

Kirtlington and Bletchingdon Parks and Woods CTA (Conservation Target Area)

The historic parklands at Kirtlington and Bletchingdon, including areas of degraded parkland, the woodlands to the east of Bletchingdon and including Weston Fen at the east edge.

Joint Character Area: Cotswolds and Thames and Avon Vales.

Landscape Types: Wooded Estatelands and Clay Vale to the south east though is well wooded.

Geology: Cornbrash limestone in the east, Kellaways and Oxford Clay in the east. Some areas of sand and gravel and alluvium along the Gallos Brook at the eastern edge.

Topography: Relatively flat plateau land.

Area of CTA: 505 hectares

Biodiversity:

- Parkland: rich parkland habitat at Kirtlington with many veteran trees with long term management and restoration agreed. Outside the main park there are degraded areas while Bletchingdon Park may have some parkland habitat but has not been assessed yet.
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland: The most important woodlands are to the south east where there are two Local Wildlife Sites. There are other areas of woodland associated with the parks with one area of ancient woodland.
- Fen, swamp and wet woodland. There is an area of fen habitat at Weston Fen SSSI along with wet woodland. The largest of the Kirtlington Park lakes has a good sized reedbed and wet woodland at the west end.
- Limestone grassland: found at Stonepit Hills at Weston Fen SSSI.

Access: Restricted to bridleways and footpaths.

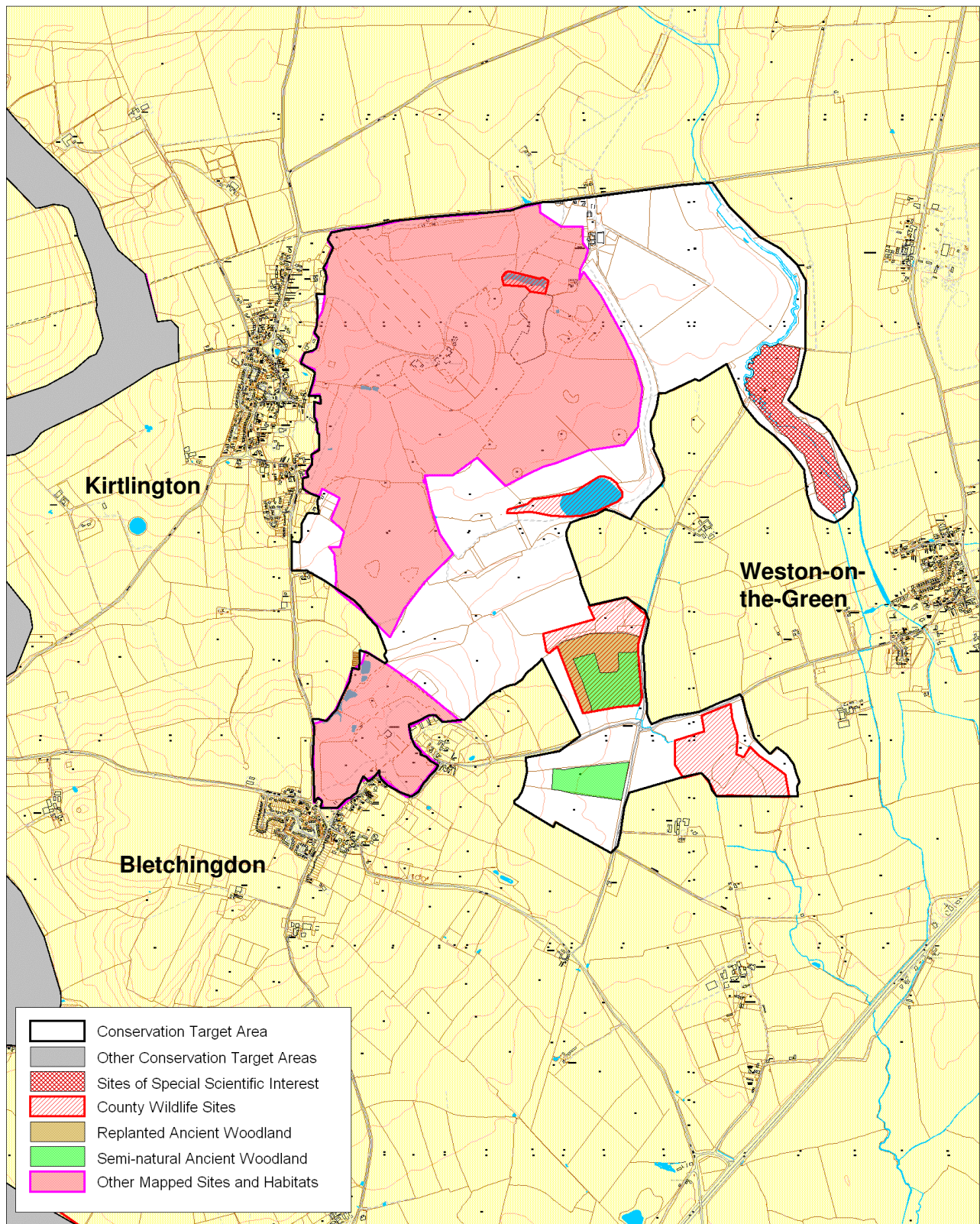
Archaeology:

Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan Targets associated with this CTA:

1. Parkland – management¹ and restoration
2. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland – management, restoration and creation (some planting to link sites).
3. Fen (and swamp) and Wet Woodland – management and creation (little potential to extend except perhaps along Gallos Brook).
4. Limestone (lowland calcareous) grassland – management and restoration (the plateau soils may be too deep and rich to allow the restoration of rich limestone grassland in the east of the area though some buffer areas near Stonepit Hills could be considered).

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 1:40000

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

Kirtlington and Bletchingdon Parks and Woods 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)	2.4				3.5	0.7	0.4		73.6	3.6	88.5	
% of CTA area	0.5				0.7	0.1	0.1		14.6	0.7	17.5	
% of county resource	0.3				0.4	0.6	1.6		1.6	2.6	4.8	