

Oldbury on Severn 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)): Severn Estuary Ramsar, SAC and SPA.

Nationally important wildlife sites (i.e Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Nature Reserve):

- Severn Estuary SSSI, unit 36 (northern section) - favourable condition
- Severn Estuary SSSI, unit 37 (northern section) - unfavourable declining
- Severn Estuary SSSI, unit 38 - unfavourable declining
- Severn Estuary SSSI, unit 39 - favourable
- Severn Estuary SSSI, unit 40 (part of), favourable
- Severn Estuary SSSI, unit 42 (part of), favourable





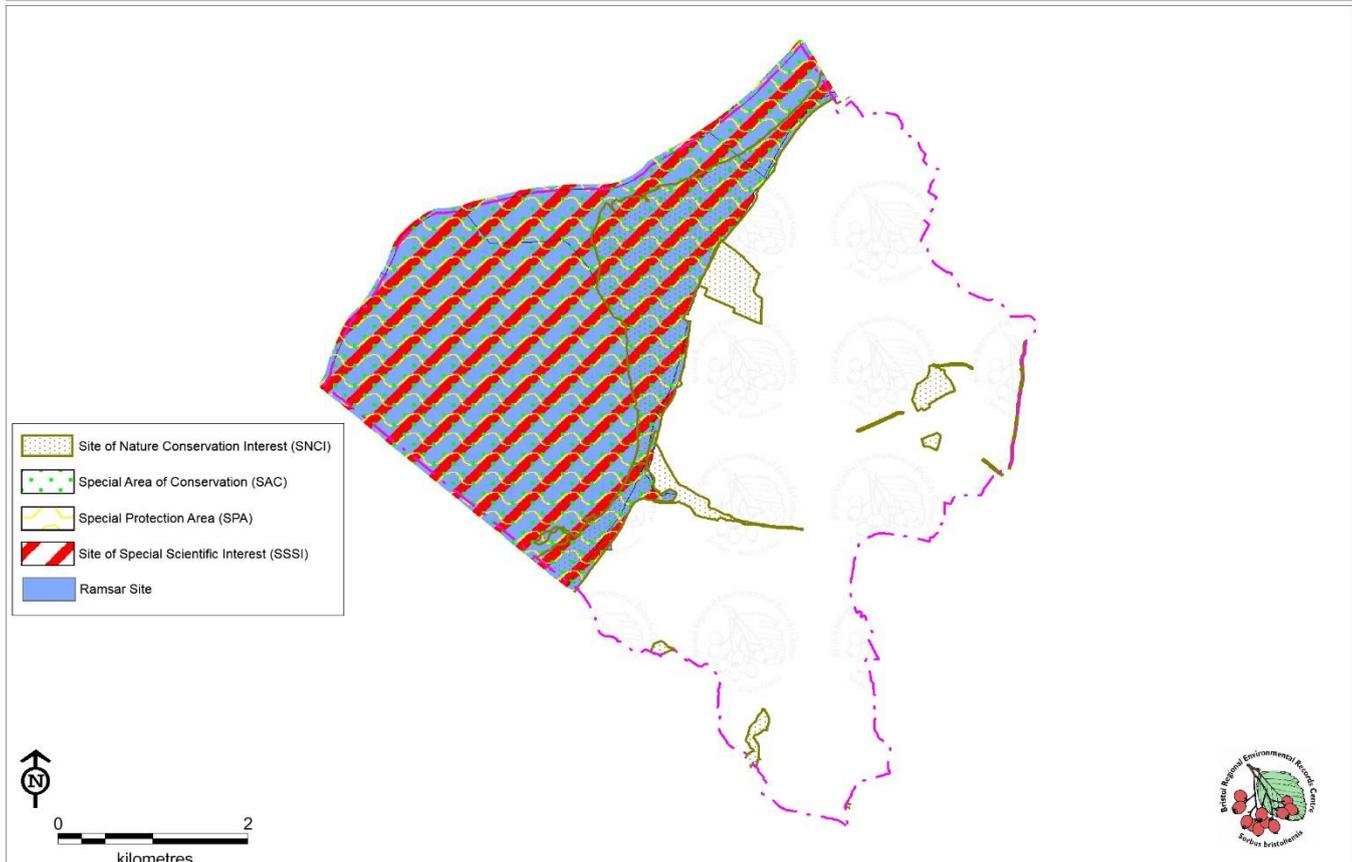
Locally important wildlife sites (i.e Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) :

- Severn Estuary SSSI Shepperdine to Oldbury, saltmarsh and mudflats
- Severn Estuary SSSI (part of) Littleton Warth, saltmarsh and mudflats
- Severn Estuary SSSI (part of) Oldbury Pill, saltmarsh, mudflats, freshwater river
- Silt lagoons at Oldbury power station
- Fields south of stoneyard lane
- Stoneyard Lane rhyne
- Rhine at Oldbury Nate
- Kingswood
- Rockhampton rhine (western section)
- Cowhill wood and field
- Stoke Grove and Cole's Brake

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

Olbury-upon-Severn - Designated Sites

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Other sites

Roadside Nature Reserve verge at Cowhill and parts of the St Arilda churchyard

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.

- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Coastal Saltmarsh
- Intertidal Mudflats

Oldbury-upon-Severn - Priority Habitats

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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.

Bewick's Swan	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	Latticed Heath	Sea Barley	Tubular Water-dropwort
Black-tailed Godwit	Dunnock	Lesser Redpoll	Shaded Broad-bar	Turtle Dove
Blood-vein	Grasshopper Warbler	Linnet	Skylark	Twite
Brown Hare	Grey Partridge	Marsh Tit	Slender Hare's-ear	White-letter Hairstreak
Bullfinch	Hawfinch	Pale Eggar	Small Heath	Wood Warbler
Cinnabar	Hen Harrier	Reed Bunting	Song Thrush	Yellowhammer
Common Scoter	Herring Gull	Ring Ouzel	Spotted Flycatcher	Yellow Wagtail
Corn Bunting	House Sparrow	Rosy Rustic	Starling	
Cuckoo	Lackey	Rustic	Tree Pipit	
Curlew	Lapwing	Sallow (moth)	Tree Sparrow	

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;
 - Check the habitat quality of sites from the list either from existing data (Forgotten Landscape team have access to all phase 1 habitat data for the parish), or if necessary by commissioning a new survey with landowners permission. Use the data to draw up any recommendations.
2. Creating new areas of priority habitat;
 - Investigate increasing tree cover through tree planting, new key hedgerows or a new community 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 any key gaps in the parish's hedgerow network and/ or rhines and other water courses.
4. Managing biodiversity at the scale of whole natural systems and landscapes;
 - Consider linking to local and national projects such as the A Forgotten Landscape 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;
 - Via the school, other local organisations and the A Forgotten Landscape project.

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.

