

# Oxfordshire Conservation Target Areas Mapping Project Draft Report

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# Oxfordshire Conservation Target Areas Report

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# 1.0 Introduction

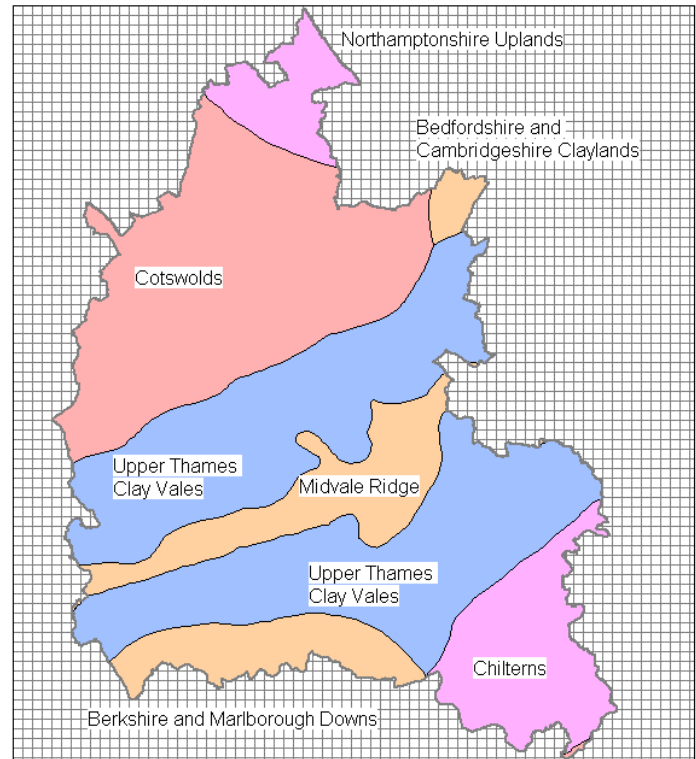
Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) was commissioned in 2005-2006 by Oxfordshire County Council County Ecologist Craig Blackwell, to define and map key target areas for nature conservation action within Oxfordshire.

## 1.1 Aim of Conservation Target Areas Mapping Project

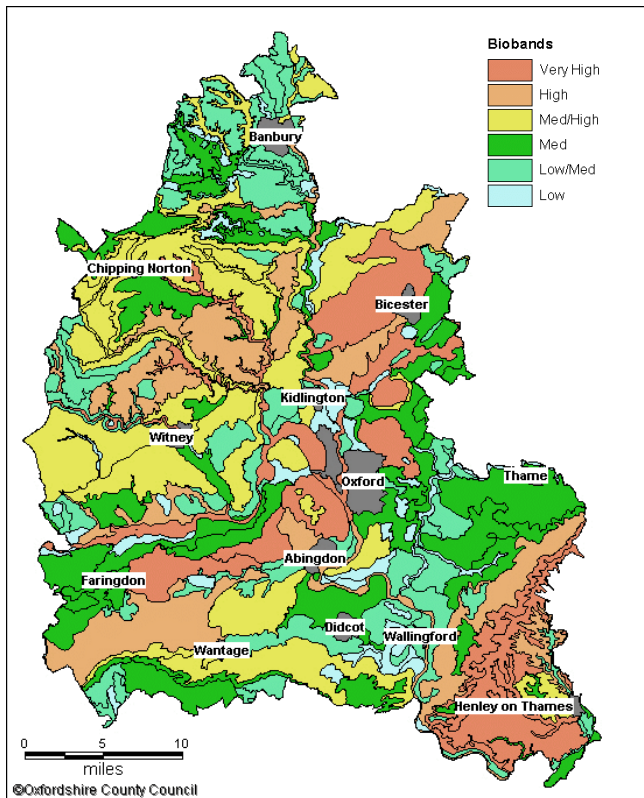
In the mid 1990s the map of England was subdivided into 159 different Joint Character Areas by the countryside agencies (see map to right). These Joint Character Areas are broad swathes of countryside, such as the Cotswolds and Chilterns, with similar geology, topography and patterns of land use. Sections of nine of these areas are found in Oxfordshire.

In 2005 the Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (Oxfordshire County Council, English Nature, the Countryside Agency and the Northmoor Trust) completed a three year landscape and biodiversity appraisal of Oxfordshire. This study mapped the biodiversity and landscape within the Joint Character Areas in Oxfordshire in a series of

Oxfordshire Joint Character Areas



Oxfordshire Biomap with Landscape Description Units boundaries



240 smaller units - Landscape Description Units (see map to left). The study went on to identify the landscape units of most importance for wildlife conservation, based on the extent and diversity of habitats. These are shown on the Biomap (see map to left).

The identification and mapping of Conservation Target Areas (described in this report) is done as a follow up to the Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study; using a wider range of information to further refine and describe in detail the priority areas for nature conservation in the county.

**The aim of the Conservation Target Areas Mapping Project was to identify and map the most important areas for wildlife conservation, within recognised Landscape Description Units, where targeted conservation action will have the greatest benefit.**

The main aim of subsequent targeted conservation work within the Conservation Target Areas will be to restore biodiversity and landscape through the restoration and management of habitats. This reflects the aims of the new Higher Level Environment Stewardship agri-environment scheme (HLS). HLS is recognised as a key method of delivering habitat restoration.

## **2.0 Methods**

### ***2.1 Approach to Mapping***

Initially TVERC explored the possibility of using a detailed scoring system to decide which areas should be included in the target area mapping. This was not feasible in the limited time available. TVERC also looked at using GIS cluster analysis tools to identify areas of high biodiversity. The GIS cluster analysis was deemed too simplistic and an approach that considered multiple variables simultaneously was sought.

The approach that was eventually taken is similar to that of The North Wessex Downs AONB Chalk Grassland Strategy (Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre May 2005). This Strategy:

- Defined key areas within the AONB using a scoring system.
- Defined core areas within those key areas based on the concentration of chalk grassland habitat, areas with greatest potential for chalk grassland restoration, archaeological sites and public access.

Although a scoring system was not used in the Oxfordshire mapping project, the OWLS project had scored landscape units and this analysis was used as a reference point. Though the OWLS scoring system acted as a starting point for this project, it was thought important not to consider just the high scoring landscape units from the OWLS analysis. This is because:

- The scoring system used by OWLS meant that large landscape units scored more highly than small units.
- Areas with a range of small remnant habitats score more highly in OWLS than areas with extensive areas of one or two habitats.
- The OWLS scoring was done rapidly without access to the more detailed information now available.

### ***2.2 Key factors / information used***

The key factors / information taken into account during mapping process were:

- Concentrations of UKBAP habitat.
- Important areas for UKBAP and rare species. These largely coincide with areas with concentrations of habitat. This is less true with farmland birds and arable wildflowers. One target area was specifically included for these species and other target areas include land that is important for these species.
- Areas with concentrations of archaeological features. The County Archaeology Team were unable to assist with the project and therefore archaeological features could, in the main, only be considered from sites that are shown on Ordnance Survey maps.
- Areas with public access. Sites with open and controlled access and the presence of access routes such as national and local trails
- Potential for habitat restoration. Land with good potential to restore the main target habitats especially where this links existing habitat.

- Existing habitat restoration schemes such as those resulting from agri-environment schemes.
- Geology.
- Topography. The potential for habitat restoration is also dependant on topography. Most chalk and limestone grasslands, for instance, occur on steep slopes where the soils are thinner and thus steeper sloping land has greater potential.
- Hydrology and floodplains.

The source datasets used in this project are listed in detail in Appendix 1.

### ***2.3 Additional supporting information***

UKBAP habitat on County Wildlife Sites and SSSIs was mapped by TVERC during 2004 and 2005 and this was a key dataset used to identify the target areas. Additional mapping of land with extensive areas or remnants of UKBAP habitat, outside County Wildlife Sites and SSSIs, was carried out to further inform the process.

Areas of importance, but without defined boundaries, were mapped as Information Zones. These included parkland areas where the exact extent of parkland habitat is not known, areas that are important for arable wildflowers, areas with species rich hedgerows, ridge and furrow, areas with a specific restoration potential or which are may have some biodiversity interest and some areas within Countryside Stewardship.

### ***2.4 Conservation Target Areas and Landscapes***

The 240 Landscape Description Units were used as a starting point for mapping conservation target area boundaries (as with the North Wessex Downs AONB chalk grassland strategy). The conservation target area mapping was not constrained by landscape unit boundaries and land within adjacent landscape units with similar habitats was included (Conservation Target Area boundaries occasionally cut across Landscape Description Unit boundaries). The Conservation Target Areas do largely follow the national landscape description units but do include parts of units.

To form a logical and cohesive unit, some target areas are a combination of landscape types. A good example is the Swere Valley. The upper and lower sections of valley have different characteristics though the habitats are not dissimilar. The upper valley is quite narrow with steeper banks and more limestone grassland while the lower valley is more open with wider areas of flat riverside land and marshes. A tributary near Hook Norton extends into a different landscape unit and this is justified when you look at the landscape units at a more detailed scale - this 'cross-boundary' area is a valley that is very similar to that of the rest of the upper Swere Valley.

In some cases, in order to avoid overcomplicating the mapped areas, somewhat different landscapes (e.g. valleys and 'hill' plateaus) were mapped together. Examples are:

- The Chilterns Dipslope Valleys and Plateau, where a number of discreet plateau areas were mapped with the valleys
- Wychwood and Lower Evenlode where the valleys and the southern Evenlode Valley side were mapped with the plateau areas.
- Northern Evenlode Valleys where a significant area of plateau land was mapped with the valleys.

In all cases, although there are differences in habitats, there are also some ecological and physiographic (topography, geology, soils, hydrology) similarities that tie the areas together.

## **2.5 Consultation**

Once draft target areas had been produced two all day events were held to consult with:

- local naturalists and conservation groups
- land management advisors
- land managers
- local authority ecologists, planners and landscape officers
- Defra (RDS)
- English Nature
- Wildlife Trust officers
- Ponds Conservation Trust
- Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
- grant giving bodies
- RSPB
- Environment Agency
- AONB officers
- Landscape project officers

Maps of target areas and target area statements were sent to those who could not attend the consultation meetings or who wanted to study the areas in more detail outside of the consultation events. Statistical analysis of the extent to which the target areas 'captured' UKBAP priority habitats and species was carried out to inform the consultations (see Appendix 4). Comments made through this consultation were used to edit the boundaries of the target areas.

## **3.0 Results**

36 target areas were identified and are listed in the table overleaf (page 6) and shown in the map on page 7 of this report. A summary of the thought process involved in deciding the boundaries and main changes resulting from consultation are given in Appendix 2.

### **3.1 Outputs**

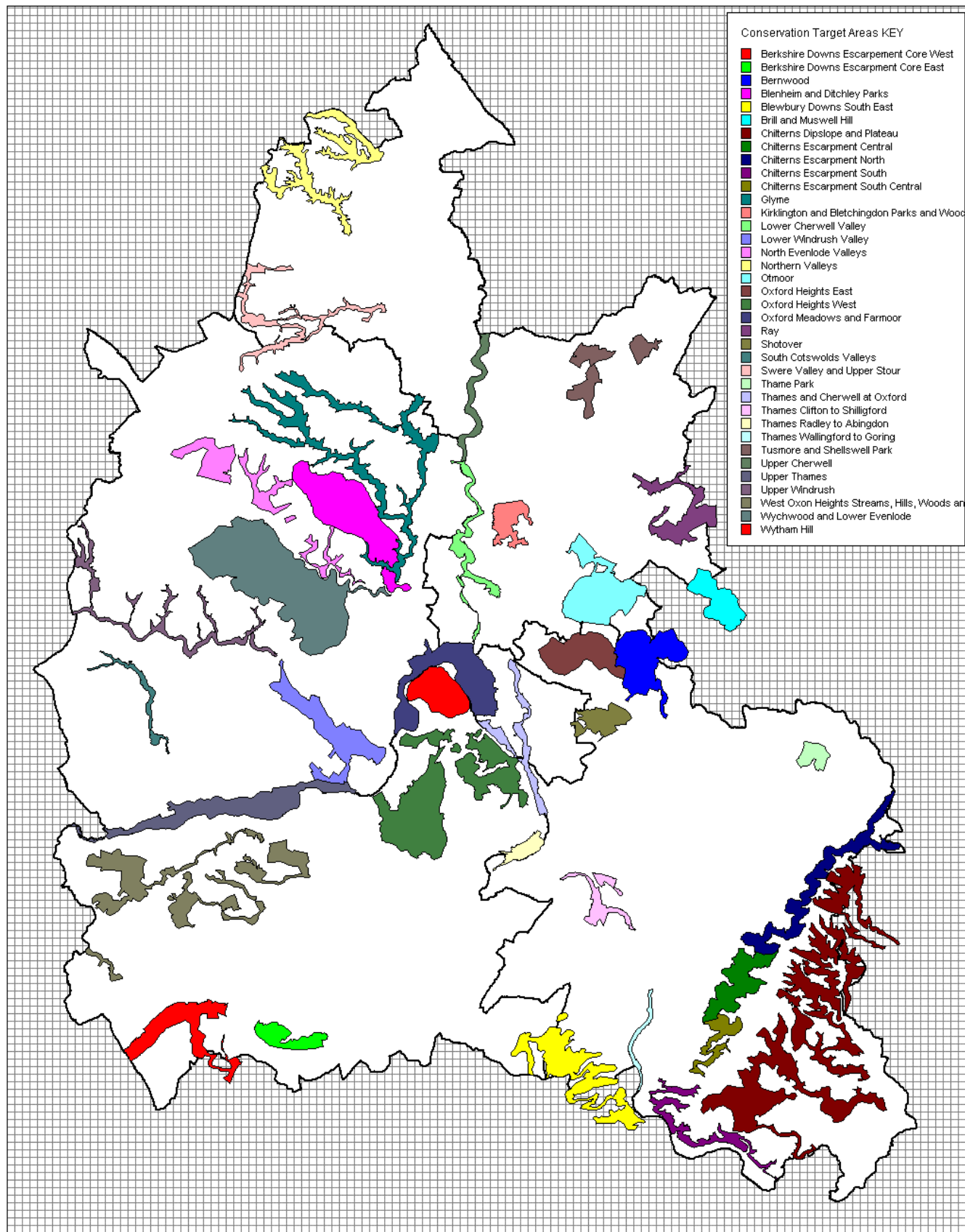
The outputs of this project were:

- A GIS layer (computer map) of Conservation Target Areas (and hard copy maps – see Appendix 3).
- A GIS Layer of Key Link Zones. Two areas were identified as being important target areas to link target areas. These were between the Otmoor and Ray target areas and the two areas on the western Berkshire Downs escarpment. Although these lack the key habitats for the area they have good potential for restoring those habitats and thus linking target areas.
- A GIS Layer of other sites and habitats to as supporting information for the target areas.
- A GIS layer of information zones as supporting information for the target areas.
- Target Area Descriptions. A description for each target area was produced. These provide information on location, geology, topography, biodiversity, archaeology, access and list the key conservation targets. (See Appendix 3).
- An analysis of the extent to which the target areas included species and habitats of importance (See Appendix 4)

## List of Conservation Target Areas and Local Authority Districts

<b>Conservation Target Area Name</b>	<b>Primary Local Authority District</b>	<b>Secondary Local Authority Districts</b>
Brill and Muswell Hill	Cherwell	Buckinghamshire
Kirklington and Bletchingdon Parks and Woods	Cherwell	
Lower Cherwell Valley	Cherwell	
Northern Valleys	Cherwell	
Otmoor	Cherwell	
Ray	Cherwell	Buckinghamshire
Swere Valley and Upper Stour	Cherwell	West Oxfordshire
Tusmore and Shellswell Park	Cherwell	
Upper Cherwell	Cherwell	
Bernwood	South Oxfordshire	Buckinghamshire
Blewbury Downs South East	South Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse, West Berkshire
Chilterns Dipslope and Plateau	South Oxfordshire	Buckinghamshire
Chilterns Escarpment Central	South Oxfordshire	
Chilterns Escarpment North	South Oxfordshire	
Chilterns Escarpment South	South Oxfordshire	
Chilterns Escarpment South Central	South Oxfordshire	
Oxford Heights East	South Oxfordshire	
Shotover	South Oxfordshire	Oxford City
Thame Park	South Oxfordshire	
Thames Clifton to Shilligford	South Oxfordshire	
Thames Wallingford to Goring	South Oxfordshire	
Berkshire Downs Escarpment Core East	Vale of White Horse	
Berkshire Downs Escarpment Core West	Vale of White Horse	West Berkshire
Oxford Heights West	Vale of White Horse	
Thames and Cherwell at Oxford	Vale of White Horse	Oxford City
Thames Radley to Abingdon	Vale of White Horse	South Oxfordshire
Upper Thames	Vale of White Horse	West Oxfordshire
West Oxon Heights Streams, Hills, Woods and P	Vale of White Horse	
Wytham Hill	Vale of White Horse	
Oxford Meadows and Farmoor	Vale of White Horse, Oxford City	Cherwell
Blenheim and Ditchley Parks	West Oxfordshire	
Glyme	West Oxfordshire	
Lower Windrush Valley	West Oxfordshire	
North Evenlode Valleys	West Oxfordshire	
South Cotswolds Valleys	West Oxfordshire	
Upper Windrush	West Oxfordshire	
Wychwood and Lower Evenlode	West Oxfordshire	

# Oxfordshire Conservation Target Areas Map



Detailed maps of each Conservation Target Area are provided in Appendix 3 along with the target area descriptions. The maps show the extent of the target area along with designated sites, ancient woodland and other mapped sites. These include the areas mapped as other sites and habitats, information zones, proposed county wildlife sites and BBOWT reserves that are not Sites of Special Scientific Interest or County Wildlife Site.

## **4.0 Discussion**

### ***4.1 Did we get it right?***

The majority of target areas are generally well known as areas of conservation importance within the county and there was no dispute about their selection. Consultation feedback on some of the less well known areas has been limited as fewer people know the areas well enough to give an opinion.

The major sources of environmental data were assembled and considered when identifying the conservation target areas and the mapping work carried out by an experienced ecologist. Despite these factors, it was not always simple to justify choices that were in some cases based on local knowledge and opinion. A detailed scoring system and threshold criteria may have helped during consultation but we do not believe it would have significantly altered the conservation target area boundaries. In order to make the process as transparent and repeatable as possible, sources of local knowledge that had been used to inform mapping choices (location of habitat remnants or degraded habitat for instance) were captured in digital map format and are now held by TVERC.

A statistical analysis to determine the extent to which the Conservation Target Areas 'capture' the priority species and habitats confirmed our confidence in the conservation target area mapping (see appendix 4). Though the Conservation Target Areas cover only 17% of the land area of Oxfordshire, they contain 85% of the mapped UKBAP priority habitat and 83% of all records of UKBAP priority species were made within these target areas.

The nature of the particular species and habitats is suggested as a factor that determines the extent of occurrence within or outside a target area. A species that is fairly sedentary and/or faithful to a particular semi-natural habitat (chalk land butterflies for instance) is shown to be more likely to be found within a target area than more ubiquitous and mobile species (brown hare for instance). Habitats that are closely defined and only occur within fairly narrow physiographic limits (fens or unimproved calcareous grassland for instance) are more likely to be included in a conservation target area than more loosely defined habitats that occur within a broader range of physiographic conditions (lowland mixed deciduous woodland for instance).

### ***4.2 Possible additions***

The main area that may warrant inclusion is Upper Heyford Airfield and the railway cutting and quarries at Ardley. There is no clear consensus as to whether it should be included. Its location on the plateau means that the potential for restoration of limestone grassland on deep soils may be limited. Significant parts of the airfield have calcareous improved grassland rather than limestone grassland. However this land is important for birds such as skylark and meadow pipit.

### ***4.3 Farmland birds and arable wildflowers***

Certain target areas are important for farmland birds and arable wildflowers and there are also extensive areas outside target areas that have been suggested for inclusion - usually as an extension to existing areas. Some of the suggested additions are markedly different in character

from the cohesive landscape and biodiversity units that the target areas represent and have not therefore been included. Some of the suggested areas have been added where this does not compromise the overall cohesion of the target area character and targets (as described in Appendix 3).

Key areas suggested for inclusion during consultation are arable land at or towards the base of the Chilterns escarpment and a large area near Ipsden that has been defined as a hotspot for farmland birds (*Breeding Bird Survey of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 2002. Mike Shurmer for RSPB and Chilterns Conservation Board*). Part of these key areas are within mapped conservation target areas, especially the Chilterns Central area. An extensive swathe running from South Stoke to Chinnor could be added as a target area and this will be reviewed.

The aim of the Conservation Target Areas is the restoration of landscapes though the restoration of typical habitats. In areas important for farmland birds and arable wildflowers, the aim is less about restoration and more about management of the existing, largely arable landscape.

It may be possible to define other areas of conservation importance for farmland birds and arable wildflowers on the Cotswold plateau. Land adjacent to the Swere Valley has been suggested. Another potential area is land in the Berkshire Downs.

#### **4.4 Using the Conservation Target Area Maps**

The Conservation Target Area Maps will be used to plan co-ordinated conservation action in Oxfordshire particularly in relation to meeting the aims and objectives of the Higher Level Scheme component of Environmental Stewardship. Priority target areas will be chosen and a lead partner identified for each. Target area partners from a range of organisations will use their local knowledge and the detailed target area maps (with information about current biodiversity resource – species and habitats, restoration potential and current land management) to identify a co-ordinated range of actions to maintain and enhance biodiversity on a landscape scale.

The target areas should also be taken into account as part of the planning system.

In PPS9, under the Section on Local Development Frameworks, there is the need to:-

- (i) indicate the location of designated sites of importance for biodiversity and geodiversity, making clear distinctions between the hierarchy of international, national, regional and locally designated sites.
- (ii) Identify any areas or sites for the restoration of new priority habitats which contribute to regional targets, and support this restoration through appropriate policies.

Although they should not be treated exclusively the target areas represent the main locations in Oxfordshire which can be viewed as both areas of significant ecological constraint as well as potential areas of ecological opportunity. In order to satisfy points (i) and (ii) above there is a strong argument for including the relevant target areas within each of the Local Development Frameworks currently being prepared by the Planning authorities accompanied by appropriate policies to help safeguard and enhance the biodiversity resource.

The target areas have defined boundaries but it is important that there is degree of flexibility in the interpretation of these boundaries. Land adjacent to or in the vicinity of target areas may have similar potential for habitat restoration or as a buffer for important habitats. Planning of conservation action will depend on the interest and willingness of landowners and keen landowners

need to be encouraged even if their land holding lies outside target areas and especially if it is in the vicinity of target areas.

During consultation it was agreed that boundaries of target areas should be reviewed on a regular basis as conservation action takes effect and as new information comes to light.

## **Appendix 1. Conservation Target Area Mapping Data Sources**

A list of datasets used during the Conservation Target Area mapping

### **GIS (computerised map) data**

1. County Wildlife Sites
2. Proposed County Wildlife Sites
3. Proposed County Wildlife Extensions
4. Denotified Wildlife Sites (District Wildlife Sites map)
5. English Nature Sites of Special Scientific Interest
6. English Nature Ancient Woodlands Inventory
7. OWLs Landscape Description Units
8. OWLS Bioscore map
9. DEFRA Countryside Stewardship and Environmentally Sensitive Areas maps
10. Ordnance Survey Landline maps
11. Ordnance Survey profile (contour) layers
12. Environment Agency Floodplain maps
13. British Geological Survey Bedrock and Superficial Geology Layers
14. UK Perspectives Aerial Photographs
15. Lower Windrush Project Gravel Pits Database
16. Oxford City Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
17. TVERC UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat maps
18. Bucks, Berks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) Reserves
19. West Berkshire Wildlife Heritage Sites

### **Reports**

1. Arable Wildflower Surveys. Northmoor Trust.
2. Breeding Bird Survey of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 2002. Mike Shurmer for RSPB and Chilterns Conservation Board.
3. Thames & Chilterns: Parkland & Wood Pastures with Veteran Trees Keith N A Alexander and Janet A Lister for English Nature.
4. Windrush Valley in Witney: Habitats. Graham Hawker for West Oxfordshire District Council.
5. Folly Farm, Faringdon Ecological Appraisal April 2005 Bioscan Report No. E1339R1.
6. Folly Park Faringdon: Habitats and Management by G Hawker for Vale of White Horse District Council 2003.
7. Towards a District Nature Conservation Strategy. Graham Hawker for Cherwell District Council 1998.

### **Databases**

1. TVERC Recorder database for Oxfordshire (species records from a wide variety of sources including local naturalists)

### **Surveys**

BBOWT Habitat Surveys 1979 to 1988

### **Other Data**

1. Graham Hawker personal knowledge.

2. Personal communications from target area consultees (local naturalists, landowners, ecologists, planners, land management advisors and others).
3. Wychwood Project: Alan Spicer's mapping of species rich hedgerows in Wychwood

## **Appendix 2. A Summary of Rationale for Selecting the Target Area Boundaries and the Changes Made Through Consultation**

### **Berkshire Downs Escarpment**

The core areas on the escarpment are essentially the same as the core areas that resulted from the 2005 AONB chalk grassland strategy study. Small areas of more gently sloping land were excluded and the eastern area extends further west to include a buffer for Pigtrough Bottom. Here there is the greatest concentration of chalk grassland habitat. Also included were the banks along a connecting dip slope valley extending south into Berkshire where there are a number of chalk grassland sites and many archaeological features.

#### **Main changes through consultation**

Originally the two areas on the escarpment were mapped as separate target areas. However the landscape, habitats and targets are the same so they have been incorporated into a single target area. The land around Ashdown Park was included although it does not connect with the. Besides the Park and its woodland this area includes chalk grassland at Kingstone Down and land west of the Park where there has been some chalk grassland restoration along with arable farmland that is a target for stone curlew.

### **Bernwood**

Encompasses the woodlands of Bernwood and Shotover Forests and the valley that runs through the centre. The valley section was extended south to include a group of species rich lowland meadows along the Holton Brook. The western boundary with the Oxford Heights East area is largely based on a change in geology.

#### **Main changes through consultation**

None.

### **Blenhiem and Ditchley Parks**

This largely follows the boundary of the landscape definition unit that covers the Parks.

#### **Main changes through consultation**

Areas east of Charlbury were included due to the presence of many species rich hedgerows.

### **Blewbury Downs South East**

This is the main area for chalk grassland in the eastern section of the Berkshire Downs. The chalk grassland is mainly found on the steeper slopes, which form the core of this area. These extend into Berkshire as far as Streatley. Flatter areas are largely associated with racehorse gallops where patches of chalk grassland are also found. There are also some large blocks of woodland within the area and these were included in their entirety although the largest site, Unhill and Ham Woods extends beyond the slopes. The outlying Blewburton Hill is included as this lies quite close to the Downs.

### **Main changes through consultation**

No significant changes though a connecting strip of land between Blewburton Hill and the Down was included. It was suggested that Lollingdon Hill, another outlying site, was also included but this is much further away than Blewburton Hill and its inclusion is less easy to justify. It was also suggested that land in the valley bottom was included but this is a different landscape area that lacks the key habitats of this area.

### **Brill and Muswell Hill**

Encompasses the prominent hills that crosses the county boundary and the largest part of the area lies within Buckinghamshire. Muswell Hill has good areas of grassland and there are remnants on Brill Hill. Flushes are abundant.

### **Main changes through consultation**

None. Few comments were made on this area.

### **Chiltern Dipslope Valleys and Plateau**

Includes the slopes of many of the dipslope valleys where chalk grassland and woodland are found. Some of the more peripheral valleys, which are largely lacking in such habitat, have been excluded. The plateau areas include the main areas of plateau woodland and common land as well as the extensive acid to neutral grassland at Crowsley Park and the adjacent sandy soils which have good potential for extending this habitat.

### **Main changes through consultation**

None.

### **Chiltern Escarpment Central**

Includes the more steeply sloping land along the escarpment in this section which is important for farmland birds and supports arable wildflowers.

### **Main changes through consultation**

No significant change. See discussion for additional thoughts on the treatment of arable farmland.

### **Chiltern Escarpment North**

Encompasses the main areas of chalk grassland and woodland between Chinor and Swyncombe. The area extends onto the plateau to include additional areas of woodland. The change in geology from chalk to clay with flints is often used as the eastern boundary. The western boundary coincides with an OWLs landscape description unit boundary or where the steep escarpment slope begins to level out.

### **Main changes through consultation**

Adjacent woodland on the plateau was drawn in more rigorously. It was suggested that land at the base of the escarpment should be included because of its value for farmland birds and arable wildflowers. However this is different landscape with different habitats and targets. However there is probably a need to consider such areas that are good for farmland birds and arable wildflowers further (see discussion).

## **Chiltern Escarpment South Central**

This area is the main steeply sloping escarpment between Goring and Nuffield. It has the same key habitats as the north and south sections of the escarpment – chalk grassland and woodland though the grassland is much more restricted in distribution here. In places the escarpment extends along valleys that cut into the plateau. There is a gap between this area and the south section as there is an area near Goring where the escarpment is much less steep, quite narrow and lacking woodland and chalk grassland habitat.

### **Main changes through consultation**

None.

## **Chiltern Escarpment South**

The steep and narrow escarpment along the edge of the Thames Valley. . In places the escarpment extends along valleys that cut into the plateau. The area extends as far as Mapledurham as non-designated chalk grassland sites occur here.

### **Main changes through consultation**

No major changes. An Iron Age Hillfort at Bozedown was added.

## **Glyme and Dorn Valleys**

The valleys of the Glyme and the Dorn and tributaries. Some sections of the Dorn Valley have little UKBAP habitat and the geology is largely Lias clay beyond Middle Barton. However it was important to encompass Little Tew Meadows, at the source of the Dorn, as this is the largest area of lowland meadow in North Oxfordshire and the land along the valley has potential for habitat restoration. The sources of a few small tributaries were not included as they lie outside farmland (one is in a village and one in a golf course).

### **Main changes through consultation**

Land at Glyme Farm at the head of the Glyme Valley was added. This is an important plateau area for farmland birds. It was suggested that the Cockley Brook valley be extended further. The only important site here is Worton Wood. This is an atypical habitat for this area and it was decided not include this area. However it should be considered for possible inclusion especially if remnant grassland or wetland habitat is found here.

## **Kirtlington and Bletchingdon Parks and Woods**

This includes the important parkland habitat at Kirtlington Park and areas with degraded parkland. Bletchingdon Park is also included though its importance is not known. There are many woods associated with the Parks and therefore the ancient woodlands to the south were also included. The Gallos Brook, where Weston Fen is found, is a natural boundary to the east.

### **Main changes through consultation**

None.

## **Lower Cherwell**

This area encompasses the floodplain of the valley but also includes land on the valley slopes between Tackley and Shipton-on-Cherwell where there is limestone grassland and a number of quarries with grassland, wetland and geological interest. To the west Kidlington the area also follows the Oxford Canal where a number of meadow sites and wetland areas are found. The Canal is important for water voles.

### **Main changes through consultation**

It was suggested that a wider area is included alongside the canal in the south. The canal is important for water voles and all the known areas of interest area included. While the fields west of the canal near Kidlington have some potential for habitat restoration it is far more important to target other areas in the main valley.

## **Lower Windrush**

This area encompasses all the gravel pits in this area. Lowland meadow is a target habitat and therefore it extends to the centre of Witney as a number of sites are found here.

### **Main changes through consultation**

The only change made was the inclusion of the most southerly pit is this area rather than in the Upper Thames area.

## **Northern Evenlode Valleys**

This includes the narrow valleys running north from the main Evenlode Valley. West and north of Chadlington there are areas on the plateau where there has been habitat restoration and areas which support populations of rare arable wildflowers. These are in Countryside Stewardship. This also allowed the inclusion of the valley that includes Sarsgrove Wood.

### **Main changes through consultation**

No major changes were made. It was suggested to widen the areas along the valleys to target limestone grassland restoration. It is sensible to target grassland restoration to the thinner soils on the slopes in the valleys. Extending beyond the valleys may be considered a long term aim.

## **Northern Valleys**

This area includes sections of the two main northern valleys. The southern section of the Sor valley was excluded. Although this would link the two areas included in this target area, the valley is wider here with gently sloping sides and no known sites for UKBAP habitat. Sandstone hills to the west and a section of the Stour Valley escarpment were included as these have similar grassland habitat or potential for similar grassland habitat as that found in the two valleys.

### **Main changes through consultation**

No changes were made. It was suggested that the lower Sor Brook valley could be included to link the areas. The reasoning for its exclusion is given above.

## **Otmoor**

The central core of the Otmoor Basin is obvious concentration of important habitat with extensive areas of grazing marsh, wet grassland, fen and meadows. Areas to the south, which is largely on clay rather than alluvium, were included because of habitat restoration on RSPB land and the presence of further meadows. To the north the area includes meadows on alluvium centred around Wendlebury Meads extending to include ridge and furrow meadows on the clay.

### **Main changes through consultation**

Further land to the south at Beckley Park was included as this is within the Countryside Stewardship scheme. It was suggested to include extensive areas to the north east. While this has potential for restoration of meadows and wet grassland it is mainly arable and lacks these habitats at present. In the long term it could be considered a target but at present it is sensible to target the land in the core areas where there is existing important habitat. The same is true for a suggested extension westwards along the River Ray. The land along the Ray to the east has been marked as a key link zone as this would link the Otmoor area to the Ray Target Area.

## **Oxford Heights East**

Encompasses the escarpment and valleys where the majority of UKBAP habitat is found. Areas on the plateau were included as these are important for arable wildflowers. The eastern boundary with the Bernwood target area is largely based on a change in geology.

### **Main changes through consultation**

Areas with sandy soils were added due to their importance for arable wildflowers. Some areas of limestone on the plateau were excluded as these do not have the same importance for arable wildflowers.

## **Oxford Heights West**

A complex area that covers Boars Hill, Hurst Hill the woodlands in the south east and west and the sandy soils stretching from Frilford to Cumnor. The boundary around much of Boars Hill reflects a change in geology from sands to clay. A thin area along the A34 to the south was included as this supports acidic habitats typical of the area as well as including a geological SSSI.

### **Main changes through consultation**

An area was added to link Hurst Hill with the rest of the area. Land alongside the streams in the east was added. The area between Frilford and Cumnor was reduced in size so that it covers mainly the sandstone. A wider buffer was added around the south eastern woods. It was suggested that the lower western slopes of Boars Hill should be included to protect the watercourses that feed into the fens at Cothill. However the streams on these slopes feed south towards Abingdon, rather than west to Cothill, and so this area was not included.

## **Oxford Meadows and Farmoor**

This area includes the Oxford Meadows SAC and surrounding river valley grassland. It also includes recent and long disused gravels pits near Cassington and further riverside land extending as far as Farmoor where there is scattered lowland meadow habitat. Farmoor Reservoir was included as this ties in with the wildfowl interest in the gravel pits.

## **Main changes through consultation**

None

## **Ray**

This encompasses all the known lowland meadow habitat in this area and extends into Buckinghamshire. This is found largely adjacent to the River and tributary streams and lies at least partly on the alluvium. Areas of meadowland on the clay were included as there is some wet grassland habitat here and there is potential for habitat restoration and it also includes significant areas of ridge and furrow.

## **Main changes through consultation**

The main suggested extensions largely coincided with extensions made to include the main areas of ridge and furrow meadows. The area to the west has been included as a key link area to link this area with the Otmoor target area.

## **Shotover**

Includes all the important habitat on Shotover Hill and extends off the hill to the west to include all the publically accessible country park land where further areas of woodland are found. It also includes two areas of woodland west of the Oxford Eastern Bypass.

## **Main changes through consultation**

No major changes. It was suggested the area could be extended east to the south of Horsepath to include Coombe Wood. This site lies some distance from the target area and while it supports remnants of habitats found on Shotover Hill these are not known to be of significant interest. Geologically the land between is suitable for restoration of the habitats typical of the target area and if further survey finds that Coombe Wood is of significant interest this area could be considered as a suitable extension in the future.

## **South Cotswold Valleys**

The valley of the Shill Brook encompassing lowland meadows, fen and limestone grassland. There are some rich sites but there are only remnants to the north. At Alvescot the area widens to include a number of meadows with remnant lowland meadow habitat.

## **Main changes through consultation**

No changes were made. Feedback on this area was very limited.

## **Swere Valley and Upper Stour**

This area combines the more open Swere Valley between South Newington and Swerford with the narrower more steeply sided valley to the west as far as its source at Priory Mill. It includes a similar narrow valley along a tributary at Hook Norton and a wider area along banks to the west of Hook Norton as far as the boundary with the River Stour watershed. Here it extends north to include the narrow valleys, banks and quarries in the Upper Stour and includes all the steeper land on limestone in this area.

### **Main changes through consultation**

None. It was suggested that the area could be extended beyond the valley due to arable wildflower interest but this habitat is very different from that of the valley and therefore no change was made.

### **Tusmore and Shelswell Parks with Stoke Lyne Woodlands**

The importance of the Parks are little known but there is extensive parkland habitat along with numerous woodlands. The concentration of ancient woodlands near Stoke Lyne were also included.

### **Main changes through consultation**

None.

### **Thame Park**

Encompasses Thame Park. This area has important parkland habitat with good numbers of veteran trees including some "truly ancient oaks" (*Thames & Chilterns: Parkland & Wood Pastures with Veteran Trees Keith N A Alexander and Janet A Lister for English Nature*).

### **Main changes through consultation**

It was questioned as to whether this should be a target area. It is important to include all parkland of significant importance, except perhaps for small isolated areas. This is a large area and deserves to be highlighted as a target area. Indeed it has already been targeted as it is the subject of a Countryside Stewardship agreement.

### **Thames and Cherwell at Oxford**

The southern section of the Thames Valley at Oxford extending just south of Sandford-on-Thames and the Cherwell Valley extending as far as the A40. Includes all known lowland meadow habitat and other floodplain land with potential

### **Main changes through consultation**

No major change. A few small areas were included including Hinksey Lakes and a wetland area north of the A40. It was suggested that the area could be wider near Marston but the land rises here and is much drier.

### **Thames Clifton to Shillingford**

The riverside land between Clifton Hampden and Shillingford where a number of meadows and small areas of wet woodland and fen are found. There is a concentration of Loddon lily sites in this area. The area extends along the Thame to include Hurst Water Meadow and the gravel pits at Dorchester. Little Wittenham Nature Reserve was also included. Although the woodland habitat is not typical of rest of the target area, there is wet woodland adjacent to the Thames and lowland meadow habitat here, as well as public access and archaeological sites

### **Main changes through consultation**

None

## **Thames Radley to Abingdon**

An area that encompasses the existing, proposed and filled gravel pits at Radley. It extends south-west along a side channel of the Thames where wet woodland and fen habitat, which also occur within the gravel pit area, are found.

### **Main changes through consultation**

None

## **Thames Wallingford to Goring**

The floodplain area along the River Thames that includes the wet grassland and marshes in the area.

### **Main changes through consultation**

No major change. The area was extended north of the Wallingford bypass to include an additional area of wet grassland.

## **Upper Cherwell**

The floodplain of the valley on alluvium. The boundary extends eastwards in places to include the Oxford Canal.

### **Main changes through consultation**

No change. It was suggested that this area encompass all the floodplain although it largely does already. It was suggested that it could be combined with the Lower Cherwell Valley area. Although there are similarities, the Lower Cherwell Valley is distinctly different with a greater range of habitats.

## **Upper Thames**

The Thames Valley between Northmoor and Lechlade. This area is largely on the alluvium where the existing lowland meadow habitat is found. These are fairly scattered although there are some large sites but the land between has great potential for this habitat and wet grassland. It extends into Gloucestershire to include wet meadows at Lechlade.

### **Main changes through consultation**

A large area near Northmoor was added due to its importance for nesting lapwing.

## **Upper Windrush Valley**

This area includes the main valley between Witney and Burford and largely concentrates on the flat riverside land. Some areas of the valley sides, where there are steeper slopes and limestone grassland, were included. The numerous valleys running north were also included.

### **Main changes through consultation**

At Swinbrook the area was extended onto the plateau to include large woodland sites as woodland is a feature in some of the valleys. It was suggested to widen the areas along the valleys to target limestone grassland restoration. It is sensible to target grassland restoration to the thinner soils on the slopes in the valleys. Extending beyond the valleys may be considered a long term aim.

## **West Oxon Heights, Woods, Hills and Parks**

This is perhaps the most disparate target area. To the east the basis are small valleys that cut into the Oxford Heights (Midvale Ride) where wet woodland and fen are found. Land between the valleys has been included where there is woodland, parkland and acid grassland remnants on sandy soils. The valley of the Tuckmill Brook was included. Although separated from the main area it is a particularly important valley in the area. To the north-west a number of hills with woodland and parkland habitat, as well as remnant acid grassland on sandy soils, are included. The northern escarpment is also included as this has further areas of the typical habitats of the area.

### **Main changes through consultation**

Additional areas at Coleshill were added in order to include all the parkland at Coleshill Park. A question remains as to whether the valley nearest Southmoor should be included. It does not connect with the main area but there are a few small areas of the typical habitats of the target area.

## **Wychwood and Lower Evenlode**

The boundary encompasses the main areas of ancient woodland and the valleys that bisect the area along with a section of the southern Evenlode Valley sides where there are further areas of ancient woodland. The boundary largely follows landscape unit boundaries. The north western area has been included due to the presence remnants of limestone grassland.

### **Main changes through consultation**

The area around the old airfield at Chasewood Farm was included as this has remnants of a variety of habitats.

## **Wytham**

This area encompasses Wytham Hill. Besides the large woodland and grassland SSSI there is parkland habitat, a number of smaller woods and potential grassland interest on Beacon Hill to the west.

### **Main changes through consultation**

No major changes.

### **Appendix 3 Conservation Target Area Maps and Statements**

The maps show the target area boundary along with designated sites, ancient woodland and a combined layer of proposed county wildlife sites, BBOWT nature reserves that are not SSSIs and the other sites and habitats and information zones that were mapped as part of this project.

**THE CONSERVATION  
TARGET AREA MAPS AND  
STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN  
UPDATED AND CAN NOW BE  
FOUND ON THE  
OXFORDSHIRE NATURE  
CONSERVATION FORUM  
WEBSITE:**

**<http://www.oncf.org.uk/biodiversity/cta.html>**

## **Appendix 4 – Analysis of the extent to which the Conservation Target Areas ‘capture’ the UKBAP priority habitat and species.**

### **1.0 SPECIES AND CONSERVATION TARGET AREAS**

#### **1.1 Method**

A little over 3,000 records of UKBAP priority species made over a period of the last 25 years were used to estimate the extent to which important species are found within the Conservation Target Areas.

The use of records of UKBAP priority species was questioned during consultation. This was in part because not all species of conservation concern are classified as UKBAP priority species – many national and local rarities are not on UKBAP priority species lists for instance.

Records of a variety of ‘species suites’ were used initially in the analysis of the extent to which the Conservation Target Areas ‘captured’ species of conservation importance. During this and subsequent analyses, the significant factor determining whether a record was inside or outside a target area appeared to be more to do with the behaviour and ecology of the species than the rarity or degree of conservation concern. The figures from the UKBAP suite of species were not significantly altered when non-BAP rare species (of which there are few records) were added to the mix. A decision was taken to use records of UKBAP priority species for the analysis because:

- The records were distributed across Oxfordshire
- A fair number of records were available
- The species displayed a variety of ecological and behavioural characteristics
- The species include a variety of taxonomic groups (birds, butterflies, invertebrates, mammals etc.)
- Records included those of species that are recently extinct in the County (not in the UK) and are indicative of quality habitat having occurred in the past

Data were analysed using the Mapinfo Geographical Information system and simple statistical analysis to determine the percentage of records made within and outside target areas.

#### **1.2 Results**

Records of 83 UKBAP priority species were used in the analysis. 76 of these species were recorded fairly regularly and 7 were recorded only once as rare casuals.

72 of these species were recorded within target areas, 60 of them were recorded outside the target areas. The target areas cover only 17% of the land area of Oxfordshire and the occurrence of 95% of the species within these areas is significant. 5 species only occur outside the target areas and for these TVERC holds only a single record and it is therefore hard to judge whether this is significant.

Of the 3000+ records considered, 47% were made inside target areas and 53% outside. If you look at these figures in the light of the differential in size between outside and inside that target areas (83% of land is outside, 17% inside) the figures are more striking. The analysis suggests that you are more than four times more likely to encounter a UKBAP priority species in a target area than outside one.

The more mobile UKBAP priority species that utilise a range of habitats or widely occurring habitats were less often recorded in the Conservation Target Areas than the more sedentary and/or habitat-faithful species. 95% of the records for a small suite of butterflies (not all extant in the county) were made within target areas. 43% of the records for more mobile and ubiquitous UKBAP mammal species were made within target areas (still more than you would expect if the distribution of the mammals was random – this would be 17%).

### **1.3 Conclusions**

We must be cautious in making conclusions from a relatively small sample of records collected in a non-systematic way over a fairly long period of time. However, the results of the simple analysis carried out on the records of UKBAP priority species do indicate that the Conservation Target Area boundaries have been wisely drawn.

## **2.0 HABITATS AND CONSERVATION TARGET AREAS**

### **2.1 Method**

Location and extent of UKBAP priority habitats have been recently mapped in Oxfordshire using the most comprehensive and up to date field information available. The digital habitat data for a range of habitats were used to test the extent to which the Conservation Target Areas 'captured' the habitats of importance. The habitats that were examined include:

- Eutrophic standing water (ESW)
- Fen (F)
- Floodplain grazing marsh (CFGM)
- Lowland beech and yew woodland (LBYW)
- Lowland calcareous grassland (LCG)
- Lowland dry acid grassland LDAG)
- Lowland heath (LH)
- Lowland meadow (LM)
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (LMDW)
- Lowland wood pasture and parkland (LWPP)
- Reedbed (RBD)
- Wet woodland (WW)

Important BAP habitats that have not been mapped and were therefore not considered include:

- Ancient and/or Species rich hedgerows
- Cereal field margins
- Mesotrophic lakes

A closer analysis of calcareous grassland, lowland meadow, fen and lowland mixed deciduous woodland was made to inform the selection of the handful of target areas of top priority of conservation action.

Field data relating to all the mapped habitat has been carefully examined to make sure that the habitat is of sufficient quality to be defined as UKBAP priority habitat. However, the data are of variable quality and the degree of confidence and the accuracy of the mapping reflect this. Mapping across the county is not complete and to date has concentrated mainly on priority habitat within County Wildlife Sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. An estimated 85% of the priority habitat in the county has been mapped. Figures resulting from the analysis should therefore be viewed as indicative rather than absolute.

The analysis used Mapinfo GIS and simple statistics to work out how much of each habitat was to be found inside and outside the target areas.

## 2.2 Results

86.5% of all the land on which TVERC has mapped BAP habitat is within a Conservation Target Area, 13.5% is outside.

Some habitats are better 'captured' by the target areas than others (see table below).

BAP_Priority_Habitat	Area of habitat in a target area (hectares)	Area of habitat in the County (hectares)	% of County resource within target areas
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	359.49	363.56	98.88
Lowland meadows	1022.34	1101.75	92.79
Fens	90.85	98.59	92.15
Lowland beech and yew woodland	517.92	578.39	89.55
Lowland heathland	2.57	2.97	86.53
Eutrophic standing waters*	306.91	355.72	86.28
Lowland dry acid grassland	34.98	41.42	84.45
Lowland calcareous grassland	554.21	672.61	82.40
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland*	1904.3	2467.43	77.18
Wet woodland	74.88	98.57	75.97
Reedbeds*	4.5	6.59	68.29
Lowland wood-pastures and parkland*	57.63	101.3	56.89
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4930.58</b>	<b>5888.9</b>	<b>83.73</b>

A closer analysis of calcareous grassland, lowland meadow, fen and lowland mixed deciduous woodland was used to help identify target areas that were particularly important for particular habitats. The results are shown in tables on the following pages. The abbreviations used on the tables are listed on page 99.



## Target Areas of Importance for Lowland Calcareous Grassland

Target_Area_Name	Target area total hectares	Number of LCG polygons in this target area	Hectares of LCG in this target area	Percent of LCG in County in this target area	LCG league table based on size	Size range	Other habitats in this target area
Chilterns Escarpment North	1427.79	27	126.98	18.66	1	10 to 20ha	LBYW, LCG, LDAG, LMDW
Berkshire Downs Escarpment Core West and Valleys	1454.65	20	80.20	11.78	2	10 to 20ha	LBYW, LCG, LM, LMDW, LWP&P
Berkshire Downs Escarpment Core East	486.21	7	68.65	10.09	3	10 to 20ha	LCG
Chilterns Escarpment South	762.22	15	48.75	7.16	4	4 to 7ha	LBYW, LCG, LM, LMDW
Glyme	2495.64	20	48.24	7.09	5	4 to 7ha	ESW, F, LCG, LDAG, LM, LMDW, RBD, LWP&P, WW
Blewbury Downs South East	1332.81	9	47.77	7.02	6	4 to 7ha	LBYW, LCG, LMDW
Upper Windrush	1274.19	8	45.38	6.67	7	4 to 7ha	ESW, F, LCG, LM, LMDW
Chilterns Dipslope and Plateau	4854.74	20	43.13	6.34	8	4 to 7ha	LBYW, LCG, LDAG, LH, LM, LMDW, LWP&P
North Evenlode Valleys	1448.1	6	33.44	4.91	9	4 to 7ha	F, LBYW, LCG, LM, LMDW
Swere Valley and Upper Stour	836.43	12	14.44	2.12	10	1 to 2 ha	ESW, F, LCG, LM, LMDW, WW
Wychwood and Lower Evenlode	4764.99	7	10.56	1.55	11	1 to 2 ha	ESW, LCG, LDAG, LM, LMDW
Blenheim and Ditchley Parks	2651.46	3	7.68	1.13	12	1 to 2 ha	LBYW, LCG, LDAG, LM, LMDW, LWP&P
Oxford Heights West	3296.63	8	7.01	1.03	13	1 to 2 ha	F, LCG, LDAG, LM, LMDW, RBD, WW
Lower Cherwell Valley	608.99	6	4.14	0.61	14	Less than 1ha	ESW, F, LCG, LM, RBD, WW
Chilterns Escarpment South Central	453.9	3	3.42	0.50	15	Less than 1ha	LBYW, LCG, LMDW
West Oxon Heights Streams, Hills, Woods and Parks	2630.6	2	3.20	0.47	16	Less than 1ha	ESW, F, LCG, LM, LMDW, WW
Kirklington and Bletchingdon Parks and Woods	504.97	2	2.36	0.35	17	Less than 1ha	ESW, F, LCG, LMDW, RBD, WW
Oxford Heights East	997.37	2	1.60	0.23	18	Less than 1ha	F, LBYW, LCG, LM, LMDW, WW
South Cotswolds Valleys	271.46	1	1.16	0.17	19	Less than 1ha	F, LCG, LM
Chilterns Escarpment Central	952.48	1	0.26	0.04	20	Less than 1ha	LBYW, LCG
All target areas		179.00	598.36	87.91			

## Target Areas of Importance for Lowland Meadow

Target_Area_Name	Target area total ha	Number of LM Polygons in this target area	Hectares of LM in this target area	Percent of LM in County in target area	LM league table based on size	Size range	Other habitats in this target area
Oxford Meadows and Farmoor	1652.5	16	277.25	26.68	1	10 to 30ha	ESW, F, LM, LMDW, RBD, WW
Otmoor	1894.8	11	165.46	15.92	2	10 to 30ha	CFGM, F, LM, LMDW, WW
Upper Thames	2240.7	5	119.25	11.48	3	10 to 30ha	F, LM
Ray	985.05	15	96.74	9.31	4	2 to 10ha	LM
Thames and Cherwell at Oxford	660.36	10	58.51	5.63	5	2 to 10ha	ESW, F, LM, LWP&P, WW
Glyme	2495.6	8	51.71	4.98	6	2 to 10ha	ESW, F, LCG, LDAG, LM, LMDW, RBD, LWP&P, WW
Chilterns Dipslope and Plateau	4854.7	6	32.26	3.11	7	2 to 10ha	LBYW, LCG, LDAG, LH, LM, LMDW,
Bernwood	987.69	9	24.09	2.32	8	2 to 10ha	LMDW, LM
Wychwood and Lower Evenlode	4765	8	18.58	1.79	9	1 to 2 ha	ESW, LCG, LDAG, LM, LMDW
Swere Valley and Upper Stour	836.43	9	17.64	1.70	10	1 to 2 ha	ESW, F, LCG, LM, LMDW, WW
Upper Windrush	1274.2	7	17.52	1.69	11	1 to 2 ha	ESW, F, LCG, LM, LMDW
South Cotswolds Valleys	271.46	5	12.48	1.20	12	1 to 2 ha	F, LCG, LM
Upper Cherwell	446.99	1	11.90	1.15	13	1 to 2 ha	F, LM
Brill and Muswell Hill	98.39	1	11.73	1.13	14	1 to 2 ha	LM
Northern Valleys	1367.2	5	10.58	1.02	15	1 to 2 ha	F, LM
North Evenlode Valleys	1448.1	3	9.86	0.95	16	> 1ha	F, LBYW, LCG, LM,LMDW
Lower Windrush Valley	1409.7	2	6.78	0.65	17	> 1ha	ESW, F, LM, RBD, WW
Oxford Heights East	997.37	2	6.19	0.60	18	> 1ha	F, LBYW, LCG, LM, LMDW, WW
Thames Clifton to Shilligford	487.31	3	6.17	0.59	19	> 1ha	ESW, LM, LMDW, WW
Lower Cherwell Valley	608.99	2	5.80	0.56	20	> 1ha	ESW, F, LCG, LM, RBD, WW
Oxford Heights West	3296.6	4	5.51	0.53	21	> 1ha	F LCG LDAG LM LMDW, RBD, WW
Berkshire Downs Escarpment Core West	1454.7	2	4.63	0.45	22	> 1ha	LBYW, LCG, LM, LMDW, LWP&P
West Oxon Heights	2630.6	3	4.40	0.42	23	> 1ha	ESW, F, LCG, LM, LMDW, WW
Chilterns Escarpment South	762.22	2	4.37	0.42	23	> 1ha	LBYW, LCG, LM, LMDW
Shotover	554.43	1	1.20	0.12	24	> 1ha	LDAG, LH, LM, LMDW
All target areas		140.00	980.61	94.38			

## Target Areas of Importance for Woodland UKBAP Priority Habitat

Target_Area_Name	Total ha of target area	No. of Woodland polygons in target area	Ha of woodland in target area	% of County woodland resource in target area	Percent of this target area that is woodland	Woodland league table total hectareage	Size range	Other habitats in this target area
Wychwood and Lower Evenlode	4765	17.00	493.69	15.27	10.36	1	>290ha	ESW, LCG, LDAG, LM, LMDW
Chilterns Dipslope and Plateau	4855	34.00	421.60	13.04	8.68	2	>290ha	LBYW, LCG, LDAG, LH, LM, LMDW, LWP&P
Chilterns Escarpment North	1428	34.00	322.80	9.99	22.61	3	>290ha	LBYW, LCG, LDAG, LMDW
Wytham Hill	903	4.00	316.86	9.80	35.08	4	>290ha	LMDW
Oxford Heights West	3297	51.00	291.36	9.01	8.84	5	>290ha	F, LCG, LDAG, LM, LMDW, RBD, WW
Blenheim and Ditchley Parks	2651	14.00	133.08	4.12	5.02	6	50-150ha	LBYW, LCG, LDAG, LM, LMDW, LWP&P
Bernwood	988	5.00	89.99	2.78	9.11	7	50-150ha	LMDW, LM
Blewbury Downs South East	1333	7.00	78.32	2.42	5.88	8	50-150ha	LBYW, LCG, LMDW
Chilterns Escarpment South	762	13.00	77.54	2.40	10.17	9	50-150ha	LBYW, LCG, LM, LMDW
Oxford Heights East	997	16.00	63.03	1.95	6.32	10	50-150ha	F, LBYW, LCG, LM, LMDW, WW
Shotover	554	5.00	62.98	1.95	11.36	11	50-150ha	LDAG, LH, LM, LMDW
West Oxon Heights	2631	19.00	48.34	1.50	1.84	12	25 to 50ha	ESW, F, LCG, LM, LMDW, WW
Berkshire Downs Escarpment	1455	10.00	46.67	1.44	3.21	13	25 to 50ha	LBYW, LCG, LM, LMDW, LWP&P
North Evenlode Valleys	1448	5.00	45.58	1.41	3.15	14	25 to 50ha	F, LBYW, LCG, LM, LMDW
Tusmore and Shellswell Park	844	4.00	30.69	0.95	3.64	15	25 to 50ha	ESW, LMDW, WW
Kirklington and Bletchingdon	505	6.00	25.33	0.78	5.02	16	25 to 50ha	ESW, F, LCG, LMDW, RBD, WW
Glyme	2496	13.00	24.76	0.77	0.99	17	10 to 25ha	ESW, F, LCG, LDAG, LM, LMDW, RBD, LWP&P, WW
Upper Windrush	1274	2.00	23.26	0.72	1.83	18	10 to 25ha	ESW, F, LCG, LM, LMDW
Thames Clifton to Shilligford	487	7.00	18.33	0.57	3.76	19	10 to 25ha	ESW, LM, LMDW, WW
Swere Valley and Upper Stour	836	13.00	18.01	0.56	2.15	20	10 to 25ha	ESW, F, LCG, LM, LMDW, WW
Otmoor	1895	7.00	12.67	0.39	0.67	21	10 to 25ha	CFGM, F, LM, LMDW, PMG&RP, WW
Oxford Meadows and Farmoor	1653	8.00	11.78	0.36	0.71	22	10 to 25ha	ESW, F, LM, LMDW, RBD, WW
7 target areas with small amounts of woodland not listed							<10ha	ESW, F, LM, LWP&P, WW
All target areas		307.00	2671.18	82.64				

## Target Areas of Importance for Fen

Target_Area_Name	Total area of this target area	No. of Fen polygons in this target area	Hectares of Fen in this target area	Percent of County resource of Fen that is in this target area	Fen league table on number of fens	Fen league table on area	Other habitats in this target area
Thames Wallingford to Goring	166	4	23.79	19.87	6	1	F, LCG, LM
Thames and Cherwell at Oxford	660	10	21.60	18.04	4	2	CFGM, F, LM, LMDW, PMG&RP, WW
Oxford Heights West	3297	16	13.69	11.43	2	3	ESW, F, LM, LWP&P, WW
Otmoor	1895	4	11.28	9.42	6	4	F, LBYW, LCG, LM, LMDW, WW
Lower Cherwell Valley	609	11	7.91	6.60	3	5	F, LCG, LDAG, LM, LMDW, RBD, WW
Glyme	2496	9	7.27	6.07	5	6	ESW, F, LCG, LM, RBD, WW
South Cotswolds Valleys	271	2	7.10	5.93	8	7	ESW, F, LCG, LM, LMDW, WW
Oxford Meadows and Farmoor	1653	17	3.75	3.13	1	8	F, WW
Upper Windrush	1274	3	3.60	3.01	7	9	ESW, F, LCG, LM, LMDW, WW
Oxford Heights East	997	4	2.20	1.84	6	10	ESW, F, LCG, LM, LMDW
West Oxon Heights Streams, Hills, Woods and Parks	2631	4	1.91	1.60	6	11	ESW, F, LCG, LDAG, LM, LMDW, RBD, LWP&P, WW
Lower Windrush Valley	1410	3	1.43	1.20	7	12	ESW, F, LM, RBD, WW
Northern Valleys	1367	1	1.29	1.08	9	13	F, LBYW, LCG, LM, LMDW
Swere Valley and Upper Stour	836	4	1.22	1.02	6	14	ESW, F, LM, LMDW, RBD, WW
Kirklington and Bletchingdon Parks and Woods	505	3	1.13	0.94	7	15	F, LM
Upper Thames	2241	1	1.06	0.88	9	16	ESW, F, LCG, LMDW, RBD, WW
North Evenlode Valleys	1448	1	0.25	0.21	9	17	F, LM
Upper Cherwell	447	1	0.20	0.16	9	18	F, LM
All target areas		98.00	110.68	92.41			