

South West Lakes Trust

Biodiversity Action Plan 2009 – 2012



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Front cover photos: Top row Marsh Fritillary (courtesy of Paul Gregory), Celebration Woodland, Wimbleball Lake (SWLT). Middle Row Daubenton's Bats (courtesy of Paul McNie), Otter (courtesy of Ross Hoddinott). Bottom row ponies grazing Rhos pasture at Fernworthy (SWLT).

1. INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

South West Lakes Trust (SWLT) manages over 50 inland lakes and associated land for the purposes of informal recreation and conservation. The SWLT Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is a comprehensive set of objectives and targets for the conservation of species and habitats that occur on land managed by the Trust. The BAP links in directly with regional and national BAPs and provides a framework for active management of priority habitats and species that occur on each site. Each Habitat Action Plan (HAP) and Species Action Plan (SAP) indicates a list of sites that host that particular species or habitat.

Each individual Species Action Plan and Habitat Action Plan sets out a list of practical and active management objectives and targets. The individual SAPs and HAPs are intended for use by active site managers in achieving the objectives and targets set out in regional and national BAPs and address those species and/or habitats that occur on their individual sites. Active management or actions for achieving the conservation objectives set out in the BAP are detailed in the individual site management plans.

The main drivers for the BAP are the individual site management plans, in which site objectives and targets are derived from the SWLT BAP. Active management will then achieve the individual site and BAP objectives and targets where applicable. This may include ecological surveys, practical estate/conservation management, habitat creation, restoration and/or enhancement, public awareness and promotion or no management intervention required.

The South West Lakes Trust Biodiversity Action Plan comprises 13 Habitats and 20 Species for which 11 Habitat Action Plans and 8 Species Action Plans are complete. All information relating to associated habitats and species presently listed on site is drawn from past surveys and documentation arising from existing site management plans and Natural England's Nature-on-the-Map. The Devon Biodiversity Records Centre supplied additional information from their CWS inventory of all SWLT sites across Devon.

The South West Lakes Trust Biodiversity Action Plan is a working document and will be reviewed and updated as necessary. Each individual Species Action Plan and Habitat Action Plan will be assessed and reported annually so progress in achieving SWLT targets can be documented and addressed where falling behind.

2. SOUTH WEST LAKES TRUST AIMS & POLICY STATEMENT

The Trust (SWLT) was set up in April 2000 as an independent charity.

Its charitable objectives are summarised as follows: -

- the protection and conservation for the public benefit of the natural environment in areas within the South West of England
- the provision, as appropriate, of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare both of the public at large and of persons who have need by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances;
- the education of the public as to flora, fauna, ecology and the natural environment and conservation of the same;
- the conservation and preservation for the public benefit of sites, objects and buildings of special archaeological and historic interest;
- where the same shall be exclusively charitable;
- and apply to inland waters and land within the vicinity of inland waters that are under the management control or ownership of the Charity from time to time within the counties of Devon and Cornwall and the District Council areas of West Somerset and West Dorset. The Charity may carry out activities in other areas which are beneficial to its activities in the South West of England and also activities reasonably adjacent to the boundaries

In managing over 50 inland water sites, associated with lakes, reservoirs, wetlands and short stretches of river, it seeks to retain and enhance the variety of flora and fauna, especially as locally common species may be unusual and interesting to the infrequent visitor.

“for the benefit of the general public to provide and generally enhance sustainable recreation, access and nature conservation on and around inland waters in South West England; protecting and enhancing the environment and promoting the social importance and health-giving opportunities available to the whole community”



Wistlandpound Reservoir

3. SOUTH WEST LAKES TRUST CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS

A number of statutory and non-statutory designations apply to the majority of South West Lakes Trust sites. Definitions of designations are explained below. Many of the statutory and non-statutory designations only apply to parts or sections of the sites listed.

Table 1. Statutory and non-statutory conservation designations

	Area of land - Hectares	Managed Woodland	Nature Reserves or Areas	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	National Park	SAC or SPA	County Wildlife Site (CWS)	potential County Wildlife Site (pCWS)
South West Lakes Trust									
Argal Reservoir	17.4								
Avon Dam	1168								
Burrator Catchment	2165								
Bussow Reservoir	6.00								
Butterbrook Reservoir	2.82								
Bystock Ponds (managed by DWT*)	-								
College Reservoir	33								
Colliford Lake	440								
Countess Wear (managed by DWT*)	-								
Crafthole Reservoir	1.10								
Crowdy Reservoir	65.9								
Darracott Reservoir	2.09								
Drift reservoir	33.18								
Dulverton - River Barle	3								
Fernworthy Reservoir	82.15								
Gammaton (upper and lower)	2.4								
Jennetts Reservoir	3.12								
Kennick, Tottiford, Trenchford	17.4								
Lopwell	6								
Lower Slade Reservoir	6								
Lower Tamar Lake	7.28								
Mary Tavy Common and Milestone	-								
Melbury Reservoir	75								
Meldon Reservoir	8.49								
Old Mill Reservoir	9.2								
Porth Reservoir	8.5								
Roadford Lake	364								
Siblyback Lake	22								
Squabmoor Reservoir	0.6								
Stithians Lake	76								
Upper Tamar Lake	20								
Venford Reservoir	277								
Wimbleball Lake	200								
Wistlandpound Reservoir	49.3								

* DWT = Devon Wildlife Trust

Definition of designations and abbreviations

- **Managed woodland:** These are areas of woodland that are in active under management for the production of timber or are under woodland grant schemes.
- **Nature Reserves or Areas:** These are areas, which are set aside for conservation owing to their wildlife interest. They are internally designated and carry no formal statutory or legal status.
- **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** These are sites of particular wildlife or geological importance, where measures are taken to promote the safeguarding and enhancement of this interest through the regulation of management activities and development. SSSIs are designated by English Nature (Natural England) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- **National Nature Reserves (NNR):** Site of outstanding wildlife or geological importance managed either by, or on behalf of, English Nature (Natural England) in the interests of wildlife, research and public appreciation (where appropriate). NNRs are declared by Natural England under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 or the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- **National Park:** The Statutory purposes of National Parks, which the Authority has the duty to pursue, are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the area's special qualities by the public. Designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- **Local Nature Reserve (LNR):** Site of local nature conservation importance usually owned or managed by a local authority or partnership. LNRs are designated by local authorities in agreement with English Nature (Natural England), under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- **Special Area of Conservation (SAC):** Site of European conservation importance containing listed habitats or species, designated under the terms of the EC Habitats Directive. The European Community Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) and aims to protect the European Union's biodiversity. It requires member states to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) - sites of European importance for listed habitats and species. SACs must be maintained at, or restored to, favourable conservation status, and should be protected from damaging plans or projects. The Directive also requires member states to provide strict protection for specified flora and fauna outside of designated sites (i.e. European Protected Species). Together, SACs and SPAs form the European network of sites called 'Natura 2000'
- **Special Protection Area (SPA)** Special Protection Area (SPA) Site of European importance for bird conservation, designated under the EC birds directive under national legislation, SPAs are also SSSIs. The European

Community Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) sets out general rules for the conservation of all naturally occurring wild birds, their nests, eggs and habitats. It requires member states to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for protection of certain species.

- **County Wildlife Site (CWS):** These are sites of County importance to wildlife, identified on the basis of the habitat or known presence of particular species. It is not a statutory designation and does not have any legal status. However, CWS are included in Local Plans as sites of substantive nature conservation interest and are covered by Planning Policy Guidance note nine (PPG9).
- **potential County Wildlife Site (pCWS):** These are sites of potential County importance to wildlife but have not been designated as such. Descriptions apply as above.

4. INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS AND SSSI CONDITION

Several of the sites managed by SWLT have SSSI designated land either within or adjacent to the boundary of the managed area. Often the land adjacent is owned by South West Water but occasionally it is owned by other landowners, the following table shows these SSSI's, SAC's and SPA's and their status.

Sites highlighted below in yellow show where a SSSI and/or SAC/SPA occurs on land managed by SWLT. Other sites are those where the designations border the land managed by the Trust.

Table 2. International and national conservation designations and SSSI condition

South West Lakes Trust Sites	International and or National designations	National SSSI Status
Avon Dam	Dartmoor SAC South Dartmoor SSSI	Favourable condition Unfavourable – declining Unfavourable – recovering
Burrator Reservoir	Burrator Quarries (Geological) SSSI	Favourable condition
Colliford Lake	Dozmay Pool SSSI	Unfavourable – recovering Unfavourable – no change
Crowdy Reservoir	Crowdy Marsh SAC North Bodmin Moor SSSI	Unfavourable - declining
Fernworthy Reservoir	Dartmoor SAC East Dartmoor SSSI	Unfavourable – no change Favourable condition
Lopwell including Saltmarsh SSSI	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA Tamar-Tavy Estuary SSSI	Favourable condition
Meldon Reservoir	North Dartmoor SSSI Meldon Quarry (Geological) SSSI Dartmoor SAC	Favourable condition (Live management agreement)
Venford Reservoir	Dartmoor SAC South Dartmoor Woods SAC Holne Woods SSSI South Dartmoor SSSI	Favourable condition Unfavourable - recovering
Wimbleball Lake	South Exmoor SSSI Exmoor Heaths SAC	Favourable condition (Live management agreement)



Lopwell Dam

5. SITES WITH BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN SPECIES*

Site	Species	National BAP Species	Regional BAP Species
Argal Lake	Primrose (<i>Primula vulgaris</i>)	No	Devon
	Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>).	Yes	Cornwall
	Tree sparrow (<i>Passer montanus</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Song thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Barn owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>).	No	Devon
	Pipistrelle bat (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
Burrator Lake	Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>)	Yes	Devon and Cornwall
	Spotted flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa striata</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Tree sparrow (<i>Passer montanus</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
College Lake	Primrose (<i>Primula vulgaris</i>)	No	Devon
	Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>).	Yes	Cornwall
	Tree sparrow (<i>Passer montanus</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Song thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Barn owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>).	No	Devon
	Pipistrelle bat (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
Fernworthy Lake	Spotted flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa striata</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Marsh fritillary (<i>Eurodryas aurinia</i>).	Yes	Devon and Cornwall
	Pearl-bordered fritillary (<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>)	Yes	Devon and Cornwall
Kennick Lake	Pennyroyal (<i>Mentha pulegium</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
Lower Tamar Lake	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	Yes	Devon and Cornwall
	Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>)	Yes	Devon and Cornwall
	Reed bunting (<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>).	Yes	No
	Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)	Yes	Devon and Cornwall
Meldon Lake	Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	No	Devon
	Barn owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>)	No	Devon
	Spotted flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa striata</i>).	Yes	Cornwall
	Linnets (<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Song thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
Roadford Lake	Primrose (<i>Primula vulgaris</i>)	No	Devon
	Millimetre moss (<i>Micomitrium tenerum</i>)	Yes	No
	Barn owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>)	No	Devon
	Dormouse (<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>)	Yes	Devon and Cornwall
Siblyback Lake	Primrose (<i>Primula vulgaris</i>)	No	Devon
	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	Yes	Devon and Cornwall
	Lsr horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
Wimbleball Lake	Pipistrelle bat (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Brown hare (<i>Lepus europaeus</i>)	Yes	Devon and Cornwall
	Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>)	Yes	Devon and Cornwall
	Spotted flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa striata</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Song thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Linnets (<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>)	Yes	Cornwall
	Marsh fritillary (<i>Eurodryas aurinia</i>)	Yes	Devon and Cornwall
	Pearl-bordered fritillary (<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>)	Yes	Devon and Cornwall

* Further research into other sites is required to confirm presence of BAP species

6. SITES WITH BAP HABITATS

The National Biodiversity Action plan lists the priority BAP habitats and includes coastal saltmarsh, ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows, fen, purple moor grass and rush pasture (which is synonymous with Rhôs pasture / Culm grassland), upland heathland, upland oak woodland, wet woodland, lowland beech and yew woodland, lowland dry acid grassland, lowland heathland, mudflats. All BAP habitats listed are represented on SWLT sites. The sites cover the length and breadth of Cornwall, Devon and West Somerset and represent the high biodiversity of the South West. Some of these sites are of regional and national importance and are Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves or County Wildlife Sites. All BAP priority habitats that have been assigned national targets are listed if recorded on site.

Table 4a. South West Lakes Trust sites with BAP habitats

South West Lakes Trust Sites	Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats	Management Plan*	Ecological Survey
Argal Reservoir	Wet woodland	2008	2007
Avon Dam	Upland heathland	2001	No
Boscathnoe	Information not available	2010 (January)	2009
Burrator Catchment	Purple moor grass and rush pasture (Rhôs pasture / Culm grassland) Upland heathland Upland oak woodland Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Lowland dry acid grassland Lowland heathland	2005	In part
Bussow	Information not available	2003	No
Butterbrook Reservoir	Upland heathland	2009 (summer)	2008
College Reservoir	Wet woodland	2008	2007
Colliford Lake	Upland heathland Lowland heathland Fen Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	2010 (January)	2009
Crafthole	Information not available	1999	No
Crowdy Reservoir	Upland heathland Lowland heathland Fen	2009 (spring)	2008
Darracott Reservoir	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Eutrophic standing waters	1998	No
Drift Reservoir	Information not available	2003	2009
Fernworthy Reservoir	Blanket bog Upland heathland Lowland heathland Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	2010 (January)	2009
Gammaton (upper and lower) Reservoir	Purple moor grass and rush pastures Lowland meadows Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Eutrophic standing waters	No	No

South West Lakes Trust Sites	Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats	Management Plan*	Ecological Survey
Jennetts Reservoir	Fen Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Eutrophic standing waters Lowland beech and yew woodland	1998	No
Kennick, Tottiford, Trenchford Reservoirs	Upland heathland	2009 (spring)	2008
Lopwell	Wet woodland Lowland beech and yew woodland Mudflat	2005	2005
Lower Slade	Information not available	1996	No
Lower Tamar Lake	Lowland beech and yew woodland Purple moor grass and rush pastures Lowland meadows Eutrophic standing waters Wet woodland	2009 (spring)	2008
Mary Tavy Common and Milestone	Upland heathland Lowland heathland Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	2002	No
Melbury Reservoir	Purple moor grass and rush pastures Lowland meadows Eutrophic standing waters	2010 (January)	2009
Meldon Reservoir	Upland heathland	2009 (summer)	2008
Old Mill	Information not available	No	No
Porth Reservoir	Wet woodland	2009 (summer)	2007
Roadford Lake	Purple moor grass and rush pastures Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Ancient and/or species-rich hedgerow	2008	2007
Siblyback Lake	Upland heathland	2008	2007
Squabmoor Reservoir	Lowland heathland Lowland meadows	1997	No
Stithians Lake	Lowland heathland	2009 (spring)	2008
Upper Tamar Lake	Purple moor grass and rush pastures Lowland meadows Wet woodland Eutrophic standing waters	2009 (summer)	2007
Venford Reservoir	Upland heathland Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	2008	2007
Wimbleball Lake	Purple moor grass and rush pastures Upland oak woodland Lowland meadows Lowland beech and yew woodland Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Upland heathland	2008	2006
Wistlandpound Reservoir	Upland heathland Upland oak woodland	2009 (spring)	2008

* indicates year of last update / update due by shown in brackets

7. HABITAT AND SPECIES ACTION PLANS

Based upon the above data South West Lakes Trust has produced Action Plans for the following priority habitats and species. These plans form the focus of management for 2009 – 2012. In addition during 2009 & 2010 further HAPs and SAPs will be created as indicated below by the following symbol *.

Habitats

- Wet Woodland
- Upland Oak Woodland
- Ancient / Species-rich Hedgerows
- Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture (Rhos Pasture / Culm Grassland)
- Lowland Heath
- Eutrophic Standing Waters
- Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland
- Upland Heath
- Fen
- Ponds
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland*
- Lowland dry acid grassland*
- Blanket Bog*
- Saltmarsh*

Species

- Pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*)
- Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*)
- European Otter (*Lutra lutra*)
- Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)
- Millimetre Moss (*Micromitrium tenerum*)
- Marsh Fritillary (*Eurodyas aurinia*)
- Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*)
- Bats* (various species)
- Nightjar* (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)
- Pearl-bordered Fritillary* (*Boloria euphrosyne*)
- Reed Bunting* (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)
- Primrose* (*Primula vulgaris*)
- Skylark* (*Alauda arvensis*)
- Tree Sparrow* (*Passer montanus*)
- Song Thrush* (*Turdus philomelos*)
- Bullfinch* (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)
- Curlew* (*Numenius arquata*)
- Linnet* (*Carduelis cannabina*)
- Brown Hare* (*Lepus europaeus*)

The action plans have been developed in conjunction with the national and regional plans and are incorporated into the site specific management plans which are working documents detailing the ecological and operational objectives for each site on a five year basis. Each management plan is reviewed annually to ensure that targets are achieved. Information and objectives within the plans are updated every five years. The details of each HAP and SAP is available on request from South West Lakes Trust (01566 771930 or info@swlakestrust.org.uk).

The Trust is currently updating and reviewing all management plans and has a target of completing nineteen by the end of January 2010. The work identified within the action plans and management plans (ecological) is overseen by the Trust's Conservation Team.

End May 2008

- Argal & College - complete
- Siblyback - complete
- Roadford – complete
- Venford – complete
- Wimbleball – complete

End May 2009

- Butterbrook
- Meldon
- Porth
- Upper Tamar

End January 2009

- Crowdy
- Kennick Trenchford and Tottiford
- Lower Tamar
- Stithians
- Wistlandpound

End January 2010

- Boscathnoe
- Colliford
- Drift
- Fernworthy
- Melbury



Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*)

8. BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

Supporting the Conservation Team is a Biodiversity Officer who is employed to work specifically on a two year biodiversity project funded by landlords South West Water and the Trust. This project has taken some of the priorities for the sites from the Biodiversity Action Plan and has demanding targets to be achieved by October 2011, when the Trust's Biodiversity Action Plan will be reviewed, updated and reported upon.

Biodiversity Project Objectives

Otter Project (*Lutra lutra*)

- Establish baseline otter activity and site usage on SWW/SWLT sites.
- Maintain existing otter populations.
- Establish a long-term monitoring programme.
- Maintain or create favourable habitat conditions.
- Research and create a "demonstration" site of prime otter habitat.

Ponds

Targets	Sites	Outcomes
Survey four ponds for marginal, sub-mergent and faunal components (2009)	Roadford Forest, Burrator Arboretum (x 2), Lower Tamar	Detailed data
Develop and implement management prescriptions for continuing favourable management and/or restoration of four ponds	Roadford Forest, Burrator Arboretum, Lower Tamar	Favourable or recovering condition of four ponds by 2011. Partnership with British Dragonfly Society
One pond to be utilised as an educational resource	Roadford	Education resource
Identify location and funding for pond creation – link with Defra's 1million pond scheme	To be decided	Creation of one pond

Heathland

Targets	Sites	Outcomes
Obtain quantitative data on the extent of the lowland heath condition including NVC surveys	Colliford	Detailed data
Initiate restoration management plan (liaising with Natural England where SSSI or SAC are involved) including preventing the spread of invasive species	Colliford	Restoration management plan
Achieve favourable or recovering condition by 2011	Colliford or Stithians	Favourable or recovering condition of Lowland Heathland at least at one site by 2011
Where possible extend or link isolated sites by creating species-rich wildlife corridors	Colliford, Crowdy and Stithians	Wildlife corridors

Rhos Pasture

Targets	Sites	Outcomes
Marsh Fritillary survey year 1 (2009) & records submitted to national database	Fernworthy, Wimbleball	Three (annual) surveys of Marsh Fritillary Member of the Devon Biodiversity Partnership. Detailed records.
Marsh Fritillary survey year 2 (2010) & records submitted to national database	Fernworthy, Wimbleball	Continued partnership with Two Moors Project
Establish system for monitoring 2011 onwards	Fernworthy, Wimbleball	Communication of work to visitors and general public, volunteer involvement
Rhos habitat restored at Fernworthy and three key Rhos Pasture habitats in management 2011	Fernworthy, Wimbleball	Sustainably managed Rhos pasture on two sites (favourable condition) by 2011

Wet Woodland

Targets	Sites	Outcomes
Research and in-depth survey of wet woodland (2009)	College	Understanding of and recorded information on College wet woodland
Identify and confirm other sites with wet woodland habitat (2009)	Various across Devon and Cornwall	Controlled public access and understanding of habitat with interpretation provision
Detailed management plan following research to increase diversity and ensure favourable condition (2010)	College	Management regime for future management of 10 acres of wet woodland
Implement management plan in 2011 and plan a second survey for 2- 3 years time	College	Restoration of habitat at College and transfer of skills and knowledge to two other sites.

Lowland Meadow

Targets	Sites	Outcomes
Two sites favourable condition by 2011	Wimbleball & Tamar	Two Lowland Meadow habitat locations in favourable condition by 2011
Transfer of knowledge to other identified Lowland Meadow Habitats by 2011 with management regime in place. (Review Squabmoor)		Promotion of habitat and experience gained on lowland meadow management.

The Biodiversity Project has two additional aims

- 100 days of volunteer involvement over the duration of the project
- Creation of a biodiversity benchmark to monitor and assess the condition of BAP Habitats and Species

Throughout the project the Biodiversity Officer will report to and be advised by a steering group who will meet every three to four months. A formal report will be written at the end of the first year on all targets and again at the end of the project along with finalised management plans for the specific habitats and species.

9. DORMOUSE MONITORING

Since 2005 South West Lakes Trust has been monitoring the dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) population at Roadford Lake.

It has found that there is a steady population in the northern area of the Lake (study areas 1 & 2) but little evidence has been found to the south (area 3). Due to this in 2009 nest boxes will be relocated to a fourth study area where the dormouse has been recorded in bat boxes!

Monitoring of the fifty nest boxes across the site will continue on 2009 and data entered to the National Monitoring Scheme.

In 2008 a fifty strong nest tube monitoring programme took place at Wimbleball Lake, areas 1 & 2 showed no evidence of dormouse however area 3 did. As a result 30 nest boxes will be erected in 2009 and monitoring will continue for the next few years with the aim to eventually install 50 boxes on this site so that data can be entered to the National Monitoring Scheme.

During 2009 fifty tubes will be erected at Trenchford Reservoir near Bovey Tracey on Dartmoor and also at College Reservoir near Penryn in Cornwall. Both sites will be monitored throughout 2009 with decisions on installing nest boxes made early 2010 depending on the results of the monitoring.

It is hoped that by the end of 2009 three members of the Trust's Conservation Team will be licensed dormouse workers.

10. BAT SURVEYING

The Lakes under SWLT management are home to many species of bats including Daubenton's, Pipistrelle, Natterer's, Greater Horseshoe and Lesser Horseshoe.

Bat populations have been monitored at Roadford Lake by the Devon Bat Group since the reservoir was built in 1987 and over 200 bat boxes were erected as part of the mitigation works.

In 2008, 80 of these boxes were replaced and healthy populations are known to exist across the site. Monitoring at this site will continue well into the future and SWLT will work with the Devon Bat Group and South West Water to ensure the populations remain in a healthy condition.

Surveying at Burrator, Siblyback and Wimbleball began in 2008. Whilst roosts and activity have been confirmed at Wimbleball and Burrator no evidence of roosting at Siblyback has been encountered. However it is thought that there is a nearby roost and that the lake is used as a feeding ground.

Reports with recommendations have been written by a licensed bat worker for all three sites and SWLT will endeavour to carry out the recommendations to increase and sustain the populations on these sites. Survey data at Wimbleball and Burrator will be entered to the national monitoring scheme in 2009 onwards.

The Devon Bat Group has also been surveying at Old Mill Reservoir, near Dartmouth where there is a good population and results are entered to the national monitoring scheme.

There are plans for summer surveying at College, Argal and Tamar Lakes in 2009 as well continuing the work at Wimbleball and Burrator.

By the end of 2009 the Trust's Devon Conservation Officer will be a licensed bat worker.

11. PARTNERSHIPS

The SWLT BAP relates to the three local BAPs (Devon, Cornwall and Somerset) and the Trust recognises that in order to achieve its action plans it must work in partnership with other organisations, local authorities and volunteers. Below is a list (although not conclusive) of organisations whom the Trust works with to achieve its BAP and other conservation aims.

- South West Water
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Devon County Council
- Devon Biodiversity Partnership
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- Somerset Wildlife Trust
- Duchy College
- Dartmoor National Park Authority
- Exmoor National Park Authority
- Volunteers
- West Devon Borough Council
- Westcountry Rivers Trust
- Forestry Commission
- Cornwall & Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Societies