

Horton 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): Part of the Parish is within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- Bodkin Hazel Wood SSSI - unfavourable recovering condition
- Bishop's Hill Wood SSSI, unit 2 - unfavourable recovering
- Bishop's Hill Wood SSSI, unit 3 - unfavourable recovering
- Lower Woods SSSI, unit 19 - favourable condition (ownership - Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust)
- Lower Woods SSSI, unit 21 - favourable condition (ownership - Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust)
- Lower Woods SSSI, unit 22 - favourable condition (ownership - Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust)

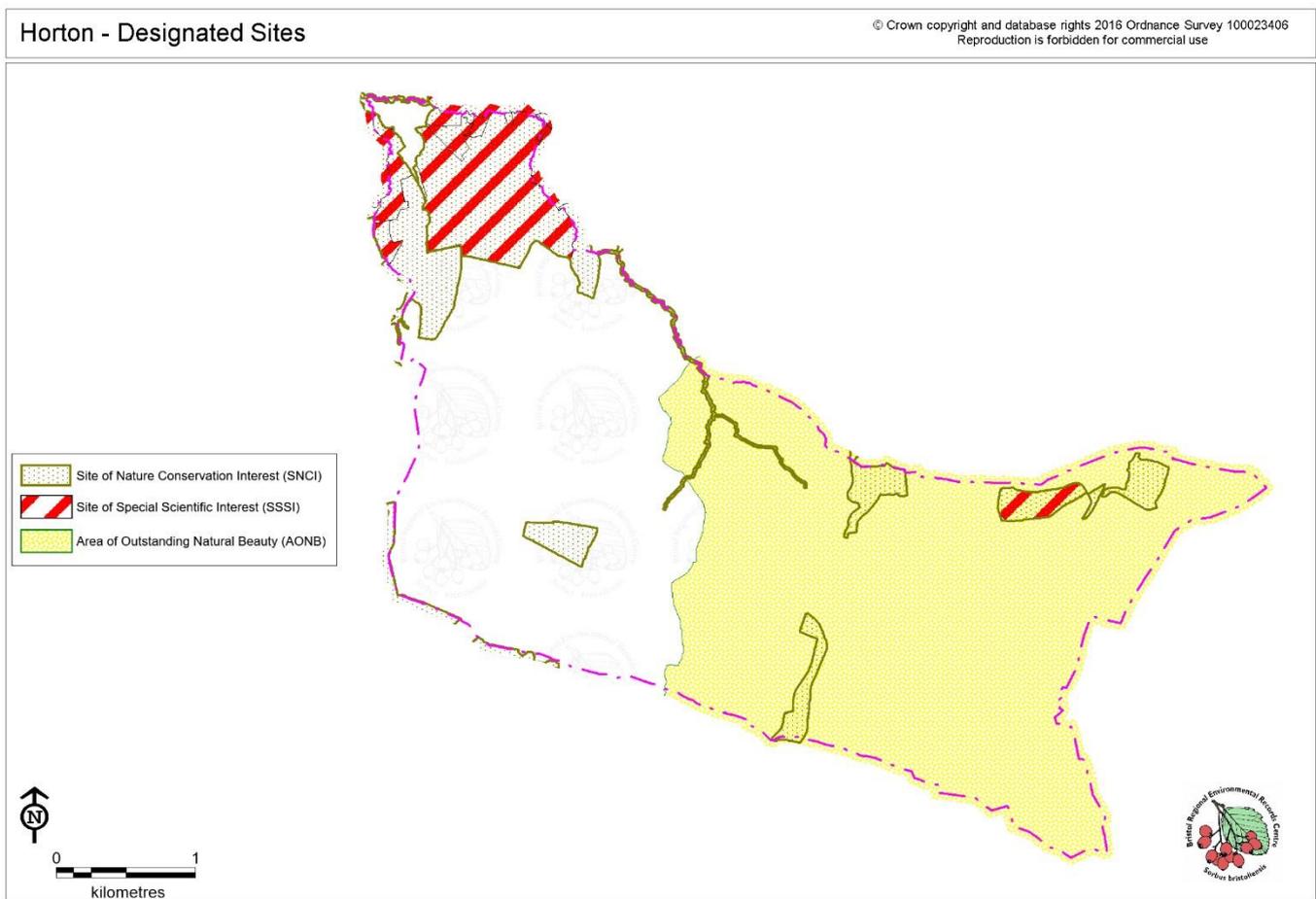




Locally important wildlife sites (i.e Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) :

- Field west of New Tying Lane
- Bodkin Wood
- Bodkin Hazel Wood SSSI
- Birch Hill, Chalkley and Walk Woods
- Horton Bushes
- Lower Woods SSSI and Wetmoor complex (ownership - Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust)
- Bishop's Hill Wood SSSI
- Little Avon River and tributary south of Wetmoor

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





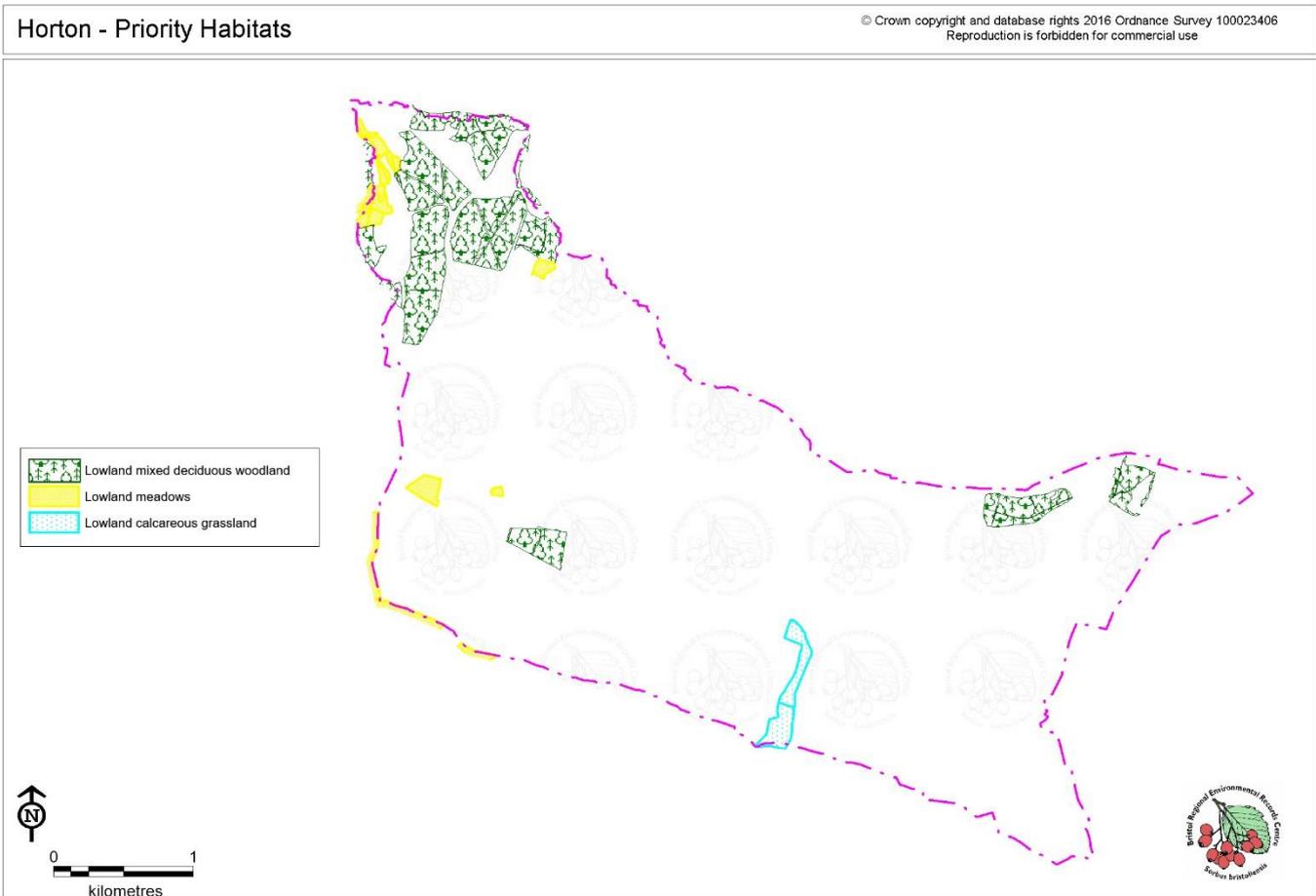
Other sites

Biodiversity enhancement opportunities exist at St James's churchyard (ownership - South Gloucestershire Council)

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
- Lowland Meadows
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland





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.

Adder	Dunnock	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Small Emerald
August Thorn	Dusky Thorn	Linnet	Small Heath
Beaded Chestnut	Figure of Eight	Marsh Fritillary	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary
Blood-vein	Grass Rivulet	Marsh Tit	Small Phoenix
Brindled Beauty	Grass Snake	Minor Shoulder-knot	Small Square-spot
Brown Hare	Grayling	Oak Hook-tip	Song Thrush
Brown-spot Pinion	Green-brindled Crescent	Pale Eggar	Spotted Flycatcher
Buff Ermine	Grey Partridge	Powdered Quaker	Starling
Bullfinch	Grizzled Skipper	Pretty Chalk Carpet	Tassel stonewort
Centre-barred Sallow	Harvest Mouse	Reed Bunting	Tree Sparrow
Cinnabar	Hedgehog	Rosy Rustic	Turtle Dove
Common Lizard	Herring Gull	Rustic	Wall
Common Toad	House Sparrow	Sallow (moth)	Water Vole
Corn Bunting	Knot Grass (moth)	September Thorn	White Admiral
Cuckoo	Lackey	Shaded Broad-bar	White Ermine
Currant Shoot Borer	Lapwing	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	White-letter Hairstreak
Dingy Skipper	Latticed Heath	Skylark	White-spotted Sable Moth
Dot Moth	Lesser Redpoll	Small Blue	Willow Tit
Yellowhammer	Yellow Wagtail		

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 opportunities to work with existing partners on key site improvements. Where condition is unknown consider commissioning a simple survey 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;
 - Woodland and parkland could be increased through expanding tree cover.
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 possible links such as gapping up a key hedgerow between woods.
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, Avon Wildlife Trust has highlighted the Cotswolds as a focus area. There is also the possibility of a hedgerow link between Tortworth, Lower Woods, Midger and Westonbirt.
5. Engaging people in new ways that increases the number of people who understand and value nature;
 - Conduct events / recording/ volunteering opportunities via Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust at Lower Woods, the Primary School, the Cotswold Wardens and other parish related events or publications.





This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is just the beginning and should be read in conjunction with the updated **South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan** (2016 - 2020) 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.

