

Parish Biodiversity Audit

for

Beer



Consultation draft – April 2010

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Report commissioned by Devon County Council

Data supplied by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre



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Beer - Parish Plan Biodiversity Project

This document has been produced as a starting point to help community action for wildlife. By starting to bring together knowledge of the natural assets of the parish, it may go some way to achieving its aim of contributing to and stimulating ideas for – local action.

It should be emphasised that it is just a beginning. It does not represent a comprehensive account of the parish and is based very largely on existing records held by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC). There will be a wealth of local knowledge that can be used to build upon and improve this report. Indeed, it is important that it is seen as a 'living document' and one that belongs to the parish. It is hoped that it will be added to and refined by the people of Beer parish in future years.

Did you know...?

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 places the following biodiversity duty on all public bodies:

'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'

The duty applies to all local authorities, including parish and town councils. Its purpose is to raise the profile of biodiversity and make it a 'natural and integral' part of policy and decision making.

The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has issued guidance for local authorities on implementing this biodiversity duty. It can be downloaded from Defra's website: www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/pdf/biodiversity/la-guid-english.pdf

This audit and the ideas it may stimulate may help the Parish Council to fulfil this biodiversity duty.

Introduction

Biodiversity is a term that describes all of life on earth, from the smallest micro-organism to the largest mammal, the blue whale. Life is found almost everywhere on the planet and in huge variety. Even a humble back garden may be home to thousands of species and is therefore an important part of the planet's biodiversity. The Beer Parish Biodiversity Audit begins to describe the area's local wildlife and shows how it fits into the wider picture of biodiversity in Devon and the UK.

The parish of Beer is situated in the south-east of Devon on the East Devon coast, between Branscombe and Seaton. It is a relatively small parish, covering an area of 707ha, and lies within East Devon District. Most of the parish falls within the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The underlying geology of most of the parish is chalk from the Upper Cretaceous period. A smaller area in the north-west of the parish is from the Lower Cretaceous and consist of Upper Greensands and Gault clay (Source: The Geology of Devon). The underlying geology affects both the character of the landscape and the habitats, flora and fauna it supports.

Beer village is the main settlement, a fishing village which lies on the coast a short distance from Seaton. The village is relatively large and supports many shops, a primary school and church. Tourism is important to the economy of the parish especially due to the proximity of the coast.

There are three small valleys arising from within the parish, which combine to form a single valley near the coast. The centre of Beer village lies in this valley bottom, which has a small channelled stream flowing through the centre. The housing of the village extends up the valley sides. There is an additional small valley in the east of the parish, with a stream that flows to the coast at Seaton Hole. Outside of these valleys the land is more gently undulating and rises to 150m.

The main A3052 between Exeter and Lyme Regis cuts through the north-west of the parish. This is the largest and busiest road, followed by the smaller roads that service Beer, the B3174, or Hollyhead Road, and the B3177 to Seaton. There a few other small country lanes and several green lanes that have public access along them. The countryside can be enjoyed from these and other footpaths, including the coastal footpath, and bridleways.

Tourism is very important to the economy of the area, but agriculture still forms the main land use, with some small areas of forestry. Most of the land is grassland with the permanent pastures, surrounded by hedges, mainly on the steeper valley sides. Some is semi-improved or unimproved pastures (neutral and calcareous). The grazing stock includes cattle, sheep and horses. The more gently sloping, higher ground inland has areas of more improved grasslands, some cultivated and reseeded, and also some arable fields (maize and cereal). Some areas appear to have been used for outdoor pigs in the past (Source: aerial photographs). The hedges form the main wildlife

interest in the more intensively farmed areas and provide wildlife corridors through the parish.

Beer has a dramatic and beautiful coastline, with areas of coastal scrub and calcareous grassland. The coastline here has important geological features, supports important habitats for wildlife and has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the Sidmouth to Beer Coast SSSI, and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Sidmouth to West Bay SAC.

Inland, Beer Quarry and Caves are also important geological features and support important colonies of bats and has unimproved calcareous grassland nearby. This area has been designated as the Beer Quarry and Caves SSSI and SAC. Five other areas have been designated as County Wildlife Sites (CWS) for their unimproved or semi-improved calcareous or neutral grasslands.

Woodlands are sparse within the parish. There are a couple of small coniferous forestry plantations and some smaller areas of broad-leaved woodland. Two County Wildlife Sites include areas of scrub and broadleaved woodland (Beer Quarry and Caves CWS and Bovey Lane Fields CWS).

All but the north-east of Beer parish lies within the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and all the parish within the Blackdowns Natural Area. The coastline here forms part of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. The area of Lyme Bay just off the coast of Beer falls within the Poole Bay to Lyme Bay Reefs draft Special Area of Conservation. There are two other SACs; two Site of Special Scientific Interest and five County Wildlife Sites.

Notable sites and species recorded within Beer parish are given in Appendix 1. The brown hare, common dormouse and greater horseshoe bat have been recorded within the parish. These are UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) and **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** (Devon BAP) priority species. Other UK BAP species recorded within or near the parish include linnet, song thrush, yellowhammer, lesser horseshoe bat and brown long-eared bat, wood white, wall brown, dingy skipper, cinnabar, common toad and slow-worm. The barn owl, primrose and great green bush-cricket are listed in the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan**. An explanation of the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan is presented on page 50.

The parish site visit for this report was carried out in March 2010; it should be borne in mind that this is not the ideal season to carry out biodiversity surveys as some species will not be visible at this time of the year. A full species list recorded during the site visit is given in Appendix 2.

Designated Sites

Many designated sites are on private land: the listing of a site does not imply any right of public access.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

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

There are two SSSIs that lie within or partly within Beer parish: Sidmouth to Beer Coast SSSI and Beer Quarry and Caves SSSI.

Sidmouth to Beer Coast SSSI

The Sidmouth to Beer Coast SSSI, covering an area of about 244ha, is an important geological and biological site and is also included within the Sidmouth to West Bay Special Area of Conservation and Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. Brief descriptions of these are covered in later text.

As the name suggests the Sidmouth to Beer Coast SSSI stretches along the coast from the Sidmouth to Beer, a distance of about 12km. It includes mainly steep south-facing cliffs, rising in to 160m in places, with occasional coastal valleys. The entire coastal fringe of Beer parish is included within the SSSI.

The description of the SSSI here is taken from mainly from the SSSI citation and the Educational Register of Geological Sites.

This stretch of coastline supports a variety of habitats including the most westerly example of species-rich chalk grassland in England. The grasslands of the cliff tops and ledges are characteristically species-rich. Typical plants of calcareous soils are present including purging flax, squinancywort, carline thistle, small scabious, common rock-rose, ploughman's spikenard and salad burnet. Several species of orchid occur within the SSSI. These include pyramidal orchid and autumn lady's-tresses. Sea kale, Nottingham Catchfly, tree mallow and purple gromwell are also found within the site.

Within the SSSI, but outside Beer parish, there are some woodlands within the coastal valleys. These support ash, pedunculate oak in the drier areas and willow and alder in the wetter valley bottoms.

Other, more sheltered, areas support dense areas of scrub, which can include dogwood, wayfaring-tree, wild privet, blackthorn and hawthorn together with Traveller's-joy and wild madder.

This variety of habitats supports a diverse invertebrate fauna, with numerous butterflies, grasshoppers and crickets. The nationally scarce rufous grasshopper, grey bush-cricket and bog bush-cricket have been recorded within the SSSI. The rare fairy-shrimp has also been recorded here within a seasonally-flooded pool.

There are also important geological and stratigraphic features revealed here. There is a gentle easterly dip in the layers of rocks between Sidmouth and Beer. This strongly influences the geology with the rocks visible in the west being of the Triassic Period and, in the east of the site, the more recent Cretaceous. In the west of the SSSI, outside the parish, there is New Red Sandstone capped with Greensand. As the strata dips eastwards chalk beds appear beneath an overlay of clay-with-flints. As you move towards Beer the pale sands of the Upper Greensands and its overlying Chalk come closer to beach level and by Beer Head the entire cliff is taken up by these Cretaceous rocks. One of the important geomorphological features is the well developed landslip system at Hooken Cliffs.

The cliff sections within the SSSI provide some fine geological features. These include exposures of Foxmould Sands and Chert Beds of the Upper Greensand, some of the finest in the South West, and of chalk, including Beer Head, with limestone at the base. The basal Upper Cretaceous Limestone contains a notable fossil fauna, including ammonites that are scarce in the rest of Britain.

Part of the overlying chalk, in the vicinity of Beer village, is, unusually, suitable for building and is known as Beer Stone, with some Beer Stone mines in the cliffs near here. The Beer Quarry Caves offers the opportunity to have an insight into the history of quarrying of the Beer Stone, which was used to build many buildings including Exeter cathedral (source: www.jurassiccoast.com).

Shingle beaches lie at the base of the cliffs of the SSSI and there are some small areas of intertidal rocks near Beer. Rocky foreshore is listed in the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan**.

The long distance South West Coast Footpath runs along the coast here.

The DBRC database holds records of some notable species that have been recorded within the Sidmouth to Beer Coast SSSI: common rockrose, sea mouse-ear, the nationally rare and Devon notables, purple gromwell and white horehound; the Nationally scarce and Devon notable and rarity Nottingham catchfly; wood white; wall brown; dingy skipper; chalk-hill blue; brown argus; green hairstreak; brown long-eared bat; lesser horseshoe bat; greater horseshoe bat; Natterer's bat; and peregrine in the Hooken Cliff and Beer Head area with ivy broomrape (nationally scarce and Devon notable); Nottingham catchfly and common rock-rose on the coast east of Beer village.

Parts of the coastal fringe was seen during the parish site visit. West of Beer village the cliff top fields are grassland pastures that run close to the cliff edge, with some areas of scrub. The vegetation of the steep cliffs and cliff top

edge varies with some grassy areas and some scrubby areas. The plant species seen here on the site visit included knapweed, stinking iris, primrose, creeping cinquefoil, carline thistle, red fescue, wild madder, sea beet, wild carrot, and alexanders. One bank within the grassland near Beer Head area supported unimproved grassland with a calcareous influence, with wild thyme, crested dog's-tail, salad burnet, wild carrot, red fescue, common bird's-foot-trefoil, yarrow, oxeye daisy and glaucous sedge. The scrub areas supported species such as hawthorn, elder, bramble and wild madder. The vegetation of the landslip system at Hooken Cliffs is quite different, forming scrub thickets with scattered trees. The cliffs at the back of the beach at Beer support species including red fescue, wall flower, ivy, alexanders, sea beet lavender and tree mallow.

Links to Devon and UK BAP

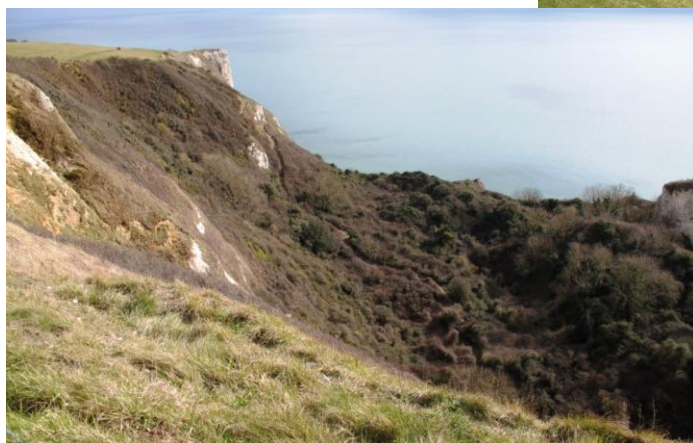
Key habitat:

- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP); Lowland calcareous grassland (UK BAP)
- Sea cliff and slope (Devon BAP); Maritime cliff and slopes (UK BAP)

Key species:

- Wood white; Wall brown; Dingy skipper (UK BAP)
- Greater horseshoe bat (Devon BAP; UK BAP)
- Brown long-eared bat; Lesser horseshoe bat (UK BAP)

Sidmouth to Beer Coast SSSI,
south of Beer looking north
(right)



Sidmouth to Beer Coast SSSI,
Hooken Cliffs
(left)

Beer Quarry and Caves SSSI

Beer Quarry and Caves SSSI covers an area of 31ha and is located in the west of the parish, at the head of the valley west of Beer along which Quarry Lane runs. The quarry is on the northern side of Quarry Lane and the SSSI extends as far as Paizen Lane. Beer Caves lie to the south of Quarry Lane, with the site extending southwards to Mare Lane. The SSSI citation reports the site's importance for its population of hibernating bats and also for the geological features on the face of the working quarry.

The extensive series of caves has been formed by many years of mining for Beer Stone. An unusually wide range of species of bats, eight in total, has been recorded here, including the very rare Bechstein's bat and also the greater and lesser horseshoe bat. The site being used as a hibernaculum by Bechstein's bats is the primary reason that the site has also been designated a Special Area of Conservation. Other species present include Brandt's bat, Daubenton's bat, Natterer's bat, brown long-eared bat and whiskered bat. The old tunnels in the actively worked northern part of the site are also used by bats. Beer Quarry also provides one of the best exposures of a suite of clay-filled chalk pipes in southern England (Source: SSSI citation).

In February 2010 119 greater horseshoe and 133 lesser horseshoe bats were recorded to be using these caves (personal communication).

The area covered by the Beer Quarry and Caves SSSI is also designated a County Wildlife Site. A survey of parts of this CWS was carried out in 1992 and 1993, when it supported areas of unimproved calcareous grassland. A description is given in the County Wildlife Site below.

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Pits, quarries and cuttings (Devon BAP)
- Caves, karst and limestone habitats (Devon BAP)
- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP); Lowland calcareous grassland (UK BAP)

Key species:

- Greater horseshoe bat (Devon BAP; UK BAP)
- Brown long-eared bat; Lesser horseshoe bat; Bechstein's bat (UK BAP)



Beer Caves

Special Areas of Conservation

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

Sidmouth to West Bay Special Area of Conservation

The Sidmouth to West Bay SAC has been designated to protect its rich and diverse vegetated sea cliff habitats. As a result of the varied geology along this stretch of coast there is a wide range of habitat types within the SAC, including pioneer communities colonising new landslip areas, as well as more established areas of woodland, mixed scrub and grassland where conditions are more stable. The resulting mosaic of habitats supports a wide range of plants and animals, especially invertebrates.

Within the parish of Beer the Sidmouth to West Bay SAC largely covers the same area as the Sidmouth to Beer Coast SSSI and details of the area's rich geology and biodiversity can be found in the SSSI section above.

Beer Quarry and Caves Special Area of Conservation

The Beer Quarry and Caves SAC covers the same area as the Beer Quarry and Caves SSSI. The primary reason for the site being designated as a SAC is its use as a hibernation site for the Bechstein's bat as well as it supporting an important assemblage of other bat species. The presence of lesser horseshoe bats and greater horseshoe bats is an additional qualifying feature,

but not the primary reason for the selection of the site. A description of the site is given in the SSSI and CWS sections.

Poole Bay to Lyme Bay Reefs draft Special Area of Conservation

In 2009 Natural England announced a new set of marine SACs to increase the representation of reefs and sandbanks within the Natura 2000 network. At the time of writing these are known as draft SAC (dSAC) and are awaiting a final decision on designation following a public consultation. The Poole Bay to Lyme Bay Reefs dSAC contains four separate areas, one of which, Lyme Bay Reefs, has a boundary along the low water mark in the south of the parish.

Lyme Bay Reefs is proposed as an SAC as a result of its reef features, which range from cobbles and boulders to different types of bedrock. The wide variety of hard substrates support an equally wide range of seabed animals, including corals, such as the pink sea fan and sunset coral, sponges and bryozoans ('moss animals'). Some of these species are long-lived and slow growing, which makes them particularly vulnerable to damage from human activities. The rich seabed communities also support a range of commercially important species such as scallop, crab and lobster.

County Wildlife Sites

County Wildlife Sites (CWS) 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 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and does not have any legal status. County Wildlife Sites are usually included in Local Plans as sites of regional or local biodiversity interest and are covered by Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9). 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.

Note: 'Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation' was published by the Department of the Environment in August 2005. Planning Policy Statements (PPS) set out the Government's national policies on different aspects of planning in England. PPS9 sets out planning policies on protection of biodiversity and geological conservation through the planning system. This PPS replaces Planning Policy Guidance Note 9 (PPG9) on nature conservation published in October 1994.

There are five County Wildlife Sites within Beer parish:

- Beer Quarry and Caves County Wildlife Site
- Beer Head County Wildlife Site
- Beer Fields County Wildlife Site
- Bovey Lane Fields County Wildlife Site
- Bovey Lane Quarries County Wildlife Site

Records of previous habitat and species surveys for these CWSs are kept with the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC), from which the descriptions here are, in the main, derived; conditions may have changed since these surveys. The sites are mainly privately owned and there is no public access onto them (other than normal public rights of way).

Beer Quarry and Caves County Wildlife Site

Beer Quarry and Caves County Wildlife Site is situated at the head of the valley west of Beer along which Quarry Lane runs. The 32ha CWS lies either side of this road and covers much of the same area as the Beer Quarry and Caves SSSI and SAC. The site supports important bat colonies and unimproved calcareous grassland (source: DBRC). Eight species of bat have been recorded here, including Bechstein's bat, greater horseshoe bat and lesser horseshoe bat (source: SSSI citation).

Different parts of the site were surveyed in 1992 and 1993.

A 3ha area comprising three meadows on moderately steep land, south of the road, was surveyed in 1992, when it was assessed as supporting herb-rich calcareous grassland. An area opposite Quarry Cottages had an excellent variety of neutral and calcareous herb species, including abundant field scabious, common knapweed, agrimony and yellow rattle. Glaucous sedge, quaking grass and orchids were also present. Two fields above the copse and car park supported floristically diverse calcareous grassland with herbs including lady's bedstraw, yellow rattle, meadow vetchling, common toadflax, field scabious and common knapweed. There were also some patches of scrub. The eastern field had more coarse grasses and thistles, but also had some pockets of herb-rich grassland with eyebright, lady's bedstraw, agrimony and hemp-agrimony.

Another, larger, area south of the road was surveyed in 1993, when the area were described as supporting a mosaic of habitats including areas of unimproved grassland. An area of scrub and secondary woodland was developing on a former limestone quarry area. The dominant tree species here was ash, with other species including dogwood, field maple and traveller's joy within the scrubby areas. The ground flora included ivy, hart's-tongue, herb-Robert, dog's-mercury and stinking iris. In between the scrub there were small areas of unimproved grassland with agrimony, field scabious and eyebright. The slope to the south of the car park had eyebright, fairy flax, yellow-wort (a Devon notable plant) hazel and willow.

An area north of the road, around the active quarry, was also surveyed in 1993. There were large areas disturbed by the active quarrying. Other areas included some fields in the north, which appeared less floristically interesting, and some fringes of the quarrying areas. The fringes were the most interesting floristically. There was a mosaic of habitats with some scrub areas and some grassy and herb-rich areas. Species recorded within these areas

included: hazel, willow, hawthorn, buddleia, western gorse, dog-rose, false-oat grass, marjoram, wild carrot, eyebright, perforate St. John's-wort, wild parsnip, colt's-foot, agrimony, common bird's-foot-trefoil, yarrow, ragwort, hop trefoil, red bartsia, hemp agrimony and ribbed melilot. Pepper saxifrage was also noted on the road verge. There was also a pond with some common reed within the area.

Small tortoiseshell, common blue, common darters and the nationally notable Jersey tiger were recorded here during these surveys. The importance of the caves for bats was also noted, details of bats recorded here, which include greater horseshoe bat, lesser horseshoe bat, Bechstein's bat and brown long-eared bat are given in the SSSI section. Other notable species recorded here include linnet, barn owl (a **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** species) and the Devon notable plants wood small-reed and smooth brome. Primrose was also recorded here, the primrose is a **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** species.

There has been a more recent survey of this area which noted the presence of the UK and **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** species, the common dormouse (personal communication).

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Pits, quarries and cuttings (Devon BAP)
- Caves, karst and limestone habitats (Devon BAP)
- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP); Lowland calcareous grassland (UK BAP)
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)
- Ponds (UK BAP)

Key species:

- Greater horseshoe bat (Devon BAP; UK BAP)
- Brown long-eared bat; Lesser horseshoe bat; Bechstein's bat (UK BAP)
- Common dormouse (Devon BAP; UK BAP)
- Primrose (Devon BAP)
- Barn owl (Devon BAP)
- Linnet (UK BAP)



Beer Quarry and Caves CWS in distance

Beer Head County Wildlife Site

Beer Head County Wildlife Site covers an area of 2.7ha and is located near Beer Head on the coast. It abuts the Sidmouth to Beer Coast SSSI. The CWS was surveyed in 1993 when it supported semi-improved calcareous grassland. The southern end had the greatest species richness with plant species including salad-burnet, chalk milkwort, wild thyme and the Devon notable common rock-rose. There was some blackthorn, hawthorn, holly and elder scrub towards the west of the site. The northern end of the site had semi-improved grassland with salad-burnet and common bird's-foot-trefoil within the flora. Sea mouse-ear, a Devon notable plant, has also been recorded here. White horehound, a nationally scarce and Devon notable plant has been recorded in the vicinity. (Source: DBRC).

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP); Lowland meadows (UK BAP)
- Lowland calcareous grassland (UK BAP)

Beer Fields County Wildlife Site

Beer Fields County Wildlife Site is located in the east of the parish on the east-facing slopes between Beer and Seaton. The 7.5ha site was surveyed in 2005 and the description here is a summary of the report from that survey. The main field to the north supported semi-improved neutral grassland (with cock's-foot, Yorkshire-fog and creeping thistle) and improved neutral grassland (dominated by perennial rye-grass) with unimproved calcareous grassland on the steeper slopes. The calcareous grassland on the steep part of the field was species-rich and included salad burnet, common bird's-foot-trefoil, cat's-ear, quaking grass, meadow vetchling, field woodrush, common knapweed, timothy, sweet-vernal grass and the Devon notables pyramidal orchid, bee orchid and cowslip. There was a wet flush through the middle, with some marginal plants and a couple of areas of scrub. To the south-east there was another area on the steeper ground with calcareous grassland. Hound's-tongue (a Devon notable plant) was growing here. The lower slopes were semi-improved. Other notable species recorded during the 2005 survey

were common dormouse (feeding signs), cinnabar, mistle thrush, swallow and roe deer. The common dormouse is both a UK and **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** priority species. Other species recorded in the area during the 2005 survey included several butterflies (meadow brown, ringlet and red admiral), chiffchaff, greenfinch, goldfinch and wood pigeon.

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP); Lowland meadows (UK BAP)
- Lowland calcareous grassland (UK BAP)

Key species:

- Common dormouse (Devon BAP; UK BAP)
- Cinnabar (UK BAP)

Bovey Lane Fields County Wildlife Site

Bovey Lane Fields County Wildlife Site is located on the south-west facing slopes within the valley to the north-west of Beer village, north of Bovey Lane. The 4.9ha site abuts Bovey Lane Quarries CWS and was surveyed in 2005. It comprises two fields, with a small copse between them, and various areas of either scattered trees, bramble or bracken.

The larger field to the north was described as mainly semi-improved grassland dominated by perennial rye-grass, white clover, creeping buttercup, Yorkshire-fog and cock's-foot. The eastern, steeper, section was botanically more interesting and included agrimony, common knapweed, selfheal, common bird's-foot-trefoil, smooth hawk's-beard, cat's-ear and germander speedwell. The lower slopes on the western side of the field were also less improved in nature with some ant hills present. Flora included salad burnet, common knapweed, agrimony, milkwort, quaking grass, field scabious, selfheal, ox-eye daisy and common bird's-foot-trefoil and the Devon notable plants, pyramidal orchid, dwarf thistle and hoary plantain. There were numerous butterflies, grasshoppers and bees at the time of 2005 survey. Meadow brown, ringlet, marbled white and six-spot burnet were noted.

The steep field to the south supported quaking grass, marjoram, mouse-ear hawkweed and black meddick as well as some of the species recorded in the field to the north. It also had some spear thistle and ragwort.

The small copse supported field maple, hazel, ash, oak, holly, blackthorn and hawthorn. The woodland ground flora included primrose, ground-ivy and dog's mercury.

Other notable species recorded here in 2005 were badger and yellowhammer.

(Source DBRC).

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP); Lowland meadows (UK BAP)
- Lowland calcareous grassland (UK BAP)
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)

Key species:

- Primrose (Devon BAP)
- Yellowhammer (UK BAP)

Bovey Lane Quarries County Wildlife Site

Bovey Lane Quarries County Wildlife Site is situated on the south-west facing slopes of the valley north-west of Beer village, north of Bovey Lane. The site covers 14.6ha and was surveyed in 1987. The site includes an area of disused quarry. The site supported unimproved calcareous grassland with some scrub and woodland. The floristically diverse grasslands were mainly on the steeper slopes. Species included wild thyme, fairy flax, salad burnet, oxeye daisy, restharrow, common knapweed, field scabious, common bird's-foot trefoil, lesser hawkbit, rough hawkbit, selfheal, eyebright, marjoram, quacking grass, crested dog's-tail and yellow oat-grass and the Devon notables dwarf thistle, hoary plantain, autumn lady's-tresses, downy oat-grass, small scabious and common rock-rose. (Source DBRC).

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Pits, quarries and cuttings (Devon BAP)
- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP); Lowland calcareous grassland (UK BAP)

Other Sites of Wildlife Interest

Other Sites of Wildlife Interest (OSWI) are sites of significant wildlife interest within a local context that have been surveyed but do not reach the criteria for County Wildlife Sites. They are not covered by PPG9, but may be included in Local Plans.

There is one Other Sites of Wildlife Interest within the parish of Beer:

- Arratt's Hill Other Sites of Wildlife Interest

Arratt's Hill Other Sites of Wildlife Interest is situated to the west of Beer Head caravan park in the south of the parish. The site covers 3.7ha and is on generally east-facing ground, with some north-facing slopes. It supported semi-improved neutral grassland of wildlife interest in a local context but did

not reach the criteria for County Wildlife Status when surveyed (source: DBRC).

Links to Devon and UK BAP

Key habitat:

- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP); Lowland meadows (UK BAP)

There are no Unconfirmed County Wildlife Sites (sites identified as having possible interest but which have not been fully surveyed); County Geological Sites (also known as Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites or RIGS); nor any woodlands listed on Devon Ancient Woodland Inventory within Beer parish. A brief explanation of these designations is given later in the text or in Appendix 1.

Other designations and regional classifications

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are areas of national importance for their natural beauty and distinctive character. They are designated with statutory protection to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of their landscapes. This includes scenic beauty, but can also include the flora and fauna the area supports and cultural, geological and historic associations.

AONBs were first designated in the 1940s alongside the first designation of National Parks in England and Wales. The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 gave them special legal status to ensure their preservation for the nation as a natural resource. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000 (the CROW Act) added further regulation and protection. There are currently thirty-six AONBs in England.

Natural England is responsible for the designation of AONBs in England and also advises on policies for their protection. The CROW Act also clarified the role of local authorities which includes the preparation of management plans for the AONB.

The main purpose of AONB designation (summarising that described in www.naturalengland.org.uk and www.aonb.org.uk) is to:

- conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape

Two secondary aims complement the purpose:

- to have regard for the interests of those who live and work there (to safeguard rural industries, such as agriculture and forestry, and the economic and social needs of local communities).
- to meet the need for quiet enjoyment of the countryside (but this recreation should not be a reason for designation nor be at the

expense of the landscape's natural beauty and the needs of rural industries).

The AONBs are managed by partnerships that include local authorities and key organisations who aspire to achieving the aims of the AONB. This is done primarily through planning controls and practical countryside management. Most AONBs have a locally-based team of staff that co-ordinate and deliver action on the ground.

Devon has five AONBs:

- East Devon AONB
- Blackdown Hills AONB
- North Devon Coast AONB
- South Devon AONB
- Tamar Valley AONB

All but the north-east corner (east of the B3174 and Gatcombe Lane) of Beer parish falls within the East Devon AONB.

East Devon AONB

The East Devon AONB was designated in 1963 and covers an area of 268 sq kms. The AONB ranges from near Exmouth in the west along the coast to near Uplyme in the east. The north-east border abuts the Blackdown Hills AONB. Inland it extends to just south of Honiton and Ottery St Mary. It includes the East Devon section of the Jurassic Coast (the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site), England's first natural World Heritage Site.

The East Devon AONB has a beautiful landscape characterised by intimate wooded combes, vast areas of heathland, fertile river valleys and breathtaking cliffs or hilltops. The landscape is also characterised by hamlets, farmsteads and villages, many of which retain a vernacular character together with narrow lanes often bordered by steep-sided Devon hedgebanks.

The East Devon AONB is managed by a joint partnership (funded by Natural England, East Devon District Council and Devon County Council) which includes a wide range of representatives including those with land-owner, environmental and community interests.

The vision statement for East Devon AONB (from the East Devon AONB web site) is that "The natural beauty of the East Devon AONB landscape, its dramatic World Heritage Site coastline, internationally important habitats and species and its cultural heritage, is conserved, managed and enhanced to support and benefit present and future generations."

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The underlying geology contributes to the character of the landscape , within the AONB there are 12 recognised landscape Character types

- Open inland planned plateaux
- Open coastal plateaux
- Pebblebed Heaths
- Wooded ridges and hilltops
- Steep wooded scarp slopes
- Coastal slopes and combes
- Upper farmed and wooded slopes
- Lower rolling farmed and settled slopes
- Unsettled farmed valley floors
- Unsettled Marine levels
- Estuaries
- Coastal Cliffs

http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/planning-landscape_character_assessment

The AONB supports a diverse range of habitats and include:

- unimproved permanent pastures and wet grassland
- chalk grassland
- lowland rivers
- estuaries
- lowland heath
- floodplains
- salt marsh and reedbeds
- woodlands
- cliffs
- traditional hedges
- shingle beaches

These habitats support a plethora of wildlife, flora and fauna. Some of these important areas and habitats are designated as SSSIs and SACs such the Sidmouth to Beer Coast SSSI (part of the Sidmouth to West Bay SAC) and Beer Quarry and Caves SSSI and SAC. Outside the parish of Beer the Axmouth to Lyme Regis Undercliffs are designated a National Nature Reserve and are also a Special Area of Conservation and the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths have SSSI, SAC and SPA protection.

Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site

World Heritage Sites (WHS) are non-statutory designations and are places of international importance for the conservation of our cultural and national heritage. They are selected by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and

Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) because they contain important cultural or natural features. The Jurassic Coast WHS, also known as the Dorset and East Devon WHS, was designated in 2001, for its outstanding geology and geomorphology. It is the only site in England that has been designated primarily for its natural features rather than cultural identity. Other WHS in England include Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape WHS and Stonehenge WHS.

The Jurassic Coast covers 95 miles of East Devon and Dorset coastline from near Exmouth in the west to past Swanage to the east. The geology here ranges from the Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous and Quaternary Periods. The range in the geology is due to the rocks being tilted gently to the east. Generally this has resulted in the older rocks being in the west, such as the Triassic rocks, which include the red cliffs, between Exmouth and Branscombe and Seaton to Pinhay Bay, although there is a small section of the more recent Cretaceous period west of Beer. To the east of Pinhay Bay lie the rocks of the Jurassic period, including the dark clay cliffs of West Dorset. East of Seaton lies near the transition and consists mainly of rocks around 200-185 million years old of the early Jurassic period. Around this area the lower cliffs are capped by younger sandstones and chalk. These porous rocks overlay the impermeable clays, a combination which is a recipe for landslides, such as the Whitlands landslide which is over 750m wide. The Jurassic coast shows the most complete Lower Jurassic sequence in Europe. The coast between Charmouth and Lyme Regis is one of the most famous fossil collecting localities in the world.

The coast of Beer parish shows chalk rocks of the late Cretaceous period (around 70 million years ago). The chalk and limestone were formed from the creatures that lived in the tropical seas of that time many of which were microscopic. Hooken landslide just west of Beer Head is a notable geomorphological feature within the parish (www.jurassiccoast.com).

The key geological features of Devon, including those of the Jurassic Coast, and how they relate to the global Geosite framework are described in the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan. This can be viewed at the Devon BAP web site: www.devon.gov.uk/dbap-section_e.pdf.

The Jurassic Coast WHS is protected by a number of other designations. There are a number of geological SSSIs, several biological SSSIs, two NNRs, and a SAC, and the WHS abuts the draft Poole Bay to Lyme Bay Reefs SAC.

Natural Areas

Natural England divides the country into natural areas containing common or associated ecological and landscape features. The parish of Beer sits at the south-west corner of the Blackdowns Natural Area. Natural England's web site summarises the Blackdowns Natural Area:

“The Blackdowns Natural Area constitutes one of the finest and most extensive plateaux in England and includes much of the catchments of the Rivers Culm, Axe and Otter. Many of the valleys have a network of

small, hedge-lined fields that are generally used for pasture, although other land uses include forestry and tourism.

The majority of the Natural Area is characterised by Cretaceous Upper Greensand, although some of the westernmost outcrops of Chalk in England also occur. A number of sites are of great geological importance for the fossil reptiles and fossil fish they yield. Blackdowns is of national importance for a variety of habitats including lowland heathland, wet heath and acid grassland, purple moor-grass and rush pastures and other mires. This is probably one of the most important Natural Areas in the country for ancient and species-rich hedgerows.

In all, 30 key species for conservation action have been identified, including some which are globally threatened and some which are still widespread such as the dormouse and bullfinch. Blackdowns contains one of only two sites in the United Kingdom for spring snowflake, and a disused quarry is of international importance for hibernating bats.”

The coast off Beer lies within Lyme Bay Natural Area. Natural England’s web site summarises the Lyme Bay Natural Area as follows:

“Lyme Bay comprises over 150 km of the most varied, spectacular and ecologically important coastline in England. The variety and interest relates to the complex geology, which is renowned for its layers of Jurassic rock with fossil remains. Classic examples of landslips and shingle ridges are also present.

The wealth of important habitats present along this stretch of coast include shingle ridges, sand dunes, estuaries, brackish lagoons, soft and hard sea cliffs, and woodland. The Fleet, a large saline lagoon, supports several nationally rare and scarce species.

Lyme Bay spans part of the transition zone between the cold Boreal and the warmer Lusitanian provinces of the north-east Atlantic. Hence this Natural Area contains a wide range of habitats and a considerable diversity of communities with a wealth of marine life.”

The full Blackdowns and Lyme Bay Natural Area profiles can be viewed at www.naturalareas.naturalengland.org.uk/Science/natural/NA_search.asp

Regional Nature Map

The South West Regional Nature Map, developed by Biodiversity South West in liaison with various experts, identifies blocks of land that are important for conservation in landscape scale terms. The habitats include woodland, neutral grassland, upland and lowland heath, purple moor-grass and rush pasture, coastal habitats and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh. The identified areas, known as Strategic Nature Areas, also suggest where

recreation of these semi-natural habitats might occur. The Nature Map is hoped to be of value to conservationists, landowners and Local Planning Authorities. The following Strategic Nature Areas are present within Beer parish: coastal habitats and limestone grassland.

Further information can be found at:

http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environment/natural_environment/biodiversity/regionalnaturemap.htm

Other habitats (identified from field survey):

Species-rich hedges

Various definitions of species-rich hedges have been used in different parts of the country but it would not be unreasonable to treat a hedge that has five or more woody species in a 30-metre length as a 'species-rich' one.

The hedges of Beer parish vary in character, but many of the hedges along many of the lanes would be classified as species-rich with a minimum of five species per 30-metre length being typical. Many of the hedges are of the traditional Devon bank style, with hedges on top of banks and are likely to be of medieval origin. Typical species recorded within these hedges include hazel, oak, blackthorn, field maple, hawthorn, elder, ash, willow, holly, dogwood and spindle. A few hedges have abundant beech and are less species-diverse. Some of the boundaries near the coast are fenced, with just gorse growing along them.

Minimum number of woody species per 30m stretches of hedge (additional species seen in longer stretch of hedge in parentheses)		
Grid ref	Woody species	Minimum Species Number
SY211911	Ash, hazel, field maple, oak, willow, wayfaring-tree, holly, dogwood (hawthorn, elder, blackthorn, spindle)	8 (12)
SY210903	Ash, holly, English elm, blackthorn, hawthorn, field maple, hazel	7
SY211898	Holly, ash, hazel, dogwood, blackthorn (field maple, hawthorn)	5 (7)
SY221892	Dogwood, hazel, ash, blackthorn (holly, hawthorn, elder, spindle)	4 (8)
SY224887	Blackthorn, gorse, hawthorn, elder (ash, hazel, oak)	4 (7)
SY230896	Field maple, English elm, sycamore, dogwood, blackthorn, ash (elder)	6 (7)
SY223903	Hazel, hawthorn, spindle, field maple, holly, elder (blackthorn, ash, oak)	6 (9)
NB. Recorded in March, which is not the optimum time for recording hedgerow species. The plants were not in leaf and many hedges were recently trimmed so some species may have been overlooked. Surveys at the appropriate time of year may reveal higher species diversity.		

However, due to the time of year it was not possible to survey the hedges in any detail; species may be overlooked in winter and further surveys are recommended.

Many of the hedges, particularly away from the coast, have been over-managed (for wildlife value) and neatly trimmed, with no examples of recent hedge laying seen during the site visit. A very small number of hedges had not been regularly cut and had been left to grow out slightly which increases

their value to wildlife. Examples were seen west of Beer village. A few hedges have trees left within them, which provide a nice landscape feature besides wildlife value. The majority of hedgerow trees appeared to be either oak or ash, but there were also a few mature beech trees.

Many of the hedges had a diverse bank flora including species such ivy, polypody, hart's-tongue, soft shield-fern, hedge bedstraw, red campion, cleavers, herb-Robert, creeping buttercup, greater stitchwort, ground ivy, Yorkshire-fog and bush vetch, with lord's-and-ladies and alexanders often growing at the base.

The hedges provide sheltered corridors through areas of farmland for the movement of wildlife and may support many plants and animals, including a good variety of invertebrates. There are important colonies of bats within Beer Caves and the hedgerows of Beer, particularly on the west side of the parish, are important as corridors of travel for these animals (personal communication).

Hedgerows tend to be taken for granted as they always seem to be there, providing such a constant in a familiar landscape. However, they do require regular attention to keep them in good condition. That so many are still in good condition is a testament to the skill and hard work of generations of farmers. But there are changes even in the oldest hedgelines as the way the majority are managed has altered. There is now less farm labour available and more reliance on mechanical cutting rather than traditional hedge laying (or, as it is known in Devon, 'steeping').

Even the mechanical cutting has changed as reciprocating cutters that could cut shrub stems cleanly have given way to tractor-mounted flails which can tackle slightly older growth but at the expense of every stem being shattered. Flailing can actually promote bud development (on hawthorn, for example, research indicates that severe damage to the end of a branch encourages shoot development further down in the base of the plant which can help to thicken it up). However, flailing can also leave shrubs susceptible to infection. As individual hedge plants die, they leave gaps which render the hedge less effective and which would in the past have been filled when the hedge was next steeped.

With the advent of mechanical hedge-trimming has come another change - it is now possible to trim all the hedges on a farm in one year. It is this that perhaps has had the most impact on the vertebrate wildlife. Fruiting and seeding species are very much less productive and there is a different and less varied structure. Also, shrubs that do produce a good berry crop are sometimes cut in the early autumn before the birds, particularly the migrants, can gain any advantage from this food source. A couple of generations ago, many hedges on a farm might have been cut less frequently, allowing them to be much more productive in the meantime.

Recognising these changes does allow choices in the way hedges are managed in the future. Hedges can be cut on a two or even three year

rotation. Alternatively, perhaps only one or two of the three 'faces' (the top and the two sides) could be cut in any one year. This wouldn't stop road or drive side hedges being cut from both the safety and visual aspects but for the majority of hedges it would have two major benefits: it would take less time (and hence cost) and it would benefit wildlife! However, whatever pattern of cutting is adopted, "all hedges, except perhaps holly, will need laying or coppicing sooner or later because they will become thin at the base. This is the best form of long-term management" (*Devon's hedges: Conservation and management*, Devon County Council / Devon Hedge Group).

Once it was realised nationally that many thousands of kilometres of hedgerow were being lost annually, and that something ought to be done about it, the Hedgerow Regulations (made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995) were introduced in England and Wales in 1997 to protect them. The Regulations are intended to prevent the removal of most countryside hedgerows without first submitting a hedgerow removal notice to the local planning authority. The local planning authorities are only able to require the retention of 'important' hedgerows. The Regulations then set out criteria to be used by the local authority in determining which hedgerows are important (Bickmore, 2002).

In the agricultural landscape, the 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. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK Steering Group, 1995) listed ancient and or species-rich hedgerows as one of its priority habitats. This was later revised to listing hedgerows in general as a priority habitat. Species-rich hedges are also listed on the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** as a habitat of conservation concern in Devon.

Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAP

- Species-rich hedges (Devon BAP); Hedgerows (UK BAP)





Hedgerows within Beer parish

Churchyards and Cemeteries

Churchyards and cemeteries are sometimes less intensively managed and can be important for wildlife.

Beer parish church, St Michael's, is located in the centre of Beer village. It does not have a graveyard, just a small area of land surrounding the church. At the front of the church there is a stone wall supporting the ground at a higher level than the road beyond. There is a small area of grassland here supporting mainly grasses with few herbs (mainly daisy with some lesser celandine). This area is not of wildlife interest. At the eastern end there are some steep banks of greater interest, supporting a wider range of plant species such as hart's-tongue, common nettle, bluebell, primrose, red valerian, red campion, cow parsley, lesser celandine, false oat-grass, yarrow, herb-Robert and teasel. The stone walls at the base of these banks support hart's-tongue, red valerian and ivy-leaved toadflax.

The cemetery is located separately, off a street to the west of the church. This graveyard is of wildlife interest. There is a small chapel in the eastern end with numerous yew trees to the south and east of it. The southern, western and eastern boundaries comprise stone walls. These, together with a dividing wall across the centre of the graveyard, support typical wall-loving plant species such as ivy, red valerian, maidenhair spleenwort, mosses and lichens.

There is a steep south-facing bank on the northern boundary. This is several metres wide and supports trees and scrub. The woody species include field maple, yew, English elm, elder and bay together with bramble. Below this, and on the edge, the plant species include ivy, cow parsley, lords-and-ladies, cleavers, common nettle, white dead-nettle, wild madder, hogweed and stinking iris. This is an excellent wildlife feature that also supports a small badger sett.

Besides the yew trees there are a few other trees within the graveyard area, including field maple in the centre and some conifers, elder and birch in the north-east corner. Most of the graveyard is otherwise managed as a grassy area, but, to the benefit of wildlife, is not manicured or mown frequently. The

vegetation supports some grasses including Yorkshire-fog, cock's-foot, bent and occasional red fescue with mosses. Herbs noted within the vegetation were ribwort plantain, daisy, creeping buttercup, common sorrel, germander speedwell, lesser celandine and slender speedwell. Other plant species recorded within the cemetery were ground ivy, field speedwell, primrose, cat's-ear, herb-Robert, snowdrop, broomrape, wild strawberry, groundsel and wild onion. The gravestones provide an important habitat for mosses and lichens.

Blackbird, robin, goldfinch, wood pigeon and wren were seen or heard during the site visit.

Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAP

- Cities, towns and villages (Devon BAP)



Cemetery and yew trees

Lichen-covered gravestone



Recreation areas and public open space

Beer is fortunate in having several public open spaces. Within the village five main areas of public open space were identified during the site visit: Ashill Children's Play Area; Jubilee Memorial Gardens; Cliff Top long stay car park which includes a picnic area; a children's play area in Beer village near the beach and Beer Yard, also near the beach.

Ashill Children's Play Area is situated adjacent to Beer primary school in the west of the village near to Pecorama, a tourist attraction with gardens and model railways. The triangular shaped play area is situated on an east-facing slope to the east of the school. The area has been landscaped, resulting in a

level area with two banks, one in the west and the other in the narrower east corner of the site. The play area has a bench and some play equipment including a slide, swings and goal posts.

On the south side of the play area there is a stone bank, supporting ivy-leaved toadflax, pellitory-of-the-wall and willowherb, with a bank above it. The bank supported a good range of plant species including tall fescue, red fescue, wood sage, creeping cinquefoil, marjoram, yarrow, common knapweed, bramble, elder, ivy, common nettle, hedge bedstraw, holly, ash, cleavers, cow parsley and lord's-and-ladies.

The western boundary against the school has some hazel, dogwood and ornamental shrubs, growing against a wire fence. Next to this boundary is one of the east-facing grassy banks, supporting false oat-grass, cock's-foot and Yorkshire-fog. This has been mowed, but appeared to be cut less regularly than the main grassy area. The northern boundary has a fence with ivy, bramble, hazel, silver birch, holly, elder and sycamore alongside, with houses and residential gardens beyond.

The main grassy area is managed as mown amenity grassland, with three trees in the north-west corner. The grasses included perennial rye-grass, red fescue and cock's-foot. There were few herbs, mainly daisy with occasional creeping buttercup and ribwort plantain. There was also some yarrow on the bank in the east of the site. Other plant species recorded here around the perimeter included cow parsley and wood avens. Rook, blue tit, robin and great tit were noted during the site visit here.



Ashill Children's Play Area

The Jubilee Memorial Gardens are set in an idyllic position on the coast, at the edge of the village. From here there are panoramic views out to sea and along the coast. The gardens are set on the side of the hill and are mainly west to south-west facing. There are some toilets, shelters/pavilion and benches at the bottom of the site, with easy access from the village. There are paths that wind up the side of the hill and the South West CoastFootpath is routed through the gardens. The western half is mainly managed as a mown grassy area, with the occasional flower bed. The majority of the vegetation here is grass-dominated with some herbs, but in some steep banks the herbs are more plentiful. The grasses include red fescue, common couch, Yorkshire-fog, cock's-foot and wood false-brome. Daisy is present throughout, but other herbs in lower abundance included yarrow, selfheal and ribwort

plantain. Common bird's-foot-trefoil, common knapweed, bedstraw, wild onion and cat's-ear were also recorded.

This grassy area grades into a woodland which is dominated by large evergreen oak with some pines. The ground flora included areas of alexanders, ivy and stinking iris and some areas of bramble. At the north-eastern end the ground flora included ivy, bear's-breeches, hart's-tongue and lord's-and-ladies.

The northern boundary has a low bank with some English elm. Along some of this there is an ornamental hedge but there is also part with ivy, bramble, alexanders, stinking iris and lord's-and-ladies growing on or at the base of the bank. The coastal slope in the south supported bramble, alexanders, wood sage and English elm.



Jubilee Memorial Gardens

Within the large grassy area of the Cliff Top long stay car park there is a fenced-off picnic area with picnic benches. Most of the extensive grassy area is grass-dominated and not diverse, with perennial rye-grass, cock's-foot, annual meadow-grass and daisy being the predominant species. The grassy banks by the picnic area were slightly more floristically diverse and included ribwort plantain, germander speedwell, selfheal, lesser celandine, buck's-horn plantain and mouse-ear. There were four young ash trees to the north of this area.



Picnic area in Cliff Top long stay car park

There is a children's play area in Beer village near the beach and the Jubilee Memorial Gardens. This is a small area surrounded by low stone walls and railings with some grassy areas, which are not of any particular wildlife interest. There is a memorial plaque, a bench, swings and a slide. The vegetation comprises mainly grasses, including cock's-foot, perennial rye-grass and annual meadow-grass with daisy being the main herb species with some white clover. The south-east facing grassy bank half way down the area is very slightly more diverse in species with spotted medick, parsley-piert, ragwort and mouse-ear. The bank to the east supported some sea buckthorn and ornamental shrubs.



Play area near the Jubilee Memorial Gardens

The concrete slabbed area near the beach, called Beer Yard, is of little wildlife interest. The steep western boundary cliff-face supported bramble, tree mallow, alexanders and wild madder.

There are several public rights of way within the parish. The long distance South West Coast Path runs along the coast through Beer parish, from which there are stunning views along the coast and out to sea. The coastal path takes you along the cliff tops and descends to run along the Under Hooken landslide. There is another footpath which takes you to Beer Head, again with wonderful panoramic coastal views. There are also several green lanes which are marked on maps as having public access along them, such as Gatcombe Lane, Mare Lane and Paizen Lane. A walk along these public footpaths will afford opportunity for seeing a range of habitats and plethora of wildlife.

Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAP

- Cities, towns and villages (Devon BAP)

Village, gardens and allotments

Gardens can be havens for wildlife. They can also provide links to other areas of wildlife habitat, such as the cemetery, allotments and the grounds of Pecorama. Pecorama has the 'Wildway Walk' which passes through an area which has been put aside for nature, it has a pond (source: Pecorama leaflet) and there are anecdotal reports of badgers using the area (personal

communication). There is also a stream running down the main street of the village. Although this has been channelled and has no natural boundaries here, it does support some plants, and can be of wildlife value. The Jubilee Memorial Gardens are also on the edge of the village and provide a valuable habitat link from gardens to the surrounding countryside. Two areas of allotments were seen from the road during the parish site visit, both near the coast. The areas of rough grassland in between and to the side of the cultivated areas provide an additional habitat. Often arable weeds grow in the less intensively cultivated areas.

There were a couple of species-diverse bank/verges noted within the village during the parish site visit. There was a species-diverse bank next to Ashill Play Area described in the section above and another near the entrance to Pecorama adjacent to the primary school. The species recorded here are listed in the verges section below.

Some of the gardens have stone walls. These can provide another habitat for lichens, mosses and plant species, such as shining crane's-bill, pellitory-of-the-wall and ivy-leaved toadflax, as well as creating micro-climates and shelter for wildlife within the gardens. The older properties of Beer may provide roosts for bats.

On the site visit through the village several birds were noted: herring gull, rook, robin, blue tit, great tit, carrion crow, dunnock, greenfinch, blackbird, wren, goldfinch, wood pigeon and collared dove.

Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAP

- Cities, towns and villages (Devon BAP)
- Ponds (UK BAP)



Beer allotments

Sea cliff and slope

Devon's sea cliffs and slopes are some of the most dramatic and widely appreciated landscape features of the county. With a huge variety of forms and conditions, from exposed granite cliffs to sheltered rolling slopes they support a wide range of plant communities and any particular site is likely to

contain a mosaic of habitats. The nature of the plant communities will depend on a range of factors, including the underlying geology, degree and direction of slope, exposure to prevailing weather conditions, and exposure to salt spray. The wide range of plant communities is reflected in the huge diversity of animals that can be found on Devon's sea cliffs and slopes, many of which are only found in these habitats. Sea cliff and slope habitats are listed in the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan**.

The coast of Beer parish falls within the Sidmouth to Beer Coast SSSI and Sidmouth to West Bay SAC. The sea cliff, sea slopes and intertidal foreshore areas of this coastline are discussed in the SSSI section.

Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAP

- Sea cliff and slope (Devon BAP); Maritime cliff and slopes (UK BAP)



Coast near Beer Head

Rocky foreshore

The term 'rocky foreshore' covers areas of bedrock found between the mean high water and mean low water marks and sometime also the and also the 'splash zone' immediately above the mean high water mark. The rocky foreshore habitats of Devon are amongst the richest in Britain and are home to a diverse and fascinating range of animals and plants. The warm waters that bathe Devon's coast enable animals and plants that are more usually found further south to survive, so many are found in few other parts of Britain. Devon's coast is subject to a range of different physical influences, which in turn influence the communities of plants and animals found on the rocky foreshore. The north coast is exposed to the full force of westerly gales and so rocky foreshore communities have had to adapt to these harsh conditions. In contrast, much of the south coast of Devon is more sheltered from prevailing winds allowing a more diverse range of animals and plants to develop.

Long stretches of the intertidal coastline within the parish are shingle, but there are some areas of rocky foreshore at either end of the beach at Beer. A marine survey of Lyme Bay, carried out by DWT in 1995, surveyed three intertidal

sites along the coast of the parish. Two of these, Sherbourne Rocks and the chalk platform below Beer Head, were noted as being impoverished, due to scouring from wave action. However the third, Big Ledge, was described as consisting of a moderately exposed sandstone ledge and mixed boulders, with diverse rockpool and algal communities, and was assessed as being of regional importance. More details of these surveys are held by DBRC.

A notable feature seen during the parish site visit, and recorded in the DWT survey, were the honeycomb-worm reefs on the rocks towards West Ebb. The honeycomb worms live in tubes made from sand and mucus, living together in colonies and creating hummocks or sheets with a honeycomb-like appearance. Reefs form on a variety of hard substrates, but always require a good supply of sand suspended in the water. As a result they are only found in areas of moderate to strong wave action. The reefs created by the honeycomb worms, *Sabellaria alveolata*, can support a wide range of other creatures so are considered an example of a 'biogenic' habitat. *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs are a UK priority habitat and have a UK BAP.

Other intertidal species recorded during the parish site visit included channel wrack, spiral wrack, toothed wrack, pepper dulse, breadcrumb sponge, beadlet anemone, limpet, purple topshell, rough periwinkle, periwinkle, dog whelk and common mussel.

Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAP

- Rocky foreshore (Devon BAP); Intertidal underboulder communities (UK BAP)
- *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs (UK BAP)



Honeycomb-worm reefs (above)



Intertidal rocks at Beer (right)

Calcareous grassland and other unimproved grassland

Some of the grasslands within Beer parish have not been agriculturally improved and there remain areas of unimproved or semi-improved grasslands.

When surveyed (source: DBRC and SSSI citations) there was some unimproved calcareous grassland within the Sidmouth to Beer Coast SSSI, Beer Quarry and Caves SSSI, SAC and CWS, Beer Fields CWS, Bovey Lane Fields CWS and Bovey Lane Quarries CWS and semi-improved calcareous grassland within Beer Head CWS. These sites are described in either the SSSI or CWS sections.

Calcareous grassland communities have a very restricted distribution in Devon, and are almost absent from North Devon. Calcareous grasslands are one of the rarest habitats in Devon and the grasslands support a range of plant species that are locally distributed both in Devon and nationally. Unimproved calcareous grassland is listed on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as it is a rare habitat.

When surveyed there was some semi-improved neutral grassland within Beer Fields CWS, Bovey Lane Fields CWS and Arratt's Hill OSWI. These are described in the appropriate CWS or OSWI sections above, although conditions since these surveys may have changed.

Flower-rich meadows and pastures are a habitat of conservation concern in Devon and are listed on the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** as well as the 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.

Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAP

- Lowland calcareous grassland (UK BAP)
- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP); Lowland meadows (UK BAP)



Beer Fields CWS

Pits, quarries, caves, karsts and mines

Pits, quarries and cuttings are listed on the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** as habitats of conservation concern in Devon. The numerous working pits and quarries in Devon are used for the extraction of a variety of minerals and are of great importance to the local and national economy. The pits and quarries are also of importance for the varied wildlife they support.

Caves, karst and limestone habitats together with mines and mineral waste tips are a habitat listed on the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan**.

Devon's caves, karsts and limestone habitats are important and fascinating features which attract much interest from the biologist, geologist and archaeologist alike.

Karst is a distinctive environment, which is characterised by landforms that are largely the product of rock material having been dissolved by natural waters to a greater extent than in other landscapes, occurring both as surface and underground features. In Devon, karst is well represented as Devonian limestone-karst, occurring as "blocks" throughout south Devon, with smaller areas in other parts of the County, such as chalk-karst in east Devon and in sandstone in north Devon. Karst features in Devon include caves, sink holes, karst springs, solution pipes and hollows.

Cave systems in the County are characterised by two important types; lowland solution caves associated with river valleys, such as the Chudleigh and Buckfastleigh systems, and coastal solution caves, such as at Berry Head. Caves and mines provide ideal roosting sites for bats, which favour the stable environmental conditions and protection that these underground spaces provide. They also offer opportunities to observe rock formations and geological processes which otherwise would remain hidden from view.

Sediments and other deposits in caves can reveal evidence of past landscapes and climatic conditions and may contain remains of animals such as sabre-toothed cat, hyena, brown and cave bears, wolf and woolly rhinoceros and mammoth which once roamed the Devon countryside,

together with the bones, teeth and flint artefacts of the human inhabitants of the time.

Caves provide a unique habitat, for creatures such as the very rare shrimp (*Niphargus glennei*) and also provide ideal roosting sites for bats. The former Beer Stone mines are not natural features but do support important bat colonies. Limestone habitats and limestone outcrops are important for the natural diversity of Devon. With the mild climate of Devon, especially near the coast, these limestone areas support species-rich flora which in turn support diverse fauna including rare butterflies. The woodlands of these areas are also distinctive.

The Beer Quarry and Caves are designated as CWS, SSSI and SAC in recognition of their geological and biological importance and are described in the sections above. They are particularly important for the bat colonies that they support.

There are also some disused quarries within Bovey Lane Quarries CWS, which is described in the County Wildlife Site section above.

Disused quarries and pits are often grown over with vegetation and can be useful for wildlife for food and shelter to animals and providing a link to other features such as hedgerows.

Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAP

- Pits, quarries and cuttings (Devon BAP)
- Caves, karst and limestone habitats (Devon BAP)



Beer Quarry

Roadside verges

There are some stretches of grassy verge along the A3052, Hollyhead Road and the road south of Stafford Cross. Apart from some verges near the quarry on Quarry Lane and Stovar Long Lane, the narrow country lanes are generally too narrow for verges. There is a ditch carrying a small stream next to the road towards Couchill Farm in the east of the parish.

Roadside verges can support flower-rich grassland, as well as a variety of semi-natural habitats including calcareous grassland, neutral grassland, acid grassland, heathland, open water (ditches), broadleaved woodland, scrub, hedgerows and walls. They may also support populations of scarce or declining species of flora and/or fauna, some of which enjoy statutory protection. Linear grassland habitats provide a valuable wildlife resource. Verges provide shelter and food for a variety of species from small mammals, to birds of prey and insects.

The grass verge near Stafford Cross supported typical species such as creeping buttercup, common sorrel, ivy, red campion, cock's-foot, common nettle, false oat-grass, lesser celandine, Yorkshire-fog, hedge bedstraw, bugle, primrose, bush vetch, snowdrop, broad-leaved dock, white clover, cow parsley and alexanders.

There were a couple of species-diverse bank/verges noted within the village during the parish site visit. There was a species-diverse bank next to Ashill Play Area and another near the entrance to Pecorama, adjacent to the primary school. The verge here supported yarrow, cock's-foot, ribwort plantain, Yorkshire-fog, wood false-brome, cat's-ear, hedge bedstraw, red fescue, selfheal, bush vetch, daisy, common ragwort, creeping buttercup, primrose, germander speedwell, lesser celandine, creeping cinquefoil, wild onion, common dandelion and wood sage. The bank outside Ashill Play Area supported tall fescue, red fescue, wood sage, creeping cinquefoil, marjoram, yarrow, common knapweed, bramble, elder, ivy, common nettle, hedge bedstraw, holly, ash, cleavers, cow parsley and lord's-and-ladies.

Devon has a very substantial resource of roadside verges, with approximately 14 000 km of roads, corresponding to about 2000 ha of roadside verge. However, of this very large resource, the area that is species-rich is relatively small and localised in distribution.

Devon County Council and Highways Agency manage roadside verges to incorporate prescriptions to maintain or enhance wildlife interests. Devon County Council operates a **Special Verge Scheme** to manage areas of particular wildlife or amenity value. These verges are protected from damaging activities, and grass cutting is limited to specific periods to avoid the destruction of attractive stands of wildflowers.

Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAP

- Flower-rich meadows and pastures (Devon BAP)



Roadside verge

Green lanes

A green lane can be defined as an unmetalled track with field boundaries on either side. These boundaries may be banks, hedges, woodland edge, stone walls or fences, and often features such as ditches or streams are incorporated within the lanes.

The combination of the track, its boundaries and associated features create a landscape unit with its own microclimate and ecology. These sheltered conditions within lanes are of great importance to butterfly populations and may be more botanically species-rich than single hedge boundaries.

There are several green lanes within Beer parish. Some are marked on maps as having public access along them, such as Gatcombe Lane in the north of the parish; Mare Lane, Paizen Lane and Bovey Lane, running westwards from Beer village; and Green Lane next to Bovey Down on the northern boundary of the parish. In many places these lanes are lined with hedges.

Mare Lane is an attractive green lane which provides glimpses of the sea. The lane is bordered by species-diverse hedgerows with a diverse range of bank flora. During the parish site visit the woody species recorded within the hedgerows were dogwood, hazel, ash, blackthorn, holly, hawthorn, elder and spindle. The hedgebank flora included primrose, alexanders, bluebell, wood avens, ground ivy, yellow pimpernel, hart's-tongue, dog's mercury, lord's-and-ladies, bramble, Yorkshire-fog, cleavers, hedge bedstraw, wood sage, herb-Robert, red campion, wild onion, bush vetch, common nettle, soft shield-fern, black spleenwort, creeping buttercup and greater stitchwort.

Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAP

- Species-rich hedges (Devon BAP); Hedgerows (UK BAP)



Mare Lane, a green lane
near Beer

Gatcombe Lane



Woodlands

Woodlands are not a significant feature within the parish of Beer. There are some small conifer forestry plantation areas, such as those within the woodland north of Beer village in the east of the parish. This woodland appeared to support both evergreen and deciduous conifers (larch), with some broadleaved trees on the western fringes. The small copse south of the A3052 near Hangmans Cross also has larch. The woodland rides of coniferous plantations can sometime provide important habitats for wildlife, in particular invertebrates.

There are also some small areas of broadleaved woodland within Beer parish. As there are only few areas of woodland within the parish, this heightens the importance of those present. DBRC survey reported the small broadleaved copse within Bovey Lane Fields CWS to support field maple, hazel, ash, oak, holly, blackthorn and hawthorn with primrose, ground-ivy and dog's mercury amongst the ground flora.

The Beer Quarry and Caves CWS report also refers to some secondary ash woodland and scrub woodland developing within the site. During the parish site visit the woodland in the south of the site, towards the top of the slope, appeared to be coniferous. Seen from the road some of the woodland near Beer Caves supported mainly ash and hazel in the understorey, with spindle, holly and elder seen near the edge. The woodland ground flora included ivy and hart's-tongue.

There are also some areas of scrub woodland on the Hooken landslide, which falls within the Sidmouth to Beer Coast SSSI and Sidmouth to West Bay SAC.

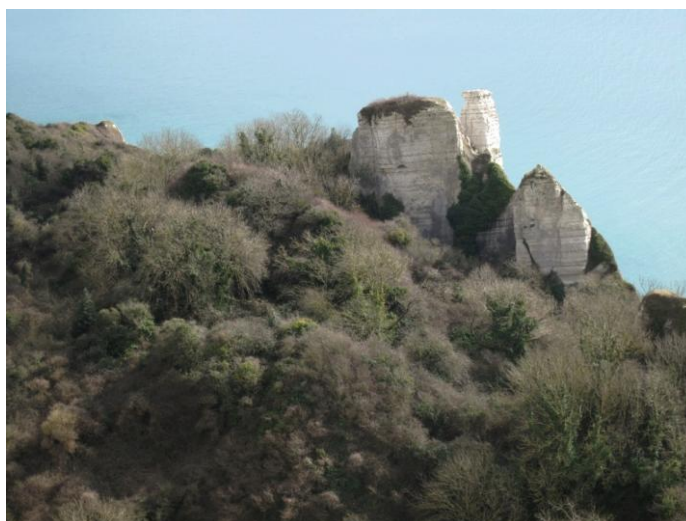
Lowland mixed deciduous woodlands is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitat. Devon is not a heavily wooded county, but the woodlands form an essential

part of the character of its landscape. Most deciduous woodlands contain some oaks. Oak-dominated (English oak, sessile oak or hybrids between the two) woodlands predominately occur in the steeper river valleys, particularly in southern Dartmoor, and less so across Devon's lowland areas, here usually in small blocks. The ground flora of oak woodland is generally rich, with mosses ferns and woodland species such as bluebell and dog's mercury. Oak woodlands are also a good habitat for a variety of birds and invertebrates. They are associated with a number species of conservation concern: mammals such as the dormouse and certain bats (pipistrelle, greater and lesser horseshoe bats); birds (including the redstart, pied flycatcher, wood warbler); butterflies (including the silver washed and pearl-bordered fritillary; purple emperor and wood white) and moths (such as the orange upperwing and double line) together with plants such as the bluebell, wild daffodil and endemic whitebeams. These oak woodlands are threatened by such factors as neglect and lack of management, inappropriate grazing pressure, invasive species (for example rhododendron) and softwood forestry.

There are no woodlands listed on the Devon Ancient Woodland Inventory within Beer parish. The Devon Ancient Woodland Inventory was prepared in 1986 by the Nature Conservancy Council (now known as Natural England). 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.

Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAP

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (UK BAP)



Hooken landslide



Beer Quarry and Caves CWS

Rivers, ditches, water's edge and ponds

Rivers, streams, floodplains and fluvial processes provide important habitats for wildlife and are listed in the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan**. Rivers are listed in the UK BAP as a priority habitat.

There are no rivers within the parish of Beer, but there are some small streams, one of which flows through the centre of Beer village and into the sea at Beer Roads. Another small stream flows down the valley in the east of the parish, past Couchill Farm and into the sea at Seaton Hole, just outside the parish. Streams and ditches form important habitat corridors, linking other habitats together and providing a habitat through which wildlife can pass.

Ponds are also an important habitat for a wide range of wildlife: for aquatic and marginal flora and fauna; as a breeding place for frogs, toads, newts and dragonflies; together with a drinking and bathing place for birds and other animals. No ponds were seen during the parish site visit, but there is reference to a pond within Beer Quarry and Caves CWS (source: DBRC) and a pond within the grounds of Pecorama on the north-west fringes of Beer village (source: Pecorama leaflet) and a small reservoir marked on the map near Couchill Farm.

Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAP

- Rivers, streams, floodplains and fluvial processes (Devon BAP); Rivers (UK BAP)
- Ponds (UK BAP)



Stream in east of parish

Arable land

There are some areas of arable and cultivated land within Beer parish, generally in the more elevated, moderately sloping, fields in the north of the parish. They include maize (probably for silage) and cereals. Other areas have been cultivated for grass reseed. Most of the cultivated fields within the parish were ploughed right up to the hedges leaving no field margins, which would have been beneficial for biodiversity. Environmental grant schemes can help farmers establish flower-rich margins in their fields and reduce surface water runoff. These can also provide cover for other birds and animals. Otherwise the hedgerows form the greatest wildlife interest in this more intensively farmed landscape, also acting as wildlife corridors to other habitats.

Arable fields can support a number of rare arable weeds but this is usually in association with spring cereals and winter stubble. There were no fields with winter stubble seen during the site visit. Arable weeds include cornflower, corn marigold, shepherd's-needle and weasel's-snout. Arable land in Britain has lost most of its arable plants over the last 50 years; several species have become extinct and there are many more that are now rare. Changes in arable farming practice are thought to be responsible for the losses. Technology that allowed more effective seed-cleaning caused an initial decline, but herbicide development was catastrophic for many plants. Nowadays, arable plants are generally confined to the strip along the field edge, which provides a home to many animals, invertebrates and plants.

Links to key habitats in Devon and UK BAP

- Arable field margins (UK BAP)



Cultivated field within Beer parish

Other potential habitats

Redundant and some traditional buildings can be important for a number of species including the barn owl and various bat species.



Traditional buildings

No veteran trees, traditional orchards or parkland were seen during the parish site visit. Traditional orchards and parklands can be valuable habitats for a wide range of species from fungi and lichens, through insects and other invertebrates, to birds and mammals.

Species

Important Species

A report from the DBRC database showing which legally protected, locally notable (e.g. otter) or noteworthy (e.g. the undesirable invasive non-native plant Japanese knotweed) species are known to have been present in Beer is presented separately (Appendix 1). Appendix 2 gives the species noted during the site visit in March 2010. It should be borne in mind that the parish visit was not carried out at the optimum time of year, as some species will not be visible in winter. A further survey at a more appropriate time of the year is recommended.

Birds

Several species of birds were recorded during the winter site visit: blackbird, blue tit, buzzard, carrion crow, chaffinch, collared dove, cormorant, dunnoek, fieldfare, goldfinch, great tit, green woodpecker, greenfinch, herring gull, jackdaw, lesser black-backed gull, magpie, nuthatch, pheasant, raven, redwing, robin, rook, skylark, song thrush, stock dove, stonechat, wood pigeon, wren and yellowhammer.

DBRC has additional records of the following notable birds: barn owl, linnet, song thrush, yellowhammer, peregrine, dunnoek, mistle thrush and swallow. There are anecdotal reports of raven and peregrine nesting on the cliffs of Beer parish (personal communication).

The herring gull, linnet, skylark, song thrush and yellowhammer are all listed as UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

The fieldfare, herring gull, linnet, redwing, skylark, song thrush and yellowhammer are listed on the RSPB's red list, which lists bird species of high conservation concern, such as those whose population or range is rapidly declining, recently or historically, and those of global conservation concern.

The barn owl, peregrine, dunnoek, mistle thrush and swallow are on the Amber List. The Amber List are bird species of medium conservation concern, such as those whose population is in moderate decline, rare breeders, internationally important and localised species and those of unfavourable conservation status in Europe.

The **barn owl** has been recorded at Beer Quarry. The barn owl is a **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** priority species for Devon. The barn owl has undergone a major decline in the last century due to changes in agricultural practice, as well as loss of nesting sites such as old barns and hollow trees. It is estimated that there are now about 350-470 pairs in the county.

The barn owl requires areas of open, rough grassland where its preferred food of mice and voles are found. It is largely nocturnal and feeds almost exclusively on small mammals, particularly voles, but also takes shrews, mice, rats and very occasionally, birds.

In the last 30 years, loss of hunting habitat through widespread agricultural change has probably been the main cause of this bird's decline. Rough grassland and field edges (often associated with hedgerows) are disappearing, hay meadows have been converted to silage and more and more former marginal land has been lost.

All this may have been exacerbated by the loss of many traditional nest (and roost) sites as old hedgerow trees were removed and old farm buildings demolished, modernised or converted for other uses. The new second generation rodenticides, such as brodifacoum, bromadiolone and difenacoum, are much more toxic to barn owls than first generation poisons such as warfarin, and should not be used on farms where barn owls are known to be present. The barn owl is also highly susceptible to severe winters, particularly long, cold spells and lengthy periods of snow cover. Encouragingly, barn owl numbers are now on the increase in much of Devon.

The **song thrush** is a common and widespread species, but their numbers are declining throughout the UK. The song thrush is partially migratory. Many of the birds that breed in the UK over-winter further south and many continental-breeding birds over-winter in the UK. The reasons for the decline in numbers is not well understood but could relate to changes in farming, severe winter weather, predation, competition and hunting in southern France (from: UK BAP species action plan).

There are some areas of arable land in Beer parish. These areas are of considerable interest for farmland birds such as the skylark and meadow pipit and may support rare arable plants. Winter stubble left over from crops provides valuable feeding ground for skylarks and other farmland birds such as grey partridge and linnets. These birds may flock together to feed on the spilt grain, seeds and insects within the stubble.

The **skylark** is listed on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as a species of conservation concern. The UK breeding population of skylark on lowland farmland has declined by 54% between 1969 and 1991. Considerable research in recent years has indicated that the most likely cause of the decline is the increase in the winter-sowing of cereals, which restricts opportunities for late-season nesting attempts because of vegetation height, and may reduce over-winter survival by reducing the area of stubbles.

Plants

Despite the time of year a large number of plant species were noted on the site visits to the parish in March 2010, these are listed in Appendix 2.

DBRC has records of several Devon notable plant species within Beer parish: yellow-wort, smooth brome, wood small-reed, pepper-saxifrage, pale St. John's-wort, dwarf thistle, hoary plantain, autumn lady's-tresses, downy oat, small scabious, common rock-rose, pyramidal orchid, sea mouse-ear, hound's-tongue, bee orchid, cowslip, purple gromwell (also nationally notable), ivy broomrape (also nationally scarce), white horehound (also nationally scarce) and Nottingham catchfly (nationally scarce and a Devon rarity).

DBRC has records of primrose at a couple of locations and it was also seen during the parish visit. The primrose is listed on the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** as it is intended to help to raise public awareness of the need to conserve commonplace and characteristic elements of Devon's countryside. The primrose is not rare in Devon, but it may act as an indicator species to the health of Devon's environment, and by conserving the primrose, we may help to conserve some of the habitats in which it is found. These include woodlands, hedges, road verges and churchyards.

Dogwood, spindle and, less frequently, wild privet grow within the hedgerows here.

Dogwood rarely grows taller than three metres and is most commonly found on chalky soil. The prefix 'dog' is often given to species considered to be of little value, and the fruits of *Cornus sanguinea* are bitter and inedible (although oil from the berries was used to fuel lamps). Another explanation for the common name for this species comes from one use of its coppiced shoots; they were sharpened and used by farmers as animal prods or 'dags' when herding stock. The flowers, which are white and have four pointed petals, appear in June and July and the berries ripen from August to October. Dogwood is the main food-plant for the green hairstreak butterfly, which has been recorded from the parish.

Spindle is native to most of Europe, but not the extreme south or north. It generally is found in woodland, hedgerows and scrub and likes chalk and lime soils. Wood from this tree was used to make spindles. Local names include skewerwood and pegwood in Devon. It is said that spindle will only establish in a hedge which has six other shrub species present, which suggests that the hedge must be at least 600 years old before spindle will settle in.

Wild privet is a straggling shrub growing up to 5 m. It is evergreen, but some leaves fall in cold weather. The branches are long, arching over and rooting where they make contact with soil, making thickets. Privet is widespread throughout Europe and widely used as a hedging shrub. It prefers to grow on lime and chalk soils.

Japanese knotweed is an undesirable invasive alien plant and has been recorded within the parish: in Beer village and in the east of the parish (source: DBRC). Japanese knotweed is currently listed in the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 9 as a plant for which release into the wild is prohibited. Information on this invasive species is given on page 58. From the

6th April 2010 there will be some additional plants added to this list, this will include hybrid knotweed, giant knotweed, Himalayan balsam, a number of varieties of rhododendron, hottentot fig and cotoneaster.

Further information can be found at:

www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/wildlife/management/non-native/documents/gov-response-schedule9%20.pdf

Mammals

Several mammal species have been recorded from Beer parish. These include common dormouse, brown hare, badger, roe deer, common shrew, brown long-eared bat, lesser horseshoe bat, serotine, greater horseshoe bat and Natterer's bat.

Dormouse:

The common dormouse is listed on the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** as a species of conservation concern in Devon and is a priority species in the UK BAP. The common dormouse has been recorded at Beer Fields CWS and Couchill Woods (source: DBRC). The woodlands surrounding Beer Caves used to be part of the national dormouse monitoring scheme (personal communication).

Nationally, the dormouse has experienced a marked contraction in range in recent decades, and has become extinct in up to seven counties where it occurred in the last century, representing about half of its former range.

In Devon, the dormouse appears to be holding its own, and the county is now a major stronghold of the species. However, no detailed quantification of population change has been possible, due to lack of comparable data over time. Having said this, indirect evidence, from the losses of hedgerow length and declines in quality of hedgerows and woodlands that have occurred in the county over the past few decades, suggests that dormice may have declined in a similar fashion.

Brown hare:

Brown hare have been recorded in the south-west of the parish. The brown hare is listed on the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** as a species of conservation concern and is a UK BAP priority species. The brown hare was probably introduced to England by the Romans and is fairly common in areas of arable crops and grass leys. The hare is listed on the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan as it has undergone a significant decline in the last 50 years, probably associated with changes in farming practice and increased use of pesticides.

Bats:

The brown long-eared bat, lesser horseshoe bat, serotine, greater horseshoe bat and Natterer's bat have all been recorded within the parish (source: DBRC). Beer Quarry and Caves is a particularly important site for bats and the SSSI citation reports a total of eight bat species having been recorded within the SSSI: Bechstein's bat, greater horseshoe bat, lesser horseshoe bat,

Brandt's bat, Daubenton's bat, Natterer's bat, brown long-eared bat and whiskered bat.

The lesser horseshoe bat, greater horseshoe bat, brown long-eared bat and Bechstein's bat are listed as priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The greater horseshoe bat is also a priority species in the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan**.

During this century the greater horseshoe bat has declined significantly throughout northern Europe. In the UK, this species is restricted to south-west England and south Wales, although vagrants may be recorded elsewhere. There are currently 35 recognised maternity and all-year roosts and 369 hibernation sites. Current estimates range between 4,000 and 6,600 individuals. In Devon it breeds in disused farm buildings and caves. The feeding habitat requirements of the greater horseshoe bat are permanent pasture (unimproved and semi-improved, preferably grazed by cattle), tall hedgerows with mature trees, mixed deciduous woodland, wetland and scrub. The greater horseshoe bat is under threat from the loss, destruction and disturbance of roosting and hibernation sites and the loss of insect-rich feeding habitats and flyways. The loss of feeding areas is often due to the loss of wetlands and hedgerows and the conversion of permanent pasture to arable.

All species of British bat are protected under UK law and international law. This makes it illegal to intentionally kill, injure or take a bat, or to damage, obstruct or destroy any place that a bat uses for shelter or protection.

Dolphin strandings:

Unfortunately, this part of the coast can sometimes see dead marine mammals, particularly common dolphins, washed up (stranded) in the winter as a result of being accidentally caught in fishing nets. This is known as bycatch and, due to the prevailing winds, the south coast of Devon, from Plymouth to Salcombe, is a hotspot for strandings, but they also occur elsewhere. Every year it is estimated that thousands of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) die from being caught up in fishing gear. Should you find one please let Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (01392 274128) or Brixham Seawatch (07712 587799) know about it, as valuable information can still be gleaned from these sad events.

Invertebrates

Due to the time of year of the parish visit, a bumblebee and surprisingly, for early March, a small tortoiseshell were the only invertebrates seen during the parish visit.

The DBRC's database includes the UK BAP butterfly species: wood white (also nationally notable); wall brown; and dingy skipper (which has suffered substantial local decline). Other butterflies species listed on the database that have suffered substantial local decline are chalk-hill blue, brown argus and green hairstreak.

There is reference in the DBRC survey reports for meadow brown, ringlet, red admiral and cinnabar at Beer Fields CWS and meadow brown, ringlet, marbled white and six-spot burnet at Bovey Lane Fields CWS. Small tortoiseshell and common blue were recorded at Beer Quarry and Caves CWS.

The wall brown is a delicately patterned brown butterfly. It is a fairly widespread resident butterfly that has declined in numbers in some inland areas. The wall brown breeds in short, open grassland where there is some open or stony ground. Various grasses, including cock's-foot, bent grasses and Yorkshire-fog, are a food plant for this butterfly.

The moths species recorded within Beer parish are: cinnabar (a UK BAP species) and the nationally notable Jersey tiger (at Beer Quarry and Caves CWS) and L-album wainscot.

The great green bush-cricket has been recorded in the parish. The great green bush-cricket is listed on the **Devon Biodiversity Action Plan** as nationally it has experienced a decline in range over the past 50 years. The great green bush-cricket is not rare in Devon, but is under threat from habitat loss. Its preferred habitat is rough herbage with an abundance of brambles, thistles and bracken. In Devon the great green bush-cricket is found primarily along road verges and on the coast. Gardens can also provide valuable habitat, providing there are suitable 'untidy' areas with rank vegetation or scrub and hedges.

The following inter-tidal species were noted during the parish site visit: honeycomb worm, limpet, purple topshell, rough periwinkle, periwinkle, dog whelk and common mussel.

There are also anecdotal reports of glow-worm living within hedges throughout the parish and also of ivy bees, a solitary mining bee species, in the cliffs near Beer (personal communication).

Reptiles, fish and Amphibians

There are records held with DBRC of common frog, common toad and slow-worm. There are also anecdotal reports of adder (personal communication). The common toad, slow-worm and adder are UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

No reptiles or amphibians were recorded during the site visit due to the time of year.

The Beer Heritage Marine Centre web site lists the fish and shellfish species caught in Lyme Bay.

www.beer-devon.co.uk/BeerHeritage/BeerHeritageSite

The Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

The Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) describes the key actions needed to look after 40 of Devon's most important habitats and species. It does not stand alone, but is part of a much wider process aimed at conserving our biodiversity.

The Devon BAP is a direct descendent of a process started at the famous 'Earth Summit' held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At this summit, world leaders pledged to halt and reverse the loss of the planet's biodiversity. For its part, the UK government produced a series of Action Plans for a great many threatened habitats and species. These national plans have been joined by a series of regional Action Plans aimed at providing a more local perspective.

The Devon BAP¹ builds on this endeavour, identifying local priorities and providing targets and plans of action for the County.

All of this work has one aim: to encourage practical action on the ground. Its success depends upon us all.

Biodiversity links:

- The Devon BAP can be viewed at www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity. This site also contains links to other nature conservation issues relevant to Devon, such as information on hedges. If you do not have access to the internet and require paper copies of relevant sections of the Devon BAP please contact Devon County Council's Biodiversity Officer on 01392 382804.
- Details of biodiversity planning in the South West region can be viewed at www.swbiodiversity.org.uk.
- Detailed national Action Plans can be viewed at www.ukbap.org.uk. This site also contains useful background information on UK biodiversity action planning. The list of UK priority habitats and species was revised in 2008 and, following political devolution, a separate list of priority BAP habitats and species has been produced in England. These are known as 'habitats and species of principal importance in England'. The lists can be viewed here:
www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habitatsandspeciesimportance.aspx

Where they have been produced, national objectives and targets for these features can be seen on the Biodiversity Action Reporting System web site: www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/outcomes/targets.asp

¹ In fact, it integrates wildlife and geological conservation in one document and is now officially known as the Devon Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan (still commonly referred to as the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan and always abbreviated to the Devon BAP).

Links between the wildlife of Beer and the Devon BAP:

Beer wildlife feature	Brief description of wildlife feature and site	Link with the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
<i>Unimproved and semi-improved grassland.</i>	<i>Species-rich unimproved calcareous and semi-improved and unimproved neutral grasslands, which have been protected from agricultural improvement. Calcareous grasslands within Sidmouth to Beer SSSI (part of the Sidmouth to West Bay SAC), Beer Quarry and Caves SSSI, SAC and CWS, Beer Head CWS, Beer Fields CWS, Bovey Lane Fields CWS and Bovey Lane Quarries CWS. Semi-improved neutral grasslands within Beer Fields CWS, Bovey Lane Fields CWS and Arratt's Hill OSWI.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Flower-rich Meadows and Pastures Habitat Action Plan</i> • <i>Sea Cliff and Slope Habitat Action Plan</i> • <i>Barn Owl Species Action Plan</i>
<i>Coastal habitats:</i>	<i>Includes sea cliff and slope, maritime grassland, scrub, woodland and intertidal habitats, shingle and rocky foreshore. Coastline of Beer is included within the Sidmouth to Beer SSSI and is part of the Sidmouth to West Bay SAC.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sea Cliff and Slope Habitat Action Plan</i> • <i>Rocky Foreshore Habitat Action Plan</i>
<i>Quarries and caves</i>	<i>Quarries and caves within Beer Quarry and Caves SSSI, SAC and CWS. Important bat colonies. Disused quarries within Bovey Lane Quarries CWS</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Caves, Karst And Limestone Habitat Action Plan</i> • <i>Pits, Quarries and Cuttings Habitat Action Plan</i> • <i>Greater Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan</i>
<i>Hedges, green lanes and verges</i>	<i>Network of species-rich hedges throughout the parish. Several green lanes. Some verges.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Species-rich Hedges Pastures Habitat Action Plan</i> • <i>Common Dormouse Species Action Plan</i> • <i>Primrose Species Action Plan</i>
<i>Woodland and scrub</i>	<i>Small areas of woodland within parish. Scrub woodland: Hooken Undercliff, Sidmouth to Beer SSSI (part of the Sidmouth to West Bay SAC); and Beer Quarry and Caves SSSI, SAC and CWS; and Bovey Lane Fields CWS.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Common Dormouse Species Action Plan</i> • <i>Primrose Species Action Plan</i>
<i>Streams and ponds</i>	<i>Small streams and ponds present within parish.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rivers, Streams, Floodplains and Fluvial Processes Habitat Action Plan</i>
<i>Village, gardens, cemeteries and allotments</i>	<i>Network of gardens and open spaces in Beer village; including Jubilee Memorial Gardens, allotments, grounds of Pecorama and cemetery.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cities, Towns and Villages Habitat Action Plan</i>

View the Devon Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan at www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity.

Some Ideas for Local Action...

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 follow 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 Beer parish might include hedges and for common dormouse and barn owl signs. It is understood that some parishioners were involved in the 'Great Nut Hunt' where people looked for hazel nuts, used to look for feeding signs of dormice. These actions would directly contribute to the **Species-rich Habitat Hedges Action Plan** habitat and the **Common Dormouse Species Action Plan** and the **Barn owl Species Action Plan**.

It might be useful, for example, to undertake a hedgerow survey and 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.

East Devon AONB staff are currently running a 'Looking Out for Bats' project which is identifying the summer roosts of the greater horseshoe bat colony that frequents Beer Quarry Caves. This will directly contribute to the **Greater Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan**.

Seaqwest South-West is a joint project bringing together several independent researchers within the Cornwall and Devon Wildlife Trusts to find out more about marine life. To find out more about volunteering or submitting records of marine animal sightings contact the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC) office or view:

www.devonwildlifetrust.org

In addition, you can help to build up a picture of the state of Devon's environment by sending your records to the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre where they can be properly collated. There are surprisingly few records for the parish, so any records (including 'who', 'where', 'what' and 'when') of any species recognised is useful.

Follow the links to the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre
www.devonwildlifetrust.org

e-mail: dbrc@devonwildlifetrust.org

Devon Biodiversity Records Centre
C/o Exeter Central Library
Castle Street
Exeter EX4 3PQ
Tel. 01392 274128

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. Beer cemetery is already of great wildlife value and appears to be managed accordingly. The Jubilee Memorial Grounds also has some valuable wildlife features, such as the coastal strip, a small hedgerows and a woodland area. However there may be opportunity to further enhance these areas and areas within the Cliff Top long stay car park and Ashill Play Area.

Some initial ideas might take the form of:

- Having an area managed like a hay meadow, by leaving areas unfertilised and cut just once at the end of the summer. This could be done alongside one or more of the boundaries to create a verge. Ideally the less frequently cut areas should have meandering, rather than straight, edges, to create different micro-climates and micro-habitats. The cuttings should be removed to prevent nutrients building up. These cuttings could be composted. The range of plant species might increase naturally and will also provide a habitat better suited to certain invertebrates such as meadow brown butterflies. This will create an ideal wildlife area for people to enjoy. Possible areas for this would be on the western bank and margins within the Ashill Pay Area; the banks adjacent to the picnic area and the margins of the Cliff Top long stay car park and possibly some areas within The Jubilee Memorial Grounds.
- The erection of bird and bat boxes would encourage these important species.

- For the benefit of wildlife it is recommended that the use of herbicides and pesticides is generally avoided wherever possible.
- It was noticed during the parish site visit that garden rubbish had been dumped by the side of the road. This can introduce undesirable invasive plant species into the surrounding countryside. A community composing scheme may help to discourage this.
- Planting up corners with native shrubs and trees and hedge planting can benefit wildlife. No particular sites for this were identified during the parish site visit. Native plant species of local provenance should be used. For hedges, woody species that have been listed as having been found in the locality such as hazel, holly, hawthorn, blackthorn, spindle, dogwood and oak would be appropriate.

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?

Farmers and landowners may be eligible for agri-environmental schemes such as the environmental stewardship which provides funding to farmers and landowners who manage their land in a specific environmental way. Large areas within Beer parish are under either the Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) scheme; the Higher Level Environmental Stewardship (HLS) scheme or the Organic Entry Level Scheme. Some areas are still under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, which has now been superseded by the Environmental Stewardship Scheme (which includes HLS and ELS). The parish is within the Blackdown Hills and East Devon HLS target area.

Further information can be found at www.naturalengland.org.uk

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:

You could 'green up' your garden! Collectively the gardens of Beer parish 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 Natural England web site:

www.naturalengland.org.uk (search for 'wildlife gardening')

Natural England is the Government's adviser on nature conservation. Its web site also contains links to a number of other very useful sources of information.

Here are some initial ideas:

Various measures can be taken in varying degrees to providing water, shelter, food and places to breed, which will benefit wildlife. Your garden does not have to be big to make a contribution. Some initial ideas are:

- Planting nectar-rich plants, such as buddleia for butterflies.
- Climbing plants, such as honeysuckle, provide shelter, roosting and nesting sites for birds.
- Native trees and shrubs are beneficial for wildlife.
- Erect bird boxes for tits and nuthatches.
- Feed birds with seeds and nuts, and provide clean water.
- Use peat-free compost.
- Create your own compost bin.
- A pile of logs can provide a home for insects and perhaps a hedgehog.
- Create a wildflower meadow border. Flowers such as oxeye daisy, harebell, yarrow, primrose and devil's-bit scabious produce beautiful flowers as well as being good for wildlife.
- Construct a pond for wildlife.

Be sure to use native species with local provenance.

Other good sources of information on wildlife gardening:

- The Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) web site:

www.devonwildlifetrust.org

which also has links to DWT approved garden centres.

- The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) web site:

www.rhs.org.uk

- The Natural History Museum web site:

www.nhm.ac.uk

This site has a database that can be searched to generate lists of native plants for any specified postal district in the UK. These lists are divided into annuals, biennials, climbers, bulbs/rhizomes, herbaceous perennial, large shrub/small trees, marsh plant, parasite, perennial, shrub and trees.

6 Join local conservation organisations:

Examples of prominent local conservation organisations are the Devon Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust. These trusts have a number of Local Groups which, amongst other things, get involved in practical management work. The East Devon group is the nearest local groups of the Devon Wildlife Trust. The Axe Valley & District Conservation Society is another local conservation organisation. These groups often organise wildlife walks and talks.

More information can be found at:

www.devonwildlifetrust.org

www.yourwoods.org.uk

www.axevaleconservation.co.uk

www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk

7 Involvement and education:

The Fine Foundation Centre run by Beer Village Heritage, also referred to as the Beer Heritage Centre, situated on the left at the bottom of Sea Hill, Beer, has exhibits about the local environment. It includes information about the heritage of Beer, including fishing. It also includes some information about the natural history of the area and a rockpool aquarium. Beer Heritage Centre will also arrange walks, for example wild flower walks, fungus forays and rockpool rambles together with guided boat trips along the coast.

Source and further information can be found at:

www.beer-devon.co.uk/BeerHeritage/BeerHeritageSite/VillageSite/Index.htm

Events are also advertised on the Beer Heritage Centre notice board. Alternatively you can be added to an e-mailing list to be notified of future events (contact Pat Farrell: farrell_patricia@hotmail.com).

Events such as these is a great way to get children interested in wildlife. There are also many activities, puzzles and games that can enthuse and get children interested in wildlife. Some further information and ideas can be found at:

www.devonwildlifetrust.org

www.rspb.org.uk

Devon Hedge Week is an annual event run by Devon Hedge Group (01392 382257). There is a week of hedge-related events and activities for all the family. These are aimed at raising appreciation and awareness of Devon's wonderful hedges.
www.devon.gov.uk

A local wildlife group or ecologist could create a leaflet for walks around the parish, highlighting the wildlife of the area. Perhaps for the five mile walk from Beer to Branscombe walk described on the Beer website (www.beer-devon.co.uk). This walk takes you from Beer to Branscombe along the coast including the dramatic cliff landslide at Hooken, then back inland. The coastal habitats can be seen the long distance South West Coastal Footpath which runs along the entire coast here.

Members of the parish could take photographs of wild flowers to enhance this document.

Visit a local nature reserve. Trinity Hill Local Nature Reserve (LNR), Holyford Woods LNR, Colyford Common LNR, Seaton Marshes LNR and the Axmouth to Lyme Regis Undercliffs National Nature Reserve (NNR), are all situated nearby.

Holyford Woods is a Local Nature Reserve situated just to the north of Beer parish. This oak, ash and hazel woodland has a good show of bluebells and wild garlic (also known as ramsons) in the spring. Other woodland flowers such as wood anemone and wood-sorrel also grow here. Trinity Hill LNR is situated a few kilometres away to the north-east and supports some lowland heathland.

Colyford Common Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Seaton Marshes LNR are situated close to the west of the Axe Estuary. These marshes provide habitats for a range of wildlife. The bird hide on Seaton Marshes LNR is an excellent place to watch the birds of the estuary and marshes. The Axe Estuary Wetland Project hopes to link the two reserves to create a nature reserve stretching from Seaton to Colyford.

The nearest Devon Wildlife Trust reserve is Hawkswood (SY201978) which supports a mosaic of dry heath and species-rich grassland with areas of naturally-regenerating birch scrub. The reserve is known for its diversity of butterflies and fungi species

Devon Wildlife Trust is currently running an 'adopt a species' campaign, so you can adopt a species and help safeguard its future in Devon.

Visit www.devonwildlifetrust.org for more details.

8 Volunteer:

You can volunteer your time to do practical conservation tasks or helping a wildlife organisation with monitoring or office work. There are many ways you can help. Organisations that may be interested in volunteers include Devon Wildlife Trust, Devon Bat Group and Devon Mammal Group.

www.devonwildlifetrust.org

This also has links to other organisations.

You could set up a local group to carry out conservation tasks.

9 Link biodiversity to Beer Parish Plan:

You could encourage Beer Parish Council to consider further the impact on the biodiversity and wildlife of the parish in existing and future plans.

10 Japanese Knotweed:

Not something to cherish, but it can't be ignored! Unfortunately Japanese knotweed is present in Beer parish. 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.

What can you do?

- Firstly, it is important to build up a picture of where Japanese knotweed is present. This will give an idea of the scale of the problem and will help to prevent it being accidentally spread during any ditch clearance, highway work and so on. To help develop an understanding of the problem in Devon, records should also be sent to the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre². Ideally, records should include when you first saw it and confirmation of when it was seen most recently; its precise location (notes or a sketch map are helpful, as is a grid reference if you have one); the kind of habitat it is in (e.g. next to running water, on a road verge), and a rough indication of how abundant it is.

² dbrc@devonwildlifetrust.org

- Secondly, be careful not to spread the plant further! This is all too easily done as it can regenerate from even the smallest fragment and is easy to spread unknowingly. It is important not to flail it or to try and dig it up. Often, it is best not to cut Japanese knotweed at all, but if it is it should be very carefully disposed of on site when dead or removed as Controlled Waste. Any tools used should be properly cleaned.
- Finally, if Japanese knotweed is on your land, the best way to prevent its spread is to control or eradicate it as soon as possible. Regular cutting can weaken and eventually kill the plant but it is a time-consuming job and proper disposal of the cut material can be a problem. Usually, the most effective method of control is to treat the plant with herbicide. This can take a number of years to be successful but if the plant is left untreated it will inevitably spread. A number of issues should be taken into account in deciding which herbicide to use, particularly the presence of water (where special care needs to be taken and the advice of the Environment Agency must be sought).

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:

www.devon.gov.uk/knotweed



Useful sources of further information:

The following organisations can offer advice and information on various wildlife topics as well as organising events and carrying out projects.

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers: www.btcv.org.uk

British Dragonfly Society: www.dragonflysoc.org.uk

Butterfly Conservation: www.butterfly-conservation.org (Tel: 0870 7744309)

Devon Bat Group: www.dbg.me.uk

Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society: www.devonbirds.org

Devon Mammal Group: www.devonmammalgroup.org

Devon Wildlife Trust: www.devonwildlifetrust.org (Tel: 01392 279244)

Natural England: www.naturalengland.org.uk (National Tel: 0845 600 3078, Devon Tel: 0300 060 1110)

Plantlife: www.plantlife.org.uk (Tel: 01722 342730)

RSPB: www.rspb.org.uk

The Woodland Trust: www.woodland-trust.org.uk (Tel: 01476 581111)

The Living Churchyards & Cemeteries Project, Arthur Rank Centre, National Agricultural Society, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ Tel: 01203 696969 ext.364/339.

East Devon AONB: www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk

East Devon AONB Partnership
4 East Devon Business Centre
Heathpark Way
Heathpark
Honiton
Devon EX14 1SF
Tel/Fax 01404 46663
Or Tel 01404 549173

East Devon: <http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/index/visiting/countryside>

Jurassic Coast: www.jurassiccoast.com

In addition, Devon County Council has produced a Community Wildlife Toolkit which is available via the DCC web site (www.devon.gov.uk/biodiversity). This toolkit aims to provide practical advice on management to encourage

wildlife and, in particular, provides a central point from which to access the large amount of advice that is already available from a huge range of other organisations.

In addition to management advice, the toolkit provides guidance on seeking funding for project work.

Possible sources of funding:

Please note that funding sources change quite frequently and are often short lived. It is worth exploring widely what may be available. However, the sources listed below should provide a good starting point.

Heritage Link – a funding directory supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. A good source of information.

<http://www.heritagelink.org.uk/fundingdirectory/main/fundinghome.php>

Major sources of funding

Environmental Stewardship – whole farm agri-environment scheme funding.

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/default.aspx

SITA Trust - Enriching Nature: for biodiversity conservation projects within ten miles of any landfill site in England.

www.sitatrust.org.uk

GrantScape – significant sums of money often available for biodiversity action, including landscape-scale projects.

www.grantscape.org.uk/home

The Tubney Charitable Trust – large funds available but on an invitation-to-bid only basis.

www.tubney.org.uk

Esmeefairbairn Foundation – no maximum size of grant. “Priority will be given to high quality projects that are exemplars of good practice or imaginative approaches to old problems, that have wider impact, leading to changes in the law, policy or practice or that may be viewed as difficult to support or too 'high risk' by other funders.”

www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

Big Lottery Fund – “Every year BIG gives out millions of pounds from the National Lottery to good causes. Our money goes to community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment.” Often has large programmes relating to the environment, for example:

- *Changing Spaces: Access to Nature* - grants: £50,000 - £715,000. This programme aims to encourage more people to enjoy the outdoors, particularly those who face social exclusion.
http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_cs_access_nature?regioncode=-uk
- *Changing Spaces: Community Places* - grants: £10,000 - £450,000. This programme will fund community groups who want to improve local green spaces such as play areas, community gardens and parks.
http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_cs_comm_spaces?regioncode=-uk

Possible funding for smaller projects

It should be noted that many of these grants only have a finite pot of money and this could run out at any time. It is also important to check that your project meets any relevant funding criteria. Please check with the different organisations before applying.

Big Lottery Fund (see above) – BIG also gives smaller grants, for example:

- *Awards for All England* - Grants: £300 - £10,000. 'Awards for All gives money to projects that encourage people to take part in arts, sport, heritage and also community projects'.
http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_a4a_eng?regioncode=-uk

AONB Sustainable Development Funds -

- Blackdown Hills
- East Devon
- North Devon
- South Devon
- Tamar Valley

Biffawards - grants for biodiversity projects within 10 miles of a Biffa operation (landfill)

www.biffaward.org/projects/smallgrants.php

BBC Breathing Places – currently only available for projects that have received Breathing Places funding already. Grants of £1000 to £5000 available.

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_breathingplaces

SITA Trust - Enriching Nature: for biodiversity conservation projects within ten miles of any landfill site in England.

www.sitatrust.org.uk

Forestry Commission - grants and sources of funding available for improving biodiversity (for example, the Woodland Improvement Grant).

www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/hcou-4u4j28

Tree Council - small grants for schools and communities for tree planting schemes.

www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=grants

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www.rhs.org.uk
www.swenvo.org.uk
www.ukbap.org.uk
www.woodland-trust.org.uk

Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1 – Notable sites and species within Beer parish (2010)

Statutory & non-statutory sites within Beer parish

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status
	Sidmouth to West Bay			Coastal scrub and unimproved calcareous grassland	SAC
	Poole Bay to Lyme Bay Reefs			A mosaic of four areas containing extremely diverse reef habitats, comprising many geological and topographical forms, and nationally important sea caves.	Draft SAC
	Beer Quarry and Caves			Important bat colonies and unimproved calcareous grassland.	SAC
SY18/027	Sidmouth to Beer Coast	SY129874 to SY236896	244.4	Coastal scrub and unimproved calcareous grassland	SSSI
SY28/001	Beer Quarry & Caves	SY215893	31	Important bat colonies and unimproved calcareous grassland	SSSI
SY28/001	Beer Quarry & Caves	SY215893	32.1	Important bat colonies & unimproved calcareous grassland	CWS
SY28/008	Beer Head	SY227883	2.7	Semi-improved calcareous grassland	CWS
SY28/015	Beer Fields	SY231899	7.5	Unimproved calcareous grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, scrub and broadleaved woodland	CWS
SY28/016	Bovey Lane Fields	SY223898	4.9	Unimproved neutral and calcareous grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, scrub and broadleaved woodland	CWS

SY29/058	Bovey Lane Quarries	SY218901	14.6	Unimproved calcareous grassland	CWS
SY28/011	Arratt's Hill	SY225885	3.7	Semi-improved neutral grassland	OSWI

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

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

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. County Wildlife Sites are usually included in Local Plans as sites of substantive nature conservation interest and are covered by Planning Policy Statement note nine (PPS9). 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.

Other Sites of Wildlife Interest (OSWI): these are sites of significant wildlife interest within a local context that have been surveyed but do not reach the criteria for County Wildlife Sites. They are not covered by PPS9, but may be included in Local Plans.

Additional designation types not found within Beer parish:

Unconfirmed Wildlife Sites (UWS): these are sites identified as having possible interest but not fully surveyed. Some of these sites will be areas of significant wildlife interest.

National Nature Reserves (NNR) - these are notified by English Nature because of their habitats or species. They are the best examples of a particular habitat or have important populations of rare species. English Nature needs to be consulted before any operations likely to damage the special interest are undertaken. NNR is a statutory designation with legal implications.

Local Nature Reserves (LNR): These are declared by local authorities in conjunction conservation organisations as areas of local importance for wildlife or geological features. LNRs give access to the public to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.

Proposed County Wildlife Sites (pCWS): these are either sites that have been surveyed but are awaiting consideration from the CWS Designation Panel, or sites that have been surveyed at an unfavourable time of year and are awaiting a re-survey.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs): The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) define SPAs as '*strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC), also known as the Birds Directive, which came into force in April 1979. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds, listed in Annex I to the Birds Directive, and for regularly occurring migratory species*'.

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) are earth science sites that are of regional or local importance. Like County Wildlife Sites, they are included in Local Plans and referred to under PPG9. These may represent good examples of local rock formations or landform features or they may contain interesting fossils.

Country Park: is an area of land, or land and water normally not less than 25 acres in extent, designed to offer to the public, with or without charge, opportunity for recreational activities in the countryside. There is not necessarily any public rights of access to Country Parks and visitors are subject to any byelaws made by the local authority and enforced in the parks.

Legally protected & notable Species within Beer parish

No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Date	Grid Reference	UK protection	International protection	Status
1	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	A3052 Hangman's Stone	1998	SY203908	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
2	Brown Long-Eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Bovey House, Beer, Seaton.	2002	SY208903	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
3	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Bovey House, Beer, Seaton.	2002	SY208903	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
4	Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Bovey House, Beer, Seaton.	2002	SY208903	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	
5	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	B3174 (off A3052) Seaton to Ottery road, about half a mile from the A3052 junction.	1997	SY211905	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
6	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Branscombe-Hooken	2001	SY214880	WCA 5 (S); NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Nb
7	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	Branscombe-Hooken	2001	SY214880	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Decline
8	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Branscombe-Hooken	2001	SY214880	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
9	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Branscombe East	2003	SY214880	WCA 5 (S); NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Nb

10	Chalk-hill Blue	<i>Lysandra coridon</i>	Branscombe East	2003	SY214880	WCA 5 (S)		Decline
11	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	Branscombe East	2003	SY214880			Decline
12	Purple Gromwell	<i>Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum</i>	Near Branscombe. On the coastal path along the undercliffs above the beach.	2004	SY214881			NR; DN1
13	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Beer Quarry	2002	SY214894	WCA 1, 9		DBAP; Amber
14	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Hooken Landslip	1999	SY215880	WCA 5 (S); NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Nb
15	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	Hooken Landslips	1999	SY215880	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Decline
16	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Hooken Landslip	1999	SY215880	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
17	Purple Gromwell	<i>Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum</i>	Branscombe Mouth, on the undercliff path	2002	SY215881			NR; DN1
18	Yellow-Wort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Beer Quarry & Caves (Beer Quarry Caves)	1993	SY215893			DN2
19	Smooth Brome	<i>Bromus racemosus</i>	Beer Quarry & Caves (Beer Quarry Caves)	1993	SY215893			DN2
20	Jersey Tiger	<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i>	Beer Quarry & Caves (Beer Quarry Caves)	1993	SY215893			Nb
21	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Beer Quarry & Caves (Beer Quarry Caves)	1993	SY215893			DBAP

22	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Beer Quarry, Beer, Seaton.	1998	SY215895	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
23	Greater Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Beer Quarry, Beer, Seaton.	1998	SY215895	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
24	Wood Small-Reed	<i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i>	Beer Quarry & Caves; Beer Quarry (North)	1993	SY215896			DN2
25	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Beer Quarry & Caves; Beer Quarry (North)	1993	SY215896			UKBAP (P); Red
26	Pepper-Saxifrage	<i>Silau silaus</i>	Beer Quarry & Caves; Beer Quarry (North)	1993	SY215896			DN1
27	Common Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Beer Quarry	1999	SY215899	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern III	UKBAP (P); DBAP
28	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	in a field between Beer Head and Branscombe Mouth	1996	SY216883	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); DBAP
29	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Field to the west of South Down Farm, Beer.	2002	SY216886	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); DBAP
30	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Branscombe - Hooken	2000	SY217881	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
31	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Branscombe - Hooken	2000	SY217881	WCA 5 (S); NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Nb
32	Great Green Bush Cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>	Branscombe	2000	SY2188			DBAP
33	Purple Gromwell	<i>Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum</i>	Branscombe to Beer coastal path (lower path).	2001	SY2188			NR; DN1

34	Purple Gromwell	<i>Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum</i>	Sherborne Rocks	1980	SY218879			NR; DN1
35	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	The Hookern, Branscombe	2003	SY218880	WCA 5 (S); NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Nb
36	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	The Hookern, Branscombe	2003	SY218880	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Decline
37	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Branscombe	1997	SY218881			Decline
38	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Fields near cliff path Beer to Branscombe.	2001	SY218883	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); DBAP
39	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Field adjacent to Mare Lane, Beer.	2002	SY218889	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); DBAP
40	Pale St. John's-Wort	<i>Hypericum montanum</i>	Beer, nr quarry	1990	SY218895			DN3
41	Dwarf Thistle	<i>Cirsium acaule</i>	Bovey Lane Quarries; Community B, Quadrat 3	1987	SY218901			DN2
42	Hoary Plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>	Bovey Lane Quarries; Community A, Quadrat 1	1987	SY218901			DN2
43	Autumn Lady's-Tresses	<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>	Bovey Lane Quarries; Community B, Quadrat 3	1987	SY218901			DN2
44	Downy Oat	<i>Helictotrichon pubescens</i>	Bovey Lane Quarries; Community B, Quadrat 3	1987	SY218901			DN2
45	Small Scabious	<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Bovey Lane Quarries; Community A,	1987	SY218901			DN2

			Quadrat 2					
46	Common Rock-Rose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Bovey Lane Quarries; Community A, Quadrat 1	1987	SY218901			DN1
47	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Under Hooken	1991	SY219881			Decline
48	White Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Llandysiliogogo, Hooken Cliff	1992	SY219882			NS; DN1
49	Brown Long-Eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Smugglers cave at Underhooken near Beer Head	2004	SY220881	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
50	Greater Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Smugglers cave at Underhooken near Beer Head	2004	SY220881	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
51	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Smugglers cave at Underhooken near Beer Head	2004	SY220881	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
52	Natterer's Bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Smugglers cave at Underhooken near Beer Head	2004	SY220881	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	
53	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Garden at 13 West Underleys, Beer, Seaton, EX12 3LZ.	2001	SY221890	WCA 5 (S)	EC Va; Bern III	
54	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Garden at 13 West Underleys, Beer, Seaton, EX12 3LZ.	2001	SY221890	WCA 5 (S); NERC 41	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
55	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Garden at 13 West Underleys, Beer,	2001	SY221890			UKBAP (P); Red

			Seaton, EX12 3LZ.					
56	Great Green Bush Cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>	Garden at 13 West Underleys, Beer, Seaton, EX12 3LZ.	2001	SY221890			DBAP
57	Slow-Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Garden at 13 West Underleys, Beer, Seaton, EX12 3LZ.	2001	SY221890	WCA 5 (KIS); NERC 41	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
58	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	BRANSCOMBE-HOOKEN	2001	SY222880	WCA 5 (S); NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Nb
59	Brown Long-Eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	South Down Farm, Beer	2004	SY222886	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
60	Greater Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	South Down Farm, Beer	2004	SY222886	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
61	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Back garden at 13 Westunderleys, Beer, Seaton, EX12 3LZ.	2002	SY222890			UKBAP (P); Red
62	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	Under Hooken	1991	SY223879	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Decline
63	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Bovey Lane Fields	2005	SY223898	NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Red
64	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	Bovey Lane Fields	2005	SY223898	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
65	Dwarf Thistle	<i>Cirsium acaule</i>	Bovey Lane Fields	2005	SY223898			DN2
66	Hoary Plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>	Bovey Lane Fields	2005	SY223898			DN2

67	Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Bovey Lane Fields	2005	SY223898			DN2
68	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Bovey Lane Fields	2005	SY223898			DBAP
69	Greater Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Small rift cave at Underhooken near Beer Head	2004	SY224879	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
70	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Small rift cave at Underhooken near Beer Head	2004	SY224879	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
71	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Near Beer Head	2005	SY225879	WCA 1		Amber
72	White Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Beer Head-Hooken Cliff	1992	SY225879			NS; DN1
73	Brown Long-Eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	2 Rock Cottages, The Causeway, Beer, EX12 3LQ.	1999	SY225894	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
74	Ivy Broomrape	<i>Orobanche hederæ</i>	Beer	1988	SY225895			NS; DN2
75	Nottingham Catchfly	<i>Silene nutans</i>	Dunscombe Cliff-Beer Head	1991	SY226879			NS; DN1; DR
76	Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Garden and path at The Tithe Barn, Court Barton Hill, Court Barton, Beer, EX12 3JT.	2001	SY226895	WCA 9		
77	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	SITE DELETED - Hollyhead Wood	2005	SY226898			UKBAP (P); Red

78	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	SITE DELETED - Hollyhead Wood	2005	SY226898	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
79	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	SITE DELETED - Hollyhead Wood	2005	SY226898			Amber
80	Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	SITE DELETED - Hollyhead Wood	2005	SY226898	WCA 9		
81	Salad Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Beer Head	1993	SY227883			
82	Common Rock-Rose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Beer Head	1993	SY227883			DN1
83	Sea Mouse- Ear	<i>Cerastium diffusum</i>	Beer Head	1993	SY227883			DN3
84	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Beer Cliff	2000- 2003	SY2288	WCA 5 (S); NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Nb
85	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megea</i>		1993	SY2288	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
86	Great Green Bush Cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>	Garden at The Bungalow, Berry Hill, Beer, EX12 3JP.	2001	SY228894			DBAP
87	L-album Wainscot	<i>Mythimna l-album</i>	Bremel Hayes, Stovar Long Lane, Beer (garden)	2009	SY231894			Nb
88	Common Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Beer Fields	2005	SY231899	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern III	UKBAP (P); DBAP
89	Hound's- Tongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Beer Fields	2005	SY231899			DN1

90	Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Beer Fields	2005	SY231899			DN2
91	Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Beer Fields	2005	SY231899			DN1
92	Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Beer Fields	2005	SY231899	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)
93	Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>	Beer Fields	2005	SY231899			DN3
94	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Beer Fields	2005	SY231899			Amber
95	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Beer Fields	2005	SY231899	DA	Bern III	
96	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Beer Fields	2005	SY231899			Amber
97	Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Seaton. On verges near bottom of Bunts Lane. Just before the farm lane to Couchill Farm.	2003	SY232901	WCA 9		
98	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	SITE DELETED - Couchill Common	2005	SY232904	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
99	Common Shrew	<i>Sorex araneus</i>	SITE DELETED - Couchill Common	2005	SY232904	WCA 6	Bern III	
100	Common Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Couchill Woods, Beer	2001	SY232904	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern III	UKBAP (P); DBAP
101	Ivy Broomrape	<i>Orobanche hederæ</i>	Cliff walk between Seaton Hole and	2004	SY233893			NS; DN2

			Beer.					
102	Nottingham Catchfly	<i>Silene nutans</i>	Cliff walk between Seaton Hole and Beer.	2004	SY233893			NS; DN1; DR
103	Common Rock-Rose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Cliff walk between Seaton Hole and Beer.	2004	SY233893			DN1

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

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

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

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

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

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

WCA 9 **Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 9:** animals and plants for which release into the wild is prohibited.

BA **Protection of Badgers Act 1992:** badgers may not be deliberately killed, persecuted or trapped except under licence. Badger setts may not be damaged, destroyed or obstructed.

DA	Deer Act 1991: deer protected under the Deer Act.
Bern II	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) Appendix II: Special protection for listed animal species and their habitats.
Bern III	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) Appendix III: Exploitation of listed animal species to be subject to regulation
ECIIa, IIb	EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats & Species Directive) Annex IIa and IIb: Designation of protected areas for animal and plant species listed.
ECIVa, IVb	EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats & Species Directive) Annex IVa: Exploitation of listed animals and plants to be subject to management if necessary.
ECVa, Vb	EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats & Species Directive) Annex Va and Vb: Exploitation of listed animals and plants to be subject to management if necessary.
Bonn II	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) Appendix II: Range states encouraged to conclude international agreements to benefit species listed.
UKBAP(P)	UK Priority Species (Short and Middle Lists - UK Biodiversity steering Group Report 1995) i.e. species that are globally threatened and rapidly declining in the UK (by more than 50% in the last 25 years). Has a Species Action Plan.
DBAP	Devon Biodiversity Action Plan species: these have been identified as species of key conservation concern in Devon.
NR	Nationally Rare: 1-15 10km squares in Atlas of British Flora 1962.
NS	Nationally Scarce: 15-100 10km squares in Atlas of British Flora 1962.

Devon Notable Species: Selected species recorded from over 50 2km squares in the Atlas of Devon Flora 1984 (R.B. Ivimey-Cook, Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Exeter).

DN1 **Devon Notable¹:** 1-25 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.

DN2 **Devon Notable²:** 26-50 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.

DN3 **Devon Notable³:** Selected species recorded from over 50 2 km squares in Atlas of Devon Flora 1984.

DR **Devon Rarity:** native species recorded from 3 or fewer localities within Devon.

Nb **Nationally Notable B:** known from 100 or fewer 10km squares. Taken from the Invertebrate Site Register.

Decline Substantial local decline in Devon

Red List Bird species of high conservation concern, such as those whose population or range is rapidly declining, recently or historically, and those of global conservation concern.

Amber List Bird species of medium conservation concern, such as those whose population is in moderate decline, rare breeders, internationally important and localised species and those of unfavourable conservation status in Europe.

Appendix 2 – Species list recorded for Beer parish during the field visit

Species list for Beer parish, recorded during the parish site visits on 6th March 2010.

Scientific Name	English name
<i>Acanthus spinosus</i>	Bear's-breeches
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony
<i>Agrostis sp</i>	Bent
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Three-cornered leek
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Wild Onion
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Aphanes arvensis agg.</i>	Parsley-piert
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Beta vulgaris subsp. maritima</i>	Sea Beet
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Betula sp</i>	Birch sp
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	Wood False-brome
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly-bush
<i>Cardamine sp</i>	Bitter-cress sp
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge
<i>Carex remota</i>	Remote Sedge
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood-sedge
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	Carlina Thistle
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel

<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch
<i>Epilobium</i> sp	Willowherb sp
<i>Erysimum cheiri</i>	Wallflower
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle
<i>Euphorbia</i> sp	Spurge
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Tall Fescue
<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	Red Fescue
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Snowdrop
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge-bedstraw
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert
<i>Geranium</i> sp	Cranesbill sp
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common rock-rose
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	Sea-buckthorn
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Stinking Iris
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft-rush
<i>Lamium album</i>	Yellow Archangel
<i>Lamium montanum</i>	
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Larix</i> sp	Larch
<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	Tree Mallow
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet
<i>Limonium binervosum</i>	Rock Sea-lavender
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	Yellow Pimpernel
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White horehound
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury
<i>Narcissus aggregate</i>	Cultivated Daffodil
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram
<i>Orobancha</i> sp	Broomrape
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green Alkanet
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue
<i>Picris echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed
<i>Pinus</i> sp	Pine

<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass
<i>Poa sp</i>	Meadow-grass
<i>Polypodium agg.</i>	Polypody
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft Shield-fern
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
<i>Quercus sp</i>	Oak
<i>Quercus Ilex</i>	Evergreen oak
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field-rose
<i>Rosa canina agg.</i>	Dog-rose
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild Madder
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Wood Dock
<i>Salix sp</i>	Willow sp
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Sansuisorba minor</i>	Salad burnet
<i>Sedum sp</i>	Stonecrop
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock
<i>Smyrnium olusatrum</i>	Alexanders
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed
<i>Taraxacum aggregate</i>	Common Dandelion
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage
<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	Wild Thyme
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse
<i>Ulmus procera</i>	English Elm
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Veronica filiformis</i>	Slender Speedwell
<i>Veronica montana</i>	Wood Speedwell
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field-speedwell
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring-tree
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch
<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet Violet
<i>Viola sp</i>	Violet sp

Alauda arvensis
Buteo buteo
Carduelis carduelis
Carduelis chloris
Columba oenas
Columba palumbus
Corvus corax
Corvus corone
Corvus frugilegus
Corvus monedula
Emberiza citrinella
Erithacus rubecula
Fringilla coelebs
Larus argentatus
Larus fuscus
Parus caeruleus
Parus major
Phalacrocorax carbo
Phasianus colchicus
Pica pica
Picus viridis
Prunella modularis
Saxicola torquatus
Sitta europaea
Streptopelia decaocto
Turdus pilaris
Troglodytes troglodytes
Turdus iliacus
Turdus merula
Turdus philomelos

Meles meles
Oryctolagus cuniculus
Talpa europaea
Vulpes vulpes
Aglais urticae
Bombus sp.

Intertidal species

Fucus serratus
Fucus spiralis
Laurencium pinnatifida
Pelvetia canaliculata
Actinia equina
Gibbula umbilicalis
Halichondria panicea
Littorina littorea
Littorina saxatilis
Mytilus edulis
Nucella lapillus
Patella vulgata
Sabellaria alveolata

Skylark
Buzzard
Goldfinch
Greenfinch
Stock Dove
Wood Pigeon
Raven
Carrion Crow
Rook
Jackdaw
Yellowhammer
Robin
Chaffinch
Herring Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Blue Tit
Great Tit
Cormorant
Pheasant
Magpie
Green Woodpecker
Dunnock
Stonechat
Nuthatch
Collared Dove
Fieldfare
Wren
Redwing
Blackbird
Song Thrush

Badger (signs)
Rabbit
Mole (hills)
Fox (signs)
Small Tortoiseshell
Bumble bee

Toothed wrack
Spiral wrack
Pepper dulse
Channel wrack
Beadlet anemone
Purple topshell
Breadcrumb sponge
Periwinkle
Rough periwinkle
Common mussel
Dog whelk
Limpet
Honeycomb worm