

Devon Aggregates & Biodiversity Project



Parish Biodiversity Audit

for

Uffculme



- Report produced by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC) - the DBRC is operated by the Devon Wildlife Trust and supported by a partnership of Local Authorities, statutory and non-statutory nature conservation organisations.
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Uffculme - 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 very largely on existing records held by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre. 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 Uffculme Parish in future years.

Introduction

Uffculme Parish is situated on the eastern edge of Devon near to the Somerset border, 14 miles south west of Taunton and is one of the largest in the county. The eastern part of the Parish lies within the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Deep in the heart of rural Devon much of the Parish is intensively managed pasture or arable land. This farming heritage has brought with it hedgerows, orchards, copses and ponds, all features of value to wildlife. Villages and hamlets in the Parish include Craddock, Bradfield, Ashill, Smithincott, Hayne and Stenhill with Uffculme itself being the main settlement, a market town.

The main feature of the Parish is the River Culm which runs through the north of the Parish from Five Fords to Bradfield. It is a wide, meandering river with a wide flood plain of flat meadows either side. The river splits in places and leats leading to various old mills as well as irrigation ditches also criss-cross the flood plain. The Culm has been the source of power in the past for the woollen industry as well as corn mills and as a source of water for paper mills. The Craddock Stream is another important water course which runs through the eastern part of the Parish and joins the River Culm at Five Fords. Around Bradfield in the west of the Parish water is again a major feature with ponds and fisheries offering plenty of habitat for wildlife. Otters, dippers, kingfishers, herons and bats have been recorded in association with these watery habitats.



Water from the River Culm drives the mill at Coldharbour.

Woodland is another key feature of the Parish and small pockets of it are scattered around, often on steeper ground. The highest point in the Parish is Hackpen Hill which rises to 250 m (800 ft) on the Blackdown Plateau. On its steepest slopes is woodland and on the flatter top it is heath with bracken and gorse being more common. This is one of two sites designated as a County Wildlife Site within the Parish and is designated as a 'complex of bracken slopes, scrub, wet secondary woodland and remnant heath'. Newcombe Errish Plantation, the other County Wildlife Site is the largest area of woodland in the Parish. This is mainly beech on very steep slopes and large blocks of conifers and is designated as 'secondary broadleaved woodland with small areas of marshy grassland'; it forms part of a much larger woodland complex beyond the Parish. When viewed from high ground the Parish is full of trees, many of which are growing in hedges as well as copses. This will make it a good landscape for bats and several species have been recorded here.

The Woodland Trust is active in the area and part of Newcombe Errish Plantation as well as Hunkin Wood are managed by them. The latter is a community woodland lying partly in the Parish at Five Fords. This is a Millennium Project and includes new woodland planting and wild flower meadows and is popular with local people.



Hunkin Wood Community Woodland

Gaddon Down is one of three commons in the Parish and is designated as a Local Wildlife Site for its secondary broadleaved woodland and remnant dry heath. This woodland is mainly plantation and in places birch is dominant, this may be the heath. Other commons are Uffculme Down and Hackpen Hill. On all these sites the decline of grazing has led to an increase in scrub and secondary woodland. The edge of Uffculme Down is a quarry which extracts sand and gravel.

A disused railway runs through the Parish, mainly along the Culm Valley. This railway was last in use in 1975. Parts of it are now footpath (e.g. between Coldharbour Mill and Uffculme Church). This provides a good corridor for wildlife and where access is allowed it provides good opportunities for walkers to enjoy wildlife.

Historic houses with associated parkland are also found in the Parish, Bradfield House, Bridwell House (the house is outside the Parish but some of the grounds are within it), Ayshford House, Grantlands and Craddock House; all a legacy of the wealthy past when the woollen industry was at its height. Each has grounds with mature trees and lakes.

Apart from those already mentioned above other species recorded in the Parish include pipistrelle, brown long-eared and greater horseshoe bats, otter, common frog, grass snake, slow worm, hedgehog, badger, stoat, reed bunting, brown hairstreak butterfly as well as bluebells and primroses at Gaddon Hill (see Appendix 1 for a full list of species recorded so far).

Designated Sites

Hackpen Hill County Wildlife Site

The designated area is the steeply-sloping crescent of woodland and heath around Hackpen Hill, the flatter area at the top of the hill (which is not part of the CWS)

being mainly improved pasture apart from an area named Hemyock Common which is outside the Parish boundary. When surveyed in 1991 it was becoming degraded by grazing and scrub invasion but areas of bracken with bluebells, scrub, wet woodland and small areas of heath were recorded. During the 2005 survey areas north of the road (running past Haydon Farm to Leigh Cross) were mainly birch, bracken and gorse. To the south of the road is semi-natural broadleaved woodland and broadleaved plantation including oak, hazel, ash, sweet chestnut and horse chestnut.

Links to Devon BAP:

Key habitats:

- oak woodland (DBAP/UKBAP)
- lowland heathland (DBAP/UKBAP)

Key species:

- Primrose (DBAP)



Hackpen Hill viewed from South Farm near Newcombe Errish Plantation.

Newcombe Errish Plantation County Wildlife Site

This narrow stretch of woodland south-west of South Farm and on the south-eastern boundary of the Parish it is important in the landscape as it occupies an elevated ridge. Owned and managed by the Woodland Trust the woodland lies on a steep northwest-facing slope levelling out to a gentle slope at its base. It lies within the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is also part of an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). To the south runs a quiet country lane, with fields adjoining the other boundaries.

A single linear path created in 1995 runs the entire length of the wood and there are two access points from the lane. Three blocks of conifers were planted in 1970 on the upper, drier slopes. At the bottom of the slope the canopy is dominated by mature beech, and as the slope levels out the ground becomes increasingly boggy due to a

spring line along the length of the wood. Here the wood has an open grassy feel, with mixed broadleaves regenerating over mosses and other plants characteristic of wet ground such as purple moor-grass and water mint. Badgers are very active throughout the wood in the sandy drier soils of the steeper slopes. Squirrels and deer also live here.

Future plans for the wood include thinning out and eventually removing the conifers allowing natural regeneration of broadleaved trees, as well as controlling non-native trees such as sycamore. Eventually the woodland will be managed with minimal intervention. The woodland adjoins extensive woodland beyond the Parish boundary including areas owned and managed by the Forestry Commission (e.g. Blackborough) and a car park is provided for walkers.

Links to Devon BAP:

Key habitats:

- oak woodland (DBAP/UKBAP)
- lowland heathland (DBAP/UKBAP)

Key species:

- Primrose (DBAP)

County Wildlife Sites (CWS) 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 regional or local biodiversity interest and are covered by Planning Policy Statement 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.

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.

Gaddon Down Local Wildlife Site

Designated as secondary broadleaved woodland and remnant dry heath Gaddon Down LWS covers 11.4 hectares. This site is a mixture of conifer plantation and mixed woodland with trees such as beech, sweet chestnut, sycamore, ash and oak. Some of the trees are mature. Signs of badgers were seen (foraging signs and well-worn paths) and bluebells and primroses were recorded here in 1993 when surveyed for designation. Across the road to the south woodland is establishing but here the dominant species is birch, this area was probably heath previously. Access to the area previously recorded as heathland (to the south of the road) was not accessible at the time of survey but in 1993 bell heather, western gorse, soft rush and ling heather were recorded. There is some public access adjacent to the wood but much of it is in private

ownership. A footpath links it to a nearby conifer plantation called Slow Jacks. Seems like a good opportunity to plant trees between the two to make a larger woodland or to expand the perimeter of the woodland. The heathland area will need management to maintain the habitat as it soon becomes over-run by scrub and trees but equally soon regenerates.



Trees on the lane at Gaddon Down

Links to Devon BAP:

Key habitats:

- oak woodland (DBAP/UKBAP)
- lowland heathland (DBAP/UKBAP)

Key species:

- Primrose (DBAP)

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are sites of significant wildlife interest within a local context that do not reach the criteria for County Wildlife Sites. They are not covered by PPG9, but may be included in Local Plans.

Other habitats (identified from field survey):

Species-rich hedges

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 the vertebrate 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. 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 (Bickmore, 2002).



Traditional hedges within the Parish

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.

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. Typical species found in the Parish were English oak, hazel, holly, ash, sycamore, spindle, field maple and hawthorn.

Hedgerows are often an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife and may support many animals and plants. Some of the hedgerows around Uffculme parish are actually quite species poor and probably date from the 1800s when new areas of land were enclosed for farmland. These are typically dominated by beech or hawthorn.

Species-rich hedges are listed on the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** as a habitat of conservation concern in Devon. Many of the hedges along the lanes of Uffculme would be classified as species-rich and some are really massive traditional hedges on banks, probably of Medieval origin. However, in many places they are over-managed and neatly trimmed. A characteristic of the Parish hedges seems to be to allow evenly-spaced trees, but these are also lopped giving a 'lollipop' look to them. It may be better to allow adjacent trees or bushes to grow up and not to cut branches on the trunks of the trees to soften the appearance. Many of the hedges also had a species-rich bank flora with species such as bluebells and primroses recorded. Hedges also provide sheltered corridors through areas of farmland and probably support a good variety of invertebrates.

Recreation areas and public open space

The playing fields in Uffculme at Maglake Hall (near the bridge at ST071125) are surrounded by hedgerows with trees but the grassland is improved and kept short for sports. There may be opportunities to fill in corners with tree planting or allow the margins next to the hedges to remain unmown and fertilised for wild flowers and insects to thrive.



Playing fields at Maglake Hall have little wildlife interest apart from the hedgerows and trees around the periphery.

A network of public footpaths are also found around the Parish but none seem to provide a circular route for walkers. A particularly popular one is along the old railway from Coldharbour Mill to Uffculme Church. Here benches are provided and some tree planting has been taking place. The walk follows the river and runs alongside fields.

Allotments and gardens

Gardens are a haven for wildlife and can provide links to other areas of wildlife habitat. Several species have been recorded from gardens in Uffculme parish including grass snake, slow worm, hedgehog, frog, badger and bats.

Roadside verges

Roadside verges often support flower-rich grassland, as well as a variety of semi-natural habitats including calcareous grassland, neutral grassland, acid grassland, heathland, open water (ditches), broadleaved woodland, scrub, hedgerows and walls. 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; approximately 14,000 km of roads, corresponding to about 2,000 ha of roadside verge. However, of this very large resource, the area which 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. DCC 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. Verges are limited in the Parish as most of the lanes are lined with traditional hedges.

Arable land

There are a number of rare arable weeds associated with spring cereals and winter stubble including cornflower, corn marigold, shepherd's-needle and weasel's-snout. Arable land in Britain has lost most of its arable plants over the last 50 years; several species have become extinct and there are many more that are now rare.

Changes in arable farming practice are thought to be responsible for the losses. Technology that allowed more effective seed-cleaning caused an initial decline, but herbicide development was catastrophic for many plants. Nowadays, arable plants are generally confined to the strip along the field edge, which provides a home to many animals, invertebrates and plants. Most arable fields in the Parish did not have field margins but were ploughed (and probably sprayed) right up to the hedges. Under the new Countryside Stewardship scheme local farmers could be encouraged to grow flower-rich margins in their fields.



Arable land in the Parish with little or no margin next to the hedges.

Veteran trees

Several veteran trees were noted in the Parish especially associated with the historic houses within the Parish (especially Bradfield House).

English Nature have 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 of more than:

- 1.0m are potentially interesting
- 1.5m are valuable in terms of conservation
- 2.00m are truly ancient.

Veteran trees will be at least as big as these measurements:

- 1 metre - Hawthorn, blackthorn
- 2.5 metres - Field maple, rowan, yew, birch, holly
- 3 metres - Oak, ash, scot's pine, alder
- 4.5 metres - Sycamore, limes, chestnuts, elms, poplars, beech, willows, pines, 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 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 tree creepers and woodpeckers feed on the insects living in the bark. Insects such as stag beetles and hornets are associated with old trees.

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 green lanes at Five Fords, Ashill and at Hackpen Barton all of which appear to have public access.

Pits, quarries & cuttings

Pits, quarries and cuttings are listed on the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** as habitats of conservation concern in Devon. The numerous working pits and quarries in Devon are used for the extraction of a variety of minerals and are of great importance to the local and national economy. The pits and quarries are also of importance for the varied wildlife they support. Uncommon species of bird such as the peregrine falcon and raven may use the quarry edges to nest, greater and lesser horseshoe bats next in cave-like quarries and reptiles such as common lizard and adder may be found basking in sunny areas in many quarries. Hill Head Quarry, in the north of the Parish has a variety of habitats and restoration of previously quarried areas are ongoing. Sand martins are of particular interest with a large colony nesting

there each year in the sandy cliff faces. The woodlands are also home to badgers, bluebells and primroses.

Parklands

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. The wealthy past of the Parish has meant that several historic houses are found within the Parish and they still have parkland associated with them to a greater or lesser degree. Houses include Bradfield House, Bridwell House (the house is outside the Parish but some of the grounds are within it), Ayshford House, Grantlands and Craddock House.



Parkland around Bradfield House

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, and 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 a grass sward rich in flowering plants. Dead and fallen limbs of trees are the habitat to a specialised invertebrate fauna 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, as well as providing the high densities of insects that bats rely on, especially high when grazing stock are present, their dung attracting swarms of insects.

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

Lowland heathland

Lowland heathland is characterised by the presence of plants such as heather, dwarf gorses, and cross-leaved heath and is generally found below 300 metres in altitude. Areas of good quality heathland should consist of an ericaceous layer of varying heights and structures, some areas of scattered trees and scrub, areas of bare ground, gorse, wet heaths, bogs and open water. The presence and numbers of characteristic birds, reptiles, invertebrates, vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens are important indicators of habitat quality.

There are very few areas of lowland heath left in the UK: over 90% of heaths have been lost, mostly in the last 50 years. Devon has lost some 70% of its heaths. Only a few areas remain such as the pebblebed heaths in the east of the county, coastal heaths, and heathland fragments in the Bovey Basin. Lowland heath is listed on the **UK Biodiversity Action Plan** and the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** as a habitat of conservation concern. Lowland heathland is a priority for nature conservation because it is a rare and threatened habitat. The remnants of heath on Gaddon Down and Hackpen Hill are in need of management, especially to clear away scrub, to enhance their quality.

Wet woodland

Wet woodland is a **UK Biodiversity Action Plan** habitat and is also listed on the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan**.

Wet woodland occurs on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils, usually with alder, birch and willows as the predominant tree species, but sometimes including ash, oak, pine and beech on the drier riparian areas. It is found on floodplains, as successional habitat on fens, mires and bogs, along streams and hillside flushes, and in peaty hollows. These woodlands occur on a range of soil types including nutrient-rich mineral and acid, nutrient-poor organic ones.

Wet woodland supports a rich lichen flora as well as a rich invertebrate flora. Such an abundance of insect food attracts a rich assemblage of breeding birds including the uncommon willow tit. Wet woodland may also provide lying up areas for otters and

suitable habitat for dormice. An area of Newcombe Errish Plantation, at the base of the slope is wet woodland as it lies on a spring line.

Orchards

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. For example, the Noble Chafer, *Gnorimus nobilis*, is a **UK Biodiversity Action Plan** priority beetle associated with old orchards.

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), nuthatches, treecreepers and tits may be seen on tree trunks and hollow branches. Fieldfares, starlings, redwings, thrushes, blackbirds and jays will be feeding on the fruit (on or off the tree). Orchards are also home to a number of declining bird species, including tree sparrow and 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 cowslips, daisies, 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. The Parish as several orchards and old maps show that they were previously much more widespread, possibly each farm had one. Orchards are still seen at Five Fords Farm, Craddock House, Leigh Court, Corks Farm, Northcott Farm, Rull Green Farm and other farms in the Parish.

Potential County Wildlife Sites

Devon Biodiversity Records Centre have identified 13 potential County Wildlife Sites in the Parish and further survey will be needed to clarify if these areas are of sufficient quality to be designated (access was not possible during this survey). Some of these sites will be areas of significant wildlife interest. These are also listed in Appendix 1 together with an associated map showing their locations:

- Home Farm (Grid Ref: ST085127) Area: 1.2 hectares - Broadleaved woodland
- Five Fords Farm West (Grid Ref: ST078135) Area: 0.8 hectares - Semi-improved neutral grassland
- Cedar Walk (Grid Ref: ST063128) Area: 1.8 hectares - Broadleaved woodland
- Southmoor Copse (Grid Ref: ST060099) Area: 7.4 hectares - Broadleaved woodland

- Croyle Cottage (Grid Ref: ST064097) Area: 1.6 hectares - Broadleaved woodland
- Newcombe Common (Grid Ref: ST105090) Area: 2.7 hectares - Broadleaved woodland
- Woody Park (Grid Ref: ST044104) Area: 1.5 hectares - Broadleaved woodland
- Woody Park East (Grid Ref: ST046104) Area: 2.9 hectares - Unimproved grassland
- Gaddon Farm (Grid Ref: ST068116) Area: 1.1 hectares - Broadleaved woodland
- Brook Farm (Grid Ref: ST061102) Area: 9.6 hectares - Broadleaved woodland
- The Rookery (Grid Ref: ST052101) Area: 2.8 hectares - Broadleaved woodland
- Slow Jacks (Grid Ref: ST076117) Area: 3.1 hectares - Broadleaved woodland
- Trickey's Farm (Grid Ref: ST120110) Area: 19.6 hectares - Broadleaved woodland, scrub & springline mire

In addition the following 8 sites were identified during survey as being potential County Wildlife Sites:

- Copse north of Leigh Cross and adjacent to Hemyock Common – broadleaved woodland of beech, oak and holly (ST120115).
- Ponds, stream and wetland habitats around Waterford and Upper Hayne Farm (ST113104)
- Ashill – possible remnant medieval strip fields with semi-improved grassland as well as ancient species-rich hedgerows (ST085110).
- Water meadows between Waterford (ST111105) and Rull House (ST100110).
- Orchards at Rull Green Farm (ST098111), Northcott Farm (ST094126), Corks Farm (ST074123) and Five Fords Farm (ST080135).
- Rushy meadow and orchard at Leigh Court/Leigh Court Farm (ST110111).
- Craddock House, historic house and home farm with ponds orchard, streams and meadows. (ST085122).
- Hunkin Wood (ST084136), owned and managed by the Woodland Trust. A community woodland on the edge of the Parish with lots of tree planting but also some unimproved species-rich grassland.

Species

Important Species

A report from the DBRC database showing what legally protected, locally notable or noteworthy (eg otter) species are known to have been present in and around Uffculme has been prepared and is presented separately (Appendix 1). Appendix 2 gives species noted during this survey.

Birds

Several species of birds were recorded during the survey including buzzard, grey heron, nuthatch, jackdaw, rook, mallard duck, pied wagtail and treecreeper.

Dipper, kingfisher and grey wagtail were reported by staff at Coldharbour Mill on the Culm.

Common species associated with farmland, waterways and woodlands will probably all be present within the Parish and further survey is needed.

Plants

Plant species noted on a visit on the 10th October 2005 are listed in Appendix 2.

Bluebells and primroses were recorded in hedgerows and woodlands. Heathland plants such as bell heather, ling, bracken, western and European gorse are also present in two or three sites (e.g. Hackpen Hill, Gaddon Down). Coralroot was recorded in 1988 in Uffculme, this is Nationally Scarce.

No Japanese knotweed was recorded in the Parish along the Culm but this does not mean it is not present. Himalayan balsam was recorded along the Culm at Uffculme.

Primrose:

The primrose 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.

Mammals

Several mammal species have been recorded from Uffculme parish. These include badger, deer (probably roe deer), otter, stoat brown long-eared bat, pipistrelle bat and greater horseshoe bat.

Greater horseshoe bat:

The greater horseshoe bat is listed on the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** as a species of conservation concern.

During this century the greater horseshoe bat has declined significantly throughout northern Europe. In the UK, this species is restricted to south-west England and south Wales, although vagrants may be recorded elsewhere. There are currently 35 recognised maternity and all-year roosts and 369 hibernation sites. Current estimates range between 4,000 and 6,600 individuals. In Devon it breeds in disused farm buildings and caves. The feeding habitat requirements of the greater horseshoe bat are permanent pasture (unimproved and semi-improved, preferably grazed by cattle), tall hedgerows with mature trees, mixed deciduous woodland, wetland and scrub.

The greater horseshoe bat is under threat from the loss, destruction and disturbance of roosting and hibernation sites and the loss of insect-rich feeding habitats and flyways.

The loss of feeding areas is often due to the loss of wetlands and hedgerows and the conversion of permanent pasture to arable.

Bats:

All species of British bat are protected under UK law 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.

The pipistrelle is Britain's smallest and most common bat. They vary in colour, but are usually medium to dark brown on the back and only slightly paler underneath. They are the most common species in towns. Only very recently have scientists recognised that two separate species have been confused under the name *P. pipistrellus*. Their flight appears fast and jerky as they dodge about pursuing small insects, which are caught and eaten in flight. A single pipistrelle may consume up to 3000 insects in a night.

Buildings are the most favoured roost sites 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.

Otters:

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. The main serious threat to otters today is from road kills, with many animals sadly reported dead each year.

The otter is listed on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan as a species of conservation concern. There are several records of otters using the River Culm.



River Culm is home to otters.

Dormouse:

The dormouse is listed on the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** as a species of Conservation concern in Devon. Although this species is not recorded so far in the Parish it does have a stronghold in Devon so it may be present as there is of suitable habitat for them in the form of hedgerows and woodlands.

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, indicates that dormice have probably declined in a similar fashion.

Invertebrates

No invertebrates were recorded during the survey due to the time of year however there are records of brown hairstreak butterfly and wood white, both of which are unusual. The extensive waterways and ponds in the Parish will be good for aquatic species especially dragonflies and damselflies and further survey during the summer months will reveal several species. Butterflies are also under-recorded.

Reptiles and Amphibians

No reptiles or amphibians were recorded during the survey due to the time of year and limited time to survey but slow worm, grass snake and common frog have all been recorded in the Parish. The extensive waterways and ponds in the Parish will be good

for other amphibians such as toads and newts and further survey should reveal several species.

The Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

The Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 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.
- Details of biodiversity planning in the South West region can be viewed at www.swbiodiversity.org.uk.
- National 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 wildlife of Uffculme and the Devon BAP:

| Uffculme wildlife feature | Brief description of feature | Link with the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Historic houses with parkland | Bradfield House, Craddock House, Bridwell House (the house is outside the Parish but some of the grounds are within it), Ayshford House, and Grantlands. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parkland and Wood Pasture Habitat Action Plan |
| Traditional hedges | Extensive network of traditional hedges. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species-rich Hedges Habitat Action Plan • Greater Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan • (Dormouse Species Action Plan) |
| Lowland heath | Remnants of heath on Gaddon Down and Hackpen Hill. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowland Heathland Habitat Action Plan |
| River Culm | Meandering river with a wide flood plain. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rivers, streams, floodplains and fluvial processes • Otter Species Action Plan |
| Woodlands and copses | Several small woodlands and copses scattered throughout the Parish. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak Woodland Habitat Action Plan • Greater Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan • Primrose Species Action Plan |

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

Some Ideas for Local Action...

This section of the report is provided by Devon County Council (contact: nature@devon.gov.uk).

A major step to 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 survey:

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 Uffculme might include a dormouse nut hunt in October to see if you have dormice in the parish or a survey of species rich hedgerows in the Parish where you identify the largest and most species-diverse. The last two actions would directly contribute to the **Dormouse Species Action Plan** and the **Species-rich Hedgerows Habitat Action Plan**.

Why not 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. It might also be possible to assess 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. For example, the Woodland Trust is active in the area with Hunkin Community Woodland and Newcombe Errish Plantation (also called South Plantation).

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. There seems to be a shortage of records for the Parish of butterflies, dragonflies, mammals and birds and these are often groups that are easily recognised by the public.

2 Influence the management of Public Open Space:

Creating areas of more species-rich grassland will help to reduce the isolation of the remaining fragments of traditionally managed agricultural land, contributing to the **Flower-rich Meadows and Pastures Action Plan**. Churchyards have often received less intensive management than the surrounding land and can provide good opportunities for wildlife.

Planting up areas that are currently of little wildlife interest with new copses of native trees and shrubs will also help to attract wildlife. Suitable sites might include unused areas of playing fields, for example.

3 Build relationships with local landowners:

Encourage the adoption of more wildlife-friendly land management. For example, hedges which are cut only every other year will provide an autumn and winter source of nuts and berries for birds and small mammals (and can save the landowner money in management costs). The improved management of hedgerows is a key objective of the **Species-rich Hedges 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 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 (generally, this is the Highways Agency for motorways and trunk roads, and Devon County Council for all other roads).

5 Wildlife gardening:

Green up your garden! Collectively the gardens of Uffculme represent a significant area that could be used to benefit wildlife. Large or small, you can turn your garden (or a part of it!) into a haven for wildlife. A very good source of information on wildlife gardening is the English Nature web site:

www.english-nature.org.uk/Nature_In_The_Garden

English Nature is the Government's adviser on nature conservation. Its web site also contains links to a number of other very useful sources of information.

6 Join local conservation organisations:

Examples of prominent local conservation organisations are the Devon Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust. These trusts have a number of Local Groups which, amongst other things, get involved in practical management work.

7 Japanese Knotweed:

Not something to cherish, but it can't be ignored! Luckily, Japanese Knotweed has not been recorded from Uffculme, however, because you have a major water course through the Parish it could be present but have gone un-noticed or could appear at any time (it spreads readily down rivers). 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 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

¹ DBRC, Shirehampton House, 35-37 St David's Hill, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4DA. Phone: 01392 273244; Fax: 01392 433221; E-mail: dbrc@devonwt.cix.co.uk

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.

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.btcvcd.org.uk
- Butterfly Conservation: www.butterfly-conservation.org
- Devon Bat Group: www.dbg.me.uk
- Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society: Secretary tel: 01837 53360
- Devon Mammal Group: www.devonmammalgroup.org
- Devon Wildlife Trust: www.devonwildlifetrust.org
- English Nature: www.english-nature.org.uk
- Plantlife: www.plantlife.org.uk
- RSPB: www.rspb.org.uk
- The Woodland Trust: www.woodland-trust.org.uk
- 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 is currently (June 2006) developing a Community Biodiversity Toolkit which will be available via the DCC web site (www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity). This toolkit will aim 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. In the meantime, you may find the following sources of funding useful.

Possible sources of funding:

A number of potential sources of funding are available for local biodiversity projects. Each has its own rules, criteria and objectives, and funding sources are sometimes only available for a limited period of time. However, the following may well be worth checking for suitability (not all will be applicable to your particular parish):

- Awards for All: National Lottery grants aimed at communities.
www.awardsforall.org.uk
- Biffawards: small grants for biodiversity projects within 10 miles of a Biffa operation (landfill). <http://www.biffaward.org/projects/smallgrants.php>
- British Dragonfly Society: grants of £250 for pond building.
<http://www.dragonflysoc.org.uk/>
- Breathing Places: grants available for the creation of community green spaces. Distributed by the Big Lottery Fund.
<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/programmes/breathingplaces/index.html>
- Countryside Trust Awards: 01242 521382 or www.countryside-trust.org
- Defra's Environmental Action Fund. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/eaf/>
- Defra: information about woodland grant schemes.
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/wgs/default.htm>
- Enriching Nature Programme (SITA Trust): for biodiversity projects within 10 miles of a landfill site. http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/nature/apply_nature
- Exmoor National Park: conservation grants for projects within the National Park.
http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/index/living_in/living_in_grants.htm
- Esmée Fairburn Foundation: grant-giving trust for environmental projects.
<http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/programmes/env.html>
- Forestry Commission: grants and sources of funding available for improving biodiversity. <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/hcou-4u4j28>
- Hanson Environmental Fund: if you live within 5 miles of a Hanson quarry.
<http://www.hansonenvfund.org/welcome.php>
- Heritage Lottery Fund: various grants for different types of community projects.
<http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/>
- Living Spaces: projects to enhance the environment of communities. 0845 600 3190 or www.living-spaces.org.uk.
- Local Heritage Initiative: 01226 719019 or www.lhi.org.uk.
- Tree Council: small grants for schools and communities for tree planting schemes.
<http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/>

If you are within Dartmoor or Exmoor National Parks, or within one of Devon's five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) it may also be worth exploring if your project is eligible for support through the **Sustainable Development Fund**.

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Websites:

www.woodland-trust.org.uk

www.devonwildlifetrust.org

Appendix 1 – Notable sites and species within Uffculme Parish.

| File Code | Site Name | Grid Ref. | Area (ha) | Description | Status |
|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|---------------|
| ST10/097 | Newcombe Errish Plantation | ST109089 | 13.9 | Secondary broadleaved woodland with small areas of marshy grassland | CWS |
| ST11/027 | Hackpen Hill | ST112124 | 51.0 | Complex of bracken slopes, scrub, wet secondary woodland & remnant heath | CWS |
| ST01/062 | Gaddon Down | ST070110 | 11.4 | Secondary broadleaved woodland & remnant dry heath | LWS |
| ST01/058 | Home Farm | ST085127 | 1.2 | Broadleaved woodland | pCWS |
| ST01/056 | Five Fords Farm West | ST078135 | 0.8 | Semi-improved neutral grassland | pCWS |
| ST01/054 | Cedar Walk | ST063128 | 1.8 | Broadleaved woodland | pCWS |
| ST00/023 | Southmoor Copse | ST060099 | 7.4 | Broadleaved woodland | pCWS |
| ST00/025 | Croyle Cottage | ST064097 | 1.6 | Broadleaved woodland | pCWS |
| ST10/095 | Newcombe Common | ST105090 | 2.7 | Broadleaved woodland | pCWS |
| ST01/049 | Woody Park | ST044104 | 1.5 | Broadleaved woodland | pCWS |
| ST01/050 | Woody Park East | ST046104 | 2.9 | Unimproved grassland | pCWS |
| ST01/061 | Gaddon Farm | ST068116 | 1.1 | Broadleaved woodland | pCWS |
| ST01/060 | Brook Farm | ST061102 | 9.6 | Broadleaved woodland | pCWS |
| ST01/059 | The Rookery | ST052101 | 2.8 | Broadleaved woodland | pCWS |
| ST01/063 | Slow Jacks | ST076117 | 3.1 | Broadleaved woodland | pCWS |
| ST11/028 | Trickey's Farm | ST120110 | 19.6 | Broadleaved woodland, scrub & springline mire | pCWS |
| Hunkin Wood | Uffculme, Culmstock | ST084136 | 5.97 | Woodland Trust Property | |
| Meadow Park | Willand | ST033105 | 1.11 | Woodland Trust Property | |
| Rhododendron Wood | Kentisbeare | ST094071 | 10.53 | Woodland Trust Property | |
| Silver Wood | Kentisbeare | ST063083 | 4.33 | Woodland Trust Property | |
| South Plantation | Sheldon | ST110090 | 12.18 | Woodland Trust Property | |

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

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC): these are notified by English Nature 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, all candidate SACs are, or will be notified as SSSIs. English Nature needs to be consulted before any operations likely to damage the special interest are undertaken. SAC 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 Guidance note nine (PPG9). 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.

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS): these are sites of significant wildlife interest within a local context that do not reach the criteria for County Wildlife Sites. They are not covered by PPG9, but may be included in Local Plans.

Potential County Wildlife Sites / Unconfirmed County Wildlife Sites (pCWS or Unc): these are sites identified as having possible interest but not fully surveyed. Some of these sites will be areas of significant wildlife interest.

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.

Notable Species within 1 kilometre of Uffculme Parish

| No. | Name | Latin Name | Location | Date | Grid Ref. | UK Protection | International Protection | Status |
|-----|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Badger | <i>Meles meles</i> | m5 | 2000 | ST030099 | WCA 6, BA | Bern III | |
| 2 | Otter | <i>Lutra lutra</i> | Willand, on the Cullompton Rd | 2003 | ST041103 | WCA 5 | EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II | UKBAP(P); DBAP |
| 3 | Badger | <i>Meles meles</i> | | 1999 | ST043093 | WCA 6, BA | Bern III | |
| 4 | Brown Hare | <i>Lepus europaeus</i> | Kingsford Farm, Kentisbeare | 2000 | ST048087 | | | UKBAP(P); DBAP |
| 5 | Otter | <i>Lutra lutra</i> | Kingsford Farm, Kentisbeare | 2000 | ST048087 | WCA 5 | EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II | UKBAP(P); DBAP |
| 6 | Badger | <i>Meles meles</i> | Craddock to Cullompton Rd | 2000 | ST0509 | WCA 6, BA | Bern III | |
| 7 | a bat | bat sp. | Bradfield, Cullompton | 1999 | ST051099 | WCA 5, 6 | EC IVa; Bonn II | |
| 8 | Brown Long-eared Bat | <i>Plecotus auritus</i> | Bradfield, Cullompton. | 1998 | ST051101 | WCA 5, 6 | EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II | |
| 9 | Pipistrelle | <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> | Bradfield, Cullompton. | 1992-1997 | ST055096 | WCA 5, 6 | EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II | UKBAP(P) |
| 10 | a bat | bat sp. | Uffculme, Cullompton. | 1996 | ST055113 | WCA 5, 6 | EC IVa; Bonn II | |
| 11 | Brown Long-eared Bat | <i>Plecotus auritus</i> | Bradfield, Willand, Cullompton. | 1998-2004 | ST056102 | WCA 5, 6 | EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II | |
| 12 | Greater Horseshoe Bat | <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> | Bradfield, Willand. | 2004 | ST056103 | WCA 5, 6 | EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II | UKBAP(P); DBAP |
| 13 | Pipistrelle | <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> | Bradfield, Willand. | 2004 | ST056103 | WCA 5, 6 | EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II | UKBAP(P) |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------|----------|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 14 | Otter | <i>Lutra lutra</i> | Smithincott | 1997-2004 | ST063119 | WCA 5 | EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II | UKBAP(P); DBAP |
| 15 | Common Frog | <i>Rana temporaria</i> | The Square, Uffculme. | 2002 | ST067127 | WCA 5(S) | EC Va; Bern III | |
| 16 | Grass Snake | <i>Natrix natrix</i> | Clay Lane, Uffculme | 2000 | ST067127 | WCA 5(KIS) | Bern III | |
| 17 | Hedgehog | <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i> | Clay Lane, Uffculme | 2001 | ST067127 | WCA 6 | Bern III | |
| 18 | Slow-worm | <i>Anguis fragilis</i> | Clay Lane, Uffculme | 2001 | ST067127 | WCA 5(KIS) | Bern III | |
| 19 | Badger | <i>Meles meles</i> | Uffculme | 1999 | ST068096 | WCA 6, BA | Bern III | |
| 20 | Common Frog | <i>Rana temporaria</i> | Bridge St. Uffculme | 2002 | ST068126 | WCA 5(S) | EC Va; Bern III | |
| 21 | Common Frog | <i>Rana temporaria</i> | Ashleigh Rd, Uffculme | 2002 | ST068127 | WCA 5(S) | EC Va; Bern III | |
| 22 | a bat | bat sp. | Ashley Road, Uffculme | 1996 | ST069130 | WCA 5, 6 | EC IVa; Bonn II | |
| 23 | Bluebell | <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> | Gaddon Down | 1993 | ST070110 | WCA 8 (S) | | |
| 24 | Primrose | <i>Primula vulgaris</i> | Gaddon Down | 1993 | ST070110 | | | DBAP |
| 25 | Brown Long-eared Bat | <i>Plecotus auritus</i> | Hill Street, Uffculme, | 1998 | ST070128 | WCA 5, 6 | EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II | |
| 26 | Badger | <i>Meles meles</i> | Minor road, 1 mile from Kentisbeare | 1999 | ST071091 | WCA 6, BA | Bern III | |
| 27 | Stoat | <i>Mustela erminea</i> | Uffculme | 2002 | ST071127 | | Bern III | |
| 28 | Coralroot | <i>Cardamine bulbifera</i> | Uffcombe, | 1988 | ST074126 | | | NS; DN1 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---------------------------|---|-----------|----------|-----------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 29 | Otter | Lutra lutra | River Culm near, Uffculme | 2002-2003 | ST077134 | WCA 5 | EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II | UKBAP(P); DBAP |
| 30 | Reed Bunting | Emberiza schoeniclus | Five Fords Fen | 1988 | ST081138 | | | UKBAP(P); Red |
| 31 | Otter | Lutra lutra | On the River Culm between Culmstock and Uffculme. | 2003 | ST082135 | WCA 5 | EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II | UKBAP(P); DBAP |
| 32 | Badger | Meles meles | Minor road near to Craddock | 1999 | ST085122 | WCA 6, BA | Bern III | |
| 33 | Common Frog | Rana temporaria | Ashill, near Cullompton. | 1999-2001 | ST088112 | WCA 5(S) | EC Va; Bern III | |
| 34 | Otter | Lutra lutra | River Culm between Culmstock and Uffculme. | 2003 | ST091136 | WCA 5 | EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II | UKBAP(P); DBAP |
| 35 | Badger | Meles meles | Culmstock. | 2001 | ST092132 | WCA 6, BA | Bern III | |
| 36 | Brown Long-eared Bat | Plecotus auritus | Blackborough. | 2004 | ST093087 | WCA 5, 6 | EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II | |
| 37 | Otter | Lutra lutra | River Culm | 2003 | ST095136 | WCA 5 | EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II | UKBAP(P); DBAP |
| 38 | Otter | Lutra lutra | Cullompton | 2002 | ST101111 | WCA 5 | EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II | UKBAP(P); DBAP |
| 39 | Brown Long-eared Bat | Plecotus auritus | Culmstock | 2003 | ST102135 | WCA 5, 6 | EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II | |
| 40 | Otter | Lutra lutra | Culmstock | 2001 | ST102135 | WCA 5 | EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II | UKBAP(P); DBAP |
| 41 | Pipistrelle | Pipistrellus pipistrellus | The Cleeve, Culmstock | 2003 | ST102135 | WCA 5, 6 | EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II | UKBAP(P) |
| 42 | Kingfisher | Alcedo atthis | Culmstock | 2003 | ST103135 | WCA 1 | | Amber |
| 43 | Badger | Meles meles | Blackdowns | 2002 | ST106076 | WCA 6, BA | Bern III | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------|------------------|---|------|----------|-----------|----------|------|
| 44 | Primrose | Primula vulgaris | Newcombe | 1992 | ST106090 | | | DBAP |
| 45 | Primrose | Primula vulgaris | South farm wood, Newcombe Errish Plantation | 1993 | ST109089 | | | DBAP |
| 46 | Badger | Meles meles | Between Blackborough and Sheldon | 2000 | ST114094 | WCA 6, BA | Bern III | |
| 47 | Wood White | Leptidea sinapis | Woodgate | 1990 | ST0814 | WCA 5 (S) | | Nb |
| 48 | Brown Hairstreak | Thecla betulae | Uffculme | 1995 | ST091112 | WCA 5 (S) | | Nb |

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 6 **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 6:** animals (other than birds) which may not be killed or taken by certain methods

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.

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

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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). |
| 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. |
| Decline | Substantial local decline in Devon |
| 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. |

- 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.
- Nb** **Nationally Notable B:** recorded from 30-100 10km squares in Great Britain since 1980
- NS** **Nationally Scarce:** 15-100 10km squares in Atlas of British Flora 1962.
- Devon Notable Species:** Selected species recorded from over 50 2km squares 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

Appendix 2 – Species list recorded during field visit

Species list for Uffculme Parish, recorded during the field survey on 10th October 2005 (some birds were observed by staff at Coldharbour Mill).

| Common name | Scientific name |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Alder | <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> |
| Ash | <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> |
| Aspen | <i>Populus tremula</i> |
| Beech | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> |
| Black Knapweed | <i>Centaurea nigra</i> |
| Black Poplar | <i>Populus nigra ssp betulifolia</i> |
| Blackthorn | <i>Prunus spinosa</i> |
| Bluebell | <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> |
| Bracken | <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> |
| Dogwood | <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> |
| Downy Birch | <i>Betula pubescens</i> |
| English Oak | <i>Quercus robur</i> |
| European Gorse | <i>Ulex europaeus</i> |
| Field Maple | <i>Acer campestre</i> |
| Guelder Rose | <i>Viburnum opulus</i> |
| Hard Rush | <i>Juncus inflexus</i> |
| Hawthorn | <i>Crateagus monogyna</i> |
| Hazel | <i>Corylus avellana</i> |
| Himalayan Balsam | <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> |
| Holly | <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> |
| Horse Chestnut | <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> |
| Ivy | <i>Hedera helix</i> |
| Pignut | <i>Conopodium majus</i> |
| Poplar | <i>Populus sp</i> |
| Primrose | <i>Primula vulgaris</i> |
| Scots Pine | <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> |
| Silver Birch | <i>Betula pendula</i> |
| Spindle | <i>Euonymus europaeus</i> |
| Sweet Chestnut | <i>Castanea sativa</i> |
| Sycamore | <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> |
| Wavy Hair-grass | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> |
| Willow sp. | <i>Salix sp</i> |
| | |
| | |
| <u>Birds</u> | |
| Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> |
| Dipper | <i>Cinclus cinclus</i> |
| Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> |
| Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> |
| Jackdaw | <i>Corvus monedula</i> |
| Kingfisher | <i>Alcedo atthis</i> |
| Mallard Duck | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> |

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Pied Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i> |
| Rook | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> |
| Treecreeper | <i>Certhia familiaris</i> |
| | |
| <u>Mammals</u> | |
| Badger | <i>Meles meles</i> |
| | |