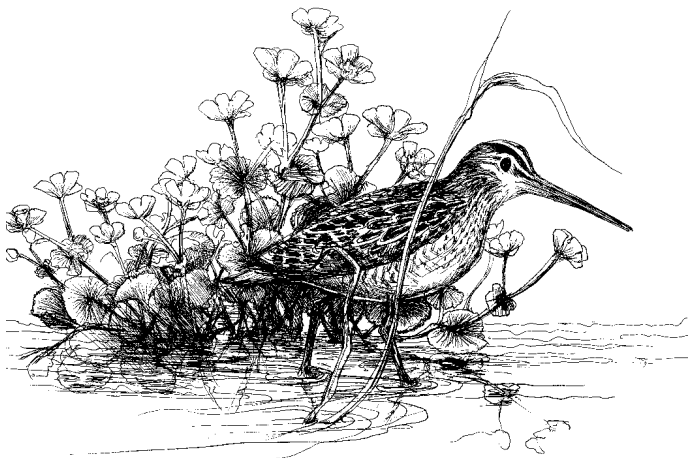


## How can Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and its Key Wildlife Site partners help you?

If you own, or think you may own a Key Wildlife Site, we or one of our partners can, (subject to resources):

- Visit the site to assess its conservation value
- Advise you on conservation related land management to benefit the wildlife interest present
- Carry out detailed surveys
- Recommend potential sources of funding to assist with management
- Where appropriate advise on the completion of application forms or management plans for grant schemes
- Suggest further sources of information

*There is no obligation and all of these services are carried out by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust or its partners.*



*Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust is the county's leading conservation charity and outstanding champion of our wildlife and wild places.*

**Gloucestershire**  
Wildlife Trust



For more information about Key Wildlife Sites please contact:



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Registered charity number: 232580

*Illustrations by Sarah Rowlatt*



Helping you to help wildlife

## *Key Wildlife Sites*

A voluntary partnership approach to identify, manage and enhance Gloucestershire's special wildlife places

## What are Key Wildlife Sites?

Key Wildlife Sites are sites selected for their nature conservation value. They vary in shape and size and can contain important, distinctive and threatened habitats and species. Their only protection comes via the planning system. They are not protected by law like Sites of Special Scientific Interest or National Nature Reserves, yet they still deserve recognition as they form the core of a large ecological network and a nationwide conservation resource.

## Why are they important?

Key Wildlife Sites support a significant amount of the UK's important flora and fauna and can act as stepping stones and corridors to link and complement nationally and internationally designated sites, as DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) stated in 2006.

(<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/protected/localsites.pdf>)

As the pressure on our countryside increases, the continued sensitive management of the county's wildlife habitats becomes increasingly important. Threats to wildlife come from various sources, development proposals, new roads, changes in land ownership, inappropriate management and even neglect. These all reduce the species and habitat diversity which the county currently supports.

Most Key Wildlife Sites rely upon the continued sympathetic management by farmers and landowners which has ensured their survival thus far. With the knowledge about where these sites are and why they are important, owners, managers, planners and conservation bodies can work together to ensure their safe future.

## How are Key Wildlife Sites selected?

A local Wildlife Partnership made up of a variety of stakeholders including local authorities, public bodies and nature conservation NGOs provides the framework for establishing and administering the Local Site System.

Sites are selected by assessing the conservation interest against a set of thorough criteria, which are based on national priorities, interpreted at a local level. Consideration is given to both the habitats and species present.

## Who holds the information on Key Wildlife Sites?

All information about a site is available to the landowner or manager. This information is held by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and by the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records. Basic site information will also normally be made available to Local Authorities, but no contact details are passed to third parties without permission.

## What does this mean for landowners ?

Local authorities recognise the importance of Wildlife Sites and may show the boundaries on local development plans. The wildlife value of the site will be taken into account in any future planning application. This does not necessarily mean that the application will be rejected.

If you own or manage a Key Wildlife Site there are no additional statutory restrictions over agricultural operations and no new rights of access are created. Owners manage their Key Wildlife Sites according to their own wishes and as such can make an important contribution to the conservation of Gloucestershire's wildlife.

