Glyme and Dorn Valleys CTA (Conservation Target Area)

The whole Glyme Valley from its source near Chipping Norton to Blenheim Park and including some tributary valleys, especially the Dorn.

Joint Character Area: Cotswolds

Landscape Types: Wooded Pasture Valleys and Slopes

Geology: For most of its length the Glyme Valley cuts through limestone rocks and there are also bands of the Sharp's Hill sandstone and limestone. West of Radford the geology is more varied with bands of Lias mudstone and siltstone and some of the iron rich Marlstone limestone as well as other limestone. The Dorn is similar as it also cuts through the limestone and has Lias mudstone and siltstone in its upper reaches. The main variation is the presence of some Horsehay Sand east of Middle Barton. Alluvium is present along the base of the valleys.

Topography: Mainly narrow valleys running north and then west. The valley sides range from steeply sloping in the narrower section to much more gently sloping where the valleys widen out.

Area of CTA: 2496 hectares

Biodiversity:

- Limestone grassland: there are numerous banks of limestone grassland scattered along the Glyme and lower reaches of the Dorn. These include a number of SSSI's and Local Wildlife Sites. There are other banks with remnant limestone grassland habitat.
- Lowland Meadow: on the banks and more gently sloping Lias sections. The largest site is Little Tew Meadows SSSI at the top end of the Dorn. Ovens Gorse has acidic neutral grassland and uniquely for Oxfordshire and extensive area of non woodland bluebells with early purple orchids amongst grassland.
- Fen, swamp and reedbed: scattered fen throughout the valley with occasional areas of swamp. There is a concentration between Wootton and Glympton. Along the Cockley Brook, a tributary of the Dorn the largest fen area is found at Middle Barton Fen SSSI. Remnant habitat is found near Woodstock. There is a reedbed at Hollybank Marsh on the Dorn.
- Parkland: There are parklands at Glympton, Kiddington, Heythrop, Middle Barton and Sandford St. Martin. However the status of the habitat in these parklands is largely unknown. The Lower Glyme flows through Blenheim Park.
- Woodland: There are few sites and most are plantation. There is some lowland mixed deciduous woodland at Priory Wood and another small site in the Upper Glyme.
- Eutrophic Standing Water: found in parkland lakes and a large pond in the Upper Glyme. The largest site is at Blenheim Park.
- Species: the Dorn supports a population of native white-clawed crayfish in its upper reaches.

Access: Blenheim Park is accessible to the public as is the nearby Woodstock Meadow. Wootton Jubilee Fields has public access. There is BBOWT nature reserve in the Upper Glyme. Elsewhere access is restricted to bridleways and footpaths.

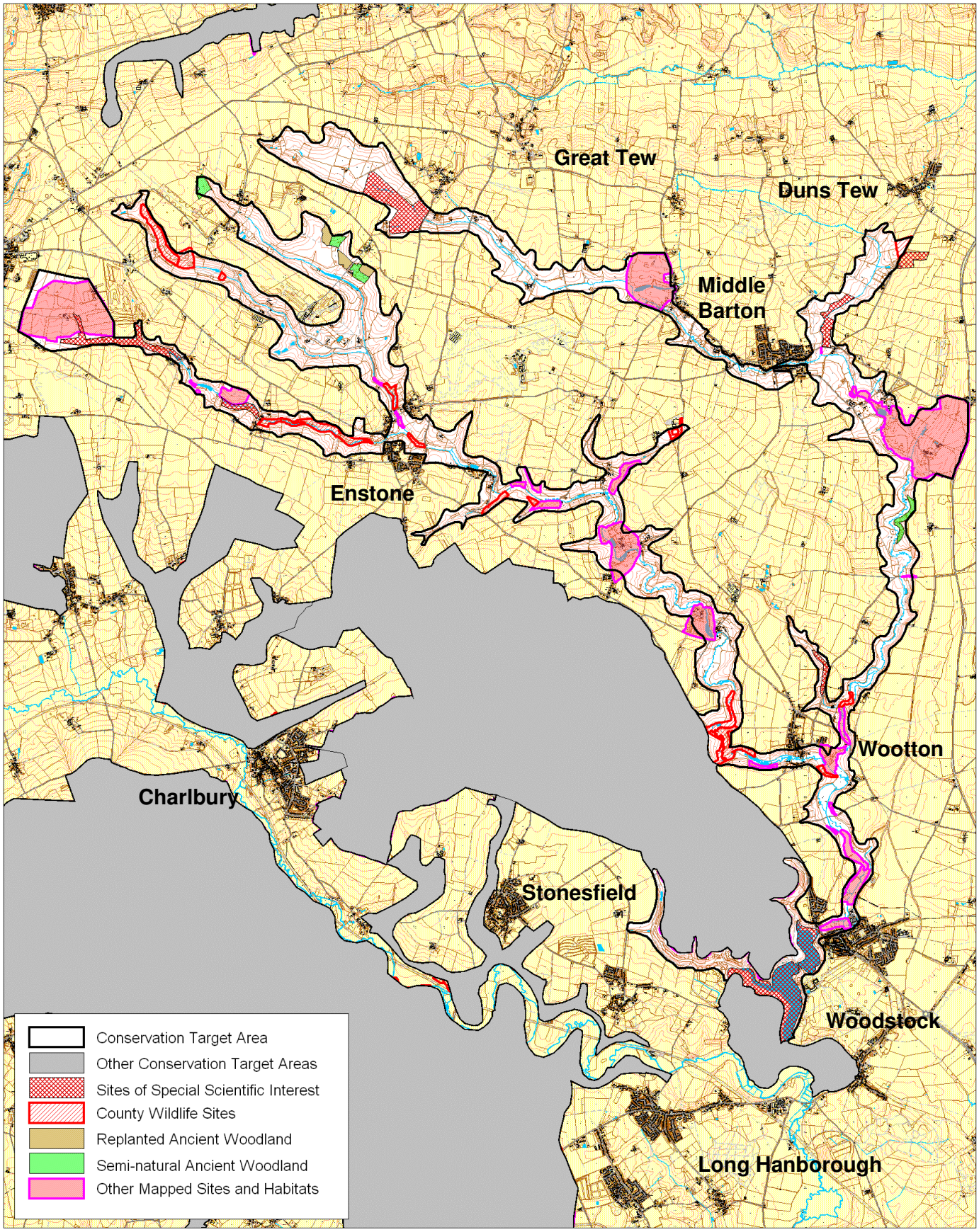
Archaeology: There are medieval village sites in the Upper Glyme.

Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan Targets associated with this CTA:

1. Limestone (lowland calcareous) grassland – management[1] and creation.
2. Lowland meadows - management and restoration.
3. Fen, reedbed (and swamp) – management and restoration.
4. Parkland (including veteran trees) – management, restoration and creation.
5. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland - management, restoration and creation.
6. Rivers – management and restoration (including protection, management and monitoring of white-clawed crayfish in the Dorn.

[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".

Glyme and Dorn Conservation Target Area



Scale 1:80000

Area of BAP habitat present in CTA (from TVERC BAP Habitat GIS layer 5/2010)												
Glyme and Dorn Valleys 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)	77.7	3.5	50.9	20.5	66.4	18.4	0.7		127.7	7.0	168.2	2.4
% of CTA area	3.1	0.1	2.0	0.8	2.7	0.7	0.0		5.1	0.3	6.7	0.1
% of county resource	10.6	7.1	4.7	0.4	7.1	15.7	2.7		2.8	5.0	9.0	0.7