

Parish Biodiversity Audit
for
Chudleigh

Consultation draft – June 2010

Christine Mason, Green Ecology Ltd

Report commissioned by Devon County Council.

Data supplied by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre.

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. DESIGNATED SITES	8
SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION	8
SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST	8
REGIONALLY IMPORTANT GEOLOGICAL AND GEOMORPHOLOGICAL SITES	13
COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES	14
<i>Catshole County Wildlife Site</i>	15
<i>Crockham Bridge County Wildlife Site</i>	16
<i>Deer Park Farm (W) County Wildlife Site</i>	16
<i>Ruggadon County Wildlife Site</i>	18
<i>Deer Park Farm (E) County Wildlife Site</i>	18
<i>Coombeshead Cross (W) County Wildlife Site</i>	19
<i>Coombeshead Break County Wildlife Site</i>	20
<i>Coombeshead Brake Field County Wildlife Site</i>	21
<i>Harcombe Cross County Wildlife Site</i>	21
<i>Kilnfield Covert County Wildlife Site</i>	22
<i>Ducksmoor Covert County Wildlife Site</i>	22
<i>Vale Brook Field County Wildlife Site</i>	23
<i>Chudleighwoods Farm Field County Wildlife Site</i>	24
<i>Haldon Race Course County Wildlife Site</i>	24
<i>Ideford (W) County Wildlife Site</i>	25
OTHER SITES OF WILDLIFE INTEREST	26
3. OTHER HABITATS (IDENTIFIED FROM FIELD SURVEY):	26
SPECIES-RICH HEDGES	26
CHURCHYARDS	29
STONE WALLS	30
RECREATION AREAS AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE	30
ALLOTMENTS AND GARDENS	32
TRADITIONAL AND REDUNDANT BUILDINGS	33
RIVERS AND PONDS	34
ROADSIDE VERGES	35
UNIMPROVED GRASSLAND	36
WOODLANDS	36
VETERAN TREES	37
GREEN LANES	38
PITS, QUARRIES AND CUTTINGS	39
LIMESTONE ROCK AND GRASSLAND	39
LOWLAND HEATHLAND	40
OTHER POSSIBLE HABITATS	43
UNCONFIRMED COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES	43
Species	44
IMPORTANT SPECIES	44
A. EUROPEAN PROTECTED SPECIES	44
B. OTHER SPECIES	45
BIRDS	45
PLANTS	46
MAMMALS	47
INVERTEBRATES	48
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS	49
The Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (Devon BAP)	50
BIODIVERSITY LINKS:	50
LINKS BETWEEN THE MAIN WILDLIFE HABITATS OF CHUDLEIGH AND THE UK, DEVON AND	
TEIGNBRIDGE BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS (BAP)	51
Some Ideas for Local Action... ..	53
1 FURTHER SURVEYS:	53
2 INFLUENCE THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE:	54
3 BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL LANDOWNERS:	54
4 ADOPT A ROAD VERGE:	55

5 WILDLIFE GARDENING:	55
6 BIRD AND BAT BOXES:.....	55
7 JOIN LOCAL CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS:	56
8 LINK BIODIVERSITY TO CHUDLEIGH PARISH PLAN AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS:	56
9 JAPANESE KNOTWEED:	56
Useful sources of further information:	58
POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:	59
Bibliography.....	60
Acknowledgements	61
LEGALLY PROTECTED & NOTABLE SPECIES WITHIN CHUDLEIGH PARISH (2008).....	73
Appendix 2 - Species list recorded within Chudleigh parish during field visit – early 2009.....	97
Appendix 3: Some biodiversity features of Chudleigh Parish	101

Chudleigh - Parish Plan Biodiversity Project

This document has been produced as a starting point to help community action for wildlife. By starting to bring together knowledge of the natural assets of the parish, it may go some way to achieving its aim of contributing to - and stimulating ideas for - local action.

It should be emphasised that it is just a beginning. It does not represent a comprehensive account of the parish and is based largely on existing records held by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC) together with additional data kindly supplied by members of the community. There will be a wealth of local knowledge that can be used to build upon and improve this report. Indeed, it is important that it is seen as a 'living document' and one that belongs to the parish. It is hoped that it will be added to and refined by the people of Chudleigh parish in future years.

Did you know...?

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006

Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 places the following biodiversity duty on all public bodies:

'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'

The duty applies to all local authorities, including parish and town councils. Its purpose is to raise the profile of biodiversity and make it a 'natural and integral' part of policy and decision making.

The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has issued guidance for local authorities on implementing this biodiversity duty. It can be downloaded from Defra's website: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/la-guid-english.pdf

1. Introduction

Biodiversity is a term that describes all of life on earth, from the smallest micro-organism to the largest mammal, the Blue whale. Life is found almost everywhere on the planet and in huge variety. Even a humble back garden may be home to thousands of species and is therefore an important part of the planet's biodiversity. The Chudleigh Parish Biodiversity Audit begins to describe the area's local wildlife and shows how it fits into the wider picture of biodiversity in Devon and the UK.

Chudleigh Parish, part of Teignbridge District lies in an idyllic position at the end of the Teign Valley bordering Dartmoor National Park and rising up to the Haldon Hills almost 250m above sea level in the north. Chudleigh is 11 km north east of Newton Abbot and 17 km south west of Exeter. The parish is crossed in a north east to south west direction by the main A38 Devon Expressway which links Exeter and Plymouth.

The main watercourse is the River Teign which flows along the western edge of the parish with its tributaries Bramble Brook, forming the north west parish boundary and Kate Brook which flows along the eastern edge of Chudleigh town with Ugbrooke Stream in the south of the parish.

The parish's economy was traditionally based on the wool trade with cider making and was also an important coaching stop. The wool trade dwindled with the growth of the wool mills of northern England during the industrial revolution. In recent decades the town has expanded greatly with local authority house building in the 1950s and 60s, and more recently with the building of new housing developments around the edges of the town. Today the population stands at around 5,500 with many considering Chudleigh as a dormitory of Exeter with a large proportion of the population working outside of the parish.



Chudleigh as a parish appears to be very biodiversity-rich. The patchwork of fields, covering large parts of the parish is surrounded by hedges many of which are on traditional Devon banks. Although the majority of fields have been improved with fertilisers, there are areas of grassland both unimproved and semi-improved with wet and dry neutral, calcareous and heath type characteristics.

Chudleigh town and surrounding farmland

Much of the agricultural land within the parish is grazing pasture with a small number of arable areas. The pastures have been traditionally grazed by sheep and cattle and more recently large areas are grazed by horses.

Almost the entire northern section of the parish lies within Haldon Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designated for its importance as a heathland site with bird and invertebrate interest. Other SSSIs within the parish include parts of Ugbrooke Park, a large area of parkland with important lichen communities. Chudleigh Caves and Woods SSSI has been designated in part for its nationally-important limestone rock exposures and for its lichen interest. Lower Dunscombe Farm Quarry has been designated as a Geological or Geomorphological Site of Special Scientific Interest (gSSSI) as an example of Devonian limestone. Palace Quarry and these other important limestone sites provide alkaline conditions with associated broadleaved

woodland and grassland habitats which are very different to the acid heathland areas associated with Haldon. (D. Smallshire, 2009).

The parish has 15 County Wildlife Sites (CWS). Two sites (Catshole CWS and Coombeshead Brake CWS) have been identified as secondary broadleaved woodland. Nine sites have been identified as unimproved or semi-improved grassland, namely: Crockham Bridge CWS, Deer Park Farm (E) CWS, Deer Park Farm (W) CWS, Coombeshead Cross (W) CWS, Coombeshead Brake CWS, Coombeshead Brake Field CWS, Harcombe Cross CWS, Vale Brook Field CWS and Chudleighwoods Farm Fields CWS). Ruggadon CWS, a Devon Wildlife Trust Reserve, has been identified for its mix of species-rich grassland, bracken and broadleaved woodland; DUCKSMOOR COVERT CWS for its mix of heath, broadleaved woodland and scrub; and, Haldon Racecourse CWS for heath, acidic grassland and pond interest. Ideford (W) CWS is identified as heathland with conifers.

Other important sites include seven areas of woodland identified on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI). These sites include: Whiteway Wood AWI, Emeridge Wood AWI, Chudleigh Wood AWI, Pixies Hole AWI, Burrows Wood & Grealley Quarry AWI, Boxhills Copse AWI and Ideford Arch Wood AWI.

There are numerous other sites that may be of biodiversity importance across the parish. These have been identified as Unconfirmed Wildlife Sites (UWS) and have not been surveyed fully enough to determine their biodiversity value. There are 51 Unconfirmed Wildlife Sites within the parish which are listed in Appendix 1.

Pleasant footpaths and other Rights of Way linking Chudleigh town and the wider parish to the surrounding countryside are numerous. Chudleigh is a member of Devon County Council's Parish Paths Partnership (P3).

Notable sites and species recorded with Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC) within and close to Chudleigh parish are given in Appendix 1. The species include those listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) as priority species, such as the Common toad *Bufo bufo*, Brown hairstreak *Thelca betulae* and Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* and also in the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (Devon BAP) including Great green bush cricket *Tettigonia viridissima* and Primrose *Primula vulgaris*. Otters *Lutra lutra*, Pearl-bordered fritillary *Boloria euphrosyne* and Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* are listed as priority species in the UK and are Devon BAP action plan species which are all recorded within the parish. An explanation of the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan is presented on page 48.

The parish audit visit for this report was carried out in March 2009. It should be borne in mind that this is not the ideal season to carry out biodiversity surveys as many species will not be visible at this time of the year and further survey work is recommended. A full species list recorded during the audit visit is given in Appendix 2.

2. Designated Sites

Special Area of Conservation

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC): these are notified by Natural England because they contain species and/or habitats of European importance (listed in the Habitat Regulations 1994), and are part of a network of conservation sites set up through Europe known as the Natura 2000 series. They are designated as one means of ensuring that certain habitats and species of European importance are maintained at a 'favourable conservation status', as required by the EU Directive that underpins the Regulations.

On land, all candidate SACs are, or will be, notified as SSSIs. Natural England needs to be consulted before any operations likely to damage the special interest are undertaken. SAC is a statutory designation with legal implications.

Part of Chudleigh parish lies within the South Hams SAC and is, therefore, of international importance for wildlife. The South Hams SAC covers large parts of south Devon and the site contains diverse examples of maritime and calcareous grassland, scrub and cliff communities and caves and mines with important bat species and palaeontological interest. Chudleigh Caves and Woods SSSI has been included in the South Hams SAC because of its important Greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* colony. A full listing of Special Areas of Conservation can be found on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website: www.jncc.gov.uk

Special, rigorous procedures apply to the consideration of plans or projects (including planning applications) that may affect the conservation status of SACs and they can only be permitted under certain circumstances.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are notified by Natural England (formerly English Nature) because of their plants, animals or geological features (the latter are geological SSSIs or gSSSI). Natural England needs to be consulted before any operations likely to damage the special interest are undertaken. SSSI is a statutory designation with legal implications.

Haldon Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

350 ha of Haldon Forest either side of the northern parish boundary were designated SSSI in 1992. Haldon Forest supports an exceptional assemblage of breeding birds of prey, including several rare species, a nationally important population of breeding Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* and rich communities of invertebrates, especially butterflies. In addition, the site incorporates two pockets of lowland heathland, a nationally-scarce and threatened wildlife habitat.

Situated on the Haldon ridge to the south of Exeter, at an altitude of 80–250 m, the Forest consists of a structurally diverse conifer plantation growing on a former heathland which is now reduced to a few small fragments. Broad-leaved trees are largely restricted to old hedge-banks and to the edges of rides, some of which have been managed to provide suitable conditions for butterflies.



Haldon Forest SSSI

Throughout the Forest the soils are freely draining, with a shallow peaty surface underlain by flinty gravel.

Six bird of prey species breed in the Forest: the nationally rare Honey buzzard *Pernis apivorus* (not seen since 1995), the nationally scarce Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*, Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*, Buzzard *Buteo buteo* and Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. In addition numerous migrating birds of prey are recorded each year from the Forest. About 80 pairs of Nightjar breed in the Forest, representing about 3% of the British population of this declining migratory species. Britain has a particular responsibility under the European Council Directive of 1979 on the conservation of wild birds to conserve the habitat of both this species and of Honey buzzard. Other breeding bird species occurring within the Forest include Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* and Siskin *Carduelis spinus*, both of which are scarce and somewhat erratic. Carefully managed rides within the Forest support a rich community of butterflies. In all 35 species have been recorded (though not all of these within the parish), including the nationally-rare High brown fritillary *Fabriciana adippe*, a Red Data Book species, and three nationally-scarce ones, Marsh fritillary *Eurodryas aurinia*, Pearl-bordered fritillary *Clossiana euphrosyne* and Wood white *Leptidea sinapis*. The moth fauna is also diverse, with 277 species of larger moth *Macrolepidoptera* having been recorded, including the nationally-scarce Dotted carpet *Alcis jubata*, Pale pinion *Lithopane socia* and Beautiful brocade *Lacanobia contigua*. Sixteen dragonfly species have been recorded, associated with small ponds and reservoirs throughout the Forest.

One of the remnant areas of heathland within the Forest, a 3.9 ha area at Harcombe, is important as a good representative example of a type of

heathland now very restricted in Devon. Characteristically, the heathland supports a few plant species, being dominated by a mosaic of Bell heather *Erica cinerea*, Western gorse *Ulex gallii* and Heather *Calluna vulgaris* to the exclusion of nearly all other species other than mosses. Two other small remnants, near the service station on the A38 and at the southern end of the Harcombe Estate are more typical of lowland heathland in Devon, containing Cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, Purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and Bristle bent *Agrostis curtisii* in addition to the above species, plus Stonechat and Dartford Warbler. This latter type of heathland is, however, rarer nationally, being virtually restricted to south-west England. (Source: Natural England SSSI citation)

Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

Key habitats:

- Lowland Heathland Habitat Action Plan (Devon BAP, Teignbridge BAP, UK BAP)

Key species:

- High brown fritillary (UK BAP)
- Small pearl-bordered Fritillary (UK BAP)
- Grizzled skipper *Pyrgus malvae* (UK BAP)
- Mouse moth *Amphipyra tragopoginis* (UK BAP)
- Dark-barred twin-spont carpet *Xanthorhoe ferrugata* (UK BAP)
- Sallow *Xanthia icteritia* (UK BAP)
- Shaded broad-bar *Scotopteryx chenopodiata* (UK BAP)
- Buff ermine *Spilosoma luteum* (UK BAP)
- Cinnabar *Tyria jacobaeae* (UK BAP)
- Garden Tiger *Arctia caja* (UK BAP)
- Pale Eggar *Trichiura crataegi* (UK BAP)
- Centre-barred sallow *Atethmia centrargo* (UK BAP)
- Small phoenix *Ecliptopera siaceata* (UK BAP)
- Small square-spot *Diarsia rubi* (UK BAP)
- Grey Dagger *Acronicta psi* (UK BAP)
- Rustic Hoplodrina bland (UK BAP)
- Pretty chalk Carpet *Melanthia procellata* (UK BAP)
- Brindled beauty *Lycia hirtaria* (UK BAP)
- Lackey *Malacosoma neutria* (UK BAP)
- Dot moth *Melanchra persicariae* (UK BAP)
- Dusky brocade *Apamea remissa* (UK BAP)
- Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* (Devon BAP, UK BAP)
- Tree pipit (UK BAP)
- Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* (UK BAP)
- Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* (UK BAP)
- Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* (UK BAP)
- Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* (UK BAP, Devon BAP)

Ugbrooke Park Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Part of Ugbrooke Park was designated as a SSSI in 1976 and is located in the south east of the parish. Ugbrooke Park SSSI is identified as 14.6 ha of parkland of national importance for the conservation of lichens. In particular, two very scarce communities are present and these include nationally-rare species. The Park possesses large and mature Oak *Quercus* spp., Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* trees, upon the bark of which the lichens grow. The high importance of the site for lichens is largely due to these parkland trees, the unpolluted air, the lack of fertiliser drift and the low annual rainfall in this part of Devon. The site supports 110 lichen species which were recorded on the trees in 1989. Of particular note are two rare communities, the *Lecanactidetum premneae* and the *Xanthorion parietinae*. The former occurs on dry-barked, very old trees and is almost unknown outside the British Isles. Another two very rare species are *Lecanactis lyncea* and *Opegrapha prosodea*, the latter being wholly confined to the dry bark of very ancient trees in parkland situations. The Xanthorion community is particularly well-developed in the park, being rich in species and including *Gyalecta derivata* and *Wadeana dendrographa*. The latter is found only in old woodland or unpolluted wayside sites on basic-barked trees such as Ash and Elm *Ulmus* spp. and is known outside the British Isles only in Portugal. Another rarity present is *Strigula taylorii*, whilst several species which are on the western edge of their distribution in Devon, such as *Arthonia impolita*, *Pertusaria coccodes*, *P. hemispherica* and *Physcia tribacia* are also present. Long-term ecological continuity is indicated by the presence of such local species as *Arthoniavinosa*, *Biatorina atropurpurea*, *Dimerella lutea*, *Enterographa crassa*, *Pachyphiale cornea* and *Parmelia reddenda*. Some species such as *Anaptychia ciliaris*, *Bacidia incompta* and *Sticta limbata* appear to have been lost from the site in recent years, probably largely due to the death of Elms, through Dutch elm disease, but nevertheless the site remains of great importance (Source: English Nature gSSSI citation).

Whilst DBRC does not hold detailed species records for Ugbrooke Park SSSI there is potential habitat for a number of Biodiversity Action Plan priority species, in particular for bat species. Other important groups may include butterflies and moths.

Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

Key habitats:

- Parkland & wood pasture (Devon BAP, UK BAP)

Key species:

- Bats (Teignbridge BAP)

Chudleigh Caves and Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Designated in 1964 Chudleigh Caves and Woods SSSI is identified as 26.1 ha of ancient semi-natural woodland and broadleaved plantation on limestone. This site includes some of the best examples of semi-natural woodland developed on limestone in Devon. There is a considerable and wide ranging biological interest including the trees and other flowering plants, bryophytes, lichens, birds and invertebrates. Interesting palaeontological discoveries have been made in some of the caves, while the main caves hold important bat roosts. The main block of woodland occupies a steep-sided valley with other wooded areas on less steep hillsides to the south-west and north-east, all between 30 and 100 m altitude. Most of the site is underlain by Devonian limestone, but the woodland at the extreme south-west has developed on base-rich shales.

On the less steep slopes, generally well drained calcareous clay loam soils occur. There are numerous rock faces in the valley, mostly facing south or south-east, and sheer in places. The woodland which has grown on the steepest slopes may have originated from a “coppice with pollard” system, with a high canopy and extensive shrub layer and ground flora.

Trees on the more exposed rock outcrops are stunted. Some mixed woodland on top of the north-west facing side of the valley has been planted but nevertheless contains a significant proportion of native species and rich ground flora, while the woods to the south-west and north-east all have a semi-natural structure.



Chudleigh Caves and Woods SSSI

The trees forming the canopy are a mixture of Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Field maple *Acer campestre*, Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*, Wych elm *Ulmus glabra* and Wild cherry *Prunus avium*, with some Wild service-tree *Sorbus torminalis*, a local species. A wide variety of native shrub species form the understorey. The ground flora throughout is herb-rich and luxuriant, and includes many of the species typically associated with woodland on calcareous soils, such as Woodruff *Galium odoratum*, Yellow archangel *Lamium galeobdolon* and Stinking iris *Iris foetidissima*. Of particular note are Ivy broomrape *Orobancha hederæ* and Toothwort *Lathraea squamaria*. The saxicolous lichens and bryophytes which grow on the rocks, particularly where they are shaded, are of regional significance and include *Caloplaca cirrochroa*, *Dermatocarpon miniatum* and *Verrucaria coerulea*. A number of epiphytic species associated with ancient woodland such as *Catinarina grossa*, *Phlyctis agelaea* and *Schismatomma virgineum* are also found here. (Source: Natural England SSSI citation).

The caves provide important roosts for the Greater horseshoe bat

Rhinolophus ferrumequinum. This species is one of the largest and rarest bats in the UK and is largely found in southwest England and south and west Wales. During the winter the bats hibernate in caves such as those at Chudleigh Caves and Woods. The presence of Greater horseshoe bats makes this site of high nature conservation value, a fact recognised by its inclusion in the South Hams Special Area of Conservation. This designation acknowledges the international importance of the site (see below).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* and Raven *Corvus corax* nest in the quarry, as do many pairs of Jackdaws *Corvus monedula*. The site has a rich invertebrate fauna, including the slug *Boetigerilla pallens* which is restricted to this site in Devon, Hornet *Vespa crabro* and the White admiral butterfly *Limenitis camilla*. (Source: Natural England SSSI citation).

[Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs](#)

Key habitats:

- Caves, karst and mines (Devon BAP)
- Limestone rocks and grassland (Teignbridge BAP)
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)

Key species:

- Bats (Teignbridge BAP)
- Greater Horseshoe Bat (UK BAP; Devon BAP)
- White admiral (UK BAP)
- White-letter Hairstreak (UK BAP)
- Brown Hairstreak (UK BAP)

Lower Dunscombe Farm Quarry Geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (gSSSI)

This site is important in illustrating some of the variations which occur in the Devonian sedimentary rocks of south Devon. This locality provides a good exposure of the topmost Chudleigh Limestone (Frasnian) and displays well the transition from a carbonate platform environment, with a rich coral fauna, to a deeper water environment, with goniatites. The goniatite bearing horizon, the Lower Dunscombe Goniatite Band, is useful for local correlation in the Chudleigh area. (Source: Natural England SSSI citation)

[Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs](#)

Key habitats:

- Pits, quarries and cuttings (Devon BAP, Teignbridge BAP, UK BAP)

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) are earth science sites that are of regional or local importance. Like County Wildlife Sites, they are included in Local Plans and referred to under PPG9 (see below). These may represent good examples of local rock formations or landform features or they may contain interesting fossils. There are two RIGS within Chudleigh Parish. Mount Pleasant Woods is identified as a good example of the upper Devonian Sedimentary sequence. Holmans Wood Caravan Site is a former limestone quarry.

County Wildlife Sites

There are 15 County Wildlife Sites (CWS) within Chudleigh parish:

- Catshole CWS
- Crockham Bridge CWS
- Deer Park Farm (W) CWS
- Ruggadon CWS
- Deer Park Farm (E) CWS
- Coombeshead Cross CWS
- Coombeshead Brake CWS
- Coombeshead Brake Field CWS
- Harcombe Cross CWS
- Kilnfield Covert CWS
- Ducksmoor Cover CWS
- Vale Brooke Field CWS
- Chudleighwoods Farm Fields CWS
- Haldon Race Course CWS
- Ideford (W) CWS

County Wildlife Sites are sites of county importance for wildlife, designated on the basis of the habitat or the known presence of particular species. This is not a statutory designation like Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and does not have any legal status. County Wildlife Sites are usually included in Local Plans as sites of regional or local biodiversity interest and are covered by Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9). CWS recognition does not demand any particular actions on the part of the landowner and does not give the public rights of access. However, it may increase eligibility for land management grants.

Note: 'Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation' was published by the Department of the Environment in August 2005. Planning Policy Statements (PPS) set out the Government's national policies on different aspects of planning in England. PPS9 sets out planning policies on protection of biodiversity and geological conservation through the planning system. This PPS replaces Planning Policy Guidance Note 9 (PPG9) on nature conservation published in October 1994. Records of previous habitat and species surveys for these CWSs are kept with the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC), from which the descriptions here are largely derived; conditions may have changed since

these surveys. All of the sites are privately owned, some with little or no public access on to them. Some of the sites however can be seen from public roads and footpaths.

Catshole County Wildlife Site

A survey in 1994 records Catshole as 11.1 ha of secondary broadleaved woodland with a small area of wet and dry semi-improved neutral grassland. The site lies not far from to the western boundary of the parish 1 km south of Trusham.

The woodland is at different stages of development along its one kilometre length. It follows a small northwest-facing valley side, adjacent to a small stream which runs into the River Teign. Although the most mature part of the woodland in the northern section of the site is only a few decades old, species diversity is high.



Catshole CWS looking north east

The canopy in the more mature sections are dominated by English oak *Quercus robur* and Ash, over a dense Hazel *Corylus avellana* understorey with a rich ground flora containing around 30 woodland indicator species. Some of the species recorded are characteristic of damp woodland (for example Hard-fern *Blechnum spicant*,

Opposite-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, Wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* and Betony *Stachys officinalis*). Younger parts of the woodland are heavily grazed in areas and are less species-rich with the ground flora dominated by Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*.

There is a small area of semi-improved neutral grassland with species recorded including Common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, Black knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and Corky-fruited water-dropwort *Oenanthe pimpinelloides* (the latter species being a Devon Notable species – refer to Appendix 1 for a definition).

There is no public access to the site, however a public footpath runs uphill from the River Teign along the southern boundary of the site. The site was not surveyed in detail, however a number of ancient woodland indicator species could be seen from the road and footpath including Wild daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, Hairy wood-rush *Luzula pilosa*, Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Primrose *Primula vulgaris*, Ramsons *Allium ursinum* and Wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*.

[Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs](#)

Key habitats:

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)

Key species:

- Primrose (Devon BAP)

Crockham Bridge County Wildlife Site

The site is located near the western most tip of the parish close to the River Teign, 1 km south of Trusham. The site consists of 3.5 ha of semi-improved neutral grassland and rush pasture.

Surveyed in 1994, the site is recorded as moderately species-rich including Corky-fruited water-dropwort, and Common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*. The marshy areas are recorded as being dominated by jointed rush *Juncus articulatus* with soft and conglomerate rushes *J. effuses* and *J. conglomerates* with wetland species including Bog stitchwort *Stellaria alsine*, Marsh marigold



Caltha palustris and Tufted forget-me-not *Myosotis laxa*. White-letter hairstreak *Satyrrium ablum* and Brown hairstreak *Thecla betulae* which are both UK BAP priority species are also recorded. The site is not accessible to the public; however, it could be seen from the road during the audit visit. Other than some localised areas of cattle poaching the site appeared to be in good condition.

Crockham Bridge CWS looking south

Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAP

Key habitats:

- Lowland meadows (UK BAP)
- Grazing marsh (Devon BAP)

Key species:

- White-letter hairstreak (UK BAP)
- Brown hairstreak (UK BAP)

Deer Park Farm (W) County Wildlife Site

The site is located on the western edge of the parish close to Crockham Bridge CWS and adjoins Ruggadon CWS just south of Trusham. The site was last surveyed in 1994 and has been identified as 16.6 ha of wet unimproved

and dry semi-improved neutral grassland, pond and Bracken. The site is particularly interesting for invertebrates with a number of butterfly species recorded including: Large skipper *Ochlodes sylvanus*, Meadow brown *Maniola jurtina*, Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus*, Marbled white *Melanargia galathea*, Orange tip *Anthocharis cardamines* and Grizzled skipper *Pyrgus malvae*. Grizzled skipper is a UK BAP priority species.

Great green bush cricket *Tettigonia viridissima* has been recorded and is included in the Devon BAP. Other interesting species include Corky-fruited water-dropwort, Wild mignonette *Reseda lutea*, Clustered clover *Trifolium glomeratum*, Green-winged orchid *Orchis morio* and Pepper-saxifrage *Silene acaulis* which are all Devon Notable species.



Deer Park Farm (W) looking north to Trusham

The site is stock proof and this together with the absence of public access and management means that this site is undisturbed. Grass snake *Natrix natrix* - a UK BAP priority species – has been recorded here, along with. Pipistrelle bat *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (all species of bat are included in the Bats action plan in the Teignbridge BAP).

The site was not surveyed during the audit visit. However, parts of the CWS can be seen from the public footpath running along the eastern boundary of the site and also from surrounding view points. The site appears to be in good condition.

Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Lowland meadow (UK BAP)
- Flower rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP)

Key species:

- Otter (Devon BAP, UK BAP)
- Grizzled skipper (UK BAP)
- Grass snake (UK BAP)
- Great Green Bush Cricket (Devon BAP)
- Primrose (Devon BAP)

- Bats (Teignbridge BAP)

Ruggadon County Wildlife Site

Ruggadon CWS adjoins the eastern edge of Deer Park Farm (W) CWS and is recorded as 11.3 ha of unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, Bracken and secondary woodland. The site, also known as Ruggadon Middlepark, was gifted to Devon Wildlife Trust in 1999 by Mr and Mrs Cowley, who previously farmed the site, in memory of their late son. The site is species-rich with a number of Biodiversity Action Plan priority species recorded. UK BAP Priority species include; Grizzled skipper, Dingy skipper *Erynnis tages*, Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera* and White-letter hairstreak *Satyrrium w-album*. Pearl-bordered fritillary, also recorded, is listed in the Devon BAP as well as being UK BAP priority species. Other species of conservation concern include Purple hairstreak *Quercusia quercus* and Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*, both in decline in the UK.

Ruggadon is also notable for its floristic interest providing a stunning display of orchids including Green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*, a Devon Notable species. Other plant species include Black knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Eyebright *Euphrasia officiannalis* agg. and Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*.

The site is publicly accessible and is within walking distance of Trusham village.

[Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAP](#)

Key habitat:

- Lowland meadows (UK BAP)
- Flower rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP)

Key species:

- Grizzled skipper (UK BAP)
- Dingy skipper (UK BAP)
- Pearl-bordered fritillary (Devon BAP, UK BAP)
- Wall Brown (UK BAP)

Deer Park Farm (E) County Wildlife Site

Located adjacent to the eastern edge of Ruggadon CWS, Deer Park Farm (E) CWS consists of 29 ha of unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland and Bracken with plant interest. Surrounding a steep hill with many aspects, the site is a patchwork of 13 fields forming a matrix of habitats ranging from grassland, to scrub and small blocks of woodland, criss-crossed by a series of hedgerows. A survey in 1994 indicates that the site provides a diverse mix of

habitats and is species-rich. Flowering plants include Common dog-violet, Bluebell and Sanicle *sanicula europaea*.

A number of Biodiversity Action Plan species are recorded. Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* and Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* are both UK BAP priority species. Primrose and Great green bush cricket are both Devon BAP species. Other species of conservation concern include Prickly lettuce *Lactuca serriola*, Narrow-fruited cornsalad *Valerianella dentata* and Corky-fruited water-dropwort which are all Devon Notables. The south eastern sections of the site are used as a flower nursery. There is no public access however the site can be seen from the footpath on the opposite side of the stream valley to the north east of the site and is also visible from the public road and surrounding viewpoints. The site appears to be in good condition.



Deer Park Farm (W) looking north

[Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAP](#)

Key habitat:

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)
- Lowland meadows (UK BAP)
- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP)

Key species:

- Primrose (Devon BAP)
- Great green bush cricket (Devon BAP)
- Yellowhammer (UK BAP)
- Bullfinch (UK BAP)

Coombeshead Cross (W) County Wildlife Site

The site adjoins Deer Park Farm (E) CWS in the west of the parish. The site consists of 9.4 ha of mixed habitat including unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, marshy grassland, pond and species-rich hedge. The site was surveyed in 2004. The majority of the site is a large field on an east facing slope, at the bottom of which is a hedge with smaller fields beyond. The large field, despite being closely cropped by sheep and cattle is species-rich and includes Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Yarrow *Achillea millifolium* and Field scabious *Knautia arvensis*. The small field in the eastern section of the site is wet in places. Species in this section include Perforate St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum* with a number of butterfly species including Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus*, Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus* and Small skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris*.

Vegetation around the pond area includes Ragged Robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, Water mint *Mentha aquatica* and Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*. There is an old orchard on the southern tip of the site. Although the ground flora of the orchard is dominated by rank grasses it is relatively species-rich with similar species to those found on the drier fields.



Coombeshead Cross looking west

The site was not surveyed during the audit visit but could be seen clearly from the public road and appears to be in good condition.

[Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAP](#)

Key habitat:

- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP)
- Lowland meadows (UK BAP)
- Species-rich hedgerows (Devon BAP); Hedgerows (UK BAP)

Coombeshead Break County Wildlife Site

Coombeshead Break is in the west of the parish south of Casthole CWS. A survey in 1994 identifies the area as 5.6 ha of broadleaved woodland with an adjacent small stream. The western side of the site is dominated by Ash, Beech *Fagus sylvatica* and Oak with a Hazel, Holly *Ilex aquifolium* and Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* understorey. Ground flora diversity is reduced in areas due to the dense understorey in places, and large amounts of leaf litter are in places where the canopy is dominated by Beech. In other areas where Beech is less dominant the ground flora is more diverse. Species include Three-veined sandwort *Moerhingia trinervia*, Hard fern and Sanicle. In one area a Bird's nest orchid *Neottia nidus-avis* spike has been recorded.

There is no public access to Coombeshead Break, however a public footpath runs along the southern boundary from which the site can be seen. 15 years have past since the original CWS survey and further survey is recommended.

[Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAP](#)

Key habitat:

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)

Key species:

- Primrose (Devon BAP)

Coombeshead Brake Field County Wildlife Site

The site runs along the southern edge of Coombeshead Brake CWS. Surveyed in 1994, the area consists of 5 ha of unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland and scrub. The site is recorded as moderately species-rich with flowering species including Common bird's-foot-trefoil and Black knapweed. There are areas of Gorse *Ulex europaeus* where the field meets the woodland and stream and the grassland becomes wetter in nature. Species in the wetter parts include Soft rush, Marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre* and Bluebell. A number of butterfly species are recorded including Marbled white *Melanargia galathea*.

Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)

Key species:

- Primrose (Devon BAP)

Harcombe Cross County Wildlife Site

This site consists of 2.8 ha of roadside verges adjacent to the A38 in the centre of the parish. Surveyed in 1994, the site is recorded as unimproved neutral grassland with plant interest, notably a large population of Common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuschii*. In total nine species of orchids are recorded here including Greater butterfly-orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*, Bee orchid *Ophrys apifera*, Green-winged orchid, Early purple orchid *Orchis mascula*, Southern marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*, Bird's-nest orchid *Neottia nidus-avis*, Pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* and Twayblade *Listera ovata*. Adder's-tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum* grows in the northern section, beside the A38, while other localised plants include Corky-fruited Water-dropwort *Oenanthe pimpinelloides* and Grass Vetchling *Lathyrus nissolia*. (Source: D Smallshire, 2009).

The grassland itself is identified as species-rich and an important habitat for insects and butterfly populations. Butterfly species recorded include Dingy Skipper. There is a drainage channel at the bottom of the northern verge which provides a damp habitat used by dragonflies and damselflies with associated damp grassland vegetation. Plant species in this area include Soft rush and Hard rush, Ragged robin, Yellow flag iris *Iris pseudocorus* and Watermint *Mentha aquatica*.

There are some small areas of broadleaved woodland to the north of the western verges amongst which Common spotted orchids are abundant with occasional Bee orchids.

Due to time of year the site was not surveyed. The verges are managed by Devon County Council contractors, on behalf of the Highways Agency. The management regime of the verges has been designed specifically to conserve the orchid populations present.

Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP)
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)

Key species:

- Primrose (Devon BAP)
- Cinnabar moth (UK BAP)
- White admiral (UK BAP)

Kilnfield Covert County Wildlife Site

Kilnfield Covert borders the edge of Haldon Forest SSSI in the north east of the parish. The site is identified as 4.1 ha of wet and dry unimproved neutral grassland with secondary broadleaved woodland with scrub. The site is not accessible but can be seen from the public footpath which runs along the south eastern boundary of the site. The site was not surveyed during the audit visit.

Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)

Ducksmoor Covert County Wildlife Site

Ducksmoor Covert is south of Kilnfield Covert CWS. The site was last surveyed in 2004 and is a steeply sloped thin strip of land consisting of 6.5 ha of wet Alder *Alnus glutinosus* woodland, mixed broadleaved woodland and areas of Bracken with scattered Birch *Betula pubescens*.

The site was previously designated as a CWS for its heathland habitat. The heathland part of the site is now part of Haldon Forest SSSI. Half of the site is

dominated by Bracken which could be cleared to encourage Heath regeneration. The most important part of the site is the wet woodland dominated by Alder, Ash and Oak with a Hazel and Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* understorey with scattered Birch and abundant Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* on the upper slopes. The ground flora is rich with 11 ancient woodland indicator species found across the site. There is a lot of fallen dead wood and fallen trees across the site providing important habitat for mosses and invertebrates.

Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)
- Wet Woodland (UK BAP)
- Alder/ willow wet woodland (Devon BAP)

Key species:

- Wood white *Leptidea sinapis* (UK BAP)
- Common Lizard *Lacerta vivipara* (UK BAP)
- Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* (UK BAP)

Vale Brook Field County Wildlife Site

Located in the centre of the parish Vale Brook Field consists of 5.4 ha of unimproved calcareous grassland within an improved field with a stream. The site which was surveyed in 2004, is an elongated field running adjacent to Kate Brook. The southern end of the field next to the stream is improved whilst the steeper slopes are unimproved with soil creep forming a number of ridges. The ridges are recorded as herb-rich with over 40 plant species recorded in places.

The field where it borders the stream has a number of marshy grassland species including Brooklime, Common reed *Phragmites australis* and Fool's water cress *Apium nodiflorum*. Species recorded on the steeper unimproved slopes include those associated with both neutral and calcareous grasslands.

Species include Common knapweed, Burnet Saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, Field scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and Fairy flax *Linum catharticum*.

Mature trees including Oak, Ash, Alder and Wych elm *Ulmus glabra* run alongside the brook, possibly the remains of an overgrown hedgerow. There is also a small strip of woodland and a small disused quarry now deciduous woodland dominated by Ash. The ground flora in these parts is less diverse due to the shade cast by the trees. The surveyor has identified potential habitat for bats and Dormice.



Vale Brook Field in middle distance

[Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAP](#)

Key habitat:

- Lowland meadows (UK BAP)
- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP)
- Pits, quarries and cuttings (Devon BAP)
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)
- Rivers, streams, floodplains and alluvial processes (Devon BAP)

Chudleighwoods Farm Field County Wildlife Site

Chudleighwoods Farm Field CWS is near the west boundary of the parish about 1 km directly north of Chudleigh. Surveyed in 2004, the site is identified as 4 ha of unimproved and semi-improved grassland over three fields. The grassland is maintained through grazing and is not fertilised. The site is species-rich with over 40 herb species recorded including: Field scabious, Ox-eye daisy, Restharrow *Ononis repens*, Cut-leaved cranesbill *Geranium dissectum* and Wild carrot *Daucus carota*. The fields are bordered by species-rich hedgebanks or deciduous woodland with several species of butterfly including Marbled white recorded. The site is on private land but is adjacent to both sides of a green lane. The site was not visited during the audit survey but appears to be in good condition from the aerial photograph.

[Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAP](#)

Key habitat:

- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP)
- Lowland meadows (UK BAP)

Haldon Race Course County Wildlife Site

The site is either side of the north eastern parish boundary to the east of the A38 at the top of Haldon Hill. The site is almost entirely surrounded by Haldon Forest SSSI. Haldon Race Course CWS is recorded by DBRC as 38.1 ha of dry heath with semi-improved grassland, Bracken and a small pond. The site was surveyed in 1994 with over half of the site recorded as lowland heath dominated by Heather, Bell heather, Purple moor-grass with Cross-leaved heath and Bristle-bent *Agrostis curtisii*. Northern and eastern

parts of the site have areas of Bracken and Scot's pine *Pinus sylvestris*. Areas of tall herb vegetation are recorded with species including Rosebay willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*, Nettle *Urtica dioica* and Bramble with tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*.

The racecourse itself has been improved and reseeded. Annual meadow-grass *Poa annua*, Perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* and White clover *Trifolium repens* are recorded as dominant. At the time of the 1994 survey the pond area had been recently excavated and other than supporting a good population of Marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, vegetation was species-poor though fauna was well established. The site was not visited during the audit visit due to time constraints. However, looking at the aerial photograph, the extent of the lowland heath element appears to be unchanged, and the pond area is in good condition. There are some bare areas of ground within the heathland, which were also identified in the original CWS survey. These may be due to damage caused by trampling pressure.

Reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* is known to breed in the acid mire areas of the site (source: D Smallshire, 2009).

[Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAP](#)

Key habitat:

- Lowland heathland (Devon BAP, UK BAP, Teignbridge BAP)

Key species:

- Cinnabar moth (UK BAP)
- Reed bunting (UK BAP)

Ideford (W) County Wildlife Site

Ideford (W) lies adjacent to the south east boundary of the parish adjoining Great Haldon Heathland SSSI. The site consists of 5.4 ha of heathland with conifers and was surveyed in 2004. The southern section of the site is recorded as mixed broadleaved woodland with a Dog's mercury/Bluebell *Mercurialis perennis*/*Hyacinthoides non-scripta* or Ivy *Hedera helix* understorey. The green lane, running along the southern edge of the site is lined by species-rich hedgerows.

The northern part of the site directly adjacent to Great Haldon Heath SSSI is owned by the Forestry Commission and is a good example of dry dwarf shrub heathland under sparse Scot's pine. The plant community here is dominated by Bell heather with Cross-leaved heath, Purple moor-grass with *Cladonia* sp. in places. Some parts of the site have been planted with conifer mainly Douglas fir *Pseudotsuga meniesii* where the understorey is Bracken with Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*. Other areas of woodland are dominated by Beech and Oak.

The site was visited during the 2009 audit survey. Fly tipping, adjacent to the public road has degraded the central section of the site. Other parts of the site however appear to be in good condition.

[Links to Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAP](#)

Key habitat:

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)
- Lowland heathland (Devon BAP, Teignbridge BAP, UK BAP)
- Species-rich hedgerow (Devon BAP); Hedgerow (UK BAP)

Key species:

- Primrose (Devon BAP)

Other Sites of Wildlife Interest

The Devon Biodiversity Records Centre has identified 11 Other Sites of Wildlife Interest in or bordering Chudleigh parish. These are sites of significant wildlife interest within a local context that have been surveyed but do not reach the criteria for County Wildlife Site. The Other Sites of Wildlife Interest identified by DBRC are listed in Appendix 1.

3. Other habitats (identified from field survey):

Species-rich hedges

Various definitions of species-rich hedges have been used in different parts of the country but it would not be unreasonable to treat a hedge that has five or more woody species in a 30-metre length as a 'species-rich' one. Most of the hedges in Chudleigh are species-rich and important for wildlife.

Many of the hedges surrounding the fields and lanes across the parish, like many of the area's hedges are probably of medieval origin. These form an important landscape feature as well as providing an important wildlife habitat for birds, butterflies, invertebrates and mammals such as Dormice and bats. These hedges also provide sheltered wildlife corridors through areas of farmland allowing wildlife to move between areas of habitat.

There are some very different types of hedges with different characters across the parish. There are many examples of species rich, well managed hedges across the parish. These can be found running either side of many of the parish's public road, green lanes and other rights of way as well as along field edges. Here species include Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Oak, Ash, Field maple *Acer campestre*, Hazel, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* and various Willows *Salix* sp. Many of these hedges are on traditional Devon hedgebanks with a diverse bank flora providing an impressive spring bank

display of Primrose, Common dog-violet, Red campion *Silene dioica*, Greater stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, Yellow archangel *Lamium galeobdolon*, Early purple orchid and Bluebell. Traveller's-joy *Clematis vitalba* is typical of the hedgerows on limestone. Orange-tip and Green-veined white *Pieris napi* butterflies lay their eggs on Cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis* and Garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata* (source: D Smallshire, 2009).

Specific examples of species-rich hedges include those identified at Ideford (W) CWS, Chudleighwoods Farm Field CWS, Vale Brook Field CWS, and Coombeshead Cross (W) CWS.

Some of the field hedges surrounding arable land are closely trimmed and relatively low in height. Such hedges would benefit from being allowed to regrow to provide habitat for species such as Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* and Brown hairstreak *Thecla betulae* butterfly which rely on hedgerows that have had at least two years' growth as they lay their eggs on two year old Blackthorn twigs. The management of hedgerows does allow light to penetrate down to the hedgebank resulting in a species-rich hedgebank flora in places.

Conversely some hedges within the parish are under-managed. It is difficult for light to penetrate to the herb layer and consequently hedgebanks are less floristically diverse. There are gaps in many of these under-managed hedges which would benefit from some laying or coppicing. This itself will allow more light to reach the hedgebanks encouraging greater plant diversity.

At the time of the audit visit at the end of March in 2009, some sections of hedgerow had been recently managed by laying, for example near Ruggadon and Deer Park Farm. Generally the condition of many of the parish's hedgerows appeared to be good though further survey work in late spring/early summer is recommended.

Hedgerows tend to be taken for granted as they always seem to be there, providing such a constant in a familiar landscape. However, they do require regular attention to keep them in good condition. That so many are still in good condition is a testament to the skill and hard work of generations of farmers. But there are changes even in the oldest hedgelines as the way the majority are managed has altered. There is now less farm labour available and more reliance on mechanical cutting rather than traditional hedge laying (or, as it is known in Devon, 'steeping').

Even the mechanical cutting has changed as reciprocating cutters that could cut shrub stems cleanly have given way to tractor-mounted flails which can tackle slightly older growth but at the expense of every stem being shattered. Flailing can actually promote bud development (on hawthorn, for example, research indicates that severe damage to the end of a branch encourages shoot development further down in the base of the plant which can help to thicken it up). However, flailing can also leave shrubs susceptible to infection. As individual hedge plants die, they leave gaps which render the hedge less

effective and which would in the past have been filled when the hedge was next steeped.

With the advent of mechanical hedge-trimming has come another change - it is now possible to trim all the hedges on a farm in one year. It is this that perhaps has had the most impact on both the vertebrate and invertebrate wildlife. Fruiting and seeding species are very much less productive and there is a different and less varied structure. Also, shrubs that do produce a good berry crop are sometimes cut in the early autumn before the birds, particularly the migrants, can gain any advantage from this food source. A couple of generations ago, many hedges on a farm might have been cut less frequently, allowing them to be much more productive in the meantime.

Recognising these changes does allow choices in the way hedges are managed in the future. Hedges can be cut on a two or even three year rotation – research has showed cost savings on a three-yearly trim. Alternatively, perhaps only one or two of the three ‘faces’ (the top and the two sides) could be cut in any one year. This wouldn’t stop road or drive side hedges being cut from both the safety and visual aspects but for the majority of hedges it would have two major benefits: it would take less time (and hence cost) and it would benefit wildlife! However, whatever pattern of cutting is adopted, “all hedges, except perhaps holly, will need laying or coppicing sooner or later because they will become thin at the base. This is the best form of long-term management” (*Devon’s hedges: Conservation and management*, Devon County Council / Devon Hedge Group).

Once it was realised nationally that many thousands of kilometres of hedgerow were being lost annually and that something ought to be done about it, the Hedgerow Regulations (made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995) were introduced in England and Wales in 1997 to protect them. The Regulations are intended to prevent the removal of most countryside hedgerows without first submitting a hedgerow removal notice to the local planning authority. The local planning authorities are only able to require the retention of ‘important’ hedgerows. The Regulations then set out criteria to be used by the local authority in determining which hedgerows are important (Defra, 2007).

Briefly, a hedgerow is considered important from a wildlife perspective if it has existed for 30 years or more and:

- Contains certain categories of species of birds, animals or plants listed in the Wildlife and Countryside Act or Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) publications and / or
- Within an average 30m length, includes:
 - ❖ at least 7 woody species
 - ❖ at least 6 woody species and has at least 3 associated features
 - ❖ at least 6 woody species, including a black poplar tree, or large leaved lime, or small leaved lime, or wild service tree; or
 - ❖ at least 5 woody species and has at least 4 associated features

The above is taken from *The Hedgerows Regulations: Your Questions Answered* (Department of Environment, as was). The full regulations, including the list of 'woody species', can be seen at this web site: www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1997/19971160.htm

In such a clearly agricultural landscape, the hedgerows and hedgebanks represent continuity as features in the landscape and provide a significant wildlife resource at a time when the fields themselves are being more intensively used. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK Steering Group, 1995) lists ancient and or species-rich hedgerows as one of its priority habitats.

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

- Species-rich hedges (Devon BAP); Hedgerows (UK BAP)

Churchyards

Chudleigh parish church is located near Chudleigh town centre and is a prominent landmark. There is a graveyard here surrounded on three sides by a stone wall and along one side by railings. The stone wall provides habitat for several species of mosses and lichens as well as ferns including Maidenhair spleenwort *Asplenium trichomanes* and flowering plants such as Barren strawberry *Potentilla sterilis*, Ivy-leaved toadflax *Cymbalaria muralis* and Red valerian *Centranthus rubra*. The gravestones themselves provide habitat for mosses and lichens. The majority of the grassland within the graveyard is managed by cutting and is dominated by grasses such as Perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne*, Red fescue *Festuca rubra* and Annual meadow grass with White clover.

The sward at the time of the audit visit in late March was relatively high and generally herb rich, especially around the edges of the grassland. Species recorded include Ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Common daisy *Bellis perennis*, Creeping cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, Ground-ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Barren strawberry, Lesser celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*, Primrose, Germander speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, Common dog-violet and Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*.



The edges of the paths and graves are also herb-rich and include Daisy, Groundsel *Senecio vulgaris*, Ribwort plantain and Red fescue *Festuca rubra*. There are a number of relatively young standard trees within the church including Cherry *Prunus sp.* and Sessile Oak with exotic species including *Eucalyptus sp.* and *Cedrus sp.* with evergreen shrubs including *Maculata*

Elaeagnus pungens. There are also two mature Yews *Taxus Baccata* present.

The overall management regime of the churchyard at the time of the audit visit appears to benefit biodiversity. The first cut has been left late enough to allow a species-rich sward to flourish and it appears that use of herbicides is kept to a minimum. A less frequent mowing regime with a late first cut favours flowering plants and will provide an important habitat for nectar feeding invertebrates. Further biodiversity enhancement may be achieved by leaving the edges of the grassland un-mown and/or by replacing some of the non-native trees with native species once trees come to the end of their natural life.

The Town Council manages a cemetery on the southern edge of the town. This was not surveyed during the audit visit.

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

- Cities, towns and villages (Devon BAP); Towns and villages (Teignbridge BAP)
- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP)

Stone walls

Stone walls surround the churchyard and many gardens and properties in Chudleigh and the wider parish. Walls are important for lichens, mosses and flowering plants and with crevices can also provide value for invertebrates and reptiles. Examples of species recorded during the audit visit include Maidenhair spleenwort, Ivy-leaved toadflax, Navelwort *Umbilicus rupestris*, Red valerian, Ordinary moss *Brachythecium rutabulum* and *Xanthoria parietina* lichen.

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

- Cities, towns and villages (Devon BAP); Towns and villages (Teignbridge BAP)

Recreation areas and public open space

There are a number of public areas in and around Chudleigh, including parks and green spaces.

Millstream Meadow is a large area of green space either side of Kate Brook on the eastern side of the town. The area has been recently enhanced as part of a Section 106 agreement linked to the recent 'Town Mills' housing development on this side of the town. The area is a mixture of play park, amenity grassland, a recently planted community apple orchard, new native hedgerows and newly planted areas of native woodland with wildflower meadows. Work was completed in 2008 and the area will be managed for recreation and wildlife by the Town Council. Millstream Meadow green space

is ideally positioned on the edge of the town and is linked to the open countryside by existing and new hedgerows.

As the mixture of habitats establish the site will become increasingly interesting for both plant and animal species. The site was visited as part of the audit survey at the end of March 2009. A number of bird species were seen including Blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, Great tit *Parus major*, Blackbird *Turdus merula*, Robin *Erithacus rubecula*, House sparrow *Passer domesticus* and Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* as well as Painted lady *Vanessa cardui* and several Peacock butterflies. The House sparrow is a UK BAP priority species



Other sites managed by the Town Council include Fore Street Play Park near the town centre which is located between the church and Chudleigh school. There is an open area of amenity grassland next to the play park dominated by Perennial ryegrass, Annual meadow grass and White clover. The amenity grassland is used by the school as playing field.

New apple orchard, Millstream Meadow

The play park itself is entirely safety surfaced. The churchyard wall runs along its north west boundary which provides habitat for mosses, lichens and flowering plants including Ivy-leaved toadflax and Herb robert. Other parish owned and maintained sites include the Ciderpress roundabout (mainly planted with ornamental species) and amenity areas at Culver Green, Shearers

Way and Palace Meadow, part of the new housing development close to Millstream Meadow. There are some important veteran Oaks which have been retained in amongst the development (one known as Culver Oak) which are now being monitored by the Town Council's tree warden.



Fore Street play park and playing field

On the north east side of the town there is a large cricket ground and a bowling green. These were not surveyed during the audit visit.

Chudleigh parish has a number of footpaths, bridlepaths, byways and

green lanes.

Various circular walks can be made from Chudeigh town, where there is parking. These walks will provide an opportunity for seeing a plethora of wildlife and important wildlife sites close to the town.



Footpath adjacent to Orchard Close, Chudleigh

Chudleigh Town Council is a member of the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) and paths are walked regularly by members of the Council. Cyclepaths have been provided through Millstream Meadow as part of the Chudleigh Greenspace project.



Cycleway through Millstream Meadow

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

- Cities, towns and towns (Devon BAP); Towns and villages (Teignbridge BAP)
- Flower-rich meadows & pastures (Devon BAP)
- Species-rich hedgerow (Devon BAP); Hedges (UK BAP)

Allotments and gardens

Gardens are a haven for wildlife and can provide links to other areas of wildlife habitat. There is a network of gardens in Chudleigh providing a habitat link with hedgerows and the surrounding countryside. Although many of the gardens linked to new housing developments are small, many of the original trees and hedgerows have been retained in these areas, again providing an important habitat link. Many gardens have the advantage of being close to Kate Brook which run along the entire length of the south eastern edge of the town.

Wildlife found in gardens is well recorded within the parish and is detailed by David Smallshire (2009) in *The Story of Chudleigh*. Numerous bird species frequent gardens including Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, Song Thrush *Turdus philomelo*, Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* and Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, joined in winter by Siskins, Blackcaps *Sylvia atricapilla*, Bramblings *Fringilla montifringilla* and Grey wagtails *Motacilla cinerea*. Sparrowhawks are frequently attracted to gardens by the high densities of birds around birdfeeders. More unusual sightings in gardens described include Barn owl *Tyto alba*, Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*, White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* and Alpine Swift *Apus melba* overhead. Barn owl is included in the Devon BAP and House sparrow and Song thrush are UK BAP priority species.

The gardens of Chudleigh are also an important habitat for many butterfly species including Peacock, Red admiral *Vanessa atalanta*, Small tortoiseshell *Nymphalis urticae* and Comma *Polygonia c-album* with Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* and Holly blue *Celastrina argiolus* breeding in more wooded gardens. Moths species exceed numbers of butterfly species and including Cinnabar, Jersey Tiger and Scarlet Tiger *Callimorpha dominula*. A Kent black arches *Meganola albula* moth was recently trapped near the Highwayman Inn, the only known Devon location other than Dawlish Warren. (Source: D Smallshire, 2009).

There are two allotment sites in Chudleigh, one on Exeter Road to the north east of the town and another near to the cemetery close to Clifford Street to the east of the town.

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

- Cities, towns and towns (Devon BAP); Towns and villages (Teignbridge BAP)

Traditional and redundant buildings

Traditional buildings are present in the parish and can be important for a number of species including the Barn owl and various bat species.

Traditional buildings within the town and across the parish are known to provide nest sites for populations of Swifts *Apus apus*, Swallows *Hirundo rustica*, House martins *Delichon urbica* and House sparrows (D Smallshire, 2009).

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

- Cities, towns and towns (Devon BAP); Towns and villages (Teignbridge BAP)

Rivers and Ponds

The River Teign forms the western boundary of the parish and many of its tributary streams, including Bramble Brook and Kate Brook rise in and flow through the parish. The Teign rises from Dartmoor at Cranmere Pool before winding towards the edge of Dartmoor and then southwards along the steep sided valley below Castle Drogo to the eastern edge of Dartmoor National Park. It meets the parish boundary just below Trusham and flows south towards Newton Abbot where it becomes tidal.

The Teign is an important site for wildlife hosting a wide range of fishes and the animals which predate them. Fishes include Salmon *Salmo salar*, Brown trout *Salmo trutta*, and others (Source: D Smallshire, 2009). Otters *Lutra lutra* have recently started to return along certain stretches and now seem to be making a recovery after depletion by pesticides and Mink *Mustela vison* invasion and Water shrews *Neomys fodiens* have been seen along Bramble Book. (Source: D Smallshire, 2009). Other species associated with the parish's rivers and streams include Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* with



occasional Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* and Kingfisher *Alcedo Atthis*, Golden-ringed dragonfly *Cordulegaster boltonii* and Beautiful demoiselle *Calopteryx virgo*. (D Smallshire, 2009).

There are a number of ponds across the parish (for example on the Ugbrooke estate, at Haldon Race Course CWS) and within other private grounds and farms. Ponds are an important

River Teign south of Crockham Bridge

biodiversity feature and a very important habitat for aquatic plants, invertebrates (including dragonflies and damselflies) and amphibians including Common frog, Common toad *Bufo bufo* and newts.

The lakes at Ugrooke are stocked with fish and Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* for recreational fishing and shooting. They also attract waterfowl including, Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*, Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*, Little grebes *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Coots *Fulica atra* and Grey herons *Ardea cinerea* and the Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum* dragonfly breeds there.

Fishing lakes and duck ponds are usually of low value to wildlife, as they are stocked at high densities that tend to eat many of the aquatic plants and invertebrates present and cause nutrient enrichment via their faeces. What were formerly fishing ponds at Watercress Farm have breeding Little



Grebes, Moorhen and Coot, and Pochard and Tufted Duck visit in winter. The Migrant Hawker dragonfly *Aeshna mixta* also occurs here and the scarce Emerald Damselfly *Lestes sponsa* has been recorded at Ruggadon pond (Source: D, Smallshire, 2009).

Ponds outside Ugbrooke House gates

The Ponds Conservation Trust has recently launched the Million Ponds Project, which aims to reverse a century of pond losses. Help and support is available to those wishing to create new ponds under this project. Visit <http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/millionponds/> for more information.

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

- Rivers, streams, floodplains and fluvial processes (Devon BAP);
Rivers (UK BAP)
- Ponds (UK BAP)

Roadside verges

Roadside verges often support flower-rich grassland, as well as a variety of other semi-natural habitats. They may also support populations of scarce or declining species of flora and/or fauna, some of which enjoy statutory protection. Linear grassland habitats provide a valuable wildlife resource. Verges provide shelter and food for a variety of species from small mammals, to birds of prey and insects.

Devon has a very substantial resource of roadside verges, with approximately 14 000 km of roads, corresponding to about 2 000 ha of roadside verge. However, of this very large resource, the area that is species-rich is relatively small and localised in distribution.

Devon County Council and Highways Agency manage roadside verges to incorporate prescriptions to maintain or enhance wildlife interests. Devon County Council operate a Special Verge Scheme to manage areas of particular wildlife or amenity value. These verges are protected from damaging activities, and grass cutting is limited to specific periods to avoid the destruction of attractive stands of wildflowers.

There are a number of main routes within the parish including the A38 Devon Expressway linking Exeter and Plymouth and the A380 linking Exeter and Newton Abbot. The most interesting verges are those at Harcombe Cross with nine species of orchid including Common spotted orchid, Bird's-nest orchid, Bee orchid and Pyramidal orchid. In addition, some of the minor roads have verges which can be important wildlife corridors associated with hedges.

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP)

Unimproved grassland

Flower-rich meadows and pastures are a habitat of conservation concern in Devon and are listed on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan as well as the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Unimproved neutral grassland habitat has undergone a huge decline in the 20th century, almost entirely due to changing agricultural practice. It is estimated that by 1984 in lowland England and Wales, semi-natural grassland had declined by 97% over the previous 50 years to approximately 0.2 million ha.

Unimproved grassland is often very flower-rich and as a result of this attracts an abundance of butterflies and other invertebrates. The rich insect life in turn attracts bats such as the Greater Horseshoe bat and birds such as the Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*.

There are significant areas of unimproved and semi-improved neutral grasslands across the parish including Coombeshead Break Field CWS, Deer Park Farm (W) CWS, Deer Park Farm (E) CWS and Harcombe Cross CWS. Vale Brook Field CWS has areas of unimproved neutral and calcareous type grassland.

There are other potential areas of unimproved and semi-improved grassland within the parish which have been identified as Unconfirmed Wildlife Sites (UWS). Examples include Putshills Field UWS, Wapperwell Fields UWS and Waddon Brakes Fields UWS. These sites, and many others, have not been fully surveyed and may have significant wildlife interest.

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP)
- Lowland meadows (UK BAP)

Woodlands

The northern and eastern edges of the parish area dominated by coniferous plantation, much of which is designated SSSI for its lowland heathland habitat. Elsewhere there are several areas of important woodland, mainly in the sheltered river and stream valleys of the parish. Examples include Coombeshead Break CWS, Kilnfield Covert CWS and Casthole CWS.

There are a number of woods identified by DBRC as being on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI). These include Whiteway Wood, Emeidge Wood Chudleigh Wood, Pixies Hole, Boxhills Copse and Ideford Arch Wood. Burrows Wood and Grealy Quarry is identified as Ancient semi-natural woodland which is partly replanted.

Ancient Woodland is a term applied to woodlands which have existed from at least Medieval times to the present day without ever having been cleared for uses other than wood or timber production. A convenient date used to separate ancient and secondary woodland is about the year 1600. In special circumstances semi-natural woods of post-1600 but pre-1900 origin are also included. The Devon Ancient Woodland Inventory was prepared in 1986 by the Nature Conservancy Council.

Many of the broadleaved woodlands are diverse in structure dominated mainly by Oak and Ash with Alder in wetter areas. Many of the woods visited have a species-rich ground flora. Woodland such as these will support a huge range of wildlife including several bird species, small mammals and top predators such as the Fox *Vulpes vulpes*, together with a large variety of flowering plants, lichens and mosses.

Several rare invertebrates are associated with broadleaved woodland in the parish. Purple hairstreak *Neozephyrus quercus*, White-letter hairstreak and Brown hairstreak butterflies actually breed on trees (source: D. Smallshire, 2009).

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)
- Oak Woodland (UK BAP, Devon BAP)
- Wet woodlands (UK BAP, Devon BAP)

Veteran trees

English Nature (now Natural England) has defined veteran trees as: "trees that are of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of their age, size or condition". In relation to Oak it has been taken that trees with a diameter at breast height of more than:

- 1.0m are potentially interesting
- 1.5m are valuable in terms of conservation
- 2.0m are truly ancient.

Veteran trees will be at least as big as these measurements (these figures refer to girth at breast height and not to diameter):

- 1 metre - Hawthorn, Blackthorn
- 2.5 metres - Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Rowan *Sorbus acuparia*, Yew, Birch *Betula sp.*, Holly

- 3 metres - Oak, Ash, Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, Alder *Alnus glutinosa*
- 4.5 metres - Sycamore, limes *Tilia sp.*, chestnuts, elms *Ulmus sp.*, poplars *Populus sp.*, Beech *Fagus sp.*, willows *Salix sp.*, pines *Pinus sp.*, non-native trees.

It has been estimated that Britain may be home to around 80% of Europe's ancient trees. Veteran trees are large old trees found in wood-pasture and parkland, but also in a number of other locations: ancient yews in churchyards; mature oaks in hedgerows; Black Poplars *Populus nigra* along stream-sides; and many noble trees in ancient woodlands.

Ancient trees support particularly rich assemblages of invertebrates, fungi, mosses and lichens. Several species of bat may use hollow trees as roosting sites and birds such as Treecreepers *Certhia familiaris* and woodpeckers feed on the insects living in the bark. Insects such as stag beetles and hornets are associated with old trees.

Chudleigh as a parish has a rich collection of ancient trees across the parish particularly in areas of parkland such as the Ugbrooke House estate and surrounding farmland. There are some interesting Oaks in the new housing development area known as Culver Green which have been retained. The parish has a tree warden who regularly monitors important trees within the parish.

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

- Parkland and wood pasture (Devon BAP, UK BAP)

Green lanes

A green lane can be defined as an unmetalled track with field boundaries either side. These boundaries may be banks, hedges, woodland edge, stone walls or fences and often features such as ditches or streams are incorporated within the lanes.

The combination of the track, its boundaries and associated features create a landscape unit with its own microclimate and ecology. These sheltered conditions within lanes are of great importance to butterfly populations and may be more botanically species-rich than single hedge boundaries.

There are a number of green lanes within the parish with species-rich hedges bordering each side. One example is the green lane which runs along the southern boundary of Ideford (W) CWS. There are other private hedge-lined unmetalled tracks across the parish mainly linked to farms.



Green lane near Ideford (W) CWS

[Links to key habitats in Devon,](#)

[Teignbridge and UK BAPs](#)

- Species-rich hedges (Devon BAP); Hedgerows (UK BAP)

Pits, quarries and cuttings

There are a number of disused quarries marked on maps, but it was not possible to access or view these on the site visit. Examples include Lower Dunscombe Farm Quarry gSSSI designated as an example of Devonian limestone and Grealy Quarry in the centre of the parish to the east of Chudleigh town. Quarries are often grown over with vegetation and can be useful for wildlife for food and shelter for animals and providing a link to other features such as hedgerows.

Wych elm *Ulmus glabra* in Chudleigh Woods/Palace Quarry, Grealy Quarry and Ruggadon have managed to retain White-letter hairstreaks after the loss of mature English elm *Ulmus procera* due to Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970s. Palace Quarry offers safe nest sites for Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, Raven *Corvus corax* and many Jackdaws *Corvus monedula*. (Source: D Smallshire, 2009).

Pits, quarries and cuttings are listed on the Devon and Teignbridge Biodiversity Action Plans as habitats of conservation concern.

[Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs](#)

- Pits, quarries and cuttings (Devon BAP, Teignbridge BAP)

Limestone rock and grassland

Limestone grasslands are found on shallow soils over limestone rock. Where they have avoided agricultural improvement, these grasslands can support an exceptional diversity of plants, many of which are uncommon 'calcareous specialists'. Among the striking and colourful plants of Teignbridge's calcareous grasslands are Wild marjoram *Origanum vulgare*, Lady's bedstraw

Galium verum, Fairy flax *Linum augustifolium*, Common rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium* and Sweet basil *Ocimum basilicum*. Short and tall herb-rich swards, rocky outcrops, bare ground, dense and scattered scrub are all valuable components characteristic of limestone grasslands. This structural diversity supports a rich invertebrate fauna, birds, reptiles and mammals.

Scrub on limestone has a very varied mix of woody plants, many of which provide nectar, berries and other food for fauna, for example, wayfaring tree. Whilst recently worked faces of limestone quarries have little wildlife interest, they gradually develop a specialist fauna and flora, for instance, various rare lichens are associated with limestone rock outcrops. Limestone outcrops, quarries and exposures are also of geological interest. Teignbridge's Devonian-age limestone exhibits a range of formation types with many associated fossils. Some limestone has been eroded to form caves and 'karst' (features resulting from water erosion of limestone).

There is only a scatter of limestone grassland sites left in Teignbridge, plus a number of quarries and other exposures. Reflecting the underlying geology, these are concentrated in the area south of Newton Abbot including Chudleigh parish. There are five SSSIs that have been notified primarily for their limestone geological features within Teignbridge district of which Lower Dunscombe Farm gSSSI within the parish is one. Chudleigh Caves and Woods SSSI is one of two limestone woodland SSSIs within Teignbridge. (Source: Teignbridge Biodiversity Action Plan).

Other limestone habitats within the parish can be found within Palace Quarry and Grealy Quarry.

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

- Limestone rock and grassland (Teignbridge BAP)
- Pits, quarries and cuttings (Devon BAP, Teignbridge BAP)
- Caves, karst and mines (Devon BAP)

Lowland Heathland

Lowland heath is defined as vegetation in which dwarf shrubs, such as Ling heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Bell heather *Erica cinerea* and Western gorse *Ulex gallii* are a predominant component. In late summer these plants flower in a profusion of mauve, purple and gold. Heathlands develop on poor acid soil and the 'lowland' variety grows at altitudes up to about 400m in Devon. A good quality heath will have a whole range of components including heathers of various heights, scattered trees and scrub, wet heath, bogs, pools, bare ground and acid grassland. Bristle bent *Agrostis curtisii* is characteristic of dry areas, with Purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* in wetter patches. Scrub is mainly of Birch, Sallow *Salix cinerea* and Pine (though the latter is normally naturalised from plantings). The Teignbridge BAP area has both wet and dry lowland heath, but no upland heath.

European lowland heath is an internationally rare and declining habitat – the UK has 20% of the total world area of this distinct heathland habitat. But the area of heathland is declining rapidly here too – England now has only one sixth of the heathland that was present in 1800 and much of that is fragmented into tiny patches. Historically this decline was caused by agricultural improvement, afforestation and building. More recently heaths have suffered from lack of management and scrubbing over, as they have become less economically viable as farmland. Heathland used to be an integral and valuable part of the farming system – a system which ensured heaths' survival by constantly removing nutrients. Now farming systems have changed, conservation management is needed to keep removing nutrients and maintain the balance of the various vegetation components. Much of the Haldon Ridge is former heathland overplanted with conifer. (Source: - Teignbridge Biodiversity Action Plan). Haldon Forest SSSI is designated in part for its lowland heathland element. Other examples include Haldon Race Course CWS and Ideford (W) CWS.

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

- Lowland heathland (Devon BAP, Teignbridge BAP, UK BAP)

Parklands

Ugbrooke House, in the south of Chudleigh parish is a country house of significant historical value set in a large area of parkland. It contains several veteran trees with many oaks including Sessile oak.

Parklands and wood pasture are habitats listed on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan. The parklands and wood pastures of Devon are ancient places, some of which date back to mediaeval times or even further. Their elegant and grand surroundings, with their associated country houses, estates and castles are a distinctive element of both the natural and historic heritage of the county.

Parklands and wood pastures, due to their long standing, provide a continuity of habitat established over centuries. This has allowed plant and animal communities of great richness and diversity to develop, many of which are found in few other habitats.

The main fabric of parklands and wood pastures are the trees - often several centuries old and mainly oak, but also beech, ash and other long-lived species. It is thought that the oak supports more species of organism than any other tree in Britain, and this is especially true of those specimens in parkland, which, over time, have developed particularly rich communities of invertebrates, lichens, mosses and fungi. The soils surrounding the trees often have been undisturbed by cultivation for similarly long periods and themselves support rich and diverse communities of soil and leaf-litter dwelling invertebrates, and, if unfertilised, a grass sward rich in flowering

plants. Dead and fallen limbs of trees are the habitat of specialised invertebrates which feed on decaying wood.

Parklands and wood pastures are perhaps best known to the naturalist for the rich assemblages of lichens which grow on the bark of the trees, and the clean air of Devon is one factor which has allowed a particularly large number of species to live here.

Mammals also make their home in parkland trees, including several species of bat, for which the crevices in split trunks provide ideal safe roosting sites. In addition, parkland and wood-pasture provides the high densities of insects that bats rely on, especially high when grazing stock are present, as their dung attracts swarms of insects.

A variety of birds use parklands and wood pastures for nesting and feeding; invertebrate-rich bark provides food for tits, Treecreepers and woodpeckers, while other species, such as flycatchers, catch insects from open perches of the lower canopy.

Within the grounds of Ugbrooke House is also a series of lakes, typical of many parkland settings. Lakes tend to be of greater value if not stocked with fish or wildfowl, as they tend to consume plants, invertebrates and amphibian eggs and larvae. Several of the lakes here have fish in them including Trout and are used for recreational fishing.

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbrige and UK BAPs

- Parkland and wood pasture (Devon BAP, UK BAP)

Orchards

There are small areas of old orchards on private grounds visible from the road at various places across the parish. There is an old orchard at Coombeshead Farm, which was surveyed in 2004. This is visible from the public road and at the time of the 2009 audit visit appeared to be in good condition. There is a new community apple orchard, planted in 2008, on Millstream Meadow on the edge of Chudleigh.

Traditional orchards have great cultural and landscape importance and can be really valuable habitats for a wide range of species from fungi and lichens, through insects and other invertebrates, to birds and mammals. As there is no herbicide use in most old orchards, the range of species will be even greater.

The trees themselves play host to a variety of mosses, lichens and often mistletoe. The old trees can be fantastic for hole-nesting birds. The large amount of deadwood in the trees provides an important habitat for insects and fungi including some very rare ones.

With such a wealth of fruit and insects available in old orchards, it is only to be expected that there is a wide range of feeding opportunities for birds and mammals. Birds such as woodpeckers (Green and Great-spotted), Nuthatch, Treecreeper and tits may be seen on tree trunks and hollow branches. Fieldfares, Starlings, Redwings, thrushes, Blackbirds and Jays will feed on the fruit (on or off the tree). Orchards are also home to a number of declining bird species, including Spotted flycatcher.

If it has escaped sprays and fertilisers, and particularly if traditional management such as a hay cut or grazing has been kept up, the ground beneath can be covered with wild flowers such as Cowslip, Daisy, knapweed and trefoils.

Losses of traditional orchards have been severe in recent decades, with estimates ranging from 40 per cent to 95 per cent loss. Orchards have been grubbed up to make way for other crops or for urban development.

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbrige and UK BAPs

- Traditional orchards (UK BAP)

Other possible habitats

Arable fields can support a number of rare arable weeds but this is usually in association with spring cereals and winter stubble; and associated field margins can be particularly important.

Arable land is now scarce within the parish. Where it does occur it may attract birds such as Skylark *Alauda arvensis*, finches and Yellowhammer. In 2006 four Cranes *Grus grus* fed at Dunscombe on maize planted for game cover and Woodlarks *Lullula arborea* used to breed at a flower nursery at Deer Park Farm. (Source: D Smallshire, 2009). Nationally rare arable plants have been recorded in the past in the west of the parish, but it is not known if they still persist there.

Links to key habitats in Devon, Teignbridge and UK BAPs

- Arable field margins (UK BAP)

Unconfirmed County Wildlife Sites

The Devon Biodiversity Records Centre has identified 51 Unconfirmed County Wildlife Sites in or bordering Chudleigh parish. These are sites identified as having possible interest but which have not been fully surveyed. Some of these sites may contain areas of significant wildlife interest and further surveys will have to be done to determine whether they are of sufficient quality to be designated. The Unconfirmed County Wildlife Sites identified by

DBRC, along with an associated map showing their locations, are listed in Appendix 1.

Species

Important species

A report from the DBRC database showing which legally protected, locally notable (e.g. Otter) or noteworthy (e.g. invasive alien species such as Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*) species are known to have been present in and around Chudleigh is presented separately (Appendix 1). It is worth noting that this list includes several European Protected Species.

A. European Protected Species

European Protected Species are those that receive protection under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (legislation that updates and consolidates all the amendments to the Habitats Regulations – under which SACs are also designated - since they were first made in 1994).

For full details of the nature of the special protection afforded to these species you should consult the text of the legislation:

www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/ukSI_20100490_en_5#pt3-pb1-l1g40

However, the following summary relating to protected animals, taken from Natural England's web site, with amendments, may prove useful:

'European protected animal species and their breeding sites or resting places are protected under Regulation 41. It is an offence for anyone to deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal or to deliberately take or destroy their eggs. It is an offence to deliberately disturb such a species. It is an offence to damage or destroy a breeding or resting place of such an animal. It is also an offence to have in one's possession or control, any live or dead European protected species.'

Licences are required for activities that would otherwise be an offence.

Licences will only be supplied provided certain rigorous tests are met.:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/species/epslicensing.aspx>

From the list in Annex 1 of this report, four species of European Protected Species are present:

- Brown long-eared bat
- Dormouse
- Greater horseshoe bat

- Otter

There are undoubtedly others. For example, all species of bat found in the UK are European Protected Species, and elsewhere in this report it is noted that 13 species of bat have been recorded in Chudleigh.

B. Other species

Appendix 2 gives the species noted during this survey. The audit survey took place in late March when some species will not be visible. Further survey work at a more appropriate time of the year is recommended.

Birds

Several species of birds were recorded during the survey including Blackbird *Turdus merula*, Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, Great Tit, Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, Buzzard *Buteo buteo*, Rook *Corvus frugilegus*, Robin *Erithacus rubecula*, Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* and Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*.

Bird species of conservation concern included in records held by DBRC include Bullfinch, Yellowhammer, Nightjar and Tree pipit *Anthus trivialis* which are UK BAP priority species. Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* and Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* are Amber List species and Hobby is protected by the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1986) Section 1. (Refer to Appendix 1 for definitions).

Barn owl has been seen within the parish (source: D Smallshire, 2009). The Barn owl has undergone a major decline in the last century due to changes in agricultural practice, as well as loss of nesting sites such as old barns and hollow trees. It is estimated that there are now about 350 - 470 pairs in the county. The Barn owl is listed on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan as species of conservation concern and is also on the Amber List.

Locally, over 100 different bird species are recorded. The parish is an important area for birds of prey. Sadly, Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus* which nested at Haldon between 1979 and 1995, has not been recorded since. Other birds of prey within the parish include Buzzard, Hobby, Sparrowhawk and more rarely Kestrel with Peregrine, Goshawk, kites *Milvus sp.*, harriers *Circus sp.* and occasionally Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* seen flying over (the latter three usually following the course of the Teign).

Hawfinches *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* have been seen in winter on the lower slopes of Haldon, attracted by the rare Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* seed, where until recently the rapidly declining Willow tit *Parus palustris*, could be found in willow scrub. Commoner birds in the plantations include Coal tit *Parus ater*, Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* and Chaffinch, with smaller numbers of Tawny owl *Strix aluco*, Raven *Corvus corax*, Siskin *Carduelis pinus* and

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*. A small number of Turtle doves *Streptopelia turtur* (about five pairs) are known to breed in young plantations at Haldon and are sometimes seen on farmland; they form a significant part of the Devon population. A small proportion of Haldon's Nightjars breed within the parish mainly in new plantings. Other species associated with new plantings after clearfell include Tree pipit, Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*, Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, Linnet, Yellowhammer and Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*, and Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* and occasional Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus* are found in the winter months at Haldon and Reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* breeds in the wetter parts of young plantations and the acid mire of the race course. [Source of this section: David Smallshire from *The Story of Chudleigh* (2009)].

Swifts, swallows, house martins, house sparrows and starlings all breed in and around Chudleigh. These once common birds have all declined dramatically in numbers in recent years, probably partly due to loss of nest sites (starling and house sparrow are on the Red List of Conservation Concern, swift, swallow and house martin are on the Amber List). Swifts and sparrows still nest in the middle of Chudleigh town, including in the Town Hall, high up behind the gutter just outside the Pre-school entrance.

Plants

Despite the time of year a number of plant species were noted on the audit visit to the parish in late March 2009, these are listed in Appendix 2.

The Primrose can be seen in many places in the parish. It is listed on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan as it is intended to help to raise public awareness of the need to conserve commonplace and characteristic elements of Devon's countryside. The Primrose is not rare in Devon, but it may act as an indicator species to the health of Devon's environment, and by conserving the Primrose, we may help to conserve some of the habitats in which it is found. These include woodlands, hedges, road verges and churchyards.

A number of Devon Notable plant species are recorded (an explanation of which is given in Appendix 1). Examples include: Corky-fruited water-dropwort, Wild mignonette, Green-winged orchid, Great burnet and Narrow-fruited cornsalad. Perennial flax *Linum perenne* is Nationally Scarce.

The Bluebell, recorded in various locations, is protected against sale under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Schedule 8 (S).

Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica* is an invasive alien plant and has been recorded on Norwood Moor.

Apparently, an area of the parish of GB importance for rare arable weeds has been identified by Plantlife.

Mammals

Mammal species recorded within Chudleigh parish by DBRC include Otter, Badger *Meles meles*, Roe deer *Capreolus capreolus*, Fallow deer *Dama dama*, Water shrew and Common dormouse. Dormice have been recorded in young plantations as well as in nest-boxes along Bramble Brook and are also likely to occur across the parish in woodland, hedgerows and scrub.

Dormouse is a UK BAP species and a European Protected Species, has also been found close to the centre of Chudleigh town. (D. Smallshire, 2009).

Badger *Meles meles* is protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 6 as well as under the Protection of Badgers Act (1992) against deliberate killing, persecution or trapping except under licence. Badger setts may not be damaged, destroyed or obstructed. Badgers, along with Foxes, are frequent road casualties indicating that they are common and widespread across the parish (Source: D Smallshire, 2009). The Hedgehog is also often a road casualty and has declined in recent years, although still visits many gardens.

The Otter is listed on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan as a species of conservation concern and is a UK BAP priority species. Formerly widespread throughout the UK, the Otter underwent a rapid decline in numbers from the 1950s to 1970s and was effectively lost from midland and south-eastern counties of England by the 1980s. Populations remain in Wales, south-west England and much of Scotland, where sea loch and coastal colonies comprise one of the largest populations in Europe. There is also a significant population of Otters in Northern Ireland. The decline now appears to have halted and sightings are being reported in former habitats. Devon has an internationally important Otter population and Otters are now found on most watercourses and wetlands throughout the County. Otters are even now recolonising areas where they were thought to have been lost during the 60's and 70's. It is likely to occur along all of Chudleigh's watercourses, especially the River Teign, where traffic casualties have occurred on bridges during spates.

An outstanding 13 species of bat have been recorded within the parish in recent years. (Smallshire D, 2009). Chudleigh Caves and Woods SSSI is part of the South Hams Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in recognition of its nationally important Greater Horseshoe colony. Greater and Lesser Horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*, Nathusius' Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusius*, and Natterer's *Myotis nattereri* bats have all been recorded feeding over the fields and woodland close to Chudeigh Rock. (Source: D Smallshire, 2009). The caves provide a safe nursery and hibernation site. However, in recent years, substantial bat feeding areas close to the colony have been lost to, or are threatened by, housing development. To preserve the integrity of the SAC, as required by law, it is vital that bat

commuting routes are protected and suitable insect-rich feeding areas, especially close to the nursery, are retained.

All species of British bat are protected under both UK and international law. This makes it illegal to intentionally kill, injure or take a bat, or to damage, obstruct or destroy any place that a bat uses for shelter or protection. All species of bat are included in the Teignbridge Biodiversity Action Plan.

Buildings provide favoured roost sites for some species of bat and more than half of known roosts are in buildings less than 30 years old. Pipistrelles prefer to roost in very confined spaces around the outside of the building, typical sites being behind hanging tiles, weather boarding, soffit and barge or eaves boarding, between roofing felt and roof tiles or in cavity walls. Pipistrelles rarely enter roof spaces except in the more stable, well-established large colonies found particularly in older buildings.

The Dormouse is listed on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plans as a species of conservation concern in Devon and is a priority species in the UK BAP. Nationally, the Dormouse has experienced a marked contraction in range in recent decades, and has become extinct in up to seven counties where it occurred in the last century, representing about half of its former range.

In Devon, the Dormouse appears to be holding its own, and the county is now a major stronghold of the species. However, no detailed quantification of population change has been possible, due to lack of comparable data over time. Having said this, indirect evidence, from the losses of hedgerow length and declines in quality of hedgerows and woodlands that have occurred in the county over the past few decades, suggests that Dormice may have declined in a similar fashion.

Invertebrates

The audit visit at the end of March 2009 coincided with a spell of warm weather and high numbers of invertebrates were seen given the time of year. Species included Bumblebee *Bombus sp.*, Peacock and Painted lady butterflies, stoneflies and Common groundhopper *Tetrix undulata*.

Thirty-seven butterfly species have been recorded in the parish (Source: Smallshire D, 2009). DBRC records a number of butterfly species of conservation concern. White-letter hairstreak, Brown hairstreak, Grizzled skipper, Small pearl-bordered fritillary, Wall Brown, Dingy skipper, Small heath, Grayling and Wood white are all listed as UK BAP priority species. Small pearl-bordered fritillary is both a UK BAP priority species and a Devon BAP species. Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*, White Admiral, Dark green fritillary *Argynnis aglaja* and Purple hairstreak are all in decline.

A number of important moth species have been recorded at Great Haldon within Haldon Forest SSSI. Mouse moth, Dark-barred twin-spot carpet, Sallow, Shaded broad-bar, buff ermine, white ermine, Cinnabar, Garden tiger, Pale eggar, Centre-barred sallow, Small phoenix, Small square-spot, Grey

dagger, Rustic, Pretty chalk carpet, Brindled beauty, Lackey, Dot moth, and Dusky brocade are all UK BAP priority species. Some of these are likely to have occurred within the parish.

Great green bush-cricket, which has been recorded in lower parts of the parish, is a Devon BAP species.

Reptiles and amphibians

No reptiles or amphibians were recorded during the audit visit though there are several habitats where they were likely to have been present. A number of species are included in the records held by DBRC, including Common frog and Common toad (a UK BAP priority species). Palmate newt *Tritus helveticus* is protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) Section 5. Grass snake *Natrix natrix*, Adder *Vipera berus*, and Viviparous lizard *Lacerta vivipara* are UK BAP priority species.

The Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (Devon BAP).

The Devon Biodiversity Action Plan describes the key actions needed to look after 37 of Devon's most important habitats and species. It does not stand alone, but is part of a much wider process aimed at conserving our biodiversity.

The Devon BAP is a direct descendent of a process started at the famous 'Earth Summit' held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At this summit, world leaders pledged to halt and reverse the loss of the planet's biodiversity. For its part, the UK government produced a series of action plans for a great many threatened habitats and species. These national plans have been joined by a series of regional action plans aimed at providing a more local perspective.

The Devon BAP builds on this endeavour, identifying local priorities and providing targets and plans of action for the County.

All of this work has one aim: to encourage practical action on the ground. Its success depends upon us all.

Biodiversity links:

- The Devon BAP can be viewed at www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity. This site also contains links to other nature conservation issues relevant to Devon, such as information on hedges. If you do not have access to the internet and require paper copies of relevant sections of the Devon BAP please contact Devon County Council's Biodiversity Officer on 01392 382804.
- The Teignbridge BAP (due for review in 2010) can be viewed at : www.teignbridge.gov.uk
- Details of biodiversity planning in the south-west region can be viewed at www.swbiodiversity.org.uk.
- UK Action Plans can be viewed at www.ukbap.org.uk. This site also contains useful background information on UK biodiversity action planning.

Links between the main wildlife habitats of Chudleigh and the UK, Devon and Teignbridge Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP)

This is not a complete table, but does serve to show that nature conservation locally can often be of national importance.

Chudleigh wildlife feature	Brief description of feature	Link with the UK BAP	Link with the Devon BAP	Link with Teignbridge BAP
Unimproved grassland	<p>Areas of species-rich unimproved grassland</p> <p>Areas of farmland protected from agricultural improvement.</p> <p>Species-rich grass verges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lowland meadows Habitat Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flower-rich Meadows and Pastures Habitat Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limestone rocks and grassland Action Plan
Traditional hedges	Extensive network of traditional hedges throughout the parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedgerows Habitat Action Plan Dormouse Species Action Plan Greater Horseshoe Bat SAP Brown Hairstreak SAP Other bat SAPs etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species-rich Hedges Habitat Action Plan Bats SAP Dormouse Species Action Plan 	
Rivers, streams and ponds	River Teign and tributaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rivers Habitat Action Plan Otter Species Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rivers, streams, floodplains and fluvial processes Habitat Action Plan Otter Species Action Plan 	

Chudleigh wildlife feature	Brief description of feature	Link with the UK BAP	Link with the Devon BAP	Link with Teignbridge BAP
Broadleaved and Ancient Woodland	Secondary broadleaved woodland Ancient semi-natural woodland Wet woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Habitat Action Plan • Wet Woodland Habitat Action Plan • Dormouse Species Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak woodland Habitat Action Plan • Alder/ willow carr wet woodland Habitat Action Plan Dormouse Species Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bats Action Plan
Lowland heathland	Areas of heathland under coniferous plantation and open areas of heathland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowland heathland Habitat Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowland heathland Habitat Action Plan • Nightjar Species Action Plan • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowland heathland Action Plan
Limestone rocks, quarries and caves	Chudleigh Caves and rocks Several disused quarries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inland rock outcrop and scree habitat • Greater Horseshoe Bat SAP • Other bat SAPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caves, karst and mines Habitat Action Plan • Pits, quarries and cuttings Habitat Action Plan • Bats SAP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pits, quarries and cuttings Action Plan • Limestone rocks and grassland Action Plan

View the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan at www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity

View the Teignbridge Biodiversity Action Plan at www.teignbridge.gov.uk

View the UK Biodiversity Action Plan at www.ukbap.org.uk

Some Ideas for Local Action...

A major step towards knowing what you can do for your local wildlife and geology is to know what you have already got. This report will help you in this, but it is just a start. Ultimately, the protection and enhancement of the local natural environment requires the interest and enthusiasm of the local community.

There follow some initial ideas for local nature conservation action. Many of them will directly help to achieve the objectives of the habitat and species action plans contained in the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan.

It is by no means an exhaustive list. As a community, you may have many more ideas for action that you would like to take forward in the coming years.

1 Further surveys:

This report is just a beginning. Carrying out further survey within your area will help build a better picture of the wildlife present, and of the opportunities for enhancement. Gaining a better understanding of the resource is usually a key objective of the Devon BAP's habitat and species action plans.

Specific features to survey in Chudleigh might include hedges and for Otter signs. These actions would directly contribute to the species-rich hedges habitat action plan and the Otter species action plan. Operation Otter is an initiative organised by the Devon Wildlife Trust (www.devonwildlifetrust.org), which aims to monitor and protect Devon's Otter population with the help of volunteers.

It might be useful, for example, to undertake a hedgerow survey and produce a hedgerow appraisal for your local area. Comparing the current distribution of hedges against boundary lines shown on old maps will give a clue as to how this important resource has changed over recent years. It may also highlight opportunities for restoring hedges in your area. A survey could include an assessment of the condition of hedges and this may, in turn, give some ideas about improving their future management to benefit wildlife.

Survey work could be undertaken as a community group or in liaison with conservation groups active in the area.

The Ancient Tree Hunt is co-ordinated by the Woodland Trust and encourages people to report occurrences of individual or clusters of ancient trees. More information about The Ancient Tree Hunt can be found at: www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/project/getinvolved/takepart.htm

It may also be possible to build up a picture of dormice in any publically accessible woodland within the parish. Dormice are rather elusive and are rarely seen but you can tell where they live by looking at one of their favoured sources of food – hazelnuts. Dormice open hazelnuts in a very distinctive manner. To quote the web site of the People's Trust for Endangered Species

(PTES), 'They make a round hole in the shell of the nut and leave clear teeth markings on the outside of the shell whilst the inside has no marks and is very smooth.' More information on dormice can be seen here: www.ptes.org/?page=165

You can help to build up a picture of the state of Devon's environment by sending your records to the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre where they can be properly collated. Any new records for the Commons and the wider parish (including 'who', 'where', 'what' and 'when') of any species recognised are useful.

www.dbrc.org.uk

e-mail: dbrc@devonwildlifetrust.org

Devon Biodiversity Records Centre
c/o Exeter Central Library
Castle Street
Exeter
EX4 3PQ

Tel. (01392) 274128

In addition, the RSPB are keen to receive records of 'low-level screaming parties' which indicate swifts are breeding nearby. They are especially keen to hear from anyone with swifts nesting in their building. Visit the Swift Conservation website www.swift-conservation.org/ to learn more about these evocative summer visitors and report your swift sightings to www.rspb.org.uk/thingstodo/surveys/swifts/.

If you have bats roosting in your buildings the Devon Bat Group would really like to know about them and can provide helpful advice about sharing your roof with bats: www.dbg.me.uk/.

2 Influence the management of public open space:

There is potential for further enhancement for wildlife in areas of public open space (for example churchyards and amenity areas). Some areas, for example in the corners or around the perimeters of sites could be identified, where the grass could be cut once in late summer, leaving the flowering plants to seed like in a hay meadow. This would enhance the value for wildlife, in particular for flowering plants and nectar-feeding invertebrates. Consider planting native species typical of the area if they are lacking, or creating new wildlife ponds.

3 Build relationships with local landowners:

Encourage the adoption of more wildlife-friendly land management. For example, hedges, or sections of hedges, that are cut every 2-3 years or less frequently will provide an autumn and winter source of nuts and berries for

birds and small mammals (and may save the landowner money in management costs). The improved management of hedgerows is a key objective of the Species-rich hedgerow Habitat Action Plan. If the owner is willing, why not get involved with practical management, such as traditional hedge laying or pond restoration?

4 Adopt a road verge:

Many verges can have a significant value for wildlife because they have escaped the intensive management of the surrounding farmland. Ensuring such verges are managed for their wildlife is a very positive step, again contributing to the Flower-rich Meadows and Pastures Habitat Action Plan.

There are, of course, obvious health and safety implications to roadside management. It is an action that would need to be undertaken in close liaison with the relevant highways authority (this is the Highways Agency for the A38, and Devon County Council for all other roads).

5 Wildlife gardening:

You could 'green up' your garden! Collectively the gardens of Chudleigh represent a significant area that could be used to benefit wildlife. A pond or the proximity of a stream to many of the gardens is an added bonus. Large or small, you can turn your garden (or a part of it) into a haven for wildlife. There are some very good sources of information on wildlife gardening, for example:

The Natural England web site: www.naturalengland.org.uk/advice/wildlifegardening or type 'garden' into the search box of NE's publications catalogue:
naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/Search.aspx

The Devon Wildlife Trust web site:
www.devonwildlifetrust.org/wildlife-gardening/

6 Bird and bat boxes:

Put up boxes to provide homes for wildlife. As well as the more usual garden tit boxes, it would be really helpful if more people could put up boxes for birds that like to nest on houses, such as swifts, house martins, house sparrows and starlings. If you have an open fronted outbuilding like a car port or barn you could try to encourage swallows or even barn owls! And you can put up boxes to encourage bats too and then watch your bats in the evening as they Hoover up the less desirable insects in your garden! Try the following websites for info on bird and bat boxes: www.rspb.org.uk; www.bto.org.uk; www.swiftconservation.org/ and www.bats.org.uk/.

If you are lucky enough to already have birds nesting in your house/buildings, do please look after them.... If you want any advice, these websites should be able to help!

7 Join local conservation organisations:

The Devon Wildlife Trust is a prominent local conservation organisation. There are also a number of local membership groups specialising in specific interests (for example Devon Fungus Group and Devon Mammal Group) which frequently carry out surveys and studies, hold talks and training sessions for volunteers and members.

8 Link biodiversity to Chudleigh Parish Plan and Community projects:

You could encourage any future parish plans to consider further the impact on the biodiversity and wildlife of the parish.

9 Japanese Knotweed:

Not something to cherish, but it can't be ignored! Unfortunately Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica* is present within Chudleigh parish according to records held by DBRC. Introduced into Britain by the Victorians, Japanese Knotweed is a native of Japan, north China, Korea and Taiwan. It flourishes in Britain's mild and fertile environment and has no natural biological enemies here. Consequently, it is very invasive and can overrun large areas, replacing our native flora. It is a serious pest which can be so vigorous as to cause significant damage to buildings and roads. It is also a difficult plant to eradicate.

For these reasons Japanese Knotweed is listed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as a plant that is not to be planted or otherwise introduced into the wild. In addition, all parts of the plant are considered as controlled waste under the Waste Regulations.

What can you do?

- Firstly, it is important to build up a picture of where Japanese Knotweed is present. This will give an idea of the scale of the problem and will help to prevent it being accidentally spread during any ditch clearance, highway work and so on. To help develop an understanding of the problem in Devon, records should also be sent to the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre¹. Ideally, records should include when you first saw it and confirmation of when it was seen most recently; its precise location (notes or a sketch map are helpful, as is a grid reference if you have one); the kind

¹ DBRC, E-mail: dbrc@devonwildlifetrust.org

of habitat it is in (e.g. next to running water, on a road verge), and a rough indication of how abundant it is.

- Secondly, be careful not to spread the plant further. This is all too easily done as it can regenerate from even the smallest fragment and is easy to spread unknowingly. It is important not to flail it or to try and dig it up. Often, it is best not to cut Japanese Knotweed at all, but if it is it should be very carefully disposed of on site when dead or removed as Controlled Waste. Any tools used should be properly cleaned.
- Finally, if Japanese Knotweed is on your land, the best way to prevent its spread is to control or eradicate it as soon as possible. Regular cutting can weaken and eventually kill the plant but it is a time-consuming job and proper disposal of the cut material can be a problem. Usually, the most effective method of control is to treat the plant with herbicide. This can take a number of years to be successful but if the plant is left untreated it will inevitably spread. A number of issues should be taken into account in deciding which herbicide to use, particularly the presence of water (where special care needs to be taken and the advice of the Environment Agency must be sought).

Fortunately, a great deal of advice (including an Environment Agency Code of Practice) is available on the Devon Knotweed Forum's web pages. You are recommended to view these at:

www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity/japanese_knotweed

Other invasives: it's always worth keeping an eye out for other invasives, too. It is particularly worth knowing about invasive aquatic species, which can be extremely damaging to sensitive wetland habitats. Examples include Parrot's feather, Australian swamp stonecrop and Floating pennywort. Himalayan balsam is often rampant along river banks and in adjoining wetlands (and is present in Chudleigh).

Much could be written on this subject, but the Environment Agency publication 'Managing invasive non-native plants' is a good starting point:

<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO0410BSBR-e-e.pdf>

Useful sources of further information:

The following organisations can offer advice and information on various wildlife topics as well as organising events and carrying out projects.

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers: www.btcv.org.uk

British Dragonfly Society: www.dragonflysoc.org.uk

Butterfly Conservation: www.butterfly-conservation.org (Tel: 0870 7744309)

Devon Bat Group: www.dbg.me.uk

Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society: www.devonbirds.org

Devon Mammal Group: www.devonmammalgroup.org

Devon Wildlife Trust: www.devonwildlifetrust.org (Tel: 01392 279244)

Natural England: www.naturalengland.org.uk
(Tel: 01392 889770; 0845 600 3078)

Plantlife: www.plantlife.org.uk (Tel: 01722 342730)

Pond Conservation: www.pondconservation.org.uk/ (Tel: 01865 483249)

RSPB: www.rspb.org.uk

The Woodland Trust: www.woodland-trust.org.uk (Tel: 01476 581111)

The Living Churchyards & Cemeteries Project, Arthur Rank Centre, National Agricultural Society, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ Tel: 01203 696969 ext.364/339.

In addition, Devon County Council has developed a Community Biodiversity Toolkit available via the DCC web site (www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity). This toolkit aims to provide practical advice on management to encourage wildlife and, in particular, will provide a central point from which to access the large amount of advice that is already available from a huge range of other organisations

In addition to management advice, the toolkit will also provide guidance on seeking funding for project work. You may also find the following sources of funding useful:

Possible sources of funding:

Heritage Link – a funding directory supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. A good source of information.

<http://www.heritagelink.org.uk/fundingdirectory/main/fundinghome.php>

Major sources of funding

Environmental Stewardship – whole or part farm agri-environment scheme funding.

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/default.aspx

SITA Trust - Enriching Nature: for biodiversity conservation projects within ten miles of any landfill site in England.

www.sitatrust.org.uk

GrantScape – significant sums of money often available for biodiversity action, including landscape-scale projects.

www.grantscape.org.uk/home

The Tubney Charitable Trust – large funds available but on an invitation-to-bid only basis.

www.tubney.org.uk

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – no maximum size of grant. “Priority will be given to high quality projects that are exemplars of good practice or imaginative approaches to old problems, that have wider impact, leading to changes in the law, policy or practice or that may be viewed as difficult to support or too 'high risk' by other funders.”

www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

Big Lottery Fund – “Every year BIG gives out millions of pounds from the National Lottery to good causes. Our money goes to community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment.” Often has large programmes relating to the environment, for example:

- *Changing Spaces: Access to Nature* - grants: £50,000 - £715,000. This programme aims to encourage more people to enjoy the outdoors, particularly those who face social exclusion.
http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_cs_access_nature?regioncode=-uk
- *Changing Spaces: Community Places* - grants: £10,000 - £450,000. This programme will fund community groups who want to improve local green spaces such as play areas, community gardens and parks.
http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_cs_comm_spaces?regioncode=-uk

Possible funding for smaller projects

It should be noted that many of these grants only have a finite pot of money and this could run out at any time. It is also important to check that your project meets any relevant funding criteria. Please check with the different organisations before applying.

Big Lottery Fund (see above) – BIG also gives smaller grants, for example:

- *Awards for All England* - Grants: £300 - £10,000. 'Awards for All gives money to projects that encourage people to take part in arts, sport, heritage and also community projects'.
http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_a4a_eng?regioncode=-uk

Biffawards - grants for biodiversity projects within 10 miles of a Biffa operation (landfill)

www.biffaward.org/projects/smallgrants.php

SITA Trust - Enriching Nature: for biodiversity conservation projects within ten miles of any landfill site in England.

www.sitatrust.org.uk

Forestry Commission - grants and sources of funding available for improving biodiversity (for example, the Woodland Improvement Grant).

www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/hcou-4u4j28

Tree Council - small grants for schools and communities for tree planting schemes.

www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=grants

Pond Conservation – grants and advice towards creating clean water ponds.

www.pondconservation.org.uk/millionponds/

British Dragonfly Society – small grants through the Peter Miller School Ponds Fund.

www.dragonflysoc.org.uk/projects.html#pmspf

Bibliography

Defra (2007) *Hedgerow Survey Handbook*. A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK. Defra, London.

DCC & Devon Hedge Group (1997). *Devon's Hedges*. Devon County Council and Devon Hedge Group

Devon Biodiversity Partnership (1998). *The Nature of Devon: A Biodiversity Action Plan*

Rose F (2006). *The Wild Flower Key*. Warne

Rose F (1989). *Grasses, Sedges, Rushes and Ferns*. Viking

Smallshire D (2009) in : *The Story of Chudleigh*

UK Steering Group (1995). Biodiversity: *The UK Steering Group Report Vol 1 Meeting the Rio Challenge* HMSO London

UK Steering Group (1995). Biodiversity: *The UK Steering Group Report Vol 2 Action Plans* HMSO London

Websites:

www.woodland-trust.org.uk

www.devonwildlifetrust.org

www.natureonthemap.org.uk

www.magic.gov.uk

www.jncc.gov.uk

www.naturalengland.org.uk

www.swenvo.org.uk

www.swbiodiversity.org.uk

www.ukbap.org.uk

www.devon.gov.uk

www.pondconservaton.org.uk

www.teignbridge.gov.uk

www.chudleigh-tc.gov.uk

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to David Smallshire for access to his writings on this subject and to Chudleigh Town Council.

Thanks to David Smallshire and Mary Rush for comments and additional text on the first draft.

Statutory & non-statutory sites within Chudleigh Parish (2008)

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status	
	South Hams Special Area of Conservation	SX937568 to SX937546; SX865784, SX872789, SX859779, SX855776, SX773772, SX772770, SX777766, SX7426	130	Coastal site with maritime and calcareous grassland, scrub and cliff communities; woods and caves with palaeontological interest and bats; mines with important bat roosts.	SSSI, SAC	
SX88/128	Haldon Forest	SX863838	350	Heath & conifer plantation on a former heathland site. Bird & invertebrate interest	SSSI	
SX87/070	Ugbrooke Park	SX834751	14.6	Important lichen communities	SSSI	
SX87/072	Chudleigh Caves and Woods	SX865784, SX872789, SX859779 & SX855776	26.1	Ancient semi-natural woodland & broadleaved plantation on limestone. Lichen interest and palaeontological interest. Bats.	SSSI	

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status	
SX87/190	Lower Dunscombe Farm Quarry	SX886791	0.1	Devonian limestone	gSSSI	
SX87NE3	Mount Pleasant Woods	SX871786	0.9	Good upper Devonian Sedimentary sequence	RIGS	
SX88SE1	Holmans Wood Caravan Site	SX882812	0.7	Former limestone quarry	RIGS	
SX88/092	Catshole	SX860809	11.1	Secondary broadleaved woodland & a small area of wet & dry semi-improved neutral grassland	CWS	
SX88/094	Crockham Bridge	SX853810	3.5	Semi-improved neutral grassland & rush pasture	CWS	
SX88/095	Deer Park Farm (W)	SX856815	16.6	Wet unimproved & dry semi-improved neutral grassland, pond & bracken	CWS	
SX88/097	Ruggadon	SX858816 & SX858815	11.3	Unimproved & semi-improved neutral grassland, bracken & secondary broadleaved woodland	CWS	
SX88/098	Deer Park Farm (E)	SX861819	29	Unimproved & semi-improved neutral grassland & bracken. Plant interest	CWS	

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status	
SX88/115	Coombes head Cross (W)	SX861807	9.4	Unimproved & semi-improved neutral grassland & scrub	CWS	
SX88/116	Coombes head Brake	SX863808	5.6	Broadleaved woodland	CWS	
SX88/117	Coombes head Brake Field	SX863806	5	Unimproved neutral grassland & gorse	CWS	
SX88/131	Harcombe Cross	SX881813	2.8	Roadside verge with unimproved neutral grassland & plant interest	CWS	
SX88/140	Kilnfield Covert	SX893815	4.1	Wet & dry unimproved neutral grassland, secondary broadleaved & mixed woodland & scrub. Plant interest	CWS	
SX88/149	Ducksmoor Covert	SX895814	6.5	Wet & dry heath, secondary broadleaved woodland, scrub & bracken	CWS	
SX88/159	Vale Brook Field	SX885812	5.4	Areas of unimproved calcareous grassland within an improved field, with a stream	CWS	
SX88/165	Chudleigh woods Farm fields	SX862803	4	Semi-improved/unimproved grassland	CWS	

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status	
SX98/039	Haldon Race Course	SX900835	38.1	Dry heath, semi-improved acidic grassland, bracken & a small pond	CWS	
SX87/099	Ideford (W)	SX894785	5.4	Heathland and conifers	CWS	
	Whiteway Wood	SX873829	53.5	Semi-natural ancient woodland	AWI	
SX88/126	Emeidge Wood	SX873823	17.2	Semi-natural ancient woodland	AWI	
SX87/053	Chudleigh Wood (name on OS map is Putshills Wood)	SX858798	5.7	Semi-natural ancient woodland	AWI	
	Pixies Hole	SX866786	35.6	Semi-natural ancient woodland	AWI	
SX87/096	Burrows Wood & Grealy Quarry	SX881793	5.2	Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland, part replanted	AWI	
SX87/093	Boxhills Copse	SX885787	33.3	Semi-natural ancient woodland	AWI	
SX87/185	Ideford Arch Wood	SX883777	16.4	Semi-natural ancient woodland	AWI	
SX87/096	Burrows Wood & Grealy Quarry	SX881793	5.2	Secondary broadleaved woodland on an ancient woodland site & developing limestone grassland on quarry floor	OSWI	
SX88/091	Northwood (S)	SX858803	2.7	Semi-improved neutral grassland	OSWI	

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status	
SX88/093	Farley Copse	SX854809	1.1	Broadleaved woodland	OSWI	
SX88/110	Bramble Brook Fields	SX868823	3.8	Semi-improved neutral grassland	OSWI	
SX88/113	Stoney Barn Fields	SX867816	1.6	Semi-improved neutral grassland	OSWI	
SX88/114	Coombes head Field	SX865815	11.9	Unimproved & semi-improved neutral grassland	OSWI	
SX88/121	Marsh Lane Cross	SX877815	2.3	Wet semi-improved neutral grassland	OSWI	
SX88/122	Rowell Moor	SX879813	4.8	Conifer plantation & young secondary broadleaved woodland	OSWI	
SX87/206	Bishop's palace fields	SX865789	2.4	Semi-improved neutral grassland and improved grassland	OSWI	
SX88/172	Harcombe Field	SX889814	8.2	Semi-improved/unimproved grassland & scrub	OSWI	
SX88/162	Northwood Field	SX855805	1	Semi-improved/unimproved grassland	OSWI	
SX87/053	Chudleigh Wood	SX858798	5.2	Ancient woodland	UWS	1
SX87/071	Lawell Plantation	SX860784	1.9	Broadleaved woodland	UWS	2
SX87/073	Puttshills Water	SX862797	0.8	Open water	UWS	3
SX87/074	Parr's Lane	SX863795	9.9	Semi-improved neutral grassland & broadleaved woodland	UWS	4

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status	
SX87/076	Castle Dyke	SX874789	14.2	Semi-improved neutral grassland & broadleaved woodland	UWS	5
SX87/077	Smoothway Lodge	SX878788	6.4	Semi-improved neutral grassland & broadleaved woodland	UWS	6
SX87/078	Ugbrooke Park (S)	SX872777	28.4	Semi-improved neutral grassland & broadleaved woodland	UWS	7
SX87/079	Wapperwell Fields	SX879778	4	Unimproved neutral grassland	UWS	8
SX87/093	Boxhills Copse	SX885787	16.4	Ancient woodland & broadleaved woodland	UWS	9
SX87/094	Lower Dunscombe Copse	SX889785	0.6	Broadleaved woodland	UWS	10
SX87/097	Waddon Brakes	SX895799	2.7	Broadleaved woodland	UWS	11
SX87/098	Higher Dunscombe	SX894788	22.8	Semi-improved neutral grassland	UWS	12
SX87/180	Putshills Field	SX859795	1.8	Unimproved neutral grassland	UWS	13
SX87/185	Ideford Arch Wood	SX883777	4	Broadleaved woodland, possibly ancient	UWS	14
SX87/189	Ugbrooke Park (N)	SX866777, SX867779, SX871783, SX873781 & SX874782	17.4	Part ancient semi-natural woodland, part replanted with conifers, secondary broadleaved woodland and parkland lakes	UWS	15

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status	
SX88/085	Trusham Quarry	SX849812	1.8	Open water	UWS	16
SX88/086	Crocombe Bridge	SX848812	2.3	Invertebrate interest	UWS	17
SX88/090	Putthills	SX858801	1.5	Broadleaved woodland	UWS	18
SX88/112	Lower Ranscombe	SX868819	1.2	Unimproved neutral grassland	UWS	19
SX88/118	Oaklands Fields	SX871811	4.7	Broadleaved woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland	UWS	20
SX88/119	Rattycombe Farm	SX870814	2.7	Broadleaved woodland	UWS	21
SX88/120	Littlehill Plantation	SX874816	9.8	Broadleaved woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland	UWS	22
SX88/123	Spears Copse Plantation	SX878817	1.3	Broadleaved woodland	UWS	23
SX88/124	Bean Plot	SX879819	1.8	Broadleaved woodland	UWS	24
SX88/125	Lodge Covert	SX878821	2.4	Broadleaved woodland	UWS	25
SX88/126	Emridge Wood	SX874822	10.4	Ancient woodland, plantation on ancient woodland site & broadleaved woodland	UWS	26
SX88/127	Lawn Tennis Clump	SX879827	1.3	Broadleaved woodland/scrub	UWS	27
SX88/129	Harcombe Quarry	SX883819	1.5	Broadleaved woodland	UWS	28

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status	
SX88/133	Warren Wood	SX885808	5.2	Broadleaved woodland	UWS	29
SX88/135	Amberley Farm Wood	SX887802	3.5	Broadleaved woodland	UWS	30
SX88/136	Waddon House	SX886800 & SX888800	6.1	Broadleaved woodland	UWS	31
SX88/141	Haldon Covert (W)	SX890822	4.2	Broadleaved woodland & conifer plantation	UWS	32
SX88/166	Farmborough Field, A38 road verge	SX870806	1.2	Scrub and Semi-improved/unimproved grassland	UWS	33
SX88/167	Oakfields	SX876804 & SX874803	3.2	Semi-improved/Unimproved grassland & scrub	UWS	34
SX88/168	Highway man's Haunt Fields	SX880806	2.6	Semi-improved/unimproved grassland	UWS	35
SX88/169	Waddon Brakes Fields	SX895801 & SX893800	2.8	Semi-improved/unimproved grassland	UWS	36
SX88/170	Homeleigh	SX865809	7.5	Semi-improved/unimproved grassland & broadleaved woodland	UWS	37
SX88/171	A38 Road verge at Marden Farm	SX875809 & SX873807	2.6	Semi-improved/unimproved grassland and scrub along road verge	UWS	38

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status	
SX88/176	Higher Ranscombe	SX870816	7.1	Semi-improved/unimproved grassland	UWS	39
SX88/177	Hamlyns Farm	SX875820	13	Old orchard and semi-improved/unimproved grassland	UWS	40
SX88/180	Lodge Covert East	SX879822	5.8	Semi-improved/unimproved grassland	UWS	41
SX88/193	Putshills field (N)	SX859799	3.6	Scrub & semi-improved/unimproved grassland	UWS	42
	Higher Ranscombe Bridge	SX866818	6.7	Possible unimproved/SI grassland	UWS	43
SX87/205	Biddlecombe Cross	SX880792	2.4	Unimproved grassland and scrub on limestone (dense scrub, small patches of herb-rich grassland)	UWS	44
SX88/161	Waddon Fields	SX884798	3.1	semi-improved/unimproved grassland	UWS	45
SX88/096	Lower Farley	SX860813	12	Unimproved neutral grassland with plant interest	UWS	46
SX88/137	Mistletoe Farm	SX897807	19.3	Marshy grassland, bracken, broadleaved woodland	UWS	47
SX88/138	Kenton Hill	SX898810	38.6	Dry heath, bracken, broadleaved woodland	UWS	48

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status	
SX87/207	Kate Brook Lime Kilns	SX867787	4.1	Unimproved grassland and scrub on limestone (secondary ash-hazel woodland around quarry, species-rich quarry floor on limestone substrate)	UWS	49
	Watercress Farm	SX883807	5	Ponds and tall herb vegetation	UWS	50
	Whiteway House	SX877829	38.6	Parkland	UWS	51

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC): these are notified by Natural England because they contain species and/or habitats of European importance (listed in the Habitats Directive 1994), and are part of a network of conservation sites set up through Europe known as the Natura 2000 series. On land, almost all candidate SACs are, or will be notified as SSSIs. Natural England needs to be consulted before any operations likely to damage the special interest are undertaken. SAC is a statutory designation with legal implications.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): these are notified by Natural England because of their plants, animals or geological features (the latter are geological SSSIs or gSSSI). Natural England needs to be consulted before any operations likely to damage the special interest are undertaken. SSSI is a statutory designation with legal implications.

County Wildlife Sites (CWS): these are sites of county importance for wildlife, designated on the basis of the habitat or the known presence of particular species. This is not a statutory designation like SSSIs, and does not have any legal status. County Wildlife Sites are usually included in Local Plans as sites of substantive nature conservation interest and are covered by Planning Policy Statement note nine (PPS9). CWS recognition does not demand any particular actions on the part of the Landowner and does not give the public rights of access. However, it may increase eligibility for land management grants.

Other Sites of Wildlife Interest (OSWI): these are sites of significant wildlife interest within a local context that have been surveyed but do not reach the criteria for County Wildlife Sites. They are not covered by PPS9, but may be included in Local Plans.

Unconfirmed Wildlife Sites (UWS): these are sites identified as having possible interest but not fully surveyed. Some of these sites will be areas of significant wildlife interest.

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS): these are earth science sites that are of regional or local importance. Like CWS, they are included in Local Plans and referred to under PPG9.

Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI): Ancient Woodland is a term applied to woodlands which have existed from at least Medieval times to the present day without ever having been cleared for uses other than wood or timber production. A convenient date used to separate ancient and secondary woodland is about the year 1600. In special circumstances semi-natural woods of post-1600 but pre-1900 origin are also included. The Devon Ancient Woodland Inventory was prepared in 1986 by the Nature Conservancy Council.

Legally protected & notable Species within Chudleigh Parish (2008)

PLEASE NOTE: this is not a complete list of legally protected and notable species within Chudleigh parish. It just represents those records currently held by the Devon Biodiversity records Centre. In some cases, these will be the result of systematic survey. More often, however, they will be incidental records that have been submitted to DBRC. There are likely to be many more such species – and other locations – within the parish.

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
1	White-letter Hairstreak	Satyrion w-album	Crockham Bridge	19 98	SX849 811	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); Nb; Decline
2	Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	Crockham Bridge	19 98	SX850 811	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); Nb
3	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinelloides	Crockham Bridge	19 94	SX853 810			DN3
4	Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Farley Copse	19 94	SX854 809			DBAP
5	Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Deer Park Farm, Chudleigh	20 07	SX854 814	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II	
6	Perennial Flax	Linum perenne	Northwood Field	20 04	SX855 805			NS
7	Otter	Lutra lutra	Deer Park Farm (W)	19 94	SX855 815	WCA 5	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
8	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinelloides	Deer Park Farm (W)	19 94	SX855 815			DN3
9	Jersey Tiger	Euplagia quadripunctaria	Deer Park Farm (W)	19 94	SX855 815			Nb

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
10	Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus malvae	Deer Park Farm (W)	1994-2000	SX855815			UKBAP (P); Decline
11	Grass Snake	Natrix natrix	Deer Park Farm (W)	1994	SX855815	WCA 5(KIS)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
12	Wild Mignonne	Reseda lutea	Deer Park Farm (W)	1994	SX855815			DN1
13	Great Green Bush Cricket	Tettigonia viridissima	Deer Park Farm (W); Neglected fields along Bramble Brook	2000	SX855817			DBAP
14	Clustered Clover	Trifolium glomeratum	Deer Park Farm (W)	2002	SX856815			NS; DN1; DR
15	Marsh Sow-Thistle	Sonchus palustris	Deer Park Farm (W)	2002	SX856815			NS
16	Autumn Lady's-Tresses	Spiranthes spiralis	Deer Park Farm (W)	2002	SX856815			DN2
17	Green-Winged Orchid	Orchis morio	Deer Park Farm (W)	2002	SX856815			DN1
18	Pepper-Saxifrage	Silaum silaus	Deer Park Farm (W)	2002	SX856815			DN1
19	Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Deer Park Farm (W)	2001-2002	SX856815			DBAP
20	Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus malvae	Ruggadon, Trusham	1997-2003	SX856816			UKBAP (P); Decline

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
21	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	Ruggadon, Trusham	1997-2003	SX856816			Decline
22	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	Ruggadon, Trusham	1997-2003	SX856816			UKBAP (P); Decline
23	Purple Hairstreak	<i>Quercusia quercus</i>	Ruggadon, Trusham	1997-2003	SX856816			Decline
24	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	Ruggadon, Trusham	2003	SX856816	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); DBAP; Nb
25	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Ruggadon, Trusham	2002	SX856816			UKBAP (P)
26	White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrion w-album</i>	Ruggadon	1997-1998	SX856816	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); Nb; Decline
27	Burnet Rose	<i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i>	Ruggadon Middle Park (DWT)	2001	SX856816			DN2
28	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	Ruggadon Middle Park (DWT)	2001	SX856816			DN3
29	Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	RANSCOMBE, TRUSHAM	1995	SX856817			UKBAP (P); Decline
30	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Northwood Farm (New 1)	2004	SX857805			DBAP

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
31	Badger	Meles meles	Northwood Farm (New 1)	2004	SX857805	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
32	Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	Northwood Farm (New 1)	2004	SX857805	DA	Bern III	
33	Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	RUGGARDON, TRUSHAM	1997-1999	SX857816	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); Nb
34	White Admiral	Ladoga camilla	RUGGADON, TRUSHAM	1997-2002	SX857816			Decline
35	Dark Green Fritillary	Argynnis aglaja	RUGGADON, TRUSHAM	1997	SX857816			Decline
36	Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	Deer Park Farm (E)	2006	SX857819	DA	Bern III	
37	Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	CHUDLEIGH WOODS	1998	SX858802	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); Nb
38	Purple Hairstreak	Quercusia quercus	CHUDLEIGH	2003	SX858803			Decline
39	Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Catshole	1994	SX858809			DBAP
40	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinelloides	Catshole	1994	SX858809			DN3

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
41	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinelloides	Ruggadon	1982-1994	SX858816			DN3
42	Great Burnet	Sanguisorba officinalis	Ruggadon	1994	SX858816			DN3
43	Garden Tiger	Arctia caja	Ruggadon; Neutral hay meadow SE corner	1999	SX858816			UKBAP (P)
44	Small Phoenix	Ecliptopora silacea	Ruggadon; Neutral hay meadow SE corner	1999	SX858816			UKBAP (P)
45	Lackey	Malacosoma neustria	Ruggadon; Neutral hay meadow SE corner	1999	SX858816			UKBAP (P)
46	Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Ruggadon	1982	SX858816			DBAP
47	Purple Hairstreak	Quercusa quercus		1990	SX858819			Decline
48	Purple Hairstreak	Quercusa quercus	CHUDLEIGH WOODS	1999	SX859802			Decline
49	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinelloides	Northwood (S)	1994	SX859804			DN3
50	Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Northwood (S)	1994	SX859804			DBAP

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
51	Broad-fruited corn-salad	Valeriana l rimosa	Farley House	19 89	SX859 813			UKBAP (P); DN1; DR; endg
52	Badger	Meles meles	Northwood Farm (New 2)	20 04	SX860 806	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
53	Tubular Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe fistulosa	Northwood Farm (New 2)	20 04	SX860 806			DN1; DR
54	Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Northwood Farm (New 2)	20 04	SX860 806			DBAP
55	Prickly Lettuce	Lactuca serriola	Deer Park Farm (E)	19 94	SX860 818			DN2
56	Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Deer Park Farm (E)	19 92- 19 94	SX860 818			DBAP
57	Narrow-Fruited Cornsalad	Valeriana l dentata	Deer Park Farm (E)	19 94	SX860 818			DN1
58	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinell oides	Coombeshead Cross (W)	19 94	SX861 807			DN3
59	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinell oides	Deer Park Farm (E); Fields 8 and 9	19 92	SX861 818			DN3
60	Corn Parsley	Petroselinum segetum	Chudleigh Woods Farm Fields	20 04	SX862 803			NS; DN1; IUCN-vul

N o	Commo n Name	Scientifi c Name	Location	Da te	Grid Refere nce	UK protec tion	Internati onal protecti on	Status
6 1	Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Chudleigh Woods Farm Fields	20 04	SX862 803			Amber
6 2	Primros e	Primula vulgaris	Coombeshe ad Brake	19 94	SX863 808			DBAP
6 3	Bird's- Nest Orchid	Neottia nidus- avis	Coombeshe ad Brake	19 94	SX863 808			DN1
6 4	Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Deer Park Farm (E); Field 10	19 92	SX863 817			UKBAP (P); Red
6 5	Great Green Bush Cricket	Tettigoni a viridissim a	Deer Park Farm (E); Field 10	19 92	SX863 817			DBAP
6 6	Narrow- Fruited Cornsall ad	Valeriane lla dentata	Coombeshe ad	19 91	SX863 817			DN1
6 7	Sheperd' s needle	Scandix pecten- veneris	Coombeshe ad	19 91	SX863 817			UKBAP (P); NS; DN1; DR
6 8	Primros e	Primula vulgaris	Deer Park Farm (E); Field 10	19 92	SX863 817			DBAP
6 9	Yellowha mmer	Emberiz a citrinella	Deer Park Farm (E); Field 10	19 92	SX863 817			UKBAP (P); Red
7 0	Willow Warbler	Phyllosc opus trochilus	Deer Park Farm (E); Field 10	19 92	SX863 817			Amber
7 1	Kestrel	Falco tinnuncul us	Deer Park Farm (E); Field 10	19 92	SX863 817			Amber
7 2	Dingy Skipper	Erynnis tages	HIGHER RANSCOM BE	19 90	SX863 818			UKBAP (P); Decline

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
73	Brown Long-Eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	Coombesend Farm, Coombesend Cross, Chudleigh.	1994	SX865 812	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
74	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinelloides	Coombeshead Field	1996	SX865 815			DN3
75	Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Coombeshead Field	1996	SX865 815			DBAP
76	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria euphrosyne	HIGHER RANSCOMBE	1990	SX865 817	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); DBAP; Nb
77	White Admiral	Ladoga camilla	COOMBES HEAD X	2003	SX866 811			Decline
78	White-letter Hairstreak	Satyrion w-album	Higher Ranscombe	1998	SX866 816	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); Nb; Decline
79	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinelloides	Stoney Barn Fields	1994	SX867 816			DN3
80	Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae		1993	SX868 0	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); Nb
81	Badger	Meles meles	A38, Chudleigh side of Haldon Hill.	1999	SX868 0	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
82	White Admiral	Ladoga camilla	KIDDENS PLANTATION	1992	SX868 2			Decline

N o	Commo n Name	Scientifi c Name	Location	Da te	Grid Refere nce	UK protec tion	Internati onal protecti on	Status
83	Common Toad	Bufo bufo	Rivendell, Woodway Street, Chudleigh.	2003-2004	SX868802	WCA 5(S)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
84	Common Frog	Rana temporaria	Rivendell, Woodway Street, Chudleigh.	2003	SX868802	WCA 5(S)	EC Va; Bern III	
85	Dingy Skipper	Erynnis tages	CHUDLEIGH	1999	SX868802			UKBAP (P); Decline
86	Palimate Newt	Triturus helveticus	Rivendell, Woodway Street, Chudleigh, Newton Abbot	2003-2004	SX868803	WCA 5(S)	Bern III	
87	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinelloides	Bramble Brook Fields	1994	SX868823			DN3
88	Badger	Meles meles	A38, Plymouth bound just before Chudleigh.	2000	SX869804	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
89	Badger	Meles meles	A38 Chudleigh (Exeter side). Travelling from Plymouth, 0.3 miles before the first of a pair of overb	2001-2005	SX870804	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
90	Badger	Meles meles	A38 near Chudleigh	2001	SX871805	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	

N o	Commo n Name	Scientifi c Name	Location	Da te	Grid Refere nce	UK protec tion	Internati onal protecti on	Status
9 1	Fallow Deer	Dama dama	Whiteway Wood	19 99- 20 00	SX871 831	DA	Bern III	
9 2	Fallow Deer	Dama dama	Harcombe	19 99- 20 00	SX871 836	DA	Bern III	
9 3	Badger	Meles meles	Kiddens	19 99	SX871 837	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
9 4	Brown Hairstre ak	Thecla betulae	Chudleigh	20 00	SX872 800	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); Nb
9 5	Fallow Deer	Dama dama	Kiddens plantation	19 99	SX872 837	DA	Bern III	
9 6	Fallow Deer	Dama dama	Kiddens	19 99	SX872 837	DA	Bern III	
9 7	Commo n Toad	Bufo bufo	White Hill Lodge, Exeter Road, Newton Abbot	20 02	SX873 800	WCA 5(S)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
9 8	Grayling	Hipparch ia semele	CHUDLEIG H	19 98	SX873 805			UKBAP (P)
9 9	Primros e	Primula vulgaris	A38 road verge at Marden Farm, Chudleigh.	20 01	SX873 807			DBAP
1 0 0	Fallow Deer	Dama dama	Whiteways	19 99	SX874 839	DA	Bern III	

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
101	Badger	Meles meles	A38 near Chudleigh. On edge of central reservation of carriageway, going towards Exeter; between the two overbridges.	20 02	SX875 809	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
102	Badger	Meles meles	B3344 Chudleigh.	20 04	SX877 806	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
103	Badger	Meles meles	A38 on eastbound carriageway close to overbridge.	20 03	SX877 810	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
104	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinelloides	Marsh Lane Cross	19 94	SX877 815			DN3
105	Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	MARSH LANE CROSS	19 97	SX877 816	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); Nb
106	Purple Hairstreak	Quercusia quercus	NR. WHITEWAY WOOD	19 94	SX878 3			Decline
107	Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	Whiteway Wood	20 04	SX878 3			UKBAP (P); DBAP; Red
108	Badger	Meles meles	A38 .25 miles from Teign valley turn off (B3193)	19 99	SX878 809	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	

No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
109	Bee Orchid	Ophrys apifera	Milestone Lane turning off the B3344 over A38 in verge near bridge	2002	SX878 810			DN1
1110	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinelloides	Rowell Moor	1994	SX879 813			DN3
1111	Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Rowell Moor (SX88/122)	1994	SX879 813			DBAP
1112	Bee Orchid	Ophrys apifera	Harcombe Cross	2005-2008	SX880 48118			DN1
1113	Greater Butterfly-Orchid	Platanthera chlorantha	Harcombe Cross	2001-2008	SX880 48121			DN1
1114	Grass Vetchling	Lathyrus nissolia	Harcombe Cross (Crammers Cross junction, B3344 New Exeter Road with A38, Chudleigh.)	2001	SX880 68125			DN1
1115	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinelloides	Harcombe Cross (as above)	2001	SX880 68125			DN3
1116	Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Harcombe Cross (as above)	2001	SX880 68125			DBAP

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
117	Cinnabar	Tyria jacobaea	Harcombe Cross (as above)	2001	SX880 68125			UKBAP (P)
118	Greater Butterfly-Orchid	Platanthera chlorantha	Harcombe Cross (as above)	2005	SX880 68125			DN1
119	Bee Orchid	Ophrys apifera	Harcombe Cross (as above)	2005	SX880 68125			DN1
120	Divided Sedge	Carex divisa	Harcombe Cross (as above)	2001	SX880 68125			NS; DN1; DR
121	Greater Butterfly-Orchid	Platanthera chlorantha	Harcombe Cross; Special Verge	2008	SX880 68135			DN1
122	Yellow Vetchling	Lathyrus aphaca	Harcombe Cross	1994	SX880 811			NS; DN1; DR
123	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinelloides	Harcombe Cross	1994	SX880 811			DN3
124	Common Frog	Rana temporaria	Harcombe Cross	1994	SX880 811	WCA 5(S)	EC Va; Bern III	
125	Pyramidal Orchid	Anacamptis pyramidalis	Harcombe Cross	1994	SX880 811			DN2
126	Bee Orchid	Ophrys apifera	Harcombe Cross	1994	SX880 811			DN1

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
127	Mouse Moth	Amphipyra tragopoginis	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
128	Dark-Barred Twin-Spot Carpet	Xanthorhoe ferrugata	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
129	Sallow	Xanthia icteritia	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
130	Shaded Broad-Bar	Scotopteryx chenopodiata	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
131	Buff Ermine	Spilosoma luteum	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
132	White Ermine	Spilosoma lubricipeda	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
133	Cinnabar	Tyria jacobaea	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
134	Garden Tiger	Arctia caja	Great Haldon, By Pond	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
135	Pale Eggar	Trichiura crataegi	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
136	Centre-Barred Sallow	Atethmia centrargo	Great Haldon, By Pond	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
137	Small Phoenix	Ecliptopera silaceata	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
138	Small Square-Spot	Diarsia rubi	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
139	Grey Dagger	Acronicta psi	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
140	Rustic	Hoplodrina blanda	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
141	Pretty Chalk Carpet	Melanthia procellata	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
142	Brindled Beauty	Lycia hirtaria	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
143	Lackey	Malacosoma neustria	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
144	Dot Moth	Melanchra persicariae	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
145	Dusky Brocade	Apamea remissa	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			UKBAP (P)
146	Dotted Carpet	Alcis jubata	Haldon Forest (Great Haldon, By Pond)	1986	SX880840			Nb
147	Cowslip	Primula veris	Harcombe Cross; Special Verge	2008	SX88088137			DN3
148	Green-Winged Orchid	Orchis morio	Harcombe Cross; Special Verge	2008	SX88108129			DN1
149	Bird's-Nest Orchid	Neottia nidus-avis	Harcombe Cross; Special Verge	2008	SX88118121			DN1
150	Bee Orchid	Ophrys apifera	Harcombe Cross; Special Verge	2008	SX88128140			DN1
151	Adder's-Tongue	Ophioglossum vulgatum	Harcombe Cross; Special Verge	2008	SX88138142			DN1

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
152	Dingy Skipper	Erynnis tages	HARCOMBE	1994-1997	SX881811			UKBAP (P); Decline
153	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus		1997	SX881811			UKBAP (P)
154	A bat	Chiroptera	Silverton House, Chudleigh.	1996	SX881816	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bonn II	
155	Badger	Meles meles	A38 southbound near Harcombe, Chudleigh.	2003	SX882814	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
156	Dingy Skipper	Erynnis tages		1995	SX882822			UKBAP (P); Decline
157	Badger	Meles meles	A38	2000-2003	SX883818	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
158	Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi	LOWER UPCOTT	1997	SX885805			Decline
159	Fallow Deer	Dama dama	Spicers	1999	SX885829	DA	Bern III	
160	Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	Spicers	1999	SX886827	DA	Bern III	
161	Otter	Lutra lutra	Pond/lake in land at Harcombe Court, Harcombe, Chudleigh	2001	SX8881	WCA 5	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II	UKBAP (P); DBAP

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
162	Common Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius	Garden at Harcombe Court, Harcombe, Chudleigh; also in hedgerows along the lane and in mature coppice stand	2001	SX8881	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern III	UKBAP (P); DBAP
163	Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	Spicers	2004	SX8883			UKBAP (P); DBAP; Red
164	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera		1990	SX8884			UKBAP (P)
165	Grayling	Hipparchia semele	HALDON	1996	SX8884			UKBAP (P)
166	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus		1996	SX8884			UKBAP (P)
167	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	Haldon	1998	SX8884			UKBAP (P)
168	Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi	HALDON	1996-1998	SX8884			Decline
169	Dingy Skipper	Erynnis tages	HALDON	1997	SX8884			UKBAP (P); Decline

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
170	Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus malvae	HALDON and haldon Forest	1990-1997	SX8884			UKBAP (P); Decline
171	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria euphrosyne	HALDON	1997	SX8884	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); DBAP; Nb
172	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria selene	HALDON	1997	SX8884			UKBAP (P); Decline
173	Wood White	Leptidea sinapis	HALDON	1997	SX8884	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); Nb
174	White-letter Hairstreak	Satyrion w-album	Warren	1998	SX888807	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); Nb; Decline
175	Common Shrew	Sorex araneus	Freers, Haldon	1999	SX888834	WCA 6	Bern III	
176	Badger	Meles meles	Harcombe Field	2004	SX889814	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
177	White Admiral	Ladoga camilla	HALDON FOREST	2001	SX890837			Decline
178	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria selene	haldon forest	1996	SX890837			UKBAP (P); Decline
179	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera	HALDON	1997	SX890837			UKBAP (P)

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
180	Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	HARCOMBE, CHUDLEIGH	1997	SX894816			UKBAP (P); Decline
181	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		1997	SX894816			UKBAP (P)
182	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		1997	SX894816			UKBAP (P)
183	Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Harcombe	1997	SX894817	WCA 9		
184	Viviparous Lizard	<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>	Haldon Hill (A38)	2006	SX894826	WCA 5(KIS)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
185	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Haldon Hill (A38)	2006	SX894826			UKBAP (P); DBAP; Red
186	Common Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Haldon Hill (A38)	2006	SX894826	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern III	UKBAP (P); DBAP
187	Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	Haldon Hill (A38)	2006	SX894826	WCA 5(KIS)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
188	Slow-Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Haldon Hill (A38)	2006	SX894826	WCA 5(KIS)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
189	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Ducksmoor Covert	1994	SX895814			Amber
190	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Ducksmoor Covert	2004	SX895814	WCA 5 (S)		UKBAP (P); Nb

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
191	Indet. Deer	Cervidae	Ducksmoor Covert	2004	SX895814	DA	Bern III	
192	Viviparus Lizard	Lacerta vivipara	Ducksmoor Covert	1994	SX895814	WCA 5(KIS)	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
193	Hobby	Falco subbuteo	Ducksmoor Covert	1994	SX895814	WCA 1		
194	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis	Ducksmoor Covert	1994	SX895814			UKBAP (P); Amber
195	Badger	Meles meles	A38	2000	SX895822	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
196	Badger	Meles meles	Great Haldon. A38 southbound carriageway at the end of the first pull-in, past the slip-road from the restaurant next to the racecourse.	2004	SX895831	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
197	Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	Harcombe	1999	SX896823	DA	Bern III	
198	Water Vole	Arvicola terrestris	Kate Brook (off River Teign) at bottom of land at Harcombe Court, Harcombe, Chudleigh	1991	SX8981	WCA 5		UKBAP (P); DBAP

N o	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
199	Fallow Deer	Dama dama	Waddons, Chudleigh.	2000	SX900803	DA	Bern III	
200	Badger	Meles meles	A380 Torquay to Exeter	2000	SX901792	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
201	Great Crested Newt	Triturus cristatus	Ashcombe	1986	SX902791	WCA 5	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II	UKBAP (P)
202	Common Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius	DWW-haldon forest	1999	SX902808	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern III	UKBAP (P); DBAP
203	Otter	Lutra lutra	A380, centre of northbound dual carriageway, Haldon Forest, near Mamhead Cross.	2001	SX903814	WCA 5	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
204	Badger	Meles meles	A380 central reservation Haldon Forest area.	2005	SX904816	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	

WCA 1 **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 1:** birds which are protected by special penalties at all times.

WCA 5 **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 5:** species protected against killing, injury, disturbance and handling.

WCA 5 (S) **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 5: (sale):** species protected against sale only.

WCA 5 (KIS) **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 5: (killing & injury):** species protected against killing, injury and sale only.

WCA 6	Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 6: animals (other than birds) which may not be killed or taken by certain methods
WCA 9	Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 9: animals and plants for which release into the wild is prohibited.
BA	Protection of Badgers Act 1992: badgers may not be deliberately killed, persecuted or trapped except under licence. Badger setts may not be damaged, destroyed or obstructed.
DA	Deer Act 1991: deer protected under the Deer Act.
Bern II	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) Appendix II: Special protection for listed animal species and their habitats.
Bern III	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) Appendix III: Exploitation of listed animal species to be subject to regulation
ECIIa, IIb	EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats & Species Directive) Annex IIa and IIb: Designation of protected areas for animal and plant species listed.
ECIIIa, IIIb	EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats & Species Directive) Annex IIIa and IIIb: Species used as criteria for designating Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).
ECIVa, IVb	EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats & Species Directive) Annex IVa: Exploitation of listed animals and plants to be subject to management if necessary.
ECVa, Vb	EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats & Species Directive) Annex Va and Vb: Exploitation of listed animals and plants to be subject to management if necessary.
Bonn II	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) Appendix II: Range states encouraged to conclude international agreements to benefit species listed.
UKBAP(P)	UK Priority Species (Short and Middle Lists - UK Biodiversity steering Group Report 1995) i.e. species that are globally threatened and rapidly declining in the UK (by more than 50% in the last 25 years). Has a Species Action Plan.

DBAP **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan species:** these have been identified as species of key conservation concern in Devon.

NS **Nationally Scarce:** recorded from 15-100 10km squares in Atlas of British Flora 1962.

Devon Notable Species: Selected species in the Atlas of Devon Flora 1984 (R.B. Ivimey-Cook, Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Exeter):

DN1 **Devon Notable¹:** 1-25 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.

DN2 **Devon Notable²:** 26-50 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.

DN3 **Devon Notable³:** Selected species recorded from over 50 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.

DR **Devon Rarity:** native species recorded from 3 or fewer localities within Devon.

Nb **Nationally Notable B:** known from 100 or fewer 10km squares. Taken from the Invertebrate Site Register.

Decline Substantial local decline in Devon

Red List Bird species of high conservation concern, such as those whose population or range is rapidly declining, recently or historically, and those of global conservation concern.

Amber List Bird species of medium conservation concern, such as those whose population is in moderate decline, rare breeders, internationally important and localised species and those of unfavourable conservation status in Europe.

VULNERABLE (VUL)

A taxon is Vulnerable when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Vulnerable (see Red List Categories and Criteria booklet for details: www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/categories-and-criteria), and it is therefore considered to be facing a **high risk of extinction** in the wild.

ENDANGERED (ENDG)

A taxon is Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Endangered (see Red List Categories and Criteria booklet for details: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/categories-and-criteria>), and it is therefore considered to be facing a **very high risk of extinction** in the wild.

Appendix 2 - Species list recorded within Chudleigh parish during field visit – early 2009

Common Name	Scientific Name
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Barren Strawberry	<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Bilberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Bush Vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>
Cherry	<i>Prunus sp.</i>
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Common Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum aggregate</i>
Common Dog Violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
Daffodil	<i>Narcissus sp.</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Dog's Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>
Douglas Fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
English Stonecrop	<i>Sedum anglicum</i>
Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus sp.</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Giant Horsetail	<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Greater Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>
Greater Tussock Sedge	<i>Carex paniculata</i>
Ground-ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>
Hairy Wood-rush	<i>Luzula pilosa</i>
Hart's-tongue	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
Hedge Bedstraw	<i>Galium mollugo</i>
Herb-robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Ivy-leaved Toadflax	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>
Larch	<i>Larix sp.</i>
Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>
Lords-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
Lungwort	<i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i>
Maidenhair Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>
Male-fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>
Navelwort	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>
Oak	<i>Quercus sp</i>
Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage	<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>
Perennial Rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>
Pignut	<i>Conopodium majus</i>
Polypody	<i>Polypodium agg.</i>
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
Ramsons	<i>Allium ursinum</i>
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Red Deadnettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra agg.</i>
Red Valerian	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Scot's Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Mayweed	<i>Matricaria sp.</i>
Sessile Oak	<i>Quercus patraea</i>
Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus sp.</i>
Small-leaved Lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Traveller's Joy	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
Tufted hairgrass	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
White Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>
Wild Daffodil	<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>
Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>
Yellow Archangle	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

Mosses

Ordinary Moss	<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>
White Moss	<i>Leucobryum glaucum</i>

Lichens

<i>Xanthoria calcicola</i>
<i>Hypogymnia physodes</i>

Birds

Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
Buzzard	<i>Buteo butes</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>

Mammals

Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Mole (hills)	<i>Talpa europaea</i>

Invertebrates

Common Groundhopper	<i>Tetrix undulata</i>
Peacock butterfly	<i>Inachis io</i>
Painted Lady butterfly	<i>Vanessa cardu</i>
Stonefly	<i>Pteronarcys sp.</i>

Appendix 3: Some biodiversity features of Chudleigh Parish

(black text = habitats, red text = animals and green text = plants)

