

Parish
Biodiversity
Audit 2022

Meeth



1	Introduction
2	Designated / Non-designated sites
5	Other habitats
9	Unconfirmed wildlife sites
10	Habitat descriptions
13	Nature Recovery Networks
16	Species found in the parish
28	Some ideas for local action
31	Useful sources of further information
32	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.

Meeth is a small parish of 1,042 hectares located in West Devon District, approximately 4km north of the town of Hatherleigh. It joins the Northern Devon Nature Improvement Area priority parishes Petrockstowe, Huish, Hatherleigh, Dolton, Iddesleigh and Dowland.

The village of Meeth is located in the east of the parish along the busy A386 main road, and lies in an elevated position. The village is small and has some traditional thatched buildings, a pub and the parish church.

The river Torridge forms the southern and eastern boundaries of the parish, and the Little Mere River some of the western boundary.

The dominant land use in the parish was found to be agriculturally improved grassland and arable, and much of the north part of the parish along the main road was quite intensively managed land with large fields.

Meeth Quarry is a dominant feature of the parish and contains areas of open water, wet woodland, purple moor-grass & rush-pasture, lowland meadow, lowland mixed deciduous woodland and lowland fen. This site is a County Wildlife Site and a Devon Wildlife Trust nature reserve. There are two other County Wildlife Sites in the parish – Friar's Hele Cross and Crocker's Hele. These sites contain important areas of Culm grassland and wet woodland.

It was noted that other wildlife features occurring within the parish include the following: traditional orchards; lowland mixed deciduous woodland; scrub woodland; species-rich hedges and species rich road verges. Meeth churchyard had some unimproved grassland and some interesting old lime trees.

Barn owl, otter and brown hare were recorded from the parish, and Meeth Quarry is a Probable

Key Site of National Importance for dragonflies, due to the presence of scarce blue-tailed damselfly and small red damselfly.

The Tarka Trail passes through the parish with access at Meeth Halt. There is a long public footpath leading from the village across farmland towards Crocker's Hele.

Meeth 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 Meeth parish – three County Wildlife Sites (CWS) and one Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS). These sites support habitats including wet woodland, purple moor-grass and rush-pasture and unimproved grassland (flower-rich meadows and pastures). These sites cover 157ha which is 15% of the total area of the parish. The largest CWS is Meeth Ball Clay Works which is also a Devon Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve. This alone accounts for 14% of the parish.

Site Name	Habitat Description	BAP habitat	Status
Meeth Ball Clay Works and Tarka Trail	Abandoned railway line with woodland, unimproved acidic grassland & butterfly interest, and clay works with dragonfly interest and associated habitat interest.	Rhôs pasture, flower-rich meadows & pastures, alder/willow wet woodland & pits, quarries & cuttings – Devon BAP, Culm grassland, enclosed farmland, broadleaved woodland - ND Biosphere BAP	CWS
Crockers Hele	Culm grassland (M23) and culm grassland / swamp (M23 / S3) and ponds	Rhôs pasture – Devon BAP, Culm grassland - ND Biosphere BAP	CWS
Friar's Hele Cross	Wet grassland with scrub & secondary woodland	Alder/willow wet woodland – Devon BAP, Broadleaved woodland - ND Biosphere BAP	CWS
Friars Hele Cross	Petrockstowe Basin with Tertiary (Oligocene) fluvial clay (ball clay) sand and lignite deposits	Pits, quarries & cuttings – Devon BAP	RIGS

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.



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.

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.

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.



Unimproved grassland

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.



Culm grassland

Other habitats

Species-rich hedges

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

Hedgerows are often an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife and may support many animals and plants. Berries provide an important food source for birds, and flowers and are an important nectar source for butterflies. Hedgerows and hedgebanks represent continuity as features in the landscape and provide a significant wildlife resource at a time when the fields themselves are being more intensively used. Most of the hedges found occurring in Meeth 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>



Hedge to the North of the Old Rectory



Species-rich hedge near Crocker's Hele



Cemetery/churchyard

The church of St. Michael and All Angels is found in the centre of the village off the main A386. A cobble path leads to the porch, which is said to have been made in 1818 from Torridge river pebbles, by the French prisoners at the time of the Napoleonic wars. Old common lime trees line the path, some of these being quite old.

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 and can also provide cover and food sources for birds and insects.

The grassland within the churchyard was found to be tall unimproved coarse grassland with lots of mosses. The sward was fairly species rich with false oat-grass, cock'sfoot, ribwort plantain, hogweed, primrose, pignut, germander speedwell, cat'sear, common sorrel, rough meadow-grass, wood avens, red fescue, daisy, creeping buttercup, barren strawberry, white clover, mosses and yarrow present.



Grassland in the churchyard

The Tarka Trail

The Tarka Trail walking and cycling route passes through the parish at Meeth Halt, continuing north-west towards Petrockstowe.

The Torrington to Meeth section of the trail is possibly the least well known part of the trail, but very peaceful and scenic. Between Great Torrington and Meeth the trail 10 miles/16km long.

At Meeth Halt there is an old station building, platform and railway line. The station was opened in 1925 and the railway line was used to transport ball clay from the Meeth and Marland claypits to Great Torrington, and on to Barnstaple. The line closed to passengers in 1965, but remained in use for freight until 1982.

The former railway line is now a grassy track with rough grassland supporting species such as rough meadow-grass, perennial rye-grass, hogweed, Yorkshire fog, cleavers, creeping buttercup, herb Robert and ribwort plantain



Old station building at Meeth Halt

Meeth Quarry Nature Reserve

Meeth Quarry is one of Devon Wildlife Trust's newest acquisitions, purchased in December 2012, using funds provided by Viridor Credits Environmental Company and generous individual donors. The reserve was formally opened to the public on 31 May 2013.

Until 2004 the site was an operational clay quarry and was off-limits to the general public. At its peak, in the 1970s the quarry was employing nearly 50 local people and producing 70,000 tonnes of clay per year. Much of this clay was used to make tiles, toilets, sinks and basins.

The site is now a publically accessible nature reserve with access via the Tarka Trail at the southern end of the site. The site is also a County Wildlife Site and contains many important habitats including a variety of woodland types (wet, dry broadleaved, mixed and coniferous), scrub, unimproved neutral grassland, mire and rush-pasture, bare earth, swamp and open water. Several UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats are present on the site including wet woodland, purple moor-grass & rush-pasture, lowland meadow, lowland mixed deciduous woodland and lowland fen.



The site also supports several notable species including barn owl, hobby, little grebe, grasshopper warbler, sedge warbler, tree pipit, redstart, otter, scarce blue-tailed damselfly, small red damselfly, emerald dragonfly, keeled skimmer dragonfly, dingy skipper, grizzled skipper, green hairstreak, wall brown, grayling and wood white butterflies.

Pits, quarries and cuttings are listed on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan as a habitat of conservation concern in Devon. Not only do they provide unique inland exposures of geology, they also support a wide variety of wildlife and habitats. Working quarries are a valuable addition to the local and sometimes national economy. In Devon, ball and china clay extractions are extremely important, and are some of the largest in Europe.

Peregrines and ravens may use quarries as nest sites, and greater and lesser horseshoe bats may nest in cave-like quarries, or fissures in rock faces. In flooded quarries habitat is provided for many uncommon species of dragonfly and damselfly.

Unconfirmed wildlife sites

Currently no Unconfirmed Wildlife Sites have been identified in Meeth parish. These are sites identified as having possible interest but not fully surveyed. Some of these sites will be areas of significant wildlife interest. There are one or two Ancient Woodland Inventory Sites within the parish. These sites may not have been formally surveyed before.

Types of habitat found in the parish

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.

Site Name	Site Description
Wooda Copse	Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
Long/Shotslade Woods	Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland

Wooda Copse looks from the aerial photograph like it is mature, semi-natural woodland, and it would probably meet the County Wildlife Site selection criteria if it were to be surveyed.

There are several other woodlands throughout the parish, some of which may have derived from planting – Stockleigh Wood, Courtleigh Wood, Round Pole Plantation, Long Acre Wood, Stockleigh Plantation, Crocker’s Hele Plantation, Parkers Copse and Shetslade Wood. All of these sites are likely to support Lowland mixed deciduous woodland.

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.

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

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

Traditional orchards have great cultural and landscape importance and can be really valuable habitats for a wide range of species from fungi and lichens, through to insects and other invertebrates, to birds and mammals. As there is no herbicide use in most old orchards, the range of species will be even greater.

The trees themselves play host to a variety of mosses, lichens and often mistletoe. The old trees can be fantastic for hole-nesting birds. The large amount of deadwood in the trees provides an important habitat for insects and fungi including some very rare ones. For example, the Noble Chafer, *Gnorimus nobilis*, is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority beetle associated with old orchards.

Fruit and insects available in old orchards, provide food for birds and mammals. Birds such as woodpeckers (green and great-spotted), nuthatches, tree creepers and tits may be seen on tree trunks and hollow branches. Fieldfares, starlings, redwings, thrushes, blackbirds and jays will be feeding on the fruit (on or off the tree). Orchards are also home to a number of declining bird species, including tree sparrow and spotted flycatcher.

If it has escaped sprays and fertilisers, and particularly if traditional management such as a hay cut or grazing has been kept up, the ground beneath can be covered with wild flowers such as cowslips, daisies, knapweed and trefoils.

Losses of traditional orchards have been severe in recent decades, with estimates ranging from 40 per cent to 95 per cent loss. Orchards have been grubbed up to make way for other crops or for urban development.

Veteran Trees

There were one or two mature in-field trees, possible veterans in several places across the parish, and along field edges in some areas. Mature trees indicating a former hedge line were seen to the south of Meeth nature reserve, immediately west of the Tarka Trail.

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

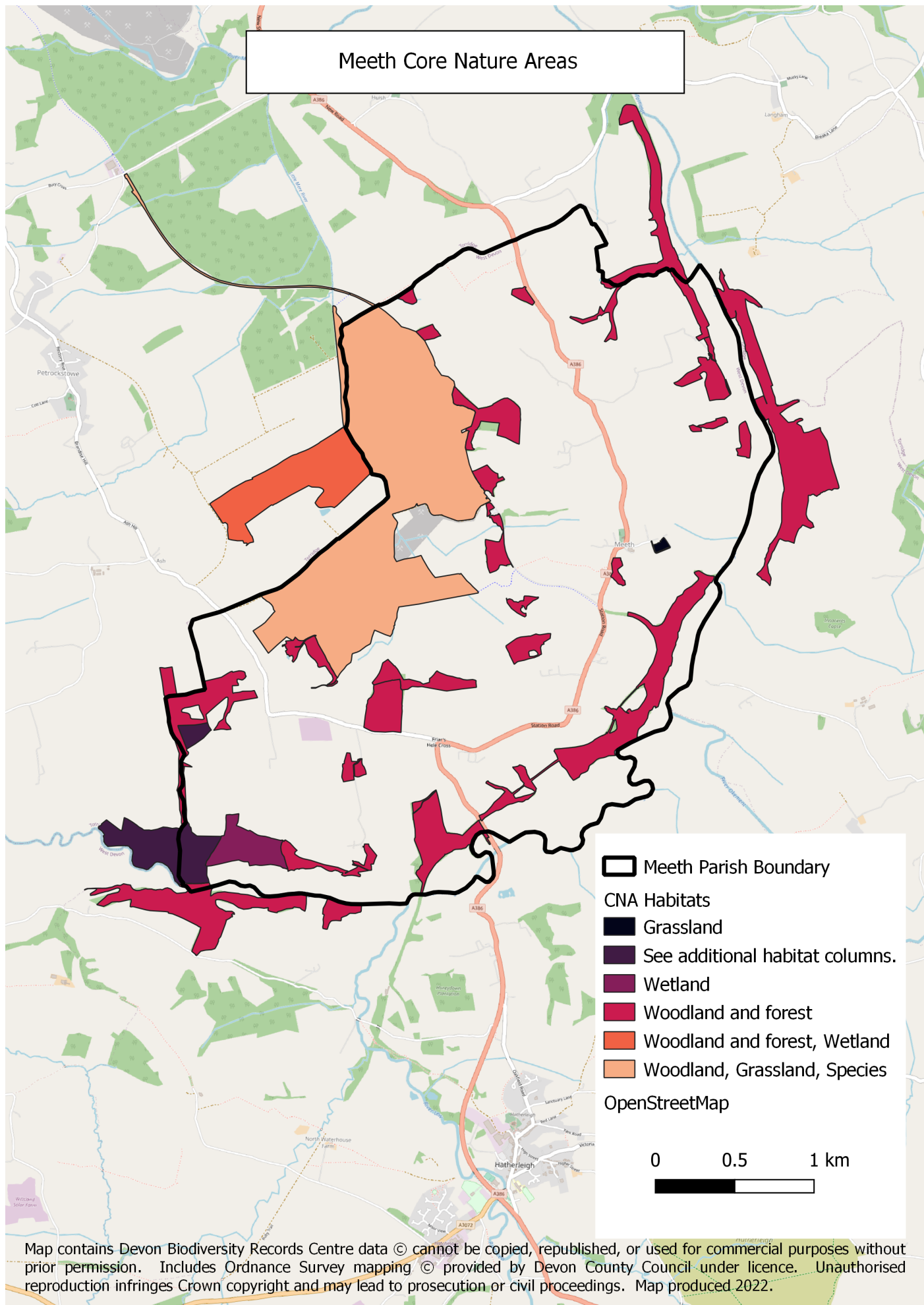
Details of the nature recovery networks can be found here - <https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/our-work/nature-recovery-network/>

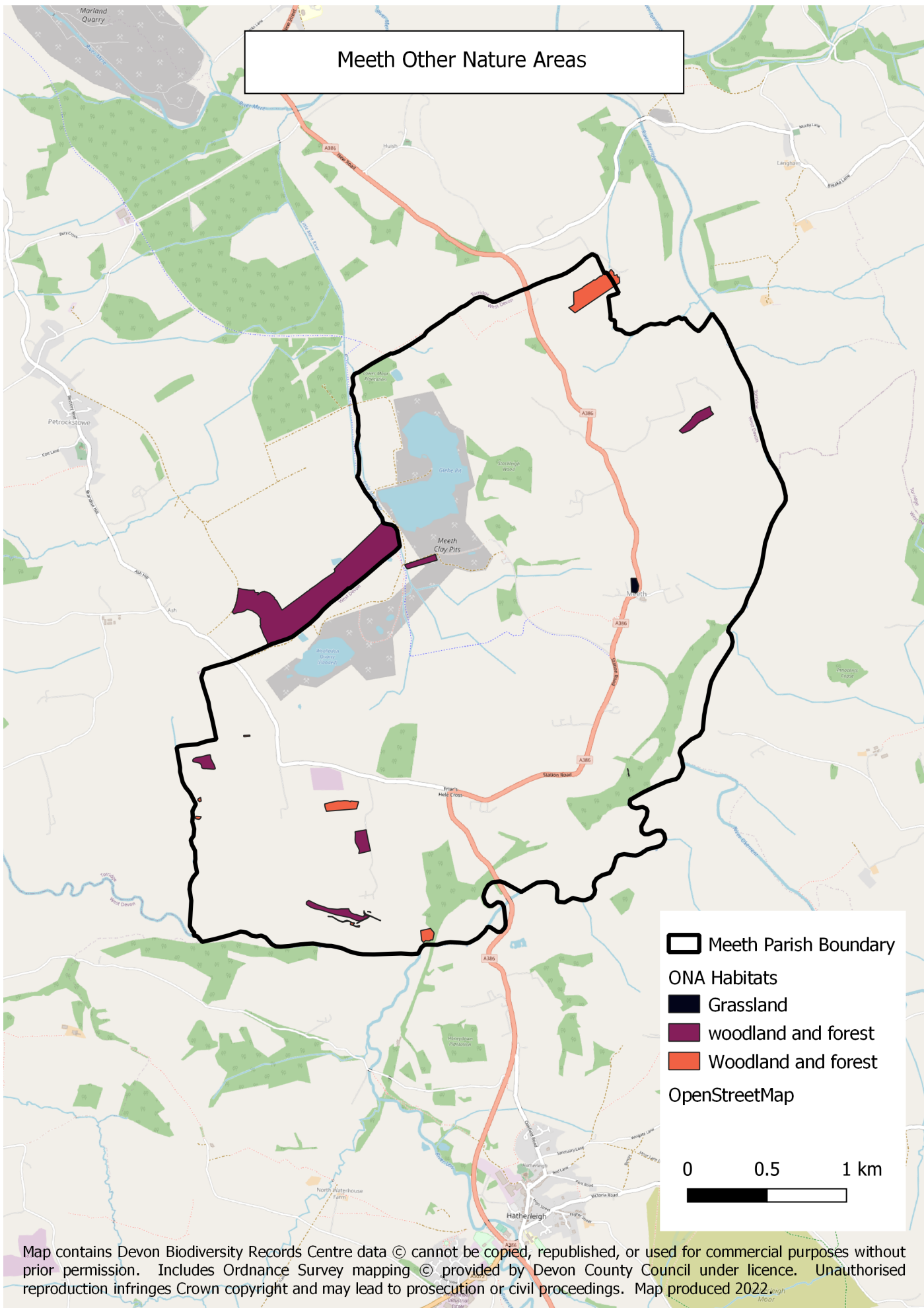
The following two maps show Core Nature Areas as well as Other Nature Areas along with their associated habitats.

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).

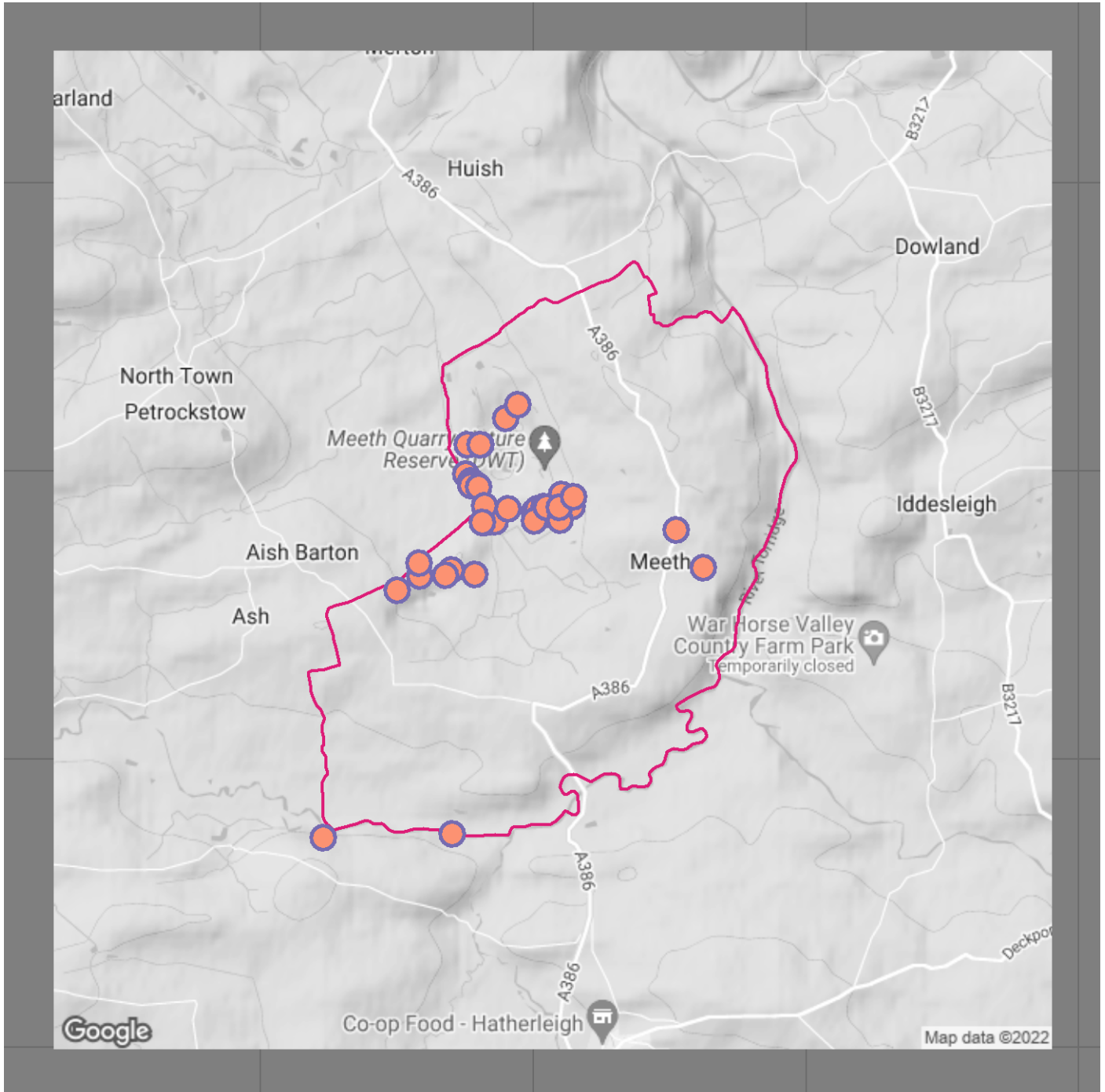
Other Nature Areas are existing habitats which have wildlife value (or potential value) but which are not Priority Habitats or designated sites. These currently include: Other Sites of Wildlife Importance, parks, urban greenspaces, some churchyards, National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserves and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





Species found in the parish

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



Map contains Devon Biodiversity Records Centre data © cannot be copied, republished, or used for commercial purposes without prior permission. Includes Ordnance Survey mapping © provided by Devon County Council under licence. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Map produced 2022

Species records

Listed below are the species records held by DBRC for the parish of Meeth. 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
insect - moth	34
terrestrial mammal	11
30 New priority species records for Meeth	

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
bird	Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	UKBAP (P); Amber		12	12
bird	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	UKBAP (P); Red		13	13
bird	Lesser Redpoll	Acanthis cabaret	Bern II, Red		3	3
bird	Marsh Tit	Poecile palustris	Bern II, UKBAP (P); Red		23	23
bird	Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	Bern II, UKBAP (P); Amber		1	1
bird	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	Bern II, UKBAP (P); Red		1	1
bird	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis	Bern II, UKBAP (P); Red		1	1

Taxon Group	Common name	Scientific	Other Status	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
bird	Willow Tit	Poecile montana	Bern II, UKBAP (P); Red; Special Species		1	1
bird	Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	Bern II, UKBAP (P); Red		4	4
insect - moth	Blood-Vein	Timandra comae		2		2
insect - moth	Buff Ermine	Spilosoma lutea	UKBAP (P)	1	2	3
insect - moth	Centre-barred Sallow	Atethmia centrago	UKBAP (P)	1	1	2
insect - moth	Cinnabar	Tyria jacobaeae	UKBAP (P)	2	3	5
insect - moth	Dark Crimson Underwing	Catocala sponsa	UKBAP (P); RDB2	1		1
insect - moth	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	Xanthorhoe ferrugata	UKBAP (P)	3		3
insect - moth	Dot Moth	Melanchra persicariae	UKBAP (P)	1		1
insect - moth	Dusky Thorn	Ennomos fuscantaria	UKBAP (P)	3		3
insect - moth	Flounced Chestnut	Agrochola helvola	UKBAP (P)	1	2	3
insect - moth	Grey Dagger	Acronicta psi	UKBAP (P)	1		1
insect - moth	Knot Grass	Acronicta rumicis	UKBAP (P)	4	4	8
insect - moth	Lackey	Malacosoma neustria	UKBAP (P)	1	1	2
insect - moth	Minor Shoulder-knot	Brachylochia viminalis	UKBAP (P)	1	1	2
insect - moth	Mottled Rustic	Caradrina morpheus	UKBAP (P)	2		2
insect - moth	Oak Hook-tip	Watsonalla binaria		2		2
insect - moth	Pale Eggar	Trichiura crataegi	UKBAP (P)	2	1	3
insect - moth	Rosy Rustic	Hydraecia micacea	UKBAP (P)	2	1	3
insect - moth	Rustic	Hoplodrina blanda	UKBAP (P)	1	1	2
insect - moth	Sallow	Cirrhia icteritia	UKBAP (P)	2	2	4
insect - moth	Shaded Broad-bar	Scotopteryx chenopodiata	UKBAP (P)	1	1	2
insect - moth	Small Phoenix	Ecliptopera silaceata	UKBAP (P)	4		4
insect - moth	Small Square-spot	Diarsia rubi	UKBAP (P)		1	1

Taxon Group	Common name	Scientific	Other Status	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - moth	White Ermine	Spilosoma lubricipeda	UKBAP (P)		1	1
terrestrial mammal	Brown Long-eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	WCA 5, 6; EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II, UKBAP (P)	4		4
terrestrial mammal	Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	WCA 5, 6; EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II, UKBAP (P)	5		5
terrestrial mammal	Western Barbastelle	Barbastella barbastellus	WCA 5, 6; EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II, UKBAP (P); Vul	2		2

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
bird	1
insect - moth	14
terrestrial - mammal	5
15 New priority species records for Meeth	

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	Common Frog	Rana temporaria	WCA 5 (S), EC Va; Bern III		1	1
bird	Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	Amber		2	2
bird	Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	Bern II		49	49
bird	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	Amber		1	1
bird	Dunnock	Prunella modularis	Bern II, Amber		31	31
bird	Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	WCA 1, Red		12	12
bird	Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	Bern II		13	13
bird	Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula	WCA 1b, Amber		2	2
bird	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	Bern II		28	28
bird	Great Black-backed Gull	Larus marinus	Amber		2	2
bird	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	Bern II		23	23
bird	Great Tit	Parus major	Bern II		32	32
bird	Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	WCA 1, Bern II, Amber		1	1
bird	Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	Bern II		13	13
bird	Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	Bern II, Red		4	4
bird	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	Bern II, Amber		7	7
bird	Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	Red		18	18
bird	Hobby	Falco subbuteo	WCA 1, Bern II		3	3

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	Status	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
bird	House Martin	Delichon urbicum	Bern II, Red		9	9
bird	Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	Bern II, Amber		11	11
bird	Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	WCA 1, Amber		4	4
bird	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus	Amber		4	4
bird	Linnet	Linaria cannabina	Bern II, UKBAP (P); Red		12	12
bird	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	Bern II		1	1
bird	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Amber		12	12
bird	Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis	Bern II, Amber		4	4
bird	Merlin	Falco columbarius	WCA 1, Bern II, Red		1	1
bird	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	Red		12	12
bird	Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	Amber		7	7
bird	Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	Bern II		13	13
bird	Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	Amber		1	1
bird	Pied/White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	Bern II		13	13
bird	Pochard	Aythya ferina	Red		6	6
bird	Redwing	Turdus iliacus	WCA 1, Amber		20	20
bird	Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Bern II		50	50
bird	Rook	Corvus frugilegus	Amber		20	20
bird	Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	Bern II		3	3
bird	Siskin	Spinus spinus	Bern II		10	10
bird	Skylark	Alauda arvensis	UKBAP (P); Red		4	4
bird	Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	Amber		4	4
bird	Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	UKBAP (P); Amber		19	19
bird	Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	Amber		10	10
bird	Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Red		29	29
bird	Stock Dove	Columba oenas	Amber		2	2
bird	Stonechat	Saxicola torquata	Bern II		3	3
bird	Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Bern II		22	22
bird	Swift	Apus apus	Red		1	1
bird	Tawny Owl	Strix aluco	Bern II, Amber		1	1
bird	Teal	Anas crecca	Amber		3	3
bird	Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris	Bern II		10	10
bird	Whooper Swan	Cygnus cygnus	WCA 1, Bern II, Amber		2	2
bird	Wigeon	Anas penelope	Amber		1	1
bird	Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	Amber	1	6	7
bird	Woodcock	Scolopax rusticola	Red		5	5
bird	Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	Amber		45	45
bird	Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Bern II, Amber		53	53
insect - moth	a Moth	Argolamprotes micella	Nb	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	Mompha terminella	Nb	1		1
insect - moth	Black Owlet	Scythris grandipennis	Nb		1	1

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	Status	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - moth	Clifden Nonpareil	Catocala fraxini	Migrant		1	1
insect - moth	Cloaked Carpet	Euphyia biangulata	Nb	1		1
insect - moth	Dark Sword-grass	Agrotis ipsilon	Migrant	3		3
insect - moth	Devon Carpet	Lampropteryx otregiata	Nb	1		1
insect - moth	Double Kidney	Ipimorpha retusa	Nb	1		1
insect - moth	Double Line	Mythimna turca	Nb	1	1	2
insect - moth	Four-spotted Footman	Lithosia quadra	Migrant	1		1
insect - moth	Gorse Midget	Phyllonorycter ulicicolella	Nb		2	2
insect - moth	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	Macroglossum stellatarum	Migrant	1		1
insect - moth	Little Bent-wing	Leucoptera lotella	Na		3	3
insect - moth	Orange Footman	Eilema sororcula	Nb		1	1
insect - moth	Rush Veneer	Nomophila noctuella	Migrant		1	1
insect - moth	Rusty-dot Pearl	Udea ferrugalis	Migrant		1	1
insect - moth	Silver Y	Autographa gamma	Migrant	3	2	5
terrestrial mammal	Daubenton's Bat	Myotis daubentonii	WCA 5, 6, EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	1		1
terrestrial mammal	Eurasian Water Shrew	Neomys fodiens	WCA 6, Bern III		1	1
terrestrial mammal	Fallow Deer	Dama dama	DA, Bern III	1		1
terrestrial mammal	Natterer's Bat	Myotis nattereri	WCA 5, 6, EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	3		3

Common species

All other species found in the parish.

Taxon Group	Records added during project
birds	2
flowering plant	1
insect - butterfly	1
insect - dragonfly	1
insect - moth	342
terrestrial mammal	1
120 New species records for Meeth	

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
bird	Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	1	10	11
bird	Goosander	Mergus merganser	1	14	15
flowering plant	Coltsfoot	Tussilago farfara	1		1
insect - butterfly	Orange-tip	Anthocharis cardamines	1		1
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Common Darter	Sympetrum striolatum	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	Acleris forsskaleana	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	Acleris hastiana	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	Acleris laterana	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	Acleris laterana/comariana	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	Acleris schalleriana	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	Acrobasis advenella	1		1

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Acrobasis repandana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Agapeta hamana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Agonopterix heracliiana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Agonopterix ocellana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Agriphila selasella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Anacampsis populella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Anthophila fabriciana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Apotomis betuletana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Argyresthia albistria</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Argyresthia brockeella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Argyresthia pygmaeella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Brachmia blandella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Bryotropha terrella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Caloptilia alchimiella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Caloptilia stigmatella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Carcina quercana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Catoptria falsella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Catoptria pinella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Celypha lacunana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Crassa unitella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Cydia ulicetana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Depressaria daucella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Epermenia falciformis</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Epinotia trigonella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Eucosma campoliliana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Eucosma cana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Hypatima rhomboidella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Oxypteryx atrella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Pseudargyrotoza conwagana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Psyche casta</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Udea prunalis</i>	1		1
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Agonopterix nervosa</i>	2		2
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Anania crocealis</i>	2		2
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Blastobasis adustella</i>	2		2
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Epinotia ramella</i>	2		2
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Eudonia lacustrata</i>	2		2
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Eudonia mercurella</i>	2		2
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Eudonia pallida</i>	2		2
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Agriphila straminella</i>	3		3
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Calamotropha paludella</i>	3		3
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Epinotia nisella</i>	3		3
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Mirificarma mulinella</i>	3		3
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Phycita roborella</i>	3		3
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Pyrausta purpuralis</i>	3		3
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Ypsolopha parenthesesella</i>	3		3
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Acleris emargana</i>	4		4
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Argyresthia goedartella</i>	4		4
insect - moth	a Moth	<i>Cydia splendana</i>	4		4
insect - moth	Angle Shades	<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>	1	2	3
insect - moth	Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix	<i>Pandemis cerasana</i>	3		3
insect - moth	Barred Straw	<i>Gandaritis pyraliata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Beautiful Golden Y	<i>Autographa pulchrina</i>	1		1

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - moth	Beautiful Hook-tip	<i>Laspeyria flexula</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Birch Mocha	<i>Cyclophora albipunctata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Black Arches	<i>Lymantria monacha</i>	4	1	5
insect - moth	Black-tipped Ermine	<i>Yponomeuta plumbella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Blue-bordered Carpet	<i>Plemyria rubiginata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Bordered Beauty	<i>Epione repandaria</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Bright-line Brown-eye	<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	5	2	7
insect - moth	Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua fimbriata</i>	2	1	3
insect - moth	Brown China-mark	<i>Elophila nymphaeata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Brown Silver-line	<i>Petrophora chlorosata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Brussels Lace	<i>Cleorodes lichenaria</i>	1	2	3
insect - moth	Buff Arches	<i>Habrosyne pyritoides</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Buff Footman	<i>Eilema depressa</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Buff-tip	<i>Phalera bucephala</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Bulrush Wainscot	<i>Nonagria typhae</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>	1	4	5
insect - moth	Burnished Brass	<i>Diachrysia chrysis</i>	2	1	3
insect - moth	Canary-shouldered Thorn	<i>Ennomos alniaria</i>	4	2	6
insect - moth	Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix	<i>Pandemis corylana</i>	4	1	5
insect - moth	Chevron	<i>Eulithis testata</i>	3	2	5
insect - moth	Chinese Character	<i>Cilix glaucata</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Chocolate-tip	<i>Clostera curtula</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Clay	<i>Mythimna ferrago</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Cloaked Minor	<i>Mesoligia furuncula</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	1	2	3
insect - moth	Clouded Silver	<i>Lomographa temerata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Common Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	4		4
insect - moth	Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Common Lutestring	<i>Ochropacha duplaris</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Common Marbled Carpet	<i>Dysstroma truncata</i>	2	3	5
insect - moth	Common Quaker	<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>	1	4	5
insect - moth	Common Rustic agg.	<i>Mesapamea secalis</i> agg.	3	2	5
insect - moth	Common Wave	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	4	2	6
insect - moth	Common White Wave	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>	3	1	4
insect - moth	Copper Underwing agg.	<i>Amphipyra pyramidea</i> agg.	1		1
insect - moth	Coronet	<i>Craniophora ligustri</i>	2	1	3
insect - moth	Coxcomb Prominent	<i>Ptilodon capucina</i>	2	1	3
insect - moth	Currant Pug	<i>Eupithecia assimilata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	3	1	4
insect - moth	Dark Dagger / Grey Dagger	<i>Acronicta tridens/psi</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix	<i>Pandemis heparana</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Dingy Footman	<i>Eilema griseola</i>	5	1	6
insect - moth	Dingy Shell	<i>Euchoeca nebulata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Dotted Clay	<i>Xestia baja</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Double Square-spot	<i>Xestia triangulum</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Double-striped Pug	<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>	4	2	6
insect - moth	Drinker	<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>	4	4	8
insect - moth	Dun-bar	<i>Cosmia trapezina</i>	3		3
insect - moth	Early Thorn	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	3	1	4
insect - moth	Elephant Hawk-moth	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	1	2	3

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - moth	Engrailed	<i>Ectropis crepuscularia</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Fan-foot	<i>Herminia tarsipennalis</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Flame Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Flame Shoulder	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	5	4	9
insect - moth	Fox Moth	<i>Macrothylacia rubi</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Frosted Orange	<i>Gortyna flavago</i>	2	2	4
insect - moth	Garden Grass-veneer	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Golden-rod Pug	<i>Eupithecia virgaureata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Grass Emerald	<i>Pseudoterpna pruinata</i>	1	2	3
insect - moth	Green Carpet	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	2	4	6
insect - moth	Heart and Dart	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	1	2	3
insect - moth	Herald	<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Honeysuckle Moth	<i>Ypsolopha dentella</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Inlaid Grass-veneer	<i>Crambus pascuella</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Iron Prominent	<i>Notodonta dromedarius</i>	2	1	3
insect - moth	Jersey Mocha	<i>Cyclophora ruficiliaria</i>	1		1
insect - moth	July Highflyer	<i>Hydriomena furcata</i>	4	2	6
insect - moth	Knapweed Conch	<i>Agapeta zoegana</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Large Emerald	<i>Geometra papilionaria</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Large Fruit-tree Tortrix	<i>Archips podana</i>	2	1	3
insect - moth	Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	4	6	10
insect - moth	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua janthe</i>	4		4
insect - moth	Lesser Cream Wave	<i>Scopula immutata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Lesser Swallow Prominent	<i>Pheosia gnoma</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Lesser Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua comes</i>	3	2	5
insect - moth	Light Brown Apple Moth	<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>	1	2	3
insect - moth	Light Emerald	<i>Campaea margaritaria</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Magpie Moth	<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Maiden's Blush	<i>Cyclophora punctaria</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Many-plumed Moth	<i>Alucita hexadactyla</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Marbled Minor agg.	<i>Oligia strigilis</i> agg.	2		2
insect - moth	Marbled Orchard Tortrix	<i>Hedya nubiferana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Mother of Pearl	<i>Patania ruralis</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Muslin Footman	<i>Nudaria mundana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Nut-tree Tussock	<i>Colocasia coryli</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Oak Eggar	<i>Lasiocampa quercus</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Pale Prominent	<i>Pterostoma palpina</i>	3	1	4
insect - moth	Peach Blossom	<i>Thyatira batis</i>	3	1	4
insect - moth	Pebble Hook-tip	<i>Drepana falcataria</i>	3		3
insect - moth	Pebble Prominent	<i>Notodonta ziczac</i>	3	2	5
insect - moth	Peppered Moth	<i>Biston betularia</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Phoenix	<i>Eulithis prunata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Pinion-streaked Snout	<i>Schrankia costaestrigalis</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Pink-barred Sallow	<i>Xanthia togata</i>	1	2	3
insect - moth	Plain Golden Y	<i>Autographa jota</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Poplar Cosmet	<i>Batrachedra praeangusta</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Poplar Grey	<i>Subacronicta megacephala</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Poplar Hawk-moth	<i>Laothoe populi</i>	2	1	3
insect - moth	Purple Bar	<i>Cosmorhoe ocellata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Purple Clay	<i>Diarsia brunnea</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Purple Thorn	<i>Selenia tetralunaria</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Red Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe spadicearia</i>	3		3

Taxon group	Common name	Scientific	2020 to 2022	1968 to 2019	1968 to 2022
insect - moth	Red-barred Tortrix	<i>Ditula angustiorana</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Red-Green Carpet	<i>Chloroclysta siterata</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Ringed China-mark	<i>Parapoynx stratiotata</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Rosy Footman	<i>Miltochrista miniata</i>	3	2	5
insect - moth	Ruby Tiger	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Sallow Kitten	<i>Furcula furcula</i>	3		3
insect - moth	Scallop Shell	<i>Rheumaptera undulata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Scalloped Hook-tip	<i>Falcaria lacertinaria</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Scalloped Oak	<i>Crocallis elinguaris</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Setaceous Hebrew Character	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	2	5	7
insect - moth	Sharp-angled Peacock	<i>Macaria alternata</i>	4	3	7
insect - moth	Silver-ground Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe montanata</i>	1	2	3
insect - moth	Single-dotted Wave	<i>Idaea dimidiata</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Six-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	4		4
insect - moth	Six-striped Rustic	<i>Xestia sexstrigata</i>	1	2	3
insect - moth	Slender Brindle	<i>Apamea scolopacina</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Small China-mark	<i>Cataclysta lemnata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Small Fan-foot	<i>Herminia grisealis</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Small Fan-footed Wave	<i>Idaea biselata</i>	4	1	5
insect - moth	Small Rufous	<i>Coenobia rufa</i>	3		3
insect - moth	Small Seraphim	<i>Pterapherapteryx sexalata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Small Wainscot	<i>Denticucullus pygmina</i>	3	3	6
insect - moth	Small Yellow Underwing	<i>Panemeria tenebrata</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	2	1	3
insect - moth	Snout	<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>	2	1	3
insect - moth	Speckled Fanner	<i>Glyphipterix thrasonella</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Spectacle	<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>	2	1	3
insect - moth	Square-spot Rustic	<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>	4	2	6
insect - moth	Straw Dot	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>	4	2	6
insect - moth	Suspected	<i>Parastichtis suspecta</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Svensson's Copper Underwing	<i>Amphipyra berbera</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Swallow Prominent	<i>Pheosia tremula</i>	2		2
insect - moth	Tawny-barred Angle	<i>Macaria liturata</i>	2	1	3
insect - moth	V-Pug	<i>Chloroclystis v-ata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Vapourer	<i>Orgyia antiqua</i>	1	1	2
insect - moth	Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	2	1	3
insect - moth	Yarrow Plume	<i>Gillmeria pallidactyla</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Yellow-barred Brindle	<i>Acasis viretata</i>	1		1
insect - moth	Yponomeuta padella/ malinellus/cagnagella sp.	Yponomeuta padella/ malinellus/cagnagella	1		1
terrestrial mammal	Whiskered/Brandt's Bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus/brandtii</i>	4		4

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

One example of survey work that might usefully be undertaken would be to produce a hedgerow appraisal for your local area. Comparing the current distribution of hedges against boundary lines shown on old maps will give a clue as to how this important resource has changed over recent years. It may also highlight opportunities for restoring hedges in your area. It might also be possible to assess the condition of hedges and this may, in turn, give some ideas about improving their future management to benefit wildlife.

Survey work could be undertaken as a community group or in liaison with conservation groups active in the area.

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

2 Influence the management of Public Open Space:

Creating areas of more species-rich grassland will help to reduce the isolation of the remaining fragments of traditionally managed agricultural land, contributing to the Flower-rich Meadows and Pastures Action Plan.

Churchyards have often received less intensive management than the surrounding land and can provide good opportunities for wildlife.

Planting up areas that are currently of little wildlife interest with new copses of native trees and shrubs will also help to attract wildlife. Suitable sites might include unused areas of playing fields, for example.

3 Build relationships with local landowners:

Encourage the adoption of more wildlife-friendly land management. For example, hedges which are cut only every other year will provide an autumn and winter source of nuts and berries for birds and small mammals (and can save the landowner money in management costs). The improved management of hedgerows is a key objective of the Species-rich Hedges Action Plan. If the owner is willing, why not get involved with practical management, such as traditional hedge laying or pond restoration? Devon County Council's website has some very good resources for hedge management and ideas for community involvement <https://www.devon.gov.uk/environment/wildlife/habitats-and-species/hedges>

4 Adopt a road verge:

Many verges can have a significant value for wildlife because they have escaped the intensive management of the surrounding farmland. Ensuring such verges are managed for their wildlife is a very positive step, again contributing to the Flower-rich Meadows and Pastures Action Plan.

There are, of course, obvious health and safety implications to roadside management. It is an action that would need to be undertaken in close liaison with the relevant highways authority (generally, this is the Highways Agency for motorways and trunk roads, and Devon County Council for all other roads).

5 Wildlife gardening:

Green up your garden! Collectively the gardens of Meeth 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 Meeth. Introduced into Britain by the Victorians, Japanese Knotweed is a native of Japan, north China, Korea and Taiwan. It flourishes in Britain's mild and fertile environment and has no natural biological enemies here. Consequently, it is very invasive and can overrun large areas, replacing our native flora. It is a serious pest which can be so vigorous as to cause significant damage to buildings and roads. It is also a difficult plant to eradicate.

For these reasons Japanese Knotweed is listed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as a plant that is not to be planted or otherwise introduced into the wild. In addition, all parts of the plant are considered as controlled waste under the Waste Regulations.

Fortunately, a great deal of advice (including an Environment Agency Code of Practice) is available on the Devon Knotweed Forum's web pages. You are recommended to view these at: <https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/knowledge-hub/invasive-species/japanese-knotweed/>

8 Himalayan Balsam:

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

colonised riverbanks and areas of damp ground.

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

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

Although Devon Biodiversity Records Centre does not hold any official records of Himalayan Balsam in Meeth , it is known to be widespread along rivers and water courses.

A useful leaflet on Himalayan Balsam can be viewed by following this link: <https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/knowledge-hub/invasive-species/>



Japanese Knotweed

Useful sources of further information

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

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

Devon Wildlife Trust: www.devonwildlifetrust.org

Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society: www.devonbirds.org

Natural England: www.naturalengland.org.uk

Plantlife: www.plantlife.org.uk

RSPB: www.rspb.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

Guidance

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

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

<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>