

Winterbourne 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 (LNR)): Winterbourne Cutting geological SSSI and Huckford Quarry LNR

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

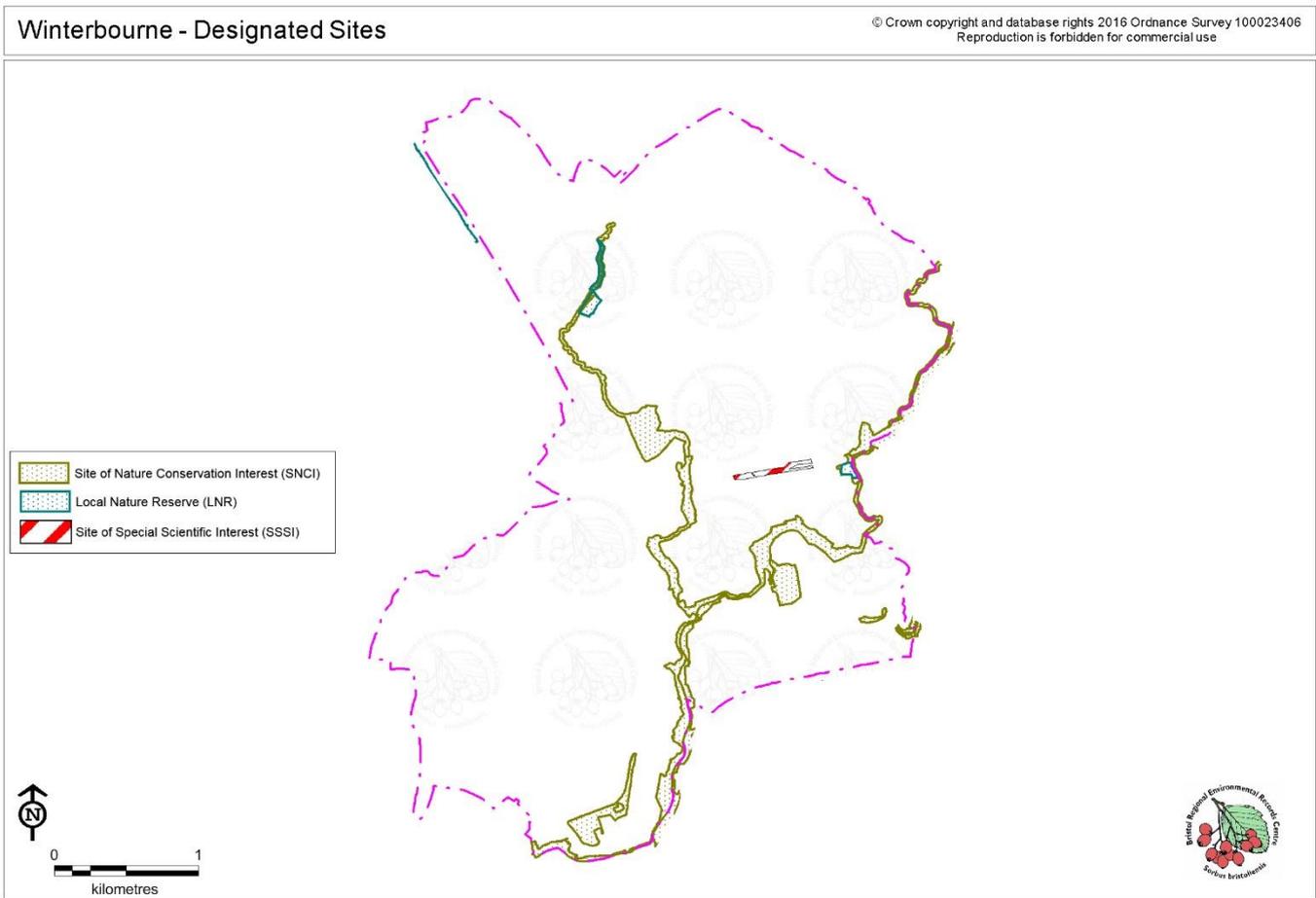
- Monks Pool and Bradley Brook (South Gloucestershire Council owned, leased to parish)
- Bradley Brook (part of)
- River Frome (part of)
- River Frome and Oldbury Court estate (some South Gloucestershire Council, some parish managed, some private)
- Fields south of Rockwell Wood





- Huckford Quarry Local Nature Reserve (South Gloucestershire Council owned)
- Bury Hill Camp
- Bury Hill Farm Field
- Cuckoo Lane (South Gloucestershire Council owned)
- Frome valley
- Frenchay Common

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





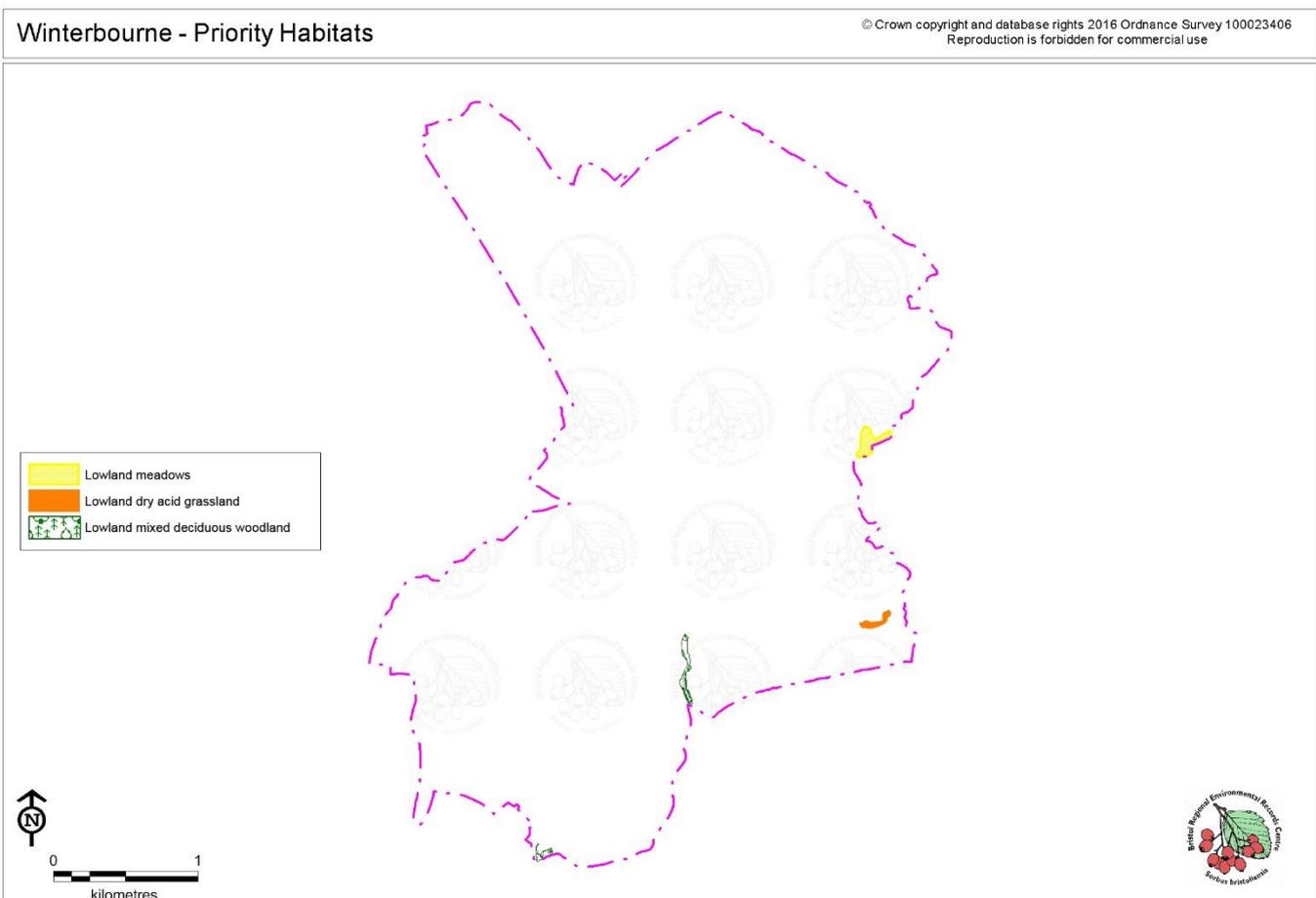
Other sites

Other sites important for wildlife or could be enhanced for biodiversity include; road verges, St Michael's churchyard, school grounds including the ponds, allotments and Newleaze woodlands.

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 Dry Acid Grassland
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland





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	Grass Snake	Reed Bunting	Turtle Dove
Bullfinch	Hedgehog	Skylark	Water Vole
Cinnabar	Herring Gull	Slow-worm	White-clawed Crayfish
Common Toad	House Sparrow	Small Heath	Yellowhammer
Cuckoo	Juniper	Song Thrush	Yellow Wagtail
Curlew	Lapwing	Spotted Flycatcher	
Dunnock	Lesser Redpoll	Starling	
Eel	Linnet	Tree Pipit	
Grasshopper	Marsh Tit	Tree Sparrow	
Warbler			

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;
 - Ensure the sites mentioned are in good condition and if condition is unknown commission a simple survey (with landowner permission) with management suggestions.





2. Creating new areas of priority habitat;

- Increase tree cover through new street trees, woodland, hedgerows, orchard, trees on South Gloucestershire Council amenity land, new trees for schools and trees in private gardens.

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 the river corridor.

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

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

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

- Conduct events / recording/ volunteering opportunities as part of the Friends of Monks Pool and Bradley Brook, local schools and the Winerbourne Medieval Barn.

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.

