

# Downend and Bromley Heath 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): None

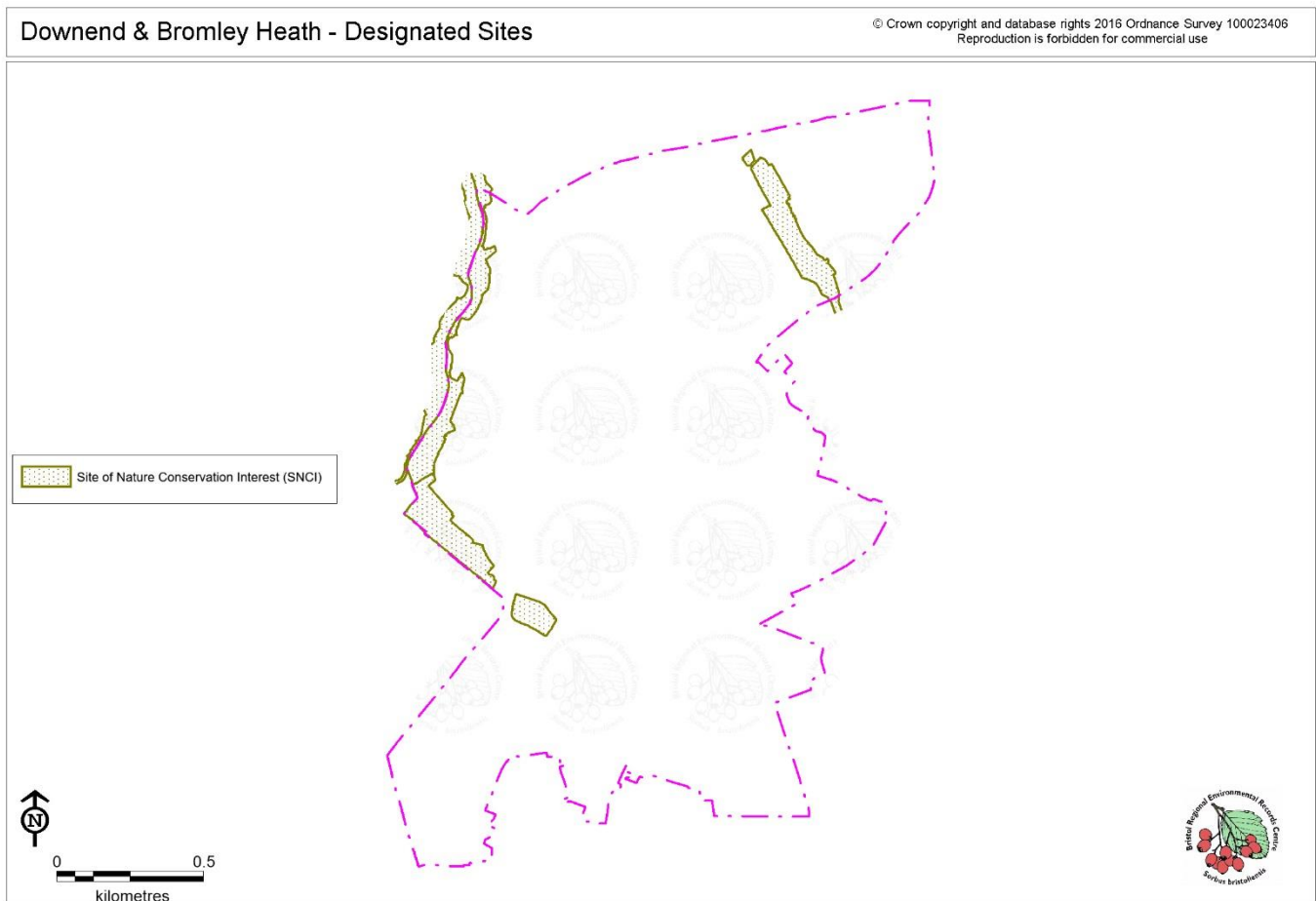




**Locally important wildlife sites** (i.e Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) :

- Lincombe Barn (owned by South Gloucestershire Council )
- Frome Valley, along the river including Scantleberry Close (partly owned by South Gloucestershire Council)
- Britannia Woods (owned by South Gloucestershire Council)
- Leap Valley (will soon become 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**

Ensure the following sites are maintained or enhanced for wildlife - road verges, churchyards, school grounds, private gardens, Bromley Heath Open Space, ponds and allotments.

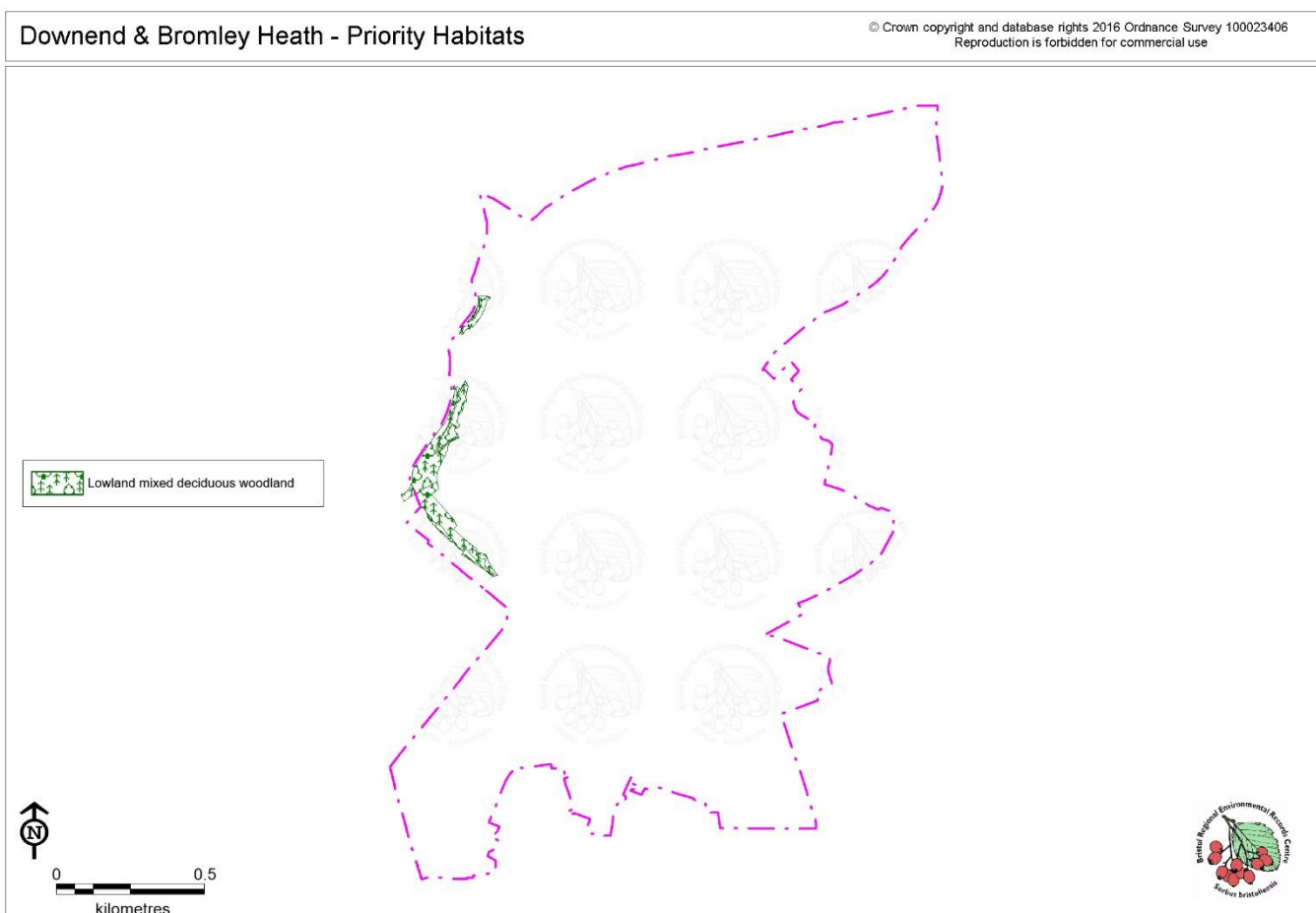




## Habitats of Principle Importance (Section 41 NERC Act 2006) - the most important habitats for wildlife and a focus for conservation action

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).

Bullfinch	Hedgehog	Marsh Tit	Song Thrush
Common Toad	Herring Gull	Reed Bunting	Spotted Flycatcher
Cuckoo	House Sparrow	Short Haired	Starling
		Bumble Bee	
Curlew	Juniper	Skylark	Tree Pipit
Dunnock	Lesser Redpoll	Slow-worm	Turtle Dove
Eel	Linnet	Small Square-spot	Wall
Water Vole	White-clawed Crayfish		

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 Lincombe barn gets a full conservation cut and collect every year and investigate grassland enhancements.





**2. Creating new areas of priority habitat;**

- Enhance grassland with wildflower plugs or seed, increase tree cover with new street trees, trees on South Gloucestershire Council amenity sites including new orchard, 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 possible hedgerow links, river Frome and cycle routes.

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

- Consider linking to local and national initiatives such as the Avon Wildlife Trust MyWildCity project (your parish is on the East fringe map) and the B-Lines project which has a specific aspiration for a wildflower route through your parish.

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

- Conduct events / recording/ volunteering opportunities through the friends groups at Lincombe Barn and Leap Valley plus links to schools, the In Bloom group and other local organisations.

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.

