

# Marshfield 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.

- St Catherine's valley SSSI, unit 3 - unfavourable recovering (calcareous grassland)
- St Catherine's valley SSSI, unit 4 - unfavourable recovering
- St Catherine's valley SSSI, unit 5 - unfavourable recovering
- St Catherine's valley SSSI, unit 6 - unfavourable recovering





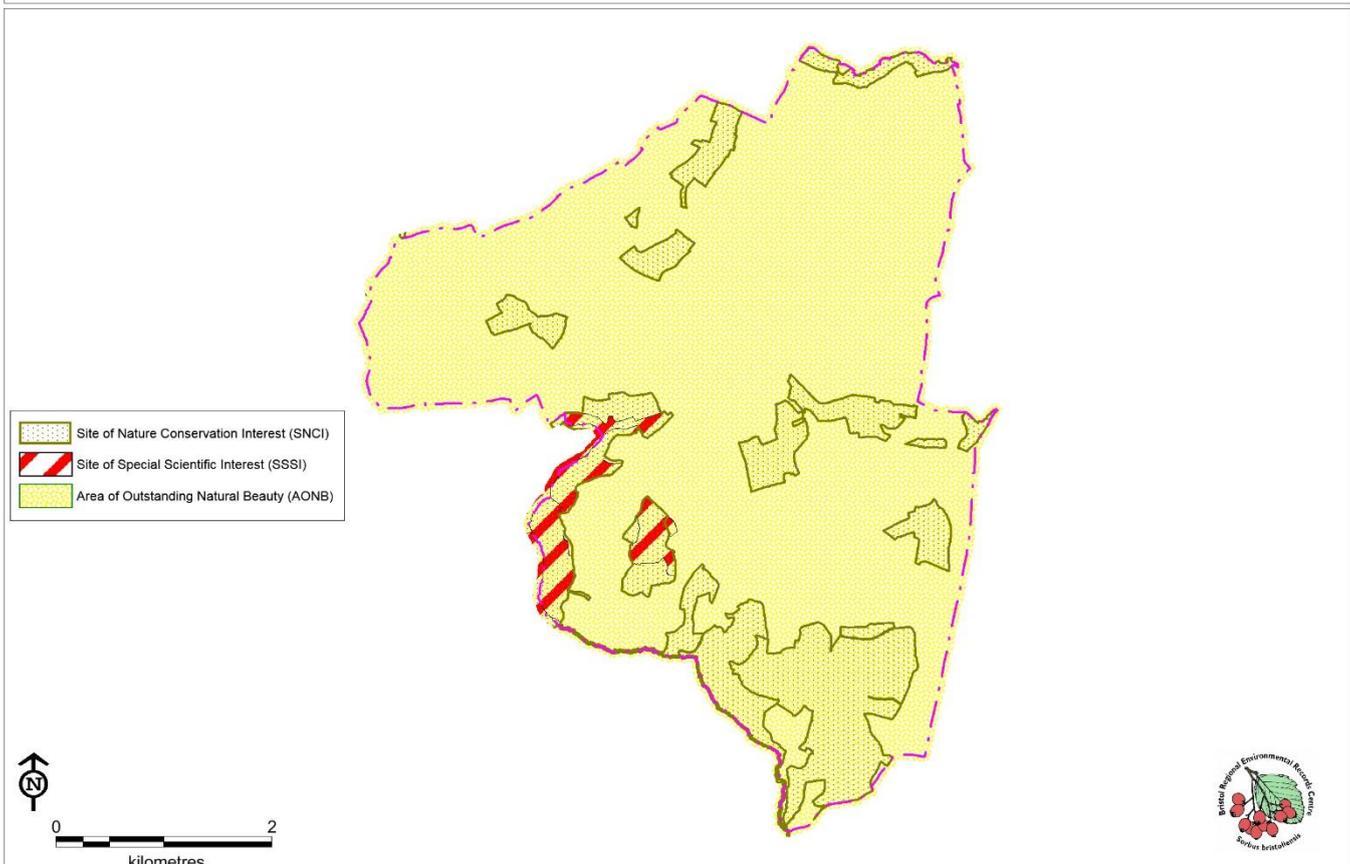
**Locally important wildlife sites** (i.e Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) :

- Harcombe farm and Broadmead Brook
- Cadwell Hill
- Fields beside Broadmead Brook
- Fields along Brookhouse Lane
- St Catherine's valley SSSI
- Fuddlebrook valley
- Ayford farm
- Oakford valley and woodland
- The Warren, Marshfield
- Marshfield wood
- Doncombe brook and Ringswell Common
- Fields south of Ringswell
- Fields east of Cloud Wood
- St Catherine's brook

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

**Marshfield - Designated Sites**

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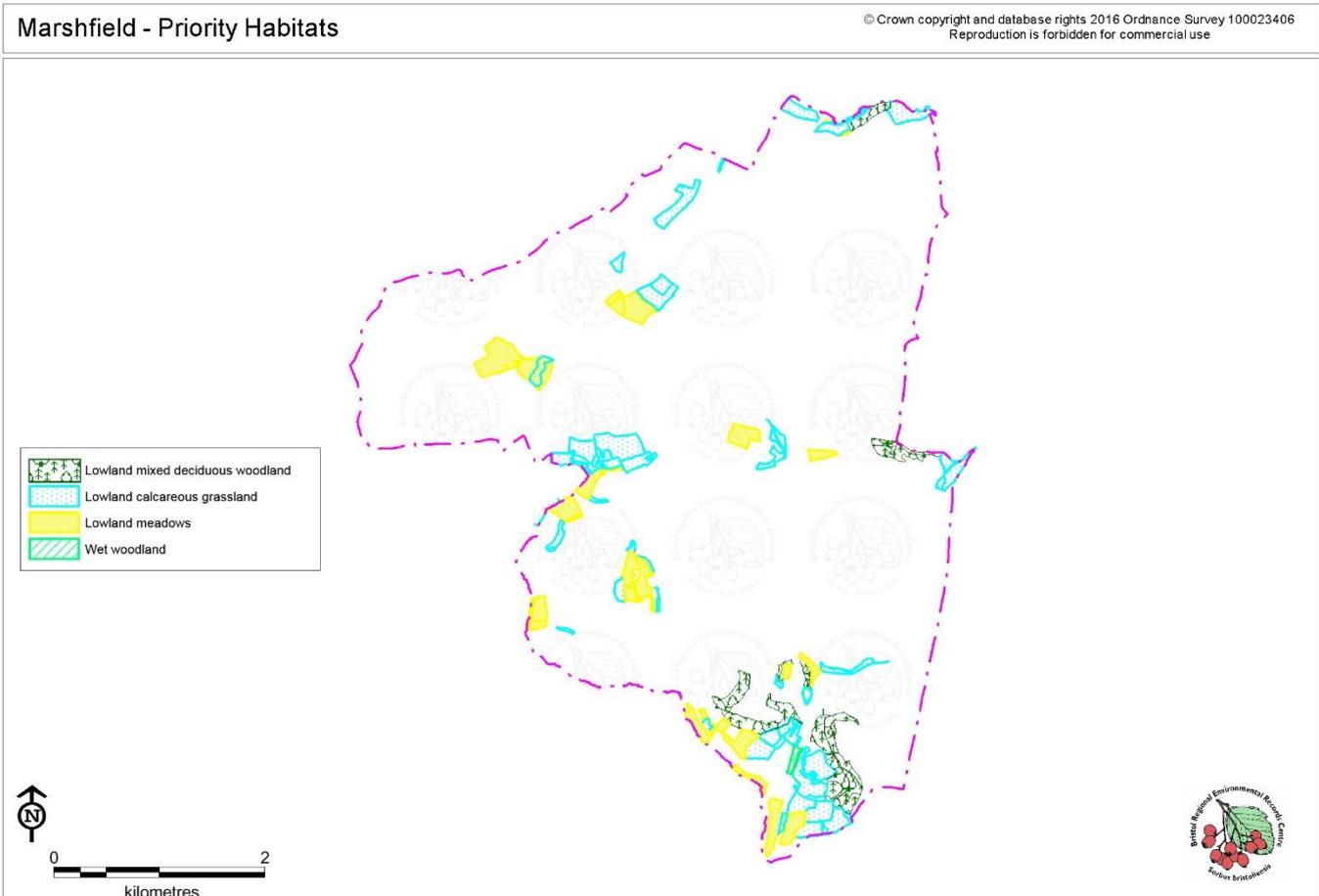
### Other sites

Other sites important for biodiversity or could be enhanced for biodiversity include the village pond, Roadside Nature Reserve at Shirehall, road verge/ sidings.

### 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 Calcareous Grassland
- Lowland Meadows
- Wet 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	Eel	Marsh Tit	Song Thrush
Bullfinch	Grasshopper	Pretty Chalk Carpet	Spotted Flycatcher
	Warbler		
Cinnabar	Grey Partridge	Reed Bunting	Starling
Common Toad	Grizzled Skipper	Shaded Broad-bar	Tree Sparrow
Corn Bunting	Hen Harrier	Shepherd's-needle	Turtle Dove
Corn Buttercup	Herring Gull	Skylark	Water Vole
Cuckoo	House Sparrow	Slow-worm	White-clawed Crayfish
			White Ermine
Curlew	Lapwing	Small Blue	White-letter Hairstreak
Dingy Skipper	Lesser Redpoll	Small Heath	Yellowhammer
Duncock	Linnet	Small Phoenix	
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 landowners and partners on SSSI improvements.





On sites where condition is unknown survey work (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;

- Investigate increasing tree cover – woodland, hedgerow standards and parkland trees.

**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 or national projects – Avon Wildlife Trust has prioritised the Cotswolds in its current vision. And the B-Lines project has an 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.
- Feature the parish biodiversity in a community or Cotswold Warden event.

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.

