

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (1)

You have told us that...

- you want to **preserve** Exbourne's rural character, tranquillity, and wildlife;
- you want to **improve** the preservation of green spaces, biodiversity, and the impact of street lighting; and
- to **achieve your vision for Exbourne** you want the Neighbourhood Plan to preserve green spaces and the heart of the village and encourage low carbon building.

What gives Exbourne its tranquil, rural character?



- Exbourne has agriculture at its heart. Its landscape and views across the fields towards the hills and to Dartmoor give us a feeling of space and tranquillity throughout the parish. The emerging Joint Local Plan has strategic policies to protect this.
- The parish is classified within two nationally designated Landscape Character Areas - '**The Culm**' and '**Dartmoor**'. This is because areas of culm grassland exist in Exbourne and the river and stream corridors connect the parish to Dartmoor.
- The parish's landscape is influenced by historic human activity reflected in the remnants of medieval hedging, strip farming, crop marks and barrows.

Exbourne's Wildlife

- Twenty three species of threatened and legally-protected plants and animals make Exbourne their home – these are all species recorded by parishioners in our recent survey.

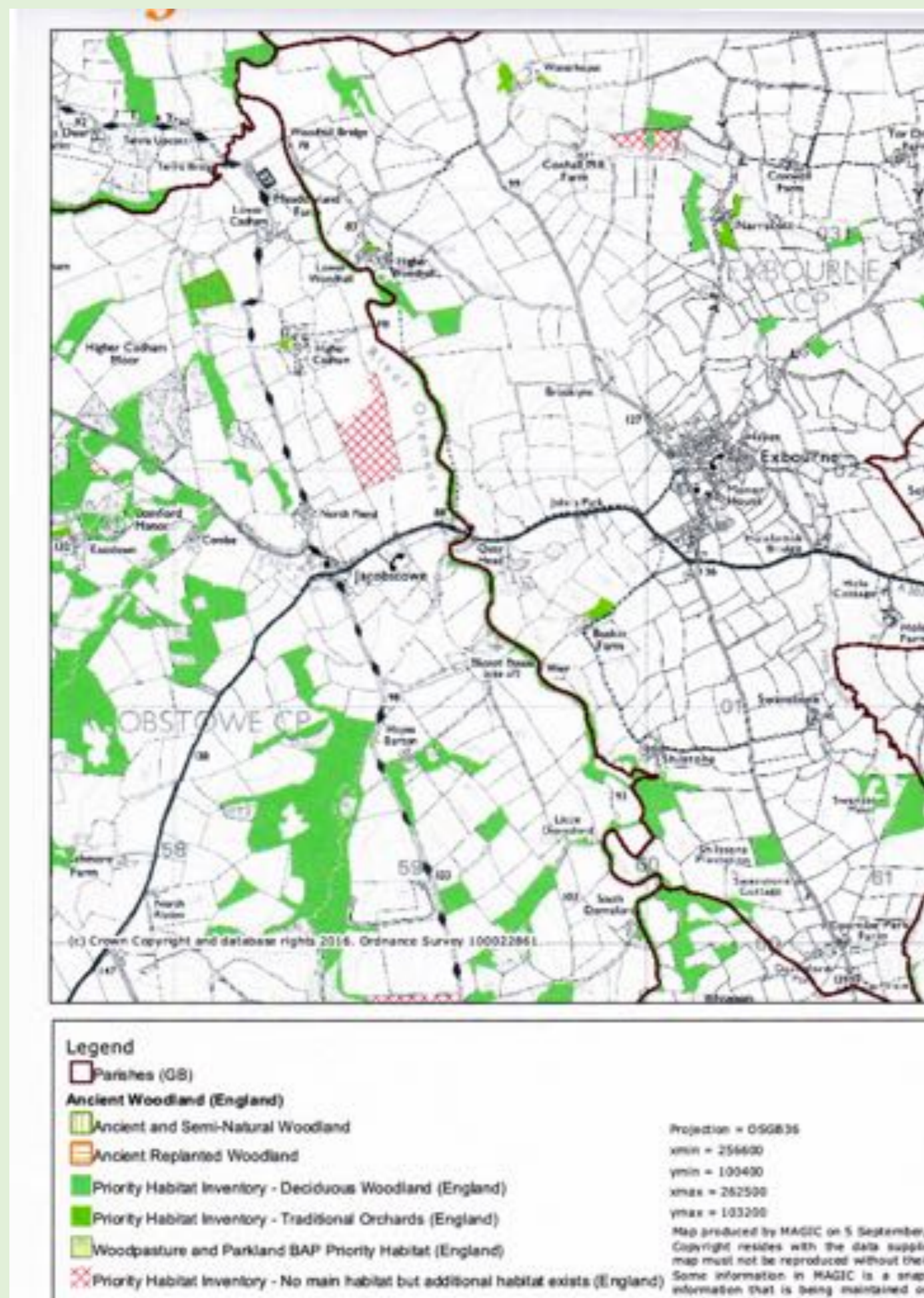


NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (2)

- The habitats and food sources of Exbourne's wildlife need conserving to support these priority species. **This means having suitable wildlife corridors, open spaces and food sources in any new development whilst maintaining what is currently in the parish.**



- Five legally-protected habitats are found in Exbourne parish:
 - Mixed deciduous woodlands;
 - Traditional orchards such as those behind the Red Lion and at Coombe House;
 - Hedgerows in fields and along lanes;
 - The Culm – rushy-grassland near the Okement River and Hole Brook and
 - Neutral grassland - like in the open spaces in the centre of the village.



Flooding

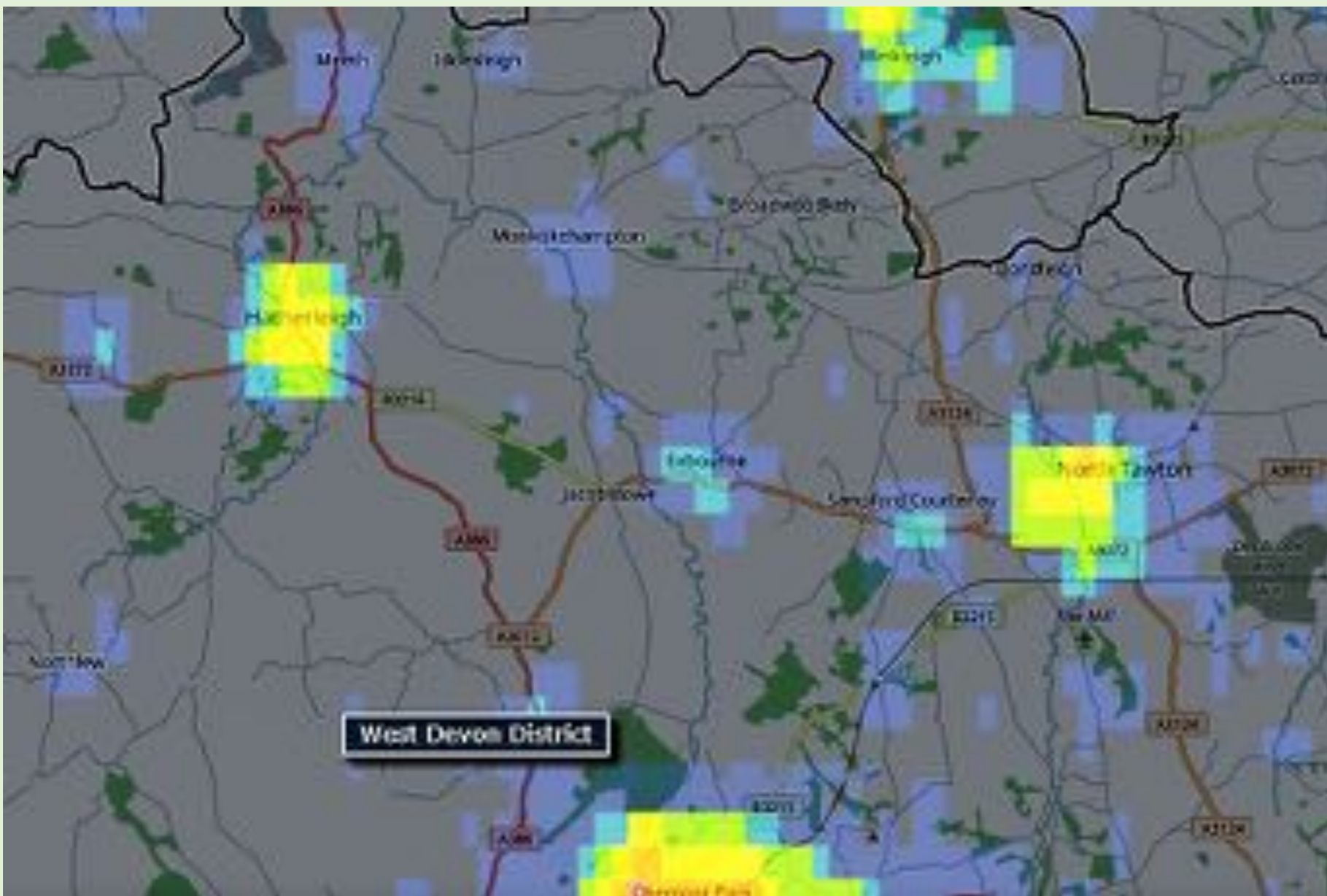
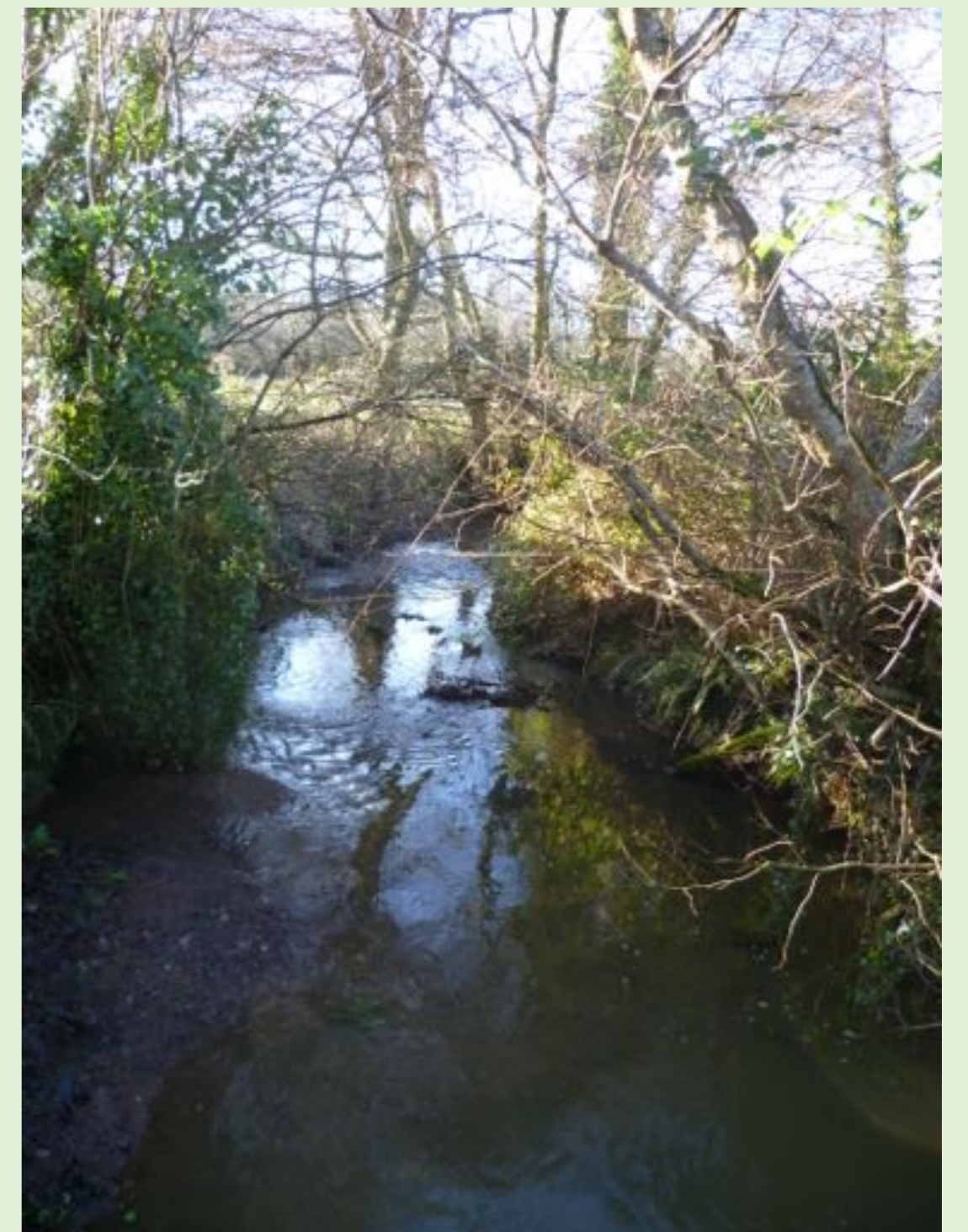
- Flood Zones 2 and 3 exist in the parish and sections of the flood plain associated with the Okement River and Hole Brook put parts of the parish at risk of flood.
- The steep hillsides upon which the village is built allows surface water to run down into the rivers, but this often flows freely along hard surfaces, like roads and pathways, before it gets to the river and brook.
- Trees and plants in the green infrastructure, our protected parish habitats and Exbourne's agricultural landscape mop up water.
- Flood risk is required to be managed for any new development, taking account of flood zones and surface water run-off.**



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (3)

Water quality, air and light pollution

- The Environment Agency specifies that Exbourne's **water quality** is at moderate ecological status;
- the Hole Brook is failing with regard to its macrophytes and phytobenthos. The (Middle) River Okement in is failing with regard to its levels of phosphate, copper and zinc.
- **The Environment Agency target for these Exbourne water-bodies is to meet Good Ecological Status by 2027. Any development needs to assist in this aim.**



- Exbourne village generates a limited level of **light pollution** and outer regions of the parish experience some of the darkest skies in the country.
 - Development causes light pollution because street and domestic lighting levels are increased.
- **Air quality** in Exbourne is currently good. Topography, tree cover, traffic movement and the existence of open spaces all help maintain good air quality and through flow.

We'd like to know....

(1) Which landscape features do you value most and how can we ensure new development is appropriate to Exbourne's landscape character in terms of design, quality and visual appearance?

(2) How can we help increase biodiversity?

(3) Where have you experienced flooding or poor surface water management in Exbourne?

(4) Do you support reducing the levels of light pollution in Exbourne? If so, how?

PLACE A STICKY DOT NEXT TO YOUR ANSWER ON THE SHEET ON THE TABLE OR A POST-IT WITH YOUR COMMENTS...

