

Local Nature Recovery Toolkit Priority Species

The below table sets out a draft list of priority species in the Local Nature Recovery Toolkit. Many species do not need targeted measures and will benefit from the general creation, expansion, and improved connectivity of good quality habitats that the Toolkit aims to encourage. Therefore, in identifying priority species, we have focused on those that need actions that go beyond wider habitat restoration.

We have considered the following factors when creating this list of priority species:

- They require specific action in addition to restoration of habitat recommended through the priorities and measures (e.g. control of American mink is needed to help water voles, and swifts require nest sites).
- They are only present locally (e.g. Bristol Whitebeam), or are present locally but are rare nationally (e.g. Bristol Onion)
- They are particularly vulnerable or endangered according to IUCN criteria or national 'red lists' (e.g. Bewick's Swan, European eel), or are identified as priority species by national conservation organisations (e.g. Marsh Fritillary butterfly).
- They have a crucial role in the ecosystem and/or are able to provide other benefits such (e.g. beavers)
- They are culturally important or are 'engaging' species (e.g. hedgehog, swift)

Some species have been grouped within an 'assemblage' of species that require similar actions for their recovery. For example, the species within the assemblage 'Avon Gorge' are largely dependent on continued good management of the Avon Gorge.

The table also sets out the Priorities for Nature Recovery that each species will benefit most from. In the final version of the Toolkit, this information will be more easily viewed.

Using the Interactive Map, you can see which Priority Species are most relevant to your local area.

Species	Type	Assemblage	Most relevant Priorities	Reasons for inclusion
Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)	Amphibian	N/A	6, 22	Priority species in UK due to its internationally important population. Pond creation and management needed.
House martin (<i>Delichon urbicum</i>)	Bird	N/A	1, 2, 3, 6, 12, 16, 20, 22, 23	Iconic species that is declining nationally. Specific action needed to provide nesting sites.
House sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	Bird	N/A	25, 26	Iconic species. Specific action needed to provide nesting sites.
Swift (<i>Apus apus</i>)	Bird	N/A	25, 26	Iconic species that has undergone severe declines locally and nationally. Specific action needed to provide nesting sites.
Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	Bird	N/A	1, 2, 3, 6, 12, 16, 20, 22, 23	Iconic species that is declining nationally. Specific action needed to provide nesting sites.
Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)	Bird	N/A	6, 16, 18, 22	IUCN Vulnerable. Iconic species locally.
Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>)	Bird	Severn Estuary	14	IUCN Vulnerable. Internationally important numbers in the Severn Estuary.
White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i>)	Bird	Severn Estuary	14	IUCN Endangered. Internationally important numbers in the Severn Estuary.
Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>)	Bird	Severn Estuary	14	IUCN Critically Endangered. Internationally important numbers in the Severn Estuary.
Western wood-vase hoverfly (<i>Myolepta potens</i>)	Invertebrate	N/A	10, 11	Only found in a handful of sites across the UK, including on Tickenham Ridge. Buglife have mapped an 'Important Invertebrate Area' for this species in North Somerset.
Long-horned bee (<i>Eucera longicornis</i>)	Invertebrate	N/A	1, 3, 12, 22	UK Priority Species and one of Buglifes 'species champions'. Limited distribution across the UK.
A leaf beetle (<i>Chaetocnema sahlbergii</i>)	Invertebrate	N/A	14	Found in a handful of sites across the UK. IUCN 'Vulnerable'
Glow worm (<i>Lampyris noctiluca</i>)	Invertebrate	Calcareous grassland	2, 12	Within South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan. Thought to be declining nationally.

Species	Type	Assemblage	Most relevant Priorities	Reasons for inclusion
Small blue butterfly (<i>Cupido minimus</i>)	Invertebrate	Calcareous grassland	2, 12	A few small, vulnerable colonies scattered locally.
Marsh fritillary butterfly (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>)	Invertebrate	Calcareous grassland	2, 12	IUCN Vulnerable. High priority species for Butterfly Conservation in Mendips and Cotswolds. Very rare locally but previously more abundant.
Grayling butterfly (<i>Hipparchia semele</i>)	Invertebrate	Calcareous grassland	2, 12	IUCN Endangered. Medium priority species for Butterfly Conservation nationally and high priority in the South West.
Chalkhill Blue butterfly (<i>Polyommatus coridon</i>)	Invertebrate	Calcareous grassland	2, 12	IUCN Vulnerable. B-level priority species for Butterfly Conservation and medium priority in the South West. Small colonies present locally are very vulnerable.
Small pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly (<i>Boloria selene</i>)	Invertebrate	Woodland	1, 4, 10, 11, 20	IUCN Vulnerable. Medium priority species for Butterfly Conservation nationally and high priority in the South West. Vulnerable to local extinction.
White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)	Invertebrate	N/A	7, 8, 13, 34	IUCN Endangered, principally due to invasive signal crayfish. Action needed to protect remaining populations and provide 'ark' sites.
Scarce chaser dragonfly (<i>Libellula fulva</i>)	Invertebrate	N/A	7, 8, 13, 16, 19	Nationally scarce. Particularly common on River Avon.
European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	Fish	River	7, 8, 13, 19	IUCN Critically endangered and present locally.
Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	Fish	River	7, 8, 13, 19	IUCN Endangered and present locally.
European Beaver (<i>Castor fiber</i>)	Mammal	N/A	16, 19	Newly present locally. Important role as a 'keystone species' that creates wetland habitat for other species and can provide natural flood management.
Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>)	Mammal	N/A	9, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26	IUCN Vulnerable, and significant national declines over recent decades. Iconic species.

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Water Vole (<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>)	Mammal	N/A	7, 8, 13, 19, 32	IUCN Endangered and vulnerable to predation by American mink.
Common Dormouse (<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>)	Mammal	Woodland	4, 10, 11, 20	IUCN Vulnerable, particularly due to limited dispersal range. Iconic species.
Bechstein's bat (<i>Myotis bechsteini</i>)	Mammal	Woodland	4, 10, 11, 30	One of UK's rarest bats, and present locally.
Greater Horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>)	Mammal	Bats	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 20, 21, 22, 23, 30	Nationally important populations locally. Geographically restricted by roosting and maternity sites, which need protection
Lesser Horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)	Mammal	Bats	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 20, 21, 22, 23, 30	Nationally important populations locally. Geographically restricted by roosting and maternity sites, which need protection
Barbastelle bat (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>)	Mammal	Bats	1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 20, 21, 22, 23, 30	IUCN Vulnerable. Rare in the UK, and present locally. UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority.
Mistletoe Marble moth (<i>Celypha woodiana</i>)	Invertebrate	N/A	21	High Conservation Priority in the South West for Butterfly Conservation. The area covered by the Toolkit is likely to be nationally important for the species.
Silky Wave moth (<i>Idaea dilutaria</i>)	Invertebrate	Avon Gorge	31	Nationally rare – restricted to three sites in the UK, one of which is the Avon Gorge. High Conservation Priority in the South West for Butterfly Conservation.
Bristol Onion (<i>Allium sphaerocephalon</i>)	Plant	Avon Gorge	31	Nationally rare; the Avon Gorge is the only place where it grows wild in the UK. IUCN Vulnerable.
Wilmott's Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus wilmottiana</i>)	Plant	Avon Gorge	31	Endemic to the Avon Gorge.
Honewort (<i>Trinia glauca</i>)	Plant	Avon Gorge	31	Nationally rare.

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Bristol Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus bristoliensis</i>)	Plant	Avon Gorge	31	Endemic to the Avon Gorge.
Round-leaved Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus eminens</i>)	Plant	Avon Gorge	31	Endemic to only a few areas in SW England and Wales
Service-tree (<i>Sorbus domestica</i>)	Plant	Avon Gorge	31	Nationally rare. The largest known UK population is in the Avon Gorge.
Bristol rock-crem (<i>Arabis scabra</i>)	Plant	Avon Gorge	31	Nationally rare; the Avon Gorge is the only place where it grows wild in the UK. IUCN Vulnerable
Bath Asparagus (<i>Ornithogalum pyrenaicum</i>)	Plant	N/A	10, 11	Nationally rare, with the majority of records in and around Bath.
Adder (<i>Vipera berus</i>)	Reptile	N/A	1, 4, 10, 11, 22	Significant declines nationally. Priority species for Mendip Hills National Landscape. Protection from disturbance and predation by non-native pheasants and partridges needed.