

# Wickwar 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).

This commitment is also set out in the Council's Local Plan – see Core Strategy CS9 and Policies, Sites and Places PSP19 which ensures the importance of avoiding or minimising impacts on biodiversity is given statutory weight as afforded by the Council's development plan.

## 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. This guide is also a material consideration that can be used to support the determination of planning applications where appropriate.**

### 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):

- Bishop's Hill Wood SSSI unit 1 - woodland, unfavourable recovering condition
- Bishop's Hill Wood SSSI unit 2 - calcareous grassland, unfavourable recovering condition
- Bishop's Hill Wood SSSI unit 3 - woodland, unfavourable recovering condition

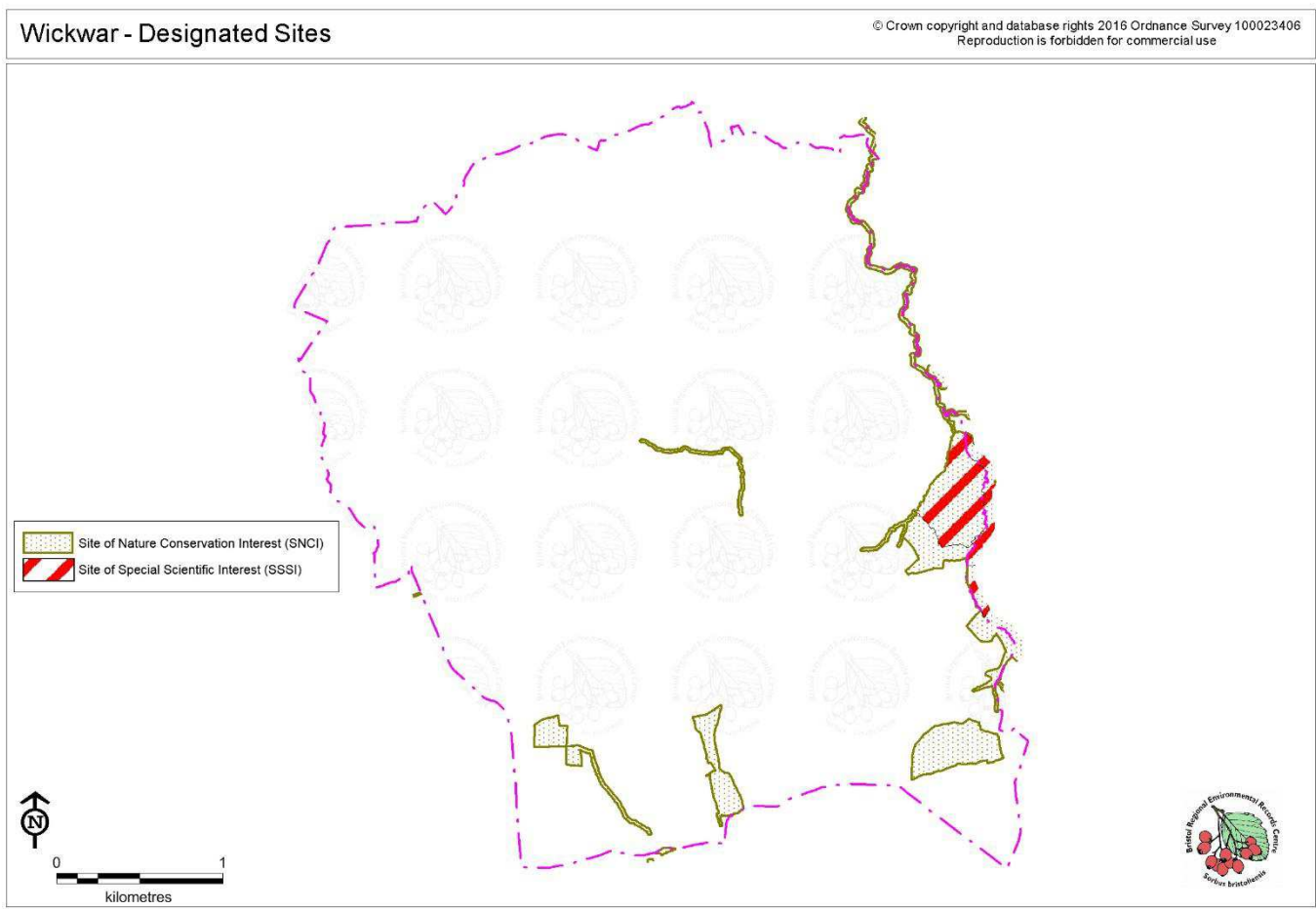




**Locally important wildlife sites** (i.e Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) :

- Tributary of Ladden Brook
- Ladden brook and Mill Pond, Yate Court
- Disused quarry and fields, Bury Hill
- Lady's Wood
- Bishops Hill Wood SSSI
- Little Avon river and tributary west of Wetmoor

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





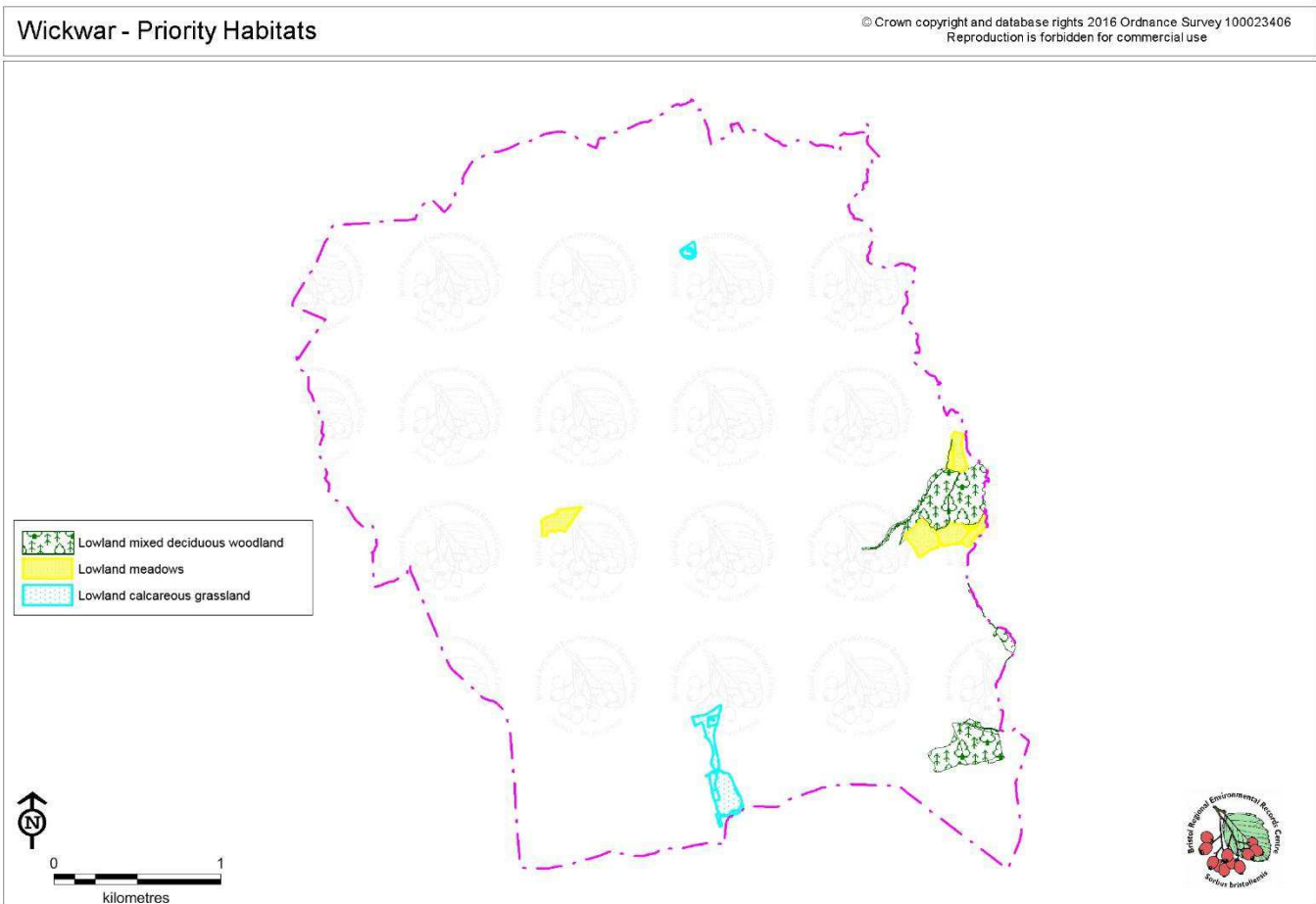
### Other sites

Other sites important for wildlife or could be enhanced for biodiversity include; road verges, Holy Trinity churchyard, school grounds and King George V playing fields.

### 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 Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- Lowland Meadows
- Lowland Calcareous 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 in this list (all bat species, otter, dormice, newt, badger) however many or all are believed to have been recorded in the parish.

Bullfinch	House Sparrow	Song Thrush
Cinnabar	Lackey	Spotted Flycatcher
Common Toad	Lapwing	Starling
Cuckoo	Latticed Heath	White Admiral
Dot Moth	Linnet	White-letter Hairstreak
Duncock	Marsh Tit	Yellowhammer
Grasshopper Warbler	Reed Bunting	
Grass Snake	Shaded Broad-bar	
Grey Partridge	Skylark	
Hedgehog	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;
  - On sites where condition is unknown survey work (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;

- Investigate ways to increase tree cover to increase woodland / street trees/ orchards. There may be patches of amenity land available.

**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 corridors such as hedgerows and the Little Avon river corridor – identify any key gaps.

**4.** Managing biodiversity at the scale of whole natural systems and landscapes;

- Consider linking to local and national projects such as the B-Lines project.

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

- Conduct events / recording/ volunteering opportunities through schools(s) and Lower Woods etc.

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.

