

David Leach
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*Green Gateway: Linking Devon's Culm
Grassland and the rural economy*

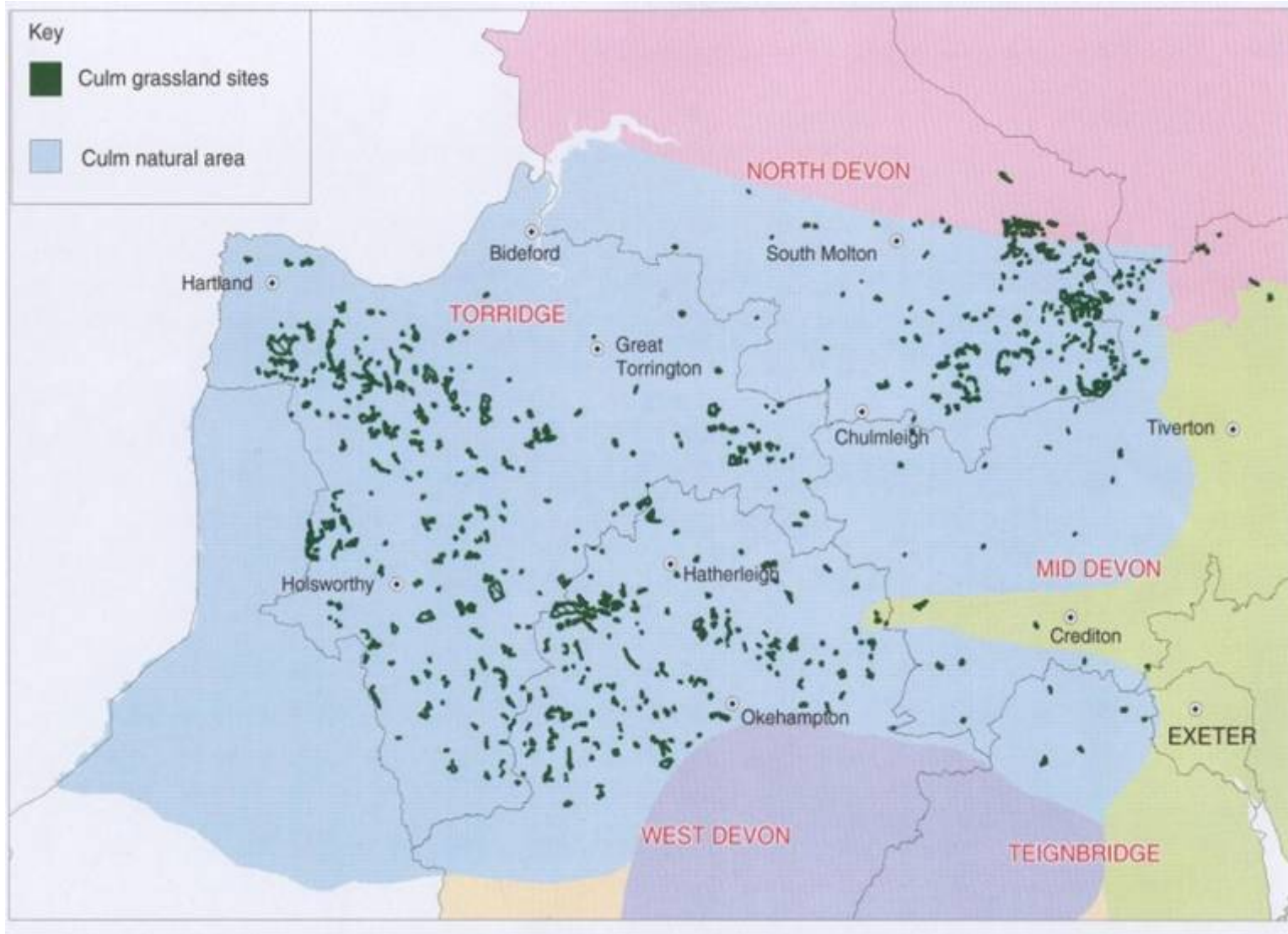


Green Gateway

Linking Devon's Culm Grassland and the rural economy

- Survey & advisory work
- **Green Gateway**
 - Beef marketing
 - Farm tourism
 - Training
 - Ruby Country









Green Gateway

Linking Devon's Culm Grassland and the rural economy

- Survey in early 1990s - 61 % of sites (48% of area) lost, between 1984 & 1991 mostly to agricultural improvement
- BAP targets:
- No further loss
- All sites >0.5Ha in protective management





Issue 19

Winter / Spring 2004

CULMConnections



Devon

Where next?

British farming is at a turning point. Of course farming has always changed direction, ensuring that farmers are amongst the most versatile of all business people. However, a number of factors have conspired to place the industry at a crossroads the like of which hasn't been since the introduction of state subsidy at the end of the Second World War.

The BSE affair and foot and mouth both shocked the industry. But it's the lurking presence of CAP reform that will have the longest and most far-reaching influence on the way Devon is farmed in the future.

Changes to CAP can be read as a removal of old systems of support, a further signal that there is to be a withdrawal of the financial security that once underpinned farming. However, Defra's Entry Level Agri-Environment Scheme - being piloted around Tiverton, amongst other areas of England - points to a fresh form of help, one in which the encouragement of wildlife forms a high priority in financial assistance.



Photo: S. Day

But where do you go to get the advice and support needed to make a smooth transition to this new kind of farming? At DWT we think we have the expertise to help. We've been a leading advocate of wildlife-friendly farming for 12 years. Throughout this time our farms advisory service has helped many Devon farmers make the county's countryside both more prosperous and richer in wildlife.

Inside this edition of Culm Connections we've put together a guide to some of the organisations and schemes that exist to help you. The guide offers key information outlining the support that's available, key compliance details, concrete examples from other farmers, and contact details for taking the next step.

Look inside to find out more...

DWT's work on the CULM is supported by:



Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future

Green Gateway

Linking Devon's Culm Grassland and the rural economy

- By 1999 70% of sites in protective management
- Problem: Successes are dependent upon subsidy system
- Fate of Culm Grassland is still tied to livestock farming



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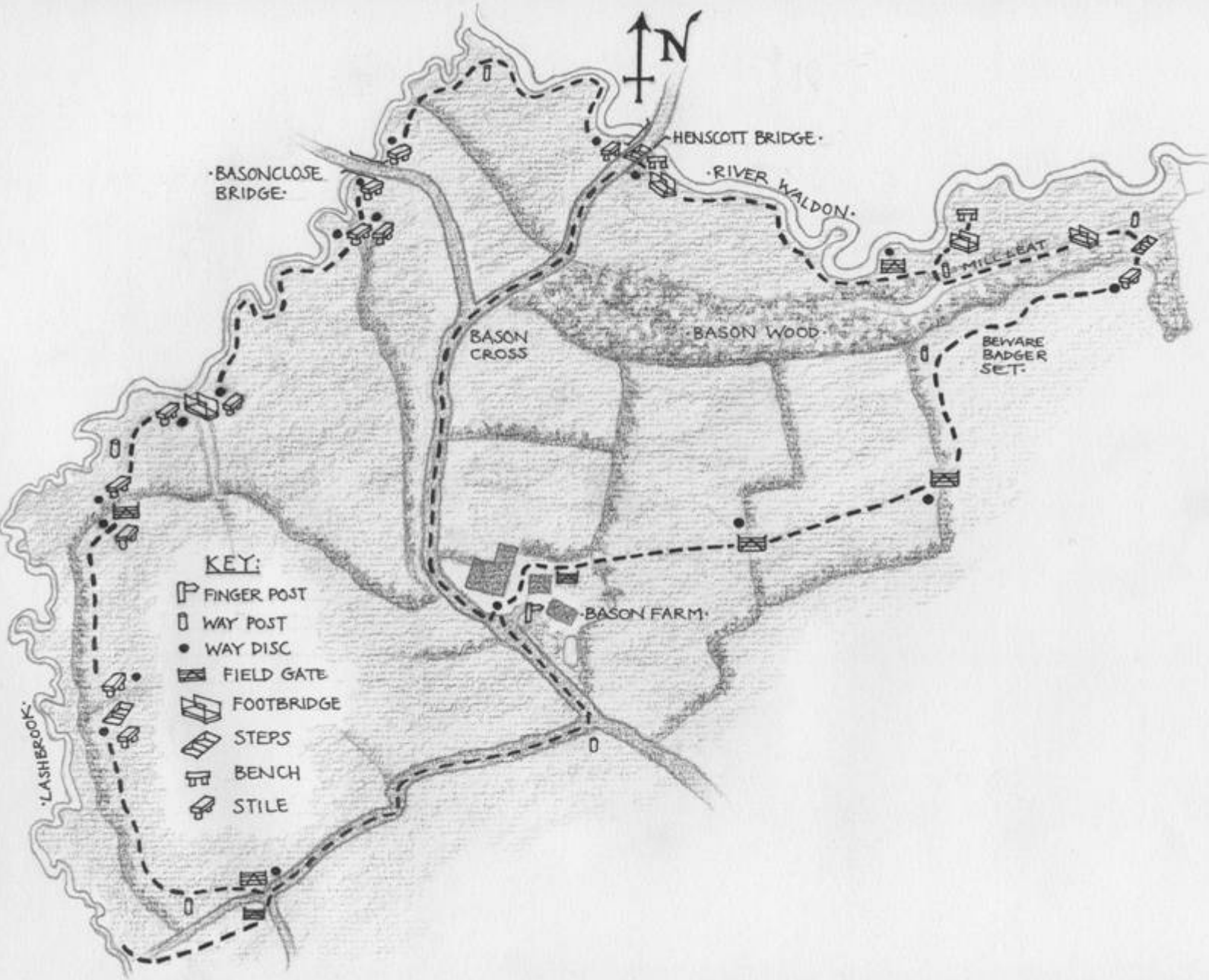
Linking Devon's Culm Grassland and the rural economy

- Green Gateway:
- Securing the future of Culm Grassland by rebuilding links to the rural economy and society
- BAP targets:
- Establish a positive link between sustainable management of Culm Grassland and economic diversification of the area
- Foster greater public awareness and enjoyment of the habitat and its wildlife
- Marketing of Culm Grassland beef
- Using natural assets to generate tourism business











Green Gateway

Linking Devon's Culm Grassland and the rural economy

- Ruby Country
- A regeneration project for 45 parishes surrounding Holsworthy and Hatherleigh
- A series of circular recreational and interpretative trails used as a catalyst
- Development which draws on, and enhances, the environmental and cultural assets of the locality
- Partners include district councils, county council and South West Forest





Green Gateway

Linking Devon's Culm Grassland and the rural economy

- Problems:
- Not self-sustaining - vulnerable to changes in the funding climate
- Ruby Country
 - finding a mechanism for reinvesting in conservation
 - lack of infrastructure
- Lack of entrepreneurial lead
 - DWTs role
 - farmers unwilling to act co-operatively



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