

Hawkesbury Parish Biodiversity Action Plan



Introduction

Biodiversity is the whole variety of life on Earth, all species of plants and animals, their genetic variation and the habitats and ecosystems they are part of. It includes not just the rare or the threatened but also the wildlife that is familiar to us in the places where we live and work. Biodiversity is important for its own sake, along with the many benefits we derive from the natural environment – products like food, fibre, wood, and water; services like pollination, nutrient cycling, soil formation, water purification, flood defence and opportunities for reflection and recreation – all are critical for our wellbeing and survival.

All public authorities, including South Gloucestershire Council, parish and town councils have a legal duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity while carrying out their activities (section 40 Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006).

Biodiversity Audit

A major step to knowing what you can do for local wildlife is to know what you have already got. This document will help you with 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.

Designated sites for nature conservation

Internationally important wildlife sites (i.e Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protected Areas (SPAs)):

Nationally important wildlife sites (i.e Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Nature Reserve): Part of the parish is within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

- Upton Combe SSSI, units 1 and 2 - broadleaf woodland, in 'unfavourable recovering' condition (private ownership)
- Hawkesbury Meadow SSSI - favourable condition (private ownership)
- Lower Woods SSSI, unit 17 - favourable (Inglestone Common - South Gloucestershire Council)
- Lower Woods SSSI, unit 15 - grassland, unfavourable recovering (Inglestone Common - South Gloucestershire Council)





- Lower Woods SSSI, unit 16 - unfavourable recovering (Inglestone Common and rides - South Gloucestershire Council)
- Lower Woods SSSI, unit 18 - favourable (Inglestone Old shop pond - South Gloucestershire Council)
- Lower Woods SSSI, unit 20 - (Lodge meadows in favourable condition - Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust)
- Lower Woods SSSI, unit 19 – (rides in favourable condition - Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust)
- Lower Woods SSSI, unit 23 – (Littley and woods north of Little Avon river in unfavourable recovering condition Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust)
- Lower Woods SSSI, unit 24 – (Lance and Spoil in unfavourable recovering condition - Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust)

Locally important wildlife sites (i.e Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) :

- Little Avon river west of Wetmoor
- Little Avon river south of Wetmoor
- Loandra fields and Sturt Brake
- Lower Woods SSSI and Wetmoor complex including Inglestone Common
- Yarley Meadows
- Hawkesbury meadow SSSI and Hawkesbury common
- Field South of Splatt Barn Wood
- Hawkesbury Knoll
- Field NE of Hawkesbury
- Broad Hill
- Birch Hill, Chalkley and Walk Woods
- Upton Combe SSSI and Hannel Bottom
- Swangrove

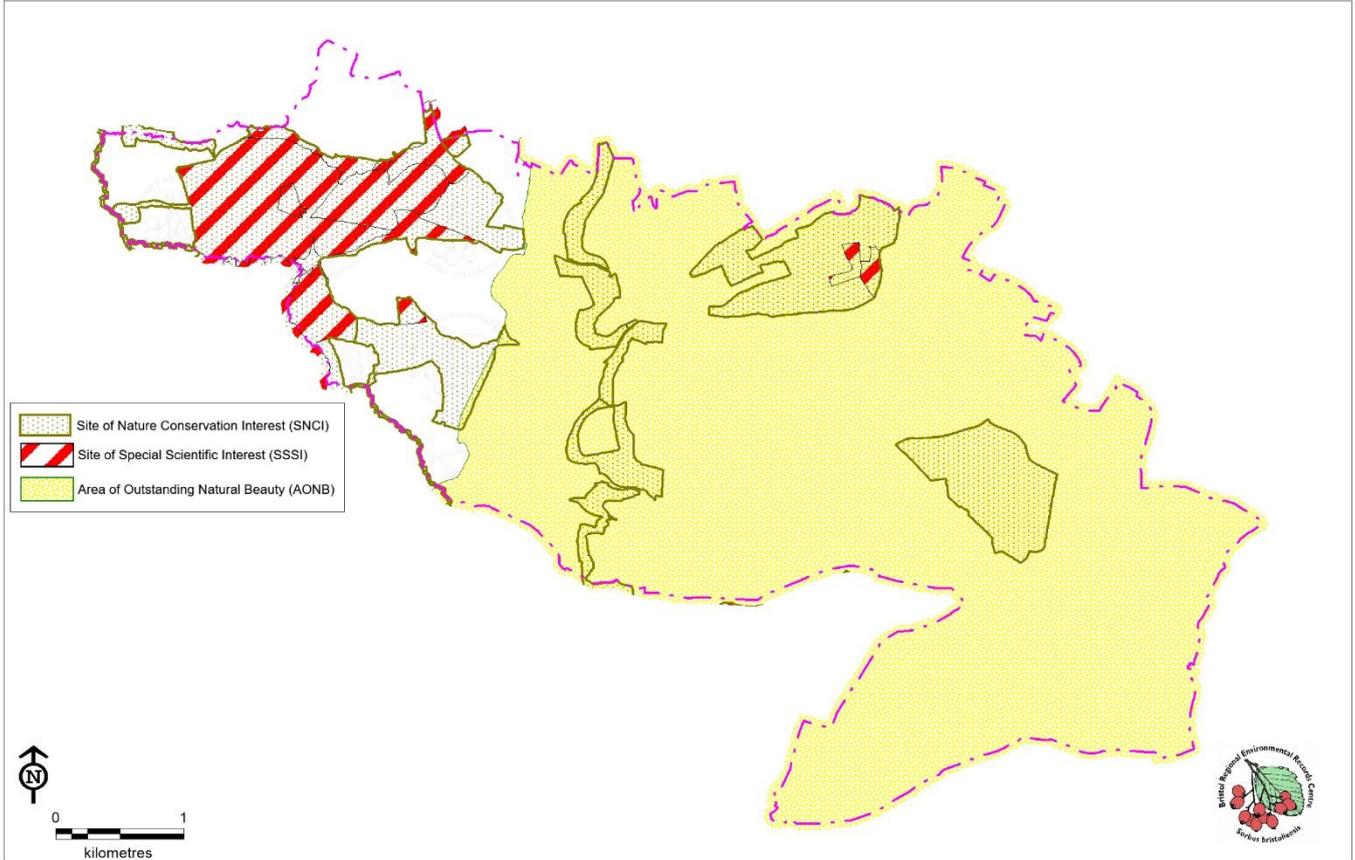
Please see map and/or contact Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC) <http://www.brerc.org.uk/index.htm> for further information.





Hawkesbury - Designated Sites

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Other sites

Other sites to consider for enhancing biodiversity include road verges and allotments.

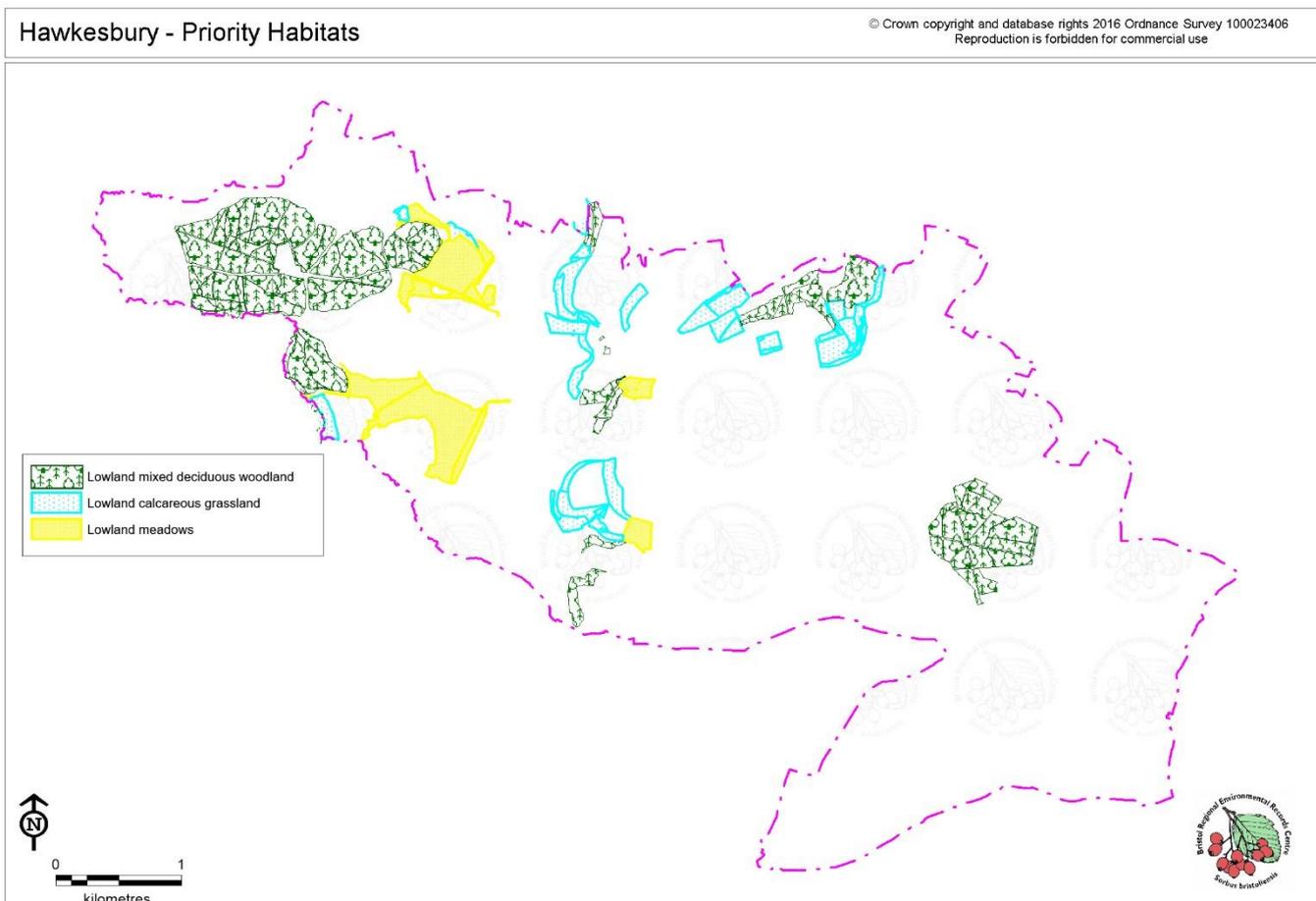




Habitats of Principle Importance (Section 41 NERC Act 2006) - the most important habitats for wildlife and a focus for conservation action

The following priority habitats have been recorded in the parish. Please see priority habitat map for further information. Please note that not all priority habitat has been mapped.

- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Lowland Meadows
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland





Species of Principle Importance (Section 41 NERC Act 2006) – the most important species for the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

The following priority species have been recorded in the parish. This list was compiled by BRERC (2016). European protected species are not included.

Adder	Dusky Thorn	Lackey	Shaded Broad-bar
August Thorn	Feathered Gothic	Lapwing	Shoulder-striped
			Wainscot
Beaded Chestnut	Figure of Eight	Latticed Heath	Skylark
Blood-vein	Ghost Moth	Lesser Redpoll	Small Blue
Brindled Beauty	Grasshopper	Lesser Spotted	Small Emerald
	Warbler	Woodpecker	
Brown Hare	Grass Rivulet	Linnet	Small Heath
Brown-spot Pinion	Grass Snake	Marsh Fritillary	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary
			Small Phoenix
Buff Ermine	Grayling	Marsh Tit	Small Square-spot
Bullfinch	Green-brindled Crescent	Minor Shoulder-knot	
	Grey Dagger	Oak Hook-tip	Song Thrush
Centre-barred Sallow			
Cinnabar	Grey Partridge	Pale Eggar	Spotted Flycatcher
Common Toad	Grizzled Skipper	Powdered Quaker	Starling
Corn Bunting	Harvest Mouse	Pretty Chalk Carpet	Tassel stonewort
Cuckoo	Hawfinch	Reed Bunting	Turtle Dove
Currant Shoot Borer	Hedgehog	Rosy Rustic	Wall
Dingy Skipper	Herring Gull	Rustic	White Admiral
Dunnock	House Sparrow	Sallow (moth)	White Ermine
Dusky Brocade	Knot Grass (moth)	September Thorn	White-letter
			Hairstreak
White-spotted Sable Moth	Willow Tit	Yellowhammer	Yellow Wagtail

Further information on sites, habitats and species <http://www.brerc.org.uk/i-maps/index.html> are available from BRERC. National priority habitat inventories and designations are also available to view online at MAGIC <http://www.magic.gov.uk/>





Biodiversity Action

How local conservation projects can contribute... taken from DEFRA's, *A simple guide to Biodiversity 2020 and progress update* (July 2013).

Biodiversity 2020 deliberately avoids setting specific targets and actions for local areas because Government believes that local people and organisations are best placed to decide how to implement the strategy in the most appropriate way for their area or situation. However, local projects are particularly likely to be making a key contribution to the strategy if they involve:

1. Improving the quality of existing habitats so they are able to better support biodiversity;
 - Investigate opportunities to work with partners on key sites. Where site condition of a key parish site is unknown consider commissioning a survey (with landowner permission) from a knowledgeable resident, student, local conservation group or professional with management recommendations.
2. Creating new areas of priority habitat;
 - Consider creating species rich grassland and increased tree cover including fruit trees or a possible community orchard on amenity land.
3. Identifying and managing ways for habitats to be linked together to create new networks for wildlife;
 - Use ecological network and opportunity maps to identify areas for enhancement.
 - Investigate possible links such as gapping up a key hedgerow between woods.
4. Managing biodiversity at the scale of whole natural systems and landscapes;
 - Consider linking to local and national habitat projects such as B-Lines, which has an aspiration for a wildflower route through your parish. Avon Wildlife Trust has the Cotswolds as a focus area. And there is the possibility of a woodland/ hedgerow link between Tortworth, Lower Woods, Midger and Westonbirt.





5. Engaging people in new ways that increases the number of people who understand and value nature;
- Through Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust at Lower Woods, Inglestone and Hawkesbury Common project, the Primary School and the Cotswold Wardens.

This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is just the beginning and should be read in conjunction with the updated **South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan** (2016 - 2026) which provides the strategic overview. It is by no means exhaustive and as a community, you may have more ideas for action that you would like to take forward in coming years. It is intended that this BAP is shared, updated and monitored by the local authority, by parishes, the Biodiversity Action Group (BAG) and any other interested parties.

