

Wychwood and Lower Evenlode CTA (Conservation Target Area)

The remains of Wychwood Forest and extensive areas within the old forest boundary extending as far as Eynsham Hall Park. It includes the southern side of the Evenlode Valley

Joint Character Area: Cotswolds

Landscape Types: Wooded Farmland, Wooded Estate Slopes and Valley Sides, Farmland Slopes and Valley Sides, Settled Ancient Pastures.

Geology: Mainly a variety of limestone rocks extending onto the Oxford Clay to the south. Some areas of glacial sand and gravel at North Leigh and in the vicinity of Wychwood Forest.

Topography: A rolling plateau intersected by a number of dry and wet valleys that run down to the Evenlode Valley. Includes the steeper valley sides along the southern edge of the Evenlode Valley.

Area of CTA: 4765 hectares

Biodiversity:

- Woodland. The largest feature is the rich ancient woodland remnant of Wychwood. Numerous other woodlands, that were part of the original Forest of Wychwood, are present extending as far as Cogges Wood and Eynsham Hall Park. Also includes the hanging woodland along the Evenlode Valley including Sturt Copse SSSI.
- Parkland. There are two significant historic parklands – Cornbury which is known to be of high interest and Eynsham Hall which is thought to be of significant interest.
- Limestone grassland. This habitat is associated with the valleys that cut through the area and is also found on a section of the Cotswold Line and on road verges.
- Species rich hedgerows. Many of the hedgerows are rich in species and derived from earlier woodland clearances within the Forest of Wychwood.
- Heathland and acid grassland. Remnants of this habitat are found where the glacial sands and gravels occur especially at North Leigh Heath and also at Ramsden and within woodland to the north-west of Wychwood.

Access: North Leigh Common, Woodland Trust Reserve at Ramsden, Leafield Community Woodland, Breach Wood community woodland, Hailey and Little Garden Wood, Ramsden. Various footpaths and bridleways including the Wychwood Way.

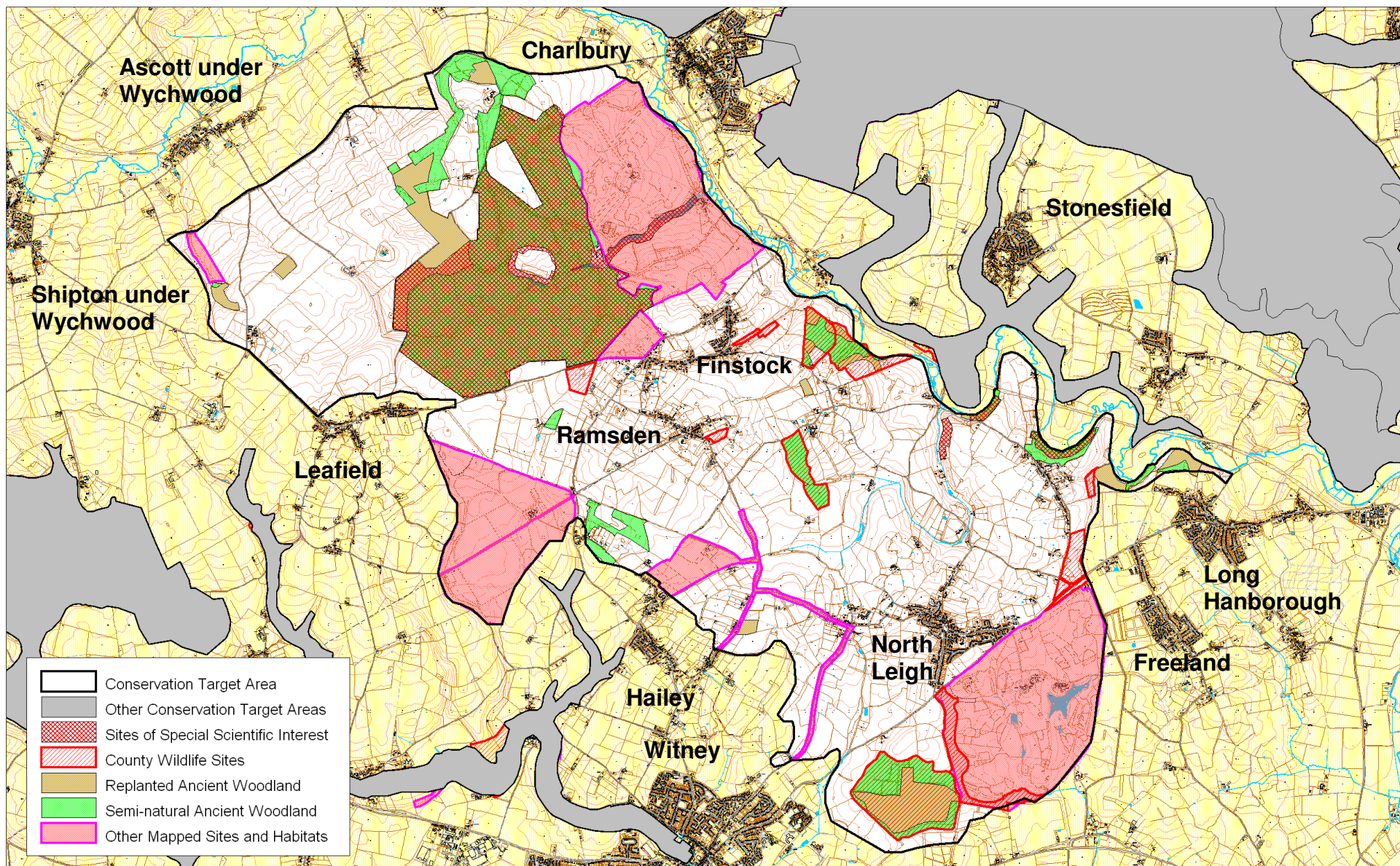
Archaeology:

Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan Targets associated with this CTA:

1. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland – management¹, restoration and creation.
2. Parkland (including veteran trees) – management.
3. Limestone (lowland calcareous) grassland – management, restoration and creation.
4. Lowland heathland and lowland dry acid grassland - management and restoration.
5. Hedgerows – management and creation.
6. Arable field margins - management and creation (particularly for arable wildflowers).
7. Ponds - management and creation.
8. Traditional orchards – management, restoration and creation.

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 1:60000

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

Wychwood and Lower Evenlode 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)	6.4	6.7	14.8		13.8				623.4	0.3	283.4	6.6
% of CTA area	0.1	0.1	0.3		0.3				13.1	0.0	5.9	0.1
% of county resource	0.9	13.7	1.4		1.5				13.5	0.2	15.2	2.0
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 <small>Targets not divided by CTA</small>	Traditional Orchards - No targets for 2015
Maintenance (to be determined)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-	-
Achieving Condition (to be determined)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-	-
Restoration			1		-		-	35			-	-
Creation	2 ^a (with two other Wychwood CTAs)		1		-	-		40			-	-

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