

Bitton 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): Some of the Parish is within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

- Congrove Field and the tumps (SSSI) unit 1 - calcareous grassland, (unfavourable condition declining)
- Congrove Field and the tumps (SSSI) unit 2 - (unfavourable recovering)





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

- Beachwood complex
- Congrove and Hanging Hill - calcareous grassland and woodland
- Great Pibley Field - neutral grassland
- Chimney field south - calcareous grassland
- River Boyd Wick to Bitton Hill
- River Boyd (south)
- River Avon - river and bankside vegetation
- River drive hay meadow - neutral grassland
- Bitton hill sandpit - interesting species and geology
- The Ruffets - calcareous grassland and scrub
- Redfield pasture - calcareous grassland
- East of Redfield Hill - calcareous grassland and scrub
- Cann brake, North Common - neutral grassland and woodland
- The Marshes North, North Common - neutral grassland and marsh
- Brooklea Open Space - former golf course, acid grassland (owned by South Gloucestershire Council)

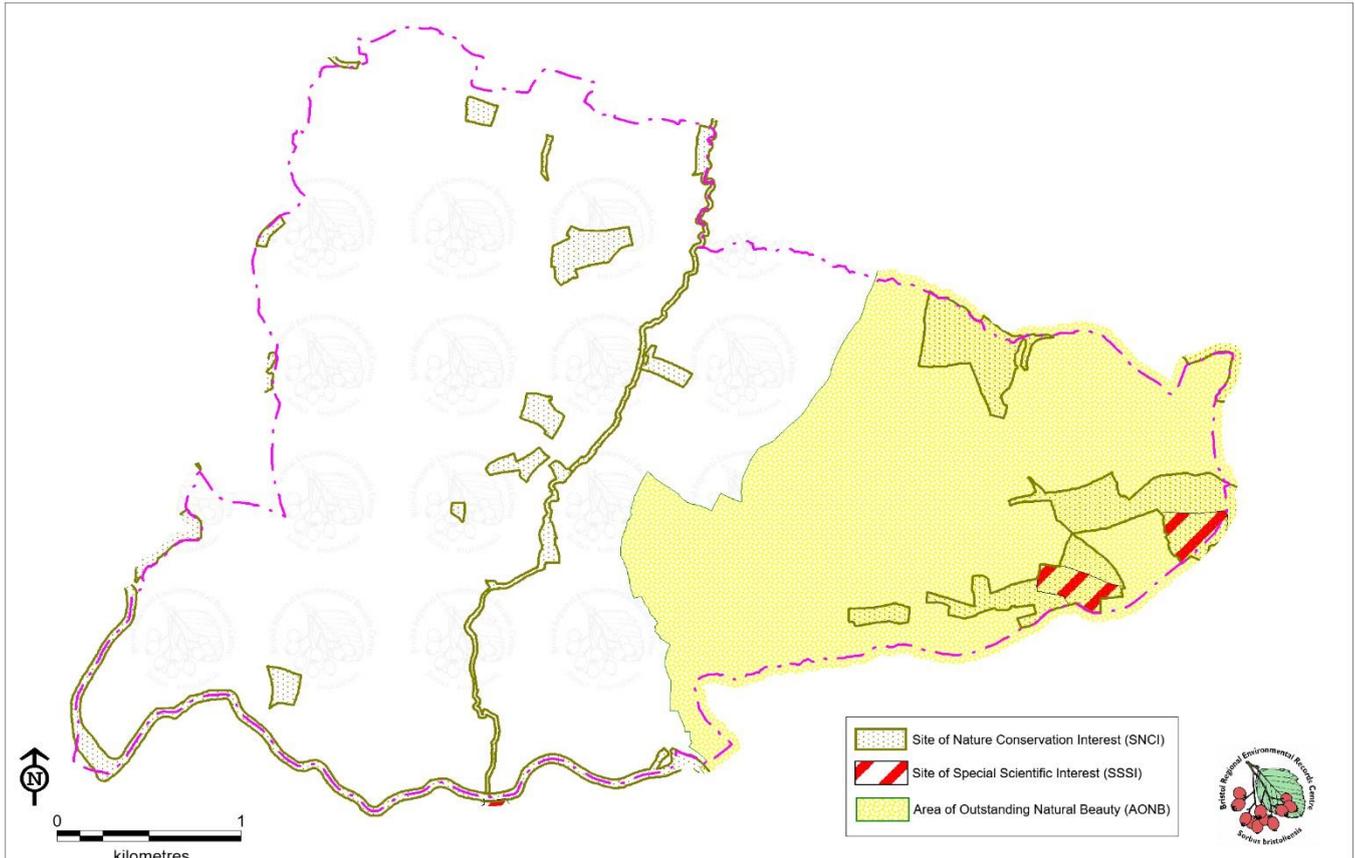
Please see map and/or contact Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC)
<http://www.brerc.org.uk/index.htm> for further information.





Bitton - Designated Sites

© Crown copyright and database rights 2016 Ordnance Survey 100023406
Reproduction is forbidden for commercial use



Other sites

The Parish Council recognises the following sites as being important for biodiversity or sites that could be enhanced for biodiversity;

- Siston Brook corridor from Hazelbury Drive, North Common to its meeting with the River Avon
- Bristol to Bath cycle/walkway
- The stream which runs from North Common Village Hall, Millers Drive, North Common down to its meeting with Siston Brook at the bottom of Cowhorn Hill
- All school grounds

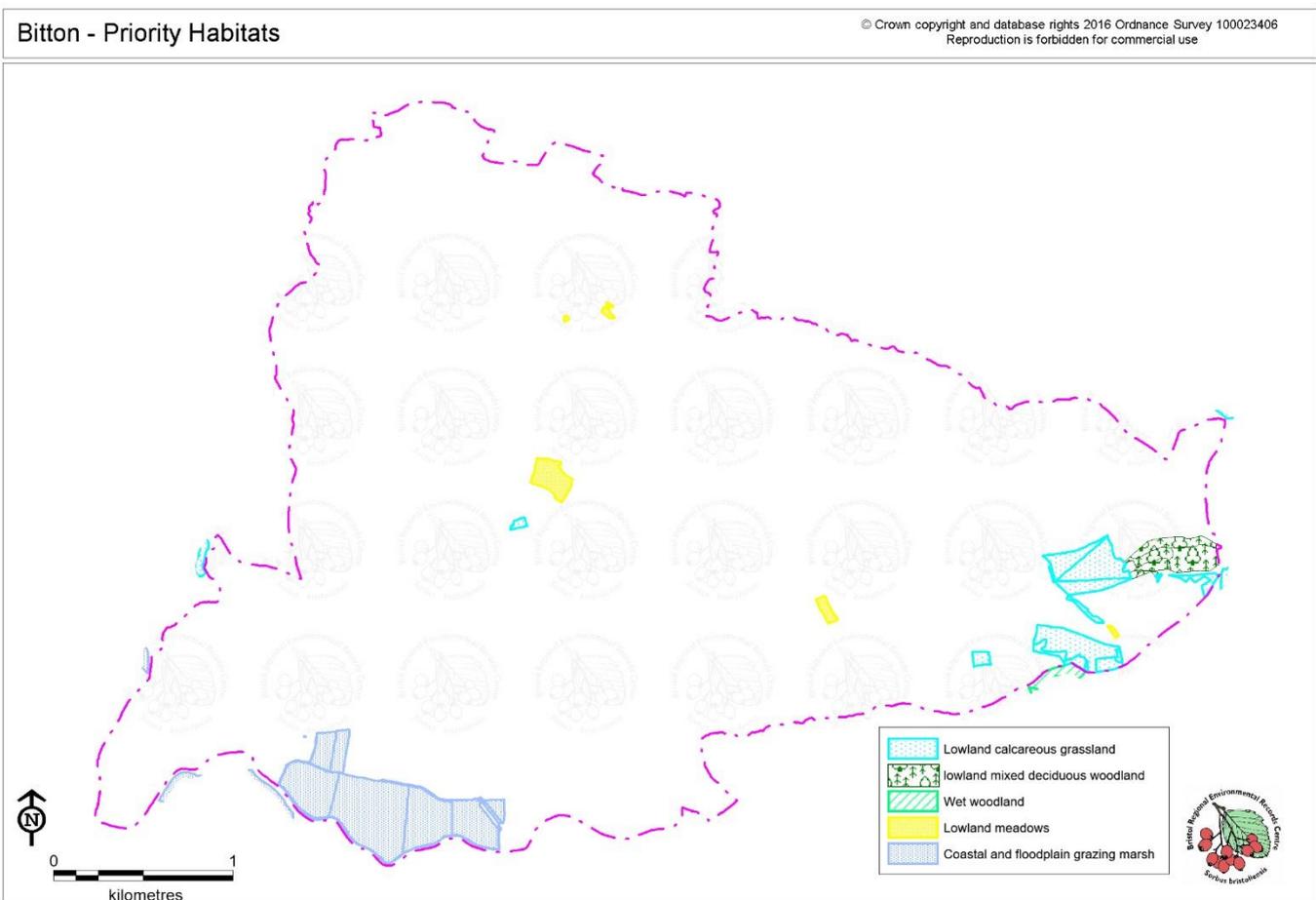




Habitats of Principle Importance (Section 41 NERC Act 2006) - the most important habitats for wildlife and a focus for conservation action

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
- Wet Woodland
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh





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 have not been included.

Atlantic Salmon	Dot Moth	Linnet	Small Phoenix
August Thorn	Dunnock	Marsh Tit	Small Square-spot
Beaded Chestnut	Dusky Brocade	Mottled Rustic	Song Thrush
Bewick's Swan	Eel	Mouse Moth	Spotted Flycatcher
Blood-vein	Flounced Chestnut	Powdered Quaker	Starling
Brindled Beauty	Grape-hyacinth	Pretty Chalk Carpet	Tree Sparrow
Brown Hare	Grass Snake	Reed Bunting	Turtle Dove
Brown/Sea Trout	Grey Dagger	Rosy Rustic	White Admiral
Buff Ermine	Grey Partridge	Rustic	White-clawed Crayfish
Bullfinch	Hawfinch	Sallow (moth)	White Ermine
Centre-barred	Hedgehog	Shaded Broad-bar	White-letter
Sallow			Hairstreak
Cinnabar	Herring Gull	Shoulder-striped	Wood Warbler
		Wainscot	
Common Toad	House Sparrow	Skylark	Yellowhammer
Corn Bunting	Knot Grass (moth)	Slow-worm	Yellow Wagtail
Corn Buttercup	Lackey	Small Blue	
Cuckoo	Lapwing	Small Emerald	
Dingy Skipper	Lesser Redpoll	Small Heath	

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 existing quality is known. If not 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;
 - Could include; species rich wildflower grassland, deciduous woodland, traditional orchard (possibly a new community orchard).
3. Identifying and managing ways for habitats to be linked together to create new networks for wildlife;
 - Investigate possible links including the river (Avon Frome partnership can help), wildflowers, hedgerows and the railway path.
 - 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 initiatives such as Avon Wildlife Trust's My Wild City (Bitton is in 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;
 - Consider events and volunteering opportunities along the railway path and through the primary school.

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.

