

## **Otmoor CTA (Conservation Target Area)**

This area includes the wet low lying Otmoor basin and adjacent areas extending north of Charlton-on-Otmoor and eastwards to Whitecross Green Wood.

**Joint Character Area:** Thames and Avon Vales.

**Landscape Types:** Alluvial Lowland with a small area of Wooded Farmland in the vicinity of Whitecross Green.

**Geology:** Largely alluvium with some patches of sand and gravel deposits and Oxford clay mudstone to the south-east and in patches in the north.

**Topography:** Flat low lying land in the Ray Valley.

**Area of CTA:** 1918 hectares

### **Biodiversity:**

- Floodplain grazing marsh: Dominates much of the area, with extensive restoration on Otmoor RSPB reserve, Otmoor SSSI and surrounding farmland.
- Reedbed. An extensive area has been created in the RSPB Otmoor reserve.
- Hedgerows: There are hedgerows with good structure and also species rich examples in this area.
- Eutrophic Standing Water: There are a number of small ponds in the Otmoor Basin which retains standing water through the year (including in the reedbed). Shallow pools have been created by the RSPB. Some areas are known to be quite species rich.
- Woodland: The main site is Whitecross Green Wood and there is a spinney on Otmoor.
- Species: The Otmoor Basin holds two thirds of the breeding waders on the Upper Thames Tributaries, including all of Oxfordshire's breeding snipe. Bittern regularly winter on the RSPB reserve. Turtle dove, skylark, reed bunting and cuckoo are well represented. Black hairstreak and brown hairstreak butterflies are associated with the hedgerows. True fox sedge, fen violet and tassel stonewort are all found in the Otmoor Basin.
- **Access:** Controlled access at RSPB Otmoor Reserve, BBOWT reserves at Asham Meads and Whitecross Green Wood, a number of bridleways and footpaths especially at Otmoor.

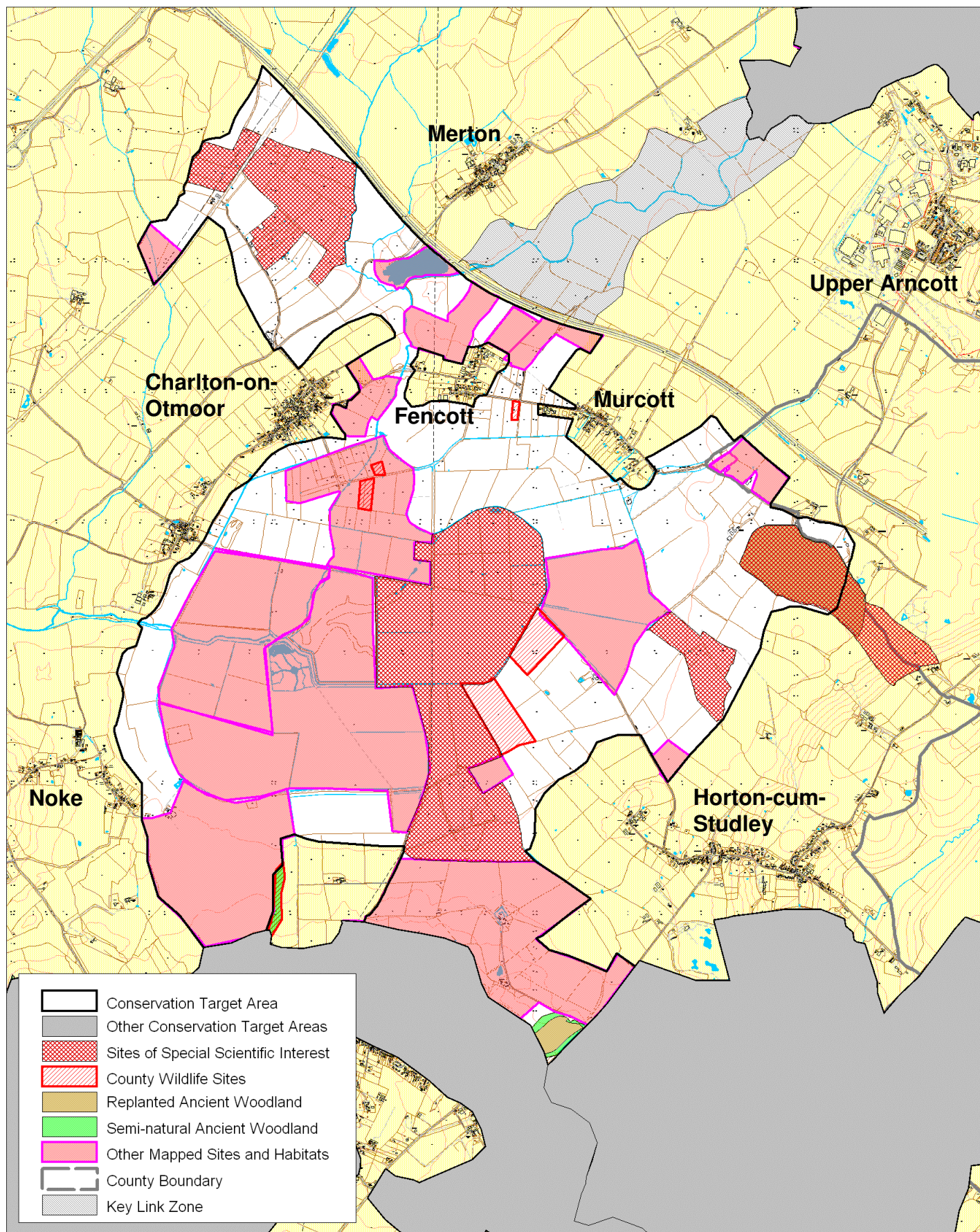
**Archaeology:** A Roman road crosses Otmoor.

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

1. Floodplain grazing marsh – management<sup>1</sup>, restoration and creation (for breeding waders and wintering wildfowl in particular).
2. Lowland meadow – management and restoration.
3. Reedbed – management and there may be potential to create further areas of reedbed in the area.
4. Hedgerows – management (with particular emphasis on black and brown hairstreak butterflies, and turtle dove).
5. Lowland fen – management and restoration.
6. River – management and restoration (including resource protection).

<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".

# Otmoor Conservation Target Area



**Area of BAP habitat present in CTA (from TVERC BAP Habitat GIS layer 5/2010) and 2015 BAP Habitat Targets for this CTA**

<b>Otmoor 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)			170.3	679.5	7.0	11.2	17.9		34.5	0.6		0.2
% of CTA area			8.9	35.4	0.4	0.6	0.9		1.8	0.0		0.0
% of county resource			15.8	13.8	0.8	9.6	69.4		0.7	0.4		0.1
<b>2015 BAP targets</b> (hectares)	<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 – No targets for 2015</b>	<b>Lowland Fens</b>	<b>Reedbeds</b>	<b>Native Woodland</b>			<b>Wood - Pasture and Parkland</b> Targets not divided by CTA	<b>Traditional Orchards - No targets for 2015</b>
Maintenance (to be determined)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				-	-
Achieving Condition (to be determined)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				-	-
Restoration			16	174	-	6	-	8			-	-
Creation			9	403	-	-	26				-	-