

Thornbury

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):

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

- Kington Grove, woodland
- Park Mill Covert, woodland
- Rockhampton Rhyne, Duckhole
- Longman's Grove, Upper Morton, woodland and flowing water
- Grove's Gully and Camp Hill, Upper Morton, woodland, neutral grassland and flowing water
- Crossways Wood, off Morton Way
- Cleeve Wood, ancient wood south of The Hacket





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 important for biodiversity or could be enhanced for biodiversity include; churchyard (St Mary's, school grounds (Sheiling School), allotments (Doggs and Filnore), Filnore woods, Turnberries community garden, community orchard/ river, Poulterbrook Environmental Area, Medieval Fishponds, Streamside Walk, Sourmore Covert (woodland) Conygre Covert (woodland), Cassey Grove (woodland), Duckhole Gout, Railway path alongside Midland Way, Leisure Centre field by Filnore Woods, Milbury Heath plantation, the woodland by composting site (old tree nursery), Vilner Lane, Coppins Well, Cider Orchards and Morton Mill.





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 Grassland
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland
- Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland
- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Thornbury - Priority Habitats

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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	Eel	Lapwing	Small Emerald
Brown Hare	Garden Dart	Latticed Heath	Small Heath
Buff Ermine	Grass Snake	Lesser Redpoll	Song Thrush
Bullfinch	Grey Partridge	Linnet	Spotted Flycatcher
Cinnabar	Harvest Mouse	Marsh Tit	Starling
Common Toad	Hawfinch	Mouse Moth	Tree Sparrow
Cuckoo	Hedgehog	Oak Hook-tip	Yellowhammer
Curlew	Herring Gull	Reed Bunting	Yellow Wagtail
Dunnock	House Sparrow	Skylark	
Dusky Thorn	Knot Grass (moth)	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;
 - If existing quality is unknown consider commissioning a survey with management suggestions.
 - Maintain trees with blossom.





2. Creating new areas of priority habitat;

- Investigate increasing tree cover on amenity land (via Thornbury Tree Warden), within hedges, street trees, etc to increase woodland, woodpasture, parkland and 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 whether there are key linking hedgerow that could be improved or gapped up and also any key elements of the river corridor.

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.

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

- Consider putting on events / recording/ volunteering opportunities.... through schools, In Bloom, Friends of Filnore, allotment holders, Sustainable Thornbury 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.

