

Parish Biodiversity Audit

for

CULMSTOCK



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Culmstock 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 (DBRC). 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 Culmstock parish in future years.

Did you know...?

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 places the following biodiversity duty on all public bodies:

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

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

The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has issued guidance for local authorities on implementing this biodiversity duty. It can be downloaded from Defra's website:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/la-guid-english.pdf

This audit and the ideas it may stimulate may help the Parish Council to fulfil this biodiversity duty.

Introduction

Culmstock parish lies at the northwest extremity of the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in Mid Devon District, to the west of Hemyock. The parish is bisected by the River Culm in the south, by the M5 motorway in the north, as well as by the AONB boundary which embraces the high ground of Culmstock Beacon, at 250m above sea level, and Blackdown Common from which spectacularly wide views can be had.

With a population of about 620, the village supports a shop and a pub as well as the church which is noted for its yew tree growing from the tower. The parish has two Sites of Special Scientific Interest: Maiden Down and Blackdown and Sampford Commons. The latter includes Culmstock Beacon, with its beacon hut, that was part of a chain of Elizabethan beacons built to warn of Spanish invasion. In addition, Culmstock has four County Wildlife Sites (CWS), four Unconfirmed Wildlife Sites (UWS) and one other site of wildlife interest (as OSWI in Appendix 1) which is Hillmoor Common Local Natural Reserve.

The landscape of the Blackdowns as a whole has been moulded both by its land use and by its geological history one characteristic of which is the area's dissected plateaux of Upper Greensand from which Whetstones, for sharpening scythes and sickles mined in the 18th and 19th centuries. These plateaux typically support heathland which was the basis for designation of both SSSI in Culmstock parish, for lowland heathland is recognised as a national priority in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (page 15).

Other important habitats found in the designated sites within Culmstock parish are purple moor-grass and rush pasture, ancient semi-natural woodland, and wet woodland including willow carr, the latter a reflection of the existence of a spring-line beneath the greensand.

Notable sites for biodiversity, and notable species as defined by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC), are summarised in Appendices 1 and 2. The species list includes those cited in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) as well as those given in the Devon BAP. What follows, under Designated Sites, is summarized from survey records held by the DBRC. Some of these surveys were conducted some years ago and validation of both habitats and species mentioned would be useful.

Designated Sites

Many designated sites are on private land. The inclusion of a site in no way implies any right to public access.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

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

Blackdown and Sampford Commons Site of Special Scientific Interest

Blackdown and Sampford Commons SSSI straddles the Devon/Somerset county borders and occupies just over 155 hectares. Most of the site lies in Culmstock parish; only a small block to the east near Culm Davey is in Hemyock parish. The site was notified as a SSSI in 1981 principally because it was seen to be “the finest and most extensive surviving example of ... heathland, carr woodland and marshy grassland habitats that have developed on the acid soils..... of the Blackdown Hills”. It remains so. The dry heathland supports a typical invertebrate fauna including a wide variety of butterflies such as grayling and small heath, and moths that include the emperor. Spiders are notably abundant. The site is regionally important for heathland birds: snipe and jack snipe are winter visitors whereas nightjar, curlew and Dartford warbler breed here, now possibly the only extant site in the Blackdowns.

There is a large area of unimproved, acid marshy grassland on the lower slopes where drainage is impeded, an area dominated by tussocks of purple moor-grass, cross-leaved heath and bog-mosses. Here are found two species of the carnivorous sundew, pale butterwort, bog asphodel, bog pimpernel, lousewort, lesser skullcap, marsh St. John’s-wort, creeping willow, common cotton grass and early marsh-orchid, the latter more abundant than anywhere else in the Blackdowns or, indeed, in Devon.

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Lowland heathland (Devon and UK BAP)
- Purple moor-grass and rush pastures (UK BAP)
- Rhos pasture (Devon BAP)

Key species:

- Dartford warbler (UK BAP)
- Nightjar (Devon and UK BAP)
- Curlew (Devon BAP)
- Linnet (UK BAP)
- Green hairstreak (Declining)
- Grayling (UK BAP)
- Small heath (UK BAP)
- Early marsh-orchid (Devon Notable)
- Oblong-leaved sundew (Devon Notable)
- Heath pearlwort (Devon Notable)
- Orpine (Devon Notable)

Maiden Down Site of Special Scientific Interest

Maiden Down SSSI occupies a block of just under 40ha at the north-west corner of Culmstock parish, just outside the boundary of the Blackdown Hills AONB. The site was notified in 1990 on the basis of its lowland heath communities of plant and animal including a rich invertebrate fauna. There are historical records of the silver-studded blue, up to at least 1984, as well as marsh fritillary and small pearl-bordered fritillary. Among important plant species once found here is the rare and nationally declining marsh clubmoss and oblong-leaved sundew. None of these have been reported in recent years, though round-leaved sundew, lousewort, common centaury, allseed and wood small-reed were recorded in 2001.

Maiden Down is used for exercising race-horses. There may not have been much attention given to the site's conservational value in recent years and its condition is probably poor. Validating the existence of the key species would be very useful.

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Lowland heathland (Devon and UK BAP)

Key species:

- Silver-studded blue (Devon and UK BAP)
- Marsh fritillary (Devon and UK BAP)

- Small pearl-bordered fritillary (UK BAP)
- Grayling (UK BAP)
- Marsh clubmoss (Devon Notable and UK BAP)
- Oblong-leaved sundew (Devon Notable)
- Allseed (Devon Notable)
- Wood small-reed (Devon Notable)

County Wildlife Sites

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.

Lane End Farm County Wildlife Site

This is a small site of less than 2ha that lies in a poorly drained valley bottom of the Westford Stream, a tributary of the River Tone some 2km north of Culmstock village, and north of the M5. Lane End Farm CWS was an unmanaged mosaic of essentially three habitats when the site was surveyed in 1993. The site comprised an area of alder carr; some marshy grassland dominated by sharp-flowered rush and marsh bedstraw; and some tall herb vegetation of meadow-sweet, fleabane, ragged robin, angelica, marsh bedstraw and Yorkshire fog. Invertebrates were frequent as was bird-song.

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key Habitat:

- Wet woodland (UK BAP)
- Alder/willow wet woodland (Devon BAP)

Five Fords Fen County Wildlife Site

Five Fords Fen is a small CWS of 2.8ha lying in a shallow valley of a tributary of the River Culm west of Culmstock village. In a survey in 1988, the fen was dominated by a mixture of sharp-flowered rush and tussock sedge, with meadowsweet, water mint, greater bird's-foot trefoil, ragged robin, figwort and bedstraw as associates. A reed bunting was heard singing. An otter was recorded here in 2005.

The site was brought under a Countryside Stewardship Agreement.

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Lowland meadows (UK BAP)

Key species:

- Almond willow (Devon Notable)
- Primrose (Devon BAP)
- Reed bunting (UK BAP)
- Otter (UK BAP)

Greyborough Copses County Wildlife Site

This site in 1993 was found to be a small remnant of ancient semi-natural woodland on the Devon-Somerset border immediately to the west of Blackdown and Sampford Commons SSSI. Much of the site had been converted recently to a sown clover ley and almost all surrounding land was improved grassland.

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)

Hackpen Hill County Wildlife Site

Hackpen Hill CWS is a large area of 51ha from which fine, wide views are possible, especially across to Culmstock Beacon. Whereas the north-easterly part of the Hill, including Owleycombe Common, lies within Hemyock parish, the rest of the site is in either Culmstock or Uffculme parishes.

A survey conducted in 1991 recognized that Hackpen Hill was a complex of bracken slopes, scrub, wet secondary woodland and remnant heathland. One area to the west was found to be severely poached by cattle but, overall, the

site seemed neglected and degraded, badly in need of some management; the biological interest was seen as very limited. A small patch of remnant heath, at about ST 111121, was dominated by common gorse overlying ling, bell heather and bilberry, an area in dire need of management to control scrub encroachment. A nice small spring-line flush was found in the south of the site, with common spotted orchid, ragged robin, sharp-flowered rush and, surprisingly, brown sedge which is a Devon Notable species in what must now be among its most south westerly stations in Britain, if it still persists.

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Lowland heathland (Devon and UK BAP)

Key species:

- Brown sedge (Devon Notable)

Other designations and regional classifications

Ancient Woodland

Ancient Woodland is a term applied to woodlands which have existed at least since 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 is a remnant of ancient woodland at Greyborough Copses CWS.

Hillmoor Common Local Wildlife Site

Hillmoor Common is owned largely by Culmstock Parish Council; a small portion is owned privately. The site which occupies about 6 acres is open access land. It lies to the east of Cumlstock village, south of the road to Hemyock.

A management plan for the reserve was drawn up in July 1996 at a time when the former damp grassland was becoming scrubbed up, with remnants of a grassland flora confined to the margins of the site. Now, virtually the whole area is dominated by willow carr, with some hazel and only occasional downy

birch, ash and pedunculate oak. Southern marsh orchid, twayblade, fleabane and ragged robin have been recorded here. Paths have been maintained through the reserve, though rather narrower than the rides advocated in the management plan. There is a small pond that probably attracts a good range of invertebrates in the summer.

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Alder/Willow wet woodland (Devon BAP)

Key species:

- Brown hare (Devon & UK BAP)
- Songthrush (UK BAP)

Other habitats

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).

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.

Sunken lanes between high hedgebanks are features of the Blackdown Hills and many hedges are at least Medieval in origin, enclosing small irregular fields. Not only do ancient hedges consist of many species of native woody plant but often also support abundant hedgerow herbs typical among which is the primrose. One such sunken lane is Great Lane that runs southward from Hillmoor, to the west of Hillmoor Common. This green lane is rich in ferns, with hart's-tongue, polypody and soft shield fern, and lesser periwinkle and wall pennywort are abundant in the hedgebanks, beneath several veteran oak pollards.

The species richness of the hedgebanks in Culmstock parish has been confirmed by Ian Clarke, currently Vice-Chairman of Culmstock Parish Council, who has done counts of the number of woody species per unit length of hedge. He finds that the hedgerows on the valley slopes are especially rich, and almost certainly ancient. Interestingly, Ian has found the wild service-tree as a component of a hedge in Culmstock.

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Species-rich hedge (Devon & UK BAP)

Key species:

- Wild service-tree (Devon Notable)

Cemeteries/ churchyard

Stone walls, tomb stones and churches can prove rich in diversity of lichens and some species appear to be exclusive to churches. Over 150 lichens, including species from yew and other trees, have been recorded from some churches and churchyards. Details are given by Barbara Benfield in the Lichen Flora of Devon, the richest county for lichens in England.

A striking feature of Culmstock church is the yew tree growing in the tower, said to be 200 years old.

Recreation areas and public open space

Culmstock parish has a range of open spaces in addition to a network of public footpaths and bridleways. Among the former is Culmstock Beacon and much of Blackdown Common. The parish also owns Hillmoor Common, part of Hackpen Hill (shared also with Hemyock and Uffculme parishes), and the meadow opposite The Strand in the village. Together, these areas constitute one Site of Special Scientific Interest, one County Wildlife Site and one Local Wildlife Site/Nature Reserve.

Water's edge : The River Culm

The River Culm is one of the three great rivers of the Blackdowns; it flows west through the southerly part of the parish. Otters, dippers, kingfishers, and little egret are seen on the Culm occasionally. Fortunately, Himalayan balsam is not yet seen as a major problem in Culmstock, though it certainly is so elsewhere within the AONB.

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitats:

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

- Rivers (UK BAP)

Potential County Wildlife Sites

There are 5 potential, Unconfirmed County Wildlife Sites (UWS) in Culmstock parish. These are sites identified as having possible interest but not fully surveyed; some will be areas of significant wildlife interest. They are listed in Appendix 1.

Species

Important Species

Appendix 2 presents a list of species which are legally protected, unwelcome invasives (e.g. Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam) or Devon Notable ones that have been reported in and around Culmstock parish.

Birds

Among birds recorded from Culmstock parish, reed bunting, linnet, song thrush and nightjar are UK BAP species, and Dartford warbler, curlew and nightjar are Devon BAP species.

Plants

Of the plants recorded, marsh clubmoss which was once known on Maiden Down, is a UK BAP species. In Britain, marsh clubmoss is classified as “nationally scarce”. It receives general protection under the Wildlife and Countryside ACT 1981, and special protection under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985. Habitat loss, drainage and cessation of traditional management practices of wet heathland are among the factors causing decline.

Devon Notable plant species in the parish are the following: almond willow, spurge-laurel, orpine, heath pearlwort, oblong-leaved sundew, early marsh orchid, allseed and wood small-reed. Primrose is a Devon BAP species; the unwelcome Japanese knotweed is also established in a few places.

Mammals

The otter and dormouse (Appendix 2) are both Devon and UK BAP species; the pipistrelle bat is a UK BAP species.

Formerly widespread throughout the UK, otters declined rapidly, and the species was effectively lost from the Midlands and south-eastern England by the 1980s. Populations hung on in the north and west including south-west England, and there is evidence of some recovery in former habitats. Devon has an internationally important population, and otters are now back in most rivers, streams and wetlands throughout the county.

The dormouse is a species of conservation concern in Devon. Though the species has declined nationally and has become extinct in some areas, Devon as a whole, and probably the Blackdowns in particular, are strongholds for the dormouse.

Invertebrates

There is a recent record of the freshwater white-clawed crayfish from the Culm within the parish; this is both a Devon and UK BAP species.

Most records held by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre concern butterflies (Appendix 2). BAP species recorded from Maiden Down include silver-studded blue, marsh fritillary and small pearl-bordered fritillary but it is probable that these are now extinct. Grayling and small heath, both UK BAP species, do occur on Blackdown Common where green hairstreak and emperor moth also can be found.

Reptiles and Amphibians

An unidentified newt, common frog and adder are the only records (Appendix 2). The common or viviparous lizard, grass snake, common toad and several species of newt are seen elsewhere in the Blackdowns and it seems probable that these species occur also in Culmstock. More recording seems warranted.

The Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

The Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) describes the key actions needed to look after 40 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 BAP¹ 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.
- Detailed national Action Plans can be viewed at www.ukbap.org.uk. This site also contains useful background information on UK biodiversity action planning. The list of UK priority habitats and species was revised in 2008 and, following political devolution, a separate list of priority BAP habitats and species has been produced in England. These are known as 'habitats and species of principal importance in England'. The lists can be viewed here:
www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habitatsandspeciesimportance.aspx

Where they have been produced, national objectives and targets for these features can be seen on the Biodiversity Action Reporting System web site: www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/outcomes/targets.asp

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¹ In fact, it integrates wildlife and geological conservation in one document and is now officially known as the Devon Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan (still commonly referred to as the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan and always abbreviated to the Devon BAP).

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Some Ideas for Local Action...

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.

One example of survey work that might usefully be undertaken would be to produce a hedgerow appraisal for your local area, building on the work already done by Ian Clarke (see 'Species-rich hedges' section). 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 other agencies active in the area. Specific suggestions for survey work in Culmstock might include recording the occurrence of breeding curlew, Dartford warblers or nightjars on Blackdown Common, or plant species surveys of Maiden Down (see pages 6-7) where habitat loss may have led to local extinctions. Such studies would contribute directly to the relevant action plans, including the UK Biodiversity Action Plans for Nightjar and for marsh clubmoss.

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.

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.

Culmstock is richly endowed with lowland heathland, the conservation of which is a high priority at both the county and national levels. The establishment of a parish group committed to work on the Culmstock Commons could seek support for training in swaling, or perhaps the erection of nest boxes or a bird hide on Hillmoor Common.

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 Culmstock 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 Natural England web site:

www.naturalengland.org.uk/advice/wildlifegardening/

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

The Devon Wildlife Trust is another good source of information:

www.devonwildlifetrust.org/wildlife-gardening/

6 Join local conservation organisations:

One example of a prominent local conservation organisation is the Devon Wildlife Trust. DWT has a number of Local Groups and volunteer opportunities:

www.devonwildlifetrust.org/get-involved/

7 Japanese Knotweed:

Not something to cherish, but it can't be ignored! Unfortunately, Japanese Knotweed is present in several locations in Culmstock. 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

Centre³. 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 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/knotweed



³ dbrc@devonwildlifetrust.org

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.

Blackdown Hills AONB: www.blackdown-hills.net.

Botany Section, Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature and the Artes: www.devonassoc.org.uk

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

British Dragonfly Society: www.dragonflysoc.org.uk

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

Devon Bat Group: www.dbg.me.uk

Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society: www.devonbirds.org

Devon Fungus Group: www.ex.ac.uk/devonfungusgroup

Devon Mammal Group: www.devonmammalgroup.org

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

Natural England: www.naturalengland.org.uk/
(Tel: 01392 889770)

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

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

RSPB: www.rspb.org.uk

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

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

In addition, Devon County Council has produced a Community Wildlife Toolkit which is available via the DCC web site (www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity). This toolkit aims to provide practical advice on management to encourage wildlife and, in particular, provides 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 provides guidance on seeking funding for project work.

Possible sources of funding:

Please note that funding sources change quite frequently and are often short lived. IT is worth exploring widely what may be available. However, the sources listed below should provide a good starting point.

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

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

Major sources of funding

Environmental Stewardship – whole farm agri-environment scheme funding.

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

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

www.sitatrust.org.uk

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

www.grantscape.org.uk/home

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

www.tubney.org.uk

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

www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

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

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

Possible funding for smaller projects

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

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

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

AONB Sustainable Development Funds -

- Blackdown Hills
- East Devon
- North Devon
- South Devon
- Tamar Valley

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

www.biffaward.org/projects/smallgrants.php

BBC Breathing Places – currently only available for projects that have received Breathing Places funding already. Grants of £1000 to £5000 available.

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_breathingplaces

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

www.sitatrust.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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Websites:

www.woodland-trust.org.uk

www.devonwildlifetrust.org

Acknowledgements

Ian Clarke, Vice Chairman, Culmstock Parish Council.

Appendix 1 - Statutory & non-statutory sites within Culmstock parish (2009) Eng no. 4675

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status
ST01/040	Maiden Down	ST087160	39.5	Lowland dry and wet heath supporting a rich invertebrate fauna	SSSI
ST11/008	Black Down and Sampford Commons	ST115165	156.1	Lowland dry heath with small carr woodlands & unimproved marshy grassland	SSSI
ST01/042	Lane End Farm	ST097171	1.7	Unimproved marshy grassland & wet secondary broadleaved woodland	CWS
ST01/057	Five Fords Fen	ST081138	2.8	Unimproved marshy grassland	CWS
ST11/005	Greyborough Copses	ST112170	2.7	Ancient semi-natural woodland	CWS
ST11/027	Hackpen Hill	ST112124	51	Complex of bracken slopes, scrub, wet secondary woodland & remnant heath	CWS
ST11/026	Hillmoor Common	ST110133	4.5	Secondary woodland & unimproved marshy grassland	OSWI
ST11/006	Nicholashayne Farm	ST105164	0.9	Broadleaved woodland	UWS
ST01/041	Alder Grove	ST094165	3.4	Broadleaved woodland	UWS
ST11/007	Purchas Farm Wood	ST106156	0.7	Broadleaved woodland	UWS
ST11/066	Burgesses Wood	ST110163	0.8	Broadleaved woodland	UWS
ST11/067	Blackdown	ST111161	2.3	Probable dry heath	UWS

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

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

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

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

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.

Appendix 2 - Legally protected & notable species within Culmstock parish (2009) Enq no 4675

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	Data source	UK protection	International protection
1	Almond Willow	Salix triandra	Five Fords Fen	1988	ST081138			DN1
2	Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Five Fords Fen	1988	ST081138			DBAP
3	Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	Five Fords Fen	1988	ST081138	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Amber
4	Otter	Lutra lutra	Five Fords	2005	ST083136	WCA 5; NERC 41	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
5	Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi	MAIDEN DOWN	1992-1994	ST085158			Decline
6	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus		1992	ST085158	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
7	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria selene	MAIDEN DOWN	1992-1994	ST085158	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Decline
8	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus		1994	ST085159	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
9	Otter	Lutra lutra	River Culm between Culmstock and Uffculme.	2003	ST091136	WCA 5; NERC 41	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II	UKBAP (P); DBAP

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	Data source	UK protection	International protection
10	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	Silver Street Farm, Prescott, near Culmstock.	2003	ST091144			Amber
11	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	Silver Street Farm, Prescott, near Culmstock.	2003	ST091144	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Red
12	Badger	Meles meles	Between Appledore and Woodgate	2000	ST091151	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
13	Grayling	Hipparchia semele	MAIDEN DOWN	1994	ST0916	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
14	Badger	Meles meles	Culmstock.	2001	ST092132	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
15	Otter	Lutra lutra	River Culm between Culmstock and Uffculme.	2003	ST095136	WCA 5; NERC 41	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
16	Freshwater Crayfish	Austropotamobius pallipes	River Culm, Culmstock	1990	ST10001375	WCA 5 (TS); NERC 41	EC IIa, Va; Bern III	UKBAP (P); DBAP; Vul (C&W87)
17	Common Frog	Rana temporaria	Sheiling, Silver St, Culmstock	2002	ST100135	WCA 5 (S)	EC Va; Bern III	
18	Japanese Knotweed	Fallopia japonica	Culmstock. On road near crossroads going towards Blackborough and Dunkeswell. On the left hand side.	2004-2008	ST101133	WCA 9		

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	Data source	UK protection	International protection
19	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	The Strand, Culmstock. On the River Culm heading downstream.	2003	ST101136	WCA 5; NERC 41	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
20	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Culmstock bridge.	2003	ST101137			Amber
21	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Culmstock Bridge.	2003	ST101137	WCA 5; NERC 41	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
22	a Bat	Chiroptera	Venn Woods, Culmstock, Cullompton. [Vennwood's on map)	1990	ST101139	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bonn II	
23	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Great Close, Culmstock. In a garden.	2003	ST101140	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Red
24	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	North of Culmstock village.	2003	ST101140			Amber
25	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		1991	ST1014	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
26	Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	WOODGATE LANE, CULMSTK.BN	1991	ST1014	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
27	Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Culmstock. On left hand side of road in a small copse at entrance to Tinkers Farm.	2003	ST102131	WCA 9		

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	Data source	UK protection	International protection
28	Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	The Cleeve (house name), The Cleeve, Culmstock.	2003	ST102135	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
29	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Culmstock, on the River Culm. Just upstream from the bridge.	2001	ST102135	WCA 5; NERC 41	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
30	Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	The Cleeve (house name), The Cleeve, Culmstock.	2003-2007	ST102135	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II	
31	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	The Mill, Culmstock.	2003	ST102139	WCA 5 (S)	EC Va; Bern III	
32	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	The Mill, Culmstock.	Jun-05	ST102139			Amber
33	a Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus</i> spp.	Cellar at Villa Vista, Culmstock.	Jun-05	ST102153	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	
34	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Culmstock. Not far from village centre.	Jun-05	ST103135	WCA 1		Amber
35	Common Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Highfields, Culmstock, Cullompton.	2005-2006	ST103143	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern III	UKBAP (P); DBAP
36	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	Highfields, Culmstock, Cullompton.	Jun-05	ST103143	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
37	a Bat	Chiroptera	Blackwater Lane, Culmstock.	2003	ST104138	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bonn II	

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	Data source	UK protection	International protection
38	Japanese Knotweed	Fallopia japonica	Hillmoor Common, Culmstock.	2001	ST106133	WCA 9		
39	Grayling	Hipparchia semele	BLACK DOWN COMMON	Jun-05	ST109152	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
40	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera		Jun-05	ST109152	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
41	Spurge-Laurel	Daphne laureola	Hillmoor Common	Jun-05	ST110133			DN2
42	Curlew	Numenius arquata	Culmstock Beacon	Jun-05	ST110150	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); DBAP; Amber
43	a Newt	Triturus spp.	Culmstock Beacon.	Jun-05	ST110150	WCA 5 (S)	Bern III	
44	Adder	Vipera berus	Culmstock Beacon	Jun-05	ST110150	WCA 5 (KIS); NERC 41	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
45	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	CULMSTOCK	Jun-05	ST110151	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
46	Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi	CULMSTOCK BEACON	Jun-05	ST1115			Decline
47	Grayling	Hipparchia semele	Culmstock Beacon	Jun-05	ST1115	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
48	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	Blackdown Hills	Jun-05	ST1115	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
49	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	CULMSTOCK BEACON	2003	ST1115	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
50	Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	Blackdown Commom	2004	ST1116	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); DBAP; Red
51	Newt	Triturus	Culmstock Beacon	2009	ST1117015560	WCA 5 (S)	Bern III	

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	Data source	UK protection	International protection
52	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		1991	ST112155	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
53	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		1996	ST112155	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
54	Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	BLACKDOWN COMMON	1991	ST112156	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
55	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Greyborough Copses	Jun-05	ST112170			DBAP
56	Purple Hairstreak	<i>Quercusia quercus</i>	BLACK DOWN	Jun-05	ST113155			Decline
57	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Windwhistle, Culmstock.	Jun-05	ST113165	WCA 1		
58	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Windwhistle, Culmstock.	Jun-05	ST113165	DA	Bern III	
59	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	Windwhistle, Culmstock.	2003	ST113165	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
60	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Windwhistle, Culmstock.	Jun-05	ST113165			Amber
61	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		1990-1991	ST115157	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
62	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		Jun-05	ST115158	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
63	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Black Down and Sampford Commons; Black Down Common	1992-1999	ST115163	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); DBAP; Amber
64	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		Jun-05	ST115165	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	Data source	UK protection	International protection
65	Newt	Triturus	Culmstock	Jul-05	ST1180016490	WCA 5 (S)	Bern III	
66	Orpine	Sedum telephium	Black Down and Sampford Commons	Jun-05	ST118161			DN3
67	Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	Black Down and Sampford Commons	Jun-05	ST118161	DA	Bern III	
68	Skylark	Alauda arvensis	Black Down and Sampford Commons	Jun-05	ST118161			UKBAP (P); Red
69	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	Black Down and Sampford Commons	2002	ST118161	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
70	Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	Black Down and Sampford Commons	2002	ST118161			Amber
71	Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	Black Down and Sampford Commons	2002	ST118161	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Red
72	Grayling	Hipparchia semele	Black Down and Sampford Commons	2002	ST118161	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
73	Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	Black Down and Sampford Commons	2002	ST118161			Amber
74	Heath Pearlwort	Sagina subulata	Black Down and Sampford Commons	2002	ST118161			DN3
75	Hobby	Falco subbuteo	Black Down and Sampford Commons	2002	ST118161	WCA 1		

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	Data source	UK protection	International protection
76	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Black Down and Sampford Commons	2002	ST118161			Amber
77	Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>	Black Down and Sampford Commons	2002	ST118161			KeyD (N)
78	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Black Down and Sampford Commons	2002	ST118161			Amber
79	Long-Leaved Sundew	<i>Drosera intermedia</i>	Black Down and Sampford Commons	2002	ST118161			DN2
80	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Black Down and Sampford Commons	2002	ST118161			Amber
81	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Down Common	2000	ST118164			Decline
82	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Down Common	2000	ST118164	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
83	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Blackdown Common	2000	ST118164	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
84	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Blackdown Common	2000	ST118164			Decline
85	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		1991	ST118165	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)

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 5 (S)** **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 5: (sale):** species protected against sale only.
- WCA 5 (KIS)** **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 5: (killing & injury):** species protected against killing, injury and sale only.
- WCA 6** **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 6:** animals (other than birds) which may not be killed or taken by certain methods
- WCA 9** **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 9:** animals and plants for which release into the wild is prohibited.
- DA** **Deer Act 1991:** deer protected under the Deer Act.
- Bern II** **Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) Appendix II:** Special protection for listed animal species and their habitats.
- Bern III** **Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) Appendix III:** Exploitation of listed animal species to be subject to regulation
- ECIIa, IIb** **EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats & Species Directive) Annex IIa and IIb:** Designation of protected areas for animal and plant species listed.

- ECIIIa, IIIb** **EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats & Species Directive) Annex IIIa and 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.
- ECVa, Vb** **EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats & Species Directive) Annex Va and Vb:** Exploitation of listed animals and plants to be subject to management if necessary.
- Bonn II** **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) Appendix II:** Range states encouraged to conclude international agreements to benefit species listed.
- UKBAP(P)** **UK Priority Species (Short and Middle Lists - UK Biodiversity steering Group Report 1995)** i.e. species that are globally threatened and rapidly declining in the UK (by more than 50% in the last 25 years). Has a Species Action Plan.
- DBAP** **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan species:** these have been identified as species of key conservation concern in Devon.
- 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.
- Decline** Substantial local decline in Devon

- Red List** Bird species of high conservation concern, such as those whose population or range is rapidly declining, recently or historically, and those of global conservation concern.
- Amber List** Bird species of medium conservation concern, such as those whose population is in moderate decline, rare breeders, internationally important and localised species and those of unfavourable conservation status in Europe.
- VUL** **VULNERABLE**A taxon is Vulnerable when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Vulnerable (see [Red List Categories and Criteria booklet](#) for details), and it is therefore considered to be facing a **high risk of extinction** in the wild.