

Wildlife site resource map and species information for neighbourhood planning – Silverton Parish



November 2014

Guidance notes:

1-Introduction

Any development, from a loft conversion to a housing estate has the potential to affect wildlife. By wildlife we mean the whole range of plants and animals found in Devon (also referred to as biodiversity). Sites that are important for their geology can also be affected.

With a Neighbourhood Plan, communities are able to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood. They will be able to say, for example, where new homes and offices should be built, and what they should look like. Neighbourhood Plans should take into account local need, housing targets identified by the local authority and the mitigation hierarchy. This is important, as where the local authority says that an area needs to grow, then communities can use neighbourhood planning to influence the type, design, location and mix of new development. They cannot however use neighbourhood planning to block the building of new homes and businesses.

The information below is provided to assist you in designing a neighbourhood plan, however the information DBRC holds on biodiversity can be enhanced by additional survey or species recording within the area and you may want to consider how more information could be gathered by the community. For further information on how to record biodiversity where you live, go to <http://www.dbrc.org.uk>

2.1 Sites important for wildlife

There are several designations that cover sites of wildlife and geological value in Devon. These include sites with international and national statutory designation and local non-statutory designation and are shown on your map. **The best practice approach is to avoid locating development on designated sites as they have already been recognised for their high biodiversity value.**

Designated sites generally contain **semi-natural habitats**; these are areas which are not highly modified for example; rough grassland, woodland, traditional orchards, scrub, hedges, marshes and ponds, heathland, coastal habitats and old quarries and mine sites. Semi-natural habitats provide food and shelter for plants and animals, so tend to be richer in species than other areas. Some areas of semi-natural habitat are designated as **Habitats of Principle Importance** which are recognised nationally as being important for wildlife. However, many areas of semi-natural habitat lie outside designated areas and are not classed as habitats of principle importance. These areas are nonetheless important for the plant and animal species they contain and as a link between other areas important for wildlife. Ideally **development will be sited to avoid areas of semi-natural habitat.**

Site Designations in Silverton Parish

Statutory Sites:

There are no statutory sites within Silverton Parish.

Non-Statutory Sites:

County Wildlife Sites (CWS): these are sites of county importance for wildlife, designated on the basis of the habitat or the known presence of particular species. This is not a statutory designation like SSSIs, and does not have any legal status. The National Planning Policy framework (NPPF) requires local authorities to identify and map locally designated sites of biodiversity importance (such as County Wildlife Sites) as part of the Local Plan process and to draw up criteria based policies against which proposals for development affecting them will be judged. CWS recognition does not demand any particular actions on the part of the Landowner and does not give the public rights of access. However, it may increase eligibility for land management grants.

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

- **Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW):** where the stands are composed predominantly of trees and shrubs native to the site that do not obviously originate from planting. The stands may have been managed by coppicing or pollarding in the past, or the tree and shrub layer may have grown up by natural regeneration.
- **Plantations on ancient woodland sites (or PAWS, also known as ancient replanted woodland):** areas of ancient woodland where the former native tree cover has been felled and replaced by planted stock, most commonly of a species not native to the site. These will include conifers such as Norway spruce or Corsican pine, but also broadleaves such as sycamore or sweet chestnut.

Other Sites:

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 NPPF, but may be included in Local Plans. OSWIs used to be called Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). They are not present in all Districts; there are no OSWIs in Torridge, for example.

Unconfirmed Wildlife Sites (UWS): these are sites identified as having possible interest but not fully surveyed. Some of these sites will be areas of significant wildlife interest. The UWS dataset may also contain **Proposed County Wildlife Sites (pCWS):** these are usually sites that have been surveyed but are awaiting consideration from the CWS Designation Panel, or sites that have been surveyed at an unfavorable time of year and are awaiting a re-survey.

What about the white areas?

The areas shown white on the map may still have wildlife value, as explained in section 2.2 below. Your map gives an indication of where the most sensitive wildlife areas are located, however, when looking at the white areas you should still consider features such as hedgerow and streams, as they provide important corridors or habitats for wildlife.

How you can use your local knowledge to add to the map?

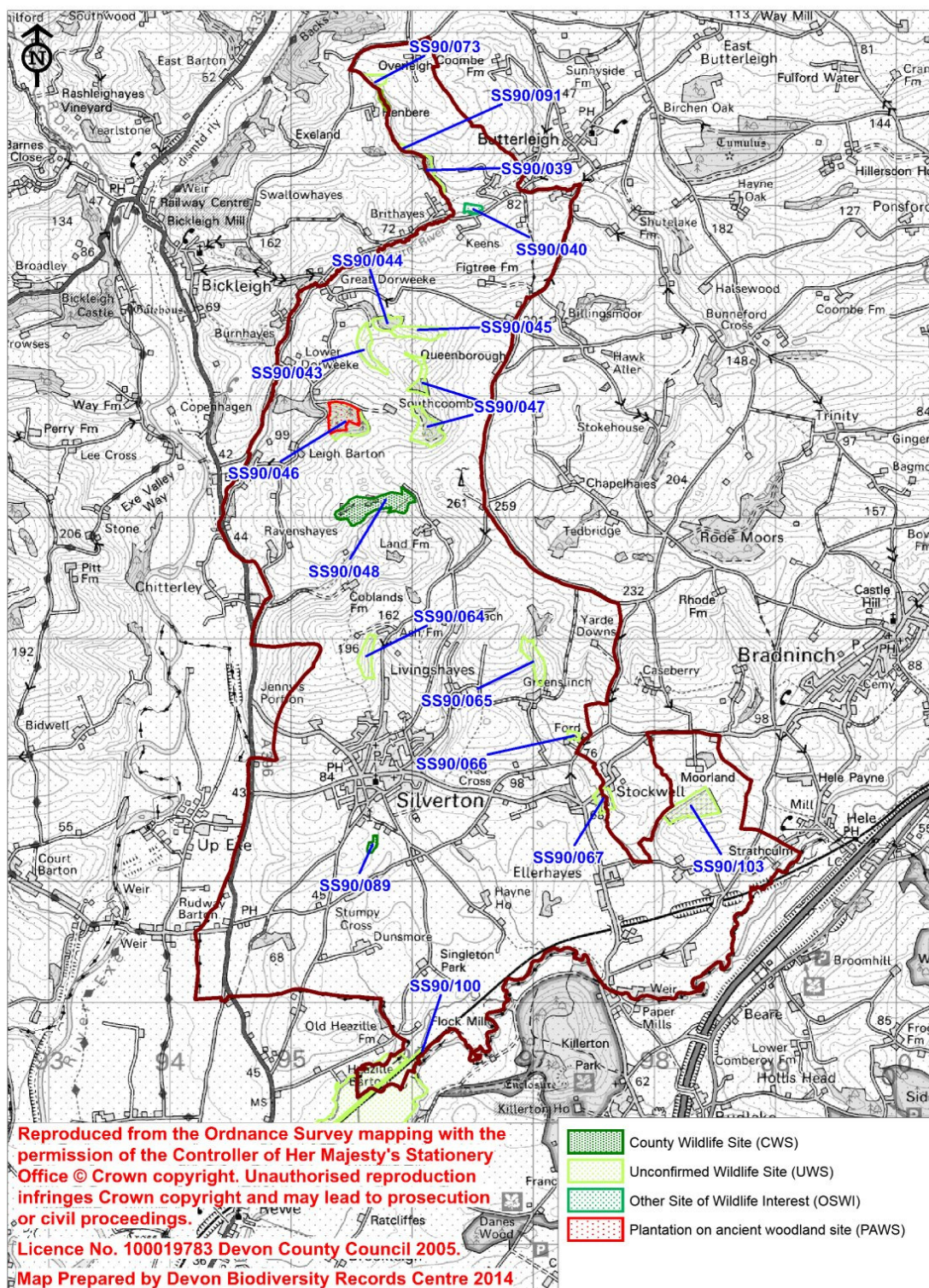
The semi-natural habitat information on your map is derived from a range of sources including aerial photographs, for this reason it is worth you **checking this information** on the ground as there may be patches of semi-natural habitat that have been missed.

You may have people in the Parish who can add information to the map. For example, surveys of road verges or hedges may highlight particular stretches that are very important for wildlife due to their function of linking areas of semi-natural habitats, their structure, age or the animal and plant species they contain.

This data search has been undertaken using data held by DBRC at the time of the enquiry. Please be aware that a lack of species records does not necessarily mean that a species is absent from an area, just that it has not been recorded. Detailed species information and surveys will be required by developers when they are drawing up individual planning proposals. More detailed species information would be available from the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC) on a site specific basis at that time. For more information go to <http://www.dbrc.org.uk/data-search-2/>

Site map for your parish

Non-statutory sites within the parish of Silverton (13/11/2014) Enq no. 7173



**Statutory & non-statutory sites within the Parish of Silverton
(November 2014)**

There are no statutory sites within Silverton parish.

Non-statutory sites within Silverton parish.

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status
SS90/048	Land Fam	SS958052	9	Semi-improved & unimproved neutral grassland, unimproved marshy grassland & samll broadleaved copses	CWS
SS90/089	Symonds Farm Orchard	SS957023	0.7	Traditional orchard	CWS

Other Sites within Silverton parish

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status
SS90/040	Keens	SS965075	0.9	Unimproved marshy grassland	OSWI
SS90/039	Sharland's Copse	SS960080	1.5	Broadleaved woodland	UWS
SS90/043	Southcoombe	SS956064	3.6	Unimproved grassland	UWS
SS90/044	Broadpark Copse	SS958066	2.1	Broadleaved woodland	UWS
SS90/045	Broadpark Copse Field	SS960065	3.8	Unimproved grassland	UWS
SS90/046	Leighpool Copse	SS953058	7.2	Plantation on ancient woodland site	UWS
SS90/047	Claypark Copse	SS960062	7.7	Broadleaved woodland	UWS
SS90/064	Ash Farm	SS956038	3.1	Semi-improved grassland	UWS
SS90/065	Greenslinch	SS970038	3.6	Semi-improved grassland	UWS
SS90/066	Ford	SS973031	0.6	Unimproved grassland	UWS
SS90/067	Stockwell	SS976027	2.4	Unimproved grassland	UWS
SS90/073	Henbeen Woods	SS957086	1.5	Ancient Woodland	UWS
SS90/091	Sharland's Copse	SS959080	0.5	Broadleaved woodland & scrub	UWS

File Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Description	Status
SS90/100	Paddleford Bridge Marsh	SS957002	45.9	Possible floodplain grazing marsh	UWS
SS90/103	Moorland (S)	SS983026	6.8	Orchard	UWS

2.2 Species information

There is a whole range of animal and plant species in Devon that are protected under national and/or international species protection legislation. Designated sites and other areas of semi-natural habitat are particularly rich in protected species but protected species are also often found outside designated sites. There are many other species which have no legal protection and **a best practice approach would be to aim to enhance wildlife generally** as part of a development, not just protected species.

The protected species groups that are particularly relevant to development in Devon are:

Bats - are present across the county and have international protection. They feed on insects so are more likely to be found where there is **semi-natural habitat**. Bats also use linear features such as **hedges** and **streams** as navigation routes to travel to and from feeding areas and summer and winter roost sites. A whole range of **buildings and structures** can be used for breeding roosts and hibernation roosts. Bats are affected indirectly by **lighting associated with new developments** and some will desert roosts and foraging areas when there is light pollution.

Greater Horseshoe Bat Consultation Zones:

Your site **is not** within a Strategic Flyway or Sustenance Zone.

Dormice - are found within areas of Devon, they are particularly associated with woodland, scrub and hedge habitats, especially old or ancient boundaries.

Otters - are present across the whole county, are associated with rivers and streams and have international protection. Otters will cross roads where their passage is blocked by culverts or flooding under bridges. Within a home range an otter may use many resting sites. These include above-ground shelters, such as stands of scrub or areas of rank grass, and underground 'holts' – for example, cavities under tree roots and dry drainage pipes.

Badgers - have national protection. They are found across the county in many habitats, they are often affected by developments. A licence is required if badgers are likely to be disturbed as part of a development.

Amphibians and Reptiles - some amphibians and all reptiles have some protection. They are generally associated with semi-natural habitats and gardens. Hibernation sites are important in the winter months.

Great Crested Newt Consultation Zones:

Your site **is not** in a Great crested newt consultation zone. These are two kilometre buffers around existing and historical (post 1970) great crested newt records. You may need to carry out great crested newt survey if your site is within one of these zones.

For more information please go to:

http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environmentplanning/natural_environment/wildlife.htm.

Invertebrates - rare and protected insects and other invertebrates are generally associated with designated sites and semi-natural habitats.

Flowering plants, fungi, lichens, liverworts, mosses and stoneworts - Many species in these groups are protected but these are generally associated with designated sites and semi-natural habitats so impacts can often be avoided by careful site selection.

Invasive species

Non-native invasive species such as **Himalayan Balsam** (Indian Balsam) may be present and are likely to have a cost implication for developers since they may need to be removed from a site. Removal of invasive species could be carried out as an enhancement for biodiversity either on or off-site.

Development control species* within Silverton parish

Common Name	Scientific Name	UK protection	International protection	Status
a Bat	Chiroptera	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bonn II	
a Long-eared Bat	Plecotus	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	
a Pipistrelle Bat	Pipistrellus	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II	
Adder	Vipera berus	WCA 5 (KIS); NERC 41	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	WCA 1, 9		DBAP; Amber
Brown Long-eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern III, Bonn II	
Eurasian Badger	Meles meles	WCA 6, BA	Bern III	
European Otter	Lutra lutra	WCA 5; NERC 41	EC IIa, IIIa; Bern II	UKBAP (P); DBAP
Grass Snake	Natrix natrix	WCA 5 (KIS); NERC 41	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
Hazel Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa; Bern III	UKBAP (P); DBAP
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros	WCA 5, 6; NERC 41	EC IIa, IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	UKBAP (P)
Serotine	Eptesicus serotinus	WCA 5, 6	EC IVa; Bern II; Bonn II	
Slow-worm	Anguis fragilis	WCA 5 (KIS); NERC 41	Bern III	UKBAP (P)

***Developmental control species**

These are species that are considered most important by local authorities in the planning process.

They include certain species on the NERC Act (2006) Section 41, those that have European protection and those on the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) 1, 5, 5 (KIS), 8 and Japanese Knotweed.

Other legally protected and notable species within Silverton parish

Common Name	Scientific Name	UK protection	International protection	Status
Brown Hairstreak	<i>Thecla betulae</i>	WCA 5 (S); NERC 41		UKBAP (P); Nb
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	WCA 5 (S)	EC Va; Bern III	
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	WCA 5 (S); NERC 41	Bern III	UKBAP (P)
Corky-fruited Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>			DN3
Indian Balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	WCA 9		
Pepper-saxifrage	<i>Silene acaulis</i>			DN1
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>			DBAP
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	DA	Bern III	
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	DA	Bern III	
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	NERC 41		UKBAP (P)

- 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 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	EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats & Species Directive) Annex IIa: Designation of protected areas for animal and plant species listed.
ECIIIa	EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats & Species Directive) Annex IIIa: Species used as criteria for designating Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).
ECIVa	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	EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats & Species Directive) Annex Va: 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.
Nb	Nationally Notable B: known from 100 or fewer 10km squares. Taken from the Invertebrate Site Register.
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.

As well as incidental records and records from consultants, our data search includes data from: the Botanical Society for the British Isles (BSBI); British Dragonfly society; Butterfly Conservation; Cetacean recording network; Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society (only 2001, 2006 records at moment), Devon Mammal Group; Devon Reptile and Amphibian Group; Devon Moth group; Devon Wildlife Trust nature reserves; Environment Agency (fish and invertebrate records); Natural England (bat records); Seasearch and the MNCR database; Seawatch foundation. Please note we do not hold information for the Devon Bat

Group (<http://www.dbg.me.uk/>) or Devon Invertebrate Forum. For more information on the species records we hold. See our website <http://www.dbrc.org.uk/species-datasets/>.

DBRC have provided this report in PDF format and are unable to provide it in GIS or other formats.

3. Key principles to protect wildlife and geology in Neighbourhood Plans- These can be written into Development Policies in your plan

- Avoid both **statutory** and **non-statutory designated** sites
- Avoid non-designated areas which contain large or linked areas of **semi-natural habitat**
- Consider the potential **protected species implications** of sites before finalising plans-it is far better to scope these at the outset to prevent costly delays later
- Where sites contain patches of **semi-natural habitat** make sure these can be **retained and ideally linked** together as part of the intended end land use.
- Ensure there is potential to retain, restore and re-create **habitat linkages such as hedges** as part of developments
- Look for **enhancement** opportunities to **create, expand, buffer and link semi-natural habitats** on-site
- Consider the potential for **creating new semi-natural habitat off-site** if opportunities on-site are limited, this is known as 'biodiversity offsetting'. It may be possible to pool contributions from several developments.

An ecological consultant can help to interpret data from DBRC and give recommendations for your neighbourhood plan. You can find an Ecological consultant here: www.cieem.net/members-directory/search .

The information within this report is provided for use within the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan, The information contained within can be used for this sole purpose and should not be copied, republished or passed on to third parties without DBRC's consent