



# **Wildlife information summary for - Chardstock**

Devon Biodiversity Record Centre

December 7, 2021

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Figure 1: Image by Marcus Windle. Image used under the creative commons license



## Introduction

The information below is provided as a snapshot on the known wildlife resource within the parish. It is provided by DBRC as a guide only, to help increase knowledge and understanding of the many species that rely on the habitats and landscape present in the area. However, our current knowledge is not complete, and the information DBRC holds on biodiversity can be enhanced by additional survey or species recording within the area, and you may want to consider how more information could be gathered by the community, and passed back to DBRC. For further information on how to record biodiversity where you live, click on the link below. <http://www.dbrc.org.uk>

## Sites Important for wildlife

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

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

## Site Designations in Chardstock

### Statutory Sites

#### Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

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

#### Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

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

### Non-Statutory Sites

#### County Wildlife Sites (CWS)

These are sites of county importance for wildlife, designated on the basis of the habitat or the known presence of particular species, and DBRC run and manage this framework. This is not a statutory designation like SSSIs, and does not have any legal status. The National Planning Policy framework (NPPF) requires local authorities to identify and map locally designated sites of biodiversity importance (such as County Wildlife Sites) as part of the Local Plan process and to draw up criteria based policies against which proposals for development affecting them will be judged. CWS recognition does not demand any particular actions on the part of the Landowner and does not give the public rights of access. However, it may increase eligibility for land management grants.

#### Rebuilding Devon's Nature Map

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

### Other Sites

#### Other Sites of Wildlife Interest (OSWI)

These are sites of significant wildlife interest within a local context that have been surveyed but do not reach the criteria for County Wildlife Sites. They are not covered by NPPF, but may be included in Local Plans. OSWIs used to be called Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). They are not present in all Districts; there are no OSWIs in Torridge, for example.

### **Unconfirmed Wildlife Sites (UWS)**

These are sites identified as having possible interest but not fully surveyed. Some of these sites will be areas of significant wildlife interest. The UWS dataset may also contain **Proposed County Wildlife Sites (pCWS)**: these are usually sites that have been surveyed but are awaiting consideration from the CWS Designation Panel, or sites that have been surveyed at an unfavorable time of year and are awaiting a re-survey.

### **Devon Wildlife Trust Reserves (DWT)**

An area of land managed for wildlife by Devon Wildlife Trust.

### **Important Bird Areas (IBA)**

these are the most important sites for birds in the UK. The IBA Programme of BirdLife International is a worldwide initiative aimed at identifying and protecting a network of sites, critical for the conservation of the world's birds. These sites were selected on the basis of the bird numbers and species complements they hold. IBAs are particularly important for species that congregate in large numbers, such as wintering and passage waterbirds and breeding seabirds. Many sites have also been identified for species of global, and European/EU conservation concern. The site boundaries have been supplied by RSPB.

### **Invertebrate Site Register Locations**

The ISR was set up to: identify, document and evaluate sites of importance for the conservation of terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates in Great Britain, in order to provide national and local overviews of the resource and set this in a European context provide a clear statement on the invertebrate fauna of individual sites, which can be used to strengthen the scientific basis of site defence and management planning, with the aim of conserving this fauna maintain up to date statement. The locations identified in the ISR have been mapped as dots by DBRC, so that important sites for invertebrates can be identified

### **What about the white areas?**

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

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

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

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

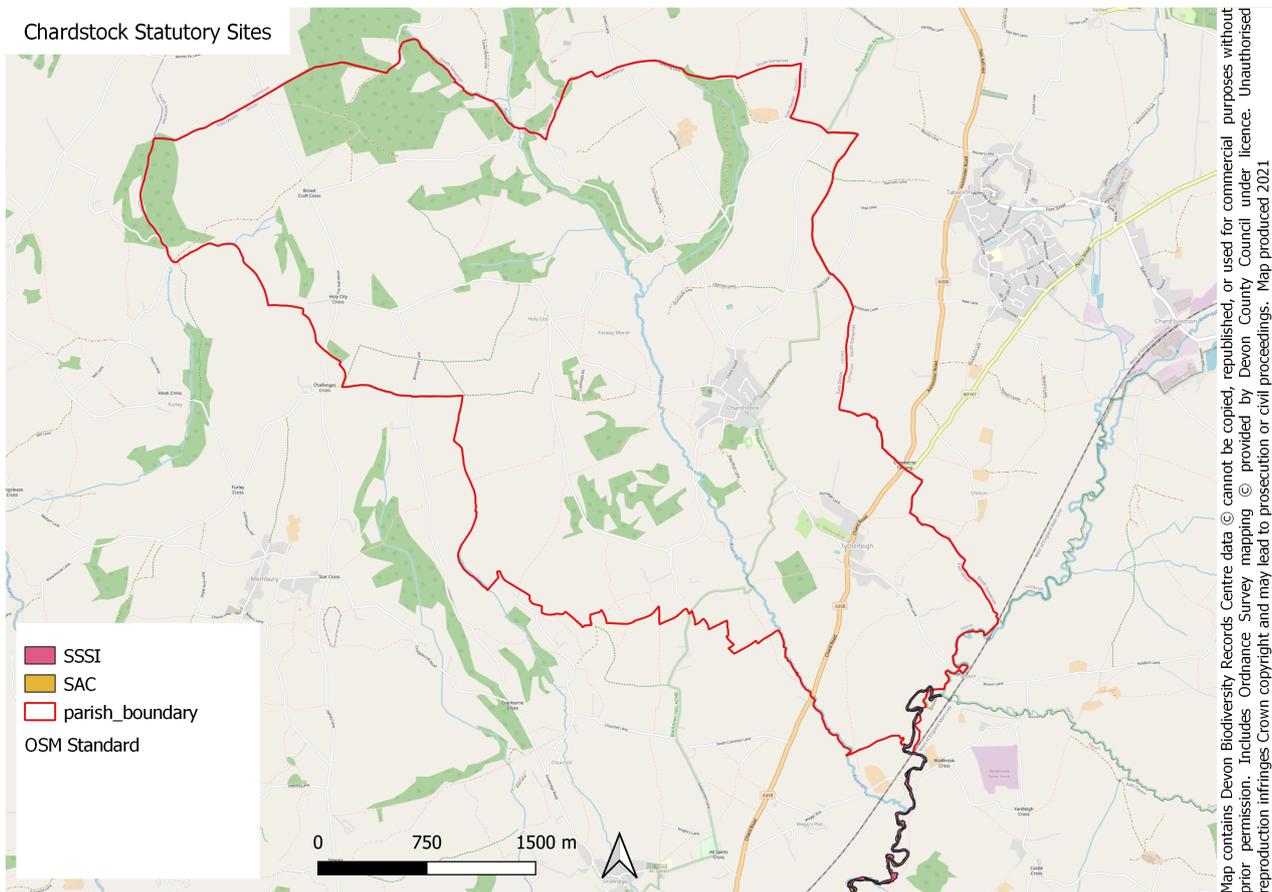
This data search has been undertaken using data held by DBRC at the time of the enquiry. Please be aware that a lack of species records does not necessarily mean that a species is absent from an area, just that it has not been recorded. Detailed species information and surveys will be required by developers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

# Site Maps For Your Parish

## Statutory & non-statutory sites within the parish of Chardstock

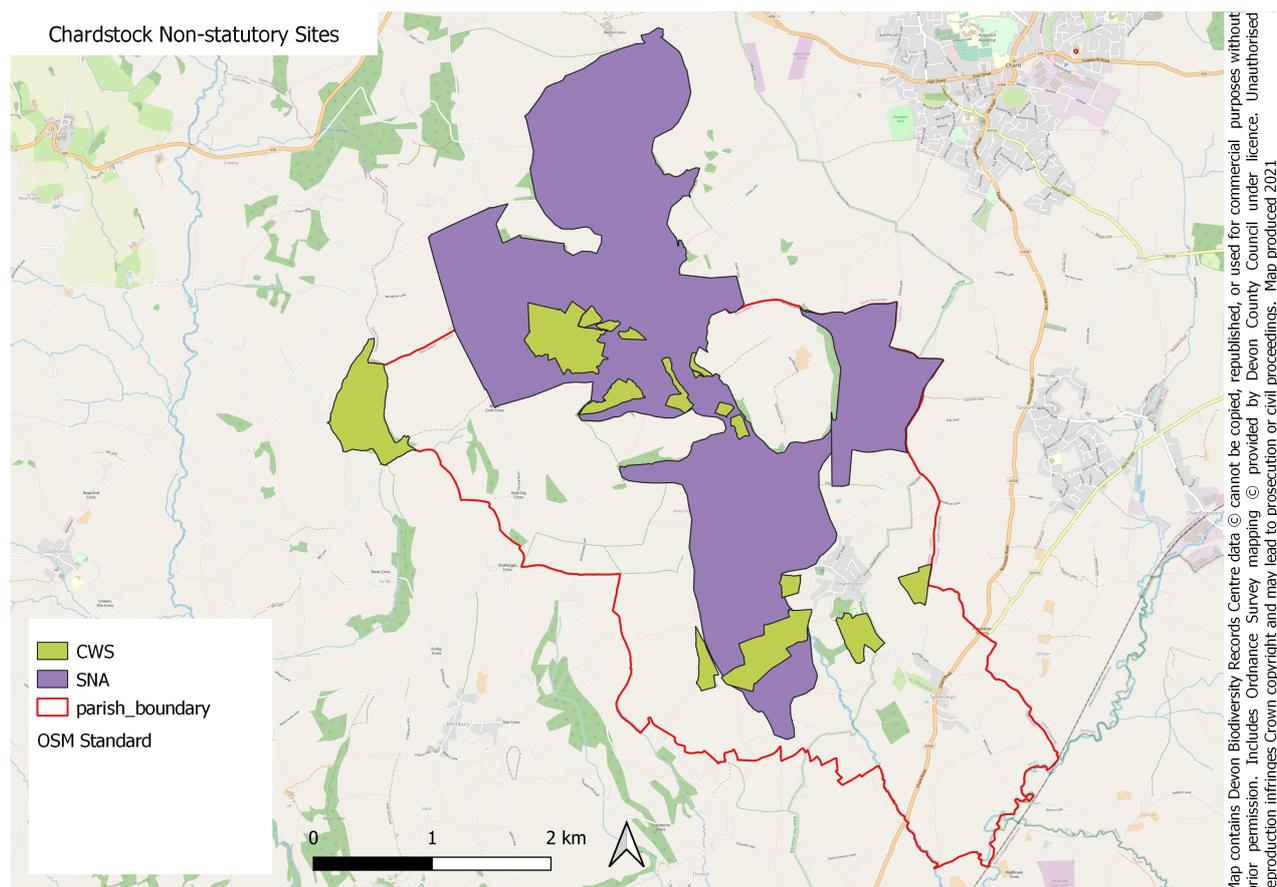
### Statutory sites within Chardstock parish

Figure 2: Chardstock - Map showing statutory sites within parish boundary



File.Code	Site.Name	Grid.Ref	Area	Reason.for.Designation	Status
1	River Axe	ST325023 to SY259927	25.10	River with a diverse aquatic and marginal flora, a wide variety of habitats for invertebrates, species of fish important in a European context, valuable habitats for breeding birds. Otters are present in small numbers.	SAC
2	River Axe	ST325023 to SY259927	71.30	River with a diverse aquatic and marginal flora, a wide variety of habitats for invertebrates, species of fish important in a European context, valuable habitats for breeding birds. Otters are present in small numbers.	SSSI

Figure 3: Chardstock - Map showing non-statutory sites within parish boundary

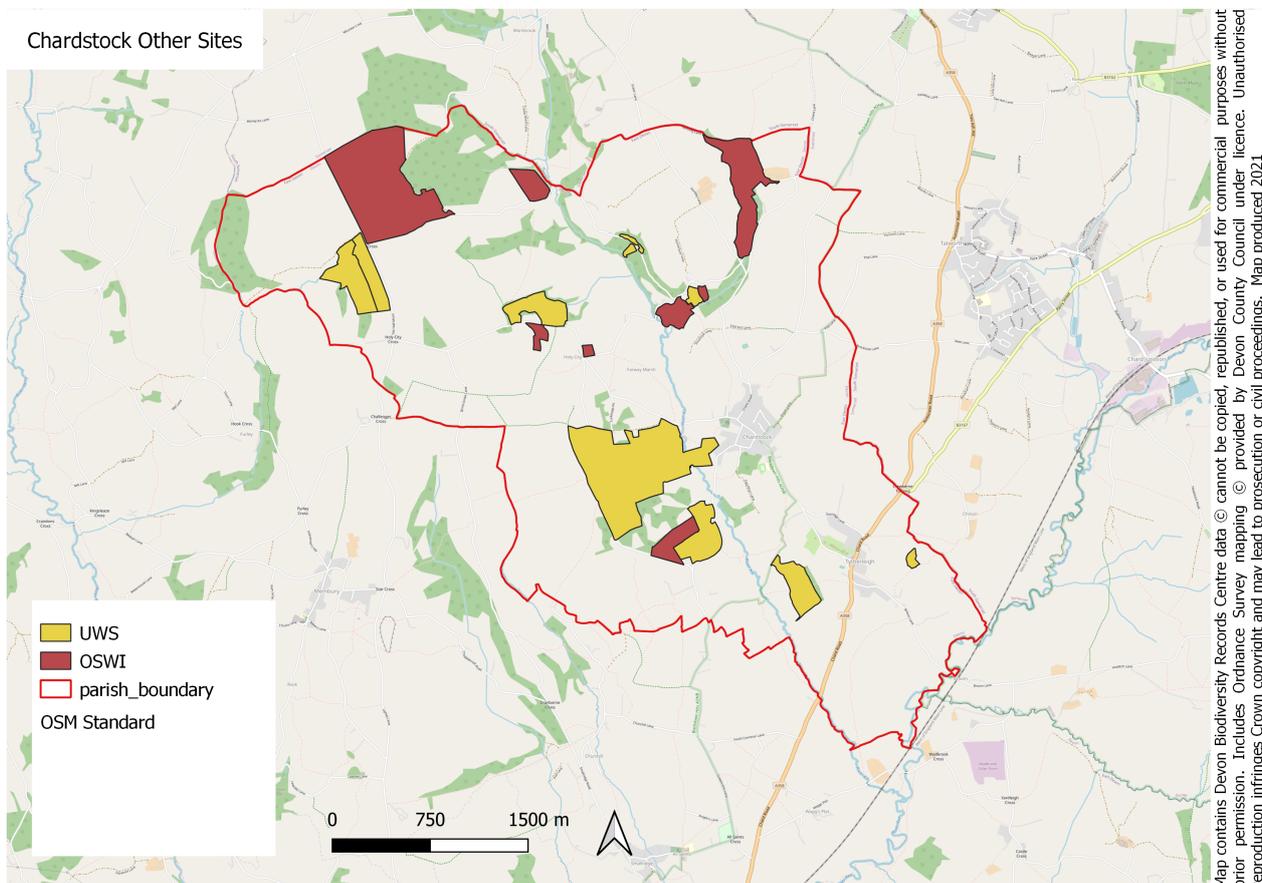


### Non-statutory sites within Chardstock parish

File.Code	Site.Name	Grid.Ref	Hectares	Reason.for.Designation	Status	
1	ST20/026	Bewley Farm	ST271058	35.30	Unimproved neutral & marshy grassland & bracken	CWS
2	ST20/030	Cotley Wash	ST288064	27.70	Wet heath and springline mire with scrub and secondary woodland	CWS
3	ST20/031	Sycamore Farm	ST292059	6.80	A mosaic of mire (M23), wet woodland (W7), scrub, and unimproved grassland (MG5) and semi-improved grassland	CWS
4	ST20/032	Narfords	ST299061 & ST297059	5.50	Unimproved neutral grassland, wet and dry broadleaved woodland and tall herb fen	CWS
5	ST20/090	Reads Hill	ST299036	5.20	Unimproved marshy grassland & semi-improved acidic grassland	CWS
6	ST20/112	Castle Wood Meadows	ST291065	4.60	Species-rich unimproved neutral grassland (MG5 pasture and hay meadow)	CWS
7	ST30/001	Brockfield Bottom	ST301058 & ST303057	3.10	Marshy tall herb vegetation & semi-improved neutral grassland	CWS
8	ST30/002	Storr ridge Hill	ST317044	5.40	Species-rich semi-improved hay meadows which are managed traditionally, and an old quarry with calcareous grassland and scrub	CWS
9	ST30/003	Egg Moor Fields	ST312039	9.50	Purple moor-grass & rush pasture / lowland meadow with significant areas of semi-improved grassland, and small area of marshy grassland	CWS
10	ST30/008	The Parks	ST305038 & ST307044	24.50	Marshy & semi-improved neutral grassland & secondary broadleaved woodland	CWS
11	03	Blackdowns	N/A	734.97	Lowland Heath	N/A
12	10	Blackdowns	N/A	84.62	Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture	N/A

## Other Sites within Chardstock parish

Figure 4: Chardstock - Map showing other sites within parish boundary



	File.Code	Site.Name	Grid.Ref	Hectares	Reason.for.Designation	Status
1	ST20/029	Bewley Down	ST283064	45.90	Mosaic of coniferous woodland, semi-improved grassland, unimproved grassland and secondary woodland	OSWI
2	ST20/034	Holy City (W)	ST294051	1.80	Unimproved neutral grassland	OSWI
3	ST20/035	Holy City (E)	ST298050	0.70	Unimproved neutral grassland	OSWI
4	ST20/114	Cotley Wash Brake	ST295063	4.50	Secondary broadleaved woodland	OSWI
5	ST30/004	Farway Farm	ST305053	4.40	Springline mire in improved pasture	OSWI
6	ST30/005	Hook Farm	ST307055	0.70	Marshy tall herb vegetation	OSWI
7	ST30/006	Burridge Common	ST311065	17.30	Mosaic of secondary broadleaved woodland, bracken & marshy tall herb vegetation	OSWI
8	ST30/009	Birchill Common	ST305035	5.50	Bracken-dominated fields	OSWI
9	ST20/028	Bewley Down	ST281005	6.30	Flat plateau semi-improved to improved grassland. Scattered gorse and bracken	UWS
10	ST20/033	Whitehouse	ST295054	7.80	Secondary woodland	UWS
11	ST20/110	The Half Moon	ST280056	10.00	Marshy grassland and acid grassland	UWS
12	ST30/003	Brockfield Copse	ST303058	1.20	Secondary woodland	UWS
13	ST30/007	Chardstock Court & The Parks	ST304039	59.80	Parkland	UWS
14	ST30/010	Keates Farm Field	ST323034	0.90	Marshy tall herb vegetation	UWS
15	ST30/013	Tytherleigh Woods	ST315031	7.60	Secondary broadleaved woodland	UWS
16	ST30/025	Hook Meadow	ST307054	1.30	Unimproved grassland, scrub and bracken	UWS

## Species Information

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

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

#### **Bats**

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

**Greater Horseshoe Bat Consultation Zones** Your site is not within a Strategic Flyway or Sustenance Zone.

#### **Otters**

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

#### **Badgers**

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

#### **Birds**

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

#### **Amphibians and Reptiles**

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

#### **Invertebrates**

Rare and protected insects and other invertebrates are generally associated with designated sites and semi-natural habitats.

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

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

## Invasive species

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

## Development control species within Chardstock parish

	Common.Name	Scientific.Name	UK.Protection	International
1	a Bat	Chiroptera	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bonn II
2	a Long-eared Bat	Plecotus	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
3	a Pipistrelle Bat	Pipistrellus	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II
4	Adder	Vipera berus	WCA 5 (KIS); NERC 41	Bern III
5	Barn Owl	Tyto alba	WCA 1, 9	Bern II
6	Brown Long-eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
7	Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II
8	Eurasian Badger	Meles meles	WCA 6, BA	Bern III
9	European Otter	Lutra lutra	WCA 5; NERC 41	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II
10	Grass Snake	Natrix natrix	WCA 5 (KIS); NERC 41	Bern III
11	Greater Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus ferrumequinum	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
12	Hazel Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa; Bern III
13	Japanese Knotweed	Fallopia japonica	WCA 9	
14	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
15	Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
16	Serotine	Eptesicus serotinus	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
17	Western Barbastelle	Barbastella barbastellus	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II
18	Whiskered Bat	Myotis mystacinus	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II

## Other legally protected and notable species within Chardstock parish

	Common.Name	Scientific.Name	UK.Protection	International
1	a Crane-fly	Pilaria fuscipennis		
2	a Crane-fly	Cheilotrichia imbuta		
3	a Fly	Lonchoptera nigrociliata		
4	a Fly	Themira gracilis		
5	a Fly	Eloeophila apicata		
6	Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage	Chrysosplenium alternifolium		
7	Black Oil-beetle	Meloe proscarabaeus	NERC 41	
8	Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	WCA 5 (S); NERC 41	
9	Brown/Sea Trout	Salmo trutta	NERC 41	
10	Common Frog	Rana temporaria	WCA 5 (S)	EC Va; Bern III
11	Common Toad	Bufo bufo	WCA 5 (S); NERC 41	Bern III
12	Corky-Fruited Water-Dropwort	Oenanthe pimpinelloides		
13	Cowslip	Primula veris		
14	Dipper	Cinclus cinclus		Bern II
15	Dotted Bee-fly	Bombylius discolor		
16	Dunnock	Prunella modularis		Bern II
17	Dwarf Elder	Sambucus ebulus		
18	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis		Bern II
19	Great Tit	Parus major		Bern II
20	Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis		Bern II
21	Hoary Plantain	Plantago media		
22	Indian Balsam	Impatiens glandulifera	WCA 9	
23	Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus		Bern II
24	Marsh Arrowgrass	Triglochin palustre		
25	Marsh Helleborine	Epipactis palustris		
26	Marsh Valerian	Valeriana dioica		
27	Meadow Oat-grass	Helictotrichon pratense		
28	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus		
29	Narrow Buckler-Fern	Dryopteris carthusiana		
30	Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	NERC 41	Bern II
31	Pale Sedge	Carex pallescens		
32	Palmate Newt	Lissotriton helveticus	WCA 5 (S)	Bern III
33	Pepper-Saxifrage	Silaum silaus		

34	Polecat	<i>Mustela putorius</i>	WCA 6; NERC 41	EC Va; Bern III
35	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>		
36	Purple Hairstreak	<i>Favonius quercus</i>		
37	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		Bern II
38	Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	WCA 9	
39	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		Bern II
40	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	DA	Bern III
41	Round-leaved Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus omiophyllus</i>		
42	Short-horned Black Legionnaire	<i>Beris fuscipes</i>		
43	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		
44	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>	NERC 41	
45	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		
46	Southern Yellow Splinter	<i>Lipsothrix nervosa</i>	NERC 41	
47	Spring Snowflake	<i>Leucojum vernum</i>		
48	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		
49	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		Bern II
50	Toothwort	<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>		
51	Violet Oil-beetle	<i>Meloe violaceus</i>	NERC 41	
52	Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	NERC 41	
53	White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium w-album</i>	WCA 5 (S); NERC 41	
54	Wood Small-Reed	<i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i>		
55	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		
56	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	NERC 41	Bern II

## Acronyms

### NERC 41

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

### WCA 1

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

### WCA 5

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

### WCA (S)

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

### WCA 5 (KIS)

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

### WCA 6

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

### WCA 8

Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 8: plants which are protected.

### WCA 8 (S)

Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 8: (sale): plants protected against sale only.

## **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 I Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) Appendix I: Special protection for listed plant species and their habitats.

## **Bern II**

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) Appendix II: Special protection for listed animal species and their habitats.

## **Bern III**

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) Appendix III: Exploitation of listed animal species to be subject to regulation

## **ECIIa, IIb**

EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Species Directive) Annex IIa and IIb: Designation of protected areas for animal and plant species listed.

## **ECIIIa, IIIb**

EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Species Directive) Annex IIIa and IIIb: Species used as criteria for designating Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

## **ECIVa, IVb**

EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Species Directive) Annex IVa: Exploitation of listed animals and plants to be subject to management if necessary.

## **ECVa, Vb**

EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Species Directive) Annex Va and Vb: Exploitation of listed animals and plants to be subject to management if necessary.

## **Bonn I**

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) Appendix I: Strict protection provided for endangered migratory species and their habitats listed under Appendix 1

## **Bonn II**

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) Appendix II: Range states encouraged to conclude international agreements to benefit species listed.

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

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

These can be written into Development Policies in your plan

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

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

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