

Bernwood CTA (Conservation Target Area)

This area encompasses the woodlands of Bernwood and Shotover Forest to the east of Horton-cum-Studley. It consists of the valley of the Holton Brook, Moorbridge Brook and Danes Brook, and the gently rising wooded land on each side. The area extends into Buckinghamshire. The Oxfordshire Heights East hotspot lies to the north west where the ground rises and geology changes.

Joint Character Area: Midvale Ridge, Clay Vale

Landscape Types: Wooded Farmland and Wooded Estateland. The Rolling Farmland to the south is largely wooded. River Meadowlands along the Holton Brook.

Geology: Largely Oxford Clay mudstone with some small areas of sandstone. There is alluvium along the brooks which forms a wider area between Stanton Great Wood and Waterperry Wood. There are also some small areas of river terrace sands and gravels.

Topography: A flat river valley that is narrow to the south and wider to the north with gently sloping valley sides along the western, eastern and northern edge.

Area of CTA: 6844 hectares

Biodiversity:

- Woodland. Extensive areas of semi-natural ancient woodland and replanted ancient woodland including the SSSI's of Waterperry Wood, Holton Wood, Stanton Great Wood and Holly Wood and extending into Buckinghamshire to include Shabbington Woods SSSI. Waterperry and Shabbington form Bernwood Forest Nature Reserve and are especially important for butterflies.
- Lowland Meadows: There are a group of meadows along the Holton Brook to the south of the area and Bernwood Meadows SSSI towards the north-east. Grassland is an important component along the rides in some of the woods, especially in Waterperry and Shabbington Woods where species rich rides and intersections have been created. There are areas of fairly acidic wet neutral grassland between the remains of Studley Wood and the surrounding golf course.
- Species: The woodlands are important for butterflies.

Access: Bernwood Forest Nature Reserve has public access. Bernwood Meadows Nature Reserve is managed by BBOWT.

Archeology:

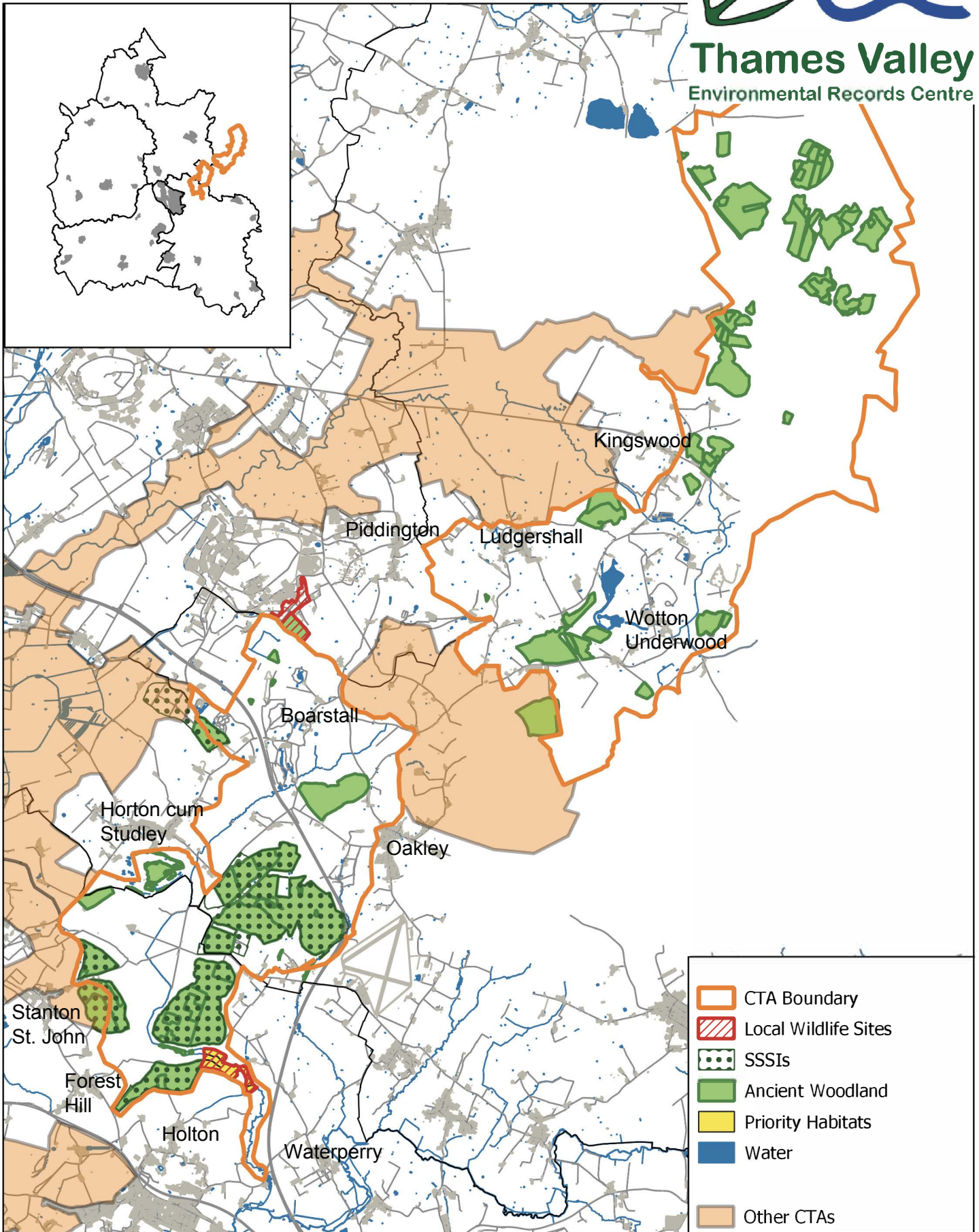
Oxford Biodiversity Action Plan Targets associated with this CTA:

1. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland – management and restoration.
2. Lowland meadows – management and restoration (particularly along the streams).

Bernwood Conservation Target Area



Thames Valley
Environmental Records Centre



Map produced by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre in 2019

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