

# Wildlife Information for your Neighbourhood Plan

## Charmouth Parish

### Provided by *Dorset Environmental Records Centre*

The role of **Dorset Environmental Records Centre** is to collect and collate data on Dorset's wildlife and geology. DERC was established over 40 years ago and now holds over 3 million records with data on over 2300 sites.

The information in this report is provided for use in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. It should not be copied, republished or passed on to any third party without consent from DERC. We have provided links to further information but you may find it useful to work with an environmental consultant to help you interpret the data provided and give recommendations for your plan.

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### Species Information

The information provided is based upon data held at DERC, particularly records from the past 10-15 years. Tables 1 & 2 list species recorded in your area which are considered to be most important for the local authorities in the planning process. In many cases (and particularly if a species or habitat is listed in Sect 41 of the NERC Act) a protected species will be a material consideration in the planning process. In Dorset this is addressed through the Dorset Biodiversity Protocol which secures the necessary ecological mitigation and enhancements associated with development as part of the planning application process. Identifying these species as part of a Neighbourhood Plan may help protect the wildlife of your Parish as well as informing future development plans.

#### Table 1 Protected Species

This list includes species listed in the Habitats Regulations (1994) (which includes those now covered by Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010); Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006); Wildlife & Countryside Act (Schedules 1, 5, 8); and the Protection of Badgers Act (1992).

#### Mammals

Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>
Long-eared Bat species	<i>Plecotus</i>
Pipistrelle Bat species	<i>Pipistrellus</i>
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>

#### Birds

Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>

Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
<b>Moths, butterflies and beetles</b>	
Chalk Carpet	<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria</i>
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>
Dot Moth	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>
Garden Tiger	<i>Arctia caja</i>
Jersey Tiger	<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i>
Lackey	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>
Large Wainscot	<i>Rhizedra lutosa</i>
Minor Shoulder-knot	<i>Brachylomia viminalis</i>
Mullein Wave	<i>Scopula marginepunctata</i>
Powdered Quaker	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>
White Spot	<i>Hadena albimacula</i>
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Cliff Tiger Beetle	<i>Cylindera germanica</i>
Violet Oil-beetle	<i>Meloe violaceus</i>
<b>Plants</b>	
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>

## Table 2 Invasive Non-native Species

This list includes Invasive Non-native Species and is based on a list produced by DEFRA (2010). The spread of these species can be detrimental to UK wildlife or create problems with watercourses or machinery. Some non-native species, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam for example, may need to be removed from a site and this can be costly. Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) lists animals and plants where release into the wild is illegal.

### Plants

Giant Hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>
Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Himalayan Balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>
Wall Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>

### Mammals

American Mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>
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**Table 3 Other species which may be of particular interest for your parish/area**

This is not a complete list but the following species have been recorded locally. They may be under threat (for example on the GB Red List), rare (nationally or locally), or a Dorset Notable, DN (indicative of good habitat).

	Species	Threatened	Rare	Dorset Notable
<b>Plants</b>				
Marsh Helleborine	<i>Epipactis palustris</i>	Y	Y	Y
Southern Marsh-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>		Y	Y
Green-winged Orchid	<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Y		Y
Quaking-grass	<i>Briza media</i>	Y		Y
Narrow-leaved Everlasting-Pea	<i>Lathyrus sylvestris</i>		Y	Y
Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>			Y
Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>			Y
Ivy Broomrape	<i>Orobanche hederace</i>			Y
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>			Y
Lesser Centaury	<i>Centaureum pulchellum</i>			Y
Yellow-wort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>			Y
<b>Invertebrates</b>				
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>			Y
Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>			Y
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>			Y
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>			Y

### Data Sources

The data provided may come from a variety of sources including the work of our own ecologist, ecological consultants' reports, wildlife recording groups and individuals.

The species records in this report came from:

The Botanical Society of the British Isles, Butterfly Conservation, Dorset Bird Club, Dorset Dragonfly Group, Dorset Flora Group, Dorset Mammal Group, National Trust, and Wessex Water.

Note: Owing to the dynamic nature of information relating to wildlife and the environment DERC disclaims, to the extent permitted by law, any responsibility for the accuracy or comprehensiveness of the data provided, and accepts no liability for any indirect, consequential, or incidental damages or losses arising from use of the data. DERC makes every effort to provide accurate and up-to-date information. However, many of the records held by DERC originate from voluntary or unchecked sources. DERC try to ensure that all records have been verified and validated before being released.



## Important Habitats

Some unimproved and semi-improved habitats have been listed as Priority Habitat because they are at risk, because the UK has international obligations to protect them or because they are important for particular species. These are also considered through the Dorset Biodiversity Protocol when sites are submitted for planning permission. Identifying these areas as part of your Neighbourhood Plan will help you protect the wildlife of your parish as well as informing future development.

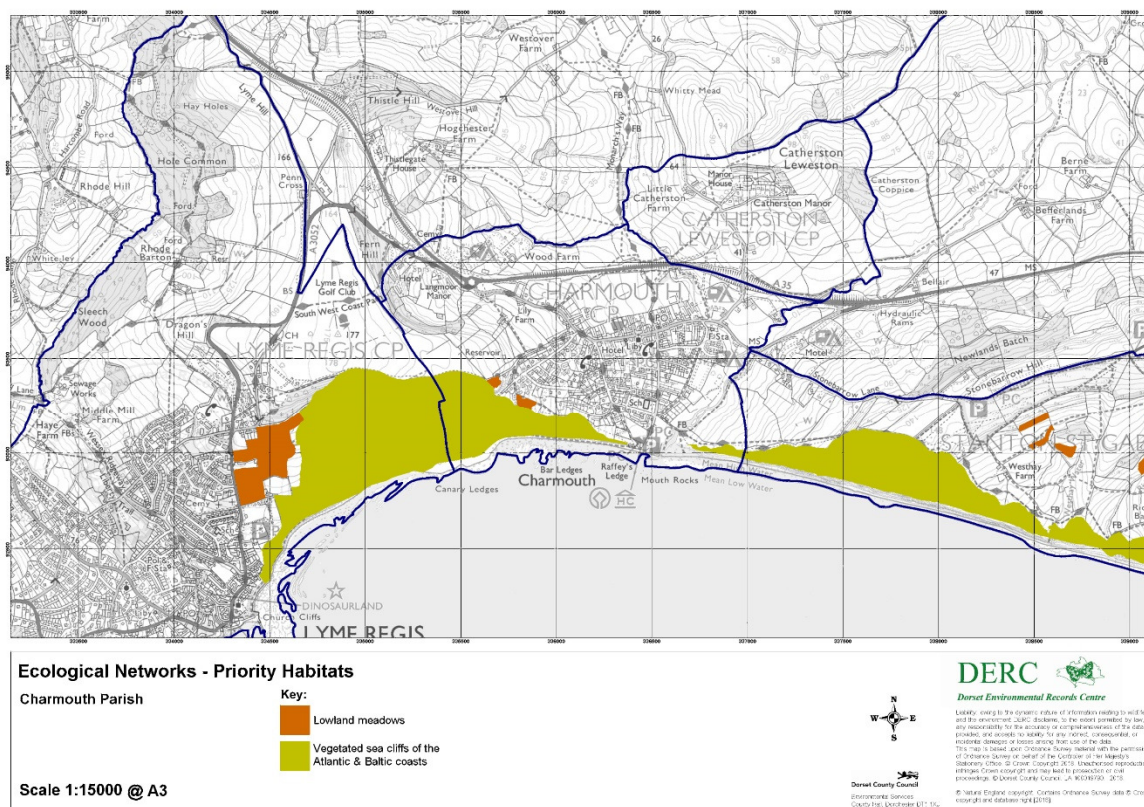
These Priority Habitats have been mapped in your area:

- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
- Lowland Meadows

You can find out more about these habitats on the JNCC website:

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5718>

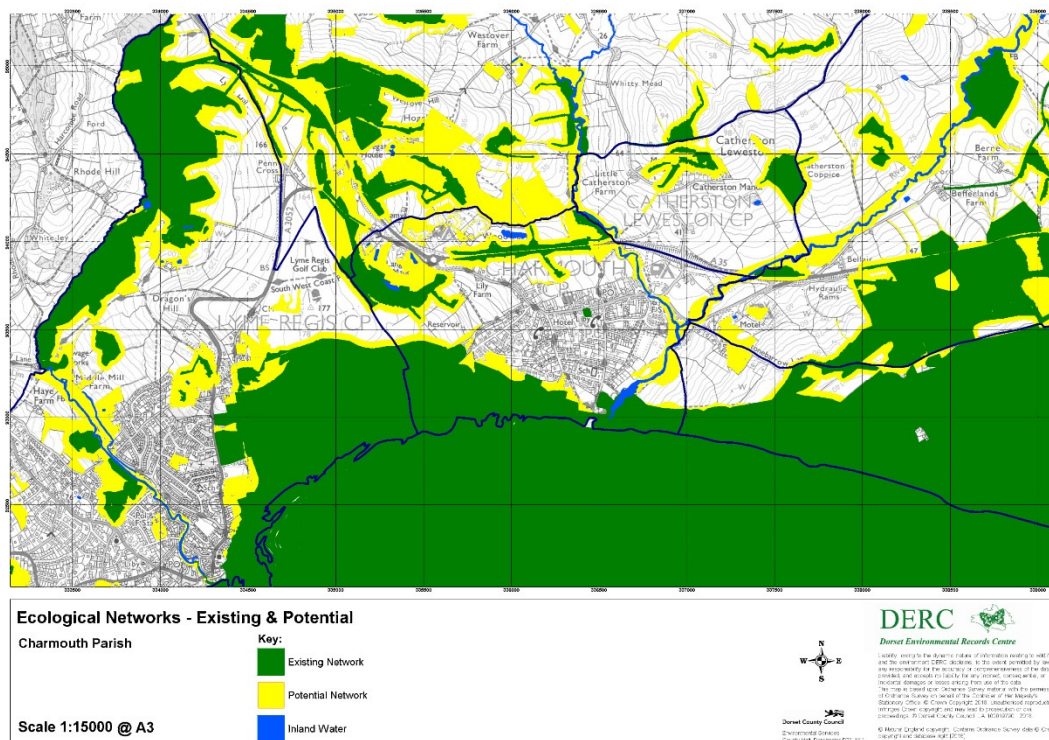
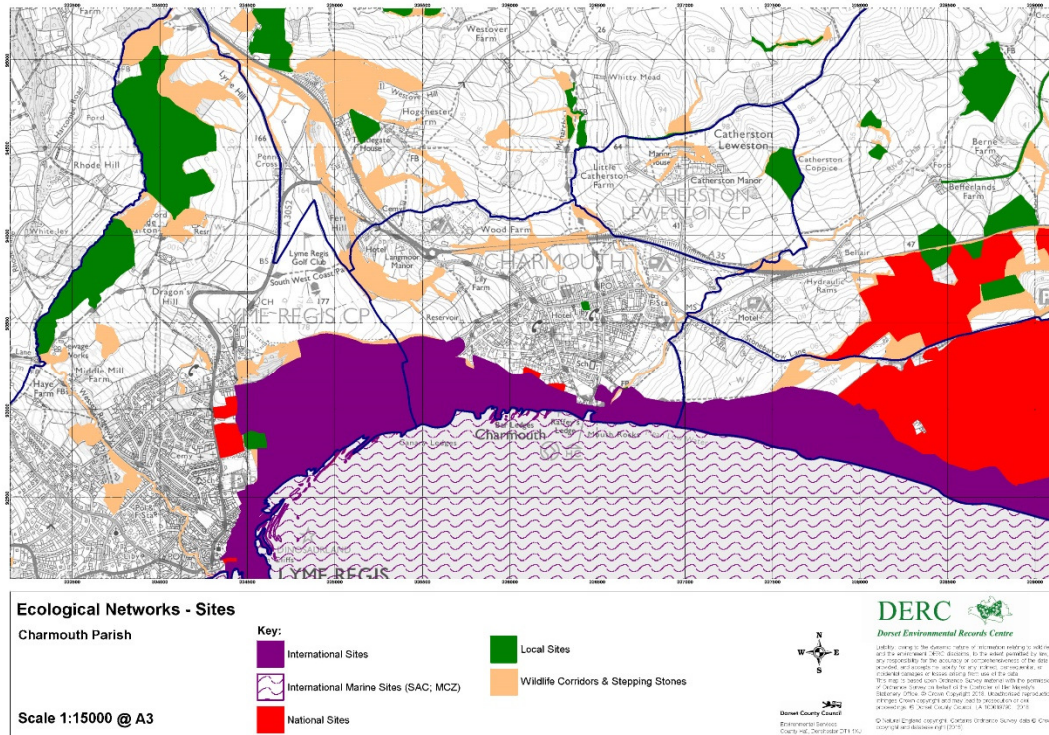
**Proposed development areas should avoid designated sites and semi-natural habitats** as these tend to be richer in species than other areas.





## The Ecological Network Maps

Ecological network mapping is an important tool to help us plan ahead with wildlife in mind. The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) states that this network should be protected and where possible enhanced. In Dorset we have been working with the Dorset Wildlife Trust and the Dorset Local Nature Partnership to produce the first county-wide network maps.



The first map shows how the Dorset Ecological Network is made up from a series of layers covering International Sites, National Sites, Local Sites and Wildlife Corridors & Stepping Stones. Together these create a functioning ecological network.

**International Sites** may include Ramsar (Wetlands of international importance), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protected Areas (SPA) or the World Heritage Site.

The International Sites in your area:

- Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
- Lyme Bay and Torbay Candidate SAC (marine)
- East Devon and Dorset World Heritage Site

**National Sites** may include Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserves (NNR).

The National Sites in your area:

- Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- West Dorset Coast SSSI

**Local Sites** include existing areas of known biodiversity value. These may include Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and other areas managed for conservation (eg Dorset Wildlife Trust Reserves & Butterfly Conservation reserves), Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI), veteran tree sites and many churchyards. Many local sites do not have open access or public rights of way. Their inclusion here is linked to the movement of wildlife, not people.

The Local sites in your area:

- Charmouth Local Geological Site
- Charmouth, St Andrew Churchyard

The sites are linked by **Wildlife Corridors and Stepping Stones**. These are usually either areas of semi-natural habitat or buffers around existing sites. The Wildlife Corridors form links between sites or through urban areas and out to the wider countryside. Railways, trailways, green lanes, rivers and even wide hedgerows can provide important linear features for the movement of species. Stepping Stones maybe more isolated, like a small copse in an arable landscape or an area of habitat restoration, but they can provide important refuges for wildlife.

The second map simplifies the existing network (shown in green) and looks for potential to extend or expand the network. The areas shown in yellow highlights areas which may be suitable for habitat restoration, often adjacent to the existing network.

Further information on Dorset's ecological network, including the guidance document, can be found on the Dorset LNP website: [www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/ecological\\_networks.html](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/ecological_networks.html)

### **Using local knowledge to add to the map**

Although most of the sites will have been surveyed to identify their wildlife value, the work to map the ecological network has been a desk top exercise. If there are important features not shown on the map, for example a green lane, a good road verge or a school wildlife area, this is your opportunity to make amendments to the map by contacting DERC.

If your parish map does not show many local sites or good links between them then this is something to consider within your neighbourhood plan. **Look for opportunities to extend or enhance the existing network.**

**Proposed development areas should avoid designated sites and semi-natural habitats** as these tend to be richer in species than other areas

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### **What can you do to make your area better for wildlife?**

Sympathetic development can provide the housing and business needed whilst enhancing the area for wildlife and protecting it for the future but the first step is to know what you already have. We have listed the most important species, habitat and sites based on the information in the DERC database but you may be able to add to that data.

Ideas to help establish wildlife as a key part of your neighbourhood plan:

- Table 1 lists protected species but a best practice approach would aim to enhance all wildlife, not just protected species
- Protected species surveys can help identify possible issues – it is better to scope these at an early stage before designating sites for development
- Avoid development on statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites
- Protect hedgerows and streams which can provide important corridors for wildlife
- Look for opportunities to enhance, extend or buffer the existing ecological network
- You may find it useful to work with an environmental consultant to help you interpret the data provided and give recommendations for your plan. There may be a small additional cost if the consultant requires more detailed information from DERC on sites, species or habitats.

If the development and consultation phases of your neighbourhood plan produce more information on wildlife, please do encourage people to share this with DERC. If you commission further surveys for sites, habitats or species, please provide a copy of the report to DERC.





## Further advice and information

There are a lot of very good websites which will provide more information about the species and sites listed in your report. To help you get started here are a few key organisations:

The **Environment Agency** is responsible for monitoring air pollution, minimising flooding and managing coastal change as well as maintaining and improving rivers quality. Their website *What's in Your Backyard* is currently changing but you can see more information about your local area, including flood management and coastal erosion:

<http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/default.aspx>

**Natural England** can provide more information on nationally and internationally designated sites including SSSI, NNR, SAC, Ramsar and SPA. This can be accessed through the Magic website:

<http://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

You must consult Natural England if the plan is likely to affect one of these sites.

Natural England can also advise on protected species, veteran trees and ancient woodland:

<https://www.gov.uk/topic/planning-development/protected-sites-species>

An **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB) is designated for its landscape qualities. You can find out more about those in Dorset at:

<http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/> or <http://www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk/>

**Dorset Wildlife Trust** is responsible for DWT Reserves. DWT also manage the SNCI Project, the Living Churchyard Project and the Conservation Verges: <http://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/>

**Dorset's Important Geological Sites Group** has information on individual Local Geological Sites:

<http://www.dorsetrigs.org.uk/>

The **Dorset Mammal Group** has information on individual species:

<http://www.dorsetmammalgroup.org.uk/>

**Dorset Bat Group** reports on bats found in the county:

<http://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/dorset-bat-group.html>

**Amphibian and Reptile Conservation** is a national wildlife charity committed to conserving amphibians and reptiles. They have a useful website for more information on these species and their habitats: <http://www.arc-trust.org/>

The **British Trust for Ornithology** has a useful *Learn about birds* section:

<http://www.bto.org/>

The **Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland** has species accounts for some of the more exciting species: <http://bsbi.org/species-accounts>

The most diverse group is the invertebrates. There are specific websites for some groups, often with species accounts, habitat requirement and information on how to encourage more diversity, for example:

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/>

<http://www.dorsetbutterflies.com/>

<http://www.dorsetmothgroup.info/>

<http://www.dorsetdragonflies.org.uk/>

## Further advice and information

For guidance on the control of **invasive non-native species**:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-spread-of-harmful-invasive-and-non-native-plants>

For more information on UK BAP Priority Habitats & Species

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5705>

## Planning for Biodiversity

The **Natural Environment Team** (Dorset County Council) website provides information and guidance on wildlife and planning in Dorset and an explanation of the Dorset Biodiversity Protocol and links to Advice Notes and guidance sheets:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/biodiversity>

## How to find a consultant

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) maintain a list of professional ecological consultants. You can find out more here:

<http://www.cieem.net/members-directory>