



South Gloucestershire
Biodiversity Action Plan
2016-2026



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Introduction

What is biodiversity and why is it important?

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.

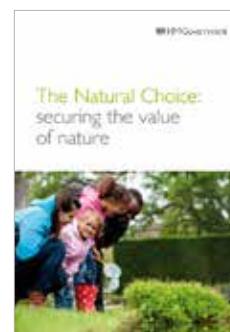


Orchard windfall.

Halting biodiversity loss in England

June 2011 saw the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published a new **Natural Environment White Paper** (the first on the natural environment for over 20 years) on how the Government intends to take forward the challenge to halt biodiversity loss. It details how to *“mainstream the value of nature across our society”*; *“promote an ambitious, integrated approach, creating a resilient ecological network across England.”* and *“move from net biodiversity loss to net gain.”* This will be enacted through a *“new direction for policy over the next decade”*.

The White Paper **‘The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature’**, represents an opportunity to change the way we all think about and manage the natural environment, seeing it as a system and valuing the services (known as ecosystem services) it gives us.



Building on this **‘The Natural Choice’ - ‘Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services’** sets out how England is implementing its international commitments. It sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land and at sea, and builds on the successful work that has gone before under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.



In 2011, the Government also signalled its belief that more locally focussed decision making and action should sit at the heart of the debate about the future direction of improvements to the water environment and support river basin management planning as part of Water Framework Directive activities. **The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA)**, was later adopted as the framework to drive cost-effective practical delivery on the ground, resulting in multiple benefits including improvements to water quality, enhanced biodiversity, and reduced flood risk, resilience to climate change and greater community engagement with local rivers and streams.





Bee on blossom.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in March 2012 with the aim of making the planning system less complex and more accessible, to protect the environment and to promote sustainable growth. It contains policies specifically targeted at enhancing the natural environment, and biodiversity in particular. For example:

“Local planning authorities should: set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure...”

More recently the Government has maintained its commitment to protecting biodiversity, launching the **National Pollinator Strategy** in November 2014, to protect the country’s 1,500 insect species that fulfil a pollination role in England. The National Pollinator Strategy vision is *“to see pollinators thrive, so they can carry out their essential service to people of pollinating flowers and crops, while providing other benefits for our native plants, the wider environment, food production and all of us.”*

Crucially, local authorities and other public bodies have an important role to play in conserving biodiversity. This was underpinned by a **‘Biodiversity Duty’** which was introduced by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act in 2006. All public authorities in England have a duty

“in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”. This may include promoting biodiversity in planning and development, recognising the importance of conserving and enhancing biodiversity in public authority managed land and buildings and managing green infrastructure to support biodiversity.

Halting biodiversity loss in South Gloucestershire

The South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (2006 - 2015) came to the end of its lifespan, and the resulting conclusion document <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/documents/BAP-conclusion-document.pdf> details the progress made with delivering actions for a suite of habitat and species and their associated Habitat and Species Action Plans.

The revised South Gloucestershire BAP (2016 - 2026) has adopted a spatial ecosystem services approach to biodiversity action planning to reflect the changes in national policy and should be read in conjunction with the previous South Gloucestershire BAP (2006 - 2015), which still contains relevant information on the biodiversity of the area. **The species and habitats listed in the (2006 - 2015) BAP (see appendix 1) when read alongside the Council’s Core Strategy Policy CS9 and Policies, Sites and Places Policy PSP19 act as material consideration in the planning process.**

Bullfinch © Natural England, Allan Drewitt.



The South Gloucestershire BAP (2016 - 2026) utilises the West of England Nature Partnership Ecosystem Service Mapping to provide a strategic overview to help direct ‘on the ground’ delivery through a parish and community based approach. This new approach includes the provision of:

- Ecological network and opportunity maps.
- Individual Parish and Town BAPs which set out aspirations for every part of South Gloucestershire.

The South Gloucestershire BAP (2016 - 2026) has been drawn up by South Gloucestershire Council in partnership with the Biodiversity Action Group (BAG), and a range of partners, including the West of England Nature Partnership, parish and town councils and local wildlife groups.

The South Gloucestershire BAP (2016 - 2026) belongs to everyone and provides an identity and focus for nature conservation work throughout South Gloucestershire. Local businesses, organisations, statutory bodies, parish and town councils, groups and individuals can all make a valuable contribution, working on your own land or working in partnership with others.



© A Forgotton Landscape, Littleton.

It will be used internally within the Council in making planning decisions, in formulating policy and informing all relevant areas of the authorities work – and externally, working cooperatively and in partnership with other organisations and the wider community of South Gloucestershire.

South Gloucestershire Council's key objectives for enhancing biodiversity

- Share biological data to inform decision-making.
- Ensure that the Council considers biodiversity in exercising all of its statutory regulatory functions.
- Improve the management for biodiversity of land and buildings owned by South Gloucestershire Council.
- Raise awareness of biodiversity and promote opportunities for formal and informal learning about and understanding of the natural world.
- Establish and maintain an internal reporting mechanism to inform and report on how South Gloucestershire Council is actively halting biodiversity loss.

Just looking after wildlife in nature reserves and small areas across South Gloucestershire is no longer enough. We also need to reconnect existing habitats, create new habitats, and re-green our towns, villages and more urban areas, focusing on those places where our efforts will make the most difference.

A new approach to halting biodiversity loss

Why is a new approach necessary?

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan focused on the conservation of priority habitats and species through the preparation and delivery of Habitat and Species Action Plans. The valuable work of Biodiversity Action Plan groups and partnerships across the country helped to ensure that some of our most important species and habitats were maintained and enhanced. However, biodiversity is still declining and two key reports suggested that we needed a new approach if we wanted to halt biodiversity loss:

The **'Making Space for Nature'** report <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130402151656/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf> chaired by Sir John Lawton was prepared in the context of the UK falling short on the 2010 target of halting the loss of biodiversity. It concluded that most of England's wildlife sites are small and fragmented as are the remaining patches of priority habitat. Despite their diversity, England's wildlife sites, did not comprise a coherent and resilient ecological network even today, let alone one that is capable of coping with the challenge of climate change and other pressures. In order to address this, a step change is needed in the way we approach nature conservation.



Avon Valley.

What are wildlife sites?

- Wildlife sites with a high level of protection include: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Ramsar Sites, Special Areas of Conservation, and Special Protection Areas, National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserve (LNRs).
- Wildlife sites designated for their high biodiversity value but do not receive full protection include: Local Wildlife and Ancient Woodland Sites.
- Sites which are landscape designations and include wildlife conservation as part of their statutory purpose such as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Professor Lawton recommended:

"...a step-change in our approach to wildlife conservation, from trying to hang onto what we have, to one of large-scale habitat restoration and recreation, under-pinned by the re-establishment of ecological processes and ecosystem services, for the benefits of both people and wildlife."

Prof Lawton also recommended the setting up a series of Ecological Restoration Zones, with the Government establishing a series of Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) to explore the opportunities for restoring and connecting nature on a significant scale.

The key finding of the **UK National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA)**

<http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org> is that the benefits we derive from the natural world and its constituent ecosystems are critically important to human well-being and economic prosperity, but are consistently undervalued in economic analysis and decision-making.

Biodiversity ultimately underpins the functioning of all ecosystems and thereby the delivery of all ecosystem services. And despite improvements, many ecosystem services continue to decline or have shown little improvement – often as a consequence of long-term declines in habitat extent or condition, or both – and some continue to deteriorate, with adverse impacts on human well-being.

Ecosystem Services

Provisioning - providing food, fresh water, timber, fuel, fibre.

Regulating - disposing of pollutants, regulating water and purification, storing carbon, pollination, etc.

Cultural - sacred sites, tourism, enjoyment of countryside, sense of place, recreation etc.

Supporting - nutrient-cycling, soil formation, primary production, etc.

Both reports concluded that focussing on individual species and sites remained important, but that this needed to happen at a larger scale so our habitats were better able to support more species and that our conservation action should focus on whole natural systems.



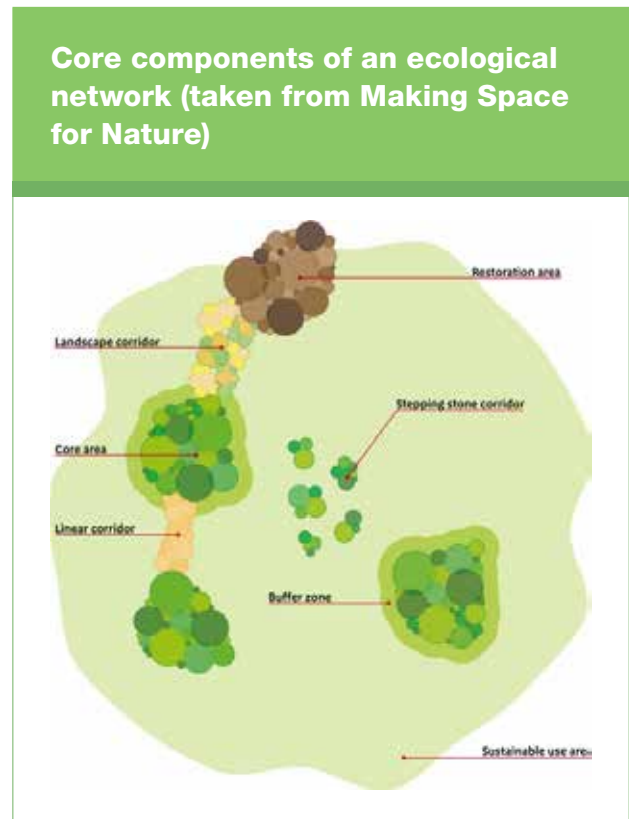
Food ecosystem services.

Biodiversity 2020

Biodiversity 2020, is the national strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystems, focussing on creating ecological networks and enhancing ecosystem services, and now forms part of the UK’s commitments under the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity.

Biodiversity 2020’s mission is to; *“halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people”.*

This can be summed up in four words: **more, bigger, better and joined.**



Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England (Priority Habitats and Species)

The England Biodiversity List has been developed to meet the requirements of Section 41 (S41) of the NERC Act (2006). This legislation requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of species of flora and fauna and habitats considered to be of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

The UK BAP list of priority species and habitats is an important reference source and has been used to draw up the species and habitats of principal importance in England under S41 of the NERC Act, which are also referred to as priority habitats and species.

The Biodiversity Duty includes all biodiversity and not just the habitats and species of principal importance. However, there is an expectation that public bodies would refer to the S41 list when complying with the duty.

Fifty-seven habitats of principal importance are included on the S41 list. Twenty habitats can be found in South Gloucestershire (see list appendix 2).

There are 943 species of principal importance included on the S41 list. Over 150 species have been recorded in South Gloucestershire (see list appendix 3).



Yarley Meadows, 2011.



Toad.

The new ecosystem approach to delivery places greater emphasis on achieving biodiversity goals through habitat-based delivery by establishing coherent and resilient ecological networks.

But this approach will not be sufficient to achieve the recovery of all priority species, so in some cases, it will need to be complemented by specific tailored action. Further details on priority actions needed to ensure the recovery of S41 species can be found here

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4958719460769792?category=5856835374415872>



Skylark © Natural England, Allan Drewitt.

How are we taking Biodiversity 2020 forward in South Gloucestershire?

Biodiversity 2020 deliberately avoids setting specific targets and actions for local areas because the 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, the Government recommends that local projects are particularly likely to be making a key contribution to the strategy if they involve:

- Improving the quality of existing habitats so they are able to better support biodiversity creating new areas of priority habitat.
- Identifying and managing ways for habitats to be linked together to create new networks for wildlife.
- Managing biodiversity at the scale of whole natural systems and landscapes.

- Engaging people in new ways that increases the number of people who understand and value nature.

Establishing ecological networks – What do we need to do?

Today our priority habitats are a mere remnant of their former extent, and our nature reserves and wildlife sites are often small and exist as isolated havens in a fragmented landscape, in which many species struggle to survive, as they are unable to move or adapt quickly enough. While much has been achieved much more needs to be done as our priority habitats are still in decline through loss and fragmentation, inappropriate management, environmental pollution, and a range of other pressures such as climate change.

Establishing a coherent and resilient ecological network will not only help wildlife to cope with change, but will also improve the ability of the natural environment to provide for us.

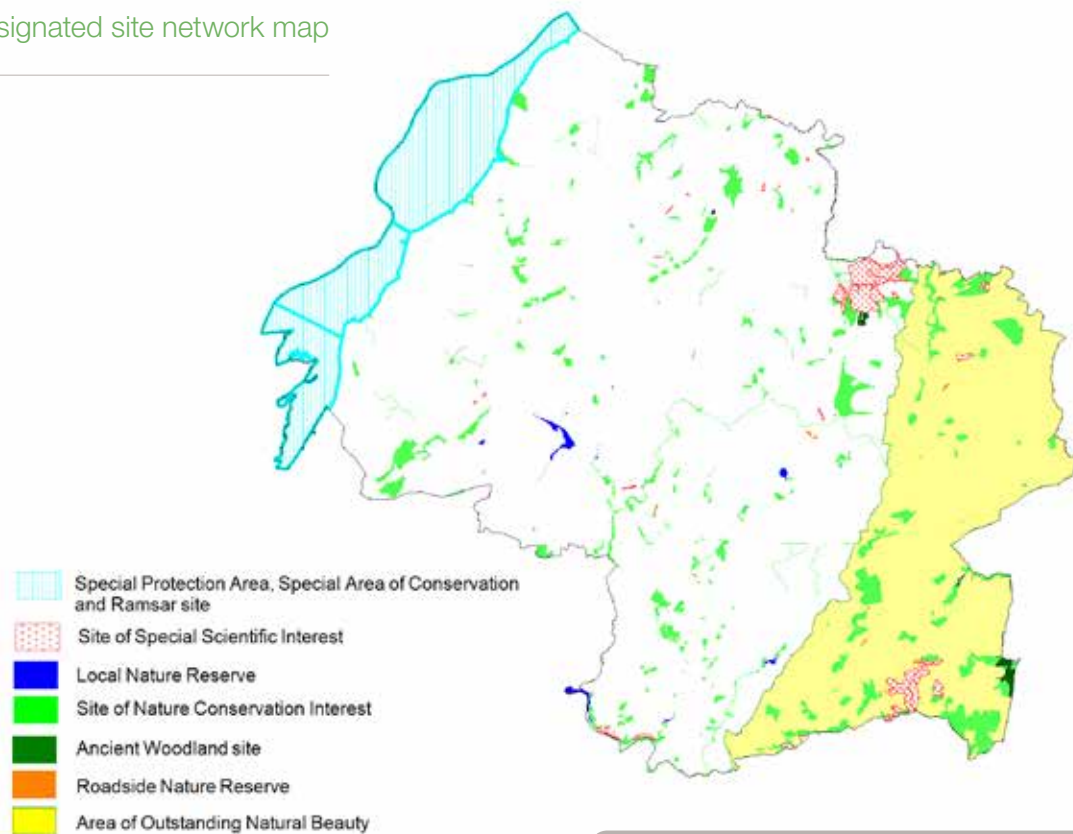
We need to build on the work we have already done and improve our existing ecological network.

Our fragmented landscape



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Designated site network map



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This means we have to:

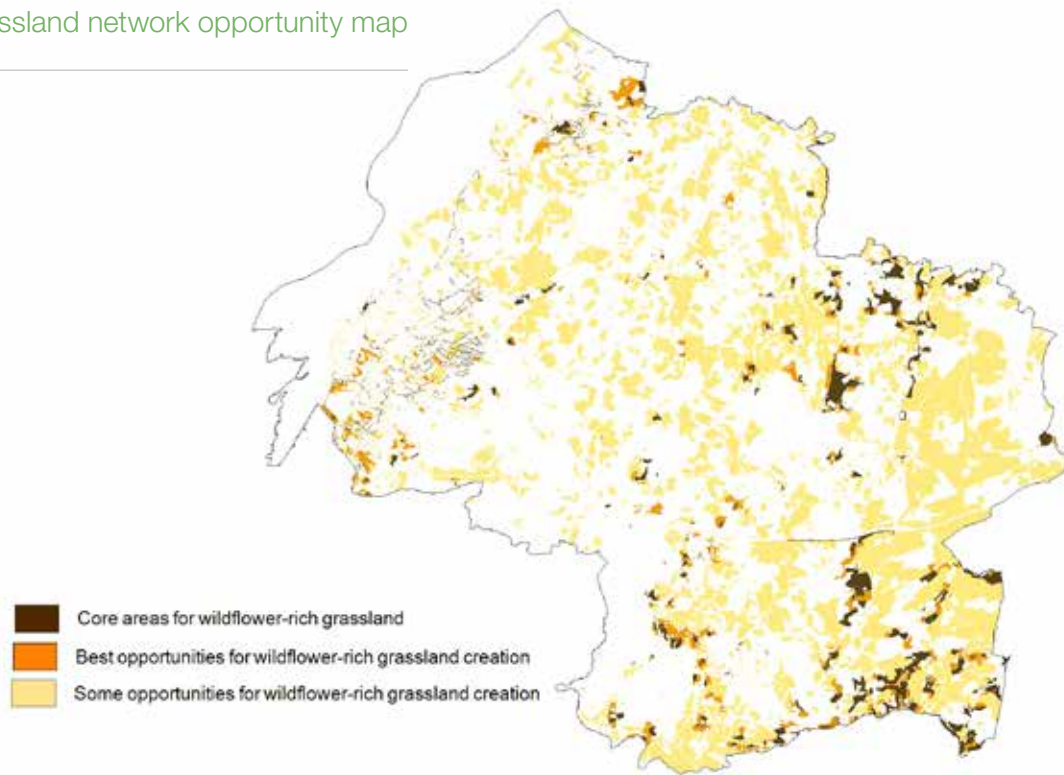
- Protect what we have got and improve the quality of sites by better habitat management.
- Increase the size of existing wildlife sites.
- Enhance connectivity by creating new wildlife corridors or stepping stones.
- Create new sites to expand the number.
- Reduce the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment including through buffering wildlife sites.

It also means planning ecological networks, including areas for restoration, and becoming better at deriving multiple benefits from land-use, for example by natural solutions to flood threats, such as habitat creation, restoration and management.

Strategic direction on ecological networks and biodiversity opportunity mapping is provided by the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) www.wenp.org.uk

The Partnership have embarked on a project to assess the state of the environment in the West of England. Utilising existing data and evidence they have assessed the current provision of ecosystems across the region. This mapping provides a powerful tool to enable us to spatially visualise ecosystem services in South Gloucestershire and also enables us to identify where the best opportunities are to enhance ecosystem service provision. Across the West of England three ecological networks (grassland, woodland and wetland) are recognised and these networks are supported by biodiversity opportunity maps which identify the best areas for habitat restoration and creation.

Grassland network opportunity map



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The grassland network

What does the map show?

The brown areas show the ‘core’ areas of wildflower-rich grassland. These are areas greater than 0.5ha which are the most species and flower rich areas in South Gloucestershire. The orange areas show the land that supports the core areas and enable species to move from one core area to another, helping make coherent and resilient networks. The greatest opportunities to restore or recreate grassland and strengthen the network are shown in orange. The yellow areas highlight where restoration is possible, but outside of the network.

Why is this ecosystem important?

Wildflower-rich grassland is particularly important for maintaining pollinator species which are crucial for many of our food crops. Establishment will be more effective if it forms part of the network, this is because the connectivity between core areas is stronger and species can move more easily between them.

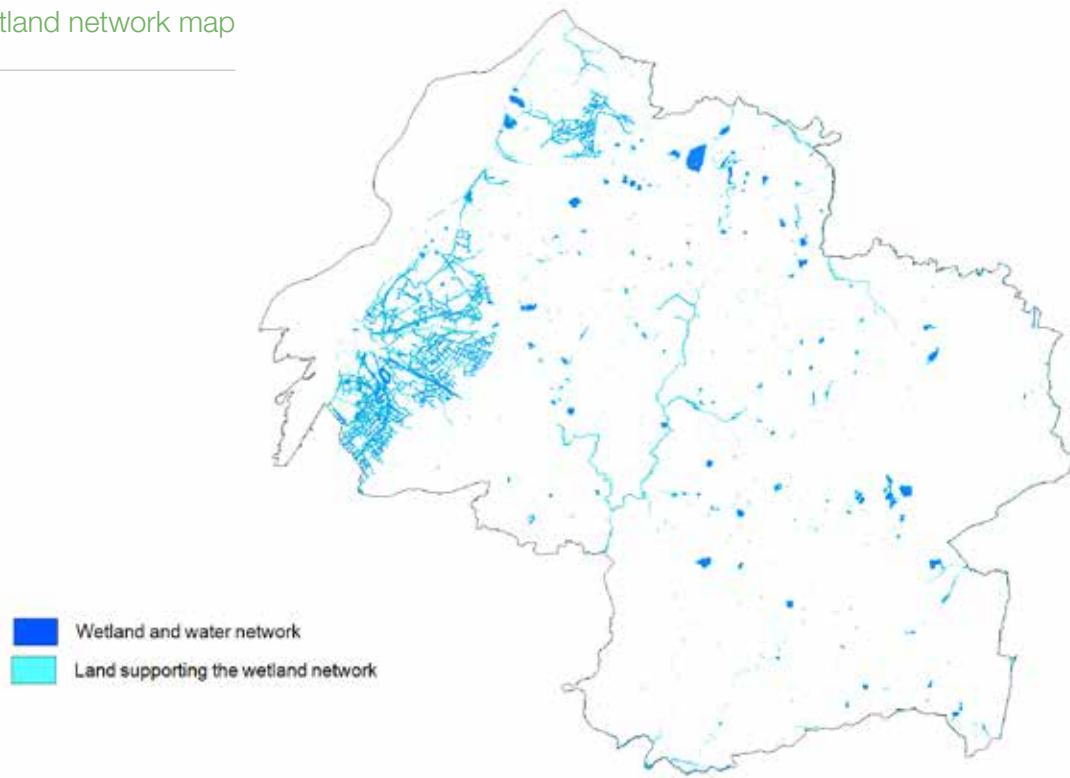


© A Forgotten Landscape – Severnside Meadow.



A bee on Greater Knapweed.

Wetland network map



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The wetland network

What does the map show?

The wetland and water system is shown in dark blue. This includes the extensive artificial ditch and rhyne system that lies adjacent to the Severn Estuary. The map also shows the land that supports this network is paler blue. Wetlands can only be created where the conditions and hydrology are correct. By combining land drainage route modelling, proximity to core wetland habitats and network information, it is possible to determine where wetlands could be effectively created. The best opportunities for wetland creation are in the ‘Severnside’ area.

Redshank © A Forgotton Landscape.

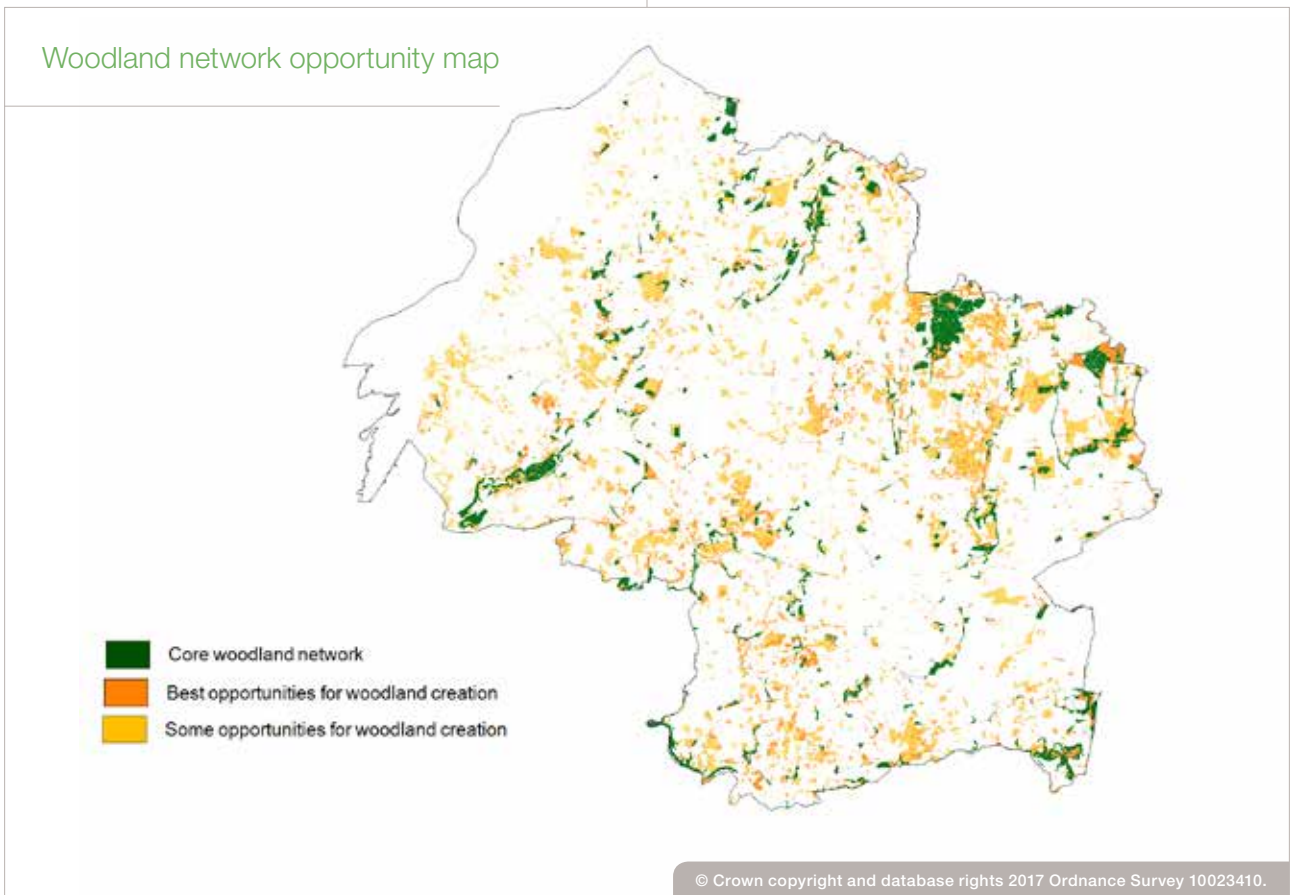


© A Forgotton Landscape – Wetland, Littleton.

Why is this ecosystem important?

Wetlands are an important habitat due to the range of ecosystem services they provide; they help purify water, control flooding, store carbon and help with shoreline stability. Enhancing the wetland network will help improve resilience to future pressures, such as climate change, flooding and water quality issues. Wetlands also provide an important habitat for wildlife, especially birds who use them over winter.

Woodland network opportunity map



The woodland network

What does the map show?

The ‘core’ woodland network is shown in dark green. This core area of broadleaved woodland is made up of areas greater than 2 hectares. The map also shows where the best opportunities are to create woodland within the network (dark orange), and the opportunities outside of the network (yellow).



Gorse Covert.

Woodland creation will be most effective if the soil and habitat conditions are right. The areas with the greatest opportunity fall in close proximity to the existing network, in particular areas that can help buffer and connect woodlands that have been designated for their ecological importance, and help reduce fragmentation. These are likely to establish far quicker than areas outside of the network.

Why is this ecosystem important?

Creating a coherent woodland network will increase the resilience of services woodlands can provide such as; carbon storage, water storage, recreation and wildlife habitat. It will also ensure woodlands are resilient to future pressures such as climate change. Biodiversity and ecosystem benefits are higher where expansion helps strengthen habitat networks.

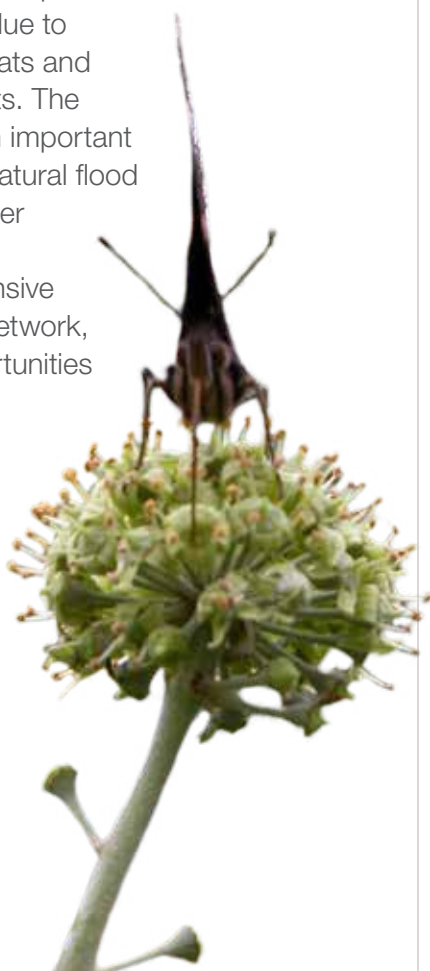
Landscape-scale conservation projects in South Gloucestershire

Nature Improvement Areas

Local Nature Partnerships have been empowered to identify locally determined NIAs, which are large, discreet areas that take a landscape approach to nature conservation. They work with existing land-uses and aim to create large ecological networks.

'Severnside' NIA

Using criteria provided by Defra, WENP has identified 'Severnside' as an area that would benefit from restoration and deliver significant ecological improvements on a landscape scale. The Severn Estuary is recognised as nationally and internationally important for conservation due to the range of habitats and species it supports. The area also plays an important role in providing natural flood defences and water cleaning services. Through the extensive ditch and rhyne network, there exists opportunities to enhance the wetland network and provide multiple ecosystem services to benefit people, business and wildlife alike.



A Forgotten Landscape

In South Gloucestershire this work is already underway in the Severnside area through the Heritage Lottery funded (HLF) 'A Forgotten Landscape' project www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk which will run until 2018.

**A
Forgotten
Landscape**



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Cotswolds AONB NIAs

Two NIA's have been identified in the Cotswolds AONB; the Cotswolds Scarp NIA and the Cotswolds Valleys NIA. The western edge of the Cotswolds provides the opportunity to create an 80 mile long wildlife corridor running between Bath and Mickleton. This would allow grassland and woodland species to adapt to climate change. The long term aim is to link up and better manage existing wildlife sites. The wider benefits of restoring this landscape include supporting the local economy through tourism and local produce such as beef, lamb, venison and wood fuel. Permanent pasture and woodland store carbon and provide soil protection, flood prevention (absorbing excess

rain fall), and improved air quality (trees removing pollutants). The long-term aim for the Cotswolds Valleys NIA is to restore habitats along the rivers and valley sides through measures such as buffering water courses. This will create wildlife corridors and improve water quality helping the recovery of priority species. The Cotswolds Scarp NIA extends across the east of South Gloucestershire along with a small part of the Cotswolds Valleys NIA.

Save Our Magnificent Meadows

The HLF funded ‘*Save Our Magnificent Meadows*’ project www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/about in the Cotswolds is focused on restoring land that reconnects isolated species-rich grassland fragments along the Scarp and within the river valleys and will run until 2017.

Avon Wildlife Trust Vision

Avon Wildlife Trust has prioritised five landscape-scale areas for their conservation need and their potential for community engagement. Each area also offers valuable ecosystem services and the Trust will work to create connecting corridors for wildlife across the region. The Cotswolds is one of these priority areas.

My Wild City

Avon Wildlife Trust’s vision is to turn Greater Bristol into a nature reserve. Working with local communities they aim to create a nature-rich city that puts wildlife right on your doorstep, giving everyone the opportunity to experience the joy of wildlife every day. Together, they aim to connect habitats and green spaces, creating wildlife corridors - ‘green highways’ enabling

wildlife to move easily around the city and link to the countryside.

My Wild City’s vision is for anyone living and working in the Greater Bristol area to help transform gardens and open spaces into a city-wide nature reserve. For more information see www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/mywildcity

The grassland network and pollinators

The West of England B-Lines project www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/b-lines is a collaborative project between Avon Wildlife Trust and Buglife with support from a number of other partner organisations including South Gloucestershire Council.

B-Lines are a series of ‘insect pathways’ that link the best areas of grassland together. The project seeks to restore wildflower-rich habitats and stepping stones, to extend and strengthen the grassland ecological network. This will provide large areas of restored habitat benefiting bees and butterflies – but also a host of other wildlife.

B-Lines is a nationwide project. For more information see www.buglife.org.uk/campaigns-and-our-work/habitatprojects/b-lines

B-Lines project



Local action for pollinators



A local strategy for the Greater Bristol area has been developed by the Greater Bristol Pollinator Strategy Partnership whose aim is to promote aspects of the National Pollinator Strategy relevant to urban areas and public land. For more information see www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/my-wild-city/get-bristol-buzzing/greater-bristol-pollinator-strategy

Catchment restoration in South Gloucestershire

The rivers and streams in South Gloucestershire are part of the wider Bristol Avon Catchment. A CaBA partnership has been established to look at the water issues associated with the wider catchment and ways in which they can be addressed in a more integrated manner.

Bristol Avon Catchment



The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership comprises a range of organisations, groups, authorities including South Gloucestershire Council and individuals dedicated to working together to improve the water environment and provide wider benefits for people and nature at a catchment scale. Further information about the partnership and its work can be found on the Wessex Water website.

www.wessexwater.co.uk/bristolavon

Bristol Avon River Trust (BART) is working with Environment Agency and other partners to improve conditions on the South Gloucestershire Bradley Brook and Ladden Brook tributaries as part of an holistic catchment wide approach to managing the water environment.



Parish & Town Biodiversity Action Plans

Local action to improve biodiversity

Wildlife needs protecting and habitats need managing all over South Gloucestershire. Local communities can provide vital help by valuing, conserving and enhancing biodiversity in their local area. Deciding where to start can be a daunting prospect, so South Gloucestershire Council has developed a BAP for each parish and/or town, which outlines how you can help South Gloucestershire's wildlife at a local community level. The Parish and Town BAP's can help with efforts to secure a better local environment and contribute to the wider BAP for South Gloucestershire.

Parish and Town BAP's

Each BAP will help you discover what's in your area, along with key steps that can be taken to maintain and enhance biodiversity locally. You can find your Parish or Town BAP on the South Gloucestershire Council website under Wildlife www.southglos.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/countryside/wildlife/what-is-biodiversity

It's often useful to find out what's already known or recorded in your area and this has been provided in your Parish or Town BAP. Using data supplied by Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC) each BAP consist of a biodiversity audit which maps and/or lists information on designated sites for nature conservation along with information on priority habitats and species.

Moth mapping.



Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC)



Local Records Centres collect, collate and manage data about the environment in a given area. In South Gloucestershire, Bristol

Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC) is the central repository for biodiversity and geodiversity data for the 'West of England' area: the same area as the former county of Avon. BRERC's database has over 1.9 million species records and extensive data on wildlife habitats, designated sites and geological sites. BRERC can conduct customised data searches for your area and take forward a 'special project' for you such as a BioBlitz. You can also use their online species search engine to find out what wildlife has been recorded in your local area and you can also submit your own wildlife sightings.

Although the BAP's have gathered some information on your local area, carrying out a field survey is a great way to get even more localised information. Remember that you should always seek the landowner's permission before you go ahead.

Producing a 'Nature Map' which shows habitats, certain species, nature reserves and so on, will help you to understand the distribution of wildlife in your area, and may give you ideas for further projects, which will help protect, enhance and create new habitats for wildlife.

Botanical survey.



How to protect biodiversity – a rough guide for local communities

It's useful to know which pieces of legislation and planning policy offer protection to the natural environment.

The species and habitats listed in the (2006 - 2015) BAP (see appendix 1) when read alongside the Council's Core Strategy Policy CS9 and Policies, Sites and Places Policy PSP19 act as material consideration in the planning process.

Community led planning

Use your Parish/Town BAP to inform community led planning (also known as parish planning). This is a consultation process which creates a vision for local communities and a subsequent action plan. The resulting vision covers the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the community and all those who live and work in it. Find out more www.southglos.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations/consultation-overview/community-led-planning

The Localism Bill

The Localism Bill allows local 'neighbourhoods' to draw up their own neighbourhood plan which establishes a vision and general planning policies and proposals for the future development and use of different plots of land in your local area. Use your Parish/Town BAP to inform neighbourhood planning - Find out more www.southglos.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-planning-2

Designated Sites

LNRs are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it. Parish and town councils can declare LNR's if they have the powers to do so delegated to them by South Gloucestershire Council. See guidance www.gov.uk/guidance/create-and-manage-local-nature-reserves

Sites Of Nature Conservation Interest

- are locally designated wildlife sites which include important and rare species and habitats. They make an important contribution to ecological networks and are overseen by a Local Sites Partnership and afforded protection through the planning system. New sites can be put forward.

Roadside Nature Reserves - are designated by South Gloucestershire Council but must meet the agreed criteria. They contain important and rare species and habitats and act as wildlife corridors. Parish and Town Councils can identify verges that they would like to designate.

Scything at the Three Brooks LNR.



Each BAP then goes on to suggest some projects under the biodiversity action section that could help you to:

- Improve the quality of existing habitats.
- Create new habitat.
- Link habitats.
- Take part in landscape-scale conservation.
- Engage people with nature.

In general, once you have decided what you want to do, you will need people to help you do it! A useful starting point is to find out whether there are any wildlife groups or organisations already running projects or managing nature reserves in your area, or which could provide advice or further information.

If the project is on public land you should check to see if there is an existing group already associated with the area. The Hive is South Gloucestershire Council’s Community Spaces Network which aims to empower individuals and groups to improve their local public open spaces for the benefit of the wider community and local wildlife. Here you can find further information on friends of groups and conservation groups, training and funding opportunities and how to set up a local group

www.southglos.gov.uk/thehive



Getting the community involved in practical conservation work is a great way of bringing people together and learning more about nature. There are often simple things that can be done to enhance public spaces, such as churchyards and playing fields, for wildlife. Contact the South Gloucestershire Council Community Spaces team for further advice. Email: communityspaces@southglos.gov.uk

South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Group

The Biodiversity Action Group are a small group of amateurs, professionals and enthusiasts who act as a catalyst for biodiversity action across the whole of South Gloucestershire (all land in any ownership). They meet up a few times a year and can help with:

- Providing expert advice on priority actions for wildlife required in each parish.
- Providing guidance on project delivery and ecological monitoring.
- Support groups to find funding.

They can be contacted via the South Gloucestershire Council Biodiversity Officer Email: communityspaces@southglos.gov.uk



Scrub clearance.

Other sources of information and help**Bat Conservation Trust**

www.bats.org.uk

Buglife

www.buglife.org.uk

Environment Agency

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/
environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency)

Forestry Commission

www.forestry.gov.uk

Freshwater Habitats Trust

<http://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk>

Natural England

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-
england](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england)

Peoples Trust for Endangered Species

<https://ptes.org>

Plantlife

www.plantlife.org.uk

RSPB

www.rspb.org.uk

The Mammal Society

www.mammal.org.uk

Woodland Trust

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Local wildlife and conservation groups and organisations**Avon Amphibian and Reptile Group**

<http://groups.arguk.org/arag>

Avon Bat Group

<http://avonbatgroup.org.uk>

Avon Wildlife Trust

www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust

www.bristolavonriverstrust.org

Bristol Naturalists Society

<http://bristolnats.org.uk>

Butterfly Conservation

[www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk/index.
php](http://www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk/index.php)

Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Forest of Avon Trust

<http://forestofavontrust.org>

Gloucestershire Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)

www.gloucestershirefwag.org.uk

Hawk and Owl Trust

[http://hawkandowl.org/groups/south-
gloucestershire-group](http://hawkandowl.org/groups/south-gloucestershire-group)

Severn Estuary Partnership

www.severnestuary.net

The Conservation Volunteers

www.tcv.org.uk/southwest

Appendix 1

South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan (2006 – 2015):

Priority Habitat and Species list

Local Priority Habitats	Priority species	Local Priority Species
Arable farmland	Bullfinch	Adders tongue spearwort
Broadleaf woodland	Dormouse	Barn owl
Hedges, dry stone walls and field margins	Great crested newt	Bath asparagus
Old meadows and pastures	Hedgehog	Bithynian vetch
Orchards	Song thrush	Glow worm
Ponds, rhines, rivers and water bodies	Tassel stonewort	Slow worm
Saltmarsh/coastal grazing floodplain	White clawed crayfish	Wild service tree
	Lesser horseshoe bat	

Appendix 2

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 Section 41: Habitats of Principal Importance in England found in South Gloucestershire

Habitat Group	Priority Habitats found in South Gloucestershire	Local Priority Habitat
Lowland Farmland	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Roadside verges, footpath and cycle path edges, recreational sites, commons, old churchyards and dry stone walls
	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	
	Lowland Meadows	
	Arable Field Margins	
	Hedgerows	
	Traditional Orchards	
Wetlands	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	
Woodlands	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Veteran trees
	Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland	
	Wet Woodland	
	Wood Pasture and Parkland	
	Upland Mixed Ashwoods Upland Oakwoods	
Coastal	Coastal Saltmarsh	
	Intertidal Mudflats	
	Maritime Cliff and Slopes	
	Coastal Vegetated Shingle	
Lakes and Ponds	Ponds	Rhines
	Eutrophic Standing Water	
Rivers	Rivers	Streams and brooks
Urban and Brownfield	Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land	

Appendix 3

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 Section 41: Species of Principal Importance in England found in South Gloucestershire

Vascular Plants	
Broad-fruited Cornsalad	<i>Valerianella rimosa</i>
Chamomile	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>
Corn Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>
Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>
Grape-hyacinth	<i>Muscari neglectum</i>
Marsh Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria palustris</i>
Sea Barley	<i>Hordeum marinum</i>
Shepherd's-needle	<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>
Slender Hare's-ear	<i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i>
Spreading Hedge-parsley	<i>Torilis arvensis</i>
Three-lobed Water-crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus tripartitus</i>
Tubular Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>
Non-Vascular Plants	
Tassel stonewort	<i>Tolypella intricata</i>
Fungi and Lichens	
Sandy Stilt Puffball	<i>Battarrea phalloides</i>
True Bugs	
Lesser Water Measurer	<i>Hydrometra gracilentia</i>
Beetles	
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>
Flies	
Barred Green Colonel (Soldierfly)	<i>Odontomyia hydroleon</i>
Hornet Robberfly	<i>Asilus crabroniformis</i>
Moths	
August Thorn	<i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>
Beaded Chestnut	<i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>
Blood-vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>
Brindled Beauty	<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>
Brown-spot Pinion	<i>Agrochola litura</i>

Moths	
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma luteum</i>
Centre-barred Sallow	<i>Atethmia centrago</i>
Chalk Carpet	<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria</i>
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>
Crescent	<i>Celaena leucostigma</i> subsp. <i>leucostigma</i>
Currant Shoot Borer	<i>Lampronia capitella</i>
Dark Brocade	<i>Blepharita adusta</i>
Dark Spinach	<i>Pelurga comitata</i>
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>
Deep-brown Dart	<i>Aporophyla lutulenta</i>
Dot Moth	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>
Double Dart	<i>Graphiphora augur</i>
Dusky Brocade	<i>Apamea remissa</i>
Dusky Thorn	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>
Dusky-lemon Sallow	<i>Xanthia gilvago</i>
Ear Moth	<i>Amphipoea oculea</i>
Feathered Gothic	<i>Tholera decimalis</i>
Figure of Eight	<i>Diloba caeruleocephala</i>
Flounced Chestnut	<i>Agrochola helvola</i>
Garden Dart	<i>Euxoa nigricans</i>
Garden Tiger	<i>Arctia caja</i>
Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>
Grass Rivulet	<i>Perizoma albulata</i> subsp. <i>albulata</i>
Green-brindled Crescent	<i>Allophytes oxyacanthae</i>
Grey Dagger	<i>Acronicta psi</i>
Hedge Rustic	<i>Tholera cespitis</i>
Knot Grass (moth)	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>
Lackey	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>
Large Nutmeg	<i>Apamea anceps</i>
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>
Minor Shoulder-knot	<i>Brachylomia viminalis</i>
Mistletoe Marble	<i>Celypha woodiana</i>
Mottled Rustic	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>
Mouse Moth	<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>
Oak Hook-tip	<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>
Pale Eggar	<i>Trichiura crataegi</i>
Powdered Quaker	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>
Pretty Chalk Carpet	<i>Melanthia procellata</i>

Moths	
Rosy Minor	Mesoligia literosa
Rosy Rustic	Hydraecia micacea
Rustic	Hoplodrina blanda
Sallow (moth)	Xanthia icteritia
September Thorn	Ennomos erosaria
Shaded Broad-bar	Scotopteryx chenopodiata
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	Mythimna comma
Small Emerald	Hemistola chrysoprasaria
Small Phoenix	Ecliptopera silaceata
Small Square-spot	Diarsia rubi
Small White-line Dart	Euxoa tritici
Spinach (moth)	Eulithis mellinata
Streak	Chesias legatella
V-Moth	Macaria wauaria
White Ermine	Spilosoma lubricipeda
White-spotted Pinion	Cosmia diffinis
White-spotted Sable Moth	Anania funebris
Butterflies	
Dingy Skipper	Erynnis tages
Duke of Burgundy Fritillary	Hamearis lucina
Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus malvae
Marsh Fritillary	Euphydryas aurinia
Small Blue	Cupido minimus
Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria selene
Wall	Lasiommata megera
White Admiral	Limenitis camilla
White-letter Hairstreak	Satyrium w-album
Wood White	Leptidea sinapis
Bees, Wasps and Ants	
Moss Carder-Bee	Bombus (Thoracomus) muscorum
Red-tailed Carder Bee	Bombus (Thoracomus) ruderarius
Short Haired Bumble Bee	Bombus (Subterraneobombus) subterraneus
Shrill Carder Bee	Bombus (Thoracomus) sylvorum
Black Headed Mason Wasp	Odynerus (Odynerus) melanocephalus
Spiders	
a money spider	Monocephalus castaneipes

Crustaceans	
White-clawed Crayfish*	<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>
Molluscs	
Freshwater Pearl Mussel	<i>Margaritifera (Margaritifera) margaritifera</i>
Fish	
Atlantic Salmon	<i>Salmo salar</i>
Brown/Sea Trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>
Eel	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>
Sea Lamprey	<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
Amphibians and reptiles	
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>
Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>
Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>
Birds	
Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla subsp. bernicla</i>
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>

Marsh Tit	Poecile palustris
Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus
Scaup	Aythya marila
Skylark	Alauda arvensis
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris
Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis
Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus
Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur
Willow Tit	Poecile montanus
Wood Warbler	Phylloscopus sibilatrix
Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella
Mammals	
Barbastelle	Barbastella barbastellus
Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus
Brown Long-eared Bat	Plecotus auritus
Common Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius
Greater Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus ferrumequinum
Harvest Mouse	Micromys minutus
Hedgehog	Erinaceus europaeus
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus hipposideros
Noctule	Nyctalus noctula
Polecat	Mustela putorius
Soprano Pipistrelle (55kHz)	Pipistrellus pygmaeus
Water Vole	Arvicola amphibius

* White-clawed Crayfish is now considered extinct locally.

Notes

This list was compiled from records held at Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC) (September 2016).

Species have not been included on the list if;

- 1) The records are not held at BRERC.
- 2) Last recorded sighting was pre 1986 - the species is considered extinct for purposes of the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 3) Species which are considered to be occasional visitors.



If you need this information in another format or language, please contact 01454 868009

