Parish
Biodiversity
Audit 2022

Iddesleigh

Devon Wildlife Trust

DBRC

Devon County Council

Made possible with Heritage Fund

Index

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.

Iddesleigh parish is located in west Devon and is 1,204 hectares. The village of Iddesleigh is approximately 5 km North of Hatherleigh. The parish is bordered along its western boundary by the River Torridge and its southern boundary is along the River Okement.

Much of the land use of Iddesleigh was found to be improved and species-poor semiimproved grasslands grazed by sheep, cattle or horses or cut for hay/silage. There was also some arable land and some forestry, mostly coniferous plantation.

Wildlife features occuring within the parish were found to include the following: lowland mixed deciduous woodland, wet woodland; species-rich hedges with mature oaks (some veteran); species rich road verges; semi-improved grasslands; buffer strips/margins around arable fields; areas of rush pastures. Iddesleigh churchyard had some species-rich grassland and old yew trees. Old farm buildings and houses/ barns throughout the parish provided habitat for swallows, housemartins, barn owls and bats (all recorded within the parish). The Rivers Torridge and Okement along the western and southern borders of the parish provide habitat for otters, which have been recorded on stretches of river alongside the parish. A record of a freshwater pearl mussel shell was found in the River Torridge which runs along the western border of the parish.

The Tarka trail runs from north to south through the parish and through the village of Iddesleigh. There are also a few other footpaths around Iddesleigh village that radiate into the surrounding countryside.

Iddesleigh parish 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 no designated wildlife sites at present within Iddesleigh parish. There are however, 4 sites listed on the ancient woodland inventory which are detailed below. Some areas of semi-natural habitat identified during the parish visit and from aerial photograph interpretation could be potential new wildlife sites and are worth further survey if permission can be gained from the landowners.

Bramblecombe Brake Ancient Woodland:
Bramblecombe Brake is an ancient woodland site alongside the River Torridge, west of Brimblecombe Farm. The site was visited during the day of the parish visit with the permission of the landowner. The woodland is now conifer plantation and oak plantation with some areas of hazel coppice along the boundaries of the wood and alongside the river. The landowners are keen to encourage wildlife and have thinned out some of the coniferous areas to allow ancient woodland flora to return. Moles Corner wood which is the southern part of the ancient woodland site was not visited on the parish visit but would be worth a further survey. From aerial photos this section looked like it may be lowland mixed deciduous woodland, a UKBAP habitat.

Westpark Wood Ancient Woodland:
Westpark wood is an ancient woodland site to the west of Iddesleigh village on a steep slope along a tributary of the River Torridge. Viewed from the village churchyard on the day of the parish visit it was seen to be dominated by oak and ash. It looked like it may be lowland mixed deciduous woodland and would be worth a further survey.

Parsonage Copse Ancient Woodland:
Parsonage wood is an ancient woodland site to the southwest of Iddesleigh village along a tributary of the River Torridge. This woodland was not viewed during the day of the parish visit but from aerial photographs looked like it could be lowland mixed deciduous woodland and so would be worth a further survey.

Hanging Wood Ancient Woodland:
Hanging wood is an ancient woodland site on the southern boundary of the parish alongside the River Okement. Viewed from afar on the parish visit and from aerial photos it is thought this woodland may be semi-natural wet woodland and so worth a further survey.

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.

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.dbrc.org.uk/projects-surveys/current-projects-and-surveys/#AWI

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 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.

Species rich hedges were a wildlife feature of Iddesleigh parish. During the parish visit we recorded a 'species-rich' hedge as being one that has eight or more woody species in a 30 metre length.

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 that occur in Iddesleigh 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

Species rich hedge along road running south from Iddesleigh church

Veteran Oak in hedgerow on road south of Iddesleigh church

Cemetery/churchyard

The churchyard in Iddesleigh village had some unimproved flower-rich areas and 5 old yews. The following plants were recorded on the day: cocksfoot, red clover, creeping buttercup, barren strawberry, common vetch, black knapweed, ribwort, plantain, catsear, hawkweed, germander speedwell, burnet saxifrage, meadow vetchling, common bent, yarrow, false oat grass, common sorrel, bush vetch. There were lots of mosses. The churchyard is mown in parts.

Unimproved Grassland: 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.

Culm grassland: Some areas of potential Culm grassland have been identified during the aerial photo interpretation of this parish audit.

Culm grassland is listed in the North Devon Biosphere Biodiversity Action Plan, Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (Rhôs pasture) and 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 hawkmoth, as well as the barn owl and curlew.

Types of habitat found in the parish

Traditional Orchards: Some orchards were identified during the aerial photo interpretation of the 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.

Wet Woodland: 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.

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland includes woodland growing on the full range of soil conditions, from very acidic to base-rich, and takes in most semi-natural woodland in southern and eastern England, and in parts of lowland Wales and Scotland. It thus complements the ranges of upland oak and upland ash types. It occurs largely within enclosed landscapes, usually on sites with well-defined boundaries, at relatively low altitudes, although altitude is not a defining feature.

Veteran Trees

Some of the hedgerows throughout the parish were found to have some impressive mature oaks, some of which are veteran. The churchyard also has five old yew trees.

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 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

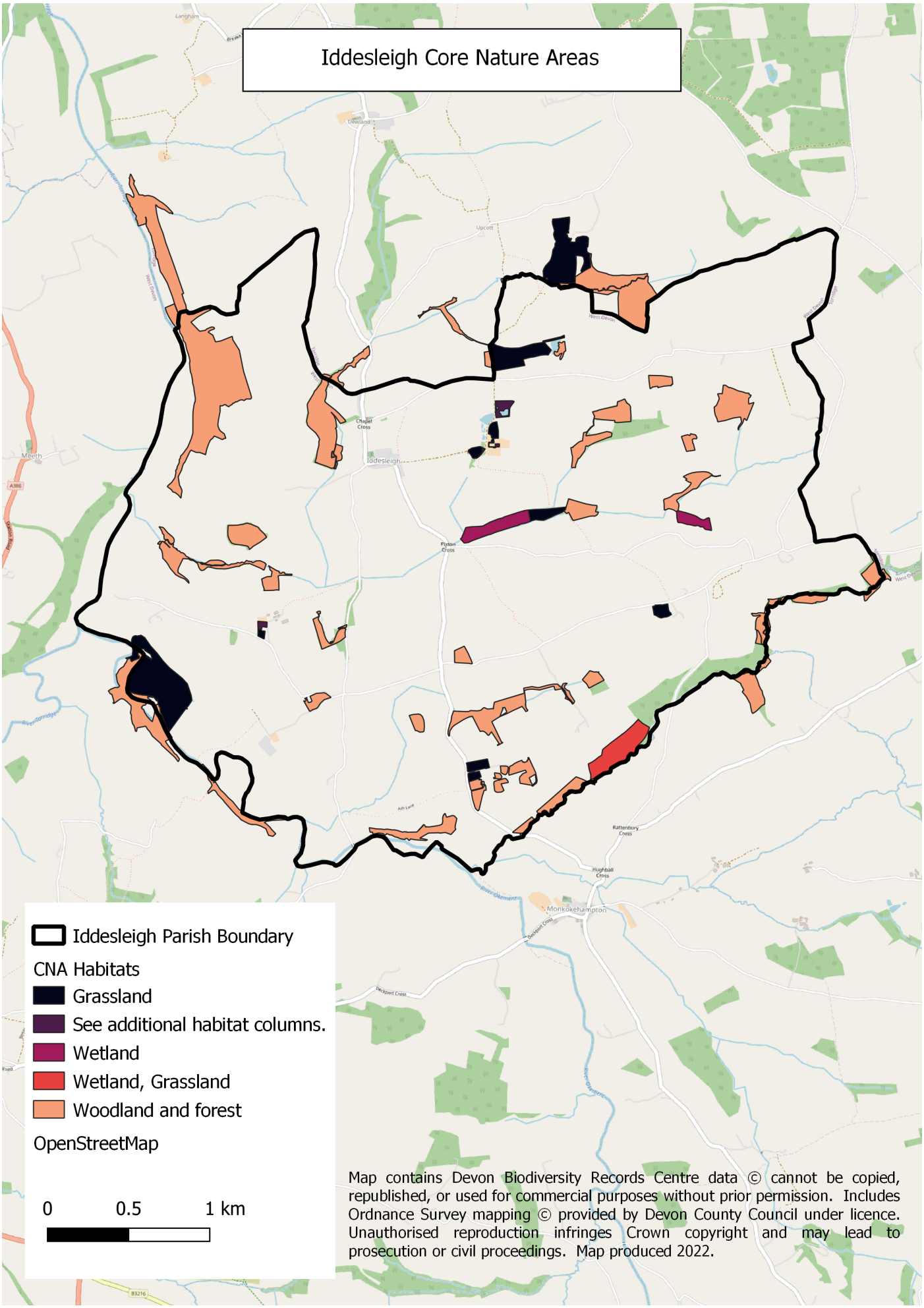
Nature recovery networks

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.


Iddesleigh Core Nature Areas
Iddesleigh Parish Boundary
CNA Habitats
Grassland
See additional habitat columns.
Wetland
Wetland, Grassland
Woodland and forest
OpenStreetMap
0
0.5
1 km
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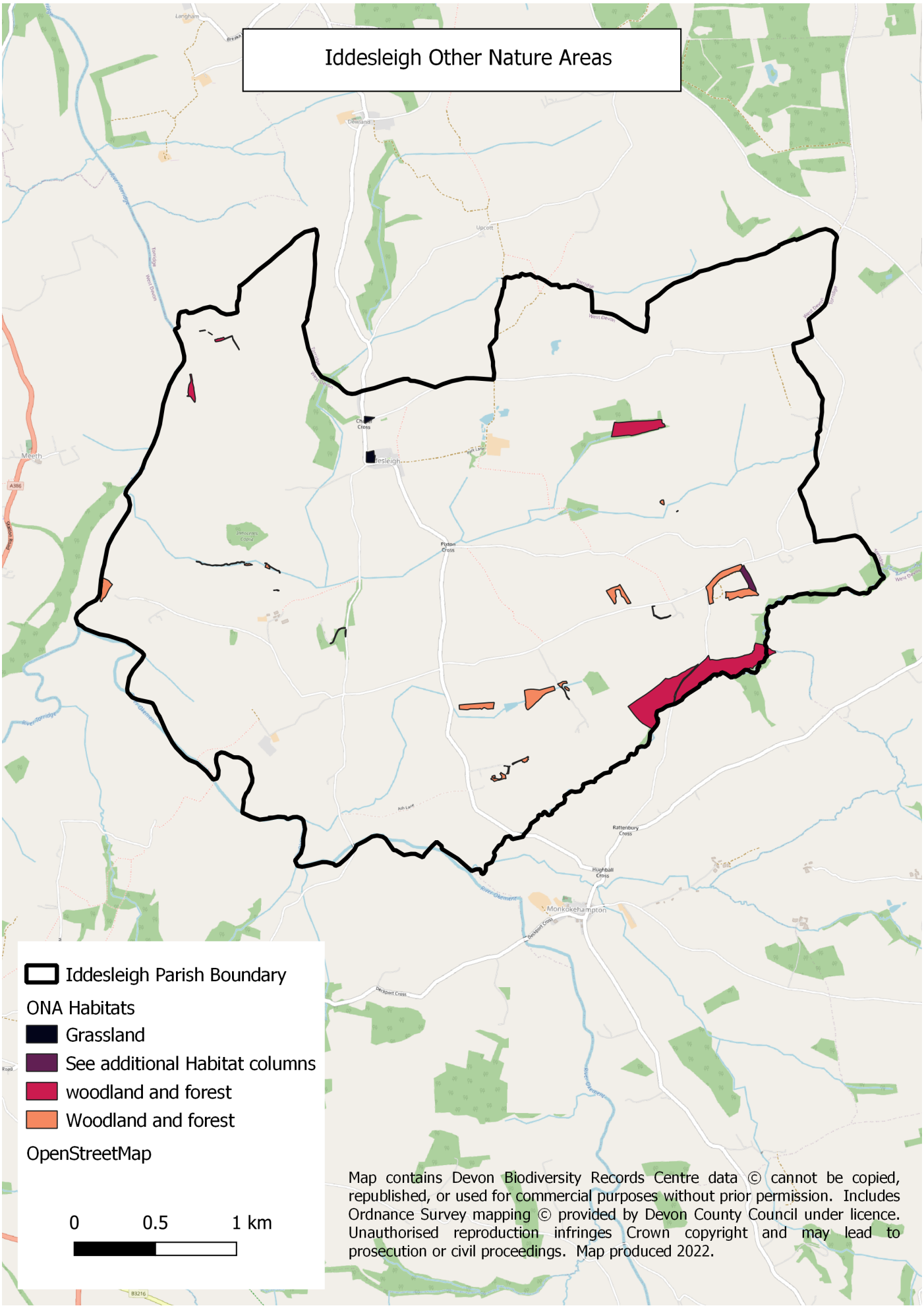
Iddesleigh Other Nature Areas
Iddesleigh Parish Boundary
ONA Habitats
Grassland
See additional Habitat columns
woodland and forest
Woodland and forest
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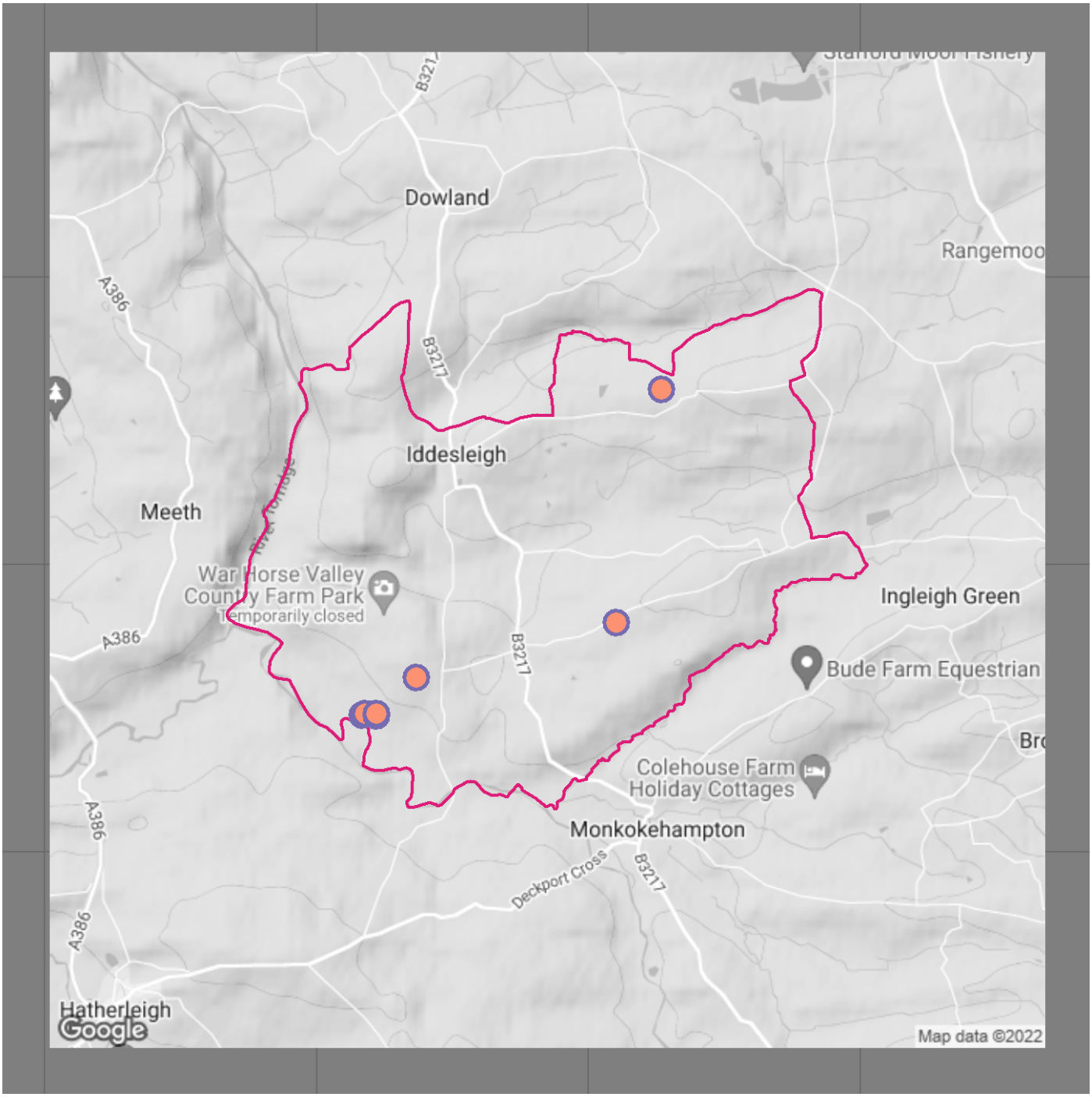
Species found in the parish

The map below shows the location of recording within the parish 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 Iddesleigh. 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
0 Section 41 species added	

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
insect - moth	Blood-Vein	Timandra comae	NERC 42		1	1
insect - moth	Blood-Vein	Timandra comae	NERC 43		1	1
insect - moth	Blood-Vein	Timandra comae	NERC 44		1	1
insect - moth	Blood-Vein	Timandra comae			1	1
insect - moth	Brindled Beauty	Lycia hirtaria	UKBAP (P)		2	2
insect - moth	Buff Ermine	Spilosoma lutea	UKBAP (P)		2	2
insect - moth	Dot Moth	Melanchra persicariae	UKBAP (P)		1	1
insect - moth	Dusky Thorn	Ennomos fuscantaria	UKBAP (P)		2	2
insect - moth	Knot Grass	Acronicta rumicis	UKBAP (P)		1	1

Taxon Group	Common name	Scientific	Other Status	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - moth	Lackey	Malacosoma neustria	UKBAP (P)		2	2
insect - moth	Rosy Rustic	Hydraecia micacea	UKBAP (P)		3	3
insect - moth	Rustic	Hoplodrina blanda	UKBAP (P)		2	2
insect - moth	Small Phoenix	Ecliptopera silaceata	UKBAP (P)		2	2
insect - moth	Small Square-spot	Diarsia rubi	UKBAP (P)		3	3
insect - moth	White Ermine	Spilosoma lubricipeda	UKBAP (P)		1	1
terrestrial mammal	Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	WCA 5, 6; EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II, UKBAP (P)		2	2
terrestrial mammal	Western Barbastelle	Barbastella barbastellus	WCA 5, 6; EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II, UKBAP (P); Vul		1	1

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
terrestrial mammal	2
3 New priority species records for Iddesleigh	

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
bird	Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	Bern II		2	2
bird	Dunnock	Prunella modularis	Bern II, Amber		1	1
bird	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	Bern II		1	1
bird	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	Bern II		1	1
bird	House Martin	Delichon urbicum	Bern II, Red		1	1
bird	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Amber		1	1
bird	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	Red		1	1
bird	Pied/White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	Bern II		2	2
bird	Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Bern II		4	4
bird	Siskin	Spinus spinus	Bern II		1	1
bird	Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Bern II, Amber		2	2
insect - moth	Double Line	Mythimna turca	Nb		2	2
insect - moth	Marbled Green	Nyctobrya muralis	Nb		1	1
insect - moth	Orange Footman	Eilema sororcula	Nb		1	1
insect - moth	Pied Grey	Eudonia delunella	Nb		1	1
insect - moth	Silver Y	Autographa gamma	Migrant		2	2

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	Status	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - moth	White-marked	Cerastis leucographa	Nb		1	1
terrestrial mammal	a Bat	Myotis	WCA 5, 6, EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II		2	2
terrestrial mammal	a Long-eared Bat	Plecotus	WCA 5, 6, EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II		1	1
terrestrial mammal	Eurasian Badger	Meles meles	WCA 6, BA, Bern III	1		1
terrestrial mammal	Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	DA, Bern III	2		2

Common species

All other species found in the parish.

Taxon Group	Records added during project
terrestrial mammal	3
3 New species records for Iddesleigh	

Summary of common species recorded during project.

New records added during Conservation Communities

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
bird	Blackbird	Turdus merula		3	3
bird	Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs		2	2
bird	Coal Tit	Parus ater		1	1
bird	Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto		1	1
bird	Jackdaw	Corvus monedula		3	3
bird	Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus		2	2
bird	Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus		1	1
bird	Raven	Corvus corax		3	3
bird	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	Columba livia		1	1
insect - moth	Alder Moth	Acronicta alni		1	1
insect - moth	Barred Straw	Gandaritis pyraliata		2	2
insect - moth	Barred Umber	Plagodis pulveraria		1	1
insect - moth	Barred Yellow	Cidaria fulvata		1	1
insect - moth	Beautiful Golden Y	Autographa pulchrina		1	1
insect - moth	Beautiful Hook-tip	Laspeyria flexula		2	2
insect - moth	Bird-cherry Ermine	Yponomeuta evonymella		1	1
insect - moth	Black Arches	Lymantria monacha		2	2
insect - moth	Bramble Shoot Moth	Notocelia uddmanniana		1	1
insect - moth	Brimstone Moth	Opisthograptis luteolata		6	6
insect - moth	Brown Silver-line	Petrophora chlorosata		1	1

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - moth	Brussels Lace	Cleorodes lichenaria		2	2
insect - moth	Buff Arches	Habrosyne pyritoides		1	1
insect - moth	Buff Footman	Eilema depressa		1	1
insect - moth	Buff-tip	Phalera bucephala		3	3
insect - moth	Burnished Brass	Diachrysia chrysitis		2	2
insect - moth	Canary-shouldered Thorn	Ennomos alniaria		2	2
insect - moth	Chinese Character	Cilix glaucata		2	2
insect - moth	Clay	Mythimna ferrago		1	1
insect - moth	Clouded Border	Lomaspilis marginata		2	2
insect - moth	Clouded Drab	Orthosia incerta		1	1
insect - moth	Clouded Silver	Lomographa temerata		2	2
insect - moth	Clouded-bordered Brindle	Apamea crenata		1	1
insect - moth	Common Carpet	Epirrhoe alternata		2	2
insect - moth	Common Emerald	Hemithea aestivaria		1	1
insect - moth	Common Footman	Eilema lurideola		1	1
insect - moth	Common Lutestring	Ochropacha duplaris		1	1
insect - moth	Common Marbled Carpet	Dysstroma truncata		1	1
insect - moth	Common Quaker	Orthosia cerasi		2	2
insect - moth	Common Rustic agg.	Mesapamea secalis agg.		2	2
insect - moth	Common Swift	Korscheltellus lupulina		1	1
insect - moth	Common Wave	Cabera exanthemata		4	4
insect - moth	Common Yellow Conch	Agapeta hamana		3	3
insect - moth	Coronet	Craniophora ligustri		3	3
insect - moth	Dark Arches	Apamea monoglypha		4	4
insect - moth	Dingy Footman	Eilema griseola		2	2
insect - moth	Drinker	Euthrix potatoria		1	1
insect - moth	Dun-bar	Cosmia trapezina		1	1
insect - moth	Early Grey	Xylocampa areola		1	1
insect - moth	Early Thorn	Selenia dentaria		2	2
insect - moth	Early Tooth-striped	Trichopteryx carpinata		1	1
insect - moth	Elephant Hawk-moth	Deilephila elpenor		3	3
insect - moth	Engrailed	Ectropis crepuscularia		1	1
insect - moth	Eyed Hawk-moth	Smerinthus ocellata		1	1
insect - moth	Flame	Axylia putris		4	4
insect - moth	Flame Carpet	Xanthorhoe designata		1	1
insect - moth	Flame Shoulder	Ochropleura plecta		6	6
insect - moth	Flounced Rustic	Luperina testacea		1	1
insect - moth	Gold Spot	Plusia festucae		1	1
insect - moth	Green Carpet	Colostygia pectinataria		4	4
insect - moth	Green Pug	Pasiphila rectangulata		2	2
insect - moth	Green Silver-lines	Pseudoips prasinana		1	1
insect - moth	Heart and Dart	Agrotis exclamationis		4	4
insect - moth	Hebrew Character	Orthosia gothica		2	2
insect - moth	July Highflyer	Hydriomena furcata		1	1
insect - moth	Knapweed Conch	Agapeta zoegana		1	1

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - moth	Large Yellow Underwing	Noctua pronuba		5	5
insect - moth	Least Black Arches	Nola confusalis		1	1
insect - moth	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	Noctua janthe		1	1
insect - moth	Lesser Yellow Underwing	Noctua comes		1	1
insect - moth	Light Brown Apple Moth	Epiphyas postvittana		1	1
insect - moth	Light Emerald	Campaea margaritaria		1	1
insect - moth	Lunar Thorn	Selenia lunularia		1	1
insect - moth	Lychnis	Hadena bicruris		1	1
insect - moth	Magpie Moth	Abraxas grossulariata		1	1
insect - moth	Marbled Brown	Drymonia dodonaea		1	1
insect - moth	Marbled Piercer	Cydia splendana		1	1
insect - moth	Marbled White Spot	Deltote pygarga		2	2
insect - moth	March Moth	Alsophila aescularia		1	1
insect - moth	Mother of Pearl	Patania ruralis		3	3
insect - moth	Mottled Beauty	Alcis repandata		1	1
insect - moth	Muslin Moth	Diaphora mendica		2	2
insect - moth	Nut-tree Tussock	Colocasia coryli		1	1
insect - moth	Oak Beauty	Biston strataria		1	1
insect - moth	Oak-tree Pug	Eupithecia dodoneata		1	1
insect - moth	Olive Pearl	Udea olivalis		1	1
insect - moth	Pale Tussock	Calliteara pudibunda		2	2
insect - moth	Peach Blossom	Thyatira batis		2	2
insect - moth	Pebble Prominent	Notodonta ziczac		6	6
insect - moth	Peppered Moth	Biston betularia		1	1
insect - moth	Plain Golden Y	Autographa jota		3	3
insect - moth	Poplar Hawk-moth	Laothoe populi		4	4
insect - moth	Privet Hawk-moth	Sphinx ligustri		2	2
insect - moth	Riband Wave	Idaea aversata		3	3
insect - moth	Rosy Footman	Miltochrista miniata		2	2
insect - moth	Ruby Tiger	Phragmatobia fuliginosa		1	1
insect - moth	Scalloped Hazel	Odontopera bidentata		1	1
insect - moth	Scalloped Oak	Crocallis elinguaria		1	1
insect - moth	Scorched Carpet	Ligdia adustata		2	2
insect - moth	Seraphim	Lobophora halterata		1	1
insect - moth	Setaceous Hebrew Character	Xestia c-nigrum		4	4
insect - moth	Shark	Cucullia umbratica		1	1
insect - moth	Sharp-angled Peacock	Macaria alternata		3	3
insect - moth	Shoulder Stripe	Earophila badiata		1	1
insect - moth	Silver-ground Carpet	Xanthorhoe montanata		1	1
insect - moth	Single-dotted Wave	Idaea dimidiata		3	3
insect - moth	Six-striped Rustic	Xestia sexstrigata		1	1
insect - moth	Small Fan-footed Wave	Idaea biselata		2	2
insect - moth	Small Grey	Eudonia mercurella		1	1
insect - moth	Small Magpie	Anania hortulata		2	2

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - moth	Small Quaker	Orthosia cruda		1	1
insect - moth	Small Seraphim	Pterapherapteryx sexalata		1	1
insect - moth	Small Wainscot	Denticucullus pygmina		2	2
insect - moth	Smoky Wainscot	Mythimna impura		2	2
insect - moth	Snout	Hypena proboscidalis		2	2
insect - moth	Spectacle	Abrostola tripartita		2	2
insect - moth	Square-spot Rustic	Xestia xanthographa		1	1
insect - moth	Straw Dot	Rivula sericealis		4	4
insect - moth	Summer Rose Bell	Notocelia roborana		1	1
insect - moth	Swallow-tailed Moth	Ourapteryx sambucaria		2	2
insect - moth	Sycamore	Acronicta aceris		1	1
insect - moth	Treble Lines	Charanyca trigrammica		1	1
insect - moth	Twin-spotted Quaker	Anorthoa munda		1	1
insect - moth	Uncertain	Hoplodrina octogenaria		3	3
insect - moth	V-Pug	Chloroclystis v-ata		1	1
insect - moth	Waved Umber	Menophra abruptaria		1	1
insect - moth	White Plume	Pterophorus pentadactyla		1	1
insect - moth	White-pinion Spotted	Lomographa bimaculata		1	1
insect - moth	Willow Beauty	Peribatodes rhomboidaria		2	2
insect - moth	Yellow-barred Long-horn	Nemophora degeerella		1	1
terrestrial mammal	Eastern Grey Squirrel	Sciurus carolinensis	1		1
terrestrial mammal	European Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus	1		1
terrestrial mammal	Red Fox	Vulpes vulpes	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 Iddesleigh 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 mightinclude 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 Iddesleigh 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 includingtips 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 Iddesleigh. 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 andCountryside 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 invasiveplant. 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 Iddesleigh 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.dbrc.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