

Parish
Biodiversity
Audit 2022

Beaford



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Introduction

As part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund project -Conservation Communities, the original parish audits completed in 2015 have been updated, recognising the new biodiversity information that has been generated by the individuals and groups that have participated since it began.

Beaford parish is located in Torridge district and is 1,328ha in size. The village of Beaford falls roughly in the centre of the parish and is approximately 6km south-east of Great Torrington. The river Torridge forms most of the southern boundary of the parish and the Woolleigh Brook some of the northern boundary. This joins Beaford Brook which travels down towards the south-east corner of the parish where it joins Beaford Moor, the biggest piece of semi-natural habitat in the parish.

Much of the land use within the parish was found to be agriculturally improved or species poor semi-improved grassland, which is grazed by cattle, sheep or horses. Some of the grass is cut for silage and hay. There was some arable land within the parish, but much of this may be managed on a rotation between different crops and grass or clover. There were also several areas of coniferous woodland across the parish.

Biodiversity features within the parish included many semi-natural broadleaved woodlands, some of which are listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory. Many of these falling alongside the river Torridge or along brook valleys, and may contain wet woodland. The main areas of semi-natural woodland are Harepath and Beaford Woods, Warham Wood, Fordmarsh Copse, Firebeacon Copse and Castle Covert.

A substantial area of Culm grassland is present on Beaford Moor which is recognised as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, as well as several other potential areas of Culm grassland which have been identified from aerial photographs. Beaford Moor is home to the rare marsh fritillary butterfly, as well as several other uncommon invertebrates.

Many species-rich hedges occurred across the parish and a veteran tree was found in the

churchyard. There were also wide road verges and buffer strips around arable land supporting semi-improved grasslands. The river Torridge provides habitat for otters and the freshwater pearl mussel, both of which have been recorded from the parish.

Many footpaths cross the parish and Beaford also has a large village green next to the village hall, providing valuable public open space.

Beaford falls within the North Devon Biosphere Reserve. Biosphere Reserves are places with world-class environments that are designated by the United Nations to promote and demonstrate a balanced relationship between people and nature. They are places where conservation and sustainable development go hand in hand.

<https://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/>

Most of the information used to create this report and land use map was secured from aerial photograph interpretation together with historical data collected with access permission. Occasionally vantage points within the parish would have been used to help to map habitats and establish land use.

The fact that potential and confirmed wildlife-rich land is mapped does not imply any right of access and does not change any existing rights or use of the land.

Key species and habitats listed in the Devon and North Devon Biosphere Reserve Biodiversity Action Plans are indicated in bold italic text throughout the report.

Designated / Non-designated sites

Designated statutory/non-statutory sites

There are four designated sites within Beaford parish – three County Wildlife Sites (CWS) and one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These sites are found in the south-west and south-east of the parish and support habitats including Culm grassland, unimproved neutral grassland (flower-rich meadows and pastures), broadleaved woodland and wet woodland. These sites cover 49.6ha which is just under 4% of the total area of the parish.

Site Name	Habitat Description	BAP habitat	Status
Beaford Moor (N)	Culm grassland (rushpasture) with scattered trees	Rhôs pasture – Devon BAP, Culm grassland - ND Biosphere BAP	CWS
Beaford Moor	Culm grassland and remnant wet heath. Invertebrate interest.	Rhôs pasture & lowland heathland – Devon BAP, Culm grassland - ND Biosphere BAP)	SSSI
Harepath Wood	Ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland dominated by Sessile oak	oak woodland – Devon BAP, broadleaved woodland – ND Biosphere BAP	CWS/ AWI
South Harepath	Unimproved neutral grassland and wet broadleaved woodland	flower-rich meadows and pastures & alder/willow wet woodland – Devon BAP, enclosed farmland & broadleaved woodland – ND Biosphere BAP	CWS

County Wildlife Sites (CWS): these are sites of county importance for wildlife, designated on the basis of the habitat or the known presence of particular species. This is not a statutory designation like SSSIs, and does not have any legal status. The National Planning Policy framework 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.

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.

Flower-rich meadows and pastures (or unimproved grasslands) are a habitat of conservation concern in Devon and are listed on the Devon and UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Unimproved neutral grassland habitat has undergone a huge decline in the 20th century, almost entirely due to changing agricultural practice. It is estimated that by 1984 in lowland England and Wales, semi-natural grassland had declined by 97% over the previous 50 years to approximately 0.2 million ha.

Unimproved grassland is often very flower-rich and as a result of this attracts an abundance of butterflies and other invertebrates. The rich insect life in turn attracts bats such as the greater horseshoe bat and birds such as the green woodpecker and skylark.



Unimproved grassland

Culm grassland is listed in the North Devon Biosphere Biodiversity Action Plan, the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (Rhôs pasture) and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (purple moor-grass and rush-pasture). Culm grassland is characterised by purple moor-grass, as well as sharp-flowered rush, and various flowering species such as devil's-bit scabious, meadow thistle, heath spotted orchid, water mint and round-leaved sundew. Culm grassland may support the rare marsh fritillary butterfly and narrow-bordered bee hawk moth, as well as the barn owl and curlew.

Wet woodland is a UK and Devon Biodiversity Action Plan habitat. 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.



Other habitats

Species-rich hedges

Species rich hedges are listed on the North Devon Biosphere Reserve Biodiversity Action Plan, Devon Biodiversity Action Plan and UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Hedgerows are often an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife and may support many animals and plants. Berries provide an important food source for birds, and flowers and are an important nectar source for butterflies. 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. Most of the hedges occurring in Beaford parish were a mixture of medieval and 18th and 19th century hedges. with oak (some veteran), blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel and ash being the main trees but also holly, field rose, birch, willow and beech were recorded.

The location of the hedge within the landscape gives an indication of the age. A helpful explanation can be found here <https://devonhedges.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Interactive-Distinctive-Hedge-Map-Devon.pdf>



Hedges near Elder Park



Hedgebank near Wooleigh Mill

Cemetery/churchyard



Churchyard grassland

The churchyard in Beaford village was found to support fairly species-poor semi-improved grassland. The sward is very much grass dominated, although does contain some nice broadleaved species. The dominant species were perennial rye grass, Yorkshire fog, common bent, docks, germander speedwell, yarrow, primrose and dandelion. Creeping buttercup, daisy, cuckooflower, ribwort plantain, hogweed, common sorrel, common knapweed and ground ivy were also present. Under the trees common dog violet, dove's-foot cranesbill and creeping-jenny were present. There were some interesting lichens on the old grave stones.

Recreation areas and public open spaces. Beaford is very lucky to have an 'open space' or village green next to the village hall. This was mainly amenity grassland but there was a young apple orchard that had been planted up to the north of the main village green. A wide field margin had been left along the western edge of the green alongside the hedge, which is good for birds and invertebrates. Lots of hoverflies and housemartins were seen on the day of the visit in 2015. Species recorded from the field margin and hedge included hogweed, cocksfoot, false-oat grass, nettle, willow, elder, field rose and blackthorn.



Village green

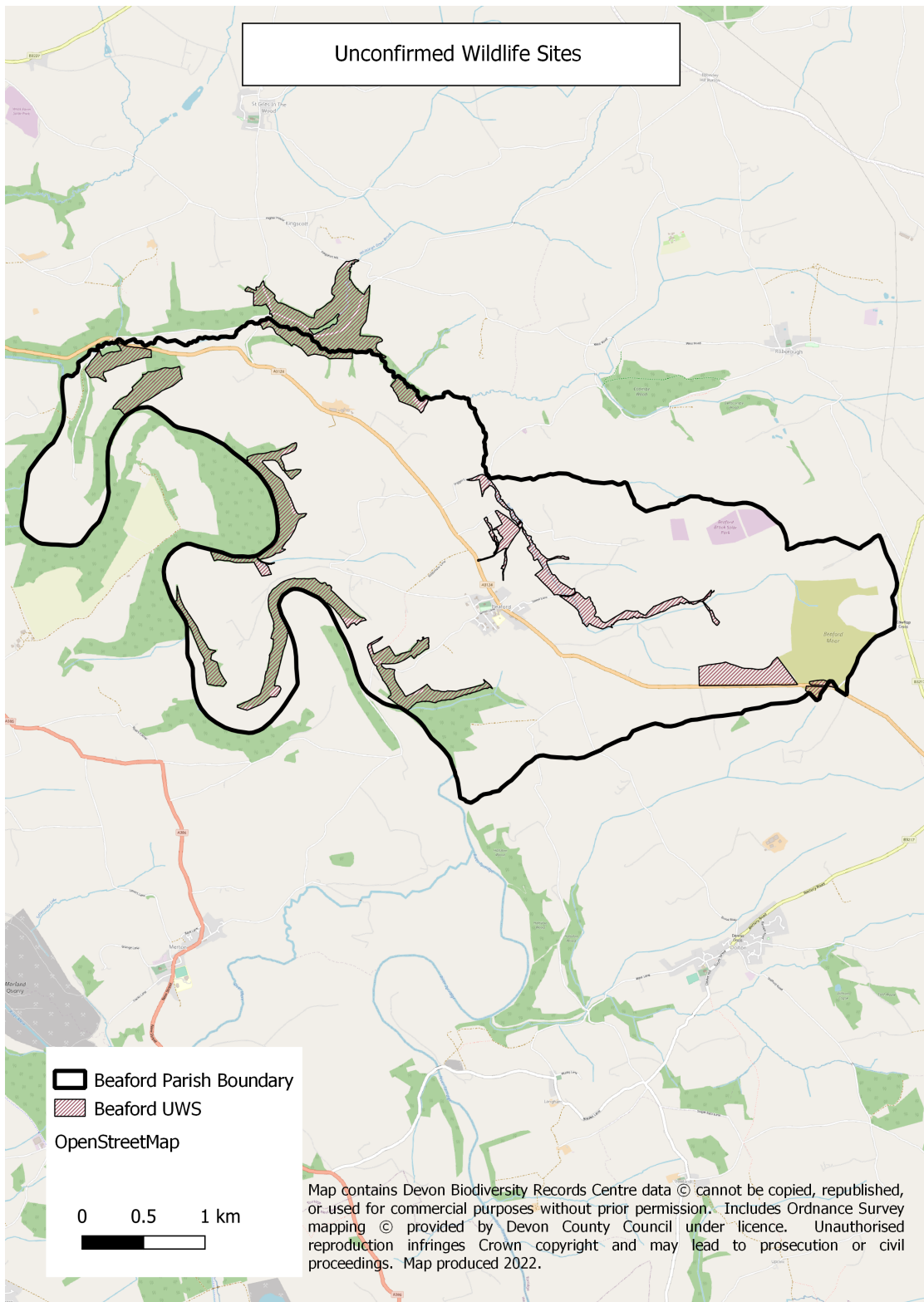


Apple orchard

Unconfirmed wildlife sites

There are several Unconfirmed Wildlife Sites within the parish.

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.



Types of habitat found in the parish

Traditional Orchards: Some orchards were identified during the aerial photo interpretation of this parish audit. Some of these may be managed in a traditional way.

Traditional orchards are listed on the North Devon Biosphere Reserve Biodiversity Action Plan and Devon Biodiversity Action Plan.

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 to 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.

Fruit and insects available in old orchards, provide food for birds and mammals. Birds such as woodpeckers (green and great-spotted), nuthatches, tree creepers 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.

Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI): Ancient Woodland is a term applied to woodlands which have existed from at least medieval times to the present day without ever having been cleared for uses other than wood or timber production. A convenient date used to separate ancient and secondary woodland is about the year 1600. In special circumstances semi-natural woods of post-1600 but pre-1900 origin are also included. The Devon Ancient Woodland Inventory was prepared in 1986 by the Nature Conservancy Council. There are two types of ancient woodland, both of which should be treated equally in terms of the protection afforded to ancient woodland in Planning Policy Statement note nine (PPS9):

Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW): where the stands are composed predominantly of trees and shrubs native to the site that do not obviously originate from planting. The stands may have been managed by coppicing or pollarding in the past, or the tree and shrub layer may have grown up by natural regeneration.

Plantations on ancient woodland sites (or PAWS, also known as ancient replanted woodland): areas of ancient woodland where the former native tree cover has been felled and replaced by planted stock, most commonly of a species not native to the site. These will include conifers such as Norway spruce or Corsican pine, but also broadleaves such as sycamore or sweet chestnut.

DBRC is currently working on an update to the AWI which will be released in the new year.

The project page can be found here:
<https://www.dbr.org.uk/projects-surveys/current-projects-and-surveys/#AWI>

Veteran Trees

The churchyard was seen to have some notable old horse chestnuts present, one of which was certainly a veteran tree, and possibly even an ancient tree.

English Nature (now Natural England) 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:

- 1.0metre are potentially interesting
- 1.5metres are valuable in terms of conservation
- 2.00metres 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.

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

Nature recovery networks

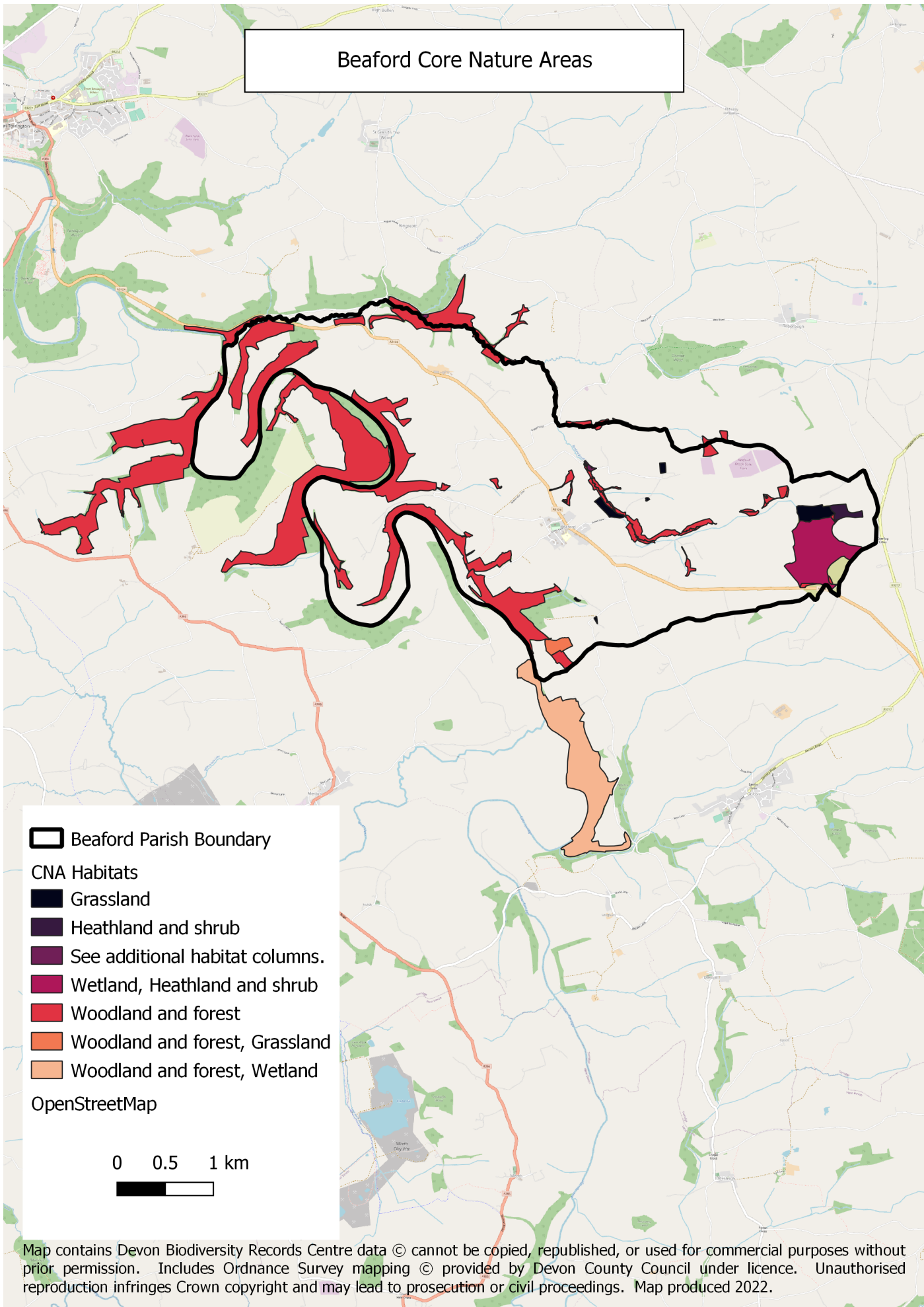
Details of the nature recovery networks can be found here - <https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/our-work/nature-recovery-network/>

The following two maps show Core Nature Areas as well as Other Nature Areas along with their associated habitats.

Core Nature Areas are our richest wildlife habitats. They include Priority Habitats (excluding hedges and arable margins) and statutory and non-statutory designated sites such as Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves and Ancient semi-natural woodlands.

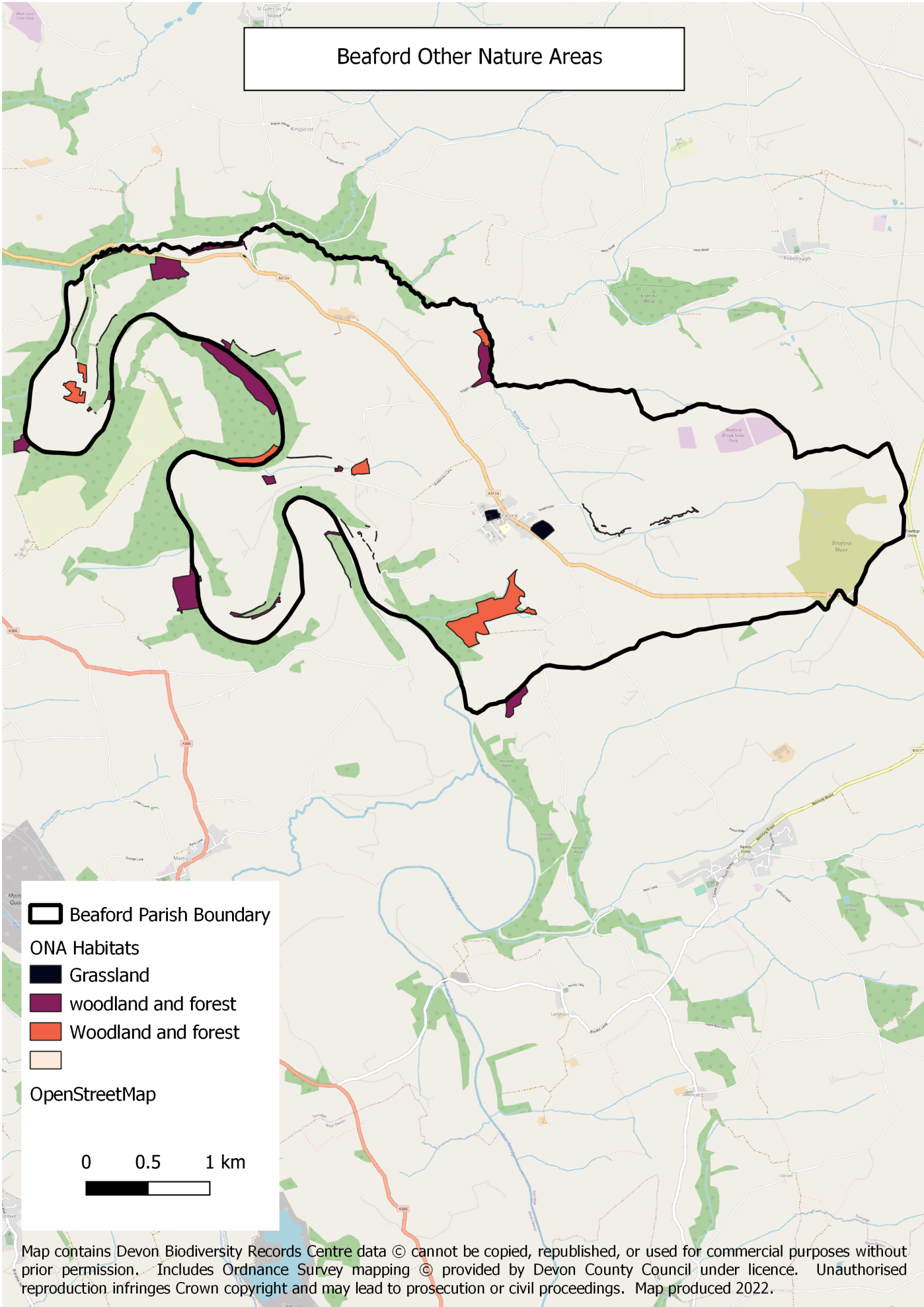
Habitats are grouped together and mapped as *Broad Habitats (grasslands, woodlands, wetlands etc).

Other Nature Areas are existing habitats which have wildlife value (or potential value) but which are not Priority Habitats or designated sites. These currently include: *Other Sites of Wildlife Importance, parks, urban greenspaces, some churchyards, National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserves and non-Priority Habitats on the National Forest Inventory. Other habitats will be included in future iterations when data is available.



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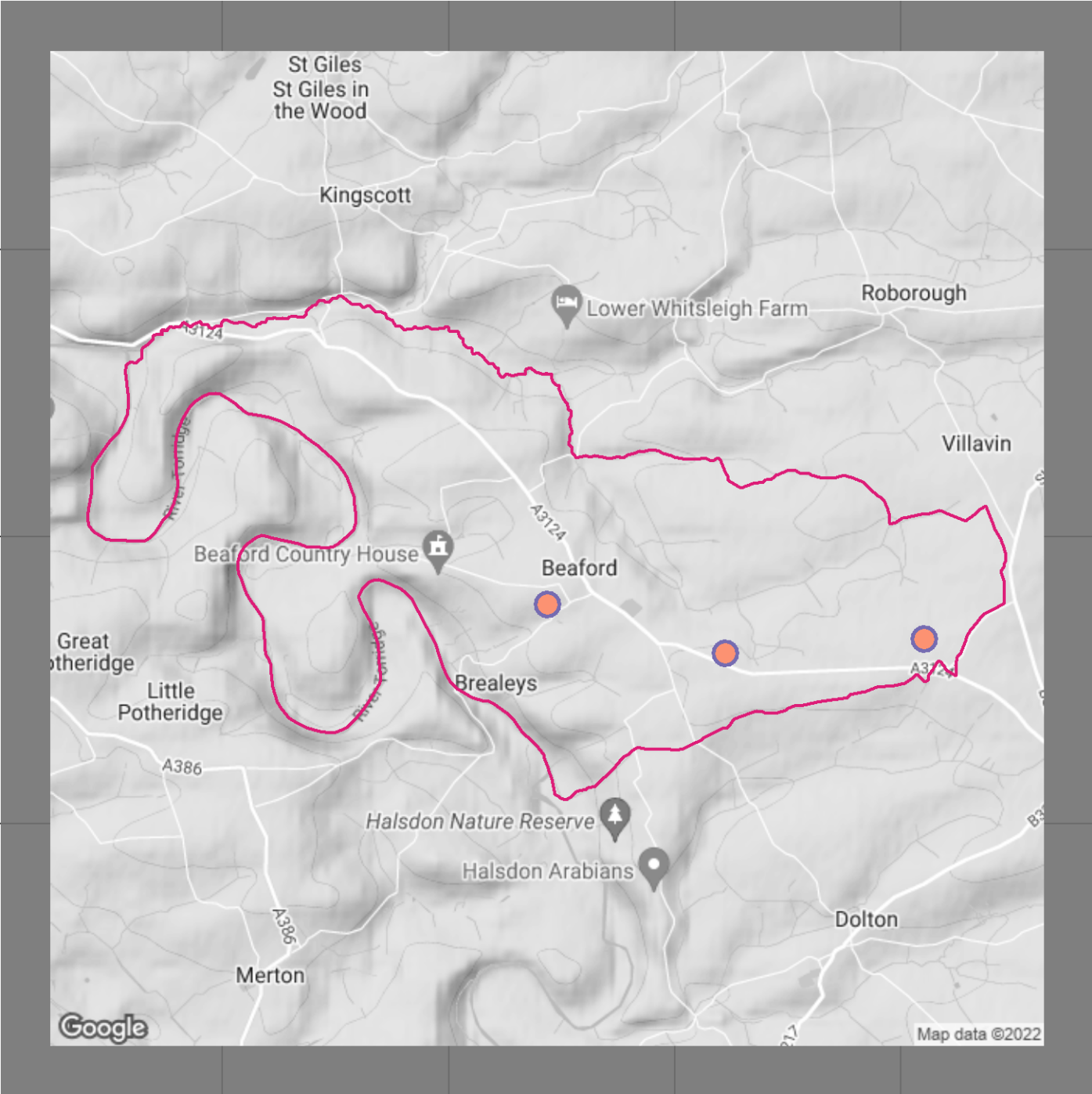
Beaford Other Nature Areas



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Species found in the parish

The map below shows th location of recording within the parish boundary over the lifetime of the Conservation Communities project



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Species records

Listed below are the species records held by DBRC for the parish of Beaford. The list is broken into three tables. The first table holds Section 41 species, the second Priority species, and the third common species. The table shows the number of records we hold per species in our database (1968 - 2022). As well as the number of records per species collected over the period of this project (2020 - 2022).

Species of principle importance found in the parish.

Species on the section 41 list are the species that normally are the most likely to affect development and are taken into account when planning.

Taxon Group	Common name	Scientific	Other Status	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
bird	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			1	1
bird	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			1	1
terrestrial mammal	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	WCA 5, 6; EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II, UKBAP (P)		2	2
terrestrial mammal	Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	WCA 5, 6; EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II, UKBAP (P)		1	1
terrestrial mammal	Western Barbastelle	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	WCA 5, 6; EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II, UKBAP (P); Vul		3	3

Priority species found in the parish.

These are the species that have been identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP)

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	Status	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
bird	Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	Bern II		1	1
bird	Dunnock	Prunella modularis	Bern II, Amber		1	1
bird	Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	WCA 1, Red		1	1
bird	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	Bern II		1	1
bird	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	Bern II		2	2
bird	Great Tit	Parus major	Bern II		1	1
bird	Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	Bern II		1	1
bird	Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	Red		1	1
bird	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Amber		1	1
bird	Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis	Bern II, Amber		1	1
bird	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	Red		1	1
bird	Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	Amber		1	1
bird	Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	Bern II		1	1
bird	Redwing	Turdus iliacus	WCA 1, Amber		1	1
bird	Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Bern II		1	1
bird	Rook	Corvus frugilegus	Amber		1	1
bird	Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	Bern II, Amber		1	1
bird	Siskin	Spinus spinus	Bern II		1	1
bird	Skylark	Alauda arvensis	UKBAP (P); Red		1	1
bird	Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Red		1	1
bird	Swift	Apus apus	Red		1	1
bird	Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	Amber		1	1
bird	Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	Amber		1	1
bird	Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Bern II, Amber		1	1
insect - moth	Small Grass Emerald	Chlorissa viridata	Na		1	1
terrestrial mammal	a Bat	Myotis	WCA 5, 6, EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II		1	1
terrestrial mammal	a Long-eared Bat	Plecotus	WCA 5, 6, EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II		1	1

Common species

All other species found in the parish.

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
bird	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		1	1
bird	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		1	1
bird	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		1	1
bird	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		1	1
bird	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		1	1
bird	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		1	1
bird	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		1	1
bird	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		1	1
bird	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		1	1
bird	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		1	1
bird	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		1	1
bird	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		1	1
bird	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		1	1
bird	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>		1	1

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 follows 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 Hatherleigh might include species-rich hedgerows and flower-rich road verges. The last two actions would directly contribute to the Species-rich hedgerow Action Plan and the Flower-rich meadows and pastures Action Plan.

One example of survey work that might usefully be undertaken would be to 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.

Help to build up a picture of the state of Devon's environment by sending your wildlife records to the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre <https://www.dbrc.org.uk/wildlife-sightings/> 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.

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? Devon County Council's website has some very good resources for hedge management and ideas for community involvement <https://www.devon.gov.uk/environment/wildlife/habitats-and-species/hedges>

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 Beaford 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 Devon Wildlife Trust web site: <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/take-action/garden-wildlife>

6 Contact the North Devon Biosphere Reserve:

The North Devon Biosphere reserve has a number of initiatives running to enable communities within the North Devon Biosphere Reserve to improve wildlife. On their website <https://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/> you can get ideas of how to improve nature in your area including tips on wildlife gardening and details of community initiatives in your area.

7 Japanese Knotweed:

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

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: <https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/knowledge-hub/invasive-species/japanese-knotweed/>

8 Himalayan Balsam:

Himalayan or Indian balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is another very invasive plant. A relative of the busy Lizzie, it is known by a wide variety of common names, including Indian balsam, jumping jack and policeman's helmet. It was introduced to Britain in 1839, but escaped from gardens and rapidly colonised riverbanks and areas of damp ground.

Himalayan balsam grows in dense stands that suppress the growth of native grasses and other flora. In the autumn, the plants die back, leaving the banks bare of vegetation and vulnerable to erosion. It is sometimes seen in gardens, either uninvited or grown deliberately, but care must be taken to ensure that it does not escape into the wild.

It is a tall, robust, annual producing clusters of purplish pink (or rarely white) helmet-shaped flowers. These are followed by seed pods that open explosively when ripe, shooting their seeds up to 7m (22ft) away. Each plant can produce up to 800 seeds.

Although Devon Biodiversity Records Centre does not hold any official records of Himalayan Balsam in Beaford, it is known to be widespread along rivers and water courses. A useful leaflet on Himalayan Balsam can be viewed by following this link: <https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/knowledge-hub/invasive-species/>



Japanese Knotweed

Useful sources of further information

Northern Devon Nature Improvement Team www.devonwildlifetrust.org
(Tel: 01392 279244)

Devon Biodiversity Records Centre www.dbrc.org.uk/ (Tel: 01392
274128)

Devon Wildlife Trust: www.devonwildlifetrust.org

Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society: www.devonbirds.org

Natural England: www.naturalengland.org.uk

Plantlife: www.plantlife.org.uk

RSPB: www.rspb.org.uk

The Woodland Trust: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

Butterfly Conservation <https://butterfly-conservation.org/>

Environment Agency <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

Devon Hedge Group <https://devonhedges.org/>

Forestry Commission <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission>

Guidance

<https://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/>

<https://www.dbr.org.uk/information/sites-and-habitats/>

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UKBAP-BAPHabitats-64-WetWoodland

UKBAP-BAPHabitats-30-LowlandMixedDecWood

UKBAP-BAPHabitats-02-ArableFieldMargins

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