

Thames Clifton to Shillingford CTA (Conservation Target Area)

The Thames floodplain between Clifton and Shillingford but including Little Wittenham Nature Reserve and the gravel pits at Dorchester.

Joint Character Area: Thames and Avon Vales

Landscape Types: River Meadowlands, Terrace Farmland (Dorchester Gravel Pits), Rolling Farmland and Farmland Hills (Little Wittenham Nature Reserve).

Geology: Alluvium and sand and gravel in river valley. Mudstone, siltstone and sandstone at Little Wittenham Nature Reserve with chalk on the hill top.

Topography: Largely flat riverside land but including the mainly north facing slopes and hill tops of the northernmost of the Sinodun Hills at Little Wittenham.

Area of CTA: 693 hectares

Biodiversity:

- Lowland Meadow: Clifton Meadow is a Local Wildlife Site near Clifton Hampden where remnants of lowland meadow are found along with fen habitat. Lowland Meadow habitat is also present in Church Meadow and on Round Hill at Little Wittenham. There is a small wet meadow at Shillingford and there are some remnants in other fields.
- Eutrophic Standing water: Four of the gravel pits at Dorchester are Local Wildlife Sites and are important for wintering wildfowl. Little Wittenham has a series of ponds that are important breeding sites for great crested newts.
- Wet woodland. Small areas next to the Thames at Burcot, Little Wittenham and Shillingford that support populations of Lodden lily.
- Other: Woodland at Little Wittenham, some limestone grassland here and on Dyke Hills, some patches of fen habitat.

Access: Northmoor Trust estate and the Thames Path.

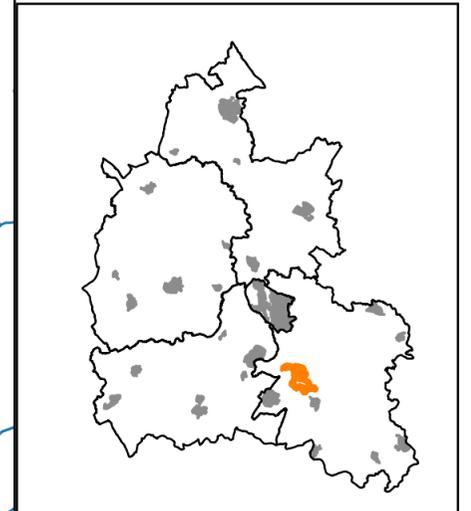
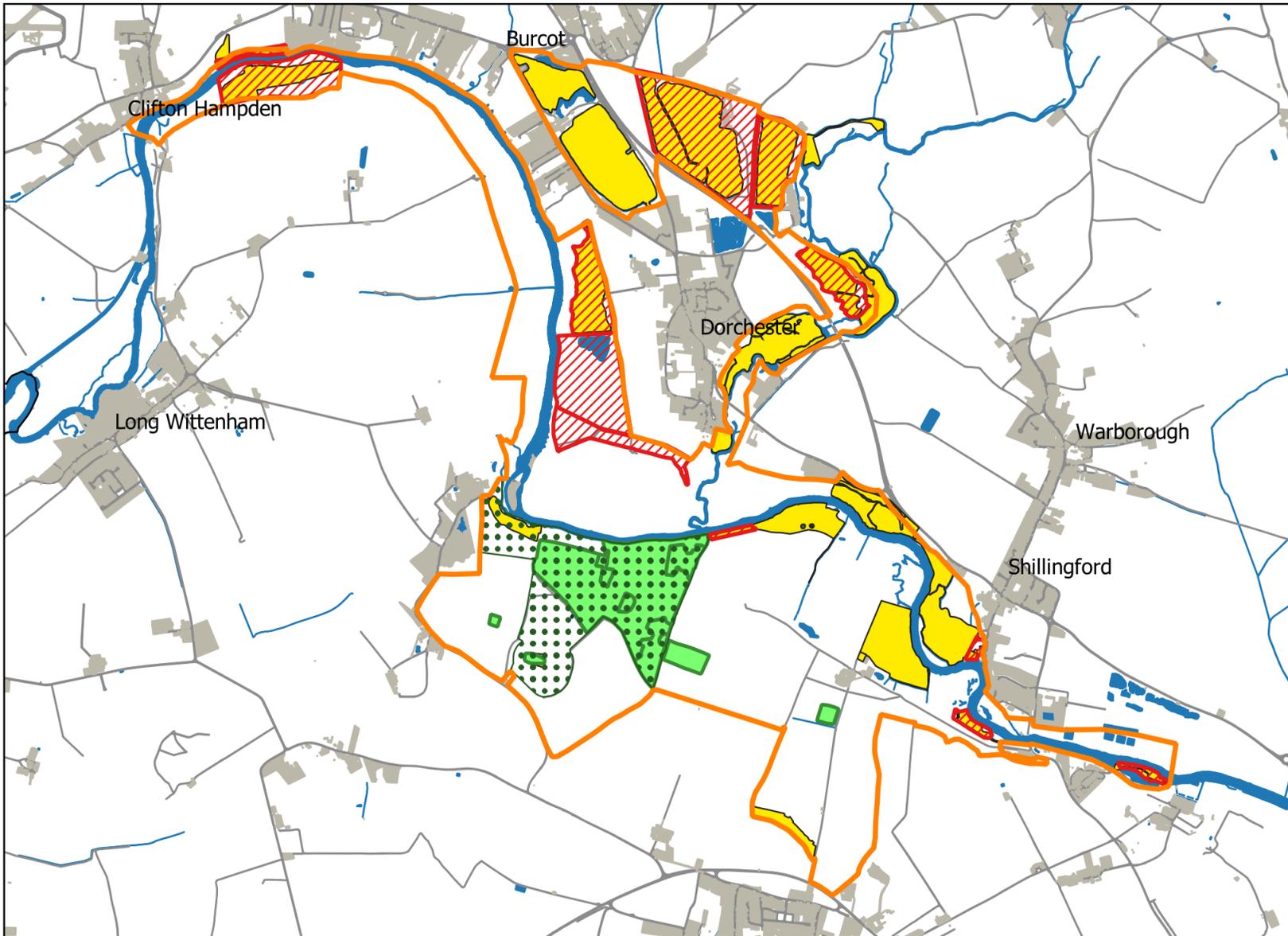
Archaeology: Dyke Hills at Dorchester, Castle Hill at Little Wittenham.

Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan Targets associated with this CTA:

1. Lowland meadows – management¹ and restoration.
2. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland and wet woodland – management and restoration.
3. Eutrophic standing water – management (maintaining the value of Dorchester Pits).
4. Fen – management.
5. Ponds – management and creation (with particular emphasis on amphibians).

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"

Thames Clifton to Shillingford Conservation Target Area



- CTA Boundary
- Local Wildlife Sites
- SSSIs
- Ancient Woodland
- Priority Habitats
- Water
- Other CTAs

Map produced by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre in 2019
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