

# Pilning and Severn Beach 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 33 - favourable condition
- Severn Estuary SSSI, unit 32 - unfavourable
- Severn Estuary SSSI, unit 30 - favourable
- Severn Estuary SSSI, unit 31 - favourable
- Severn Estuary SSSI, unit 29 (part of) - favourable
- Severn Estuary SSSI, unit 28 - unfavourable
- Severn Estuary SSSI, unit 27 (small part of) - favourable

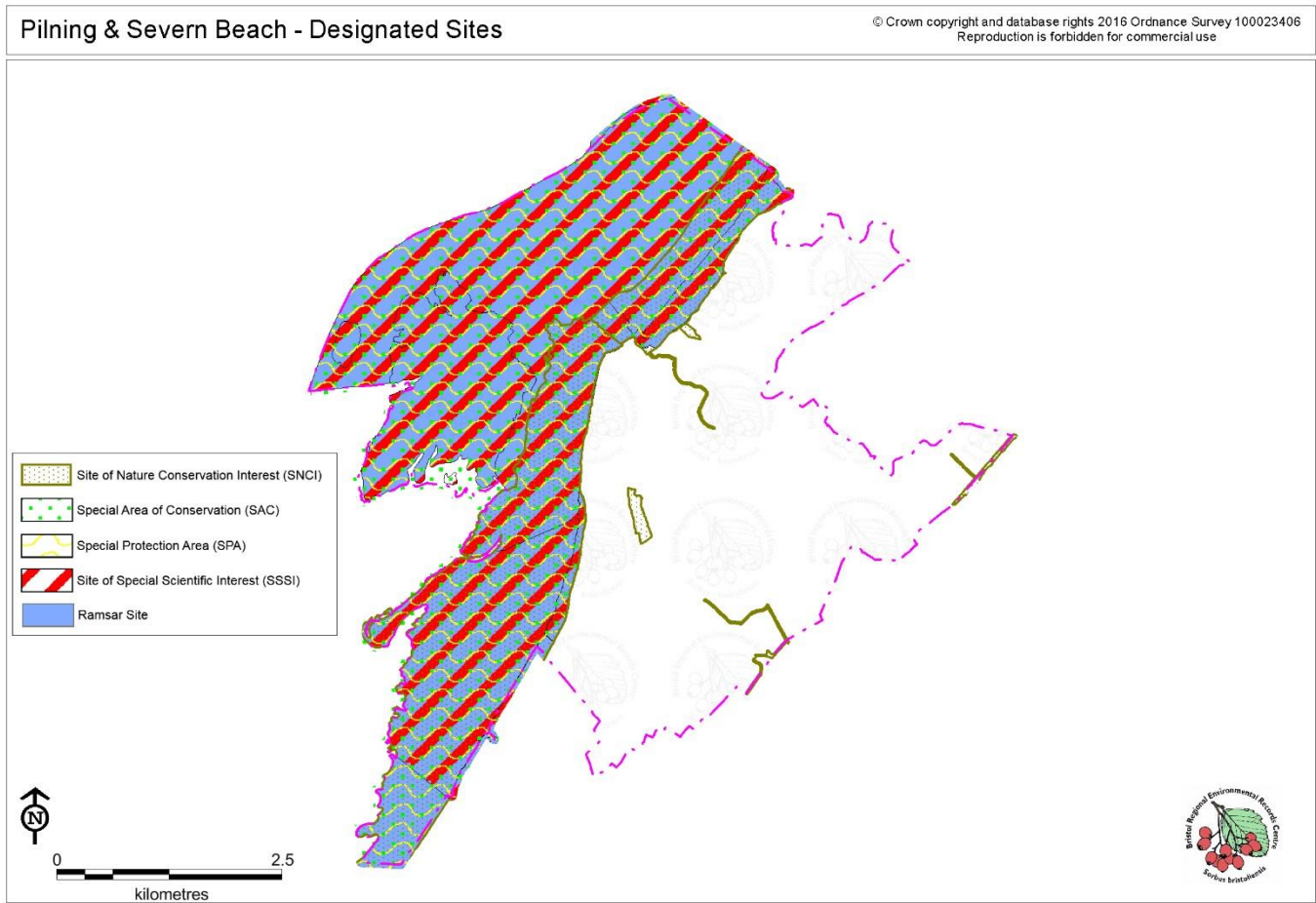




**Locally important wildlife sites** (i.e Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) :

- Severn Estuary SSSI (part of) Aust to New Passage - saltmarsh and mudflats
- Severn Estuary SSSI (part of) New Passage to Chittingen Warth - saltmarsh and mudflats
- Gypsies Platt - neutral grassland and species rich hedgerows (South Gloucestershire owned)
- The Pill, New Passage - rhines
- Mill Rhyne plantation and rhines (part of)
- Impool, Middle Compton and Upper Compton rhines

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





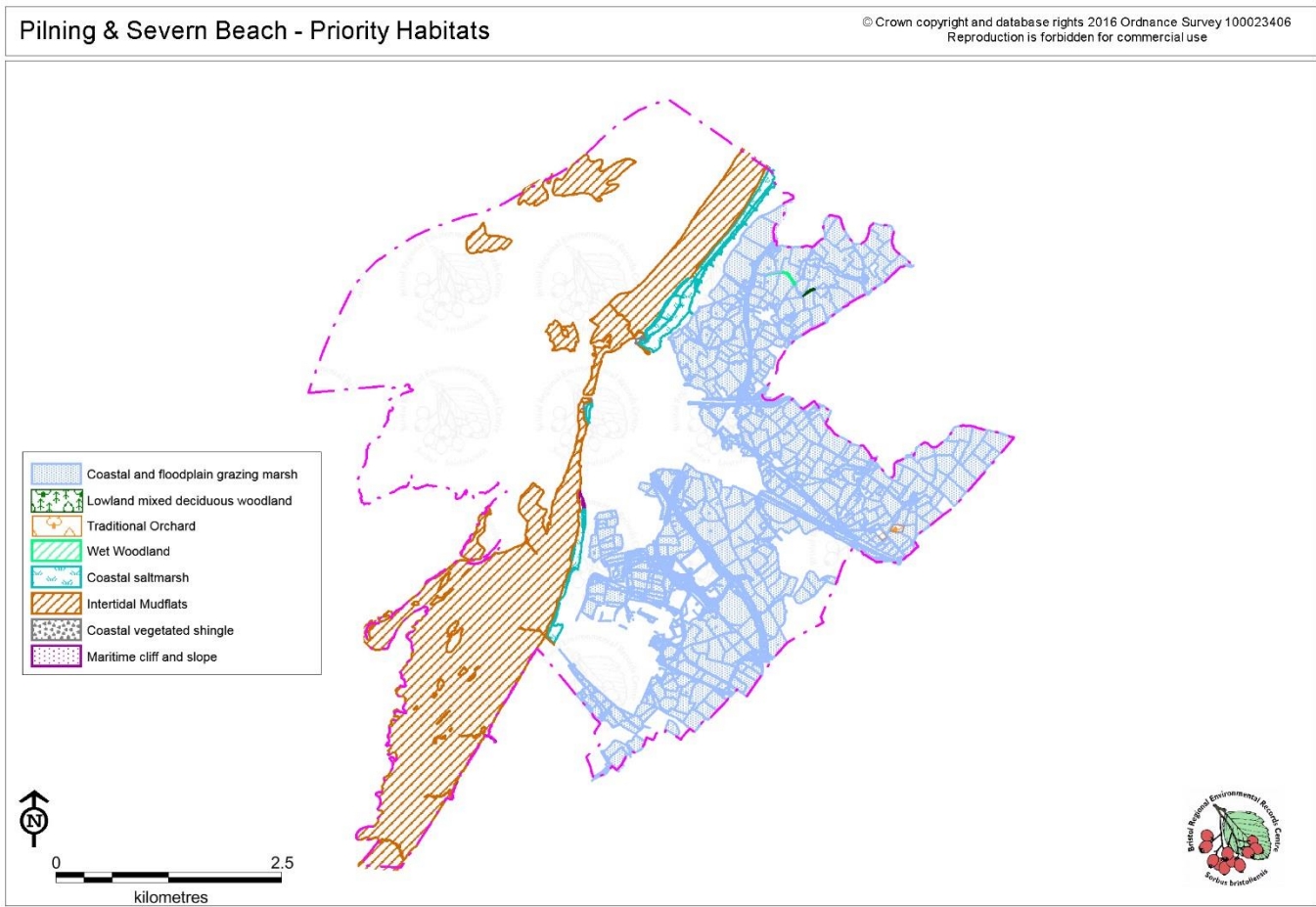
### Other sites

- Road and motorway verges.

### 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
- Traditional Orchards
- Wet Woodland
- Coastal Saltmarsh
- Intertidal Mudflats
- Coastal Vegetated Shingle
- Maritime Cliff and Slope





**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 BRER (2016). European protected species are not included.

Adder	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	Hedgehog	Pale Eggar	Small Phoenix
August Thorn	Dark Spinach	Hen Harrier	Polecat	Small Square-spot
Beaded Chestnut	Deep-brown Dart	Herring Gull	Powdered Quaker	Small White-line Dart
Bewick's Swan	Dot Moth	House Sparrow	Red-tailed Carder Bee	Song Thrush
Black Headed Mason Wasp	Double Dart	Knot Grass (moth)	Reed Bunting	Spinach (moth)
Black-tailed Godwit	Dunnock	Lackey	Ring Ouzel	Spotted Flycatcher
Blood-vein Brindled Beauty	Dusky Brocade Sallow	Lapwing	Rosy Minor	Starling
Brown Hare	Dusky Thorn	Large Nutmeg	Rosy Rustic	Stone-curlew
Buff Ermine	Ear Moth	Large Wainscot	Rustic	Tree Pipit
Bullfinch	Eel	Latticed Heath	Sallow (moth)	Tree Sparrow
Centre-barred Sallow	Figure of Eight	Lesser Redpoll	Scaup	Turtle Dove
Cinnabar	Garden Dart	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Sea Barley	Water Vole
Cod	Garden Tiger	Linnet	Shaded Broad-bar	White Ermine
Common Scoter	Ghost Moth	Marsh Tit	Shoulder -striped Wainscot	White-letter Hairstreak
Common Toad	Grasshopper Warbler	Minor Shoulder-knot	Skylark	Woodlark
Corn Bunting	Grass Snake	Mistletoe	Slender Hare's-ear	Wood Warbler
Cuckoo	Green-brindled Crescent	Marble	Slow-worm	Yellowhammer
Curlew	Grey Dagger	Mottled Rustic	Small Blue	Yellow Wagtail
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	Hawfinch	Mouse Moth	Small Emerald	
		Nightjar	Small Heath	
		Oak Hook-tip		





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;
  - 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;
  - Increase tree cover on amenity land, investigate creating a wildflower meadow and 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 linking hedgerows and rhines.
4. Managing biodiversity at the scale of whole natural systems and landscapes;
  - Consider linking to similar neighbouring habitat projects via A Forgotten Landscape and Avon Wildlife Trust's MyWildCity (your parish is on their Severnside map).





5. Engaging people in new ways that increases the number of people who understand and value nature;
  - Join in and promote any events / recording/ volunteering opportunities arising through 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.

