

# Hanham Abbots 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)):

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

- Bickley Woods (geological) SSSI
- Cleeve Woods SSSI (in favourable condition)
- Avon Valley Woodlands Local Nature Reserve

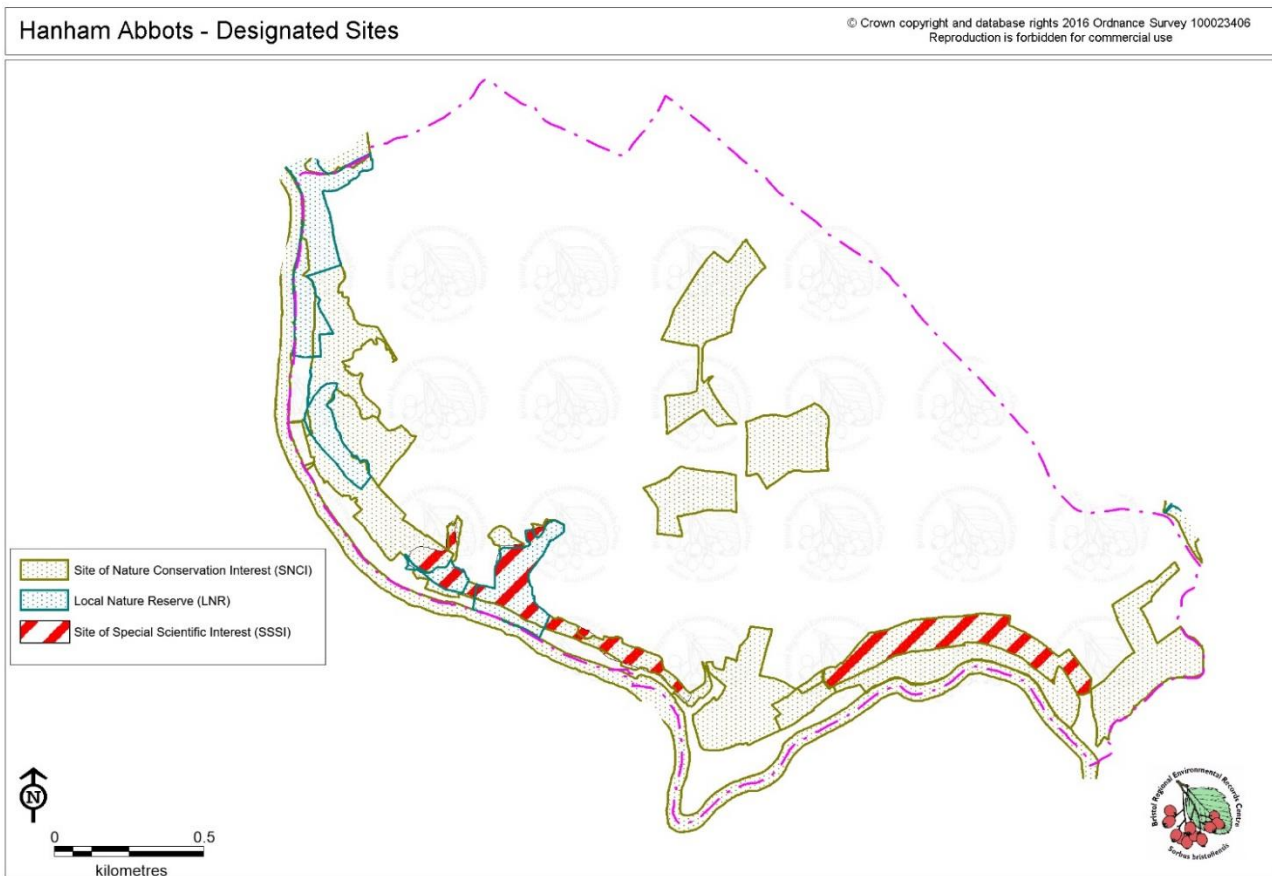




**Locally important wildlife sites** (i.e Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) :

- Hencliffe Woods
- Avon Valley, Water Lane field
- Avon Valley, Bickley Woods
- Avon Valley, Hanham fields - woodland, grassland, orchard
- River Avon
- Cleeve Wood extension - woodland
- Avon Valley, Water Meadows - flowing open water, bankside vegetation and calcareous grassland
- South of Queens Head - calcareous and neutral grassland
- Great Haynes field - neutral grassland
- Hanham Hills fields - calcareous grassland and wetland

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





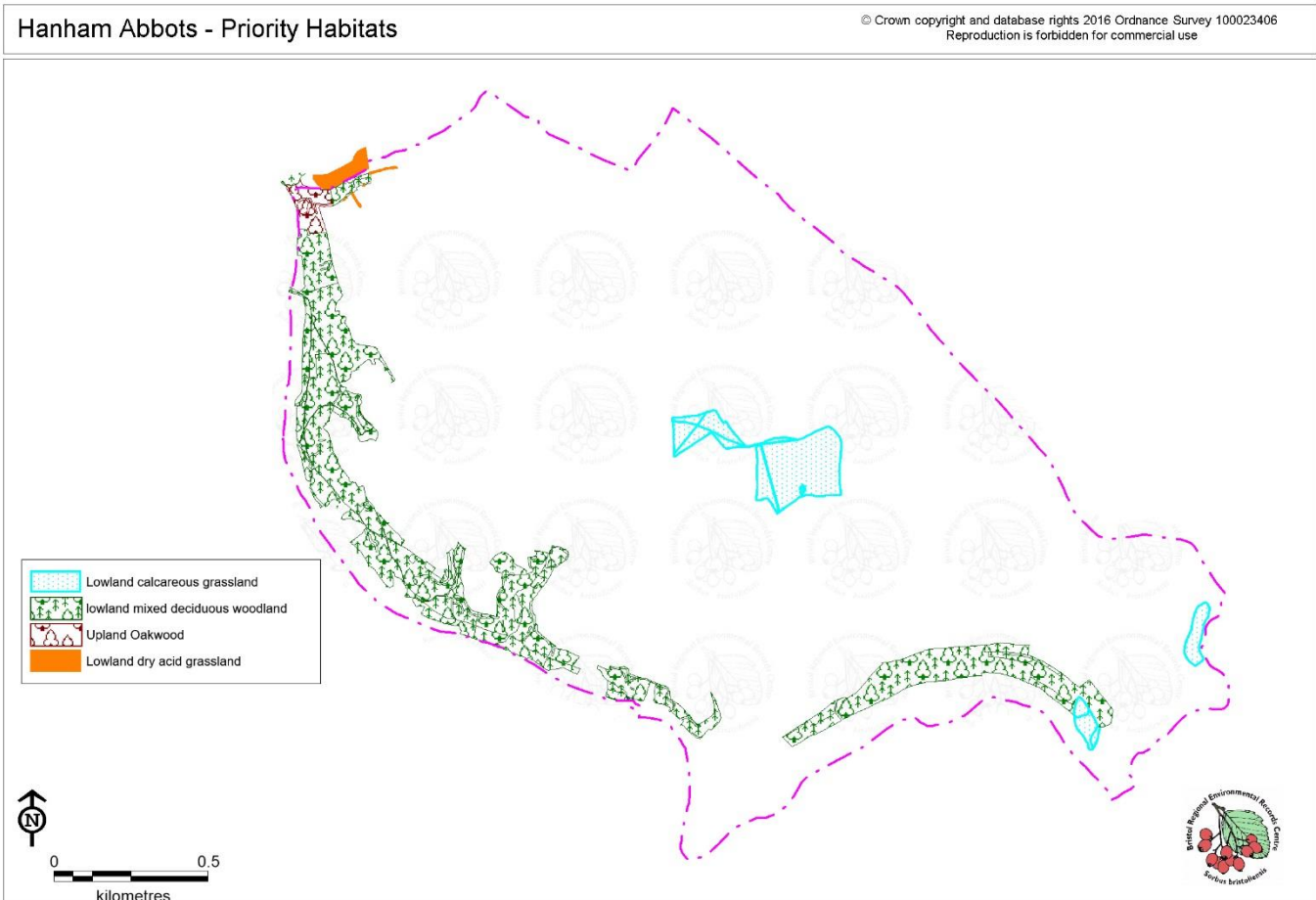
### Other sites

Other sites that could be enhanced for biodiversity include the road verges, churchyard and 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 Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Upland Oakwood
- Lowland Dry Acid 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	Dot Moth	Linnet	Small Heath
August Thorn	Dunnock	Marsh Tit	Small Phoenix
Beaded Chestnut	Eel	Mouse Moth	Small Square-spot
Bewick's Swan	Grasshopper	Powdered Quaker	Song Thrush
	Warbler		
Blood-vein	Grass Snake	Pretty Chalk Carpet	Spotted Flycatcher
Brindled Beauty	Grey Dagger	Reed Bunting	Starling
Brown Hare	Hawfinch	Rosy Rustic	White Ermine
Buff Ermine	Hedgehog	Rustic	Willow Tit
Bullfinch	Herring Gull	Sallow (moth)	Wood Warbler
Centre-barred	House Sparrow	Shaded Broad-bar	Yellowhammer
Sallow			
Cinnabar	Knot Grass (moth)	Skylark	Yellow Wagtail
Common Toad	Lapwing	Slow-worm	
Cuckoo	Lesser Spotted	Small Emerald	
	Woodpecker		

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 the sites mentioned are in good condition and if condition is unknown commission a simple survey with management suggestions.
2. Creating new areas of priority habitat;
  - Increase tree cover through new street trees, woodland, hedgerows, orchard trees on South Gloucestershire Council amenity land, new trees for schools and trees in private gardens.
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 hedgerow links and the river corridor.
4. Managing biodiversity at the scale of whole natural systems and landscapes;
  - Consider linking to local and national projects such as Avon Wildlife Trust's MyWildCity (Hanham Abbots is mapped as part of the East fringe).
5. Engaging people in new ways that increases the number of people who understand and value nature;
  - Conduct events / recording/ volunteering opportunities as part of the friends of Avon Valley Woodlands.

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.

