



Note about Nature Map post changes in Regional Planning Structures

Nature Map was developed as a strategic planning tool for the South West. It was developed to help guide both conservation practitioners to the areas where the best opportunities exist for restoring and expanding biodiversity; but also as a tool to help guide decision makers, planners and others when considering biodiversity as part of a suite of measures.

Nature conservation is not limited by boundaries and therefore Nature Map principles still apply in helping to guide strategic decisions that influence biodiversity. This is true both in planning and for other uses as Nature Map identifies at a strategic scale the best areas for biodiversity interest and conservation. We therefore encourage local planners to continue to use Nature Map for strategic planning.

Nature Map has been ratified by local Biodiversity Action Plan partnerships, by many organisations and by Biodiversity South West. It was a key evidence layer in the development of the Regional Spatial Strategy. Nature Map is still a key part of the evidence base and as such should still form a material consideration in planning decisions. It is also at the heart of the development of a 5 year delivery plan for biodiversity in the South West, so continues to help shape thinking around delivery of biodiversity, embedding this within a 50 year vision for biodiversity rich places supporting healthy local communities.

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The South West supports a high proportion of some of the UK's rarest and most endangered habitats and species. Nearly a tenth of the region's land area is designated as nationally and internationally important wildlife sites. It has the highest ratio of coastline to land area of any region making the maritime environment particularly significant.

The South West Regional Biodiversity Partnership aims to promote and enable the delivery of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan through regional and local biodiversity action in line with the England Biodiversity Strategy. The South West Regional Biodiversity Partnership includes Association of Local Government Ecologists, Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Government Office for the South West, Local BAPs, Local Record Centres, National Trust, RSPB, South West Protected Landscapes Forum, South West Water, South West Wildlife Trusts, Wessex Water and Woodland Trust