

Bradley Stoke 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 (LNR)): Three Brooks Local Nature Reserve

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

- Webbs Wood and Bradley Stoke Lake (South Gloucestershire Council owned Three Brooks LNR) - ancient woodland, neutral grassland, standing water and stream
- Stoke Brook, tributary of Frome (South Gloucestershire Council owned Three Brooks LNR) - 6m either side from centre of stream plus larger area in Sherbourne Brake, streamside and woodland.
- Savages Wood (South Gloucestershire Council owned Three Brooks LNR) - ancient woodland and damp woodland.





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

Bradley Stoke - Designated Sites

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Other sites

The following sites could be considered for enhancement - road verges including M4 and M5, school grounds, private gardens, business premises, the old hedgerow corridors, Bradley Brook, Hortham Brook and Patchway Brook.

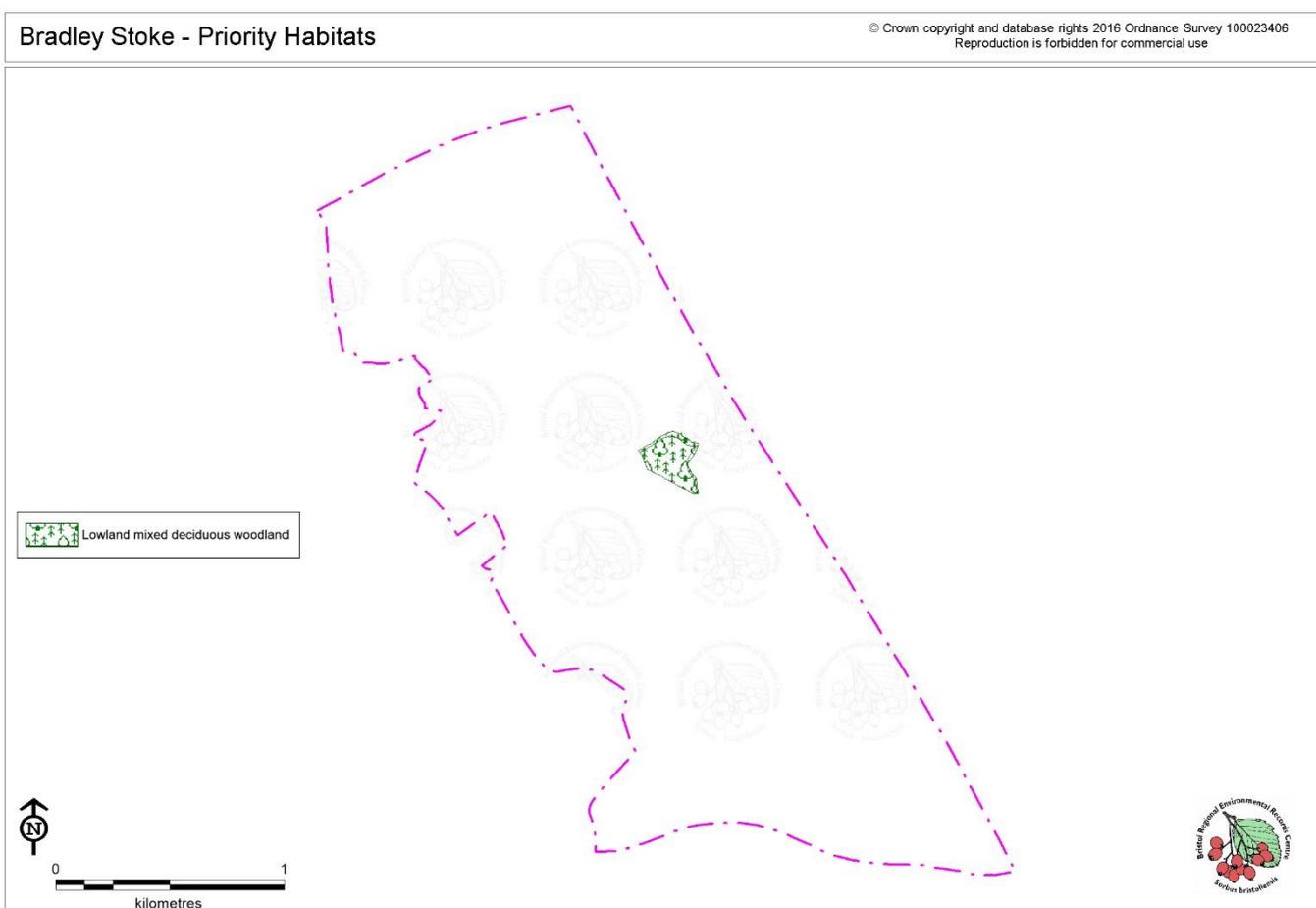




Habitats of Principle Importance (Section 41 NERC Act 2006) - the most important habitats for wildlife and a focus for conservation action

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





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.

Barred Green Colonel	Garden Tiger	Lapwing	Rustic
Blood-vein	Grasshopper Warbler	Latticed Heath	Sallow (moth)
Buff Ermine	Grass Snake	Lesser Redpoll	Shaded Broad-bar
Bullfinch	Grey Dagger	Linnet	Skylark
Cinnabar	Hedgehog	Mottled Rustic	Slow-worm
Common Toad	Herring Gull	Phoenix Fly	Small Heath
Dot Moth	House Sparrow	Polecat	Song Thrush
Dunnock	Lackey	Reed Bunting	Spotted Flycatcher
Starling	Streak	Water Vole	Wood 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 Three Brooks Local Nature Reserve remains well managed with properly implemented management plan. Check river quality – lobby where necessary.





2. Creating new areas of priority habitat;

- Should include new wildflower grassland, increase tree cover and a new community orchard(s).

3. Identifying and managing ways for habitats to be linked together to create new networks for wildlife;

- Consider opportunities for new hedgerows and more wildlife sensitive road verge management.
- Use ecological network and opportunity maps to identify areas for enhancement.

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 (north fringe), Bristol Avon Rivers Trust's Bradley Brook project 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;

- Identify a possible parish wildlife champion. Celebrate ongoing work at Bradley Stoke schools, (especially via eco-schools and forest schools), the In Bloom group, and the conservation group and youth organisations.

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.

