

Siston 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)): None

Nationally important wildlife sites (i.e Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Nature Reserve): None

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

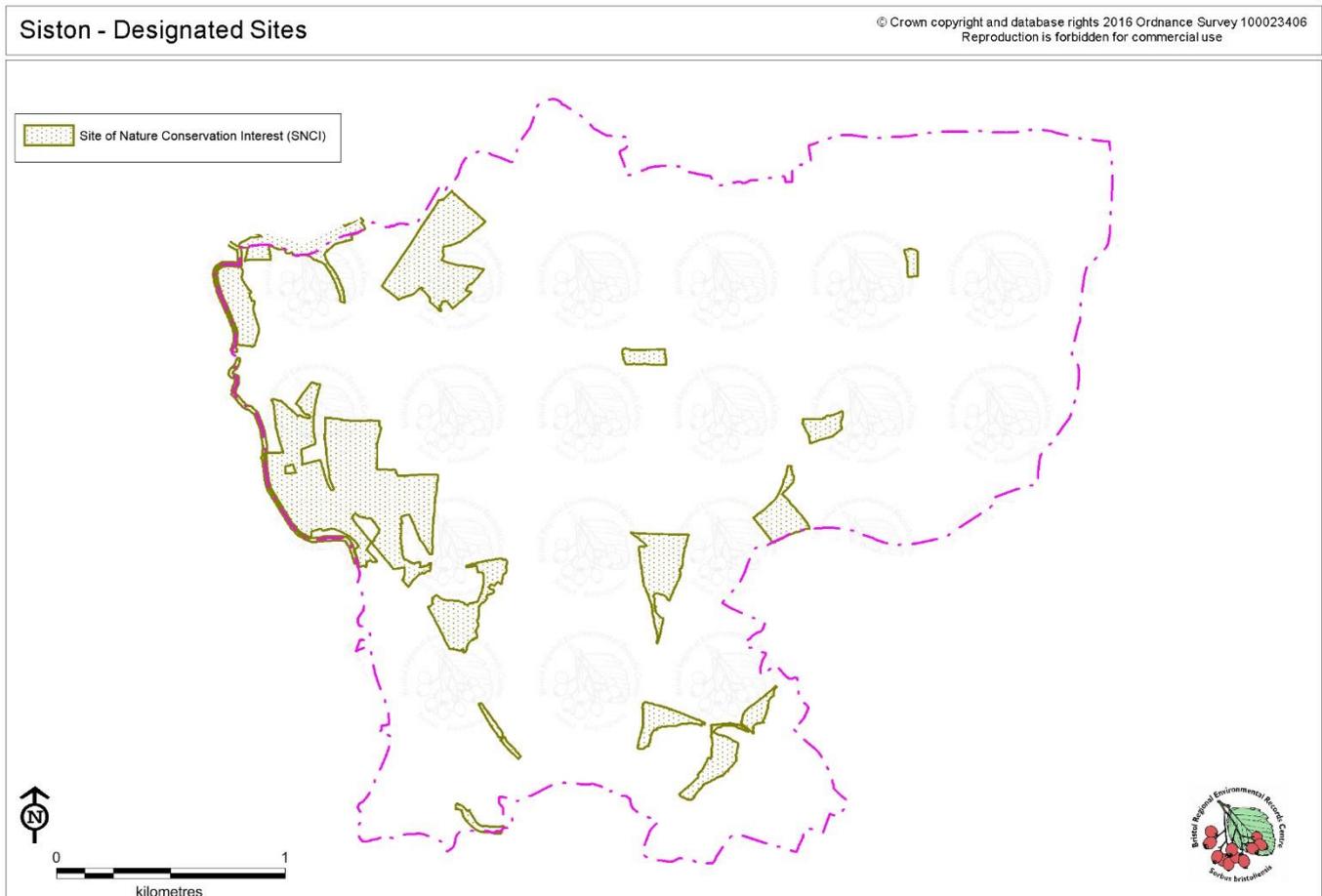
- Bridge Yate common including Chesley Hill (owned by South Gloucestershire Council)
- Warmley Forest Park part of (owned by South Gloucestershire Council)
- The Warmley earth embankment opposite the clock tower (owned by South Gloucestershire Council)
- A section of the dramway near St Barnabus church (owned by South Gloucestershire Council)





- Siston common (south) (owned by South Gloucestershire Council)
- Siston common (north) including the lost field (owned by South Gloucestershire Council)
- Southern part of Rodway Common (by railway path)
- Webbs Heath Common (privately owned but managed by South Gloucestershire Council)
- Primrose Wood (private)
- Tuts Wood (part of Overs Court, Forestry Commission)
- Badger Wood and field (woodland and neutral grassland) (private)
- Momeads field (private)
- Mangotsfield Golf course Marsh (private)
- Withybed (part of Overs Court, Forestry Commission)

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





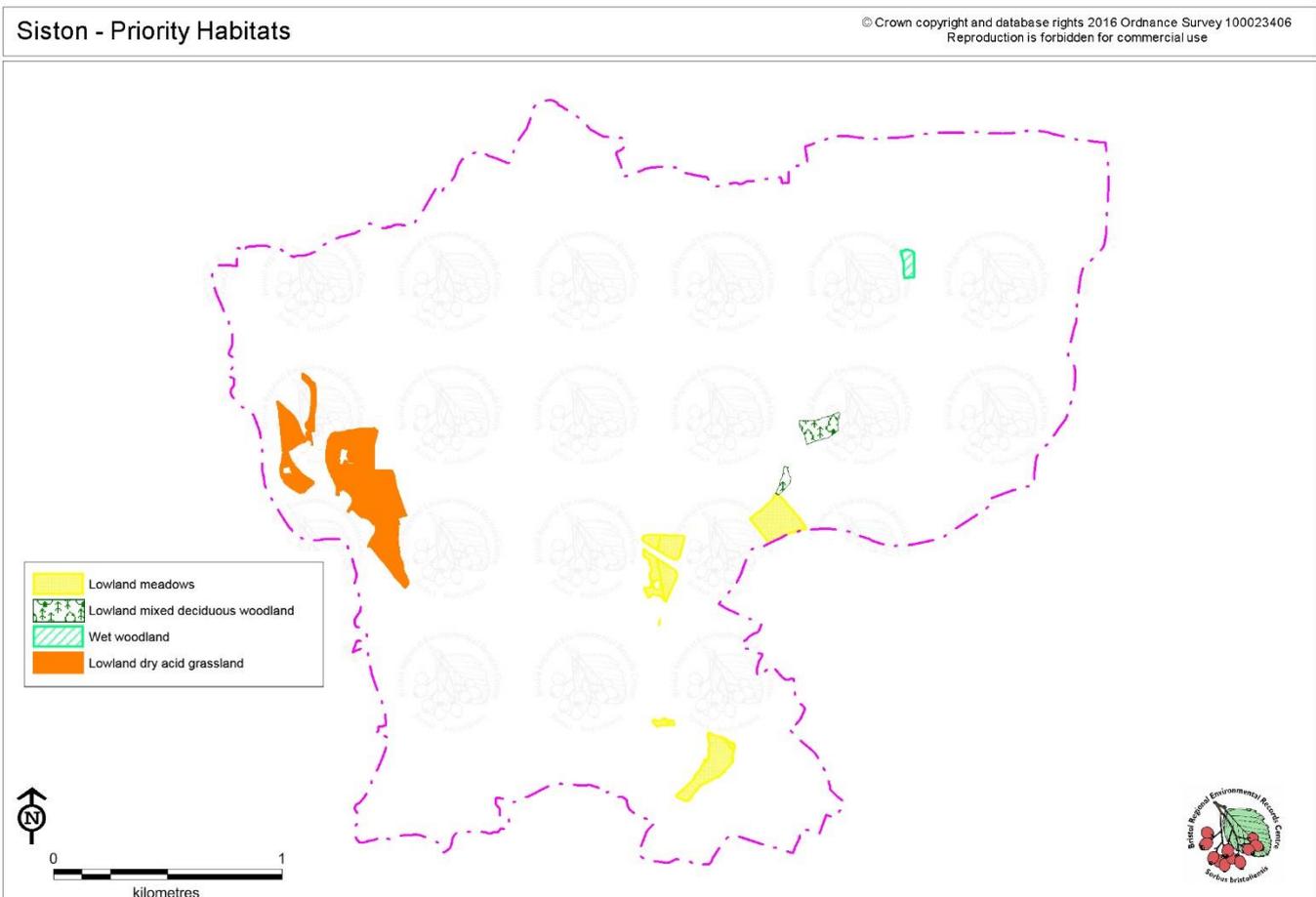
Other sites

Other sites that could be enhanced for biodiversity include; road verges, churchyard, school grounds.

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 Meadows
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Wet Woodland
- Lowland Dry Acid 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.

Brown Hare	Dunnock	Lesser Redpoll	Small Heath
Buff Ermine	Garden Tiger	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Small Square-spot
Bullfinch	Grasshopper Warbler	Linnet	Song Thrush
Cinnabar	Grizzled Skipper	Reed Bunting	Spotted Flycatcher
Common Lizard	Hedgehog	Shaded Broad-bar	Starling
Common Toad	Herring Gull	Shepherd's-needle	Tree Pipit
Cuckoo	House Sparrow	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	Yellowhammer
Dingy Skipper	Knot Grass (moth)	Skylark	Yellow Wagtail
Dot Moth	Lapwing	Slow-worm	

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;
 - Focus on Siston Common and the linking commons.





2. Creating new areas of priority habitat;

- Identify areas for species rich wildflower grassland, deciduous woodland and traditional orchards.

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 hedgerow links and wildflower corridors, possibly using the cycle path and dramway links.

4. Managing biodiversity at the scale of whole natural systems and landscapes;

- Consider linking to local and national initiatives such as the B-Lines project which has a specific aspiration for a wildflower route through your parish and Avon Wildlife Trust's MyWildCity (Siston is in their East fringe).

5. Engaging people in new ways that increases the number of people who understand and value nature;

- Conduct events / recording/ volunteering opportunities e.g. Warmley Forest Park, Overs Court, Warmley Park School.

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.

