

Appendix J – Biodiversity

1.1.60. A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is a formal conservation

designation given to areas of notable scientific importance. This designation is typically granted to regions that host rare species of



animals or plants or possess significant geological or physiological characteristics within their boundaries.

1.1.61. SSSIs often include vital habitats such as grasslands, parklands and woodlands, with some containing ancient woodland and ancient trees. These areas hold significant conservation value and warrant protection. The designation of an SSSI provides a higher level of protection compared to other designations, such as National Landscapes, ensuring these areas are better safeguarded. SSSI status requires landowners to manage the site in a manner that preserves its unique features.

1.1.62. Notable SSSI's in the Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan area include:

- Seven Barrows SSSI.
- Parkfarm Down SSSI.
- Fognam Chalk Quarry SSSI.
- River Lambourn SSSI.
- White Shute SSSI.
- Cleeve Hill SSSI.
- Westfield Farm Chalk Bank SSSI.
- Croker's Hole SSSI.

1.1.63. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated protected areas in the UK under various conservation regulations. These include:

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales, including adjacent territorial seas, and to some extent in Scotland (reserved matters) and Northern Ireland (excepted matters).
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland.
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland.
- The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 in the UK offshore area.

1.1.64. These regulations mandate the UK Government and devolved administrations to create a network of significant, high-quality conservation sites aimed at preserving the habitats and species listed in Annexes I and II of the European Council Directive 92/43/EEC, known as the Habitats Directive. The directive targets habitat types and species that require conservation at a European level (excluding birds). The UK is home to 78 of the Annex I habitat types and 43 of the Annex II species that are native and typically reside in the country.



1.1.65. Together with Special Protection Areas (SPAs), SACs form an integral part of the UK's national site network.

1.1.66. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) although having no statutory designations, are crucial areas of land that hold significant value for their wildlife. They represent some of our most important and valuable natural habitats. These sites are identified and selected locally through rigorous, scientifically based criteria and thorough ecological surveys. They serve as vital corridors and stepping stones for wildlife, forming integral parts of larger ecological networks.

1.1.67. Notable LWS' in the Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan area include:

- Seven Barrows.
- Old Warren including Warren Wood.
- Giant's Steps.
- Drive and Furze Coverts.
- New Barn Covert.
- Baydon Hole.
- Thornslait Plantation.
- Dean Stubbing Copse.
- Coppington Down,
- Coppington Down Proposed Extension,
- The Rookery.
- Great West Wood.
- Little West Wood.
- Great Noakes' Copse.
- Gifford and Dance's Copses.
- Thornhill Copse.
- Cleeve Hill.
- Cleeve, Lords and Alms Woods.
- Lyedown Copse.
- Wall's Copse.
- Moon's Copse.
- Great Park Wood and Wachcroft Copse.
- Cymbalcroft/Househill Copse.
- Peak's Copse.



- Straight Copse.
- Holt Copse.
- Corton Copse.
- Half Border and Long Ground.
- Whitehill Wood.

1.1.68. The parish is also home to various ancient woodlands, specifically:

- Dean Stubbing Copse.
- Little West Wood.
- Walls Copse.
- Great Noakes Copse.
- Giffords Copse.
- Berrys Wood/Ox Wood.
- Lyedown Copse.
- Danesfield Copse.
- Thornhill Copse.
- Cleeve Wood/Lords Wood.
- Great Park Wood.
- Househill Copse.
- Peaks Copse.
- Mays Copse.
- Holt Copse.
- Flint Cottages Copse.
- Whitehill Wood.

1.1.69. Ancient woodlands are particularly important because they support a rich variety of species, many of which are rare or specialised. These woodlands provide habitat for a wide array of flora and fauna, including ancient trees, woodland flowers, fungi, insects, birds, and mammals. The complex interactions among these species contribute to the stability and resilience of the ecosystem.

1.1.70. Additionally, mature trees in ancient woodlands are significant carbon sinks. They capture and store large amounts of carbon dioxide, playing a critical role in mitigating climate change and enhancing local air quality.

1.1.71. The deep root systems of ancient trees also stabilise soil and prevent erosion. The woodland floor, rich in leaf litter and organic matter, enhances soil fertility and aids in water retention, reducing the risk of flooding and contributing to the health of the local watershed.



- 1.1.72. Other deciduous woodland within the parish includes Lynch Wood and other surrounding areas situated across Lambourn. Good quality semi-improved grassland is also present.