

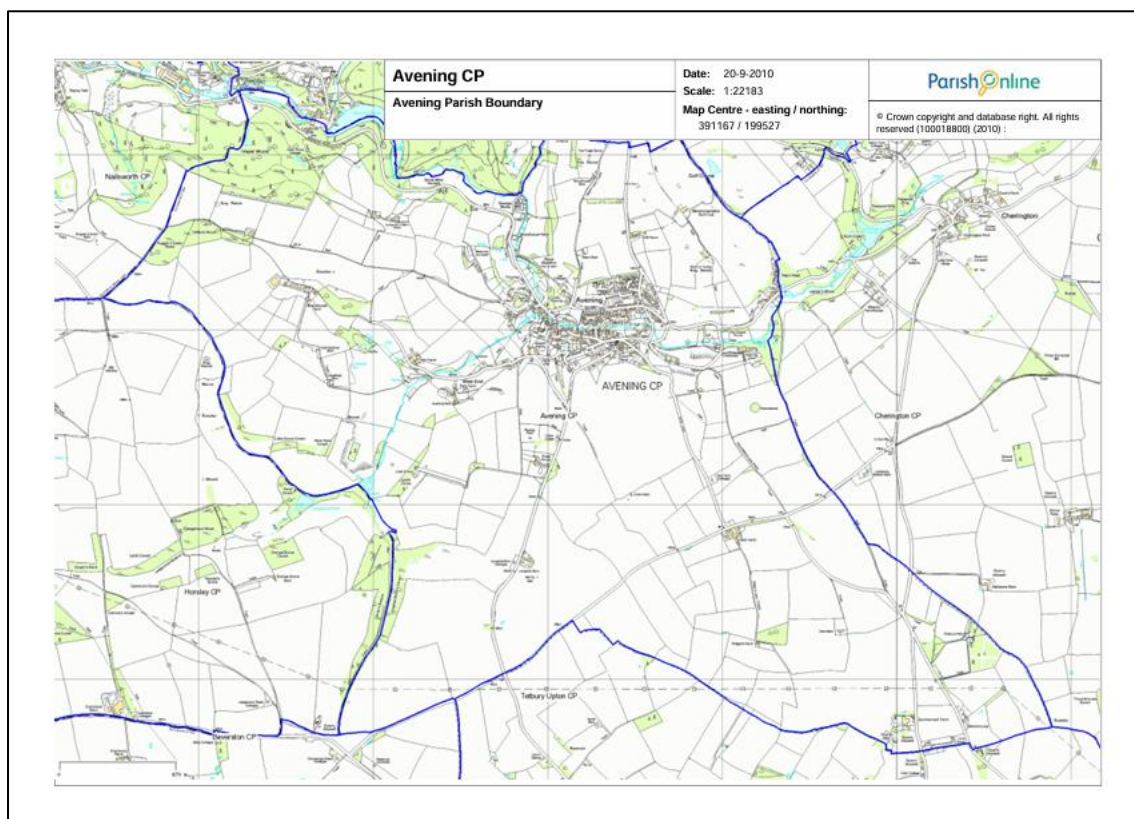
AVENING

Parish Biodiversity Audit 2025



Introduction

Avening is a village within the Stroud district in Gloucestershire and sits in a wooded valley around 3 miles north of Tetbury. The parish boundary extends from eastwards from Shipton Graves Lane near Nailsworth to Nags Head in the east. With around 1000 residents, Avening is one of the largest villages in the South Cotswolds. The parish lies in the Cotswolds National Landscape (formerly known as Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), and covers an area of around 1038 hectares ([GLNP | Natural Capital](#)).



National Character Area (NCA) and Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

National Character Areas (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct areas. Each NCA is defined based on landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history and cultural and economic activity. The boundaries of the NCAs do not follow county or district boundaries but instead follow natural lines in the landscape. Avening lies in the Cotswolds National Character Area (NCA 107) and has a number of Statements of Environmental Opportunities which are of relevance to the parish.

Statements of Environmental Opportunities (SEO) for Cotswolds NCA
SEO 1: Protect and enhance the highly distinctive farmed landscape, retaining the balance between productive arable, pastoral and wooded elements and the open, expansive views particularly from the scarp, high wold and dip slope.
SEO 2: Safeguard and conserve the historic environment, cultural heritage and geodiversity that illustrate the history, evolution, foundations, land use and settlement of the Cotswolds landscape, and enable access to and interpretation of the relationship between natural processes and human influences.

SEO 3: Protect, maintain and expand the distinctive character of the Cotswolds and the network of semi-natural and arable habitats, including limestone grassland, beech woods and wetlands along streams and rivers, to enhance water quality, strengthen ecological and landscape connectivity, support rare species and allow for adaptation to changes in climate.

SEO 4: Safeguard and manage soil and water resources, allowing naturally functioning hydrological processes to maintain water quality and supply; reduce flooding; and manage land to reduce soil erosion and water pollution and to retain and capture carbon.

**Information taken from Natural England's National Character Areas website [NCA107 Cotswolds 160315MW.pdf](#)*

In the 2021 Environment Act, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) became mandatory with 48 strategy areas covering the whole of England with no gaps or overlaps. LNRS target actions in locations where they are most needed and where they provide the best environmental outcomes, helping to join up national efforts to reverse the decline of biodiversity.

The Gloucestershire LNRS has been drafted and is open for consultation until end of October 2025. The draft Gloucestershire LNRS sets out six key messages and 10 biodiversity priorities which will be relevant to Avening Parish.

	Key message
1	Safeguarding, managing and enhancing existing biodiversity-rich sites
2	Landscape-scale connectivity – Better, bigger, and more joined up
3	Climate emergency
4	Our relationship to water
5	The value of mixed and wilder habitats
6	Biodiversity in our developments and settlements

The ten biodiversity priorities relate to Grassland, meadows and heathlands (open habitats); Woodland habitats; Mixed and mosaic habitats; Running water habitats; Wetland habitats; Estuarine habitats; Biodiversity in settlements and developments; Nature-friendly farming and forestry; and Species priorities.

Designated statutory and non-statutory sites

There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within Avening Parish. There are eight **Local Wildlife Site (LWS)** in the parish. These are non-statutory protected areas privately or publicly owned that are recognised locally for their significant wildlife and habitat.

Local Wildlife Sites in Avening Parish	
Church Farm Marsh LWS	Longfords Mill LWS
Hazel Wood LWS (ancient woodland)	Hazel Wood Meadows LWS
Longman's Barn Wood LWS	Gatcombe Wood LWS
Brandhouse Farm Wood (Ruggers Green Wood) LWS (ancient and planted ancient woodland PAWS)	Hampton Hill (Avening)

There are a further four **Potential Local Wildlife Sites** in the Parish which are areas that have either been highlighted but at the time of evaluation did not meet the required standards for LWS, or have yet to be evaluated.

Potential local wildlife sites in Avening Parish
Longtree Bottom
Pump House Bank
Brandhouse Farm Bank
Steps Lane

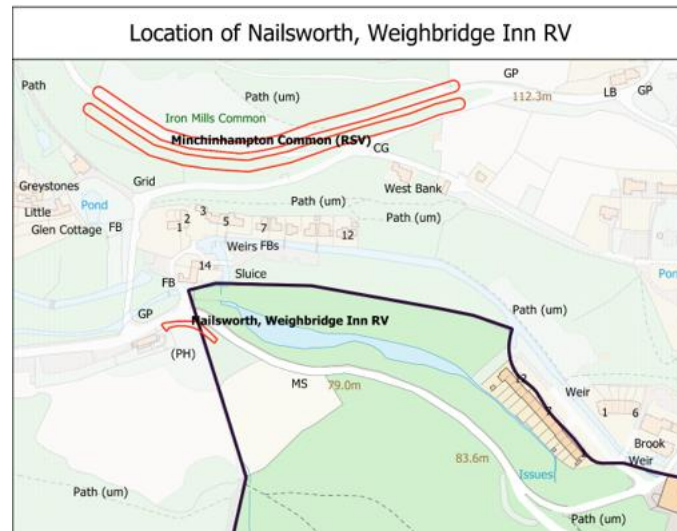
The parish also supports one **Conservation Road Verge (CRV)** listed on the Gloucestershire Conservation Road Verges Site Register. This is located on the eastern side of Hampton Hill and has been identified by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) due to the priority habitats and species which it supports. All roadside verges form a network of connected wildlife corridors establishing continuity of habitat across more intensively managed land and they act as refuges for a wide range of species including invertebrates, reptiles and small mammals.

Hampton Hill (CRV073)	
Location (GPS)	388585 198276 to 388472 198505
UK Priority habitat type	Lowland calcareous grassland
UK Priority species	Common lizard (<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>)
Other species include	Pyramidal Orchid (<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>), Wild Basil (<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>), Burnet-saxifrage (<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>), Lady's Bedstraw (<i>Galium verum</i>), Field Scabious (<i>Knautia arvensis</i>), and Marjoram (<i>Origanum vulgare</i>).



Pyramidal orchid

A potential Conservation Road Verge, Weighbridge Inn road verge, is at the northern point of the parish and crosses the boundary into Nailsworth, on the B4014.



Avening Parish Council: Distribution of local wildlife sites and potential local wildlife sites



Priority habitats in the parish

Priority habitats are those that were identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). Four priority habitats are present in the parish – Deciduous woodland; Traditional orchard; Good quality semi-improved grassland; and Lowland calcareous grassland.

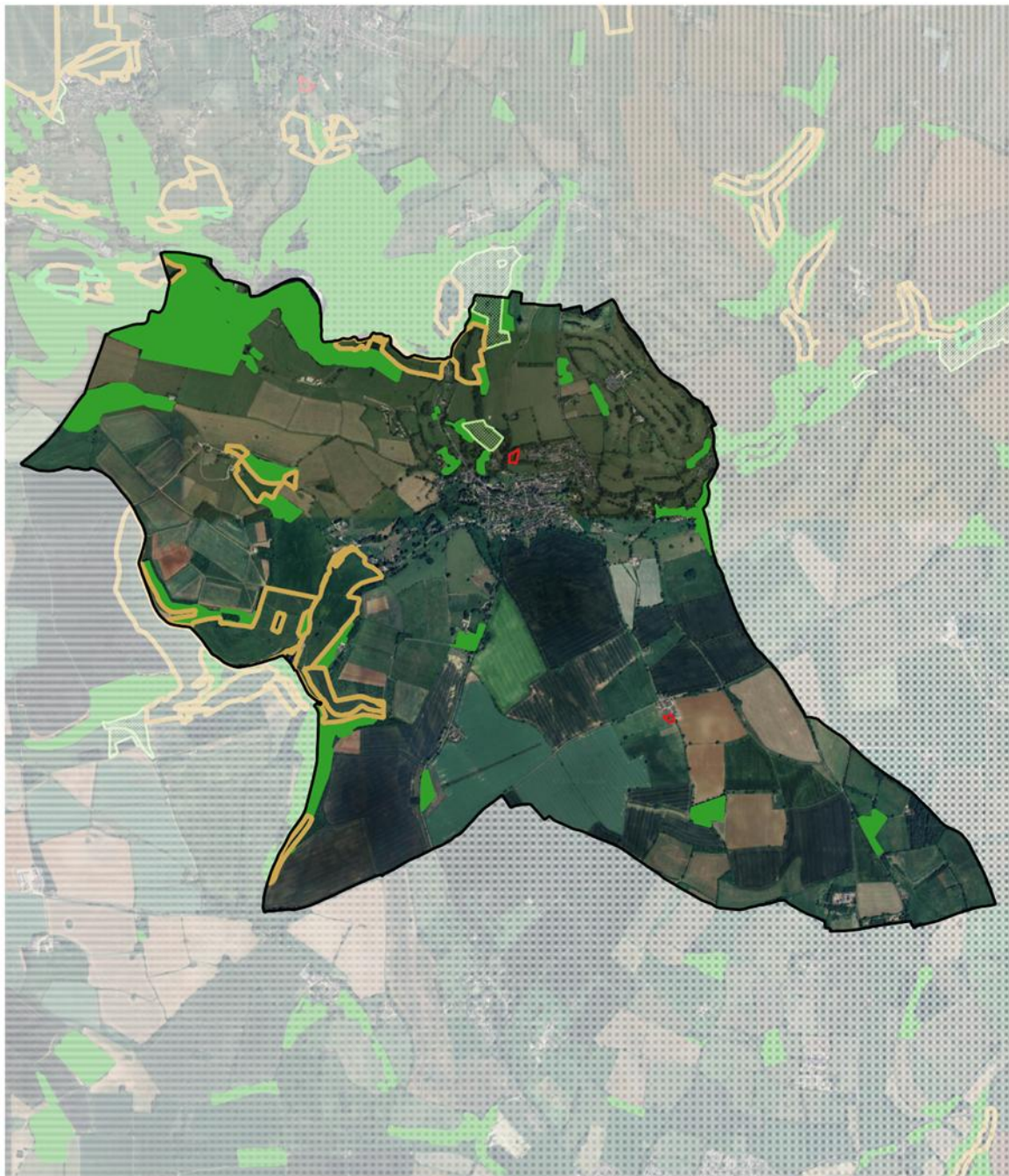
Lowland calcareous grasslands support a wide range of native wildflower and grass species. These types of grassland are ‘unimproved’ and have not been artificially fertilised, ploughed or reseeded. These grasslands make wonderful habitats for pollinating invertebrates and ground-nesting bird species such as Skylark. In the last 100 years, around 97% of these habitats across Britain have been lost as a result of agricultural intensification, lack of management, and increasing development. Examples of these valuable grasslands can be found in the north and west of the parish.

Semi-improved grasslands have been modified by agricultural processes and may have had fertilisers and herbicides added, been reseeded, and/or been grazed heavily. These grasslands, particularly good quality ones, have the potential to be restored to species-rich grasslands.

Mixed deciduous woodlands support a wide range of flora and fauna. Ancient woodland and Plantations on ancient woodland (PAW) form a significant component of this habitat type. Ancient woodlands have been around since 1600 and have adapted with our native wildlife and they are valuable ecosystems. Sadly, in the UK there is less than 3% of ancient woodland left. PAWs are sites where ancient woodland was cut down and replanted with, generally, non-native species. The soil and seed bank in these sites means that with the correct management they have great potential to be restored. Rugger’s Wood is largely ancient woodland with the western portion being PAW. Longtree Bottom Covert and Hazel Wood are both Ancient woodlands.

Traditional orchards are a priority habitat as they support a rich diversity of wildlife thanks to their mosaic of trees, species-rich grasslands and hedgerow. As fruit trees age their trunks hollow and natural cracking and rotting of branches and bark creates a range of habitats which support deadwood invertebrates, fungi, bats, birds and small mammals. In the parish two traditional orchards can be found – one at Star Farm and Avening Community Orchard in the playpark off Rectory Lane.

Avening Parish Council: Priority Habitats



Priority Habitats

Deciduous woodland

Good quality semi improved grassland

Lowland calcareous grassland

Lowland meadows

Traditional orchard

0 0.25 0.5 km



*Note: The lowland meadow on the priority habitat map is not within the parish boundary

Other habitats in the parish

Avening stream

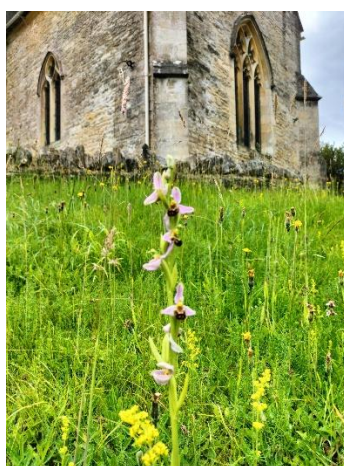
The stream running through the parish provides a corridor for wildlife and notable species that have been recorded using the stream include Otter (*Lutra lutra*), Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*), Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), and Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*). Since 2020, the stream has suffered from very low water levels in the summer months, drying out in many places and threatening the wildlife that uses this habitat. The low flows are being investigated by the Parish Council.



Otters are regularly recorded on the Avening stream – this one at Sandford Leaze

Church of the Holy Cross churchyard

The churchyard of the Church of the Holy cross is managed carefully by volunteers for both wildlife and people. Areas of the churchyard comprise unimproved grassland and support a wealth of plant and invertebrate species including Bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) and Yellow meadow ants (*Lasius flavus*) with their distinctive anthills. Swifts nest in the church annually.



Bee orchid, churchyard

Public open space

The playpark on Rectory Lane supports areas of amenity grass, woodland, and the community orchard. The areas of less intensively managed grassland support a number of orchid species and other native wildflowers such as Hoary plantain. Tawny owls are regularly heard calling from the playpark. A tawny owl nesting box and bat boxes have been installed as part of the community orchard project.

The community orchard was established in 2020 with 21 species of heritage apple and plum trees planted. The project was funded by a community fund from Gloucestershire County Council. A bench and two picnic tables were installed. Regular volunteer events are held to manage the orchard carefully for wildlife and an annual apple pressing event is held in the village hall.



Apples in the community orchard

Notable and protected wildlife in the parish

Based on the data held at the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records (GCER), the following notable and protected species have been recorded within the Avening Parish Council boundary in the last 10 years.

Vascular plants			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	No. of records
<i>Hordelymus europaeus</i>	Wood Barley	NS-excludes	1
Invertebrates			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	No. of records
<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	White-clawed Crayfish	Bern-A3 ; HabDir-A2*,HabDir-A5 ; RedList_Global_post2001-EN ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.1(taking),WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a	1
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath	BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41	1
<i>Hamearis lucina</i>	Duke of Burgundy	BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a	24
<i>Satyrrium w-album</i>	White-letter Hairstreak	BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a	
Amphibians and reptiles			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	No. of records
<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Toad	Bern-A3 ; RedList_Global_post2001-LC ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a	5
<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Common Frog	Bern-A3 ; HabDir-A5 ; RedList_Global_post2001-LC ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a	2
<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Slow-worm	Bern-A3 ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.1(kill/injuring),WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a	3
<i>Natrix helvetica</i>	Grass Snake	Bern-A3 ; RedList_Global_post94-LC ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.1(kill/injuring),WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a	2
<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Common Lizard	Bern-A3 ; RedList_Global_post2001-LC ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.1(kill/injuring),WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a	2

Birds			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	No. of records
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	BirdsDir-A2.1 ; CMS_A2,CMS_AEWA-A2 ; Bird-Amber	14
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sparrowhawk	CMS_A2 ; ECCITES-A ; Bird-Amber	11
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Goshawk	CMS_A2 ; ECCITES-A ; WACA-Sch1_part1	3
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Hen Harrier	BirdsDir-A1 ; CMS_A2 ; ECCITES-A ; Bird-Red ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch1_part1	1
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	BirdsDir-A1 ; CMS_A2 ; ECCITES-A ; Bird-Amber ; WACA-Sch1_part1	1
<i>Anas crecca</i>	Teal	BirdsDir-A2.1 ; CMS_A2,CMS_AEWA-A2 ; ECCITES-C ; Bird-Amber	10
<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Shoveler	BirdsDir-A2.1 ; CMS_A2,CMS_AEWA-A2 ; ECCITES-C ; Bird-Amber	4
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Pochard	BirdsDir-A2.1 ; CMS_A2,CMS_AEWA-A2 ; Bird-Red	1
<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose	BirdsDir-A2.1 ; CMS_A2,CMS_AEWA-A2 ; Bird-Amber ; WACA-Sch1_part2	25
<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift	Bird-Red	5
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Lapwing	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_AEWA-A2 ; Bird-Red ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41	1
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; CMS_AEWA-A2 ; Bird-Amber	1
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; CMS_AEWA-A2 ; Bird-Red	2
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser Black-backed Gull	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; CMS_AEWA-A2 ; Bird-Amber	7
<i>Larus canus</i>	Common Gull	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; CMS_AEWA-A2 ; Bird-Amber	6
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	Bern-A2 ; BirdsDir-A1 ; CMS_AEWA-A2 ; ECCITES-A	11
<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great White Egret	Bern-A2 ; CMS_AEWA-A2 ; ECCITES-A ; Bird-Amber	2
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Woodpigeon	BirdsDir-A2.1 ; Bird-Amber	117
<i>Columba oenas</i>	Stock Dove	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; Bird-Amber	16
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite	BirdsDir-A1 ; CMS_A2 ; ECCITES-A ; WACA-Sch1_part1	11
<i>Mareca penelope</i>	Wigeon	BirdsDir-A2.1 ; CMS_A2,CMS_AEWA-A2 ; ECCITES-C ; Bird-Amber	2

<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	CMS_A2,CMS_AEWA-A2 ; Bird-Amber	6
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Woodcock	BirdsDir-A2.1 ; CMS_A2,CMS_AEWA-A2 ; Bird-Red	3
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Greenshank	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_AEWA-A2 ; Bird-Amber ; WACA-Sch1_part1	1
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Redshank	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_AEWA-A2 ; Bird-Amber	1
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Kingfisher	Bern-A2 ; BirdsDir-A1 ; WACA-Sch1_part1	32
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine	Bern-A2 ; BirdsDir-A1 ; CMS_A2 ; ECCITES-A ; WACA-Sch1_part1	3
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Hobby	Bern-A2 ; CMS_A2 ; ECCITES-A ; WACA-Sch1_part1	2
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Kestrel	Bern-A2 ; CMS_A2 ; ECCITES-A ; Bird-Amber	7
<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Quail	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; Bird-Amber ; WACA-Sch1_part1	2
<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Grey Partridge	BirdsDir-A2.1 ; Bird-Red ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41	2
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Moorhen	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_AEWA-A2 ; Bird-Amber	5
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; Bird-Red ; England_NERC_S.41	27
<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Dipper	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Amber	7
<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Rook	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; Bird-Amber	14
<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Corn Bunting	Bird-Red	1
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Red ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41	27
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed Bunting	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Amber ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41	1
<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Lesser Redpoll	BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41	1
<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Greenfinch	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Red	12
<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Hawfinch	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Red ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41	1
<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Linnet	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Red	8
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch	Bird-Amber	58
<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	House Martin	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Red	1
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Amber	2

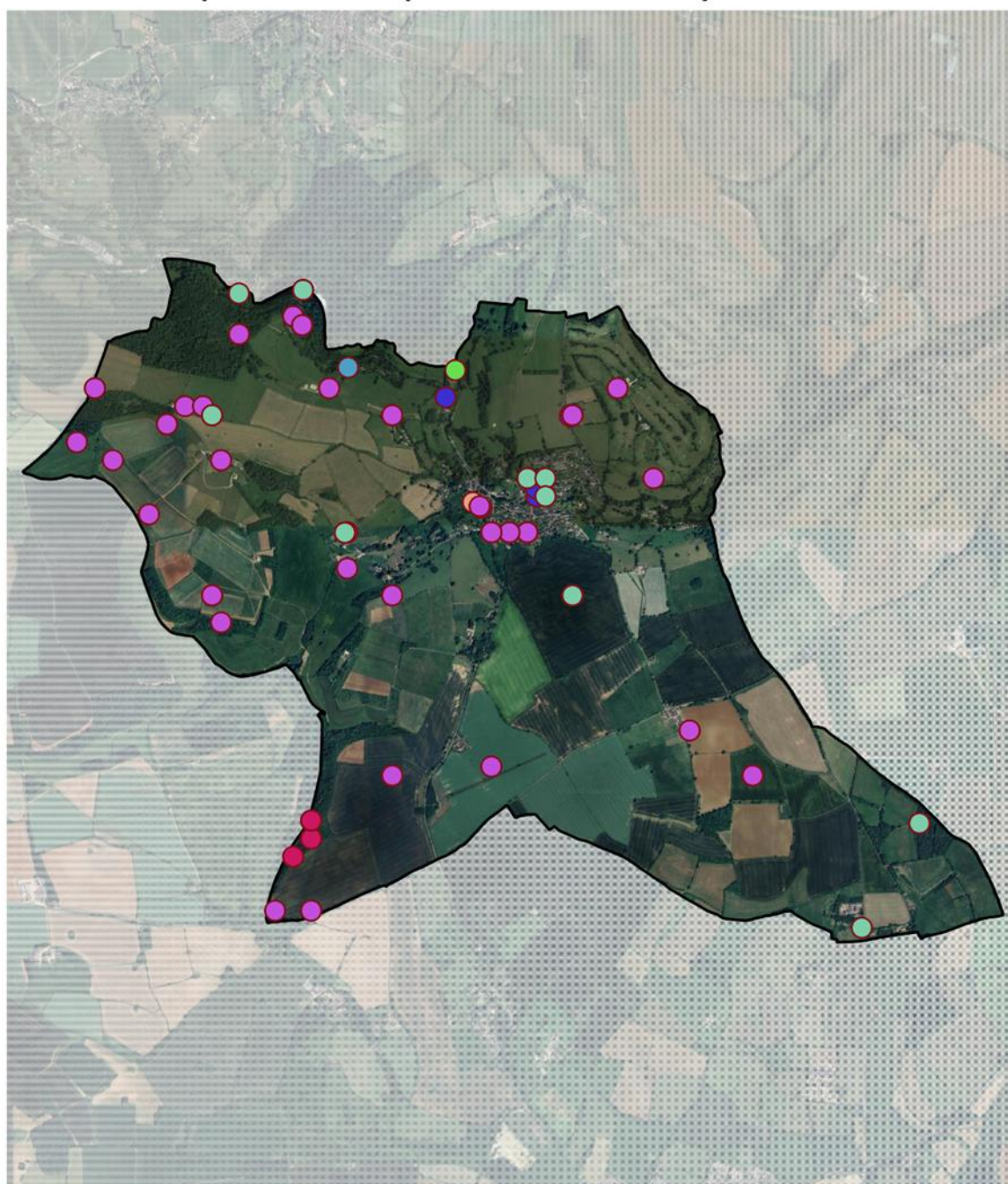
<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Amber	5
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Red	4
<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted Flycatcher	Bern-A2 ; CMS_A2 ; Bird-Red ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41	3
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Wheatear	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Amber	12
<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Redstart	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Amber	1
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Whinchat	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Red	1
<i>Poecile palustris</i>	Marsh Tit	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Red	10
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	Bird-Red ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41	58
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler	Bird-Amber	2
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Amber	97
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; Bird-Red	34
<i>Curruca communis</i>	Whitethroat	Bird-Amber	12
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	Bern-A2 ; Bird-Amber	52
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; Bird-Amber ; WACA-Sch1_part1	5
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; Bird-Amber	42
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; Bird-Red ; WACA-Sch1_part1	4
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush	BirdsDir-A2.2 ; Bird-Red	13
<i>Strix aluco</i>	Tawny Owl	Bern-A2 ; ECCITES-A ; Bird-Amber	2
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	Bern-A2 ; ECCITES-A ; WACA-Sch1_part1	1
Mammals			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	No. of records
<i>Meles meles</i>	Badger	Bern-A3 ; Protection_of_Badgers_Act_1992	1
<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Hedgehog	Bern-A3 ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41	4
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	Bern-A2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_EUROBATS-A1 ; HabDir-A2*,HabDir-A4 ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b,WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a,WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c ; HabReg-Sch2	13
<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Greater Horseshoe Bat	Bern-A2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_EUROBATS-A1 ; HabDir-A2*,HabDir-A4 ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b,WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a,WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c ; HabReg-Sch2	9

<i>Vespertilionidae</i>	Bats	CMS_A2 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b,WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a,WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c ; HabReg-Sch2	1
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Serotine	Bern-A2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_EUROBATS-A1 ; HabDir-A4 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b,WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a,WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c ; HabReg-Sch2	16
<i>Myotis</i>	Myotis Bat species	Bern-A2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_EUROBATS-A1 ; HabDir-A2*,HabDir-A4 ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b,WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a,WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c ; HabReg-Sch2	6
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Daubenton's Bat	Bern-A2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_EUROBATS-A1 ; HabDir-A4 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b,WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a,WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c ; HabReg-Sch2	1
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Natterer's Bat	Bern-A2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_EUROBATS-A1 ; HabDir-A4 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b,WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a,WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c ; HabReg-Sch2	3
<i>Nyctalus</i>	Nyctalus Bat species	Bern-A2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_EUROBATS-A1 ; HabDir-A4 ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b,WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a,WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c ; HabReg-Sch2	1
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Leisler's Bat	Bern-A2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_EUROBATS-A1 ; HabDir-A4 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b,WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a,WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c ; HabReg-Sch2	2
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Noctule	Bern-A2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_EUROBATS-A1 ; HabDir-A4 ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b,WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a,WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c ; HabReg-Sch2	7
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Common Pipistrelle	Bern-A2,Bern-A3 ; CMS_A2,CMS_EUROBATS-A1 ; HabDir-A4 ; RedList_Global_post2001-LC ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b,WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a,WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c ; HabReg-Sch2	25
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Soprano Pipistrelle	Bern-A2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_EUROBATS-A1 ; HabDir-A4 ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b,WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a,WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c ; HabReg-Sch2	13

<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Brown Long-eared Bat	Bern-A2 ; CMS_A2,CMS_EUROBATS-A1 ; HabDir-A4 ; BAP-2007 ; England_NERC_S.41 ; WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b,WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a,WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c ; HabReg-Sch2	9
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Note: This species list merely reflects the information held on GCER database and the level of recording effort in that part of the county. It does not represent a comprehensive list or distribution of these species within the Avening Parish Council boundary.

Avening Parish Council: Distribution of notable and protected species records by taxon



Species records

amphibian

bird

crustacean

flowering plant

insect - butterfly

reptile

terrestrial mammal

0 0.25 0.5 km



Other species recorded through community engagement

In 2020, during Covid lockdown, a Facebook page called Wild about Avening was established which aimed to bring nature sightings from the parish into people's homes. The page also encouraged people to submit their own wildlife sightings from their gardens and while on daily walks. Wild about Avening is still running and as part of this Biodiversity Audit, it ran a weekend of wildlife recording in July 2025. In total an additional 49 species of plant and animal (species not held by GCER) have been recorded (see Appendix 1). These include regular sightings of Otter in the stream where it runs through Sandford Leaze and regular otter spraint (droppings) noted on the stream by Avening Primary School. Sparrowhawk (Amber listed bird of conservation concern) has also been recorded regularly. Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) have also been recorded in the stream close to the village school. These fish are listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species and are on Annex II of the European Commission Habitats Directive (3). Although not legally protected, there are also records of both male and female Glow worm from areas of the village, a beetle that has suffered considerable population declines in recent decades.

Invasive non-native species

Invasive non-native species (INNS) are plants or animals not originally from the UK that have been introduced and can spread causing harm to the environment, economy or human health (NNSS, 2025). INNS for the parish include American signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*); Canada Goose; Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*); Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*); and Wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*).

Ideas for local action

A parish Biodiversity Action Plan should be produced and should look at the following:

- (i) Reviewing and assessing potential Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) for formal designation by the County's LWS Officer.
- (ii) Ensuring the registered Conservation Road Verges are managed to maintain their biodiversity value. Assess other road verges in the parish for their biodiversity value and explore the potential to register suitable sites as Conservation Road Verges.
- (iii) Working with landowners and farmers to protect and enhance areas of species-rich grassland, arable field margins, and hedgerows actions which could be funded through agri-environment funding such as Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) or Countryside Stewardship (CS).
- (iv) Working with riparian owners along the Avening stream to ensure the watercourse and banks are managed sensitively for wildlife, invasive non-native species such as Himalayan balsam are identified and removed, and activities such as dumping garden waste into the watercourse are prevented.
- (v) Promoting wildlife-friendly gardening by encouraging village residents to leave areas for nature and support pollinators and native species.

- (vi) Reviewing trees in the parish to identify veteran trees and ensure tree protection orders are applied.
- (vii) Ensuring planning consultations consider biodiversity obligations and green infrastructure is included as standard.
- (viii) Investigating the possibility of making the parish a 'hedgehog haven' and a 'swift sanctuary' by focusing community conservation efforts on these charismatic species both facing population declines. A network of 'hedgehog highways' could be created and hedgehog crossing road signs installed at key locations where hedgehog road deaths are common. Swift nesting boxes could be installed in suitable locations to help support the existing populations which nest in the church and in Avening Mill.

Guidance

Cotswolds National Character Area: [NCA Profile:107. Cotswolds - NE420](#)

Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (draft) [Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Gloucestershire Conservation Road Verge Register [CRV Register v2 4 2022](#)

Non-Native Species Secretariat (accessed September 2025). [The Great Britain Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy: 2023 to 2030 » NNSS](#)

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Appendix 1 – additional wildlife species identified from community engagement projects since 2020

MAMMALS	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Otter
<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Brown hare
<i>Mutstela erminea</i>	Stoat
<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	Reeve's muntjac
BIRDS	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Reed warbler
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch
<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Nuthatch
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest
<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Great spotted woodpecker
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sparrowhawk
AMPHIBIANS	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	Smooth newt
INVERTEBRATES	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Lampyrus noctiluca</i>	Glow worm
<i>Clytus arietis</i>	Wasp beetle
<i>Dorcus parallelipipedus</i>	Lesser stag beetle
<i>Ocypus olens</i>	Devil's Coach Horse
<i>Ceragrion tenellum</i>	Small red damselfly
<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	Southern hawk
<i>Orgyia antiqua</i>	Vaporer moth (caterpillar)
<i>Phalera bucephala</i>	Buff tip moth (caterpillar)
<i>Sphinx ligustri</i>	Privet hawk moth
<i>Mimas tiliae</i>	Lime hawk moth
<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	Elephant hawk moth
<i>Nemophora metallica</i>	Brassy longhorn moth
<i>Cucullia verbasci</i>	Mullein moth (caterpillar)

<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	Hart and Dart moth
<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Hummingbird hawkmoth
<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>	Herald moth
<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar moth
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Brimstone butterfly
<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Speckled wood butterfly
<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Ringlet butterfly
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Small copper
<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	Large skipper
<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	Essex skipper
<i>Colletes hederæ</i>	Ivy bee
<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	Tree bumblebee
<i>Osmia bicornis</i>	Red mason bee
<i>Bombylius discolor</i>	Dotted bee-fly
<i>Timarcha tenebricosa</i>	Bloody-nosed beetle
PLANTS	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow cranesbill
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary plantain