

Sodbury

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): Barnhill (geological) SSSI and part of the parish is within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

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

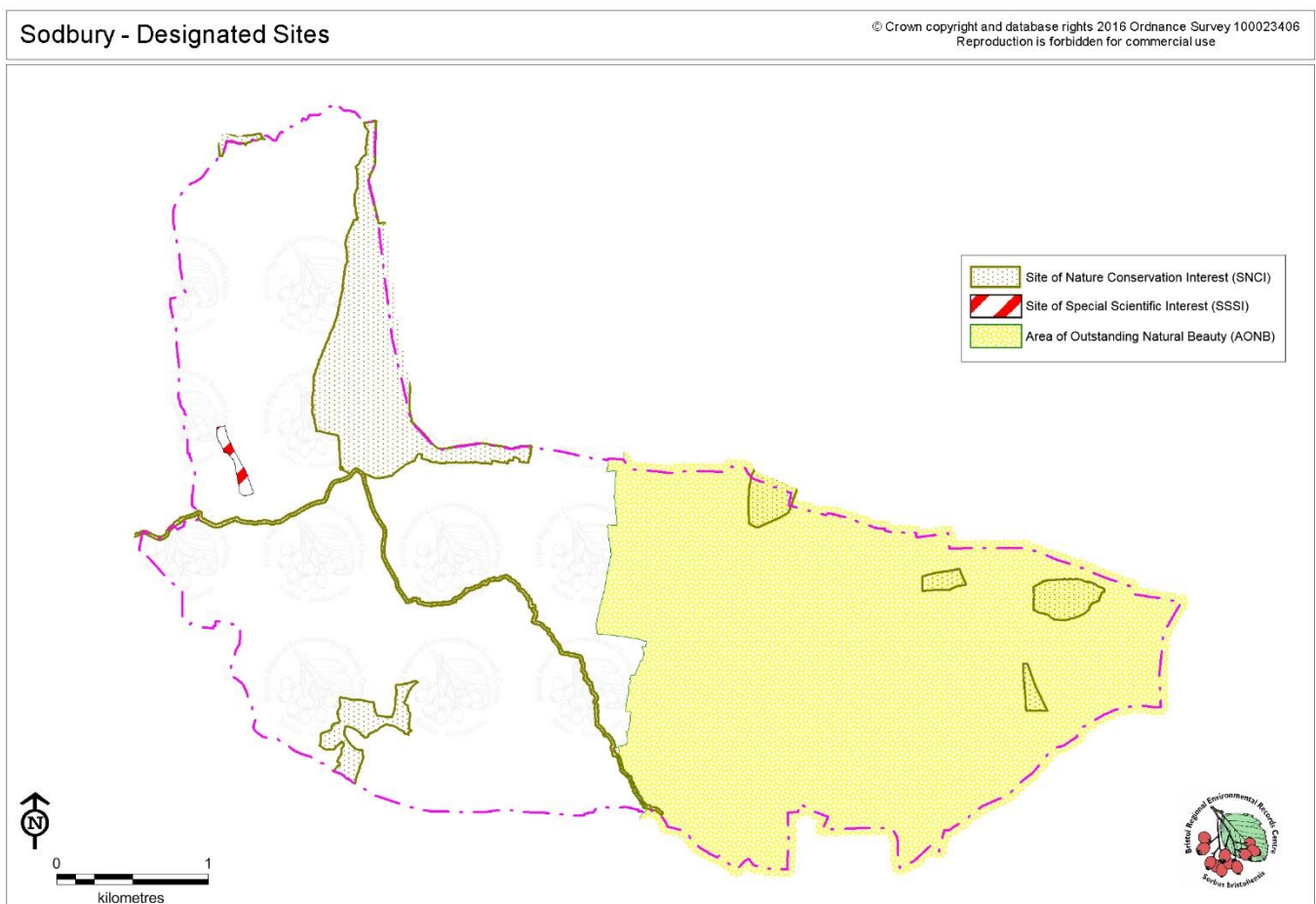
- River Frome a (part of) Through the whole parish the River Frome and 6m either side of its centre are designated – various ownership
- Sodbury Common (Common Conservators Trust)
- Kingrove Common
- Little Sodbury Hill fort - calcareous grassland (private ownership)





- Cripplehole wood - ancient woodland (private ownership)
- Lygrove Wood - ancient woodland (private ownership)
- Airshaft east of old Sodbury - calcareous grassland (private ownership)

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 are important for wildlife or could be enhanced for biodiversity include; Ridge Wood Local Nature Reserve (proposed), Roadside Nature Reserve along Cotswold Road, the churchyards and cemetery, school grounds 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 Meadows
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Sodbury - Priority Habitats

© Crown copyright and database rights 2016 Ordnance Survey 100023406
Reproduction is forbidden for commercial use





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.

Blood-vein	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	Latticed Heath	Small Heath
Brown Hare	Dunnock	Lesser Redpoll	Song Thrush
Bullfinch	Grasshopper Warbler	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Spotted Flycatcher
Cinnabar	Grey Partridge	Linnet	Starling
Common Lizard	Hawfinch	Marsh Tit	Tree Pipit
Common Toad	Hedgehog	Reed Bunting	Water Vole
Corn Bunting	Herring Gull	Shepherd's-needle	Yellowhammer
Cuckoo	House Sparrow	Skylark	Yellow Wagtail
Curlew	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;
 - Investigate improving the grassland quality on the commons especially Sodbury Common.
2. Creating new areas of priority habitat;
 - Identify opportunities for new 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 a) Sodbury to Kingrove grassland link – St John’s Way and Smarts Green
b) linking woodlands possibly with new or gapped up hedgerows - Horton link to Lower Woods, Dodington and Old Sodbury
4. Managing biodiversity at the scale of whole natural systems and landscapes;
 - Consider linking to local and national projects such as the B-Lines project which has an aspiration for a wildflower route through the parish.
5. Engaging people in new ways that increases the number of people who understand and value nature;
 - Conduct events / recording/ volunteering opportunities e.g. Sodbury in Bloom, school(s), Cotswold Wardens etc.

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.

