

<b>SITE NAME</b> The Old Kennels / Stentwood		<b>DATE OF SURVEY</b> 15/07/2015	<b>SURVEYED BY</b> Blackdown Hills Natural Futures: Conrad Barrowclough (Project Officer) Emily Forbes (Trainee) Laura Quinlan (Trainee) Tom Nitti (Trainee) Christy Tolliday (Volunteer)
<b>SITE LOCATION</b> ST 136 102	<b>SITE NO.</b> ST11-001	<b>SITE DESIGNATION</b> CWS	

### Summary

The site surveyed is approximately 3.2 hectares and is designated as a county wildlife site. The site is predominantly species-rich wet woodland coming under three different NVC types; W4 (downy birch-purple moor grass woodland), W5 (alder – greater tussock sedge woodland), W1 (grey willow – marsh bedstraw woodland).

The areas of established wet woodland are good condition, support a wide range of species, and are in favourable management.

The woodland clearings within the site however are almost entirely dominated by bracken, in places at the exclusion of most other species. Where clearings remain slightly more open a range of wet woodland edge species are still found at low densities, and future management of bracken would allow the expansion of these ecologically valuable areas.

- Areas of established wet woodland across the site are very ecologically valuable and species-rich.
- Varied hydrology across the site creates microhabitats supporting correspondingly varied species.
- Clearings are almost completely dominated by bracken.
- Species rich patches remain around edges of bracken.
- Areas of wet woodland should be managed as minimum intervention.
- Bracken control is required in the clearings, and would dramatically increase the ecological value of these areas.

A complete species list has been compiled for each area and can be found at the end of this report.

Areas of the site are grouped according to UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat Types<sup>1</sup>.

### Wet Woodland

#### **Area 1**

Wet woodland (The Bog)

NVC – W4b – *Betula pubescens* – *Molinia caerulea* woodland, *Juncus effusus* sub-community.

This area is characterised by nutrient poor wet woodland, with abundant *Sphagnum* moss cover (predominantly *S. palustre* and *S. fallax*, although bryophytes were not the focus of this survey). The predominant canopy species are downy birch (*Betula pubescens*), rusty willow (*Salix cinerea* subsp. *oleifolia*) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). The reasonably sparse shrub layer features rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), although alder buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*) is also present. The field layer is very species-rich and typical of this NVC type, and includes lesser skullcap (*Scutellaria minor*), purple moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), smooth-stalked sedge (*Carex laevigata*), star sedge (*Carex echinata*), remote sedge (*Carex remota*), marsh thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), greater bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*), tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and marsh violet (*Viola palustris*).

Comments / management recommendations – Ecologically rich habitat in good condition, minimum intervention management is recommended.

## Area 2

Wet woodland sloping down to stream (Lower Field)

NVC – W5 – *Alnus glutinosa* – *Carex paniculata* woodland.  
W25 – *Pteridium aquilinum* – *Rubus fruticosus* underscrub.

Similar in some respects to area 1, however more abundant nutrients on the lower slopes and drier areas lead to a rather different ground flora. The canopy and shrub layer are made up of many of the same species as are found in area 1, with frequent downy birch, rusty willow and alder, though hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) are both features of the shrub layer in less waterlogged areas.

The woodland ground flora varies in composition widely as a result of varying moisture levels and shading, the only open patch to the west of this area being almost entirely dominated by bracken (map: 2a) (*Pteridium aquilinum*). Moving down the slope to the east a range of wetter patches feature neutral/basic wet woodland ground flora, including marsh violet, wild angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), water mint (*Mentha aquatica*), opposite-leaved golden saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) and locally abundant greater tussock-sedge (*Carex paniculata*). Drier areas feature a slightly different assemblage of species including sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), betony (*Stachys betonica*), dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and yellow archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*). The stream running along the bottom of this area has particularly species rich strip running alongside it, which includes the Devon notable pale sedge (*Carex pallescens*). In addition, a large patch of wood club-rush (*Scirpus sylvaticus*) is found mid-way down the slope of this area.

Comments / management recommendations – Woodland generally in good condition and minimum intervention management is recommended. However, management of encroaching bracken in clearings using rolling/topping should be considered.

## Area 3

Wet woodland with clearings (Ram Field)

NVC – W1 – *Salix cinerea* – *Galium palustre* woodland.  
W25 – *Pteridium aquilinum* – *Rubus fruticosus* underscrub.

Rusty willow is both the main canopy and shrub layer species in this area, whereas the field layer is comprised mainly of grasses; creeping soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), and purple moor-grass are all common. There are a couple of large clearings within this woodland which are almost entirely dominated by bracken (map: 3a), however small openings in the bracken constitute the most species rich parts of this area and species found here included lesser skullcap, marsh willowherb (*Epilobium palustre*), sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), devil's-bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) and betony.

Comments / management recommendations – Bracken control is required in the clearings where it has become dominant.

## Area 4

Wet woodland (Lower moor)

NVC – W1 – *Salix cinerea* – *Galium palustre* woodland.

Although the dominant tree species in this area are downy birch and rusty willow, pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) are also present. The beech is mainly found along the old hedge banks and is not typical of this NVC type, whereas stunted oaks manage to persist in the wet woodland. As with area 3 the field layer is mainly grass dominated; creeping bent, creeping soft-grass, Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and velvet bent (*Agrostis canina*) are all common. Herbs

present include three-nerved sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), marsh bedstraw (*Galium palustre*), meadowsweet, and marsh violet.

Comments – Continue with minimum-intervention management.

Species list by area. Devon notables are in bold.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Latin binomial</b>
Area 1	velvet bent	<i>Agrostis canina</i>
	creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
	alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
	lady fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>
	downy birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>
	hard fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>
	star sedge	<i>Carex echinata</i>
	smooth-stalked sedge	<i>Carex laevigata</i>
	common sedge	<i>Carex nigra</i>
	remote sedge	<i>Carex remota</i>
	enchanter's nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>
	marsh thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
	broad buckler fern	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>
	alder buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>
	marsh bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i>
	small sweet grass	<i>Glyceria declinata</i>
	yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
	creeping soft grass	<i>Holcus mollis</i>
	Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
	jointed rush	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>
	soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
	honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
	greater bird's foot trefoil	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>
	yellow pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>
	purple moor grass	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>
	creeping forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis secunda</i>
	wood sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>
	common polypody	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>
	bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
	lesser spearwort	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>
	creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
	bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
	grey willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>
	lesser skullcap	<i>Scutellaria minor</i>
	rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
	bilberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>
	marsh violet	<i>Viola palustris</i>
Area 2	velvet bent	<i>Agrostis canina</i>
	creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
	bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>
	garlic mustard	<i>Allaria petiolate</i>
	alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
	angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>
	false oat grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
	hart's tongue	<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>
	lady fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>
	downy birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>
	hard fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>
	wood false brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>

	smooth-stalked sedge	<i>Carex laevigata</i>
	<b>pale sedge</b>	<b><i>Carex pallescens</i></b>
	greater tussock sedge	<i>Carex paniculata</i>
	wood sedge	<i>Carex sylvatica</i>
	opposite leaved golden saxifrage	<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>
	enchanter's nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>
	marsh thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
	hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
	hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
	cock's foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
	tufted hair grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
	foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
	scaly male fern	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>
	broad buckler fern	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>
	marsh willowherb	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>
	water horsetail	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>
	meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
	wild strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>
	common hemp nettle	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>
	cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
	marsh bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i>
	herb robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
	wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
	ground ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
	small sweet grass	<i>Glyceria declinata</i>
	ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
	yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
	creeping soft grass	<i>Holcus mollis</i>
	bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides spp</i>
	holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
	jointed rush	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>
	yellow archangel	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>
	honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
	greater bird's foot trefoil	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>
	yellow pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>
	water mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>
	dog's mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>
	purple moor grass	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>
	hemlock water dropwort	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>
	wood sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>
	wood meadow grass	<i>Poa nemoralis</i>
	rough meadow grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>
	soft shield fern	<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>
	tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>
	primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
	self heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
	bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
	bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
	wood dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>
	grey willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>
	sanicle	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>
	red campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
	betony	<i>Stachys officinalis</i>
	hedge woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>
	greater stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>
	common gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
	common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
	wood speedwell	<i>Veronica montana</i>

	marsh violet	<i>Viola palustris</i>
Area 3	sneezewort	<i>Achillia ptarmica</i>
	velvet bent	<i>Agrostis canina</i>
	creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
	bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>
	alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
	sweet vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
	false oat grass	<i>Arrenatherum elatius</i>
	hart's tongue	<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>
	downy birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>
	greater tussock sedge	<i>Carex paniculata</i>
	remote sedge	<i>Carex remota</i>
	wood sedge	<i>Carex sylvatica</i>
	enchanter's nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>
	marsh thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
	cock's foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
	tufted hair grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
	foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
	scaly male fern	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>
	broad buckler fern	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>
	marsh willowherb	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>
	common hemp nettle	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>
	cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
	marsh bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i>
	herb robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
	wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
	ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
	creeping soft grass	<i>Holcus mollis</i>
	bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides spp</i>
	holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
	soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
	honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
	greater bird's foot trefoil	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>
	ragged robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>
	yellow pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>
	water mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>
	dog's mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>
	purple moor grass	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>
	hemlock water dropwort	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>
	wood sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>
	common polypody	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>
	tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>
	primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
	bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
	oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
	creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
	common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
	grey willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>
	lesser skullcap	<i>Scutellaria minor</i>
	rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
	betony	<i>Stachys officinalis</i>
	devil's-bit scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>
	common gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
	common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
	marsh violet	<i>Viola palustris</i>
	violet	<i>Viola spp</i>

Area 4	velvet bent	<i>Agrostis canina</i>
	creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
	bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>
	lady fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>
	downy birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>
	hard fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>
	wood false brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>
	smooth-stalked sedge	<i>Carex laevigata</i>
	greater tussock sedge	<i>Carex paniculata</i>
	remote sedge	<i>Carex remota</i>
	enchanter's nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>
	marsh thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
	tufted hair grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
	foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
	scaly male fern	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>
	broad buckler fern	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>
	beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
	meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
	marsh bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i>
	herb robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
	wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
	ground ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
	yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
	creeping soft grass	<i>Holcus mollis</i>
	bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides spp</i>
	holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
	soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
	honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
	greater bird's foot trefoil	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>
	yellow pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>
	water mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>
	three nerved sandwort	<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>
	wood sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>
	common polypody	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>
	tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>
	creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
	barren strawberry	<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>
	primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
	bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
	oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
	creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
	grey willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>
	red campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
	rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
	greater stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>
	marsh violet	<i>Viola palustris</i>
	violet	<i>Viola spp</i>



