

## Quarter 4 Performance Report (1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2010 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010)

### Local Area Agreement 2008-2011

**LAA Priority:** Targeted conservation and enhancement of Devon's biodiversity and geology (LAA8)

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**RAG Status:** Green

**RED** = fundamental blockage to progress with milestones and/or achievement of target  
**AMBER** = positive movement but with risks to achievement of milestones and/or target (so cannot say with confidence that priority would be achieved)  
**GREEN** = on track to achieve target and Milestones

#### Delivery Board Recommendations:

**Delivery Board are asked to:** Help fund work on County Wildlife Sites in order that we can make significant progress with NI197.

#### Quarter 4 Summary Statement:

Local targets all green. Profiles have been developed for all Strategic Nature Areas in Devon and Devon Nature Map is currently being finalised and will be available this spring. 47 Parish Biodiversity Audits have now been produced by DCC working with parishes and other partners. AONBs became involved in the process in 2009/10. The aim for 2010/11 is for DCC to encourage parishes to produce their own plans, linking with the Parish Plan process / drawing on local expertise. Work has continued on the Devon Biodiversity Monitoring Framework and a way forward agreed with partners for monitoring / providing advice to County Wildlife Site owners. A Devon State of Nature report will be published in summer 2010.

The end of year performance for NI197 is well above target at 57.2% against the LAA target of 33.5%. Out of 2245 Local Sites (2023 County Wildlife Sites and 222 County Geological Sites) 88 were brought into positive management in 2009/10 which is a 4% increase in the number in positive management.

#### End of year 2 review:

##### Achievements

1. ~ 70 County Wildlife Sites monitored and owner / manager provided with advice during 2009/10. Consistent approach to County Wildlife Site work (monitoring and advice) agreed with partners. Includes a process by which all partners can feed information on County Wildlife Site visits through to Devon Biodiversity Records Centre. Involves DCC, Devon Wildlife Trust, National Parks, AONBs, RSPB, FWAG etc
2. Devon Nature Map finalised and profiles developed for all Strategic Nature Areas. Involved DCC working with all Devon districts and Devon Biodiversity Records Centre.
3. 18 Parish Biodiversity Audits produced. Involved DCC working with all Devon AONBs and Devon Biodiversity Records Centre.

##### Outcomes for local people:

- 1 Landowners / manager provided with advice on their County Wildlife Sites and signposted to funding opportunities from Natural England or the Forestry Commission.
2. Parishes provided with information on the wildlife resource in their area and potential

opportunities for involving the community in wildlife projects. Potential benefits include community cohesion, health and a better understanding and relationship with the local environment.

3. Devon Nature Map provides a clear vision for nature conservation work in Devon as well as highlighting wildlife sites and species that need to be protected. This contributes to the high quality of life in Devon.

**Value for money:**

The new approach to County Wildlife Site visits includes both monitoring and advisory work carried out by Devon Biodiversity Records Centre. The ability to monitor the site and provide advice in one visit obviously saves time and is therefore cost effective (DBRC were previously unable to give advice to owner/occupiers). The new monitoring form has been developed in order that it is plain English (no latin names!) and can therefore be shared with landowners/manager in order to provide them with an overview of the condition of the site and advice on future management / funding sources. This negates the need to produce a separate form for the landowner and again is cost effective.

**Performance Indicators – National and Local – Data for 2008/09 amended to include County Geological Sites and updated date for County Wildlife Sites**

Code	Title	+/- (see 1 below)	Year	Annual Target	Status (see 2 below)	Improvement (see 3 below)	Actual to Date	Officer Notes
NI 197	Improved local biodiversity – proportion of local sites where positive conservation management had been or is being implemented	+	09/10	3% increase	Unknown – data to be available in June 2010.	unknown		

**Key to PI symbols (insert as appropriate):**

1. **+** equals higher figures are better and **-** equals lower figures are better
2. **No Data/Well Below Target/Below Target/On Target/Above Target/Well Above Target**

Well Below Target	Under	5%
Below Target	Under	0.0001%
On Target	On	
Above Target	Over	0.0001%
Well Above Target	Over	5%

3. Improved Performance ↑ Worse Performance ↓ Unchanged ↔ compared with the same period in the previous year

**Key Milestones (Last Quarter – Quarter 4 09/10, ends 31 March 2010)**

	Description	Date	Outputs expected	Achieved/missed
	<b>Target A1 – 25% (55) of Strategic Nature Areas to have a written profile by end 2010/11</b>			
1.	Target A1 - Consultation on the Strategic		Profiles placed on DCC website. Work begun finalising	<b>Achieved</b> Profiles for ALL SNAs drafted and can be found on: <a href="http://www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk/nm_del_prof.php">www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk/nm_del_prof.php</a>

	Nature Area profiles to be carried out in 2009/10 and profiles placed on the SW Biodiversity website. Profiles in key areas (such as in areas where green infrastructure strategies are being produced) to begin to be finalised.		profiles in key green infrastructure areas.	<p>Relevant Green Infrastructure work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newton Abbot GI strategy</li> <li>- Exeter and East of Exeter GI Strategy</li> <li>- Plymouth GI Strategy</li> </ul> <p>Other work in SNAs includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DWT Working Wetlands Project and proposed Avon Valley Project</li> <li>- EDDC work at Seaton Marshes</li> <li>- DNP projects such as Dartmoor Blanket Bog Restoration Project</li> <li>- work on East Devon Pebblebed Heaths by Clinton Devon Estates and the RSPB</li> <li>- Exe Estuary Partnership</li> </ul>
<b>Target A2 – Achieve adoption of Devon Nature Map by end 2010/11</b>				
2.	<b>Target A2</b> – Draft Devon Nature map to be discussed in detail with a district and other partners.		Devon Nature map completed.	<p><b>Achieved</b></p> <p>All districts involved in discussing Devon Nature Map (Other than Mid Devon who will be consulted this spring). Devon Nature Map (showing priority landscape areas) to be incorporated into / made available through Devon Green Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p>Complete Devon Nature Map package (including species information) to be available via SLAs with Devon Biodiversity Records Centre during 2010/11.</p>
<b>Target B – 3% annual increase in the number of Local Sites in positive management</b>				
3.	<b>Target B</b> - Pilot for monitoring and providing advice to County Wildlife Site managers to begin across Devon.		Pilot finalised and work plan agreed for 2010/11.	<p><b>Achieved</b></p> <p>Pilot finalised and way forward agreed with all partners (National Parks, Natural England, DWT, Districts etc).</p> <p>CWS Action Plan being developed with partners.</p> <p>~ 70 CWSites monitored / provided with advice through the pilot project.</p> <p>Data on number of Local Sites in positive management not yet known. Will be available in June 2010.</p>
<b>Target C – 60 parish biodiversity audits produced by the end of 2010/11 with community engagement related activity in no less than 40%</b>				
4.	<b>Target C</b> - DCC to discuss priority areas in Devon for parish audits with AONB Projects. Community Council continue to integrate wildlife issues into parish plans. Work underway on a co-ordinated		Parish audits completed and plan produced to take this work forward in 2010/11.	<p>DCC funded 17 in East Devon, Blackdown Hills, Tamar, North Devon and South Devon AONBs.</p> <p>East Devon AONB funded 1 audit.</p> <p>Audits to be on DCC website imminently – see <a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk/parishaudits.htm">http://www.devon.gov.uk/parishaudits.htm</a></p> <p>(29 produced in 2008/09 – running total therefore = 47)</p>

	approach to community delivery to be developed between partners.			
<b>Target D – Biodiversity Monitoring Framework in place, funded and functioning at a county and sub county level by end 2010/11</b>				
5.	Target D - Approach to monitoring of County Wildlife Sites to be piloted (see target B above). Monitoring of the planning process to be discussed with Districts.		See (3) above.	See (3) above

**Key Milestones (This Quarter - Quarter 1 2010/11 ends 30 June 2010)**

	Description	Date	Outputs expected
1.	Target A1 – 25% (55) of Strategic Nature Areas to have a written profile by end 2010/11	30 June 2010	Target achieved. - SNA profiles to be promoted to partner organisations. - Procedure set up to collate comments / updates / progress etc
2.	Target A2 – Achieve adoption of Devon Nature Map by end 2010/11	“	- Devon Nature Map to be signed off by Devon BAP Working Group and incorporated into Devon Green Infrastructure Strategy
3.	Target B – 3% annual increase in the number of Local Sites in positive management	“	- 30 sites visited by DBRC as part of the CWS project - data for 2009/10 collated and issues of progress identified - CWS Action Plan finalised
4.	Target C – 60 parish biodiversity audits produced by the end of 2010/11 with community engagement related activity in no less than 40%	“	- work begun on promoting the ability of parishes to produce their own plans and integration with Parish Plan processes + how to help parishes find funding for activities (key partners Community Councils, AONBs, Biosphere, National Parks).
5.	Target D – Biodiversity Monitoring Framework in place, funded and functioning at a county and sub county level by end 2010/11	“	- Devon State of Nature Report finalised or near finalisation for 2009/10

**Key Risks (\*Please update with reference to scoring guidelines below)**

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Score	Mitigation
Target A1. Partners lack time to input into finalising the profiles	5	5	15	Focus on profiles in areas where work already happening or development

				pressure (links to Green Infrastructure work)
<b>Target B.</b> Land managers do not respond to requests for permission to access County Wildlife Sites	5	3	15	Consider involving NFU / CLA to raise the profile of County Wildlife Sites.
<b>Target B.</b> Lack of capital funding available to bring sites into positive management (e.g for fencing / scrub clearance / water supply etc).	5	5	25	Funding to be sought to set up a capital grant scheme.
<b>Target B.</b> Low profile for County Wildlife Sites	4	5	20	Greater publicity including the use of 'exemplar sites', open days, workshops etc
<b>Target B.</b> Lack of funding to set up an annual monitoring / advisory programme for CWS.	5	5	25	Pursue other funding sources with DWT
<b>Target C.</b> lack of interest from parishes	5	1	5	Publicity

**\*Risks – Scoring Guidelines:**

Likelihood of risk:	Impact of risk:	<b>Total risk score (likelihood x impact)</b>
1 – Very low 2 – Low 3 – Medium 4 – High 5 – Very high	1 – Insignificant 2 – Minor 3 – Moderate 4 – Serious 5 – Very serious	<b>1 – 6 Low 8 – 12 Medium 14 – 20 High Over 20 Very high</b>

**Spatial Implications – 2008/09 data (Please update)**

**This can be done for NI197 when the data for 2009/10 is collated.**

District	Impact (insert √ or x or unknown)	Disaggregated Data (√ or x)	Number of County Wildlife Sites	Number and % of County Wildlife Sites known to be in positive management.	% and number of County Wildlife Sites brought into positive management in 08 / 09. Bold = >3% target.
Exeter					
East Devon					
Mid Devon					
North Devon					
Torridge					
West Devon					
South Hams					
Teignbridge					
North Devon AONB					
Blackdown Hills AONB					
South Devon AONB					
Tamar Valley AONB					
East Devon					

AONB					
Dartmoor NP					
Exmoor NP					