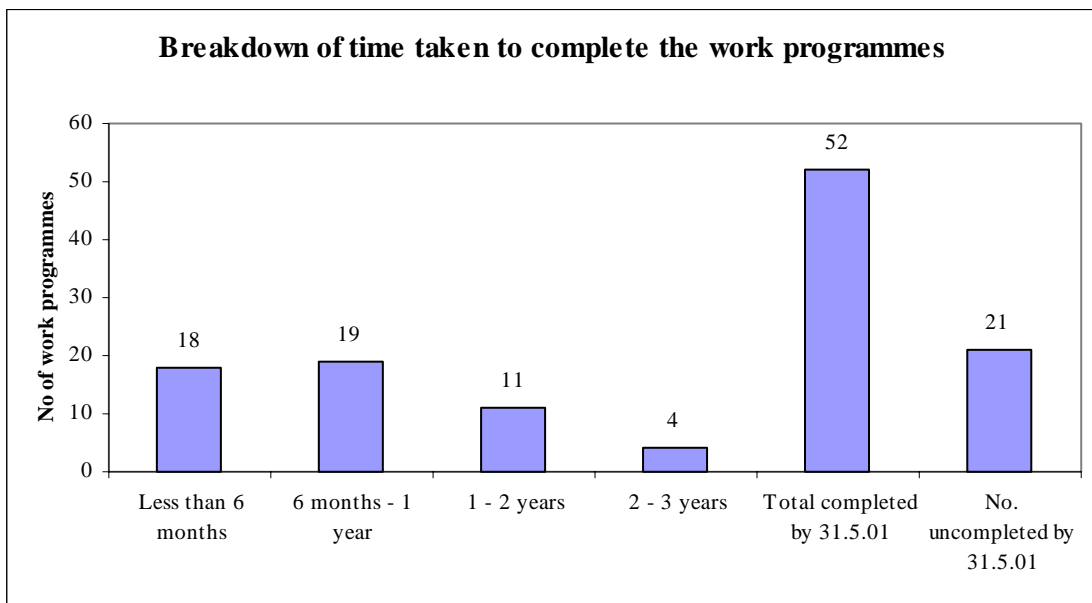
All 73 work programmes have received facilitatory support such as assistance with administration and consultations with individuals and organisations on behalf of landowners. The number of individuals/agencies consulted at least once when implementing work programmes has been calculated. To implement the work for all 73 work programmes, it has been necessary to undertake 656 consultations, with one work programme requiring considerably more consultations than any other – *Living with Wildlife* which required 49 consultations to reach implementation. The average number of individuals/agencies contacted, at least once, per individual work programme was 9.

To gain a more realistic average figure, the data has been re-calculated removing the *Living with Wildlife* work programme. The average number of consultations for the remaining 72 work programmes was 8. However, 21 of the work programmes still have opportunities for further work and require further consultations. If these anomalies are also removed from the calculation (21 work programmes with 157 consultations to date), the average number of consultations required to complete an individual work programme remains at 9.

These figures are for consultations undertaken by the DBP and do not include consultations required by other agencies involved with the work.

Time Taken to Complete Work Programmes

Another indication of the amount of facilitatory support provided by the DBP is shown by graph 5, which details the time taken to complete the individual work programmes.



Graph 5

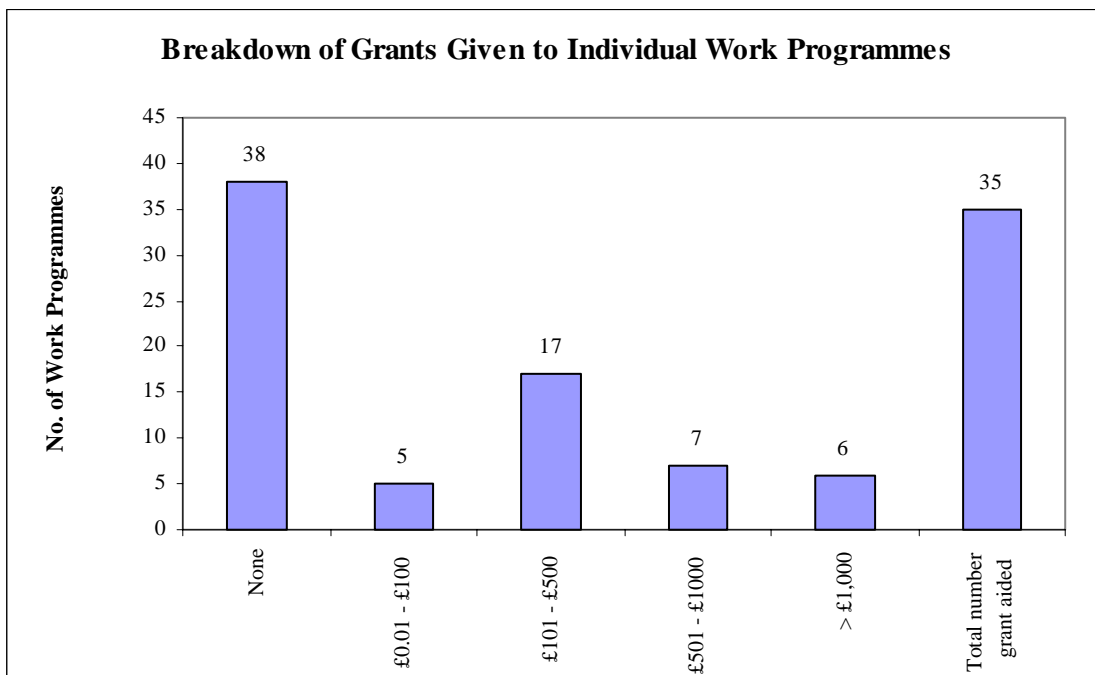
iii) *Grant Aid*

The Allocation of Grants

The allocation of grants was based on the following criteria:-

- Species/habitats supported – grants were only paid to work programmes which benefited at least one key species or habitat.
- Biodiversity significance – based on the actions identified within the existing plans. Those work programmes which were of greatest biodiversity significance, were favoured.
- Location - those work programmes adjoining or linked to highly favourable habitat or to other work programmes were more likely to be grant aided.
- The availability of other funding - if more appropriate funding was available, such as through the ESA, the work programme was unlikely to receive grant aid through the DBP.
- The long-term nature of the work – those work programmes which provided long term benefits were favoured.
- The likelihood of the work being undertaken without grant aid - those work programmes unlikely to be carried out without grant aid were favoured.
- The contribution made by the landowner or farmer - those work programmes which received some contribution from the landowner or farmer, were favoured.

The allocation criteria were kept as general as possible, to allow for flexibility. Only those projects costing over £1,000 or which required comment from the Steering Group were brought to the meeting for consultation. All other projects were authorised by only one member of the Steering Group, usually the DNPA representative.



Graph 6

The highest grant given to any single work programme was the sum of £1,941 for the *Living with Wildlife Schools Exhibition*. Other grants over £1,000 were Dunnabridge Farm (£1,880), Lower Cherrybrook Bridge (£1,500), West Webburn Clearance (£1,275), Schools Project 'Living with Wildlife' (£1,262) and Kingshead Farm (£1,245).

Of the 73 programmes, 38 received no financial support from the DBP. However, of these, 11 will require grant aid in the future. It is therefore more realistic to view 27 of the work programmes as having been completed without grant aid.

iv) Labour

Of the 27 work programmes which required labour, 28 involved the employment of a local contractor and 17 utilised voluntary labour. 493 volunteers collectively contributed 666 days of labour over the lifetime of the DBP. Efforts were made to link the most suitable source of labour to the work undertaken. Where a job needed to be carried out quickly or required highly skilled labour, contractors were employed. Where the work was more straight forward or required a high input of labour, volunteers were sought. The DBP formed a volunteer group in the first year and encouraged a core group of people to take a more long term and active role. However, this group was amalgamated with the volunteer system organised by DNPA in 2000 to increase efficiency and combine efforts.

Another important source of labour was in-house manpower, particularly from DNPA but also from the EA. The DNPA Works Team were used extensively for practical work, especially when there was a need for particular skills, flexibility, or a quick response. The Works Team Manager was especially supportive of the DBP and provided invaluable advice and assistance.

v) Materials

A variety of materials were provided/paid for by the Project, particularly fencing and trees/planting materials for woodlands. The DBP was required, on occasion, to procure materials and recommend suitable sources. The Project was able to take advantage of the DNPA Free Tree Scheme for two of the work programmes.

vi) *Physical Works*

Of the 73 work programmes, 34 required physical works. This ranged from building an otter holt to carrying out major dredging work at Hannaford Pond.

vii) *Training*

Three schemes specifically offered training – the Promotion of Earth Heritage, the Management of Trees Supporting Important Lichen Communities and Orchard Tree Pruning. The need for training was identified from either undertaking field work or as a result of a request from interested parties.

viii) *Individual BAPs*

Individual BAPs tailored to the needs of specific farms or sites were produced for 14 of the work programmes. The design for the BAPs developed over the 3 years, finding a format which was both informative and easy to comprehend. Each BAP was site specific and contained a phased work plan to aid implementation.

ix) *Interpretative material*

A variety of interpretative methods were used for 12 work programmes. These included the creation of a sample haymeadow at the High Moorland Visitor Centre and more conventional techniques such as the web site.

x) *Raising Awareness*

A conscious decision to raise biodiversity awareness was fundamental to 32 of the work programmes. This was achieved by providing farmers and landowners with information and advice on key species, encouraging the wider community to become involved with the work and undertaking a number of awareness raising activities (see section 3.6.1).

3.4.5 Farmers' Opinion of the Support Offered.

The opinions of those who were offered and received support from the DBP are important, as they provide further insight into the effectiveness of the Project. However, attempts have not been made to contact farmers and landowners supported by the Project, due to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) being prevalent at the time of writing. Therefore no qualitative data has been collected. The Project did seek the opinion of a select group of people at the end of year 2, for incorporation into the DBP Update 2000. Although this is by no means a random or representative sample, their comments do provide some feedback on the support offered by the DBP. See appendix v.

An alternative way to monitor the views of those involved is to look at 'return' visits. Of the 52 farmers contacted, 26 have requested further support and for the DBP to return to the site. This suggests some level of satisfaction.

3.4.6 Contribution in Kind from Farmers and Landowners

To achieve the tasks undertaken within the work programmes, contributions from farmers, landowners and others were encouraged, on the assumption that this would promote greater involvement and commitment. The greatest contribution made by farmers and landowners was time, with labour, materials and finance also provided.

3.5 FULFILLMENT OF OBJECTIVE 2:

Co-ordination and delivery of the relevant actions and targets for biodiversity identified in existing plans.

3.5.1 Existing Plans

As part of the evaluation process, consideration has been given to the number of actions identified in the existing Plans, which have received support through the DBP. The existing plans are the:

- *Action for Wildlife: The Dartmoor Biodiversity Action Plan* (which became a working document in February 2001);
- *Nature of Dartmoor: A Biodiversity Profile*;
- Devon BAP;
- South West BAP;
- UK BAP;
- River Dart LEAP; and
- Duchy Newtake Survey

All actions identified within the various Action Plans have been examined and those which have received support from the DBP identified (see table 2).

Table 2

BREAKDOWN OF ACTIONS FROM EXISTING PLANS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE DBP			
ACTION PLAN	NUMBER OF ACTIONS SUPPORTED BY THE DBP	TOTAL ACTIONS WITHIN THE PLANS	PERCENTAGE
Dartmoor BAP	120	483	25%
Devon BAP	49	833	6%
UK BAP	21	Unavailable	-
South West BAP	20	Unavailable	-
Dart LEAP	24	113	21%
Duchy Newtake Survey	2	119	2%
<i>Total</i>	<i>236</i>		

Consideration has also been given to the number of actions identified within existing plans for which the Steering Group organisations are the lead partner and which have received support from the DBP. They are:

Table 3

NO. OF ACTIONS IDENTIFIED IN EXISTING PLANS FOR WHICH STEERING GROUP ORGANISATIONS ARE THE LEAD PARTNER	
Organisation	Number of actions receiving support from the DBP
DNPA	111
EA	46
EN	36
<i>Total</i>	<i>193</i>

There are also actions identified within the existing plans for which the Steering Group organisations are partners and the number which have received support from the DBP are detailed in table 4.

Table 4

NO. OF ACTIONS IDENTIFIED IN EXISTING PLANS FOR WHICH STEERING GROUP ORGANIATIONS ARE PARTNERS	
Organisation	Number of actions supported from the DBP
DNPA	19
EA	6
EN	16
<i>Total</i>	<i>41</i>

3.5.2 Actions identified for the DBP work programme

To direct the work of the DBP, actions were identified at the start of the Project, from the existing plans, which were used to develop the work programme.

In total 35 actions were identified (see appendix iii) of which 23 have received some support. The amount of support has varied depending on the species or habitat and the results are as follows:

☺ - Much progress

Those actions which received much progress relate to the greater horseshoe bat, hedgebanks, torrent rivers and streams, interpretation, earth science features, recreation management, salmon and sand martins.

☺ - **Some progress**

Those actions which received some progress relate to heather, upland heathland, rhos pasture and upland oakwood.

☹ - **Little/no progress**

Those actions which have received little or no progress relate to water vole; dry stone walls, survey, research, effluent discharge, ring ouzel, red grouse, cirl bunting, blue ground beetle, reservoir and ponds, marsh fritillary, high brown fritillary, kingfishers, upland heathland and wet woodlands.

The reasons for this lack of progress can be summarised as follows:

Work not appropriate: Some habitats such as stone walls, survey work and effluent discharge are not appropriate for the DBP, for example stone walls are more suited to funding under the ESA scheme.

Work no longer appropriate: Having undertaken a survey for water vole and finding no recent evidence of their presence, it is not appropriate to undertake practical work to support this species.

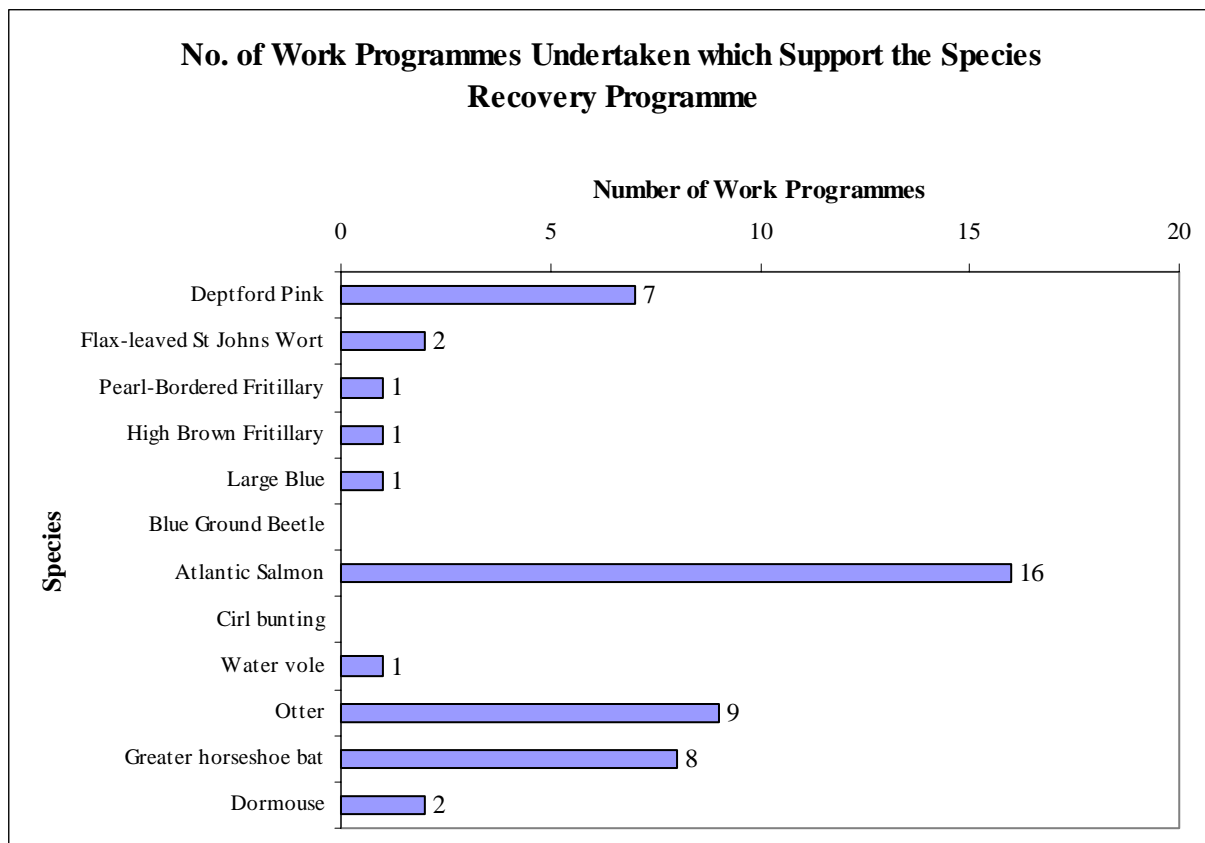
No records identified: There are no records for cirl bunting within the River Dart catchment area and therefore this species was not proactively targeted.

No obvious role for the DBP. Although some exploratory work has been undertaken no obvious role has been identified for the DBP for any works to support ring ouzel, red grouse, blue ground beetle, reservoir and ponds, marsh fritillary, high brown fritillary, kingfisher, upland heathland and wet woodlands.

3.5.3 Species Recovery Programme

As the Species Recovery Programme is part of the delivery mechanism for BAP targets, those species which are relevant to the River Dart catchment area have been identified and linked to actions undertaken

by the DBP. There are 12 species included within the Species Recovery Programme which are also key biodiversity species. Of these, 10 have received some support from the work programmes (see graph 7).



Graph 7

3.5.4 South Devon and Dartmoor Leader II.

As a major funding contributor, South Devon and Dartmoor Leader II set targets to be achieved by the DBP, as a condition of grant. These are detailed in table 5, with additional information provided in appendix vi.

Table 5

PERFORMANCE TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS ☺ - much progress ☹ - some progress ⊖ - little/ no progress
Employment of a full time Project Officer	Achieved	☺
200 Leaflets produced and distributed	2,000 produced and distributed	☺
Quarterly progress report	11 quarterly progress reports produced	☺
Prepare Action Plan, prioritising habitats/species and specifying actions	Produced in November 1998	☺
Project and LEADER II representative to liaise with Countryside Stewardship Scheme and ESA Project Officers in order to avoid double funding.	Liaison carried out by DBP Project Officer	☺
5 awareness raising seminars for the local community on wildlife.	37 awareness raising seminars for the local community on wildlife were held	☺
Visit 50 farmers/landowners to explore the potential for conservation management programmes	48 farmers/landowners were visited with a further 4 being visited outside the Leader II area	☺
20 Conservation management programmes to be commenced by farmers/landowners	73 conservation management programmes supported by the DBP	☺
£37,000 to be raised from other sources for the funding of conservation measures which implement the project Action Plan.	£42,500 raised for core project work from other sources; a further £30,724 raised for additional project work.	☺
Final Report	Completed	☺

3.6 FULFILLMENT OF OBJECTIVE 3:

Raising awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and gaining support for conservation management amongst landowners and the public

3.6.1. Raising Awareness

During the 3 years the DBP has undertaken:

- 32 work programmes which have included awareness raising as part of their objectives.
- 37 walks and talks, with 1,298 people attending (see appendix ix). These were targeted at key groups including day visitors to the moor and those working on the land within the catchment. One talk was targeted directly at farmers and landowners within the River Dart catchment area in year 3, and was attended by 22 people. From this, 2 requests for visits were made.

The DBP has also:

- Produced 6 items of promotional literature on raising awareness of biodiversity issues (as opposed to the DBP)
 1. Ban the Dam leaflet.
 2. The Bat Map (a game devised for the *Living with Wildlife* work programme).
 3. Ban the Dam Poster
 4. Woodland over Widecombe – the story of a community project
 5. Guidance note on the management of lichens on trees (see appendix viii)
 6. Leaflet on Tor formation and promotion of earth heritage sites (see appendix ix)

Other raising awareness opportunities have been undertaken:

i) *Web site*

This has received 1,317 hits (as at 22 May 2001).

Table 6

BREAKDOWN OF WEB SITE HITS		
Period	No	Total
June 1998 – Aug 2000	1,014	1,014
Sept 2000 – March 2001	144	1,158
March 2001 – 22 May 2001	159	1,317

The site is relatively simple in design and is linked to the DNPA main site (www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk). It has been updated on one occasion in 2000.

ii) *Student Enquiries*

There have been 13 students who have received direct support and advice from the DBP.

iii) *Media Coverage*

The DBP has received considerable media coverage as follows:

Table 7

AMOUNT OF MEDIA COVERAGE RECEIVED BY THE DBP	
Medium	No. of occasions
Newspaper articles	38
Magazine articles	8
Radio	15
TV	4
Teletext	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>66</i>

3.6.2. Gaining support for conservation

The DBP has worked hard to gain the support for conservation amongst farmers, landowners and the community. During the 3 years the DBP has:

- Worked with farmers and landowners on 50 occasions,
- Supported 9 educational projects involving 260 children and adults,
- Supported 5 community based projects,
- Supported 19 work programmes which have had community involvement,
- Worked with 493 volunteers,
- Undertaken 3 training events, attended by 54 people, and
- Used local contractors for 28 work programmes.

3.7 FULFILLMENT OF OBJECTIVE 4:

Integrating biodiversity with all major land uses in the River Dart catchment area and the integration of the project with other organisations.

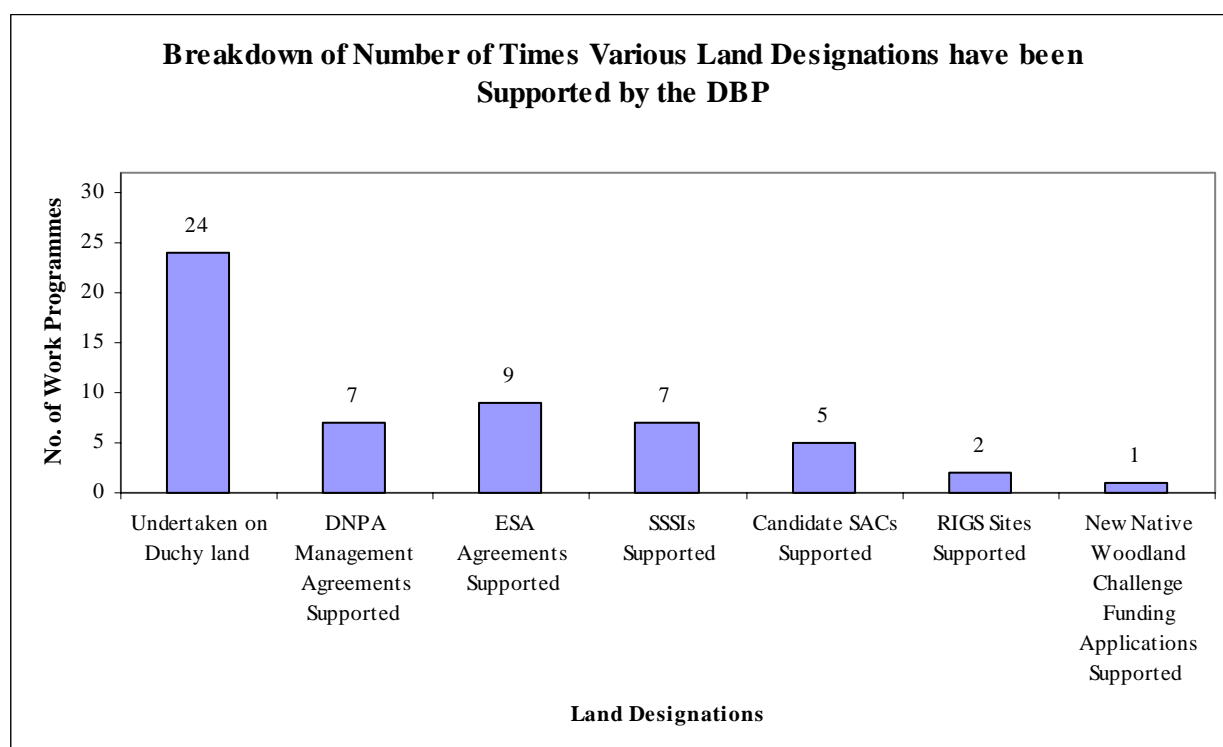
3.7.1 The Integration of Biodiversity with all Major Land-uses

The major land uses in the Dartmoor Natural Area, as identified by *The Nature of Dartmoor: A Biodiversity Profile* are:

- hill livestock farming;
- tourism and recreation;
- military training;
- forestry;
- mineral extraction; and
- water supply

Throughout the three years, the DBP has worked with all of these land uses, apart from military training. In particular the DBP has worked closely with farming, tourism, other businesses, recreation, forestry, archaeology and educational establishments, with considerable attention given to landscape issues were appropriate.

In addition to these, the DBP has supported a variety of land designations within the area (see graph 8).



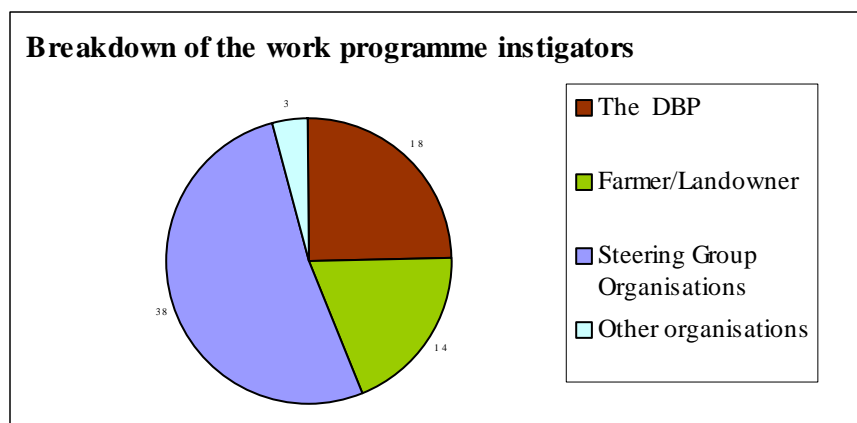
Graph 8

3.7.2 Integration with Steering Group Partners

The Steering Group Partners have provided the following support:

Financial – See section 4 - Project Funding.

Facilitation - all Steering Group Members have provided facilitatory support, particularly the DNPA. This includes the instigation of work programmes (see graph 9)



Graph 9

Information/Advice - Technical advice and support has been given by all Steering Group Organisations, with DNPA placing a range of expertise at the disposal of the DBP.

Materials/Labour – Steering Group Members have provided materials and labour.

3.7.3. Other Partners

Other significant organisations with whom the DBP has worked closely are the MAFF (now DEFRA); Forest Enterprise; Dart Fisheries Association; and Wild Trout Society.

Contact has also been made with Dartmoor Commoner's Council; Devon Wildlife Trust; Devon Probation Service; Devon Bat Group; Fountain Forestry; Plantlife; National Trust; Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) Group; RSPB; South West Water; Westcountry Rivers Trust; and the Woodland Trust.

3.8 FULFILLMENT OF OBJECTIVE 5:

Promoting the River Dart catchment area as a model of good practice

3.8.1 Promotion of the DBP

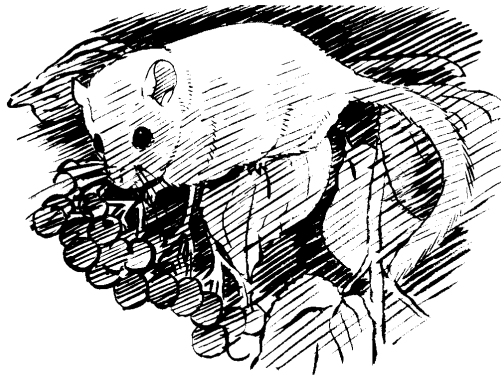
The DBP has been promoted through a number of avenues:

- Attendance at events. The DBP has been promoted at 21 events (see appendix ix). These include the launch of the new English Nature offices and the Leader II Exchange Day. During these events at least 692 people have been informed about the DBP and its aims and objectives.
- Production and use of the DBP promotional boards. Boards were produced early in year 1 and have been displayed at 21 events (see appendix ix).

- Awards.
 - The Devon Environment Business Initiative: - The DBP was awarded the Devon Environmental Business Initiative 2000 Environmental Award Conservation Winner.
 - The Edward Morshead Award: - The schools involved with the Living with Wildlife work programme came first in the Edward Morshead Award in 1999 and achieved third place in the Association of National Park Authorities National Conservation Award 2000 for their work.
- Promotional literature.
 - Project launch invitation;
 - Project leaflet with approximately 1,000 distributed (see appendix x);
 - DBP Update 2000 with approximately 500 distributed (see appendix xi).

3.8.2 Photographic Documentation

Approximately 2,000 slides have been taken of the work of the DBP. These have been used in a number of publications including the Dartmoor National Park Management Plan (May 2001) and Dartmoor BAP.



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4. PROJECT FUNDING

The financial activities of the DBP have been overseen by the DNPA and carried out in accordance with DNPA Financial Regulations.

The DBP has been jointly funded by South Devon and Dartmoor Leader II (a European funded initiative), the DNPA, the Duchy of Cornwall, EN, and the EA.

4.1 INCOME

4.1.1. Core Income

The core income for the DBP was in accordance with expectations (see table 8) and covered Project Officer's salary, travel and on-costs, the job advertisement and the works budget.

Table 8

CORE INCOME FOR THE DBP				
Organisation	1998	1999	2000	Total
DNPA	7,500	7,500	7,500	22,500
EA	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
EN	6,000	6,000	6,000	18,000
Leader II	9,350	9,050	9,050	27,450
Duchy of Cornwall	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>30,850</i>	<i>30,550</i>	<i>30,550</i>	<i>91,950</i>

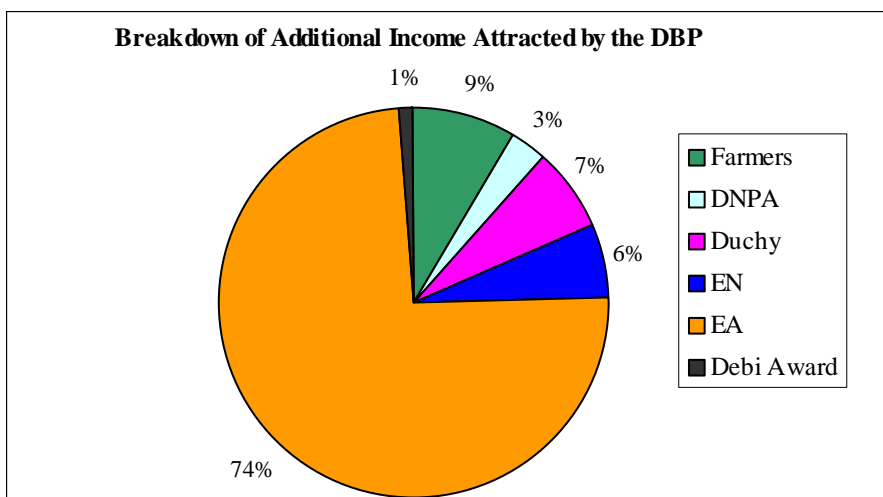
4.1.2. Additional Income

In addition to the core funding, the DBP attracted further finance for practical work (see table 9).

Table 9

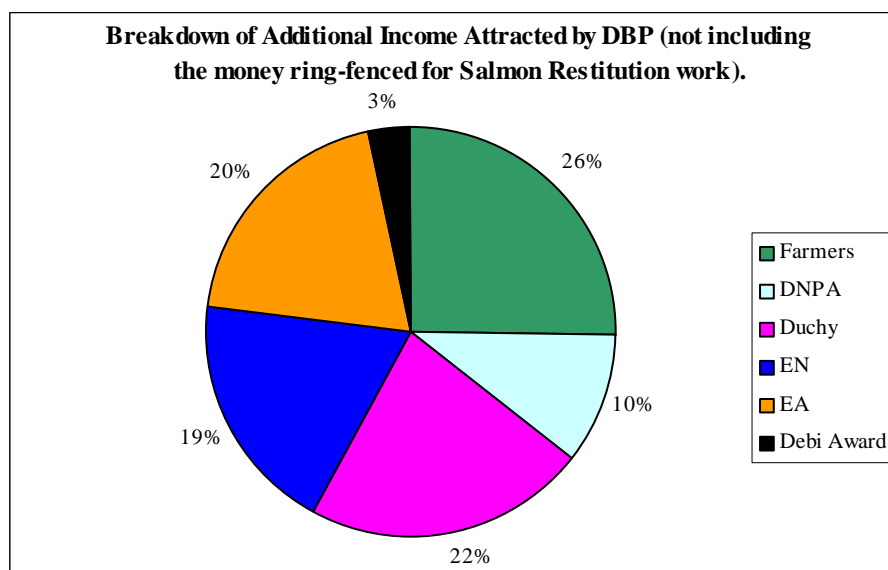
ADDITIONAL INCOME FOR THE DBP				
Organisation	1998	1999	2000	Total
Farmers/landowners	1,650.00	0.00	553.06	2,203.06
DNPA	400.00	200.00	295.00	895.00
EA	1,300.00	18,900.00	0.00	20,200.00
EN	0.00	1,677.00	0.00	1,677.00
Duchy of Cornwall	200.00	1,621.00	100.00	1,921.00
NT			30.00	30.00
DEBI Award			300.00	300.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,550.00</i>	<i>22,398.00</i>	<i>1,278.06</i>	<i>27,226.06</i>

By far the largest contribution came from the EA, who provided £20,200, of which £18,500 was specifically ring-fenced for salmon restitution work (see graph 10)



Graph 10

If the Salmon Restitution money is removed from the equation, the additional income received is more evenly spread, with DNPA contributing the least additional income from the Steering Group members (see graph 11). However, this figure does not take account of the additional support provided by DNPA for example administrative support, office space and stationery.



Graph 11

4.2 EXPENDITURE

4.2.1 Expenditure

The expenditure for the DBP is detailed in table 10.

Table 10

EXPENDITURE FOR THE DBP				
Expenditure	1998	1999	2000	Total
Works Budget	12,150	12,450	12,450	37,050
Salary	14,000	14,000	14,000	42,000
On-costs (15%)	2,100	2,100	2,100	6,300
Travel	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
Recruitment	600			600
<i>Total</i>	<i>30,700</i>	<i>30,100</i>	<i>30,150</i>	<i>91,950</i>

This expenditure does not take account of the Project Officer's rise in salary from £14,000 in year 1 to £16,000 by the end of year 3. This additional expenditure has been borne by the DNPA.

4.2.2. Works Budget Expenditure

Table number 11 sets out the works budget for the DBP over the 3 years.

In year 1 the DBP received an additional income of £3,550 for practical work and had an underspend of £7,120. This money had been allocated to works identified for completion in year 2.

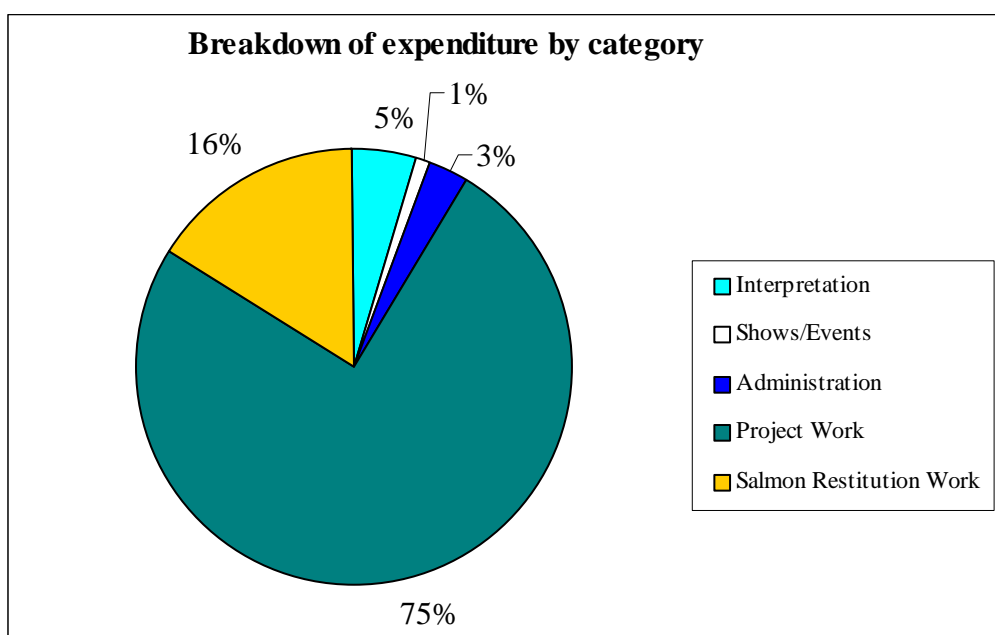
In year 2, the DBP received additional income of £22,398 which, when added to the amount carried forward and the annual works budget, gave the DBP a total budget of £41,968. By the end of year 2 the DBP had an underspend of £29,231, some of which had been allocated to works identified for completion in year 3.

In year 3, the DBP received an additional income of £1,278 which, when added to the amount carried forward and the annual works budget, gave the DBP a total budget of £42,959. The total expenditure for year 3 was £13,040. This left an underspend of £29,918. However, as can be seen from the final column, £29,480 of this has been allocated to works which will be undertaken by the DBP II.

Table 11

BREAKDOWN OF WORKS BUDGET EXPENDITURE					
Income	Year 1 - 1998	Year 2 - 1999	Year 3 - 2000	Total	Committed for 2001
Budget	12,150.00	12,450.00	12,450.00	37,050.00	0.00
Unallocated c/f	N/A	7,120.00	29,231.00	34,520.00	29,918.17
Additional Income	3,550.00	22,398.00	1,278.06	27,226.06	0.00
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>15,700.00</i>	<i>41,968.00</i>	<i>42,959.06</i>	<i>98,796.06</i>	<i>29,918.17</i>
EXPENDITURE					
Interpretation	877.71	440.00	527.26	1,844.97	0.00
Shows/Events	359.49	15.00	40.12	414.61	0.00
Administration	462.69	715.00	393.55	1,571.24	0.00
Project Work	6,880.11	11,567.00	6,584.96	25,032.14	16,850.00
Salmon Restitution		0.00	5,495.00	5,495.00	12,630.50
Sub Total	<i>8,580.00</i>	<i>12,737.00</i>	<i>13,040.89</i>		<i>29,480.50</i>
<i>Underspend</i>	<i>7,120.00</i>	<i>29,231.00</i>	<i>29,918.17</i>		<i>437.76</i>

The percentage of the works budget spent on physical works is 75%, with a further 16% spent on salmon restitution works (see graph 12). This leaves 9% of the total expenditure of the works budget being spent on interpretation, shows/events or administration.



Graph 12

5. MANAGING THE PROJECT

5.1 PROJECT TIME SCALE

The DBP commenced in June 1998, with an option to conclude the Project after 1 year if considered ineffective. In fact the Project was highly effective and continued for the full 3 years.

5.2 WORK PROGRAMME

The identification of a work programme was undertaken on 3 levels:

- A summary, 3 year, work programme was drawn up in 1998 which identified the general direction of the DBP. The focus of the work was determined by the aims and objectives of the DBP and the actions identified within the various plans.
- A general work programme was then written for each year with particular focus on key aspects.
 - *Year 1* - Project promotion, communication and discussion with other agencies and undertaking appropriate work programmes;
 - *Year 2* – Implementation of work programmes with a greater focus on the upper catchment; and promotional work;
 - *Year 3* – Implementation of work programmes with a greater focus on the lower catchment and linking individual work programmes strategically. Some promotional work and production of the End of Project report.
- Finally, 3 monthly, detailed work programmes were drawn up prior to the Steering Group meetings. This allowed for adjustments to the work undertaken and for the DBP to respond to opportunities.

5.3 SUSTAINABILITY OF THE BENEFITS ACHIEVED BY THE WORK PROGRAMMES

The need to secure long-term benefits from the work undertaken was seen as essential if the DBP was to be an effective mechanism for securing wildlife enhancement. Therefore the Project has incorporated at least one of the following into each work programme:-

- *Distinctiveness*: Those work programmes which required discrete support have been undertaken as opposed to those which required long term, ongoing support.
- *Enthusiasm*: The DBP has encouraged owners or landowners to take an active role in the work, to promote enthusiasm and understanding, which remains long after the DBP has departed.
- *Involvement of other Agencies*: Where appropriate, the DBP has involved other agencies who are more suited to providing long term support, for example introducing owners to DNPA rangers or incorporating the work into long term management agreements with the ESA or DNPA.
- *Remedial Works*. Remedial works have been incorporated into some work programmes to minimise the impacts which led to the habitat or species deterioration. For example grazing regimes have been altered to benefit species rich grassland.
- *Work specification*: Work has been undertaken to a high specification and follows the recommendations and guidance provided for conservation work by a range of agencies including FWAG, DNPA, RSPB, MAFF, EN and others.



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6. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a pilot project, the DBP has adopted an experimental approach to the implementation of BAP actions. This has achieved considerable benefits in terms of practical work on the ground and the wider issues surrounding biodiversity. The DBP has exceeded expectations across the board and shown that the project approach can work well with other systems and organisations.

The Steering Group members have secured additional funding and work is to continue beyond June 2001 through the DBP II. To fully understand the strengths of the pilot project and to identify opportunities for the DBP II, the results are now discussed.

6.1 COMPLETION OF WORK PROGRAMMES

As the target for work programmes undertaken by the DBP was set at 20 (Leader II), the project has exceeded expectations, having supported 73. Of these, 52 have been completed, with opportunities for additional benefits identified for 21 work programmes.

The division of work has remained fairly constant over the 3 years. The opportunity to undertake additional work programmes was always present but these were not pursued, as the DBP was determined not to raise expectations without being able to provide the necessary support.

Surprisingly none of the work programmes were actually concluded by their expected date of completion. This was due to one or more of the following factors:

- Adverse weather, particularly from early October 2000 until January 2001, when much of Dartmoor was saturated with water, due to extreme and persistent rainfall.
- Unrealistic dates of completion set at the start of individual work programmes.
- Wildlife restrictions such as the need to work outside bird nesting or flowering seasons.
- The reliance upon other people and agencies who often had other priorities to those of the DBP. This is particularly pertinent to farmers and landowners, some of whom have farmed the land for a lifetime and find it difficult to adjust to the project's time scale of 3 years.
- Administration. As the only member of staff employed by the Project, the Project Officer has carried out much of the administration associated with the DBP. This has resulted in less time being spent on the practical implementation of the work programmes. However some much appreciated support has been provided by the DNPA and this has eased the administration burden.
- Bureaucracy and consultations. The amount of bureaucracy and number of consultations required to implement action has been much higher than expected, resulting in some work programmes taking significantly longer than anticipated.
- External forces, in particular the outbreak of FMD from February 2001 until the end of the project period. The River Dart catchment area was severely effected and all visits and practical work were postponed.

This does illustrate the vulnerability of the project to the influence of external factors. The problem is not unique to the DBP. The Project Officer for the Moor Care Programme has cited external influences, such as adverse weather, as one of the greatest limitations to the Moor Care Programme. Unfortunately there is little which can be done to alter this, apart from providing flexibility in time and funding, as has occurred with the DBP.

The longest time taken to implement a work programme applies to Bellever Tor, which started in August 1998, with a projected date to complete in March 1999. By 31 May 2001, the work had not been undertaken due to the outbreak of FMD.

In addition to the 73 work programmes undertaken, a further 8 programmes were investigated and judged unsuitable for the project. The reasons for this included work being more appropriate for other organisations, such as the Duchy of Cornwall undertaking a grassland training day, or work simply being unsuitable for the DBP such as a proposed drama production.

Recommendations

- ***Continue to be selective about the work programmes undertaken and to not raise expectations without being able to deliver the necessary support.***
- ***Be aware of the constraints surrounding the practical implementation of work programmes. Take this into consideration when compiling yearly work programmes and set realistic time scales.***

6.2 GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF WORK UNDERTAKEN

The geographical spread of the work is clustered, with some areas such as Buckfastleigh and New Bridge receiving more support than others. The location of work was dependent on the presence of key habitats and species, the need for the work, and the commitment and enthusiasm of the owner or farmer. Although this has worked well for the first 3 years, there is now a need to take a more strategic approach and to continue to link habitats and species. The involvement of the Steering Group is paramount in this process and discussions on the work programme should continue to be included in the Steering Group meetings.

Recommendations

- ***Review the achievements of work undertaken to date with the aim of identifying opportunities for linking habitats and species.***
- ***Continue to identify strategic work at the Steering Group Meetings.***

6.3 FULFILLMENT OF THE OVERALL AIM: - *The maintenance and enhancement of the wildlife resource of the River Dart catchment area.*

As mentioned in the results, it has been extremely difficult to ascertain whether the DBP has achieved its overall aim of the maintenance and enhancement of the wildlife resource of the River Dart catchment area. This is due to insufficient data and the lack of appropriate monitoring. As this aim is the fundamental purpose of the project, consideration needs to be given to identifying targets which directly relate to this aim and which can be quantified and tested through appropriate monitoring (see section 6.10.2).

Recommendations

- ***Identify targets which allow the aim to be quantified and tested.***

6.4 FULFILLMENT OF OBJECTIVE 1: - *Co-ordination and implementation of practical action to promote biodiversity by focusing on key species and habitats*

6.4.1 Species

The prominence of support for Atlantic salmon within the work programmes is not unexpected, due to the additional funding received from the EA for this species. This indicates that an injection of funding for a particular species influences the work programme of the project. However, this funding has been backed by knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff from the EA, who have provided the DBP with support and assistance. This has contributed greatly to the high number of work programmes undertaken for

Atlantic salmon. The River Dart catchment area also supports a number of enthusiastic and dynamic fishing associations who have given considerable support to the work for Atlantic salmon.

The targeting of species is not totally reliant on an injection of funds, as demonstrated by the work undertaken for the Deptford pink. Through the guidance of DNPA and Plantlife, 7 work programmes have been undertaken which directly support this species. Crucially these cover all known sites for the Deptford pink within the Project area and thus contributes significantly to the maintenance and enhancement of one of Britains most threatened plant species.

Five key species received no support:

- ***Cirl bunting***. Although initial contact was made with the RSPB (the lead partner), no records were identified within the River Dart catchment area and therefore this species was not proactively targeted.
- ***Blue ground beetle***. Some initial exploratory work was undertaken with a local entomologist, but again there was no obvious role for the project and this species was not proactively targeted.
- ***Scarce blue-tailed damselfly and bog hoverfly***. These were added to the list towards the end of the 3 years and no work programmes were identified.
- ***Cave shrimp***. This is a highly specialised species, being confined to one site where it is protected, and therefore required no obvious support from the DBP.

Although not clear from the statistics, those key species restricted to specific sites have been favoured over those which are more widely distributed. This was not a conscious decision but rather has resulted from the success when targeting efforts to those species restricted to few sites. As stated in a recent DETR report “*one very clear result is a tendency for widespread species to be declining, while those species with restricted ranges are often recovering or stable. This reflects the success of targeted conservation efforts for those species restricted to few sites, and is a warning of a continued decline in the wider countryside ...*” (page 44 paragraph 8.13) (DETR 2001). Therefore, although targeting species has produced positive benefits, it is important that the DBP II takes account of the needs of both restricted and widespread species.

Recommendations

- ***Ensure that the DBP II supports both restricted and widespread target species.***

6.4.2 Habitats

The only habitat to receive no support from the DBP was blanket bog due to there being no obvious role for the DBP. Torrent rivers and streams received the most support, due in main to the EA and fishing associations.

Eight work programmes did not favour one particular habitat but rather provided general support. These involved promotional or educational work such as a workshop and leaflet on managing trees for lichens.

6.4.3 Choice of Species and Habitats

The list of key species and habitats was compiled from the various BAPs and has remained flexible. Two species have been added during the 3 years, when information on current status or distribution became available (scarce blue-tailed damselfly and bog hoverfly).

There are additional species present on Dartmoor which are not located within the River Dart catchment area (as identified by the Dartmoor BAP). These should be included in any future Park-wide project.

Recommendations

- ***Continue to focus on key species and habitats and include all species contained within the Dartmoor BAP if appropriate.***
- ***Update the list of key species and habitats as new information becomes available, in line with the Dartmoor BAP.***

6.4.4 Targeting Work to Species or Habitats

As can be seen from the above, the DBP has targeted work programmes for both habitats and species. The UK Biodiversity Select Committee on the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs recommends that “*efforts should now be focused on the Habitat Action Plans*” and that they “*consider these to be worthy of a greater emphasis than the Species Action Plans*” (UK Biodiversity Select Committee, 2000, page 6). Their argument is that, by focusing on habitat recreation and restoration, the future of many species will be ensured and that this is a more effective use of resources than aiming to protect a given species. However, the DBP has successfully carried out habitat enhancement by targeting a single species, such as work for salmon benefiting the habitat of torrent rivers and streams, and it is therefore recommended that work remains targeted to both species and habitats.

Recommendation

- ***Continue to focus work programmes on both species and habitats.***

6.4.5. Statistics on Work Undertaken by the DBP

These statistics clearly demonstrate that the DBP has achieved real benefits on the ground. However, they fail to show the true value of the work undertaken as they do not show the significance of the location or a qualitative assessment of the work.

6.4.6 Support provided by DBP

The range and diversity of support provided by the DBP has been instrumental in achieving practical action on the ground.

i) Advice

To provide a comparison between the amount of advice provided by the DBP and other organisations also offering advice within the project area, contact has been made with the key agencies.

The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and Devon Wildlife Trust have no records of providing advice within the project area over the last 3 years. West Devon Agri. BIP had a farm adviser in post for the first year of the project but then withdrew this. They now pass environmental queries on to other organisations such as FWAG and the DNPA. EN’s designated greater horseshoe bat officer has been focusing on land outside the project area, as have the RSPB.

The EA have carried out approximately 40 advisory visits over a number of catchments within the past 3 years. DEFRA (formerly FRCA) have carried out approximately 1400 visits across the whole of Dartmoor over the same time period, in connection with the Dartmoor ESA scheme. The DNPA, has no record of visits made, as the data is not collected. However, the DNPA has carried out a high number of advisory visits within the project area.

It can be seen that the provision of advice by the DBP is important. However, the project provides more holistic support and few of the work programmes have been purely advisory. Of the 36 work programmes requiring advice, 26 received additional support. Of the remaining 10 work programmes, 4 require further support which will be provided some time in the future. Therefore only 6 of the 73 work programmes have been simply advisory. The ability to back up the advice with further support is

essential for the success of the DBP, as it demonstrates real commitment to biodiversity and a belief that the advice given will really make a difference.

Recommendation

- ***Continue to fulfill a niche by providing on-site advice to farmers and landowners, businesses and community groups and to follow this with additional support where appropriate.***

ii) *Facilitation*

All 73 work programmes required some facilitatory support. The amount of facilitation required to undertake practical work on the ground is very high. The average number of individuals and agencies contacted at least once for each work programme is 9, and 34 work programmes have taken longer than 6 months to complete. It is therefore unlikely that a farmer or landowner would have the time or inclination to undertake this level of facilitation without support from a project such as the DBP. One of the strengths of the DBP has been its ability to remain focused on objectives and maintain momentum, particularly when progress becomes slow and arduous. This has been crucial when undertaking positive practical works to benefit wildlife. For example, a landowner who was keen to coppice a small stretch of over-mature hedge, contacted the DBP for support. In total 13 individuals and agencies were consulted to agree a work programme, as this hedge lies adjacent to one of the largest colonies of greater horseshoe bats in the country. Consequently its management is of great importance to the bats.

The support of the Steering Group has assisted this facilitation, by alleviating bureaucracy directly related to the work of the Steering Group Organisations. For example, the proposed dredging of Hannaford Pond required considerable liaison with the EA, and their Steering Group representative provided invaluable assistance with this.

Recommendations

- ***Ensure that the Steering Group continues to comprise representatives from the main agencies operating within the project area.***
- ***Continue to offer facilitative support to farmers, landowners, community groups and others.***

iii) *Grant Aid*

The criteria for grant allocation have proved sufficiently flexible and have enabled the DBP to respond to needs on the ground, whilst remaining consistent. Of particular importance has been the ability to adapt funding to a changeable work programme at short notice. This has allowed the project to respond quickly to enthusiastic farmers and individuals. If expenditure for individual work programmes had needed to be confirmed at the commencement of the DBP for the 3 years, this would have become unworkable, as costs altered continuously, even during the implementation stage. It is therefore essential that this flexibility is retained in future projects.

The figures detailed in graph 6 do not provide a full assessment of the projects requiring grant aid, as 11 work programmes shown as receiving no grant aid will in fact receive funding in the future. It is therefore more accurate to say that 27 work programmes have not received financial support from the DBP and 46 have or will require grant aid.

The ability to allocate grant aid has provided the DBP with an important tool for the implementation of BAP targets, as it has helped achieve small and large-scale works. This is confirmed by the comments received from contributors to the *DBP Update 2000* (see appendix xi). All made mention of the value of financial support. However, it is possible to achieve results without providing grant aid and the amount of financial support needed is not substantial.

Recommendation

- ***It is imperative that the DBP II has the means to grant aid appropriate work through a works budget, and that the criteria for grant allocation remain flexible. Funding sources which allow for flexibility should be favoured over those which do not.***

iv) *Labour*

Local Contractors

When required, contractors have been employed locally in order to:-

- encourage local involvement within the project;
- build credibility within the local community;
- encourage close working relationships to develop; and
- utilise the wealth of experience and skills present on Dartmoor.

Of paramount importance, when employing contractors, has been the involvement of the DNPA Head of Contract Services, who has provided support and advice, and ensured that all works have been undertaken in accordance with DNPA insurance and health and safety procedures.

Recommendation

- ***Continue to employ local contractors where possible.***

Volunteers

Volunteers have been actively encouraged to take part in practical work in order to:

- encourage local involvement with the project and increase the sense of ‘ownership’ by those living or working in the area;
- build understanding between farmers, landowners and other groups/individuals;
- provide students and others with an opportunity to gain conservation experience;
- release financial resources for other works.

With 666 days of volunteer labour contributed by 493 individuals, the DBP has been highly successful in securing this support. This has been achieved, particularly within the last 2 years, by working closely with the DNPA Ranger Service and in particular two area Rangers, who have developed their own network of volunteers and have been highly supportive of the DBP.

The volunteer group formed at the start of the DBP worked well initially. However, it became clear that this occasionally conflicted with the DNPA volunteer system and the decision was made to amalgamate the two. This combining of efforts increased efficiency. Any future project should continue to involve volunteers by working closely with the DNPA Ranger Service.

Recommendation

- ***Continue to involve volunteers by working closely with the DNPA Ranger Service and others, and support any DNPA volunteer programme.***

Steering Group Labour

A further source of labour utilised by the DBP has been provided by the Steering Group Organisations, particularly the DNPA, whose Conservation Works Team, under the guidance of the Contract Services Manager and the Head of Trees and Woodlands, have undertaken work on behalf of the DBP.

This labour has been provided to the DBP without direct financial cost, thereby allowing project funding to be directed to other work programmes. However, the DBP II should include this support in its budget calculations, to provide a more realistic costing of the works undertaken and the contribution made by the Steering Group members.

Recommendation

- ***Include the cost of labour provided by Steering Group Organisations within budget calculations.***

Contribution in Kind from Farmers

Farmers and landowners have provided the final source of labour utilised by the DBP, with 23 of the work programmes having some form of labour support from the farmer/landowner. Their involvement has been encouraged by the project, in order to increase their sense of ownership of the work and consequently its long-term sustainability.

Time was the greatest contribution made by farmers. This is not surprising as it has been necessary to liaise with every farmer when undertaking work on his or her land. Some have contributed significant time to the work programmes, and have been instrumental in achieving results. For example, the farmer and his family at Kingshead Farm contributed by far the largest contribution of time to the work programme, despite considerable involvement from the DNPA Ranger Service and the DBP (see case study 1).

v) *Other Support*

The ability to offer other forms of support has also been important to the success of the DBP. Materials provided by the Project have been of assistance to those farmers who have wanted to carry out the work themselves, for example on the Prison Farm (HM Prison, Dartmoor) when security measures restricted access for contractors (see case study 4). The DBP was able to take advantage of materials contributed by the Steering Group Organisations particularly DNPA and this should be included in any future project costings.

Other farmers have preferred the DBP to undertake the physical works directly. This was the case with access to the Rhôs pasture site at Broadaford which provided no benefit to the farmer or his land. This type of support has been of particular importance where the DBP or Steering Group Members have instigated the work.

Recommendations

- ***Continue to offer support in the form of both materials and physical work.***
- ***Include the cost of materials provided by Steering Group organisations within the calculations of future projects.***

vi) *Training*

The training sessions undertaken by the DBP have been highly targeted both in terms of the subjects covered and the trainees involved. This has ensured the value of the training sessions undertaken extends beyond those simply involved in the event. For example, the session involving the promotion of earth heritage was organised for DNPA guides, who lead many walks and talks on Dartmoor each year. The information they have gained will now be passed on to this much wider audience. The session on the management of trees with important lichen communities was organised for tree practitioners operating within the area. These contractors have a direct influence on the survival of lichen communities on important trees and the benefits of the training session should remain for years to come.

Efforts have also been made to supplement these training sessions with additional information or support when needed. For example, a leaflet on the management of trees with lichen communities has been produced detailing the main points discussed on the day. This has been distributed to those attending, and others who have an interest in the subject.

The DBP has ensured that there has been a clear need for the training sessions undertaken, that the audiences have been identified and targeted, and that the information has been given in the most appropriate manner. This approach should be continued.

Recommendation

- ***Continue to offer training but only when there is a clear need and audience.***

vii) *Individual BAPs*

The provision of an individual BAP has been necessary for 14 of the work programmes. These were designed to provide the farmer or landowner with specific advice relevant to either their whole farm or individual fields. Care was taken to ensure the reports were informative, sufficiently detailed with clear advice. Work programmes, maps and diagrams were included, and details on funding were provided, as required. Although this approach was time consuming, it provided a useful basis from which action could then be implemented. It also provided the farmer or landowner with a clear outline of what was being achieved and why, and gave the BAP process relevance at the most fundamental level.

Recommendation

- ***Continue to write individual BAPs for farmers and landowners where appropriate.***

viii) *Interpretative Material*

It is important that any interpretative material produced is the result of an identified need. With support from volunteers, the DBP produced a leaflet on Kingfishers in the first year. It was felt that such a leaflet might be a useful tool, although no need or audience was identified prior to undertaking the work. Consequently the leaflet has not been distributed nor utilised. Recent material, however, has been responsive to need and has evolved to meet requirements. For example, the need for an education pack for salmon was identified as part of the salmon restitution work. This has developed into a collection of interpretative material for a variety of users.

Recommendation

- ***Continue to use interpretative material but only when a need has been identified.***

6.5 FULFILLMENT OF OBJECTIVE 2:

Co-ordination and delivery of the relevant actions and targets for biodiversity identified in existing plans.

6.5.1 Existing Plans

The use of the existing plans to identify the work programme has ensured that the DBP remains targeted and focused. The ability to identify relevant actions has recently been eased with the compilation of two computer databases, detailing all actions relevant to the DBP. From these it has been possible to identify the number of actions supported by the DBP within each plan.

The Dartmoor BAP has received the most support, with 25% of all actions benefiting from work on the ground. The Dart LEAP has also received considerable support with 21% of all actions benefiting from the work programmes. The inclusion of the LEAP in the DBP work programme has helped promote a catchment based approach to the practical work and the inclusion of other LEAPs in future projects should be encouraged, where appropriate.

The DBP has provided considerable support on land owned by the Duchy of Cornwall, with 24 of the work programmes supporting Duchy owned land. This has predominantly been on in-by-land, where the greatest priority for support has been identified. In addition, 2 of the actions identified in the Duchy Newtake Survey have been supported. It has, however, become apparent over the 3 years that the majority of actions identified under the Duchy Newtake Survey are more suited to implementation through other schemes, such as the ESA scheme. However there are opportunities for providing further support under the DBP II.

It should also be noted that the involvement of the Duchy of Cornwall on the Steering Group has been crucial to the success of the DBP. As the major landowner within the River Dart catchment, the Duchy of Cornwall has provided the DBP with a unique opportunity to gain access to some of the most significant farms within the area, as well as providing on-going support and assistance, which has been invaluable. Their continued support and involvement in any future project is essential.

Recommendations

- *Include LEAPs other than the Dart, in future biodiversity projects, where appropriate.*
- *The Duchy of Cornwall to remain on the Steering Group of the DBP II, whose work programme includes support for additional actions identified in the Duchy Newtake Survey.*

There is considerable scope for supporting more actions within all the relevant BAPs and existing plans, as detailed in table number 12.

Table 12

THE NUMBER OF ACTIONS WHICH COULD BE SUPPORTED BY A FUTURE PROJECT:			
BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN	NUMBER OF ACTIONS WHICH COULD BE SUPPORTED BY A FUTURE BIODIVERSITY PROJECT	TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIONS WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL ACTION PLANS	PERCENTAGE OF ACTIONS WHICH COULD BE SUPPORTED BY A FUTURE BIODIVERSITY PROJECT
Dartmoor	242	483	50%
Devon	74	833	9%
South West	37	Unavailable	
UK	39	Unavailable	
LEAP	29	113	26%
Duchy Newtake Survey	59	119	50%
<i>Total</i>	<i>480</i>		

Therefore the DBP II should continue to use the actions identified within the plans to direct work programmes, with particular focus on the Dartmoor BAP, relevant LEAPs and the Duchy Newtake Survey.

Recommendation

- ***Identify the work programme of the DBP II by examining the actions identified in the various BAPs, particularly the Dartmoor BAP, relevant LEAPs and the Duchy Newtake Survey.***

6.5.2 Actions Identified for the DBP Work Programme

These actions were identified at the start of the DBP by the Steering Group (prior to the Dartmoor BAP) and were used to direct the initial work of the project. However, they have been less significant when identifying yearly work programmes than other methods, as many of the actions are no longer appropriate, for example the issue of effluent discharge in Princetown. It is therefore more appropriate to discard these actions and to identify work for the next project directly from the BAPs and existing plans.

6.6 FULFILLMENT OF OBJECTIVE 3: Raising awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and gaining support for conservation management amongst landowners and the public.

6.6.1 Raising Awareness

Although raising awareness of biodiversity has been an integral part of 32 of the work programmes, the need to convince farmers and landowners about the importance of biodiversity has not been necessary, as most already have a clear understanding of the need to manage land for wildlife. This is not to say that all recommendations and advice have been willingly received by farmers and landowners, but there certainly has been a general acceptance of the need to consider wildlife. Their need has chiefly been for advice on what they can do to support biodiversity on their own land and then assistance in carrying out the work. This acceptability is undoubtedly due to the work undertaken by agencies such as the DNPA and DEFRA who have been advocating sound environmental management for some years.

It is fair to say that the DBP has worked more with farmers who have an understanding of biodiversity than those who show no desire to take account of wildlife. This raises the issue of whether the DBP II should target those farmers who have an interest in conservation, or should focus on those who require more encouragement to undertake work. By focusing on farmers who are keen to support biodiversity it is more likely that the work undertaken will remain in the longer term. It also allows more work to be undertaken as less time is spent on debating the issues and more on achieving results. As long as they meet the criteria for undertaking work, it is therefore acceptable to focus on those farmers who express an interest. However, it might be necessary to approach less enthusiastic farmers when targeting a key habitat or species.

To encourage both interested and uninterested farmers, the DBP has endeavored to build trust, particularly by supporting small scale works in the first instance, and then returning to the site to undertake more substantial projects, if appropriate. This takes time and commitment, but can result in significant works being undertaken in the longer term.

In addition to raising awareness through the work programmes, the DBP has sought opportunities to inform the wider public of biodiversity through walks and talks, promotional literature, the media and information technology. The DBP has reached a wide audience with around 1,300 people attending the walks and talks, including farmers and landowners, school children, professional bodies and visitors to Dartmoor; over 1,000 people viewing the web site; and achieving media coverage on 66 occasions. The talk targeted at farmers within the catchment was well attended and is worth repeating for the DBP II. However, it might be useful extend this approach to include farm walks and demonstration days.

Recommendations

- *Continue to work with farmers who have a desire to undertake action to support biodiversity, but to also approach less enthusiastic farmers when targeting a key habitat or species.*
- *Continue to build trust with farmers and landowners by undertaking small scale works and returning to the site to undertake more substantial projects when appropriate.*
- *Continue to raise awareness of biodiversity through promotional events such as walks and talks and carry out particular promotion of the DBP.*

i) Web Site

The DBP has been part of the DNPA web site since 1998, as this minimised the amount of time needed to develop an independent site. However, the internet has developed into an important method of communication, with sites such as the UK Biodiversity web site (www.ukbap.org.uk) launched this year. It is therefore important that the DBP II web site is given greater emphasis within the DNPA web site. Direct links with other sites including the Steering Group web sites should be made and the opportunity for people to register sightings or provide feedback explored. It may be necessary to recruit outside assistance to achieve this, as there is only limited staff time available within the DNPA.

Recommendations

- *Update the DBP web site and ensure it is directly linked to Steering Group Organisations and other relevant sites.*

ii) Student enquiries

The majority of student enquiries have been passed to the DNPA Education Service, as they often concern wider National Park issues. Students who have had a specific interest in the DBP have been given time and support. Of particular note has been the involvement of a MSc student who approached the project with a request to carry out research on field vole. This developed into a research project on the distribution of water vole within the catchment and has provided the first data on current populations within Dartmoor. It is therefore important that the future project encourages selective student involvement.

Recommendation

- *Encourage selective student involvement where there are practical benefits for biodiversity.*

6.7 FULFILLMENT OF OBJECTIVE 4: Integrating biodiversity with all major land uses in the River Dart catchment area

6.7.1 Integration with Other Land Designations

Despite the high number of support schemes already operating on Dartmoor, the DBP has nevertheless fulfilled a niche role by providing highly targeted support on farms already under other management agreements (see case study 3). It is important that the DBP II continues to fulfill this role.

Recommendation

- *Ensure the DBP II fulfills a niche role by providing highly targeted support for farms and complementing existing schemes such as the ESA.*

6.8 FULFILLMENT OF OBJECTIVE 5: Promoting the River Dart catchment area as a model of good practice

6.8.1. Promotion of the DBP

Promotion of the DBP has occurred throughout the 3 years, with greatest emphasis within the first year. The number of leaflets and updates required have been less than anticipated, as their distribution has been limited to those working or living within the Project area and not visitors to the moor (unless specifically requested).

With regard to future promotion, the experience and knowledge gained by the DBP provides a valuable insight into the implementation of action on the ground. It is important that this information is made available to a wide audience, to allow others to benefit from the experiences of the Project.

Recommendation

- ***Promote the results of the DBP on a local, regional, national and international level.***

6.8.2 Photographic Documentation

One surprising benefit to emerge from the DBP has been the photographic records collected over the 3 years. These have been widely used for a variety of publications and purposes such as *the Dartmoor National Park Authority Annual Report*, the *Dartmoor Biodiversity Action Plan* and the *Dartmoor Visitor*. The most useful pictures have been those showing people achieving action on the ground. The support of the DNPA Multi Media Technician has been particularly important and helpful.

Recommendation

- ***Continue to keep photographic records of the work undertaken and invite the DNPA Multi Media Technician to photograph work programmes when appropriate.***

6.9 PROJECT FUNDING

The additional income attracted by the Project has been surprisingly high, at £27,000 over the 3 years, a significant proportion of which is the salmon restitution money given by the EA. When this is removed, the DBP still attracted £9,000 (in addition to the original £90,000) to the Dart catchment, thereby demonstrating that the DBP provides a vehicle for attracting biodiversity funding.

The works budget expenditure shows a discrepancy, in that a significant underspend has occurred each year. This has been due to a number of factors. The first 3 months in year 1 were spent setting up the Project as opposed to carrying out substantial practical works and hence expenditure was limited. In year 2, the addition of the salmon restitution money more than doubled the works budget for the project, with staffing levels remaining constant. In year 3, the wet weather in the winter and the outbreak of FMD severely delayed many work programmes. In addition, the DBP has also followed Best Value practices and sought to spend the money wisely, utilising other sources of labour or funding where appropriate and has obtained goods and services at reasonable rates. However, support from the Steering Group and the flexible nature of the DBP has allowed the work to continue beyond the initial 3 year period and therefore all monies will be spent when works are able to proceed. The level of funding for practical works for the DBP II should, therefore, remain a similar percentage of the total project budget.

Recommendations

- ***Retain the works budget at around 40% of the total cost for any future project.***
- ***Continue to follow Best Value practices for all expenditure.***

The breakdown of expenditure by category is within ideal parameters, with 91% of the total budget spent on practical works and just 3% on administration. The administration costs have been kept

unrealistically low due to additional contributions received by Steering Group Organisations. In particular the DNPA have covered many administrative costs including office accommodation, postage and stationery.

Recommendation

- ***Include the cost of additional support provided by the Steering Group Organisations within the DBP II budget, to provide a more accurate costing.***

Although not relevant to the DBP, projects are vulnerable to the loss of staff, particularly towards the end of the project period. It is therefore advisable that projects consider offering a bonus on completion of the project, to encourage staff to remain for the full term, and assuming no further contract is forthcoming.

Recommendation

- ***Consider offering a bonus to key staff on completion of any project, to encourage staff to remain for the full term.***

6.10 MANAGING THE PROJECT

6.10.1. Partnerships

i) Steering Group Organisations

The partnership between the Steering Group Organisations has worked extremely well. The ability to speak directly to a senior member of staff within the four organisations has proved invaluable when trying to resolve issues surrounding work implementation. In return, the project has responded to the needs of the individual organisations when required. Of particular note has been the support and involvement of the Head of Ecology and Wildlife Conservation at the DNPA who has provided day to day management of the Project Officer and been highly significant and instrumental in the success of the DBP.

Recommendations

- ***Ensure the DBP II is a partnership project and is able to call on the strengths and expertise of the Steering Group Organisation.***
- ***Continue to base the project at DNPA under the day to day management of the Head of Ecology and Wildlife Conservation.***

Of particular note has been the importance of Steering Group Partners as instigators of work programmes. 38 out of the 73 work programmes initiated by the Steering Group, the highest number from any one source. As it is recommended in section 6.2 of this report that the Steering Group should be more actively involved with the strategic identification of the work programmes, this figure is likely to remain high in DBP II.

ii) South Devon and Dartmoor Leader II

Financial support received from the South Devon and Dartmoor Leader II has been essential to the DBP, as it has provided 50% of the revenue costs of the Project. The associated administrative procedures have not been arduous, particularly as the Leader II employees have always been supportive and helpful. The involvement of Leader II has provided additional benefits, particularly with regard to meeting and talking to other projects operating within the area. Leader II has also put the DBP in a European context and shown that the work undertaken at a local level is of international importance.

The targets set as a condition of the grant have not been restrictive and virtually all have been met. There was a slight shortfall in the number of farmers visited. Although the Project has visited 52 farmers, only

48 are within the Leader II area. The assumption made at the start of the Project was that contact would need to be made with 50 farmers in order to initiate 20 work programmes. In fact, all 48 farmer/landowner visits resulted in a work programme. This should be taken into account when setting targets for the next project.

Recommendation

- ***When identifying targets for the next project, the number of farmers/landowners in relation to the number of work programmes undertaken should be at a ratio of 1 farmer visited to 1 work programme undertaken.***

6.10.2 Monitoring

Monitoring of work undertaken by the DBP has been continuous, but not consistent, over the 3 years. In 1998 no guidelines were in place for monitoring biodiversity projects or work achieving BAP targets and consequently the DBP has developed its own system, with considerable support from the DNPA Geographical Information Systems Officer. An Access database has been developed, which allows for the simple recording of data. This has been a lengthy and time consuming process for the Project Officer. The system still has its limitations, as it fails to record the value of the work undertaken as mentioned previously. However the need for monitoring is paramount, not only for reporting back to the Steering Group, but for use when demonstrating the achievements of the DBP to other agencies and potential funders. This should therefore be continued.

A national database is currently being developed by EN through their Biodiversity Information Officer, and this should be available shortly. The usefulness of this for the DBP II is untested. However, it should provide a link between work undertaken on the ground and the actions identified in the various BAPs, including the UK BAP.

In addition to collecting general statistical information, there is also a need to carry out more detailed monitoring so that the overall aim of the project can be tested. Ideally this would include information on the changes in both species and habitats. Monitoring changes in species is extremely difficult due to the number of factors affecting population and distribution. However, it is possible to monitor changes in habitat condition, either through organisations such as EN and the DNPA, or by undertaking site specific work.

Recommendations

- ***Monitor the work of the DBP II by revising and extending the Access database programme and link this to the DNPA Biodiversity Action Plan Access database programme also recently created.***
- ***Consider recording any statistics on the national database system when available and if appropriate.***
- ***Pursue the monitoring of key habitats.***

6.10.3 Communication

i) Internal

Communication between the Steering Group and the Project Officer has been of prime importance for the success of the project. The regular quarterly Steering Group meetings have provided an excellent opportunity for regular contact and should be continued. One unexpected outcome has been development of a closer working relationship between the Steering Group Organisations, which has extended into other aspects of their work.

Recommendation

- ***Continue regular quarterly Steering Group meetings for the DBP II***

Efforts were made by the Steering Group members to ensure that the DBP was well integrated into the various agencies. However, there were initial concerns regarding the potential overlap between the DBP and other agencies. In particular DNPA staff felt there was insufficient communication between the DBP and the Authority. The decision to move the Project Officer from Princetown to Parke has resolved this and the situation has improved. In fact communication has now become extremely effective, particularly with the ecology section, who have given tremendous support to the DBP and encouraged a strong and highly productive relationship to develop. This is by far the most appropriate DNPA section for the DBP to be based in, and this should continue with the DBP II. The difficulties experienced at the start, however, demonstrate the need for frequent and effective communication between the DBP and the DNPA in particular. It is therefore advisable to continue to base the biodiversity project at the main DNPA headquarters, as opposed to any other Steering Group office. It is also advisable to continue to encourage the involvement of other DNPA sections, by liaising proactively with the relevant officers.

A further area of concern has been the type of work programmes undertaken by the DBP. Initially work focused on single sites and the question was raised as to whether this type of work was more suited to individual sections of the DNPA. However, as the role of the project has developed, it can be said that co-ordination, liaison and negotiation through the complex issues of work implementation on Dartmoor have become a prime function of the DBP. There is now a widespread recognition for the need for a project and concern has dissipated.

Simultaneously, the DBP has made great efforts to consult with people and resolve any potential areas of conflict. The feedback received within the past year has been highly favourable. However, it takes time to build trust and respect both within the Steering Group agencies and externally. Now that a sound working relationship has developed with a large number of individuals and agencies, it is essential that this continues.

Recommendations

- ***Continue to base the DBP II at the DNPA main offices and liaise proactively with all DNPA Sections.***
- ***Continue to allocate time to building strong relationships and to communicate extensively with officers within the Steering Group Organisations.***

ii) External

Concern was felt by some external organisations, at the start of the DBP, that yet another individual working within the area might confuse matters. Great efforts have been made to minimise conflict and complement the work of other agencies, particularly DEFRA. Nine of the work programmes have supported ESA agreements and opportunities for further work have already been identified. There is potential for the greater involvement of DEFRA within the work of the Project, particularly with regard to long term management through the ESA Scheme. It is therefore vital that the relationship between the DBP and DEFRA continues and that ways to encourage greater liaison are sought, possibly extending this to include a DEFRA representative on the Steering Group.

The DBP has worked hard to keep farmers and landowners involved and informed of the work. Communication with farmers has been greatly enhanced by the involvement of officers from the various organisations who have already developed sound working relationships and have been able to introduce the Project Officer or provide advice on how best to approach a landowner.

One suggestion for the future role of the DBP II is that it should become a 'one stop shop' particularly as the DBP has built up strong communication links with a range of individuals and organisations. A 'one stop shop' should help minimise confusion for farmers and community groups who wish to carry out work, particularly in light of the recent FMD outbreak. However, it is questionable that the DBP is the most suitable vehicle for this. A 'one stop shop' would take the Project away from its primary aim (as it would become a link for a range of other agencies and individuals covering a wider remit). Although the Project could adapt to this role this would have an impact on the undertaking of practical work for biodiversity.

Recommendations

- ***Consider inviting DEFRA to join the DBP II Steering Group.***
- ***Continue to communicate effectively with outside agencies and farmers.***
- ***Liaise directly with all landowners to ensure their agreement prior to the work being carried out.***

6.10.4 Liaison with other biodiversity projects elsewhere in the Country

As one of the first biodiversity projects to emerge, there has been little opportunity to discuss working practices with others. Although there are still no known biodiversity projects which equate to the DBP, there are projects undertaking biodiversity work. It would be useful at the start of the DBP II to meet with two of these to exchange ideas and working practices, namely the Purbeck Biodiversity Project, Dorset, and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Coastal Slopes Project.

Recommendation

- ***Visit the Purbeck Biodiversity Project and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Coastal Slopes Project for an exchange of ideas and working practices.***

6.10.5 Project Officer

The Steering Group Organisations have highlighted the fact that the presence of a dedicated Project Officer has been invaluable in delivering action on the ground and the key to the success of the DBP. They have all stated that the importance of the appointment of an appropriate project officer/team cannot be overstated. In this instance, the Project Officer has needed to have a knowledge and experience of farming and conservation management, the ability to communicate with a wide range of agencies and individuals, adopt a flexible working approach and be determined to see work through to completion.

As a short term project, investment in staff training is of less importance than if the employee were a permanent member of staff. However, the nature of the job requires the Project Officer to keep up-to-date with current issues. The DNPA has paid for some training including the trapping of small mammals and the management of wet woodlands. Provision for future training needs should be included in the cost of future budgets.

Recommendation

- ***Include the cost of training for the Project Officer in future budgets.***

6.10.6 Exit Strategy

Consideration has been given to the exit strategy of the DBP and in particular the development of a second project to run consecutively. Part of this has been the undertaking of a project evaluation and final report.

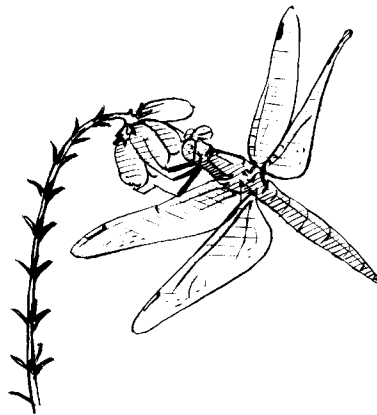
There is, however, a need to consider the long term exit strategy and the future direction of biodiversity work on Dartmoor. This should consider whether a fixed term project can meet the needs of biodiversity on Dartmoor or whether a more long term solution is required. If a large scale, fixed term project covering the whole of Dartmoor is favoured, consideration should be given to the resulting 'funding cliff' experienced at the end of some projects. For example, a project working in a northern National Park, with a budget of £250,000, has recently experienced a sudden loss of this revenue. It has been acknowledged that a more prudent approach would have been to distribute the funds over a longer period, as the most significant benefit gained by the project was the appointment of a dedicated project officer who acted as a focal point and brought people together.

6.10.7 The Project Evaluation

Although the evaluation of the DBP has taken time, it has been a highly worthwhile exercise, providing feedback on the strengths and weakness of the DBP, allowing lessons to be learnt from the pilot project and identifying opportunities for future work.

Recommendation

- *Allow sufficient resources to evaluate the DBP II.*



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7. CONCLUSION AND THE WAY FORWARD

The breadth of achievements gained by the DBP has been highly significant over the past 3 years with real, positive benefits for wildlife being achieved on the ground. The project has been a focus for the implementation of the BAP process within Dartmoor, and turned the discussion in Rio nearly 10 years ago into reality. Land managers and community groups have been helped in achieving their ambitions for wildlife. Solid partnerships have developed and an awareness of biodiversity amongst partner organisations has been stimulated, resulting in a ripple effect for action amongst other organisations. The DBP has thus fulfilled its role as a pilot project and has built strong foundations for future biodiversity work within the River Dart catchment and the Dartmoor area. As one of the first biodiversity projects of its kind, it has demonstrated the success of a targeted approach in achieving its aim.

Many of the benefits gained by the DBP are sustainable. The educational initiatives will stay in the minds of the children, teachers and parents who took part, and positive changes to agricultural practices in the catchment have been achieved, for example, at Princetown Prison Farm. The solid working relationships which have developed between partners will continue to flourish.

However biodiversity is still in need of support. On a national scale, targets for three-quarters of the UK BAP bird species are unlikely to be met by the time stated (RSPB 2000). The state of Britain's butterflies is poor with an estimated 68% decline in pearl-bordered fritillary and an estimated 82% decline in high brown fritillary (Fox et al 2001). Even within the Prime Biodiversity Area of the River Dart catchment, biodiversity is under threat. A recent survey revealed the current status of the high brown fritillary on Dartmoor to be extremely precarious (Boyce 2000) and a breeding bird survey concluded that lapwing on Dartmoor are declining (DNPA 2000).

The opportunity to push for greater biodiversity benefits is particularly pertinent at the moment. Agriculture is undergoing a transformation, especially in upland areas, and the recent outbreak of FMD will inevitably accelerate this re-evaluation. The focus for delivering many of the general environmental enhancements on farmland will remain through statutory schemes (such as the ESA), and if areas such as the Forest of Dartmoor are entered into the ESA, this will have positive implications for wildlife on the commons. However, with almost 40% of BAP priority species now occurring on five or fewer sites in the UK (EN 1999) (with a site usually being a single locality, for example a hedge, nature reserve or SSSI), the need for a flexible, targeted and focused approach is essential. As yet this is not possible under the wider environmental schemes.

Changes are also occurring in biodiversity planning process, through the designation of *Natura 2000* protected sites and the recently introduced *Countryside and Rights of Way Act* (2000). With the launch of the *Dartmoor Biodiversity Action Plan* in February 2001, actions for the next 10 years have been identified. Although many of these will be implemented through the various organisations, the DBP has shown that there is a role for a dedicated Officer who can devote time and resources to the implementation of biodiversity targets.

There are also opportunities for expanding the work into other sectors such as community groups and tourism businesses. The DBP has only begun to explore the huge potential for community involvement in biodiversity action. The presentation of the Edward Morshead Award to the schools involved in the *Living With Wildlife* Schools Project demonstrates the success of this approach and further work programmes have already been identified which will develop this work further.

Thus a niche project which complements the work undertaken by other organisations and environmental schemes, which provides much needed support and focuses resources and manpower on the implementation of BAP targets, is essential if long term benefits are to be achieved. A second biodiversity project (DBP II) has been agreed, with funding secured until March 2002 from the current Steering Group Organisations. However additional funding is still required to take this forward.

The DBP II will:

- undertake work delayed by wet weather and FMD;
- offer a range of support to farmers/landowners within the River Dart catchment area on Dartmoor.

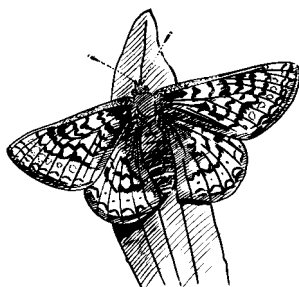
However, taking into account the major lessons learnt by the pilot project, the DBP II will also:

- seek new opportunities for linking habitats and species within a defined area such as the river Dart Catchment, by taking a network approach and viewing the project area as a whole;
- seek opportunities for extending the work beyond the River Dart catchment area on Dartmoor, by focusing on specific disciplines such as interpretation and education;
- strategically target work programmes to maximise benefits yet retain flexibility, thereby making the most of opportunities for biodiversity on the ground;
- remain focused on key habitats and species as identified by the Dartmoor BAP;
- provide a range of support for farmers and landowners, including the provision of flexible yet selective grant aid;
- encourage the greater involvement of the wider community such as community groups, business, tourism ventures and the general public;
- work closely with other agencies, organisations and individuals within the area and continue to undertake a co-ordinated role where appropriate;
- expand monitoring procedures, to ensure that quantifiable benefits for wildlife are identified and recorded.

Consideration should also be given to the long-term management of land for biodiversity on Dartmoor. It is inappropriate for a project to remain at the forefront of biodiversity action permanently. By their very nature, projects provide an injection of resources and energy to tackle specific issues, within a designated time scale. It could be that sufficient achievements will be made by the DBP II and further resources will not be needed. However, it is more likely that a longer-term strategy will be required to provide a sustainable approach to enhancing biodiversity on Dartmoor.

The *Dartmoor Biodiversity Action Plan* has given the BAP process on Dartmoor a strong and clear direction for the foreseeable future. The success of this plan will be judged by the enhancements made on the ground for biodiversity, and in the perceptions and actions of those who live, work and visit the Moor. As a significant mechanism for the effective implementation of the Dartmoor BAP, the DBP has achieved real benefits for biodiversity within the River Dart catchment area and considerable experience and knowledge has been gained on the implementation of the BAP process at a local level. The decision of the Steering Group to continue the work through the DBP II clearly demonstrates their commitment and belief in the project approach.

The Nature of Dartmoor: A Biodiversity Profile identifies a vision for Dartmoor in the 21st Century: Dartmoor should remain *at least as rich in wildlife and geological features as it is now; it should support the full range of (near) natural habitats and native species as at present; and these should be in good heart*” (DNPA 2001 page 3 para 1). Through the DBP, changes have already occurred to support this vision and this will continue through the DBP II, which will commence in June 2001.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Finally, the assistance of the landowners and farmers, community groups, other organisations and individuals who have contributed to the work are gratefully acknowledged, without whom much of the work would not have been achieved.

Susan Bragg

June 2001

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Map of the Dart Biodiversity Project Area.

List of key species and habitats supported by the Dart Biodiversity Project

KEY SPECIES

- Otter
- Dormouse
- Water vole
- Greater Horseshoe Bat
- Ring Ouzel
- Buzzard
- Red Grouse
- Cirl Bunting
- Skylark
- Golden Plover
- Curlew
- Dunlin
- Sand Martin
- Kingfisher
- Blue Ground Beetle
- Bog Hoverfly
- Large Blue Butterfly
- Marsh Fritillary
- High Brown Fritillary
- Pearl-Bordered Fritillary
- Atlantic Salmon
- The Cave Shrimp
- Keeled Skimmer Dragonfly
- Scarce Blue Tailed Damelfly
- Heather (Ling)
- Greater Butterfly Orchid
- Deptford Pink
- Toadflax-leaved St John's-wort
- String-of-sausages lichen
- The Graphina lichen

KEY HABITATS

- Enclosed species-rich (dry) grassland
- Haymeadows
- Blanket Bog
- Rhos Pasture
- Valley Mire
- Torrent Rivers and Streams
- Upland Heathland (Heather and Gorse)
- Upland oakwood
- Wet Woodlands
- Hedgebanks
- Stone walls
- Caves and mines
- Earth Science Features
- Reservoir and Ponds

**Targets Identified in Existing Plans Used to Direct the Work
of the DBP.**

SPECIES/HABITAT	TARGET	DBP WORK PROGRAMME	ACTION
Otter	Identify good and degraded areas for otters and hence opportunities for management or enhancement eg tree planting, log piles, holt protection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water Vole Survey - 006 2. Horseshoe Falls – 022 3. Princehall and Moorlands – 055 4. Hayford Hall – 059 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recording of otter signs 2. Construction of otter holt 3. Advice on habitat improvements 4. Habitat management
Dormouse	Management of hedges and woods to maintain and enhance populations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dormouse nestbox scheme - 009 2. Horseshoe Falls – 022 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Erection of boxes 2. Layering of hazel
Greater Horseshoe Bat	Identification and management of critical feeding areas within 4km of roosts. Survey for nursery/roosting sites	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Churchill Farm – 011 2. Schools Project – 018 3. Camphill Community Group – 036 4. Braemar Farm – 040 5. Devonian Woods – 057 6. Dart Bridge Road - 058 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habitat management 2. Habitat management 3. Habitat management 4. Habitat management 5. Advice on management 6. Habitat management
Ring Ouzel	Protection of breeding sites		
Red Grouse	Implementation of burning programme where there are existing or recent populations		
Cirl bunting	Promote and implement appropriate arable/winter stubble management. Explore field management options to enhance existing and new habitats		
Blue Ground Beetle	Encourage further survey work and appropriate woodland management		
Large Blue Butterfly	Support management work.	Large Blue Butterfly	Assisted National Trust with payment for fencing
Hedgebanks	Manage to maximise biodiversity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adam Hele Farm – 020 2. Princetown Community Project - 021 3. Dunnabridge Farm – 034 4. Camphill Community Group – 036 5. Dart Bridge Road – 058 6. Pixies Holt - 064 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advice 2. Advice 3. Practical Management 4. Advice 5. Practical Management 6. Advice
Stone walls	Manage to maximise biodiversity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dunnabridge Farm – 034 2. Pixies Holt - 064 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Practical Management 2. Advice

SPECIES/HABITAT	TARGET	DBP WORK PROGRAMME	ACTION
Caves and mines	Protection of particular species.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Churchill Farm – 011 2. Schools Project – 018 3. Schools Exhibition - 019 4. Camphill Community Group – 036 5. Dart Bridge Road – 058 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management to benefit bats 2. Management to benefit bats 3. Promotion of bat requirements 4. Management to benefit bats 5. Management to benefit bats
	Conservation management on geological sites	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cherrybrook Quarry - 007 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Practical work
Torrent rivers and streams	Identify and control invasive species eg knotweed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knotweed Survey - 035 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collation of information
	Help conserve wildlife trout stocks		
	Create buffer zones	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Princetown Prison Farm – 023 2. Stream Corridor – Bellever – 026 3. Powdermills – 032 4. West Webburn Clearance – 054 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of buffer zone 2. Creation of buffer zone 3. Creation of buffer zone 4. Creation of buffer zone
	Remove fish migration barriers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ban the Dam Campaign – 030 2. Runnage Farm – 050 3. Education Pack – Salmon – 056 4. Lower Cherrybrook Bridge – 061 5. Display Boards – WAZ - 063 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raising awareness 2. Removal of dams 3. Raising awareness 4. Reducing opportunities 5. Raising awareness
Torrent rivers and streams	Help with riverbed improvements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pizwell Bridge – 002 2. Princetown Prison Farm – 023 3. Stream Corridor – Bellever – 026 4. Huccaby Farm – 028 5. Powdermills – 032 6. East Webburn Clearance – 033 7. Camphill Community Group – 036 8. Alternative school sites - 041 9. Runnage Farm – 050 10. West Webburn clearance – 054 11. Princehall and Moorlands – 055 12. Lower Cherrybrook Bridge – 061 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Riverbed improvement works 2. Riverbed improvement works 3. Tree shade reduction 4. Tree shade reduction 5. Riverbed improvement works 6. Tree shade reduction 7. Riverbed improvement works 8. Riverbed improvement 9. Nutrient Management 10. Riverbed improvement works 11. Riverbed improvement 12. Riverbed improvement works

SPECIES/HABITAT	TARGET	DBP WORK PROGRAMME	ACTION
Reservoirs and ponds	Identify and control invasive species Look for opportunities to interpret wildlife. Promote conservation management in reservoir catchments.		
Earth Science Features	Seek opportunities for conservation management and interpretation of earth science features	1. Cherrybrook Quarry – 007 2. Education RIGS – 043 3. Geology Training Day - 049	1. Management of RIGS 2. Production of leaflet 3. Organise training day
Research	Compile information for proposed research into low flows, changes to moorland vegetation and river hydrology and acidification of Dartmoor.		
Effluent discharge	Pursue improvements to Princetown sewage works		
Prison Farm	Assist with implementing conservation plan eg buffer zones, tree planting	1. Princetown Prison Farm - 023	1. Buffer zones; gravel work; barn owl
Interpretation	Prepare and disseminate brief practical guides for management of species where none exist.	1. Kingfisher leaflet 2. Lichens Workshop – 029 3. BAPs for 23 farms	1. Production of leaflet 2. Production of leaflet 3. Production of BAPs for individual farms.
	Raise awareness of wildlife in catchment amongst public, schoolchildren etc	1. Jack Wigmore Garden – 001 2. Dormouse nest box scheme – 009 3. Churchill Farm - 011 4. Web Site – 013 5. Rhos pasture access 6. Schools Project: Living with Wildlife - 018 7. Schools exhibition: Living etc – 019 8. Princetown Community Project – 021 9. Stream Corridor – Bellever – 026 10. Lichen Workshop – 029 11. Ban the Dam Campaign – 030 12. Knotweed Survey – 035 13. Camphill Community Group – 036 14. Kingshead Farm - 039 15. Alternative school site – 041 16. Education Pack: Salmon – 056 17. Hayford Hall – 059	1. Haymeadow demonstration site 2. Nest box building 3. Publicity of wildlife on farm 4. Creation of web site 5. Improved access through site 6. Education project for primary school children 7. Exhibition of educational 8. Report and conservation work. 9. School children cleared stream 10. Advice for tree practitioners 11. Spawning site enhancement 12. Collation of data on knotweed 13. Advice and action for wildlife 14. Involvement of school children 15. Promotion of educational sites 16. Activities Sheet 17. Volunteers helped practical work centre

SPECIES/HABITAT	TARGET	DBP WORK PROGRAMME	ACTION
		18. Display Boards – WAZ – 063 19. Pixies Holt – 064	18. Production of display boards 19. Advice for schools training
Recreation management	Provide information on impact of recreation on wildlife and work positively with various interests to resolve potential conflict	1. Dury Farm Quarry - 001 2. Churchill Farm – 011 3. Rhos Pasture Access - 016 4. Horseshoe Falls – 022 5. Huccaby Farm – 028 6. Ban the Dam Campaign – 030 7. Kingshead Farm – 039 8. Cherrybrook Hotel – 047 9. Education Pack – Salmon – 056 10. Devonia Woods – 057 11. Lower Cherrybrook Bridge – 061 12. Display Boards – WAZ – 063 13. Pixies Holt – 064 14. St Michael’s Churchyard – 070 15. Sand Martins – 072	1. Access restriction at critical times 2. Fencing of footpath 3. Building bridges to direct access 4. Otter holt in disturbed area 5. Fishermen consulted 6. Advice re tripper dams 7. Consideration of public footpath 8. Resolve visitor/haymeadow conflict 9. Production of pack 10. Advice on access and wildlife 11. Riverbank practical work 12. Production of boards 13. Advice on minimising conflict 14. Advice on minimising conflict 15. Collection of data to help advice
Recreation management	Practical work on visitor management	1. Dury Farm Quarry - 001 2. Runnage Haymeadow – 005 3. Churchill Farm - 011 4. Rhos Pasture Access – 016 5. Ban the Dam Campaign – 030 6. Alternative schools sites – 041 7. Education RIGS – 043 8. Education Pack – Salmon – 056 9. Lower Cherrybrook Bridge – 061 10. Display Boards – WAZ - 063	1. Access restriction at critical times 2. Provision of new gate 3. Fencing of footpath to discourage dogs and encourage grazing of unimproved grassland 4. Building bridges to direct access 5. Advice on tripper dams 6. Identification of new riverine sites 7. Promotion of new RIGS site 8. Production of activity sheets 9. Riverbank practical work 10. Production of boards
Marsh fritillary	Scrub clearance etc on management agreement sites Organise appropriate grazing regime.		
High Brown Fritillary	Site management and monitoring, clearing paths through bracken	Brimpts Farm - 004	Facilitated DNPA top up on potential high brown field
High Brown Fritillary	See opportunities for new colonies, especially recently deserted colonies.		

SPECIES/HABITAT	TARGET	DBP WORK PROGRAMME	ACTION
Salmon	Remove dams, identify and resolve conflicts affecting spawning grounds and water quality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pizwell Bridge – 002 2. Princetown Prison Farm – 023 3. Powdermills - 032 4. East Webburn – 033 5. Alternative school sites – 041 6. Lower Cherrybrook Bridge – 061 7. Cator Common at Pizwell - 067 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Riverbank restoration 2. Buffer zones; gravel work 3. Spawning site enhancement 4. Riverbank tree felling 5. Spawning site enhancement 6. Riverbank restoration 7. Spawning site enhancement
	<p>Prepare publicity material for public re dams</p> <p>Establish buffer zones.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ban the Dam Campaign- 030 2. Education Pack – Salmon – 056 3. Display boards – WAZ - 063 1. Princetown Prison Farm – 023 2. West Webburn Clearance – Broadaford Farm - 054 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poster campaign 2. Activities sheet 3. At key sites 1. Buffer zones; gravel work 2. Riverbank restoration
Heather	<p>Monitor heather recovery, control bracken/gorse</p> <p>Implement burning programme</p> <p>Control bracken/gorse</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Little Stannon – 031 2. Swaling - 048 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assisted swaling 2. Assisted swaling
Sand Martins	Identify and protect breeding sites.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dury Farm Quarry – 001 2. Princehall – 017 3. Lower Cherrybrook Bridge – 061 4. Princehall and Moorlands – 055 5. Sand Martins - 072 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protection of breeding site 2. Protection of breeding site 3. Protection of breeding site 4. Protection of breeding site 5. Identification of breeding sites
Sand Martins	Investigate possibilities for new colonies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sand Martins - 072 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigation of breeding sites
Kingfishers	Identify and protect breeding sites.		
	Investigate possibilities for new colonies		
Kingfishers	Identify colonies and ensure bankside vegetation is managed appropriately	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water Vole Survey - 008 	

SPECIES/HABITAT	TARGET	DBP WORK PROGRAMME	ACTION
Upland heathland	Encourage adoption of best practice for swaling Assist with drawing up fire control plans Implement burning programme Assess need for and implement bracken control working with ESA officers.	1. Little Stannon – 031 2. Swaling - 048 1. Little Stannon – 031 2. Swaling - 048	1. Assisted swaling 2. Assisted swaling 1. Assisted swaling 2. Assisted swaling
Upland heathland	Assess potential for re-creation Set up best practice area		
Rhos pasture	Scrub control, habitat enhancement. Assessment of sites for restoration	1. Rhos Pasture Access – 016 2. Dunstone Bridge Fields – 037 3. Hayford Hall - 059	1. Scrub control 2. Facilitation to enter DNPA Agree 3. Scrub control
Upland oakwood	Identify best sites in area and management needs. Explore possibilities for new native woodland	1. Kingshead Farm – 039 2. Ausewell Woods Phase I - 012 3. Ausewell Woods Phase II – 044	1. Tree planting/facilitating WGS 2. Conifer clearance in BL wood 3. Conifer clearance in BL wood
Wet woodlands	Identify key sites and management needs Initiate invertebrate survey		

Location of DBP Work Programmes

Opinions of the DBP by those approached for the Update 2000.

These are the opinions of a select group of people which were sought at the end of year 2, for incorporation into the DBP Update 2000. Although this is by no means a random or representative sample, their comments do provide some feedback on the support offered by the DBP.

The quotes are as follows:

“The Living with Wildlife project was an enormous success and encouraged local children to become involved and explore biodiversity in their local surroundings. It was the involvement of the DBP which enabled this project to happen so successfully”

Richard Brooks, Sector Ranger, DNPA

“This project (Kingshead Millennium Woodland) was to create a small area of natural woodland and to connect it to existing mature woodland on the other side of the farm, using the hedgerows as a wildlife corridor. The area has been fenced and planted with 16 species of trees and shrubs, entirely with the financial support and encouragement of the DBP. The planting itself was done as a team effort by children from local schools, National Park Authority staff and ourselves. The enthusiasm that all this had generated has initiated a new phase in this moorland farm, already under an ESA agreement”.

Nigel Storrs, Farmer

“If you want to do some conservation work on your land it is worth contacting the DBP to see whether a grant is available. With the help of Sue Bragg and the DBP I removed a failing crop of Sitka Spruce from an area of heather and scrub oak. The result is a vast improvement and, what is more, I thoroughly enjoyed the process and learned a lot for it”

Laura Johnson, Director, Laura Woodlands Ltd

“Hannaford Lily Pond had become so silted up and overgrown that there was only a very small dark puddle of murky water visible in the middle. Grant money was provided by the DBP to assist with the dredging of 100 years or more of silt and rotting leaves. Advice was also sought from Sue Bragg, DBP Project Officer, who was able to make a smooth path through the maze of administration with other authorities and bodies in order to facilitate the works. The pond has begun to recover from years of neglect. The funds that the DBP was able to provide enabled the restoration of this area of water, which is already starting to teem with wildlife.”

Patrick Simpson, Landowner

In addition to these comments, feedback has been received from farmers and landowners during the 3 years, all of which has been positive. Of particular note was a comment from the Farm Manager at the Prison Farm who rang to say that the work undertaken supported by the DBP was the one *“the best days work (he) had ever done”*.

Details of the Leader II Targets

ORIGINAL FORECAST OUTPUTS	ORIGINAL FORECAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	REVISED FORECAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	OUTPUTS ACHIEVED	TOTAL	NOS
Employment of full time Project Officer	31 May 1998	1 June 1998	Achieved	N/A	
200 Leaflets produced and distributed	31 May 1998	5 October 1998	Achieved – 2,000 produced and distributed	N/A	
Quarterly Progress Report	14 August 1998 and then quarterly thereafter	14 August 1998 14 November 1998 14 February 1999 14 May 1999 14 August 1999 14 November 1999 14 February 2000 14 May 2000 31 August 2000 14 November 2000 14 February 2001 End of Project Report	Achieved Achieved Achieved Achieved Achieved Achieved Achieved Achieved Achieved Achieved Achieved A draft copy has been completed with the final version due shortly	9	
Prepare action plan, prioritising habitats/species and specifying actions	30 November 1998	30 November 1998	Achieved	N/A	
Project representative and South Devon & Dartmoor LEADER II representative to liaise with Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) and Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Project Officers in order to avoid double funding.	30 November 1998	30 November 1998 and 5 January 1999	Achieved.	N/A	
5 awareness raising seminars for the local community on wildlife conservation to be held	31 March 2001	31 May 2001	1. Project Launch 5.10.98 2. Talk – Leader II Project – 28.10.98 3. Talk – Dartmoor Rescue Group – 13.1.99 4. Talk – Roborough Young Farmers – 26.1.99 5. Talk – DNPA Guides – 27.1.99 6. Walk – DNPA Information Staff – 4.3.99 7. Talk – DNPA Staff – 26.4.99 8. Walk – General Public – 12.5.99 9. Talk – Environmental and Land Use Consultative Forum – 28.5.99 10. Talk – Exmoor and Dartmoor National Park Members – 3.6.99 11. Walk – Dart 1999 – 5.6.99 am	31	60 10 50 20 40 40 20 7 20 20 20

ORIGINAL FORECAST OUTPUTS	ORIGINAL FORECAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	REVISED FORECAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	OUTPUTS ACHIEVED	TOTAL	NOS
			12. Walk – Dart 1999 – 5.6.99 pm		30
			13. Walk – Duchy Visit - 18.6.99		15
			14. Schools Picnic – 15.7.99		100
			15. Womens Guild Princetown – August 99		50
			16. Walk – General Public – 6.9.99		20
			17. Talk – First Review Group for Dart LEAP – 8.9.99		40
			18. Talk – University Students – 10.9.99		30
			19. Lichen Workshop – 4.10.99		15
			20. Camphill Community Group Awareness Session – 7.10.99		40
			21. Talk – Uni. of Plymouth, Landscape Students – 28.10.99		30
			22. Talk – WDBC – councillors and senior officers – 29.10.99		30
			23. Talk – Bovey Tracey Wildlife Group – 1.12.99		40
			24. Schools Exhibition – Dec 99		100
			25. Talk – Civic Service Retirement Fellowship – 2.3.00		30
			26. Talk – DNPA Members – 24.5.00		15
			27. Talk – Dart Fisheries Association – 2.6.00		35
			28. Talk – new staff at DNPA – 6.7.00		10
			29. Talk – RICS at Brimpts Farm – 11.7.00		60
			30. Walk – Brimpts Farm – 13.7.00		7
			31. Talk – DNPA Staff – 1.8.00		40
			32. Talk – National Park Ecologists – 17.10.00		20
			33. Talk – DEBI Award ceremony		70
			34. Talk – Farmers - 29.11.00		22
			35. Talk – Dart Angling Association – 1.12.00		80
			36. Walk – Libby Purvis – 11.1.01		2
			37. Talk – LBAP Practitioners – 2.5.01		60
			TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED – 1298		

ORIGINAL FORECAST OUTPUTS	ORIGINAL FORECAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	REVISED FORECAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	OUTPUTS ACHIEVED	TOTAL
Visit 50 farmers/landowners to explore the potential for conservation management programmes	31 March 2001	31 May 2001	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Andy Bradford, Brimpts Farm 2. Pizwell Bridge 3. Mr Adaway, Dury Farm 4. Lydgate Hotel 5. Jack Wigmore Gardens 6. Phil Coaker, Runnage Farm 7. Laura Johnson, Ausewell Woods 8. FC, Cherry Brook Quarry 9. Mr Pedrick, Churchill Farm 10. Mr Simpson, Spitchwick Manor 11. Pearl Chaffe, Lower Hannaford Farm 12. Princetown Community Conservation Group 13. Mr Draycup, Broadaford Farm, 14. Mr Branfield, Moorlands Farm, 15. Mr & Mrs McCormack, Adams Hele Farm 16. Buckfast St Mary's Primary School 17. Princetown Primary School; 18. Buckfastleigh Primary school 19. Mr & Mrs Radford, Hannaford Manor 20. Ashburton Primary School 21. Princetown Prison Farm 22. Mr Osborne, Hameldown Common 23. National Trust - Large Blue Site 24. Mr & Mrs Mudge, Huccaby Farm 25. Powdermills Farm 26. Two Bridges Quarry 27. Laugher Tor Quarry 28. Mr & Mrs Watson, Little Stannon 29. Mr & Mrs Winsor, Dunnabridge 30. Helen Bennett, Merrifield, Buck. 31. Camphill Farm, Buckfastleigh 32. Neil Homes, Braemar Farm 33. FC, Bellever Forest 34. Blight & Scoble, Buckfastleigh 35. Woodend Wood, Ashburton 36. Mr & Mrs Duncan, Cherrybrook Hotel 	48

ORIGINAL FORECAST OUTPUTS	ORIGINAL FORECAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	REVISED FORECAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	OUTPUTS ACHIEVED	TOTAL
			37. Mr T Stanley, Buckfastleigh 38. Mr Waldron, Waldron Patisserie 39. Mr & Mrs Wyatt, Holne Bridge 40. Gary Hayman, Bellever 41. Mr Billing, Dart Road, Buckfastleigh 42. Devonia Products land, Buckfast 43. Land at Lower Cherrybrook Bridge 44. Bellever Bridge 45. Halshanger Manor, Buckland 45. Hayford Manor, 46. Pixies Holt – Dartmeet 47. Shilstone Rock Riding Stables 48. St Michael’s Church	
Additional farmers visited	N/A	N/A	1. Widecombe School 2. Challamore Farm, Buckland in the Moor 3. East Webbern Land 4. Kingshead Farm, Widecombe	4
20 Conservation management programmes to be commenced.	31 st March 2001	31 st May 2001	1. Dury Farm Quarry 2. Pizwell Bridge 3. Jack Wigmore Garden 4. Brimpts Farm 5. Runnage Haymeadow 6. Water Vole Survey 7. Cherrybrook Quarry 8. Hannaford Pond 9. Dormouse nest box 10. Curlew Survey 11. Churchill Farm 12. Ausewell Woods 13. Web Site 14. DFA River Survey 15. Bellever Tor 16. Rhos Pasture Access 17. Princehall 18. Schools Project <i>Living with Wildlife</i> 19. Schools Exhibition <i>Living with Wildlife</i> 20. Adam Hele Farm 21. Princetown Community Project	

ORIGINAL FORECAST OUTPUTS	ORIGINAL FORECAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	REVISED FORECAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	OUTPUTS ACHIEVED	TOTAL
			22. Horseshoe Falls 23. Princetown Prison Farm 24. Challamoor 25. Soussons Stream Corridor – Bellever 26. Large Blue Butterfly 27. Huccaby Farm 28. Lichen Workshop 29. Ban the Dam Campaign 30. Little Stannon 31. Powdermills 32. East Webburn Clearance 33. Dunnabridge 34. Knotweed Survey 35. Camphill Community Group 36. Dunstone Bridge Fields 37. Deptford Pink – New Development 38. Kingshead Farm 39. Braemar 40. Alternative School Site for River Work 41. Graphina Lichen 42. Education – RIGS 43. Ausewell Woods – Phase II 44. Toadflax Location 45. Weir at Merryfield 46. Cherrybrook Hotel 47. Swaling – Huccaby and Hameldown 48. Geology Training Day 49. Runnage Farm 50. Buckfastleigh Bakery 51. Holne Bridge Lodge Haymeadow 52. Deptford Pink – Allotments 53. West Webburn Clearance – Broadaford 54. Princehall and Moorlands 55. Education Pack – Salmon 56. Devonian Woods 57. Land at Dart Road, Buckfastleigh 58. Hayford Hall 59. Bat Survey 60. Lower Cherrybrook Bridge	

ORIGINAL FORECAST OUTPUTS	ORIGINAL FORECAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	REVISED FORECAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	OUTPUTS ACHIEVED	TOTAL
			61. Halshanger Manor 62. Display Boards – WAZ 63. Pixies Holt 64. Challacombe 65. Dartmoor Training Centre Woodland 66. Cator Common at Pizwell 67. Swaling Tree 68. St Lukes School 69. St Michael's Churchyard 70. Five Oaks 71. Sand Martins 72. Shilstone Rock Stables	
£37,000 funding to be raised from other sources for the funding of conservation measures which implement the project action plan.	31 st March 2001	31 st May 2001	£42,500 raised for core project work from other sources; a further £30,724 raised for additional project work (see finance section of this report).	
Final Report	31 st March 2001	31 st May 2001	Completed	

Guidance Notes on the Management of Trees with Lichen Communities

Tor Formation

Promotional Events attended by the DBP

WALKS AND TALKS	Date	No. Attending	Boards
1. Talk – Project Launch	5.10.98	60	Yes
2. Talk – Leader II Project	28.10.98	10	
3. Talk – Dartmoor Rescue Group	13.1.99	50	
4. Talk – Roborough Young Farmers	26.1.99	20	
5. Talk – DNPA Guides	27.1.99	40	
6. Walk – DNPA Information Staff	4.3.99	40	
7. Talk – DNPA staff – Brazil and biodiversity	26.4.99	20	
8. Walk – General Public – Farming and Conservation	12.5.99	7	
9. Talk – Environmental and Land Use Consultative Forum	28.5.99	20	
10. Talk – Exmoor and Dartmoor National Park Members	3.6.99	20	Yes
11. Walk – Dart 1999 - am	6.6.99	20	
12. Walk – Dart 1999 - pm	6.6.99	30	
13. Walk – Duchy Visit	18.6.99	15	Yes
14. Schools Picnic	15.7.99	100	Yes
15. Exhibition - Womens Guild, Princetown	August 99	50	Yes
16. Walk – Farming and Conservation	6.9.99	20	
17. Talk – First Review Group for Dart LEAP	8.9.99	40	
18. Talk – University of Plymouth students	10.9.99	30	
19. Lichen Workshop	1.10.99	15	Yes
20. Camphill Community Group awareness session	7.10.99	40	Yes
21. Talk – Uni of Plymouth, Landscape Students	28.10.99	30	
22. West Devon Borough Council	29.10.99	30	
23. Talk – Bovey Tracey Wildlife Group – general DBP	1.12.99	40	
24. Schools Exhibition	Dec 99	100	
25. Talk – Civil Service Retirement Fellowship	2.3.00	30	
26. Talk – DNPA Members – Update on DBP	24.5.00	15	
27. Talk – Dart Fisheries Association	2.6.00	35	
28. Talk – new staff DNPA	6.7.00	10	
29. Talk – RICS at Brimpts Farm	11.7.00	60	
30. Walk – Brimpts Farm – biodiversity and farming	13.7.00	7	
31. Talk – DNPA Staff update on Project	1.8.00	40	
32. Talk – National Park Ecologists	18.10.00	20	
33. Talk – DEBI Award ceremony	23.11.00	70	
34. Talk – farmers in lower catchment	29.11.00	22	Yes
35. Talk – Dart Angling Association	1.12.00	80	
36. Walk – Libby Purvis	11.1.01	2	
37. Talk – LBAP Practitioners Workshop	2.5.01	60	
TOTAL		1298	
EVENTS ATTENDED TO RAISE AWARENESS	Date	No. Attending	Boards
1. Dart Fishing Event	27.6.98	20	Yes
2. Staff meeting at Parke	6.7.98	20	
3. Dart fisheries meeting	31.7.98	30	Yes
4. Dart Fisheries Association	18.8.98	20	
5. Staff training day	6.10.98	20	
6. Wood Fair	10.10.98	10	
7. Exhibition – World of Nature Day	29.10.98	50	Yes
8. Exhibition – Leader II Exchange Day	5.12.98	50	Yes
9. EA visits	26.2.99	10	
10. Anthony Steen	12.6.99	3	
11. IGER	24.6.99	20	Yes
12. Biodiversity Action Group meeting	3.11.99	10	Yes
13. Exhibition for Leader II	22.11.99	50	Yes
14. Guides meeting	31.1.00	30	Yes
15. Meeting at Parke	1.2.00	10	Yes
16. Tourism Conference	14.3.00	30	Yes
17. Guides training day	5.4.00	30	
18. Meeting at Parke	13.4.00	20	Yes
19. Exhibition – Geography Teachers South West	13.10.00	139	Yes
20. Launch of English Nature’s Exeter office	20.10.00	100	Yes
21. Attendance at wet woodlands training day	8.11.00	20	
TOTAL		692	

Dart Biodiversity Project Leaflet

DBP Update 2000

CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDY 1:	KINGSHEAD FARM - example of community involvement
Aim:	To support the local community in developing a project to mark the year 2000; provide an opportunity for community involvement; increase awareness of the need for biodiversity and broadleaved woodland in particular; increase shelter at Kingshead Farm; increase biodiversity on the farm by establishing a small, deciduous woodland on improved grassland; link the new woodland to existing mature woodland; and create an interesting and attractive landscape feature.
Key habitats/species:	Upland oakwood; Buzzard.
Biodiversity benefits:	0.237ha of broadleaved woodland planted with 535 trees.
Other benefits:	ESA supported; New Native Woodland Challenge Funding supported; 91 members of the local community involved; production of a written record of the event for the Widecombe Time Capsule; photographs subsequently used in publications.
Role of DBP:	Facilitator through project development stage; liaison with landowner, FRCA and DNPA; provision of technical advice; co-ordination of community involvement; assistance with physical works; funding (project not suited to ESA or Forestry Commission grant aid); publicity of work; production of written record.
Timing:	The project took 15 months to complete (August 1999 to November 2000).
Finance:	Grant of £1,245.
Other contributions:	Farmer contributed considerable time (at least 10 working days).
Details:	Instigated by the DNPA Ranger for the area. The idea for the project grew from a simple conversation between the Ranger and the farmer. The main difficulty centred on bureaucracy and the DBP was able to help maintain the enthusiasm of the Ranger and farmer by dealing with the necessary facilitation and paperwork. This small woodland then led to a successful application by the farmer for New Native Woodland Challenge Funding.
Lessons Learnt:	<p>Work with the enthusiasm of the farmer. Although this meant planting some less desirable species, his enthusiasm resulted in around 2ha of additional woodland planted adjacent to the site. It is also more likely that he will maintain the area.</p> <p>Liaise early with ESA officers. The input of the ESA officers (particularly landscape) was crucial. Unfortunately, the DBP worked the plan up in detail before discussing it with the ESA. They felt the chosen site was unsuitable due to landscape reasons and the plan had to be altered resulting in additional work for the DBP.</p> <p>Use pea sticks or canes. We planted the trees in single species groups of around 30. When working with a number of volunteers we found it highly useful to demarcate the different areas with pea sticks placed on the ground. In addition, we pushed a pea stick into the ground to mark the location of each tree. This allowed us to easily direct volunteers to a suitable area for planting and to maintain a desirable planting pattern and spacing.</p>

CASE STUDY 2:	LIVING WITH WILDLIFE - example of an educational project
Aim:	To raise awareness of local biodiversity amongst children between 5 and 11 years of age; to test the suitability of the approach for achieving educational benefits; to undertake physical works to support key habitats and species; to develop a good relationship between the DBP and local primary schools.
Key habitats/species:	Heathland; rhos pasture; upland oakwood; enclosed species-rich grassland; caves; torrent rivers and streams; greater horseshoe bat; Atlantic salmon; heather and Deptford pink.
Biodiversity benefits:	0.5ha of moorland enhanced; 0.5ha of broadleaved woodland enhanced; 44m of hedge planted.
Other benefits:	Excellent relationship has developed with the schools; additional contact has been made with the schools concerning other work; the schools received two conservation awards for their achievements; 140 volunteers involved who contributed 70 volunteer days; and DBP received considerable publicity.
Role of DBP:	Facilitator through project development stage and co-ordinator of the work programme; liaison with landowners, EA, DNPA and schools; identification of suitable sites for practical work; provision of technical advice; assistance with physical works; funding; promoting and publicising the work.
Timing:	The project took 9 months to complete (November 1998 to July 1999).
Finance:	Grant of £1,401. Additional contributions made by the Duchy (£139)
Other contributions:	Time and resources supplied by the DNPA and the EA.
Details:	This was one of the most enjoyable and inspirational work programmes undertaken by the DBP and there is no doubt in my mind that it gave the children a deeper awareness and understanding of wildlife and its needs. The idea grew from the desire to work with one primary school over one day into an immense and complicated work programme which also followed on to other projects. Each school took part in a day of practical conservation work followed by a day of investigation. Finally, we arranged for all the children to attend a picnic held on high on the moor.
Lessons Learnt:	<p>Support for the project. This project would not have been possible without considerable support from a range of agencies and individuals, particularly from the DNPA.</p> <p>Supporting the schools. It was essential that we provided the necessary support for the schools. This included arranging and paying for transport to the sites and providing sufficient adults to work with the children.</p> <p>Have an educational officer involved with the project from the beginning. The educational officer from the DNPA was involved with this work programme from the start and provided invaluable advice and support.</p> <p>Holding a picnic. This was an excellent day and brought all the schools together. It also demonstrated to the children that they were part of a much wider work programme and reaffirmed the message of 'Act Local Think Global' showing that their work was a small piece in a much larger jigsaw.</p>

CASE STUDY 3:	BRIMPTS FARM - example of supporting other grant schemes
Aim:	To enhance an area of species-rich unimproved grassland and an area for pearl-bordered and high brown fritillary, by identifying and agreeing new management guidelines; to raise awareness of biodiversity.
Key habitats/species:	Enclosed species-rich grassland; grass moor (bracken); greater butterfly orchid; high brown fritillary; and pearl-bordered fritillary.
Biodiversity benefits:	2ha of species-rich grassland enhanced. Flowering of Greater butterfly orchid; identification of bilberry bumblebee (<i>Bombus monticola</i>) previously unrecorded on the site; and 0.89ha of grass moor (bracken) managed.
Other benefits:	Raised awareness of biodiversity by undertaking a number of talks and guided walks on and around the farm; 40 volunteers involved; and local contractor involved.
Role of DBP:	Facilitator through project development stage; liaison with landowner, tenant farmer, MAFF and DNPA; negotiations to agree management of the fields and the payment of a top-up grant through the DNPA; provision of technical information; initiation of management; physical works and funding.
Timing:	The project took 15 months to complete (July 1998 to September 2000).
Finance:	Grant of £252. Additional contributions made by the Duchy of Cornwall (£100)
Other contributions:	Time and resources supplied by the DNPA and the EA.
Details:	The two fields targeted by this work programme were managed under a basic ESA tier. However the ESA scheme was unable to provide the necessary specific management prescriptions to fully enhance the fields. It was therefore agreed to implement small changes in management through the DBP, which have resulted in biodiversity gains. Pearl-bordered fritillary have been noted at Brimpts and one of the most species-rich areas of unimproved grassland on Dartmoor has been identified and enhanced.
Lessons Learnt:	<p><i>Be inventive.</i> Where possible, changes in management prescriptions should be incorporated into an existing or new ESA agreement. However, it is not always possible to achieve the desired management regime through the ESA at present. In these situations inventive ways of achieving management should be investigated.</p> <p><i>Work on a field by field basis.</i> There are times when it is essential to identify management on a field by field basis. At Brimpts the two fields are almost adjacent and yet the management prescriptions differ slightly and the two habitats are distinctly different.</p> <p><i>Provide on-going support where possible.</i> Since making the management changes to the fields it has been necessary to return to the site to carry out further works, particularly with regard to bracken control on the species-rich grassland. It is therefore essential that support is on-going as this results in more effective projects and a better use of financial resources.</p>

CASE STUDY 4:	PRISON FARM - example of an individual farm approach in line with local objectives.
Aim:	To identify ways of enhancing the farm for biodiversity with particular emphasis on nutrient management.
Key habitats/species:	Torrent rivers and streams; otter; and Atlantic salmon.
Biodiversity benefits:	2 buffer zones created; 200m of fencing; 30m of stream gravels enhanced.
Other benefits:	Dart LEAP supported; an excellent relationship has developed with the farm which has benefited DNPA officers; awareness of biodiversity has been raised; publicity; and “ <i>the best days work ever done</i> ” a quote from the Farm Manager about the work undertaken.
Role of DBP:	Facilitator through project development stage; liaison with landowner, farm, EA and DNPA; advice on physical improvements; and funding.
Timing:	The project took 18 months to complete (January 1999 to June 2000).
Finance:	Grant of £500. Additional contributions made by the farm.
Details:	Work to benefit biodiversity on this farm had been identified as a local objective through the various action plans, particularly with regard to nutrient management. The work undertaken has been simple, effective and highly targeted.
Lessons Learnt:	<p><i>The need for perseverance.</i> There was a need to persevere with gaining the trust of the prison service due to a change in personnel, the commitments and responsibilities placed on the service and the pressure of farming in such unique circumstances. However, this was certainly worth the effort as an excellent good working relationship ensued.</p> <p><i>Ensure the work has practical benefits for the farm.</i> For a work programme to really succeed there is a need for the farm/farmer to gain benefits as well as biodiversity.</p> <p><i>Take advantage of all opportunities when raising awareness of biodiversity.</i> When first talking to some of the prisoners I had my doubts that they would express an interest in biodiversity. I was therefore very surprised and delighted when one prisoner commented that the highlight of his day (night) was seeing a barn owl regularly fly past his window.</p>

CASE STUDY 5:	DEPTFORD PINK – example of a network approach in line with national objectives.
Aim:	To implement management on a local basis to benefit Deptford pink - a species identified as a priority on a national level; to identify and advise on the management of known Deptford pink sites within the River Dart catchment area; and to raise awareness of the plight of this nationally rare plant.
Key habitats/species:	Enclosed species-rich grassland; Deptford pink; greater horseshoe bat.
Biodiversity benefits:	2.8ha of enclosed species-rich grassland enhanced; 300m of fencing erected.
Other benefits:	Involvement of 20 volunteers; local contractor employed; SSSI supported; awareness of Deptford pink raised; and a local volunteer has come forward to look at undertaking a long term monitoring programme.
Role of DBP:	Facilitator through project development stage; liaison with farmers; English Nature; DNPA and volunteers; advice on physical works and motivating others to undertake the work; physical improvements of the sites; and funding.
Timing:	The project took 18 months to complete (January 1999 to June 2000).
Finance:	Grant of £684. Additional contributions of £294 have been made by the farmer.
Details:	Deptford pink was formerly a widespread species in the southern part of Britain, but the number of sites has declined rapidly during the 20 th century and it is now only known on 28 10km square in Britain, one of which is on the edge of Buckfastleigh. After consultations with EN and the DNPA, the DBP has undertaken 4 work programmes which support the Deptford pink.
Lessons Learnt:	<p><i>Adopt an individual approach.</i> It is important to adopt an individual approach when dealing with landowners, as has happened in this case. To achieve work for the Deptford Pink, the DBP has contacted five different landowners who have all required a slightly different approach and support. Although time consuming, the results have been favorable.</p> <p><i>Keep local people informed.</i> These sites are on the edge of Buckfastleigh and are well known by local people. In order to minimise any negative concerns about certain aspects of the work, the Project informed local people of the work, through newspaper articles, prior to the work being carried out</p> <p><i>Include local people in the work.</i> By encouraging local people to volunteer and assist with the work, this has provided a greater understanding and awareness of the aims and needs of the site.</p>

Mr Storrs (farmer) and his family contributed significantly to the planting



The woodland takes shape



Just checking it's still there! A volunteer from Widecombe in the Moor primary school





Just about to go in! Buckfast St. Mary's Catholic Primary School go caving



Undertaking woodland management work – Buckfastleigh Primary School



Story telling under an old Oak – Buckfastleigh Primary School



Investigating Rhos pasture – a wet and highly boggy place –
Widecombe-in-the-Moor Primary School



Helping the EA with Electro fishing –
Ashburton Primary School



Removing invading sitka spruce from a stream
corridor - Ashburton Primary School



Removing invading conifers from heather
moorland – Princetown Primary School



Tackling a rather large tree –
Princetown Primary School

This field is managed primarily for fritillary



Species rich meadows at Brimpts



Bracken spraying on the species rich grassland by a local contractor





Cleaning gravels to enhance the riverbed for salmon – undertaken by the EA



Creating a buffer zone by fencing off an improved field approximately 10m back from the river



Deptford Pink



Clearing invading bramble from one of the Deptford Pink sites



Deptford Pink