

# NORTH DEVON'S BIOSPHERE RESERVE BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

## INTRODUCTION

At the Earth Summit Conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, 150 national governments signed the Convention on Biological Diversity. Article 6A of this Convention, to which the UK was a signatory, required the production of a National Biological Action Plan to halt the decline in biodiversity. This in turn led to the development of Regional and Local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) through various partnerships. These plans cover habitats and/or species, set challenging actions and identify who will lead these actions.

In 1998, the Devon BAP was published and in 2001 the North Devon BAP was completed. This document identified the 9 main habitats found within North Devon District. It was revised and updated in 2004, when many of the original actions had been completed.

In 2002 Braunton Burrows Biosphere Reserve was designated as the UK's first new style Biosphere Reserve and re-named North Devon's Biosphere Reserve. The boundary for the reserve is the catchments of the Taw, Torridge and north Devon streams. The primary aim of the designation is still nature conservation but new-style Biosphere Reserves (BR) also have secondary aims of learning and research.

The Reserve provides an excellent opportunity to implement the targeted landscape scale approach now accepted as necessary for the conservation of nature in the longer term.

The BR BAP covers the 13 main habitats of the reserve and has been written by the Biosphere Reserve's Environmental Quality Working Group which comprises of representatives from the following organisations:

Devon County Council, North Devon Council, Torridge District Council, Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Devon Wildlife Trust, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and National Trust.

Monitoring of progress on the BAP will be through meetings of the Environmental Quality Working Group. It is hoped that much will be accomplished through identifying achievable actions which can be carried out by partner organisations.