



**EAST DEVON**

*Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*

# SPECIES RECOVERY

Our commitment to nature

An outline of our proposals for species recovery  
in East Devon AONB



# Species Recovery

Devon is rich in wildlife and important for the conservation of many species. At least 16000 species that occur here are considered to be either threatened with extinction in the British Isles or are nationally scarce.

In committing to the National Association for AONBs [Colchester Declaration](#) (2019) we and other UK AONBs have collectively pledged:

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***That, by each AONB immediately adopting a species on the threatened list and by preparing and delivering a Species Action Plan, at least thirty species relevant to AONBs will be taken off the list by 2030***

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## What we have done so far

Since its establishment in 2002 the AONB Partnership has delivered and supported a variety of habitat and species related activity across the AONB, but we have never adopted a particular species to champion.

The process for shortlisting species proposed by the NAAONB mirrors that undertaken by the Devon Local Nature Partnership (LNP) for its Special Species using a criteria-based approach.

They are special because they are rare and are regarded as being in danger or threat of extinction or loss. For more details of the Devon Special Species process see [HERE](#).

## A focus on East Devon

We sifted the key species on the Devon Special Species list for those with particular relevance to East Devon and presented them to the AONB Partnership for consideration.

At its 27 April 2020 meeting the East Devon AONB Partnership completed a survey ranking each species between 1-5.



Pearl bordered fritillary © Butterfly Conservation

## The result of the ranking is shown below.

The list indicates partnership opinion regarding which priority species should be targeted for conservation efforts within the East Devon AONB.

Species	Rank	Score
Devon Whitebeam (and allied species) <i>Sorbus devoniensis</i>	1	21
Heath potter wasp <i>Eumenes coarctatus</i>	2	19
Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i>	3	17
Scaly cricket <i>Pseudomogoplistes vicentae</i>	4	16
Cirl Bunting <i>Emberiza cirius</i>	4	16
Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	5	15
Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>	5	15
Hazel dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	5	15
Bechstein's bat <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	6	13
Grey long-eared bat <i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	6	13
Brown hairstreak <i>Thecla betulae</i>	7	10
White spot <i>Hadena albimacula</i>	8	8
Wood white <i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	8	8
Pearl-bordered fritillary <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	9	7
Zipperback hoverfly <i>Chrysotoxum elegans</i>	10	5
Spanish long-snouted crane fly <i>Helius hispanicus</i>	10	5
Bracket fungus <i>Fuscoporia wahlbergii</i>	11	4
Oak polypore fungus <i>Piptoporus quercinus</i>	11	4
Brown-banded carder-bee <i>Bombus humilis</i>	11	4
Apple Lace Bug <i>Physatocheila smreczynskii</i>	12	3
Mediterranean oil beetle <i>Meloe mediterraneus</i>	12	3
Marsh fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>	12	3
Morris's wainscot <i>Photedes morrisii</i>	13	1
Devonshire wainscot <i>Leucania putrescens</i>	14	0
Least cigar-gall fly <i>Lipara similis</i>	14	0
A rove beetle <i>Actocharis readingii</i>	14	0
Black mining bee <i>Andrena pilipes</i>	14	0
Broad-faced furrow bee <i>Lasioglossum laticeps</i>	14	0
Willow Tit <i>Poecile montana</i>	14	0

This ranking is a starting point for us to consider our approach to developing species recovery in the AONB.

As part of the feedback, two additional species were suggested by partner's for consideration; Heath Lobelia and Yellowhammer.

Furthermore, the Devon Local Nature Partnership recently completed a review of the Devon Special Species list, on which our shortlist was based.

This data will assist us further in refining our approach which will focus on considering the top 10 ranked species opposite.

## Our commitment

- We will work with colleagues and partners locally, regionally and nationally to confirm our approach to species recovery using a landscape scale/ assemblage approach.
- Our approach will enable us to play a key role and will encourage action, public engagement and influence change.
- We cannot target activity on all species listed in our initial survey and because some species are already priority species for partner organisations operating in our area, we will focus our activity appropriately, supporting partners activities wherever possible. There is a role for us to raise awareness and promote action for species at risk more broadly alongside any targeted action we take.