

Parish
Biodiversity
Audit 2022

Great Torrington



1	Introduction
2	Designated / Non-designated sites
5	Other habitats
8	Unconfirmed wildlife sites
9	Habitat descriptions
12	Nature Recovery Networks
15	Species found in the parish
35	Some ideas for local action
38	Useful sources of further information
39	Guidance

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.

Great Torrington is a large parish of 1,449 hectares located in Torridge District, approximately 10km south-east of the town of Bideford. It joins the Northern Devon Nature Improvement Area priority parishes Monkleigh, Frithelstock, Little Torrington and St. Giles in-the-Wood.

The river Torridge forms the western and part of the southern boundary of the parish. Other unnamed watercourses pass along the southern, eastern and part of the northern boundaries of the parish. Common Lake (stream) passes from the River Torridge at Rolle Bridge, through Great Torrington Common joining Moortown near the edge of the parish, and Darracott Reservoir.

The land use of the parish was noted as mainly livestock farming (sheep and cattle) and some arable, the north part of the parish was mainly agriculturally improved grassland, with some arable fields to the north-east and south.

The market town of Great Torrington is the main settlement within the parish with its old market square, town hall and pannier market. Outside of the town the parish is rural and sparsely populated.

The town has an interesting history and is famous for the Battle of Torrington in 1646 during the English Civil War.

The most important landscape feature of the parish was noted as Great Torrington Common. This surrounds the town to its north, south and west and has been designated as a County Wildlife Site (CWS) for its considerable wildlife interest. Great Torrington Common was seen to cover 127ha of common land which was over 8% of the parish. The site was a mosaic of unimproved acid grassland (flower-rich meadows and pastures), semi-improved neutral and acid grassland, scrub, bracken, broadleaved woodland (lowland mixed deciduous woodland

and upland oakwood) and wet woodland.

Within the parish there are also two Other Sites of Wildlife Interest (OSWI) – Darracott Reservoir and Rolle Field. These sites were seen to contain open water, secondary broadleaved woodland, swamp, marshy grassland and semiimproved grassland. A Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS) was found at Barley Grove, near Castle Hill.

Other wildlife features that occurred within the parish include the following: traditional orchards; lowland mixed deciduous woodland; scrub woodland; species-rich hedges and species rich road verges.

Great Torrington 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 Great Torrington parish – one County Wildlife Site (CWS), two Other Sites of Wildlife Interest (OSWI) and one Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS). These sites support habitats including wet woodland, unimproved grassland (flower-rich meadows and pastures), scrub, lowland mixed deciduous woodland and open water. These sites were noted to cover 130ha which is 9% of the total area of the parish. The largest CWS is Great Torrington Commons. This alone accounted for over 8% of the parish.

Site Name	Habitat Description	BAP habitat	Status
Great Torrington Commons	Mosaic of unimproved acid grassland, semiimproved neutral and acid grassland, scrub, bracken, broadleaved woodland and wet woodland	Alder/willow wet woodland & flowerrich meadows & pastures – Devon BAP, Broadleaved woodland - ND Biosphere BAP.	CWS
Rolle Field	Semi-improved marshy grassland and small area of species-rich marshy grassland		OSWI
Darracott	Open water, scrub, secondary broadleaved woodland, swamp and semi-improved grassland		OSWI
Barley Grove, Torrington	View of terrace features of the River Torridge & outcrops of Carboniferous Bude Formation sandstone & shale		RIGS

Other Sites of Wildlife Interest

(OSWI) 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.

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS)

are earth science sites that are of regional or local importance. Like CWS, they are included in Local Plans and referred to under PPG9.

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.

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.



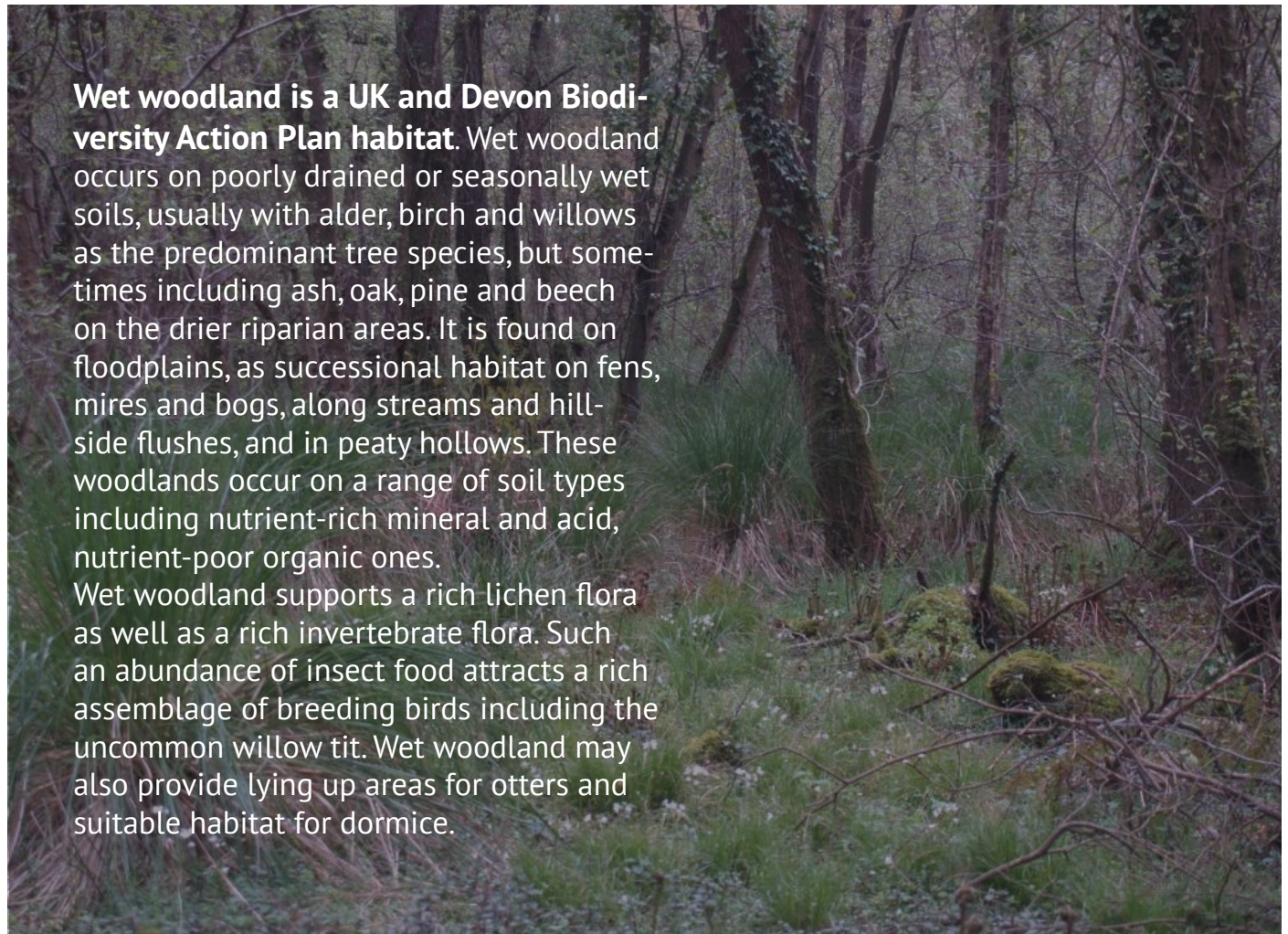
Unimproved grassland

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland is on the North Devon Biosphere Biodiversity Action Plan and is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitat. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland includes woodland growing on the full range of soil conditions, from very acidic to base-rich, and takes in most seminatural woodland in southern and eastern England, and in parts of lowland Wales and Scotland. It occurs largely within enclosed landscapes, usually on sites with well-defined boundaries, at relatively low altitudes, although altitude is not a defining feature.

Many are ancient woods and they include the classic examples of ancient woodland studied by Rackham (1980) and Peterken (1981) in East Anglia and the East Midlands. The woods tend to be small, less than 20 ha. Often there is evidence of past coppicing, particularly on moderately acid to base-rich soils; on very acid sands the type may be represented by former wood-pastures of oak and birch.

There is great variety in the species composition of the canopy layer and the ground flora. *Quercus robur* is generally the commoner oak (although *Quercus petraea* may be abundant locally) and may occur with virtually all combinations of other locally native tree species. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland may form a mosaic with other woodland types, including patches of beech woodlands and small wet areas. Rides and edges may grade into grassland and scrub types.

There are no precise data on the total extent of lowland mixed deciduous woodland in the UK, but in the late 1980s the Nature Conservancy Council estimated the total extent of this type to be about 250,000ha. There is however no doubt that the area of this priority type on ancient woodland sites has declined in area by clearance, overgrazing and replanting with non-native species, by about 30-40% over the last 50 years.



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 hill-side 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. It was found that most of the hedges that occurred in Great Torrington 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 opposite Beam Wood



Hedges near Hill Farm

Cemetery/churchyard



The parish church of St. Michael and All Angels is found in the centre of the town along New Road. The church is a Grade II listed building, listed in the 1950s. The church was destroyed in the Battle of Torrington and was substantially rebuilt in 1651. It was restored again in 1864. <http://www.greattorrington.com/history/>

An avenue of limes was seen present along the cobbled path to entrance and the wall around the churchyard supports ed maidenhair spleenwort, buddleia and ivyleaved toadflax. The grassland in the churchyard was tightly mown. Species recorded include daisy, ribwort plantain, germander speedwell, white clover, autumn hawkbit, selfheal, red fescue, broad-leaved plantain, cat's-ear and Yorkshire fog.

There were scattered mature trees including yew, common lime, tulip tree, horsechestnut and magnolia.

Churchyards can often hold unimproved flower-rich grassland which has been protected from chemicals and ploughing, and can provide habitat for a wide range of species including bats, birds, insects, reptiles and mammals. Having areas designated for less frequent mowing can allow longer grasses and stands of wild flowers to flourish. This not only looks attractive but it can also provide cover and food sources for birds and insects.



Great Torrington Cemetery is found off New Street at the western edge of the town, close to the commons. The cemetery is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953, within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by English Heritage, for its special historic interest. Features include a First World War memorial, specimen trees, an entrance lodge, entrance gates and a pair of Gothic-style chapels.

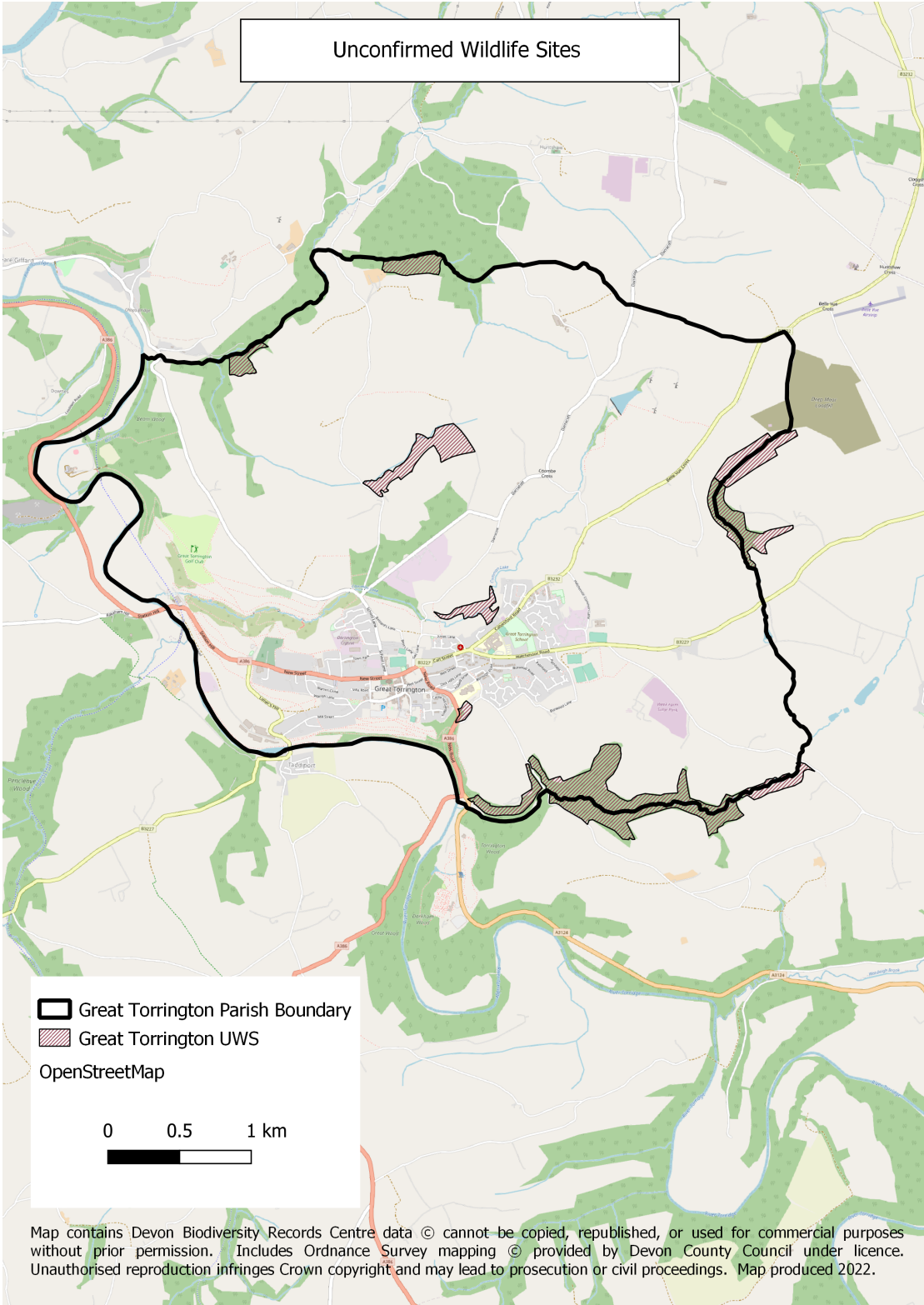
The cemetery was found to contain scattered specimen trees, some of which may have been veteran, and probably derive from planting in the 1850s. Along the entrance path there were many large trees including Deodar cedars, Douglas firs, and yews. Scattered trees include copper beech, yew, ash, sycamore and box.

The grassland around the graves contained ribwort plantain, selfheal, germander speedwell, red fescue, white clover, primrose, daisy, cock's-foot, Yorkshire fog, barren strawberry, hogweed, false oat-grass and smooth hawk's-beard.



Unconfirmed wildlife sites

There are six Unconfirmed Wildlife Sites in Great Torrington parish. These are sites identified as having possible interest but not fully surveyed. Some of these sites will be areas of significant wildlife interest.



Types of habitat found in the parish

Traditional Orchards: Some orchards were identified during the aerial photo interpretation of the 2014 parish audit. Some of these may have been 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 cemetery was found to contain specimen evergreen trees with some interesting features. Some of these may have been veterans and were planted in the 1850s.

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

Tarka trail There is access to the Tarka Trail at the Puffing Billy pub at Rolle Bridge. The trail travels north to Bideford (6 miles), then on to Instow, Fremington, Barnstaple and ending at Braunton (21 miles). The trail also continues in the other direction to Petrockstowe and on to Meeth (10 miles).

Great Torrington Common was found to be the largest area of public open space in the parish, and it has also been identified as a County Wildlife Site due to its wildlife interest. The common is looked after by the Commons Conservators and it has its own website: <http://www.torringtoncommon.co.uk/>

The common was given to the people of Torrington in 1194 and the commons have more than 20 miles of footpaths. The commons, were found to support a large diversity of habitats including unimproved acid grassland (flower-rich meadows and pastures), semi-improved neutral and acid grassland, scrub, bracken, broadleaved woodland (lowland mixed deciduous woodland) and wet woodland. They were also are home to a variety of wildlife including otter, lesser horseshoe bat, pearl bordered fritillary, marbled white, adder and brown long-eared bat.



Nature recovery networks

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

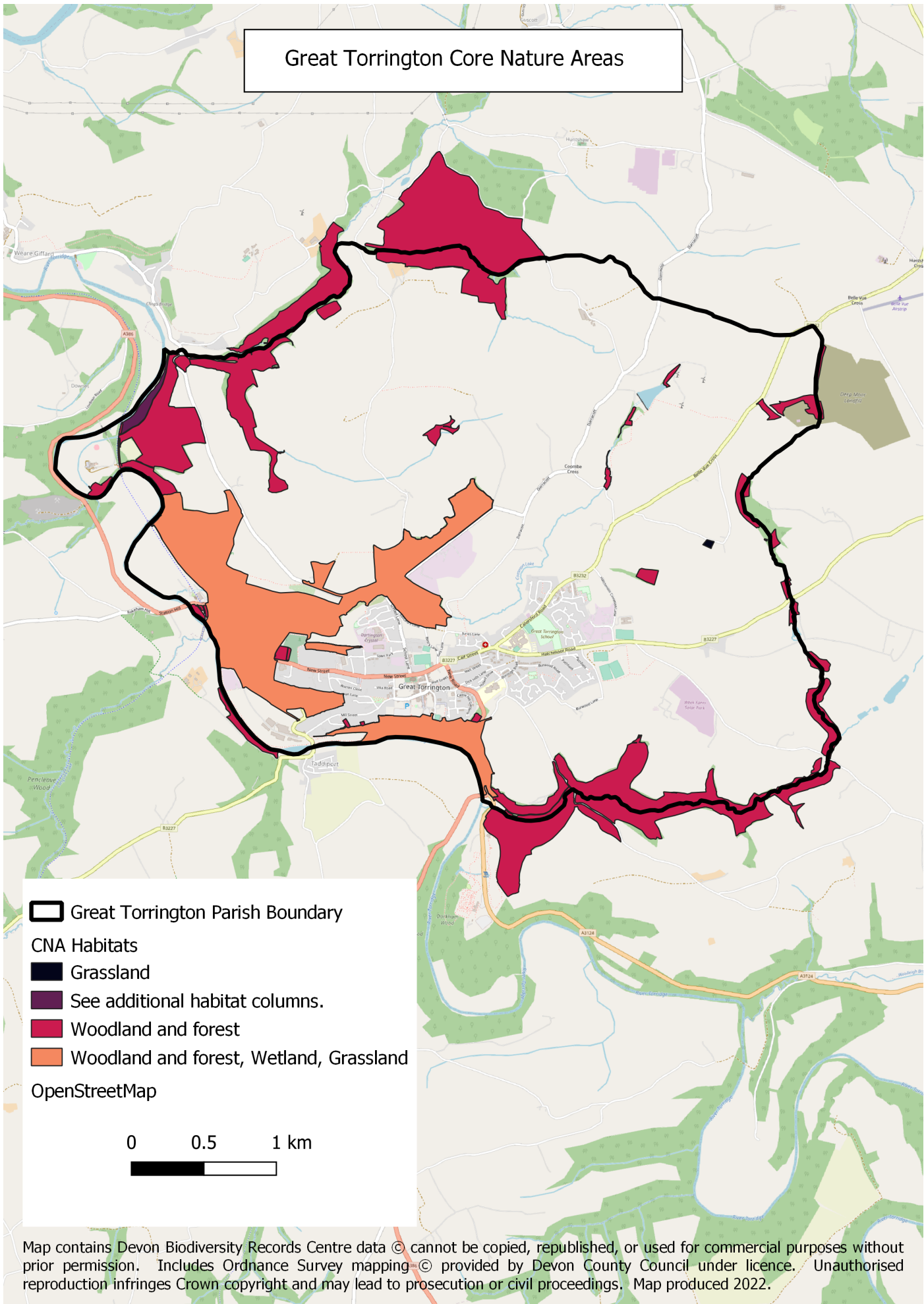
The following two maps show Core Nature Areas as well as Other Nature Areas along with their associated habitats.

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.

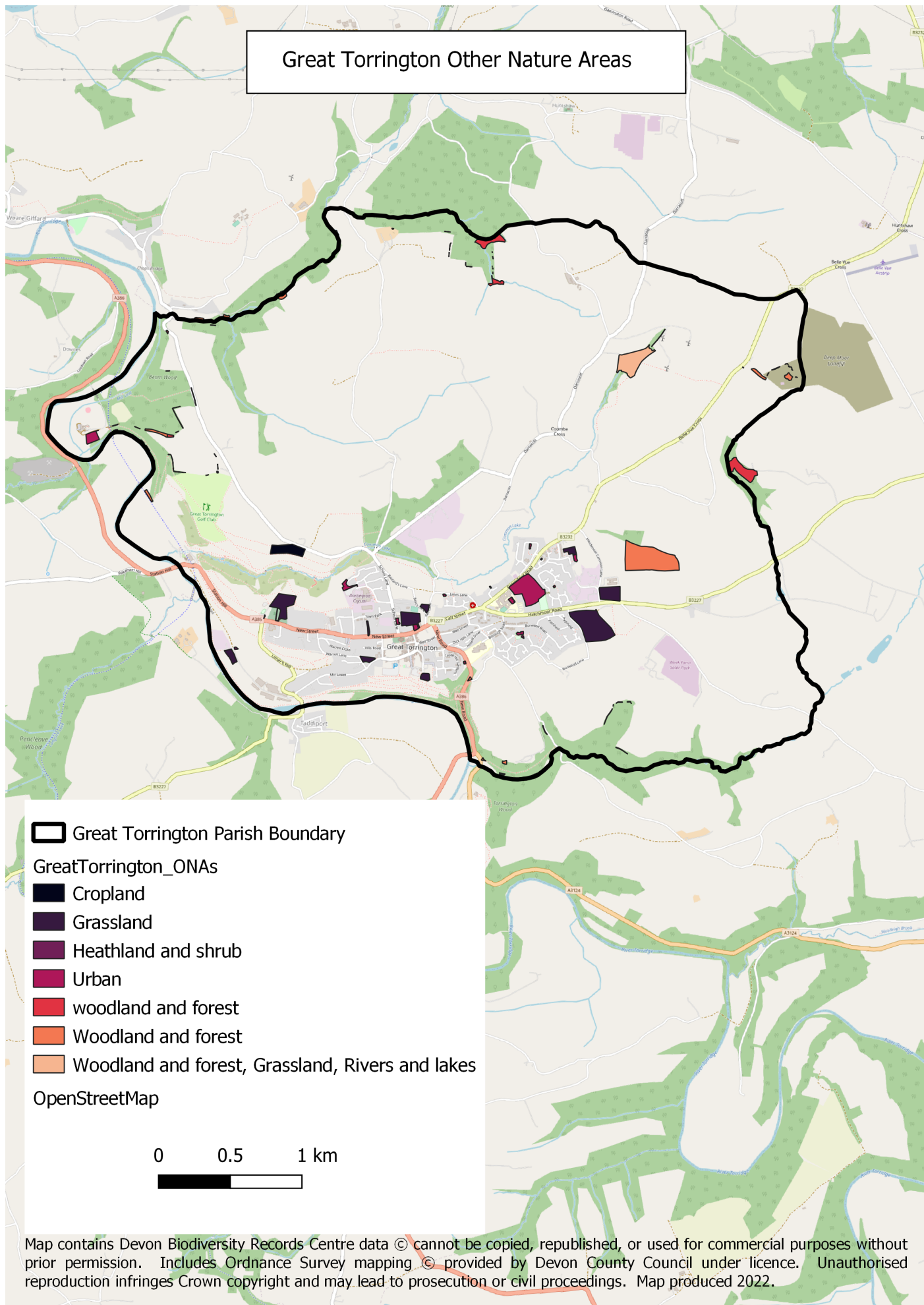
Habitats are grouped together and mapped as Broad Habitats (grasslands, woodlands, wetlands etc).

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.

Great Torrington Core Nature Areas

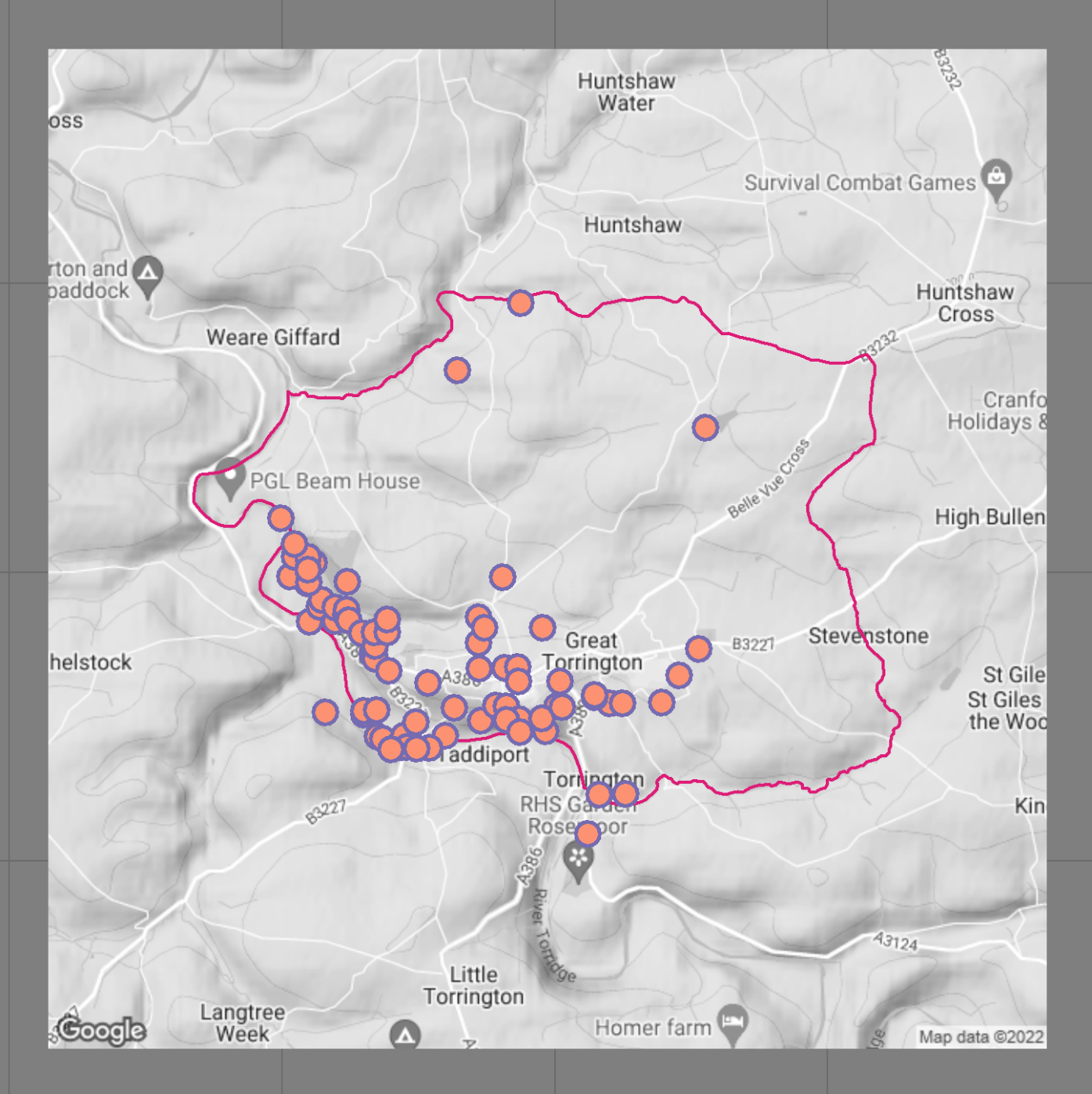


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Species found in the parish

The map below shows the location of recording within the boundary council 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 Hatherleigh. 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.

These are the species that normally are the most likely to affect development and are taken into account when planning.

Taxon Group	Records added during project
amphibian	2
bird	6
insect - beetle	1
insect - butterfly	5
insect - moth	10
reptile	5
terrestrial mammal	6
17 New priority species records for Great Torrington	

Summary of section 41 species recorded during project.

- Records added during Conservation Communities
- New records added during Conservation Communities

Taxon Group	Common name	Scientific	Other Status	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
amphibian	Common Toad	Bufo bufo	WCA 5 (S); Bern III, UKBAP (P)	2		2
bird	Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	UKBAP (P); Amber	1	1	2
bird	Hen harrier	Circus cyaneus	WCA 1; NERC 41, Red	1		1
bird	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	UKBAP (P); Red	1	2	3
bird	Marsh Tit	Poecile palustris	UKBAP (P); Red	2	1	3
bird	Willow Tit	Poecile montanus	Bern II, UKBAP (P); Red; Special Species	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Violet Oil-beetle	Meloe violaceus	UKBAP (P); Nb	1		1
insect - butterfly	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria selene	UKBAP (P); Decline	4		4
insect - butterfly	Wood White	Leptidea sinapis	WCA 5 (S); UKBAP (P); Nb; Special Species	1		1
insect - moth	Blood-Vein	Timandra comae			1	1
insect - moth	Brindled beauty	Lycia hirtaria	UKBAP (P)	1		1
insect - moth	Buff ermine	Spilosoma lutea	UKBAP (P)	1		1
insect - moth	Cinnabar	Tyria jacobaeae	UKBAP (P)	3	1	4
insect - moth	Dot Moth	Melanchra persicariae	UKBAP (P)		1	1
insect - moth	Dusky Thorn	Ennomos fuscantaria	UKBAP (P)		1	1
insect - moth	Grey Dagger	Acronicta psi	UKBAP (P)	2	1	3
insect - moth	Knot Grass	Acronicta rumicis	UKBAP (P)		1	1
insect - moth	Lackey	Malacosoma neustria	UKBAP (P)	2	1	3
insect - moth	Pretty Chalk Carpet	Melanthia procellata	UKBAP (P)		1	1
insect - moth	Rosy Rustic	Hydraecia micacea	UKBAP (P)		1	1
insect - moth	Small Emerald	Hemistola chrysoprasaria	UKBAP (P)		1	1
insect - moth	Small Phoenix	Ecliptopera silaceata	UKBAP (P)	1	1	2
reptile	Adder	Vipera berus	WCA 5 (KIS); Bern III, UKBAP (P)	1		1
reptile	Common Lizard	Zootoca vivipara	WCA 5 (KIS); Bern III, UKBAP (P)	1		1
reptile	Grass Snake	Natrix helvetica	WCA 5 (KIS); Bern III, UKBAP (P)	1	1	2
reptile	Slow-worm	Anguis fragilis	WCA 5 (KIS); Bern III, UKBAP (P)	2		2
terrestrial mammal	Barbastelle	Barbastella barbastellus	WCA 5, 6; EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II, UKBAP (P); Vul	1		1
terrestrial mammal	Eurasian Otter	Lutra lutra	WCA 5; EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II, UKBAP (P); DBAP	5	7	12

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	Records added during project
amphibian	1
bird	67
fern	1
flowering plant	14
insect - moth	10
insect - true fly	1
terrestrial mammal	10
48 New priority species records for Great Torrington	

Summary of priority species recorded during project.

- Records added during Conservation Communities
- New records added during Conservation Communities

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	Status	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
amphibian	Palmate newt	Lissotriton helveticus	WCA 5 (S), Bern III	1		1
bird	Barn owl	Tyto alba	WCA 1, 9, Bern II, DBAP	2		2
bird	Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	Bern II	2	2	4
bird	Dipper	Cinclus cinclus	Bern II, Amber	2	1	3
bird	Dunnock	Prunella modularis	Bern II, Amber	1	2	3
bird	Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	Bern II	2	1	3
bird	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	Bern II	1	3	4
bird	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	Bern II	3		3
bird	Great Tit	Parus major	Bern II	2	2	4
bird	Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	Bern II	4	1	5
bird	Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	Bern II, Red		5	5

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	Status	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
bird	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	Bern II, Amber	3	1	4
bird	Herring gull	Larus argentatus	Red	1		1
bird	Hobby	Falco subbuteo	WCA 1, Bern II		1	1
bird	House martin	Delichon urbicum	Bern II, Red	1		1
bird	Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	Bern II, Amber	1		1
bird	Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	WCA 1, Amber	6	1	7
bird	Lesser spotted woodpecker	Dendrocopos minor	Bern II, Red	1		1
bird	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	Bern II		1	1
bird	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Amber	2		2
bird	Mistle thrush	Turdus viscivorus	Red	1		1
bird	Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	Bern II	3		3
bird	Peregrine	Falco peregrinus	WCA 1, Bern II		1	1
bird	Pied wagtail	Motacilla alba	Bern II	2		2
bird	Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Bern II	3	2	5
bird	Rook	Corvus frugilegus	Amber		2	2
bird	Sand martin	Riparia riparia	Bern II	2		2
bird	Siskin	Spinus spinus	Bern II	1	1	2
bird	Song thrush	Turdus philomelos	UKBAP (P); Amber	4		4
bird	Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Red		1	1
bird	Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Bern II	4		4
bird	Tawny owl	Strix aluco	Bern II, Amber	3	1	4
bird	Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris	Bern II	1	1	2
bird	Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	Amber	3		3
bird	Woodcock	Scolopax rusticola	Red	1		1
bird	Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	Amber		2	2
bird	Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Bern II, Amber	5	2	7
fern	Water Fern	Azolla filiculoides	WCA 9	1		1
flowering plant	Bluebell	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	WCA 8 (S)	2		2
flowering plant	Curly waterweed	Lagarosiphon major	WCA 9		1	1
flowering plant	Greater Duckweed	Spirodela polyrhiza	DN1	1		1
flowering plant	Himalayan Balsam	Impatiens glandulifera	WCA 9	2		2
flowering plant	Musk Stork's-bill	Erodium moschatum	NS; DR	1		1
flowering plant	Primrose	Primula vulgaris	DBAP	4		4
flowering plant	Three-cornered Garlic	Allium triquetrum	WCA 9	2		2
flowering plant	Toothed Medick	Medicago polymorpha	NS; DN1	1		1
flowering plant	Twayblade	Listera cordata	DN1; DR	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	Long-horned Nomad Bee	Nomada hirtipes	RDB3	1		1
insect - moth	Alder kitten	Furcula bicuspis	Nb	1		1
insect - moth	Ash Bud Moth	Prays fraxinella	Migrant		1	1
insect - moth	Bright Neb	Argolamprotes micella	Nb		1	1

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	Status	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - moth	Cloaked Carpet	<i>Euphyia biangulata</i>	Nb		1	1
insect - moth	Dark Sword-grass	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	Migrant		1	1
insect - moth	Double Line	<i>Mythimna turca</i>	Nb		1	1
insect - moth	Four-spotted Footman	<i>Lithosia quadra</i>	Migrant	1	1	2
insect - moth	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Migrant	1	2	3
insect - moth	Jersey Tiger	<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i>	Nb	1	2	3
insect - moth	Orange footman	<i>Eilema sororcula</i>	Nb	1		1
insect - moth	Pied Grey	<i>Eudonia delunella</i>	Nb		2	2
insect - moth	Rush veneer	<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	Migrant	1		1
insect - moth	Satin lutestring	<i>Tetheella fluctuosa</i>	Nb	1		1
insect - moth	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Migrant	4	1	5
insect - moth	Waved Carpet	<i>Hydrelia sylvata</i>	Nb		1	1
insect - moth	White-line Snout	<i>Schrankia taenialis</i>	Nb		1	1
insect - moth	Woundwort Pearl	<i>Anania stachydalis</i>	Nb		1	1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Policheta unicolor</i>	Vul	1		1
terrestrial mammal	a Bat	<i>Myotis</i>	WCA 5, 6, EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	1	4	5
terrestrial mammal	a Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus</i>	WCA 5, 6, EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	2	4	6
terrestrial mammal	Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	WCA 5, 6, EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II	4		4
terrestrial mammal	Eurasian Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	WCA 6, BA, Bern III	1		1
terrestrial mammal	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	DA, Bern III	1		1
terrestrial mammal	Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	WCA 5, 6, EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II, Vul	1		1



Common species

All other species found in the parish.

Taxon Group	Records added during project
acarine (Acari)	5
bird	29
centipede	1
crustacean	1
fern	19
flatworm (Turbellaria)	1
flowering plant	467
fungus	2
horsetail	1
insect - beetle	35
insect - butterfly	37
insect - caddis fly	1
insect - dragonfly	9
insect - hymenopteran	15
insect - mayfly	5
insect - moth	53
insect - scorpionfly	2
insect - stonefly	2
insect - true bug	14
insect - true fly	73
lichen	7
millipede	1
spider	5
terrestrial mammal	12
800 New species records for Great Torrington	

Summary of common species recorded during project.

For brevity this table only shows species records that have increased over the life of the project. For the full list please see the separate appendix.

-  Records added during Conservation Communities
-  New records added during Conservation Communities

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
acarine (Acari)	a Gall mite	Phyllocoptes goniothorax	1		1
acarine (Acari)	a Gall mite	Cecidophyes rouhollahi	2		2
acarine (Acari)	a Tick	Ixodida	1		1
annelid	a Leech	Hirudinea	1		1
bird	Blackbird	Turdus merula	5	2	7
bird	Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	5	4	9
bird	Buzzard	Buteo buteo	3	1	4
bird	Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	1	1	2
bird	Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	2	2	4
bird	Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	4	1	5
bird	Garden Warbler	Sylvia borin	1	1	2
bird	Goosander	Mergus merganser	1		1
bird	Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula	2		2
bird	Jay	Garrulus glandarius	3		3
bird	Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	1	1	2
bird	Magpie	Pica pica	1	2	3
centipede	a Centipede	Lithobius variegatus	1		1
crustacean	a Freshwater Shrimp	Gammarus	1		1
fern	Black Spleenwort	Asplenium adiantum-nigrum	1		1
fern	Bracken	Pteridium aquilinum	4		4
fern	Broad Buckler Fern	Dryopteris dilatata	1		1
fern	Hard Fern	Blechnum spicant	2		2
fern	Hartstongue	Phyllitis scolopendrium	3		3
fern	Intermediate polypody	Polypodium interjectum	1		1
fern	Lady Fern	Athyrium filix-femina	1		1
fern	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Asplenium trichomanes	2		2
fern	Scaly Male Fern	Dryopteris affinis	1		1
fern	Soft Shield-fern	Polystichum setiferum	3		3
flatworm (Turbellaria)	a Flatworm	Platyhelminthes	1		1
flowering plant	a Violet	Viola	2		2
flowering plant	Agrimony	Agrimonia eupatoria	1		1
flowering plant	Alder	Alnus glutinosa	1		1
flowering plant	Alexanders	Smyrniolum olusatrum	1		1
flowering plant	Angelica	Angelica sylvestris	1		1
flowering plant	Annual meadowgrass	Poa annua	2		2
flowering plant	Apple	Malus domestica	1		1
flowering plant	Ash	Fraxinus excelsior	1		1

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
flowering plant	Barren Strawberry	Potentilla sterilis	4		4
flowering plant	Beech	Fagus sylvatica	1		1
flowering plant	Bell Heather	Erica cinerea	1		1
flowering plant	Betony	Stachys officinalis	1		1
flowering plant	Bilberry	Vaccinium myrtillus	1		1
flowering plant	Biting Stonecrop	Sedum acre	1		1
flowering plant	Black Horehound	Ballota nigra	1		1
flowering plant	Black Mustard	Brassica nigra	2		2
flowering plant	Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa	1		1
flowering plant	Bog Stitchwort	Stellaria alsine	1		1
flowering plant	Bramble	Rubus fruticosus agg.	6		6
flowering plant	Bristly Oxtongue	Picris echioides	1		1
flowering plant	Broad-leaved dock	Rumex obtusifolius	7		7
flowering plant	Broad-leaved Willowherb	Epilobium montanum	1		1
flowering plant	Brown Knapweed	Centaurea jacea	1		1
flowering plant	Bulbous Buttercup	Ranunculus bulbosus	1		1
flowering plant	Bush Vetch	Vicia sepium	7		7
flowering plant	Butterbur	Petasites hybridus	1		1
flowering plant	Caper Spurge	Euphorbia lathyris	1		1
flowering plant	Changing forget-me-not	Myosotis discolor	1		1
flowering plant	Cherry	Prunus avium	1		1
flowering plant	Cleavers	Galium aparine	8		8
flowering plant	Cocksfoot	Dactylis glomerata	2		2
flowering plant	Common bent	Agrostis capillaris	1		1
flowering plant	Common Bird's-foot-Trefoil	Lotus corniculatus	5		5
flowering plant	Common Cat's-ear	Hypochaeris radicata	7		7
flowering plant	Common chickweed	Stellaria media	1		1
flowering plant	Common Cudweed	Filago vulgaris	1		1
flowering plant	Common Dog Violet	Viola riviniana	1		1
flowering plant	Common duckweed	Lemna minor	1		1
flowering plant	Common field Speedwell	Veronica persica	1		1
flowering plant	Common Figwort	Scrophularia nodosa	1		1
flowering plant	Common fumitory	Fumaria muralis ssp. boraei	1		1
flowering plant	Common Knapweed	Centaurea nigra	3		3
flowering plant	Common Mallow	Malva sylvestris	1		1
flowering plant	Common mouse-ear	Cerastium fontanum	1		1
flowering plant	Common Nettle	Urtica dioica	7		7
flowering plant	Common Ragwort	Senecio jacobaea	5		5
flowering plant	Common Sorrel	Rumex acetosa	6		6
flowering plant	Common Stork's-bill	Erodium cicutarium	1		1
flowering plant	Common Toadflax	Linaria vulgaris	3		3
flowering plant	Common Valerian	Valeriana officinalis	2		2
flowering plant	Common Vetch	Vicia sativa segetalis	1		1
flowering plant	Common Vetch	Vicia sativa	3		3
flowering plant	Cow Parsley	Anthriscus sylvestris	7		7
flowering plant	Creeping Bent	Agrostis stolonifera	1		1
flowering plant	Creeping Buttercup	Ranunculus repens	7		7
flowering plant	Creeping soft grass	Holcus mollis	1		1
flowering plant	Creeping Thistle	Cirsium arvense	6		6
flowering plant	Cuckoo flower	Cardamine pratensis	1		1
flowering plant	Cultivated daffodil	Narcissus agg	1		1
flowering plant	Curled Dock	Rumex crispus	3		3

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
flowering plant	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Cut-leaved cranesbill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Daffodil	<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	4		4
flowering plant	Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	3		3
flowering plant	Dog-rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	3		3
flowering plant	Dog's Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Downy birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Enchanter's Nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	2		2
flowering plant	English Stonecrop	<i>Sedum anglicum</i>	2		2
flowering plant	False brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Field rose	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Field Woodrush	<i>Luzula campestris</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Fleabane	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	3		3
flowering plant	Floating sweet-grass	<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Fool's Water-cress	<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	4		4
flowering plant	Garden Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> subsp. <i>argentat</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	5		5
flowering plant	Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	9		9
flowering plant	Giant fescue	<i>Festuca gigantea</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Gladiolus	<i>Gladiolus communis</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Golden Rod	<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Great Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Great Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Greater Celandine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	5		5
flowering plant	Greater Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	3		3
flowering plant	Green Alkanet	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Grey sedge	<i>Carex divulsa</i> ssp. <i>divulsa</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Ground Elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Ground Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Hairy sedge	<i>Carex hirta</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Hairy Tare	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Hairy Woodrush	<i>Luzula pilosa</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Heath Bedstraw	<i>Galium saxatile</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Heath Milkwort	<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Heath Speedwell	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	3		3
flowering plant	Hedge Bedstraw	<i>Galium mollugo</i>	3		3
flowering plant	Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	4		4
flowering plant	Hedge mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	2		2

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
flowering plant	Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	3		3
flowering plant	Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Hemlock Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	3		3
flowering plant	Hemp Nettle	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	4		4
flowering plant	Hoary Willowherb	<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	7		7
flowering plant	Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	5		5
flowering plant	Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Hybrid bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Irish Spurge	<i>Eurphobia hiberna</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Ivy-leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Keeled-fruited cornsalad	<i>Valerianella carinata</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Large Bindweed	<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Large Lords-and-Ladies	<i>Arum italicum</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Lesser Burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	4		4
flowering plant	Lesser Periwinkle	<i>Vinca minor</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Lesser Spearwort	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Lesser Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	7		7
flowering plant	Lesser trefoil	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Lime	<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Ling	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Long-stalked Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Lords and Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Lords-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	3		3
flowering plant	Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Marsh Bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Marsh margold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	3		3
flowering plant	Marsh Woundwort	<i>Stachys palustris</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	5		5
flowering plant	Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Meadow Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	4		4
flowering plant	Moschatel	<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Opposite-leaved golden saxifrage	<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Pendulous sedge	<i>Carex pendula</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Perennial rye grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Perennial Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Perforate St. John's-wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	2		2

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
flowering plant	Petty Spurge	Euphorbia peplus	2		2
flowering plant	Pignut	Conopodium majus	3		3
flowering plant	Pill sedge	Carex pilulifera	1		1
flowering plant	Pineappleweed	Matricaria discoidea	2		2
flowering plant	Pink Purslane	Claytonia sibirica	3		3
flowering plant	Prickly Sow-thistle	Sonchus asper	3		3
flowering plant	Ramsons	Allium ursinum	1		1
flowering plant	Raspberry	Rubus idaeus	1		1
flowering plant	Red Campion	Silene dioica	5		5
flowering plant	Red Clover	Trifolium pratense	3		3
flowering plant	Red Fescue	Festuca rubra	1		1
flowering plant	Red Valerian	Centranthus ruber	3		3
flowering plant	Reed canarygrass	Phalaris arundinacea	1		1
flowering plant	Remote sedge	Carex remota	1		1
flowering plant	Ribwort Plantain	Plantago lanceolata	7		7
flowering plant	Roough meadow grass	Poa trivialis	1		1
flowering plant	Rosebay Willowherb	Chamerion angustifolium	3		3
flowering plant	Rowan	Sorbus aucuparia	1		1
flowering plant	Russian comfrey	Symphytum x uplandicum	3		3
flowering plant	Sallow	Salix cinerea subsp. oleifolia	1		1
flowering plant	Sand Spurrey	Spergularia rubra	1		1
flowering plant	Scarlet pimpernel	Anagallis arvensis	1		1
flowering plant	Selfheal	Prunella vulgaris	2		2
flowering plant	Sheep's Sorrel	Rumex acetosella	4		4
flowering plant	Shepherd's purse	Capsella bursa-pastoris	1		1
flowering plant	Shepherd's-purse	Capsella bursa-pastoris	1		1
flowering plant	Silver Birch	Betula pendula	1		1
flowering plant	Silver Hair-grass	Aira caryophyllea	1		1
flowering plant	Silverweed	Potentilla anserina	3		3
flowering plant	Slender Parsley-piert	Aphanes australis	1		1
flowering plant	Slender Rush	Juncus tenuis	1		1
flowering plant	Slender St John's-wort	Hypericum pulchrum	2		2
flowering plant	Smooth Hawk's-beard	Crepis capillaris	2		2
flowering plant	Smooth meadow grass	Poa pratensis	1		1
flowering plant	Smooth Sow-thistle	Sonchus oleraceus	2		2
flowering plant	Snowdrop	Galanthus nivalis	1		1
flowering plant	Soft brome	Bromus hordeaceus	1		1
flowering plant	Soft rush	Juncus effusus	1		1
flowering plant	Southern marsh orchid	Dactylorhiza praetermissa	2		2
flowering plant	Spanish Bluebell	Hyacinthoides hispanica	2		2
flowering plant	Spear Thistle	Cirsium vulgare	3		3
flowering plant	Spear-leaved orache	Atriplex prostrata	1		1
flowering plant	Spear-leaved Willowherb	Epilobium lanceolatum	1		1
flowering plant	Spotted Medick	Medicago arabica	1		1
flowering plant	Square-stalked Willowherb	Epilobium tetragonum	1		1
flowering plant	Sterile brome	Anisantha sterilis	1		1
flowering plant	Strawberry	Fragaria vesca	1		1
flowering plant	Sweet vernal grass	Anthoxanthum odoratum	2		2
flowering plant	Sweet Violet	Viola odorata	1		1
flowering plant	Swinecress	Lepidium didymus	1		1
flowering plant	Sycamore	Acer pseudoplatanus	1		1

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
flowering plant	Thale cress	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Toad Rush	<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	3		3
flowering plant	Traveller's-joy	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	4		4
flowering plant	Tufted Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Tufted hair grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Tutsan	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Upright Hedge Parsley	<i>Torilis japonica</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Vervain	<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Wall Pennywort	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	4		4
flowering plant	Wall Speedwell	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Water Figwort	<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Water pepper	<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Wavy bitter cress	<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Wavy Bitter-cress	<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	1		1
flowering plant	White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	5		5
flowering plant	White Stonecrop	<i>Sedum album</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Wild garlic	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Wild Madder	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Wild Onion	<i>Allium vineale</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Wild Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Winter Heliotrope	<i>Petasites fragrans</i>	3		3
flowering plant	Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Wood Avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	6		6
flowering plant	Wood Dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	4		4
flowering plant	Wood Melick	<i>Melica uniflora</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Wood Sage	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	3		3
flowering plant	Wood Speedwell	<i>Veronica montana</i>	1		1
flowering plant	Wood-sedge	<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	5		5
flowering plant	Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	2		2
flowering plant	Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	3		3
flowering plant	Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	2		2
fungus	Stinkhorn	<i>Phallus impudicus</i>	1		1
fungus	Sulphur Tuft	<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	1		1
fungus	Yellow Fieldcap	<i>Bolbitius vitellinus</i>	1		1
horsetail	Field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	10-spot Ladybird	<i>Adalia decempunctata</i>	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	14-spot Ladybird	<i>Propylea quatuordecimpunctata</i>	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	22-spot Ladybird	<i>Psyllobora vigintiduopunctata</i>	2		2
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	24-spot Ladybird	<i>Subcoccinella vigintiquatuor punctata</i>	3		3
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	7-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	1		1

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	a Beetle	Lagria hirta	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	a Click Beetle	Ctenicera	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	a Dor Beetle	Geotrupes	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	a Ladybird	Coccinellidae	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	a Leaf Beetle	Cryptocephalus	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	a Leaf Beetle	Oulema melanopus	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	a Longhorn Beetle	Pyrochroa serraticornis	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	a Rove Beetle	Paederus littoralis	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	a Rove Beetle	Staphylinidae	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	a Soldier Beetle	Cantharidae	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	a Soldier Beetle	Cantharis figurata	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	a Soldier Beetle	Cantharis rustica	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	a Soldier Beetle	Rhagonycha	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	a Weevil	Apion frumentarium	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Common Cockchafer	Melolontha melolontha	2		2
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Common Leaf Weevil	Phyllobius pyri	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Common Red Soldier Beetle	Rhagonycha fulva	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Green Dock Beetle	Gastrophysa viridula	2		2
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Green Weevil (nettle weevil)	Phyllobius pomaceus	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Hairy Spider Weevil	Barypeithes pellucidus	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Harlequin Ladybird	Harmonia axyridis	1		1
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Swollen-thighed Beetle	Oedemera nobilis	2		2
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Wasp Beetle	Clytus arietis	2		2
insect - butterfly	Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni	4		4
insect - butterfly	Comma	Polygonia c-album	1		1
insect - butterfly	Green-veined White	Pieris napi	3		3
insect - butterfly	Large White	Pieris brassicae	2		2
insect - butterfly	Marbled White	Melanargia galathea	1		1

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - butterfly	Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	3		3
insect - butterfly	Orange-tip	Anthocharis cardamines	6		6
insect - butterfly	Peacock	Aglais io	1		1
insect - butterfly	Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta	1		1
insect - butterfly	Ringlet	Aphantopus hyperantus	2		2
insect - butterfly	Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas	1		1
insect - butterfly	Small Skipper	Thymelicus sylvestris	1		1
insect - butterfly	Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae	4		4
insect - butterfly	Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria	7		7
insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)	a Cased Caddis Fly	Trichoptera	1		1
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Beautiful Demoiselle	Calopteryx virgo	5		5
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Common blue damselfly	Enallagma cyathigerum	1		1
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Large Red Damselfly	Pyrrhosoma nymphula	2		2
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Southern hawker	Aeshna cyanea	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	a Gall wasp	Phanacis hypochoeridis	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	a Nomad Bee	Nomada	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	a Red Ant	Myrmica ruginodis	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	a Sawfly	Blennocampa phyllocolpa	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	a Sawfly	Blennocampa pusilla	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	a Sawfly	Rhogogaster	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	a Sawfly	Symphyta	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	an Ichneumon Wasp	Ichneumonidae	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	Bloomed Furrow Bee	Lasioglossum albipes	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	Common Carder Bumble Bee	Bombus pascuorum	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	Early Nomad Bee	Nomada leucophthalma	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	Early/Meadow Bumble Bee	Bombus pratorum	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	Flavous Nomad Bee	Nomada flava	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	Gooden's Nomad Bee	Nomada goodeniana	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	Little Nomad Bee	Nomada flavoguttata	1		1
insect - hymenopteran	Mournful Wasp	Pemphredon lugubris	1		1

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	a Flat-bodied Mayfly	Heptageniidae	1		1
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	a Mayfly	Ephemeroptera	3		3
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	Blue-winged Olive	Serratella ignita	1		1
insect - moth	a Micromoth	Micropterix calthella	1		1
insect - moth	a moth	Cochylimorpha straminea	1		1
insect - moth	a moth	Nematopogon swammerdamella	1		1
insect - moth	a moth	Orthotaenia undulana	1		1
insect - moth	Alder	Acronicta alni	1		1
insect - moth	Brimstone Moth	Opisthograptis luteolata	1	2	3
insect - moth	Brown Silver-line	Petrophora chlorosata	1		1
insect - moth	Buff-tip	Phalera bucephala	1	1	2
insect - moth	Cinnabar	Tyria jacobaeae	1		1
insect - moth	Clay triple lines	Cyclophora linearia	1		1
insect - moth	Cocksfoot Moth	Glyphipterix simpliciella	1		1
insect - moth	Common marbled carpet	Chloroclysta truncata	1		1
insect - moth	Common pug	Eupithecia vulgata	1		1
insect - moth	Common Wave	Cabera exanthemata	1	1	2
insect - moth	Common White Wave	Cabera pusaria	1	1	2
insect - moth	Cream-spot Tiger	Arctia villica	1		1
insect - moth	Drinker	Euthrix potatoria	1	1	2
insect - moth	Elephant Hawk-moth	Deilephila elpenor	1	1	2
insect - moth	Engrailed	Ectropis bistortata	1		1
insect - moth	Flame Shoulder	Ochropleura plecta	1	2	3
insect - moth	Fox Moth	Macrothylacia rubi	1	1	2
insect - moth	Great Prominent	Peridea anceps	1		1
insect - moth	Green Carpet	Colostygia pectinataria	2		2
insect - moth	Heart and Dart	Agrotis exclamationis	1	1	2
insect - moth	Ingrailed clay	Diarsia mendica	1		1
insect - moth	Iron Prominent	Notodonta dromedarius	1	2	3
insect - moth	Least Black Arches	Nola confusalis	1		1
insect - moth	Magpie Moth	Abraxas grossulariata	2		2
insect - moth	Maiden's Blush	Cyclophora punctaria	1	1	2
insect - moth	Marbled Brown	Drymonia dodonaea	1		1
insect - moth	Muslin moth	Diaphora mendica	1		1
insect - moth	Oak Eggar	Lasiocampa quercus	1		1
insect - moth	Pale tussock	Calliteara pudibunda	3		3
insect - moth	Peach Blossom	Thyatira batis	1	1	2
insect - moth	Pebble hook-tip	Drepana falcataria	1		1
insect - moth	Peppered Moth	Biston betularia	1	1	2
insect - moth	Scorched wing	Plagodis dolabraria	1		1
insect - moth	Setaceous Hebrew Character	Xestia c-nigrum	1	1	2
insect - moth	Sharp angled peacock	Semiothisa alternaria	1		1
insect - moth	Silver-ground Carpet	Xanthorhoe montanata	1		1
insect - moth	Six-spot Burnet	Zygaena filipendulae	2		2
insect - moth	Small Magpie	Anania hortulata	2	1	3
insect - moth	Speckled Yellow	Pseudopanthera macularia	2		2
insect - moth	Spruce carpet	Thera britannica	1		1

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - moth	Treble lines	Charanyca trigrammica	1		1
insect - moth	Vapourer	Orgyia antiqua	1		1
insect - scorpionfly (Mecoptera)	a Scorpion-fly	Panorpa	1		1
insect - scorpionfly (Mecoptera)	a Scorpion-fly	Panorpa communis	1		1
insect - stonefly (Plecoptera)	a Stonefly	Plecoptera	2		2
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	a Bug	Pachybrachius fracticollis	1		1
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	a Mirid Bug	Miris	1		1
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	a Plant-bug	Capsus ater	1		1
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	a Plant-bug	Notostira elongata	1		1
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	a Plant-hopper	Tachycixius pilosus	1		1
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	a Pond Skater	Gerris	2		2
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	a Shieldbug	Hemiptera	1		1
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	Common Froghopper	Philaenus spumarius	2		2
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	Dock Bug	Coreus marginatus	1		1
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	Forest Bug	Pentatoma rufipes	1		1
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	Green Shieldbug	Palomena prasina	1		1
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	Potato Capsid	Closterotomus norwegicus	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Blackfly	Simuliidae	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Crane fly	Austrolimnophila ochracea	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Crane fly	Erioptera fuscipennis	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Crane fly	Molophilus obscurus	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Crane fly	Molophilus ochraceus	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Crane fly	Ptychoptera albimana	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Crane fly	Tipula oleracea	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	Anthomyia procellaris	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	Azelia cilipes	1		1

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Chirosia grossicauda</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Clusia flava</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Dicranota claripennis</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Dolichopus simplex</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Eloeophila maculata</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Empis femorata</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Empis livida</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Empis punctata</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Empis stercorea</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Empis tessellata</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Epiphragma ocellare</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Fannia sociella</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Graphomyia maculata</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Gymnopternus aerosus</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Hilara maura</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Macrocera stigma</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Meiosimyza rorida</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Ocydromia glabricula</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Palloptra quinquemaculata</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Palloptra scutellata</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Phaonia palpata</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Phaonia rufiventris</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Phylidorea fulvonervosa</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Rhamphomyia crassirostris</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	<i>Rhaphium appendiculatum</i>	1		1

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	Rhipidia maculata	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	Sarcophaga subvicina	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	Sarcophaga variegata	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	Scathophaga furcata	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	Sepsis	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	Sepsis fulgens	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	Sicus ferrugineus	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	Sympycnus pulicarius	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	Tetanocera arrogans	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	Tetanura pallidiventris	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	Neria cibaria	2		2
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Fly	Scathophaga stercoraria	2		2
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Gall midge	Lasioptera rubi	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Gall midge	Jaapiella veronicae	3		3
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Hoverfly	Cheilosia illustrata	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Hoverfly	Epistrophe eligans	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Hoverfly	Eristalis pertinax	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Hoverfly	Helophilus pendulus	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Hoverfly	Melanostoma scalare	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Hoverfly	Platycheirus clypeatus	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Hoverfly	Platycheirus peltatus	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Hoverfly	Syrirta pipiens	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Hoverfly	Xanthogramma pedissequum	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Hoverfly	Portevinia maculata	2		2
insect - true fly (Diptera)	a Hoverfly	Rhingia campestris	2		2

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - true fly (Diptera)	Black-horned Gem	<i>Microchrysa polita</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	Dark-edged Bee-fly	<i>Bombylius major</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	Downlooker Snipefly	<i>Rhagio scolopaceus</i>	2		2
insect - true fly (Diptera)	Marsh Snipefly	<i>Rhagio tringarius</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	Spotted Crane-fly	<i>Nephrotoma appendiculata</i>	1		1
insect - true fly (Diptera)	Yellow-legged Water-snipefly	<i>Atherix ibis</i>	2		2
lichen	a Lichen	<i>Evernia prunastri</i>	1		1
lichen	a Lichen	<i>Flavoparmelia caperata</i>	1		1
lichen	a Lichen	<i>Graphis</i>	1		1
lichen	a Lichen	<i>Physcia aipolia</i>	1		1
lichen	a Lichen	<i>Ramalina farinacea</i>	1		1
lichen	a Lichen	<i>Ramalina fastigiata</i>	1		1
lichen	a Lichen	<i>Xanthoria parietina</i>	1		1
millipede	a Julid Millipede	Julidae	1		1
spider (Araneae)	a Crab Spider	Xysticus	1		1
spider (Araneae)	a Cucumber Spider	Araniella	1		1
spider (Araneae)	a Spider	Tetragnatha	2		2
spider (Araneae)	Nursery-Web Spider	<i>Pisaura mirabilis</i>	1		1
terrestrial mammal	Bank Vole	<i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i>	1		1
terrestrial mammal	Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	2		2
terrestrial mammal	European Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>	5	1	6
terrestrial mammal	European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	1		1
terrestrial mammal	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	2		2
terrestrial mammal	Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</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.dbr.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 Great Torrington 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 Great Torrington. 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.](https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/knowledge-hub/invasive-species/japanese-knotweed/)

[devonlnp.org.uk/knowledge-hub/invasive-species/japanese-knotweed/](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 Great Torrington, 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>

Endnotes

<https://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/>
<https://www.dbr.org.uk/information/sites-and-habitats/>
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions#ancient-and-veteran-trees>
UKBAP-BAPHabitats-65-WoodPastureParkland-2011
UKBAP-BAPHabitats-29-Lowland-Meadows
UKBAP-BAPHabitats-56-TraditionalOrchards
UKBAP-BAPHabitats-64-WetWoodland
UKBAP-BAPHabitats-30-LowlandMixedDecWood
UKBAP-BAPHabitats-02-ArableFieldMargins
UKBAP-BAPHabitats-07-CoastFloodGrazingMar
<https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/our-work/nature-recovery-network/nature-recovery-network-map/>
<https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-bap-priority-species/>
<https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/2829ce47-1ca5-41e7-bc1a-871c1cc0b3ae>