

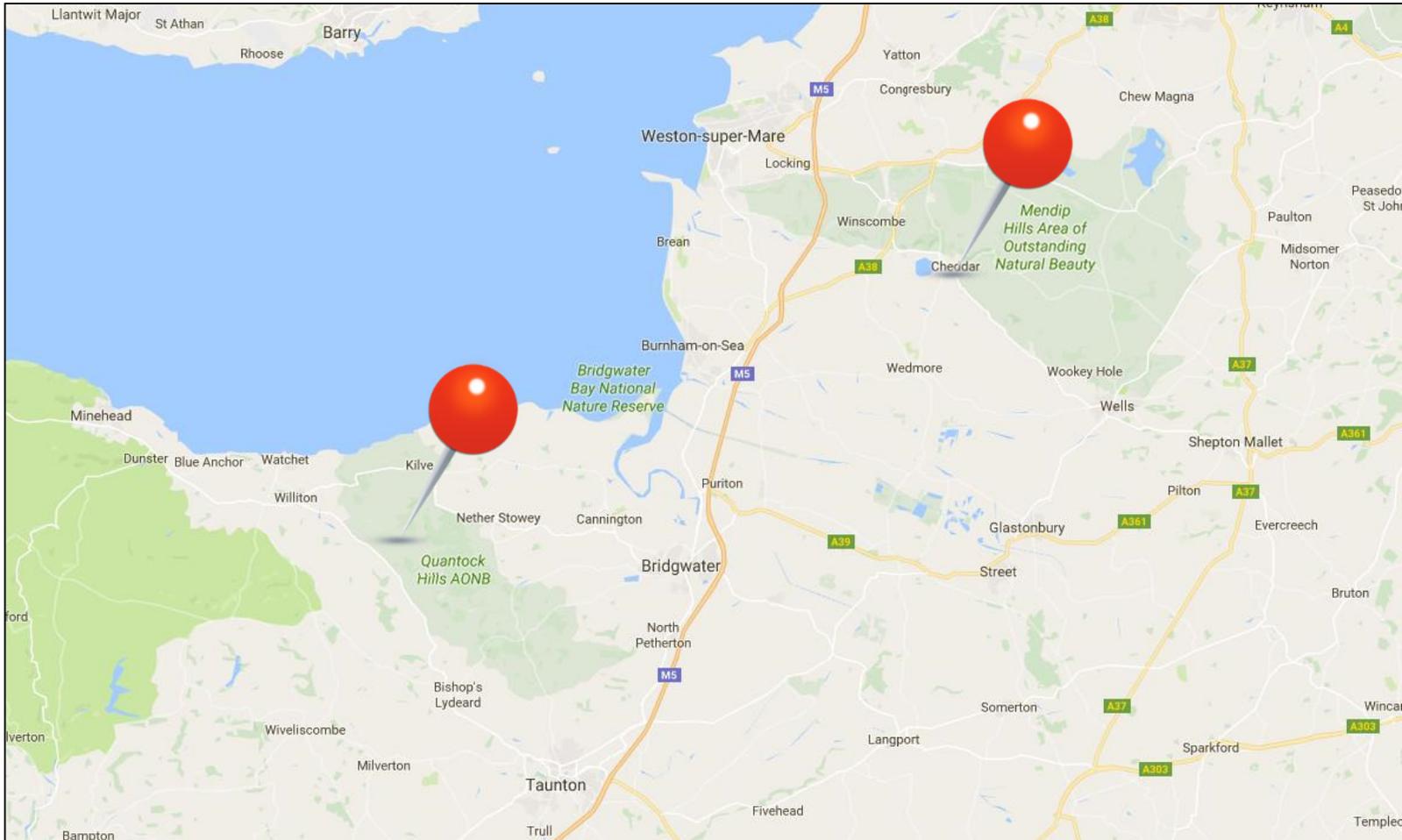
COMPETING PRIORITIES MANAGING QUANTOCK COMMON FOR ALL

Iain Porter
Development Officer



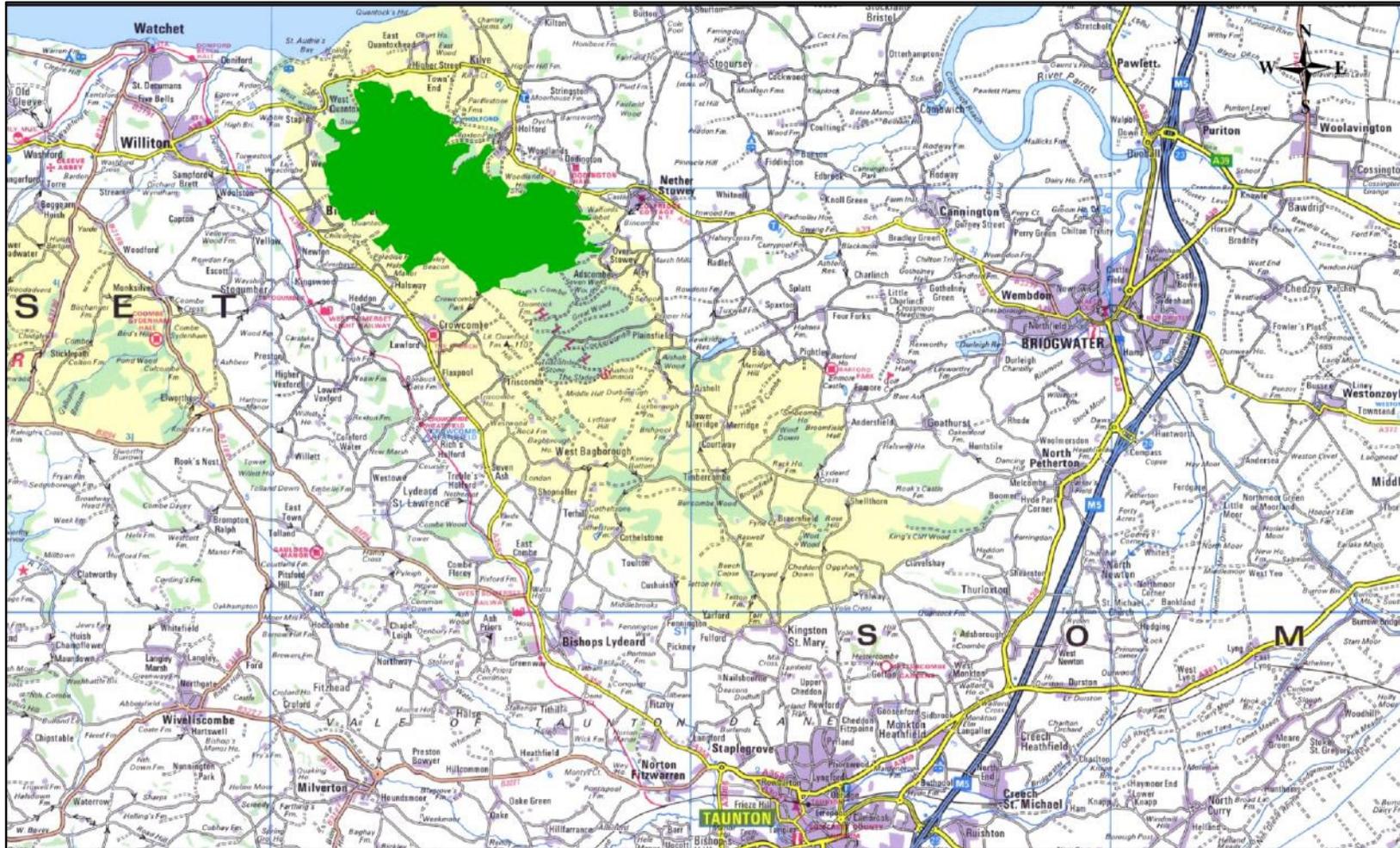


Quantock Common





Quantock Common





Quantock Common

- 2,500Ha semi-natural habitat

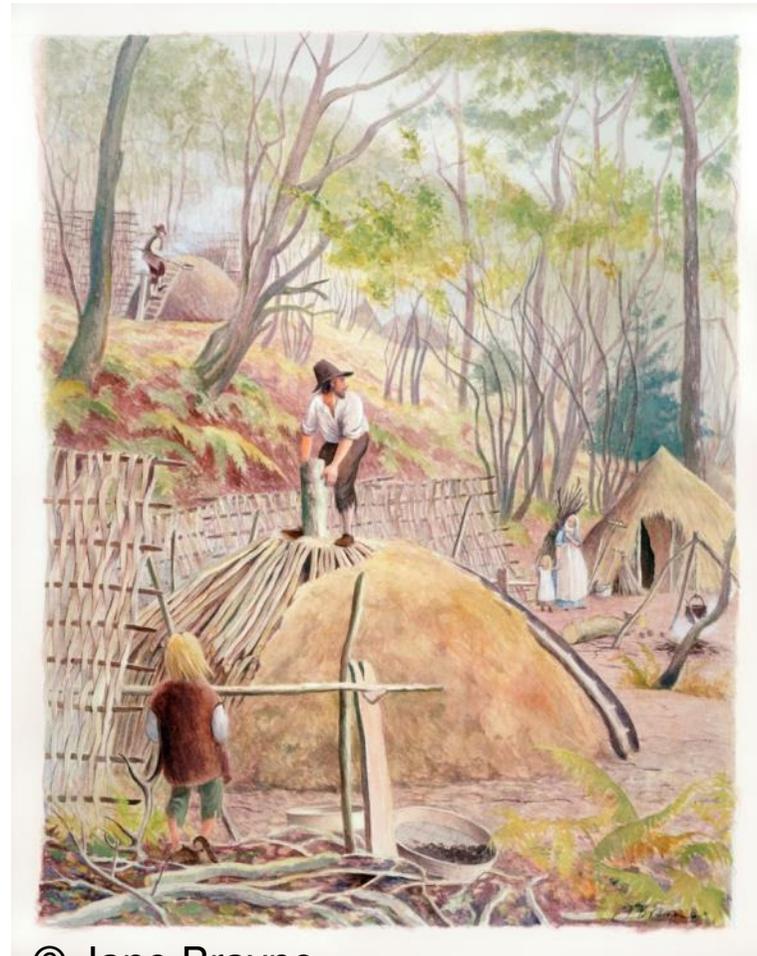




Historic Use



© Jane Brayne



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Today's users





Aim for the Common

- Priority set by NE
 - Ensure extent of shrub heath present in 1996 is retained
- How:





Competing Priorities

- Birds



RSPB images. Colin Carver



Competing Priorities

- Agriculture





Competing Priorities

- Recreation



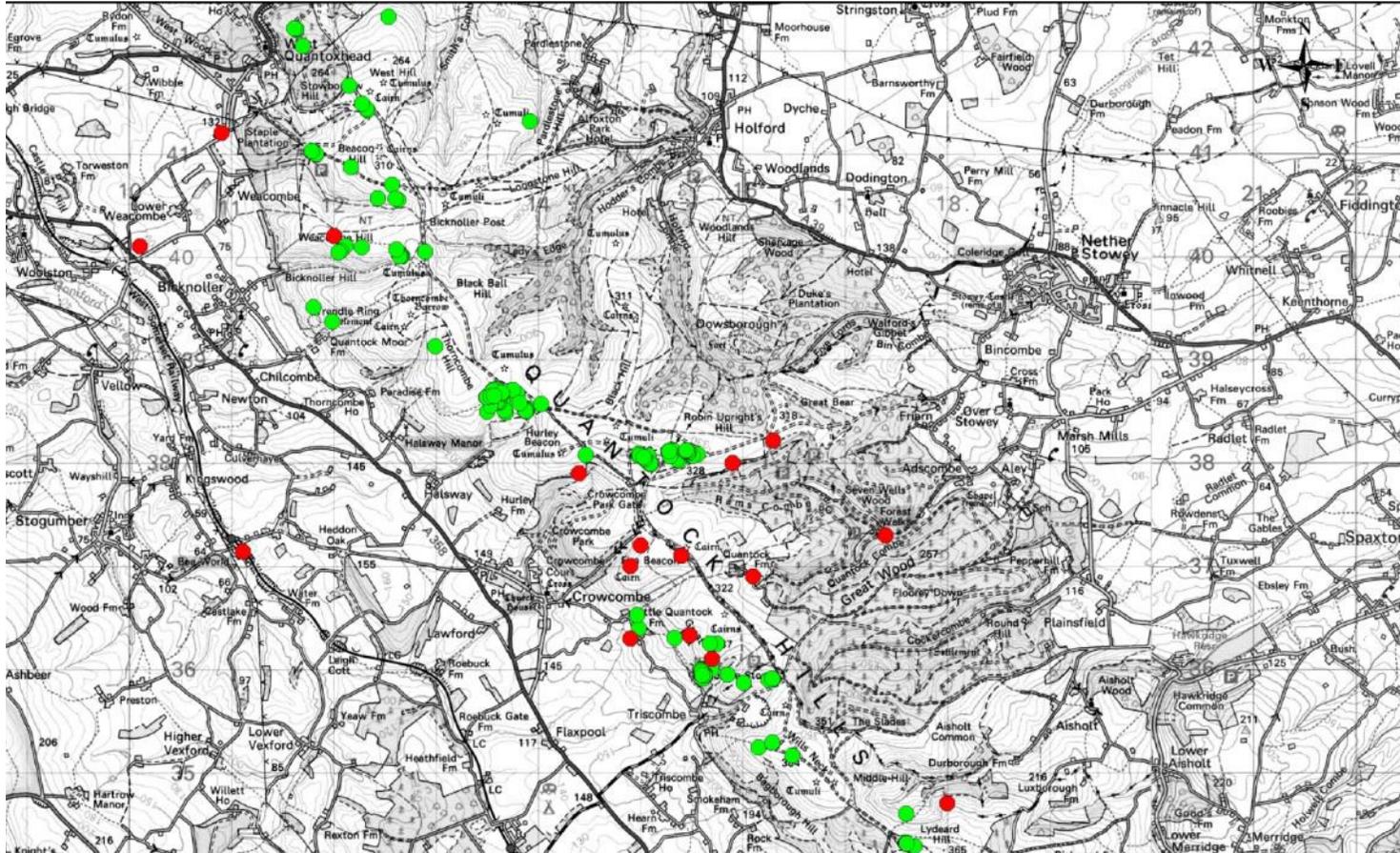


How do adders fit in?

- Pre 2008 Quantock Hills not seen as important for adders
- Lack of research vs not important
- Desire by AONB Service to know more
- Approach by local student catalyst for research
- 2011 – RAGS Project



Adders on the common





Adders on the common

- Since RAGS project
 - Identification of ‘hotspots’
 - Identification of potential hibernaculum
 - Fed recommendation into latest MIP



Changing Management

- Adapting management techniques
 - ‘dirty’ swales
 - Cut & collect
 - Increasing use of licenses / permissions for users
 - Changing grazing
- Off common habitat creation



Future Management?

- Flexible site specific approach
- Link common to off-common habitat.
- Increase monitoring





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