

Blenheim and Ditchley Parks CTA (Conservation Target Area)

This area includes Blenheim Park and Ditchley Park and extends onto the farmland and woodland owned by the estates.

Joint Character Area: Cotswolds

Landscape Types: Wooded Estate lands

Geology: Mainly limestone.

Topography: On the relatively flat Cotswolds plateau. Ditchley has two stream valleys while the Glyme Valley target area intersects with Blenheim.

Area of CTA: 2651 hectares

Biodiversity:

- Parkland: Centred on two areas of historic parkland with high biodiversity. At Blenheim there are areas of old wood pasture that are an SSSI.
- Woodland: There are many large areas of woodland especially at Ditchley though areas of ancient woodland have been partly or entirely replanted. Sites include Out Wood SSSI and Kings and Wootton Woods Local Wildlife Site.
- The historic green lane "The Saltway" is the western boundary – this has limestone grassland, including a population of downy woundwort and species rich hedgerows.
- Species: There is some arable wildflower interest at Ditchley.

Access: Parts of Blenheim are accessible to the public. Bridleways include the Saltway, which forms part of the Wychwood Way long-distance route.

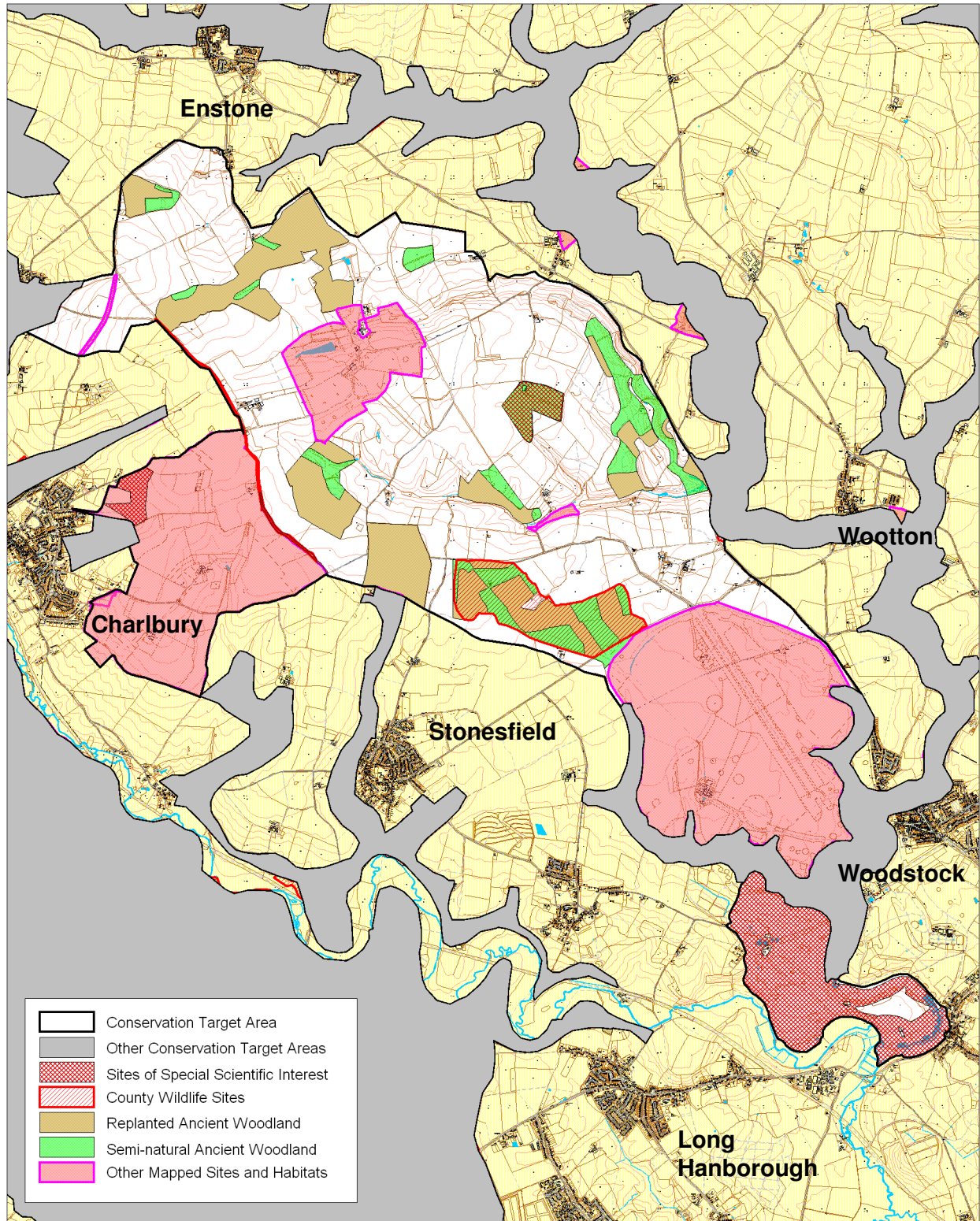
Archaeology: Two historic parklands. Grim's Ditch, a Scheduled Ancient Monument passes through the CTA.

Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan Targets associated with this CTA:

1. Parkland – management¹ (including veteran trees).
2. Wood pasture – management and restoration.
3. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland - management and restoration.
4. Arable Field Margins – management and creation (with particular emphasis on arable wildflowers).

¹ "Management" implies both maintaining the quantity, and maintaining and improving the quality of existing BAP habitat and incorporates the following target definitions: "Maintaining extent" and "Achieving Condition".

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Scale 1:50000

Area of BAP habitat present in CTA (from TVERC BAP Habitat GIS layer 5/2010) and 2015 BAP Habitat Targets for this CTA												
Blenheim and Ditchley Parks CTA	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Lowland Meadows	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Eutrophic Standing Waters	Lowland Fens	Reedbeds	Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Wet Woodland	Wood - Pasture and Parkland	Traditional Orchards
Area of BAP Habitat in CTA (ha)	7.5	2.4		0.7	57.6			8.1	246.1		212.6	1.0
% of CTA area	0.3	0.1		0.0	2.2			0.3	9.3		8.0	0.0
% of county resource	1.0	4.9		0.0	6.2			1.0	5.3		11.4	0.3
2015 BAP targets (hectares)	Lowland Calcareous Grassland	Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Lowland Meadows	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Eutrophic Standing Waters – No targets for 2015	Lowland Fens	Reedbeds	Native Woodland			Wood - Pasture and Parkland Targets not divided by CTA	Traditional Orchards - No targets for 2015
Maintenance (to be determined)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-	-
Achieving Condition (to be determined)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-	-
Restoration					-		-	53			-	-
Creation	2 ^a (with two other Wychwood CTAs)				-	-		21			-	-

a Joint figure for Blenheim and Ditchley Parks CTA, Northern Evenlode Valleys CTA and Wychwood and Lower Evenlode CTA