

## **Brill and Muswell Hills CTA (Conservation Target Area)**

Brill and Muswell Hills. Only the northern slopes of Muswell Hill are in Oxfordshire:

**Joint Character Area:** Midvale Ridge

**Landscape Type:** not defined

**Geology:** Sand capped hills with bands of Purbeck limestone, sandstone and siltstone and Kimmeridge sandstone, siltstone and mudstone on the slopes.

**Topography:** Two prominent hills. Muswell Hill has steep slopes, as does the northern part of Brill Hill. The southern slopes of Brill Hill are less steep.

**Area of CTA:** 745 hectares

### **Biodiversity:**

- Lowland Meadow: Muswell Hill has extensive areas of strongly acidic lowland meadow habitat. Some areas appear to have great potential for this habitat and perhaps some acid grassland. Remnants are found elsewhere including on Brill Common where extensive pits have been dug in the past and the grassland is more calcareous in nature.
- Fen: remnants present in small areas in the many largely rush dominated flushes found on the hill which are a mixture of fen and wet grassland habitat.
- Acid grassland: some areas have extensive patches of Bracken including in the Local Wildlife Site at Muswell Hill and the moto-cross circuit. There may be remnant areas of acid grassland here and elsewhere. The soils are certainly suitable.

**Access:** Brill Common has open access. There are footpaths elsewhere

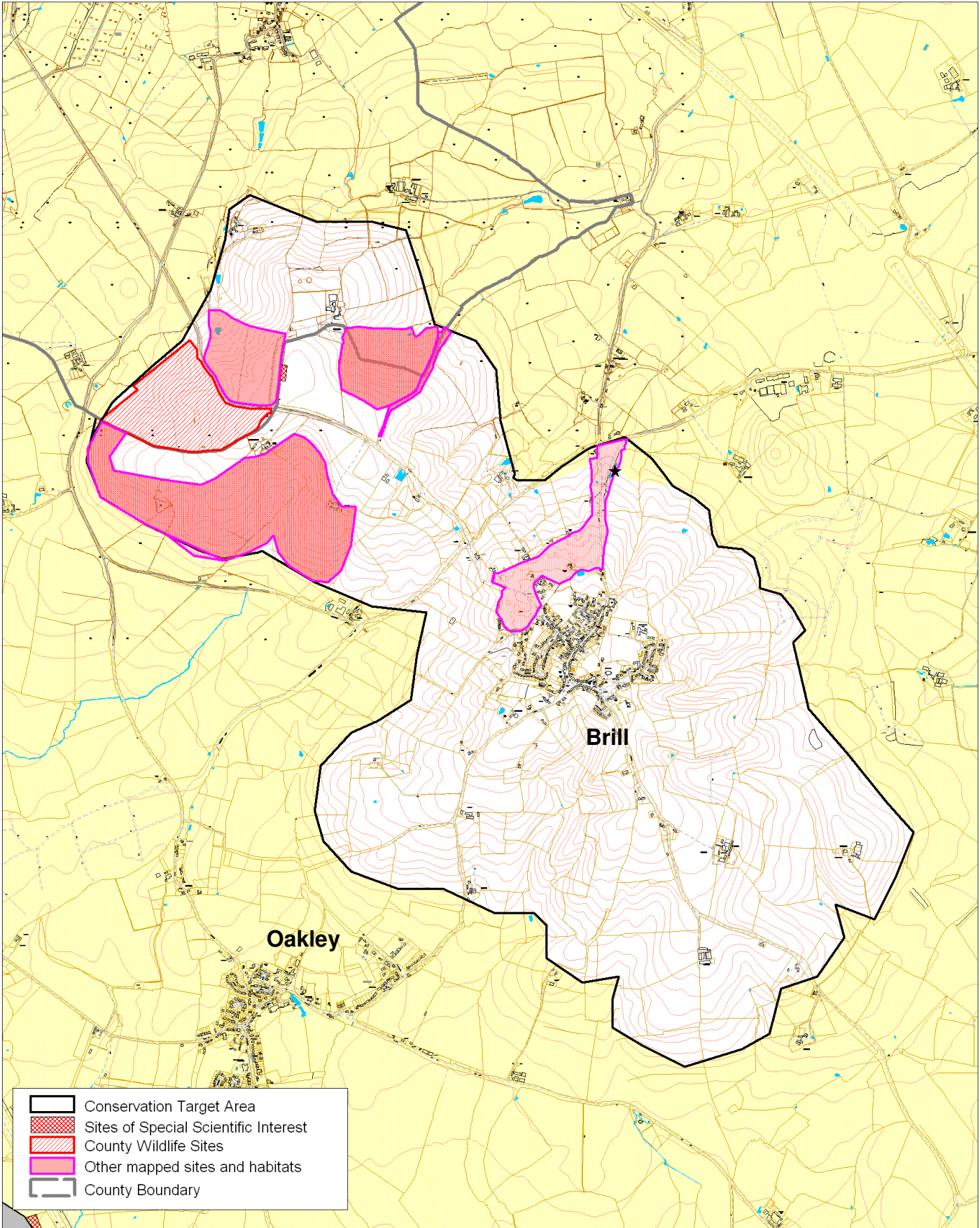
### **Archaeology:**

#### **Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan Targets associated with this CTA:**

1. Lowland meadow - management<sup>1</sup> and restoration
2. Lowland dry acid grassland - restoration.
3. Lowland fen (flushes) - management.

<sup>1</sup> "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".

# Brill and Muswell Hills Conservation Target Area



**Area of BAP habitat present in CTA (from TVERC BAP Habitat GIS layer 5/2010)**

<b>Brill and Muswell Hills CTA</b>	<b>Lowland Calcareous Grassland</b>	<b>Lowland Dry Acid Grassland</b>	<b>Lowland Meadows</b>	<b>Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh</b>	<b>Eutrophic Standing Waters</b>	<b>Lowland Fens</b>	<b>Reedbeds</b>	<b>Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland</b>	<b>Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland</b>	<b>Wet Woodland</b>	<b>Wood - Pasture and Parkland</b>	<b>Traditional Orchards</b>
Area of BAP Habitat in CTA (ha)			11.7						0.5			0.1
% of CTA area			1.6						0.1			0.0
% of county resource			1.1						0.0			0.0