## Wildlife site resource map and species information for neighbourhood planning - Harberton

Devon Biodiversity Record Centre June 4, 2024



### Introduction

Any development, from a loft conversion to a housing estate has the potential to affect wildlife. By wildlife we mean the whole range of plants and animals found in Devon (also referred to as biodiversity). Sites that are important for their geology can also be affected.

With a Neighbourhood Plan, communities are able to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood. They will be able to say, for example, where new homes and offices should be built, and what they should look like. Neighbourhood Plans should take into account local need, housing targets identified by the local authority and the mitigation hierarchy. This is important, as where the local authority says that an area needs to grow, then communities can use neighbourhood planning to influence the type, design, location and mix of new development. They cannot however use neighbourhood planning to block

the building of new homes and businesses.

The information below is provided to assist you in designing a neighbourhood plan, however the information DBRC holds on biodiversity can be enhanced by additional survey or species recording within the area and you may want to consider how more information could be gathered by the community. For further information on how to record biodiversity where you live, click on the link below http://www.dbrc.org.uk

## Sites Important for wildlife

There are several designations that cover sites of wildlife and geological value in Devon. These include sites with international and national statutory designation and local non-statutory designation and are shown on your map. The best practice approach is to avoid locating development on designated sites as they have already been recognised for their high biodiversity value.

Designated sites generally contain **semi-natural habitats**; these are areas which are not highly modified for example; rough grassland, woodland, traditional orchards, scrub, hedges, marshes and ponds, heathland, coastal habitats and old quarries and mine sites. Semi-natural habitats provide food and shelter for plants and animals, so tend to be richer in species than other areas. Some areas of semi-natural habitat are designated as **Habitats of Principle Importance** which are recognised nationally as being important for wildlife. However, many areas of semi-natural habitat lie outside designated areas and are not classed as habitats of principle importance. These areas are nonetheless important for the plant and animal species they contain and as a link between other areas important for wildlife. Ideally **development will be sited to avoid areas of semi-natural habitat**.

## Site Designations in Harberton

### Non-Statutory Sites

#### 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. The National Planning Policy framework (NPPF) requires local authorities to identify and map locally designated sites of biodiversity importance (such as County Wildlife Sites) as part of the Local Plan process and to draw up criteria based policies against which proposals for development affecting them will be judged. 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.

#### South West Nature Map

this identifies the best areas in our region at a landscape scale. These are known as Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs). The original nature map was based on BAP priority habitats but also includes areas suitable for habitat restoration. For more information about the South West Nature map and Strategic Nature Areas, go to www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk.

Profiles for most of the Strategic Nature Areas in Devon are available on the website below

 $http://www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk/nm_del_prof.php$ 

#### Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS)

Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS) are non-statutory sites selected to protect the most important places for geology, geomorphology and soils, complementing the network of legally protected Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). RIGS are selected for their scientific, educational, historical and aesthetic features.

#### 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. There are two types of ancient woodland, both of which should

be treated equally in terms of the protection afforded to ancient woodland in the National Planning Policy framework (NPPF):

- Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW): where the stands are composed predominantly of trees and shrubs native to the site that do not obviously originate from planting. The stands may have been managed by coppicing or pollarding in the past, or the tree and shrub layer may have grown up by natural regeneration.
- Plantations on ancient woodland sites (or PAWS, also known as ancient replanted woodland): areas of ancient woodland where the former native tree cover has been felled and replaced by planted stock, most commonly of a species not native to the site. These will include conifers such as Norway spruce or Corsican pine, but also broadleaves such as sycamore or sweet chestnut.

#### Other Sites

#### De-Designated Wildlife Sites

Sites that are no longer up to CWS standard, so have been deleted by the CWS panel

### 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 NPPF, but may be included in Local Plans. OSWIs used to be called Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). They are not present in all Districts; there are no OSWIs in Torridge, for example.

#### 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. The UWS dataset may also contain **Proposed County Wildlife Sites (pCWS)**: these are usually sites that have been surveyed but are awaiting consideration from the CWS Designation Panel, or sites that have been surveyed at an unfavorable time of year and are awaiting a re-survey.

#### Traditional Orchard

Orchards are hotspots for biodiversity in the countryside, supporting a wide range of wildlife and containing UK BAP priority habitats and species, as well as an array of Nationally Rare and Nationally Scarce species. The wildlife of orchard sites depends on the mosaic of habitats they encompass, including fruit trees, scrub, hedgerows, hedgerow trees, non-fruit trees within the orchard, the orchard floor habitats, fallen dead wood and associated features such as ponds and streams.

#### What about the white areas?

The areas shown white on the map may still have wildlife value, as explained in section 2.2 below. Your map gives an indication of where the most sensitive wildlife areas are located, however, when looking at the white areas you should still consider features such as hedgerow and streams, as they provide important corridors or habitats for wildlife.

#### How you can use your local knowledge to add to the map?

The semi-natural habitat information on your map is derived from a range of sources including aerial photographs, for this reason it is worth you **checking this information** on the ground as there may be patches of semi-natural habitat that have been missed.

You may have people in the Parish who can add information to the map. For example, surveys of road verges or hedges may highlight particular stretches that are very important for wildlife due to their function of linking areas of semi-natural habitats, their structure, age or the animal and plant species they contain.

This data search has been undertaken using data held by DBRC at the time of the enquiry. Please be aware that a lack of species records does not necessarily mean that a species is absent from an area, just that it has not been recorded. Detailed species information and surveys will be required by developers when they are drawing up individual planning proposals. More detailed species information would be available from the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC) on a site specific basis at that time. For more information go to http://www.dbrc.org.uk/data-search-2/

## Site Maps For Your Parish

## Non-statutory sites within Harberton parish

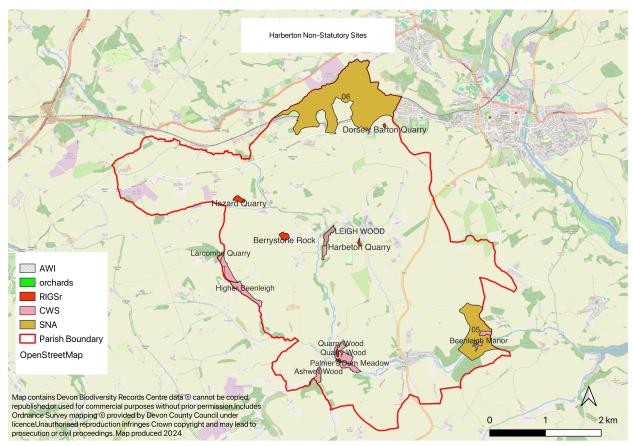


Figure 2: Harberton - Map showing non-statutory sites within parish boundary

	File.Code	Site.Name	Grid.Ref	Area	Reason.for.Designation	Status
1	SX75/015	Larcombe Quarry	SX750583	7.80	Disused quarry with secondary broadleaved woodland & a pond	CWS
2	$\mathrm{SX75}/020$	Ashwell Wood	SX767558	7.60	Ancient semi-natural woodland	CWS
3	$\mathrm{SX75}/022$	Leigh Bridge Copse	SX771585	4.20	Ancient semi-natural woodland partly replanted with conifers	CWS
4	$\mathrm{SX75}/023$	Quarry Wood	SX773565	7.00	Secondary broadleaved woodland	CWS
5	$\mathrm{SX75}/023$	Quarry Wood	SX773565	7.00	Secondary broadleaved woodland	CWS
6	$\mathrm{SX75}/027$	Beenleigh	SX798566	1.40	River bank with bryophyte interest	CWS
7	SX75/077	Higher Beenleigh	SX754576	13.10	Unimproved neutral grassland (some planted with trees) with some mire.	CWS
8	SX75/093	Beenleigh Manor	SX797564	1.20	2 small traditional orchards	CWS
9	SX75/100	Palmer's Dam Meadow	SX774561	3.10	Mosaic of tall-herb fen meadow, unimproved neutral grassland and ponds with emergent and marginal vegetation.	CWS
10	06	South Devon	N/A	3418.05	Woodland	N/A
11	05	South Devon	N/A	1991.92	Woodland	N/A
12	SX75NE1	Hazard Quarry	SX754591	1.60	Limestone quarry with caves.	RIGS
13	SX75NE2	Englebourne Quarry	SX773563 & SX772564	0.70	Small quarries with Middle Devonian slate & valuable fossil fauna	RIGS
14	SX75NE2	Englebourne Quarry	SX773563 & SX772564	0.70	Small quarries with Middle Devonian slate & valuable fossil fauna	RIGS
15	SX75NE3	Berrystone Rock	SX762584	1.90	An unusual & interesting outcrop of volcanic rock developed as a tor feature during the Pleistocene	RIGS

16	SX75NE4	Harbeton Quarry	SX776582	0.50	Volcanic tuff with unusual inclusions of lime-	RIGS
17	SX76SE1	Dorsely Barton Quarry	SX781604	0.30	stone & slate An accessible open quarry exposing a larva flow	RIGS

## Other Sites wihin Harberton parish

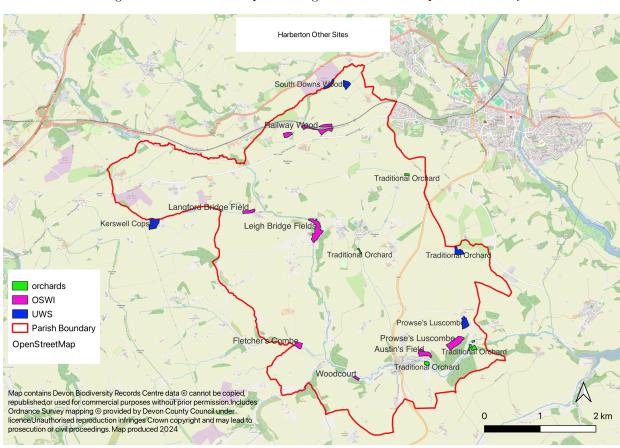


Figure 3: Harberton - Map showning other sites within parish boundary

	File.Code	Site.Name	Grid.Ref	Area	Reason.for.Designation	Status
1	SX75/012	Kerswell Copse	SX741588	2.60	Secondary broadleaved woodland	UWS
2	$\mathrm{SX75}/\mathrm{091}$	Prowse's Luscombe	SX796569	1.90	Orchard	UWS
3	SX75/092	Stancombe	SX795582	1.50	Orchard	UWS
4	SX76/047	South Downs Woods	SX772612	2.20	Secondary broadleaved woodland	UWS
			&			
			SX776612			
5	DEVO1468	Traditional Orchard	N/A	0.53	Definitely is	Active management
6	DEVO1469	Traditional Orchard	N/A	0.54	Definitely is	Active management
7	DEVO1470	Traditional Orchard	N/A	0.36	Definitely is	Unmanaged
8	DEVO1471	Traditional Orchard	N/A	0.15	Definitely is	Active management
9	DEVO1472	Traditional Orchard	N/A	1.88	Definitely is	Active management
10	DEVO1474	Traditional Orchard	N/A	0.29	Definitely is	Active management
11	DEVO1740	Traditional Orchard	N/A	0.24	Definitely is	Management unknown
12	DEVO1473	Traditional Orchard	N/A	1.50	Definitely is	Active management
13	SX75/016	Langford Bridge Field	SX758590	1.10	Semi-improved neutral grassland	OSWI

14	SX75/021	Leigh Bridge Fields	SX770586	4.40	Marshy grassland	OSWI
15	$\mathrm{SX75}/024$	Woodcourt	SX776559	0.40	Semi-improved neutral grassland	OSWI
16	$\mathrm{SX75}/025$	Austin's Field	SX788564	2.00	Semi-improved neutral grassland & secondary	OSWI
					broadleaved woodland	
17	$\mathrm{SX75}/026$	Prowse's Luscombe	SX794566	3.60	Semi-improved neutral grassland	OSWI
18	SX75/088	Fletcher's Combe	SX766566	1.20	Semi-improved field with a small area of rush	OSWI
					pasture/fen	
19	$\mathrm{SX76}/044$	Higher Ashridge	SX765604	1.10	Broadleaved plantation	OSWI
20	SX76/046	Railway Wood	SX771604	3.20	Secondary broadleaved woodland	OSWI

## Species Information

There is a whole range of animal and plant species in Devon that are protected under national and/or international species protection legislation. Designated sites and other areas of semi-natural habitat are particularly rich in protected species but protected species are also often found outside designated sites. There are many other species which have no legal protection and a **best practice approach would be to aim to enhance wildlife generally** as part of a development, not just protected species.

# The protected species groups that are particularly relevant to development in Devon are

#### Bats

Are present across the county and have international protection. They feed on insects so are more likely to be found where there is **semi-natural habitat**. Bats also use linear features such as **hedges** and **streams** as navigation routes to travel to and from feeding areas and summer and winter roost sites. A whole range of **buildings and structures** can be used for breeding roosts and hibernation roosts. Bats are affected indirectly by **lighting associated with new developments** and some will desert roosts and foraging areas when there is light pollution.

Greater Horseshoe Bat Consultation Zones Your site is within a Strategic Flyway or Sustenance Zone.

#### Dormice

Are found within areas of Devon, they are particularly associated with woodland, scrub and hedge habitats, especially old or ancient boundaries

#### Otters

Are present across the whole county, are associated with rivers and streams and have international protection. Otters will cross roads where their passage is blocked by culverts or flooding under bridges. Within a home range an otter may use many resting sites. These include above-ground shelters, such as stands of scrub or areas of rank grass, and underground holts for example, cavities under tree roots and dry drainage pipes.

#### **Badgers**

Have national protection. They are found across the county in many habitats, they are often affected by developments. A licence is required if badgers are likely to be disturbed as part of a development.

#### Birds

Have differing levels of protection depending on the species. They must not be disturbed during the nesting season from early spring through the summer. New developments can include enhancements for birds such as nesting sites and appropriate planting schemes. In winter birds can congregate in large numbers on agricultural grassland that has no designation and little semi-natural habitat.

Barn Owls There are barn owl records within your search area. Many of these records come from the Barn Owl Trust, and only have a four-figure grid reference. To get more detailed information on the location, and to find out more information on these records (e.g. if they are records of breeding barn owls) please contact the Barn Owl Trust on (01364) 653026 or e-mail info@barnowltrust.org.uk

#### Amphibians and Reptiles

Some amphibians and all reptiles have some protection. They are generally associated with semi-natural habitats and gardens. Hibernation sites are important in the winter months.

Great Crested Newt Consultation Zones Your site is/is not in a Great crested newt consultation zone. These are two kilometre buffers around existing and historical (post 1970) great crested newt records. You may need to carry out great crested newt survey if your site is within one of these zones. For more information please go to:

http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environmentplanning/naturalenvironment/wildlife.html

#### Invertebrates

Rare and protected insects and other invertebrates are generally associated with designated sites and seminatural habitats.

#### Flowering plants, fungi, lichens, liverworts, mosses, and stoneworts

Many species in these groups are protected but these are generally associated with designated sites and seminatural habitats so impacts can often be avoided by careful site selection.

#### Invasive species

Non-native invasive species such as **Japanese Knotweed**, **Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam** may be present and are likely to have a cost implication for developers since they may need to be removed from a site. Removal of invasive species could be carried out as an enhancement for biodiversity either on or off-site.

## Development control species within Harberton parish

	G N	[ a t to 37	TITE D	
	Common.Name	Scientific.Name	UK.Protection	International
1	a Bat	Chiropt era	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bonn II
2	a Bat	Myotis	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
3	a Long-eared Bat	Plecot us	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
4	a Noctule Bat	Nyctalus	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
5	a Pipistrelle Bat	Pipistrellus	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II
6	Barn Owl	Tyto alba	WCA 1, 9	Bern II
7	Brambling	Fringilla montifringilla	WCA 1	
8	Brown Long-eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
9	Common Lizard	Zootoca vivipara	WCA 5 (KIS); NERC 41	Bern III
10	Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II
11	Eurasian Badger	Meles meles	WCA 6, BA	Bern III
12	Eurasian Otter	Lutra lutra	WCA 5; NERC 41	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II
13	Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	WCA 1	
14	Grass Snake	Natrix helvetica	WCA 5 (KIS); NERC 41	Bern III
15	Greater Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus ferrumequinum	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
16	Japanese Knotweed	Fallopia japonica	WCA 9	
17	Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	WCA 1	
18	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
19	Lesser Noctule	Nyctalus leisleri	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
20	Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
21	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	WCA 1	, , ,
22	Peregrine	Falco peregrinus	WCA 1	Bern II
23	Redwing	Turdus iliacus	WCA 1	
24	Serotine	Eptesicus serotinus	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
25	Slow-worm	Anguis fragilis	WCA 5 (KIS); NERC 41	Bern III
26	Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II
27	Western Barbastelle	Barbast ella barbast ellus	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
28	Whiskered Bat	Myotis mystacinus	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
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## Other legally protected and notable species within Harberton parish

	Common.Name	Scientific.Name	UK.Protection	International
1	Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus		
2	Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus		Bern II
3	Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	WCA 5 (S); NERC 41	
4	Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	NERC 41	
5	Coal Tit	Periparus ater		Bern II
6	Common Gull	Larus canus		
7	Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	NERC 41	
8	Dipper	Cinclus cinclus		Bern II
9	Dunlin	Calidris alpina		Bern II
10	Dunnock	Prunella modularis		Bern II
11	European Eel	Anguilla anguilla	NERC 41	Bern II
12	Fallow Deer	Dama dama	DA	Bern III
13	Fritillary	Fritillaria meleagris	DA	Dein iii
$\frac{13}{14}$	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis		Bern II
15	Grayling	Hipparchia semele	NERC 41	Dein ii
		**	NEIC 41	
16	Great Green Bush Cricket	Tettigonia viridissima		D II
17	Great Tit	Parus major		Bern II
18	Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi		D II
19	Greenfinch	Chloris chloris		Bern II
20	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea		Bern II
21	Harvest Mouse	Micromys minutus	NERC 41	
22	Herring Gull	Larus argentatus		
23	Himalayan Balsam	Impatiens glandulifera	WCA 9	
$^{24}$	Jersey Tiger	Euplagia quadripunctaria		
25	$\operatorname{Kest}\operatorname{rel}$	Falco tinnunculus		Bern II
$^{26}$	Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	NERC 41	
27	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos minor		Bern II
28	Linnet	Linaria cannabina		Bern II
$^{29}$	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos		
30	Marsh Tit	Poecile palustris	NERC 41	Bern II
31	Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis		Bern II
32	Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus		
33	Nuthatch	Sitta europaea		Bern II
34	Palmate Newt	Lissotriton helveticus	WCA 5 (S)	Bern III
35	Primrose	Primula vulgaris		
36	Purple Hairstreak	Favonius quercus		
37	Robin	Erithacus rubecula		Bern II
38	Rook	Corvus frugilegus		Beili II
39	Round-Leaved Fluellen	Kickxia spuria		
40	Siskin	Spinus spinus		Bern II
41	Skylark	Alauda arvensis		Delli II
42	Snipe Song Thrush	Gallinago gallinago		
43	Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	NEDC 41	Down II
44	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	NERC 41	Bern II
45	Starling	Sturnus vulgaris		D 111
46	Stoat	Mustela erminea		Bern III
47	Stock Dove	Columba oenas		D 17
48	Swallow	Hirundo rustica		Bern II
49	Sweet-Briar	Rosa rubiginosa agg.		
50	Swift	Apus apus		
51	Tawny Owl	Strix aluco		Bern II
52	Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	NERC 41	
53	Violet Oil-beetle	Meloe violaceus	NERC 41	
54	Wall	Lasiommata megera	NERC 41	
55	Weasel	Mustela nivalis		Bern III
56	West European Hedgehog	Erinaceus europaeus	WCA 6; NERC 41	Bern III
57	Whitethroat	Sylvia communis		
58	Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus		
59	Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes		Bern II
60	Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	NERC 41	Bern II
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## Acronyms

#### NERC 41

NERC Act (2006) Section 41: Species listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). These are the species found in England which have been identified as requiring action under the UK BAP. All local authorities and other public authorities in England and Wales have a duty to promote and enhance biodiversity in all of their functions.

#### 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 (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.

#### $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}$

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.

#### 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 IIb: 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.

#### 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.

As well as incidental records and records from consultants, our data search includes data from: the Botanical Society for the British Isles (BSBI); British Dragonfly society; Butterfly Conservation; Cetacean recording network; Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society (only 2001, 2006 records at moment), Devon Mammal Group; Devon Reptile and Amphibian Group; Devon Moth group; Devon Wildlife Trust nature reserves; Environment Agency (fish and invertebrate records); Natural England (bat records); Seasearch and the MNCR database; Seawatch foundation. Please note we do not hold information for the Devon Bat Group (http://www.dbg.me.uk/) or Devon Invertebrate Forum. For more information on the species records we hold. See our website http://www.dbrc.org.uk/species-datasets/.

### Key principes to protect wildlife and geology in Neighbourhood Plans

These can be written into Development Policies in your plan

- Avoid both statutory and non-statutory designated sites
- Avoid non-designated areas which contain large or linked areas of semi-natural habitat
- Consider the potential **protected species implications** of sites before finalising plans-it is far better to scope these at the outset to prevent costly delays later
- Where sites contain patches of **semi-natural habitat** make sure these can be **retained and ideally linked** together as part of the intended end land use.
- Ensure there is potential to retain, restore and re-create **habitat linkages such as hedges** as part of developments
- Look for enhancement opportunities to create, expand, buffer and link semi-natural habitats on-site
- Consider the potential for **creating new semi-natural habitat off-site** if opportunities on-site are limited, this is known as 'biodiversity offsetting'. It may be possible to pool contributions from several developments.

An ecological consultant can help to interpret data from DBRC and give recommendations for your neighbourhood plan. You can find an Ecological consultant here: www.cieem.net/members-directory/search

The information within this report is provided for use within the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. The information contained within can be used for this sole purpose and should not be copied, republished or passed on to third parties without DBRCs consent