

# Cold Ashton 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): The parish is within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

- Saint Catherine's Valley (SSSI) unit 1 - unfavourable recovering
- Saint Catherine's Valley (SSSI) unit 2 - unfavourable recovering
- Monkswood valley (SSSI) unit 1 - favourable
- Monkswood valley (SSSI) unit 2 - unfavourable recovering
- Monkswood valley (SSSI) unit 4 - unfavourable recovering





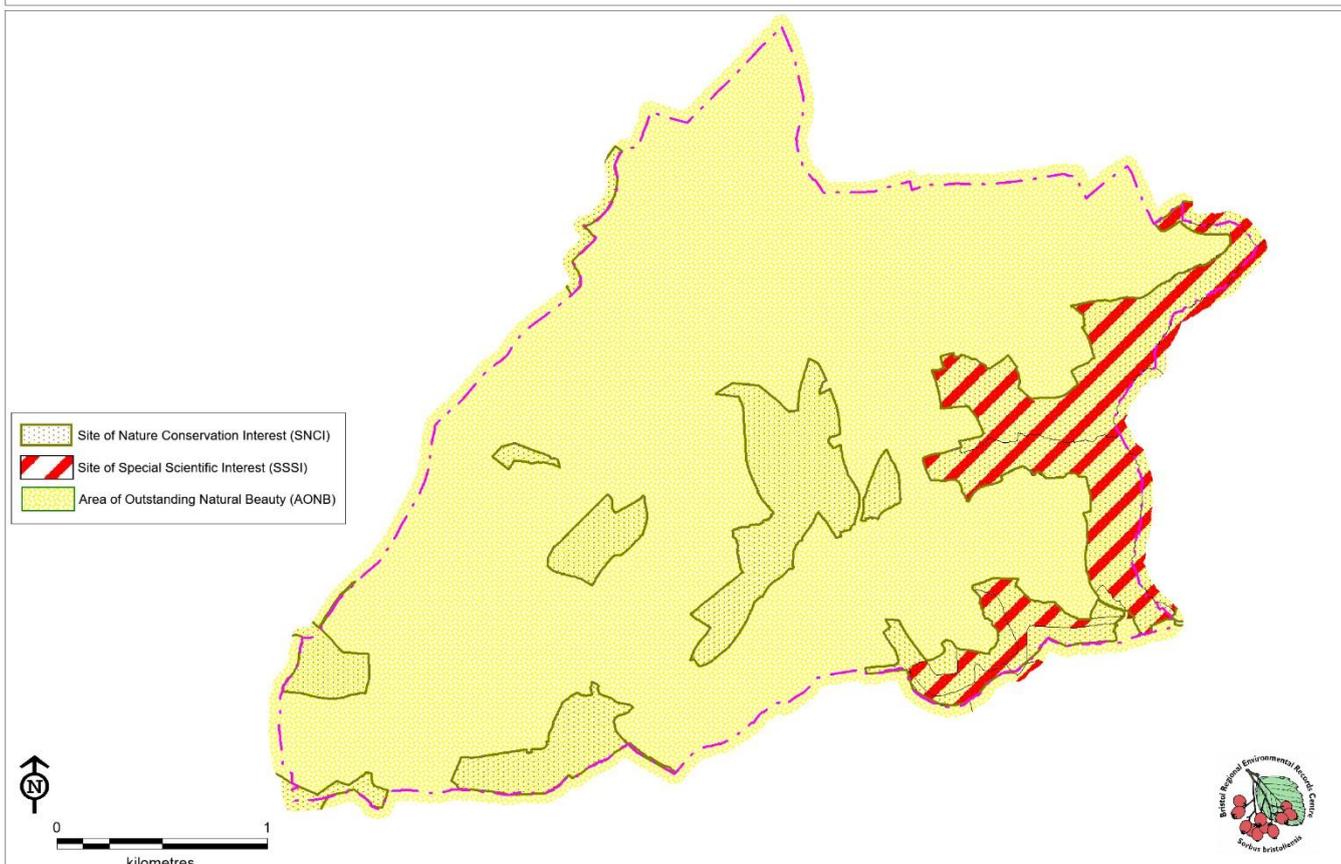
**Locally important wildlife sites** (i.e Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) :

- Saint Catherine's Valley (SSSI overlap)
- Monkswood valley (SSSI overlap)
- Fields on Slough lane
- Cold Ashton strip lynchets and fields SW of Nimlet
- Fields at Hamwell farm
- St Johns Wood
- Fields south of Rushmead Wood
- Eastern half of earthworks at freezing Hill
- Eastern tip of Beechwood complex

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

**Cold Ashton - Designated Sites**

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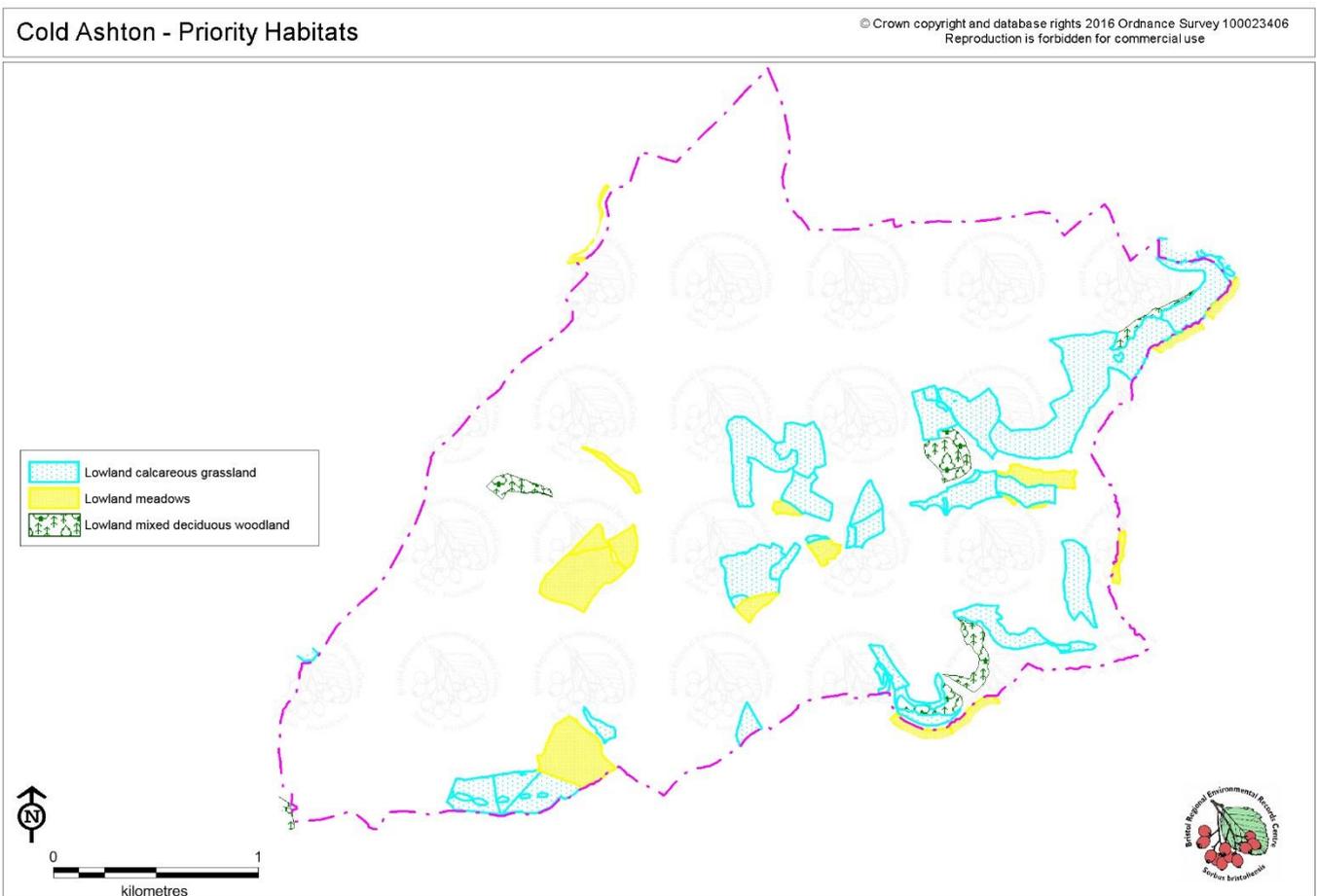


## Other sites

### 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 Calcareous Grassland
- Lowland Meadows
- 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.

Monocephalus castaneipes (a money spider)	Dot Moth	Linnet	Shoulder-striped Wainscot
August Thorn	Dunnock	Marsh Tit	S Skylark
Beaded Chestnut	Dusky Brocade	Minor Shoulder-knot	Small Blue
Blood-vein	Dusky Thorn	Mottled Rustic	Small Emerald
Brindled Beauty	Feathered Gothic	Mouse Moth	Small Heath
Brown Hare	Freshwater Pearl Mussel	Oak Hook-tip	Small Square-spot
Brown-spot Pinion	Garden Tiger	Powdered Quaker	Song Thrush
Buff Ermine	Green-brindled Crescent	Pretty Chalk Carpet	Spotted Flycatcher
Bullfinch	Hedgehog	Red-tailed Carder Bee	Starling
Centre-barred Sallow	Herring Gull	Rosy Minor	Tree Sparrow
Common Scoter	Hornet Robberfly	Rosy Rustic	Water Vole
Common Toad	House Sparrow	Rustic	White-clawed Crayfish
Corn Bunting	Lapwing	Sallow (moth)	White Ermine
Cuckoo	Large Nutmeg	Shaded Broad-bar	Yellowhammer
Dark Brocade	Large Wainscot	Shepherd's-needle	

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;
  - Survey work on the above sites and habitats (with landowner permission) could be commissioned from a knowledgeable resident, student, local conservation group or professional with management recommendations included for future action if necessary.
2. Creating new areas of priority habitat;
  - Identify areas for creation of species rich wildflower grassland, deciduous woodland, traditional orchard.
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 gapping up a key hedgerow could help link key sites.
4. Managing biodiversity at the scale of whole natural systems and landscapes;
  - Consider linking to local and national projects such as B-Lines which has an aspiration for a wildflower route through your parish, or Avon Wildlife Trust which has the Cotswold as a key area of work in their current vision.
5. Engaging people in new ways that increases the number of people who understand and value nature;
  - Take part in/organise events / recording/ volunteering opportunities e.g. guided walks with the Cotswold wardens.





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.

