

Northern Evenlode Valleys CTA (Conservation Target Area)

A group of valleys on the northern side of the Evenlode Valley cutting into the Cotswolds plateau. Extends onto the plateau to the east where there is an extensive grassland recreation program.

Joint Character Area: Cotswolds

Landscape Types: Farmland Slopes and Valley Sides (eastern valleys) with small fringing patches of Farmland Plateau, Settled Ancient Pastures to the east along with Farmland Plateau.

Geology: The eastern sections are largely dry limestone valleys. To the west the valleys are wet with a more varied geology with Lias mudstones, limestones, some gravel and alluvial deposits along the streams. The plateau is oolitic limestone.

Topography: Sections of the south facing Evenlode Valley sides and a number of narrow valleys to the north of the main valley. West of Charlbury the area includes more gently valley sides. West of Chadlington it includes flatter areas of plateau land and the top end of another wider valley.

Area of CTA: 1448 hectares

Biodiversity:

- Limestone grassland. The eastern valleys include SSSI's at Stonesfield and Reed Hill. One valley extends to the relatively flat grasslands at Newbarn Farm at the valley head. The Cotswold Line cuts through the area where limestone grassland is also found on the embankments. To the west, limestone grassland is more restricted but includes sites with meadow clary and road verge reserves. Beyond Chadlington the area extends beyond the valleys onto the plateau where limestone grassland has been recreated.
- Lowland Meadows. Between Charlbury and Chadlington lowland meadow habitat is found in the valleys. There are remnants of this habitat outside the designated sites.
- Wetland springs and flushes. Many springs and flushes supporting fen habitat are found along the eastern brooks especially at Tatson and Dean.
- Woodland: Mainly small areas including Dean Wood Local Wildlife Site. The head of the most eastern valley includes Sarsgrove Wood SSSI. There are other small areas at Stonesfield and Bridgefield Brake.
- Species: Cotswold pennycress present at one site.

Access: Largely restricted to footpaths and bridleways. The Oxfordshire Way and the Wychwood Way cross the area. There is a community woodland at Charlbury and a BBOWT nature reserve.

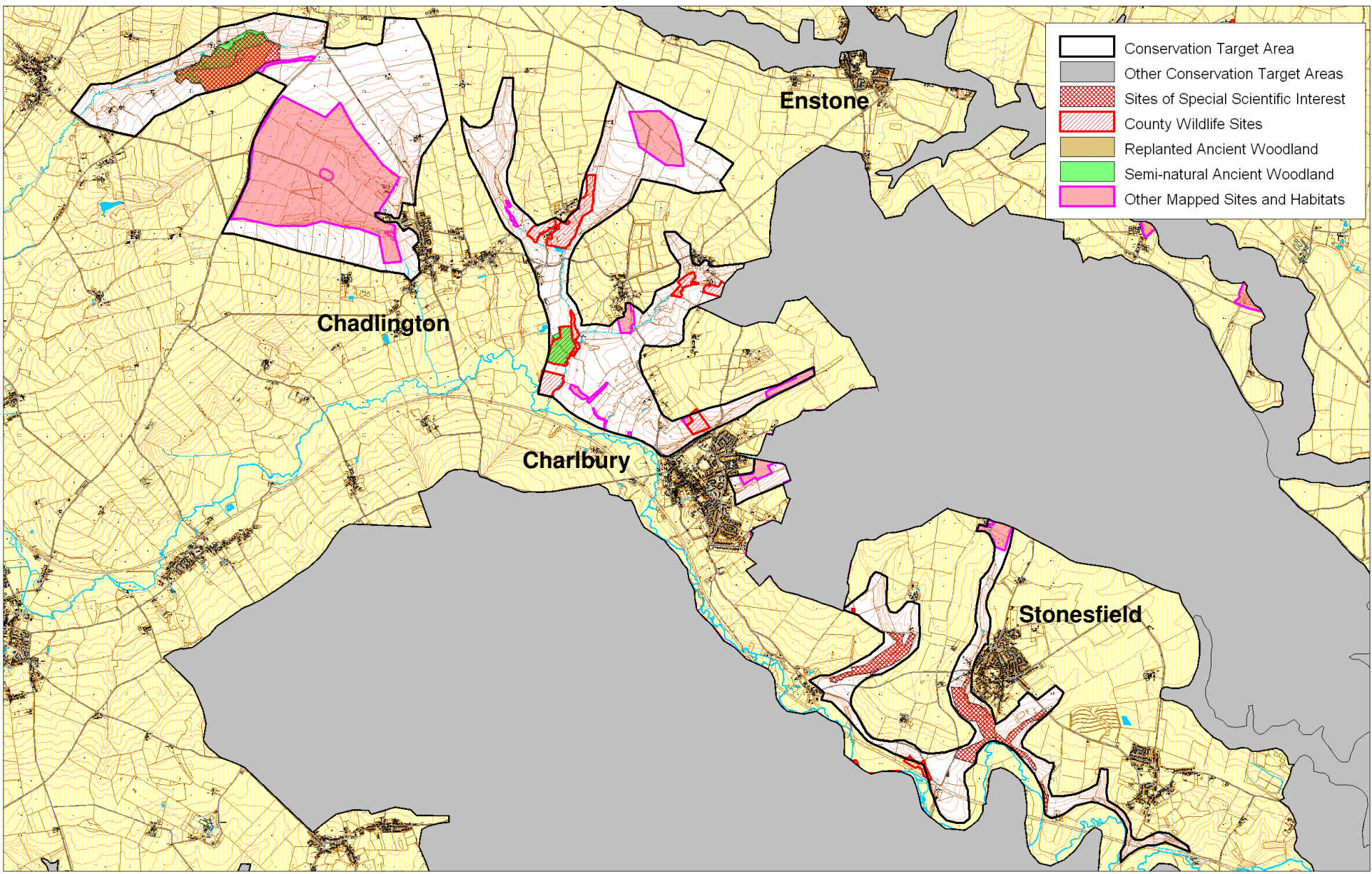
Archaeology: Includes Knollbury Fort west of Chadlington.

Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan Targets associated with this CTA:

1. Limestone (lowland calcareous) grassland – management¹, restoration and creation (Core target areas are in the valleys. On the deeper soils on the adjacent plateau the potential is more limited and the key target area is west of Chadlington to extend existing schemes).
2. Lowland Meadows - management and restoration.
3. Fen (and flushes) – management and restoration.
4. Parkland (and veteran tree) – management.
5. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland – management and restoration.

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".

Northern Evenlode Valleys Conservation Target Area



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Scale 1:60000

Area of BAP habitat present in CTA (from TVERC BAP Habitat GIS layer 5/2010) and 2015 BAP Habitat Targets for this CTA

Northern Evenlode 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)	32.6		10.7		0.2	0.3		5.7	63.2		13.0	0.6
% of CTA area	2.3		0.7		0.0	0.0		0.4	4.4		0.9	0.0
% of county resource	4.4		1.0		0.0	0.3		0.7	1.4		0.7	0.2
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			1		-		-	4			-	-
Creation	2 ^a (with two other Wychwood CTAs)		1		-	-		9			-	-

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