

# **Abbotskerswell Neighbourhood Plan**

## **Written Evidence Base**

### **ABBOTSKERSWELL BIODIVERSITY PLAN March 2007**

Website <http://www.devon.gov.uk/text/abbotskerswellpba.pdf>

#### **Steering Group's Views November 2015:**

- 1) Although it probably needs updating, as there has been little change in the Parish since 2007, it is probably still a fairly accurate reflection of the Parish's biodiversity, therefore, it remains relevant.
- 2) This Plan should be used as a reference point for any proposals for development to ensure there is no adverse impact on the current biodiversity of the area.
- 3) If the NP proposes any environmental or wild life developments, these should take account of the recommendations in this Plan
- 4) On the negative side, it might also act as a deterrent to the residents supporting any Plan produced, as many of the suggestions for improvements to our biodiversity raised in 2007 either have not been addressed or were started and then petered out. The Parish Council also undertook to have the 2007 Plan regularly on its agenda and communicate progress or otherwise on the issues.
- 5) Furthermore, recent events occurring when challenging the TDC Local Plan, have brought into question how much weight is carried by important biodiversity matters when national development targets are set. This could present another deterrent to residents support.
- 6) Biodiversity is a key aspect of a sustainable community – it isn't all about human needs and wants!

#### **Some key points quoted from the 2007 Plan:-**

##### ***Four County Wildlife Sites lie within the Parish – these are:-***

Ford Fields County Wildlife Site

Ladywell Wood County Wildlife Site

Dornafield Cross (E) County Wildlife Site

Conitor Copse County Wildlife Site

In addition a Field near Court Grange – is a Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS)

***Additional wildlife interest may be discovered if surveying is carried out on the eight potential County Wildlife Sites which were identified prior to the survey - these are:-***

Woodlane Wood

Grange Copse

Court Grange Meadow

Abbotskerswell (W)

The Priory Walled garden

Stoneycombe Quarry - Whiddon Copse and the Old Quarry

Western side Whiddon Cross Fields

Kingskerswell Road Fields

Plus several other sites identified in the Plan on the various rushy fields, semi-improved grassland and small copses which were identified during this survey

***Rare species including the greater horseshoe bat, lesser horseshoe bat, brown hare, ciril bunting and skylark have been recorded in the Abbotskerswell Parish.***

***The wildlife value of the churchyard in the village and the local playing field could be enhanced if management was less intensive, as the grassland in both locations is rather species poor.***

***The Parish has many species-rich hedges***

***Some Ideas for Local Action...***

1 Further survey:

2 Influence the management of Public Open Space:

3 Build relationships with local landowners:

4 Adopt a road verge:

5 Wildlife gardening:

6 Join local conservation organisations: