

Oldland 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 (LNR)): Willsbridge Valley Local Nature Reserve

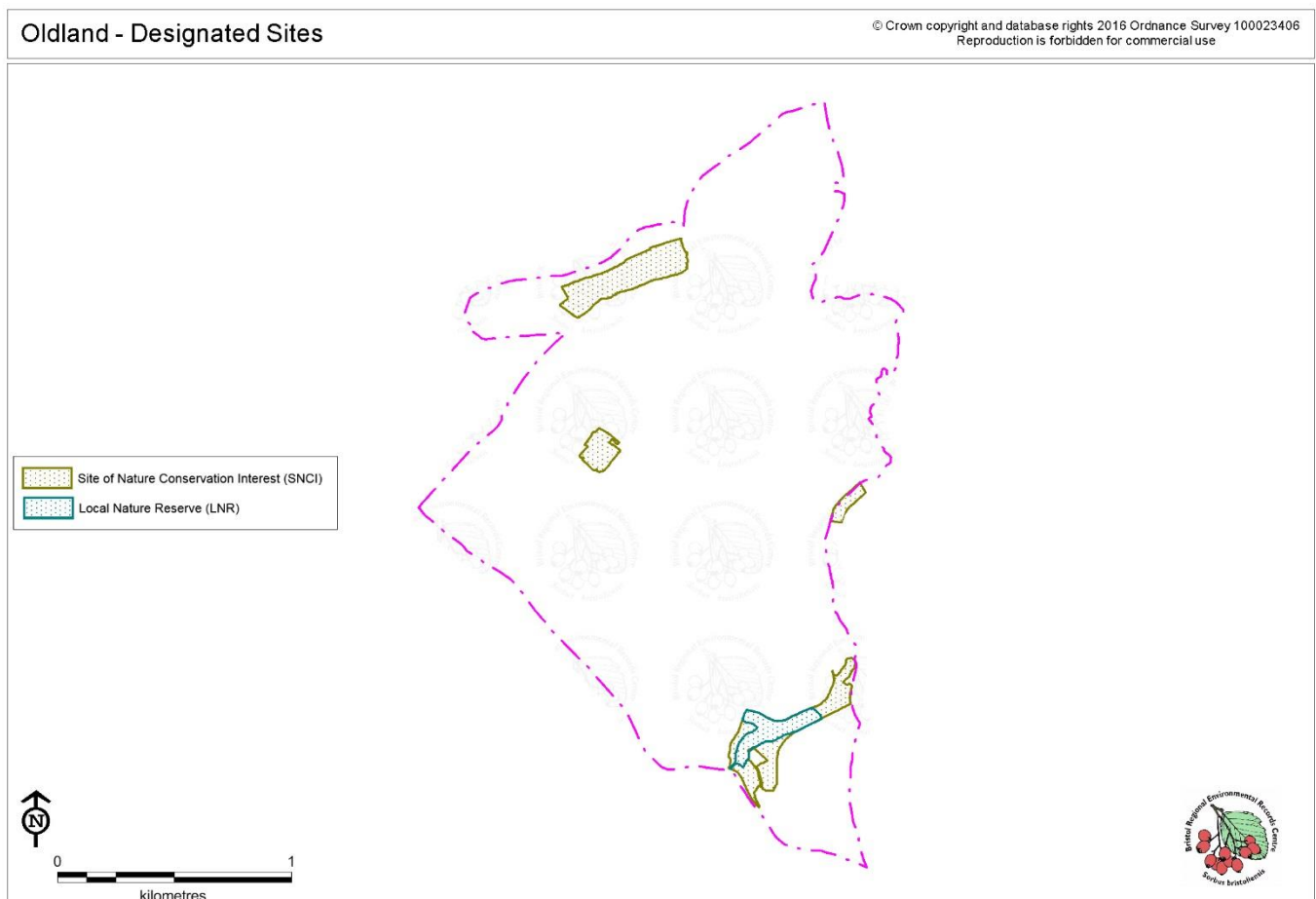




Locally important wildlife sites (i.e Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) :

- Willsbridge Valley LNR - owned by South Gloucestershire Council, currently parts are leased to Avon Wildlife Trust - calcareous and neutral grassland with flowing open water.
- Cockroad ridge, grass and scrub (owned by South Gloucestershire Council)
- Barrs Court Moat, wetland (owned by South Gloucestershire Council)

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





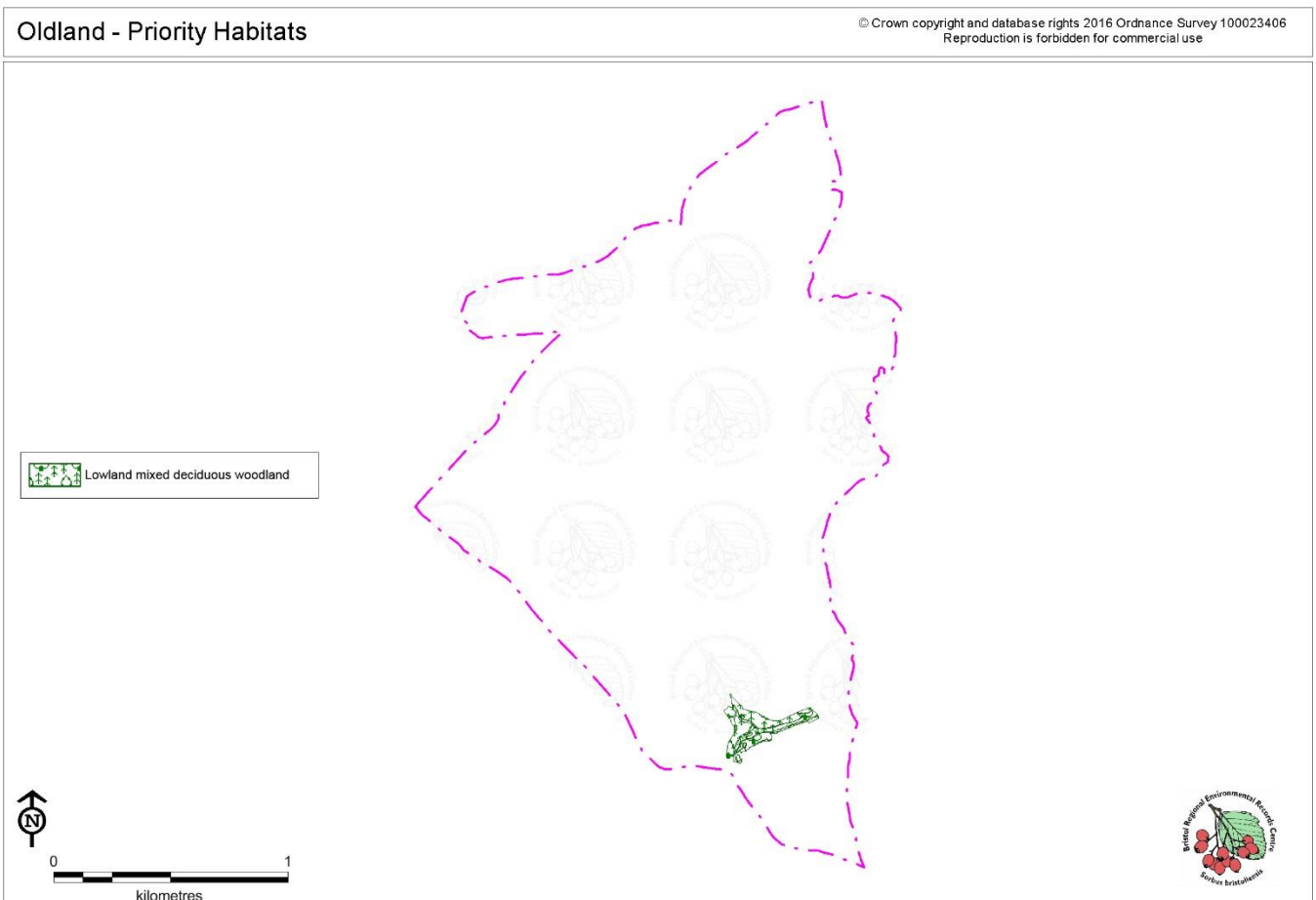
Other sites

Other sites important for wildlife or sites that could be enhanced for biodiversity include; school grounds, St Anne’s Churchyard, Grimbury farm, the Tree Life Centre and Memorial Woodland and allotments.

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





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 (all bat species, otter, dormice, newt, badger).

Blood-vein	Hawfinch	Slow-worm
Brindled Beauty	Hedgehog	Small Heath
Buff Ermine	Herring Gull	Small Square-spot
Bullfinch	House Sparrow	Song Thrush
Cinnabar	Lackey	Spotted Flycatcher
Common Seal	Lapwing	Starling
Common Toad	Latticed Heath	Water Vole
Dunnock	Linnet	White Admiral
Eel	Marsh Tit	White Ermine
Garden Tiger	Mottled Rustic	Wood Warbler
Grey Dagger	Shaded Broad-bar	Yellow Wagtail

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 that Cockroad ridge, Barrs Court and Grimsbury Farm are well managed for wildlife; supporting and lobbying South Gloucestershire Council where necessary. Work with Friends Groups to commission a survey with management recommendations if unsure.





2. Creating new areas of priority habitat;

- Increase tree cover in the parish where possible and consider a new community orchard on South Gloucestershire Council amenity land. ALREADY UNDERWAY!

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 possible habitat links along the Siston Brook river corridor. ALREADY UNDERWAY!

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 (Oldland is in their East Fringe) and Buglife's B-Lines project.

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

- Provide Get Bristol Buzzing wildlife guidance to allotment holders. Support events and volunteering opportunities at Grimsbury Farm.

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.

