Make the Small Things Count
Why do we need to make the small things count?

• **Important Plant Areas** and international responsibility
• Health of habitat - micro and macro level
• Indicators of change

**BUT**

• Awareness
• Lack of information and people to provide that information

HLF, Exmoor Partnership Fund, DNPA and Quantocks AONB, Trusts
What are the small things?

Lichens

- 14 Section 41 spp

- Six nationally important communities:
  - Base-rich bark = Lobarion
  - Acid bark = Parmelion

Indices to assess conservation importance

Key component species (conspicuous)

- Prickly Featherwort *Plagiochila spinulosa*
- Spotty Featherwort *Plagiochila punctata*
- Western Earwort *Scapania gracilis*
- Wilson’s Filmy Fern *Hymenophyllum wilsonii*

Bryophytes

- Five Section 41 spp

- Slender Mousetail-moss (*Isothecium myosuroides*) sub-community (W17a)

Indices to assess conservation importance

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Where are the small things?

Make the Small Things Count
A PYRAMID PROBLEM REQUIRES A PYRAMID OF SOLUTIONS

- Perception of interest
- Little awareness
- Tools for awareness and skills development
- Few to monitor / survey
- Don’t know what is happening

Make the Small Things Count
What the project intended to do?

- Public engagement (schools, families, adults – Doone Valley)
- Habitat management / land managers
- Volunteering
- Lichen apprenticeship scheme
Make the Small Things Count
Partnership Plan

• a Thriving, Living Landscape
Protect and manage the special character, maintain good condition of species, engage people in understanding

• Connecting People and Places
Inform, inspire and engage people about Exmoor’s special qualities
The Lichen Apprenticeship Scheme

• To increase skills level - (hand lens, microscope, sampling, surveying, ID features, recording, reagents, habitat, tree ID)
• To create networking opportunities - leave a legacy (peer to peer; BLS; landowner; conservation bodies)
• To provide data / enhanced monitoring

The format - had to consider different factors.

• 5 days taught
• Self-led opportunities
• Survey days

Make the Small Things Count
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Plantlife

- Project
- FSC
- Legacy
- Mobile laboratory

Make the Small Things Count
Research and monitoring

- Survey days - site surveys
- Survey days - national surveys (OPAL, SPLASH, Lob)
- Data onto NBN gateway
What have we learnt? - in general

• Tiered learning and volunteering engagement programme - (activities and timings)
• Hypothesis led citizen science
• Capacity building - demystify / support others deliver; provide resources for others
• Regional working / networking
What have we learnt? - apprenticeship scheme

• Programmes of learning are positive, are needed and can make a difference - skills and networks
• Resource is important (availability of experts is limited)
• Linking to volunteering / gaining practical experience
• Equipment and access to equipment are key factors
• Timing / sequencing and differentiation
Future plans - Building resilience in south west woodlands

• STRUCTURED OPPORTUNITIES incl. mentoring

• REALISM - A SUITE OF OPPORTUNITY

• ALIGNMENT WITH CONSERVATION

• CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEGACY
So much more to discover