

## **South Cotswold Valleys CTA (Conservation Target Area)**

The Shill Brook Valley from Black Bourton in the south to Holwell and Signet in the north.

**Joint Character Area:** Cotswolds (north), Thames and Avon Vales (south)

**Landscape Type:** Wooded Pasture Valleys and Slopes (north), Lowland Village Farmland (south).

**Geology:** From Carterton and northward the valley cuts through limestones and there is alluvium along the Shill Brook. To the south the alluvium widens out and there is Forest Marble mudstone.

**Topography:** A narrow valley to the north with some steep sides that widens out west of Carterton through to Black Bourton with gently sloping side.

**Area of CTA:** 271 hectares

### **Biodiversity:**

- Lowland Meadow: Alvescot Meadows SSSI is the richest site. There are other meadows at Alvescot with remnants of this habitat.
- Fen: Fen meadow habitat is found in Willow Meadows at Carterton while Alvescot Meadows has elements of fen habitat.
- Limestone grassland: There is a bank of limestone grassland at Carterton and some remnant habitat further north at Mount Zion Bottom. There is also a road verge nature reserve at Signet.
- Geology: the western end of the area is a Local Geological Site. The valley here is of geomorphological interest.

**Access:** Willow Meadows and other land along the valley at Carterton have public access. Otherwise access is restricted to footpaths.

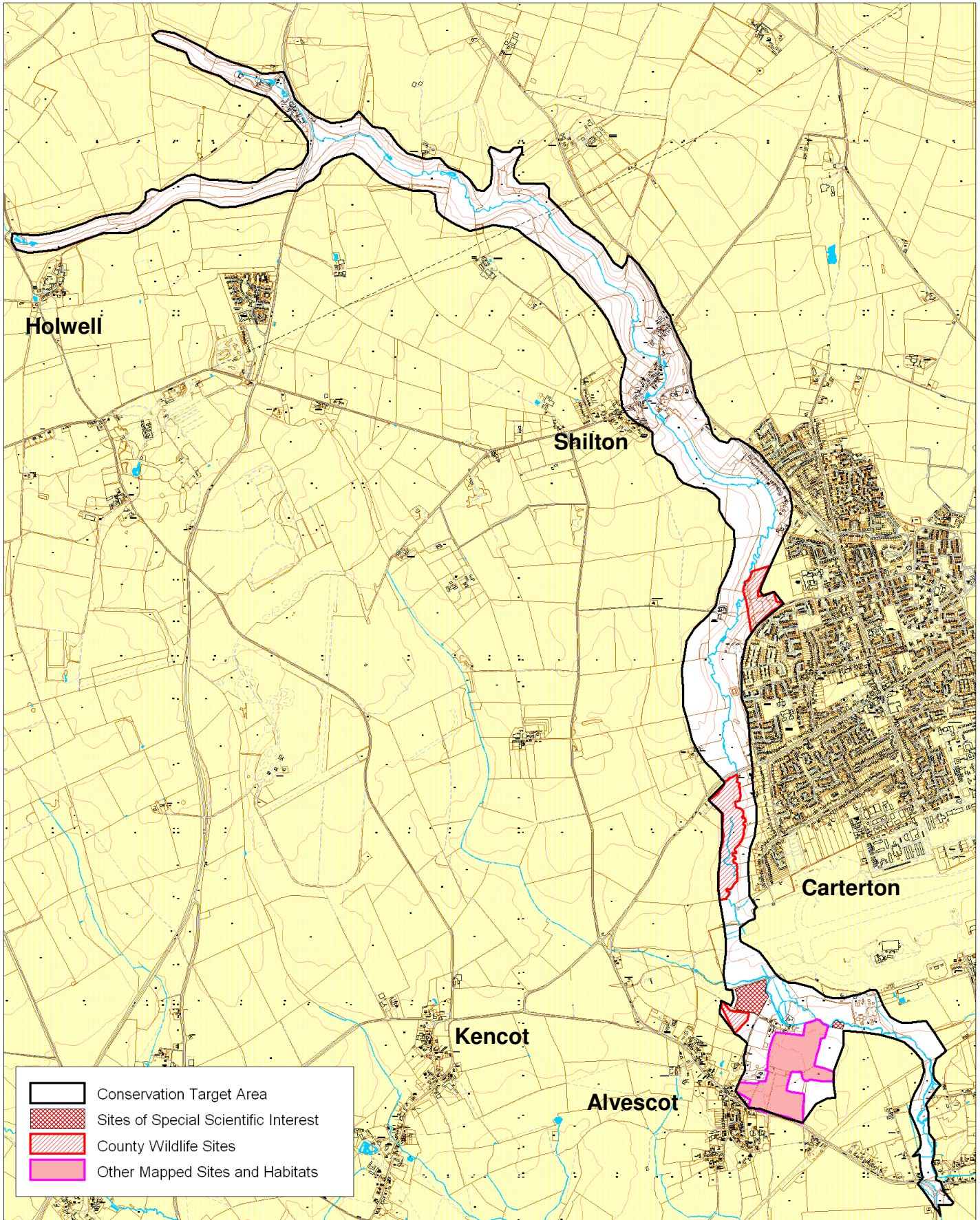
### **Archaeology:**

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

1. Limestone (lowland calcareous) grassland – management<sup>1</sup> and restoration (from Carterton northwards).
2. Lowland meadows - management and restoration (south of Carterton).
3. Fen – management (at Willow Meadows).

<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".

# South Cotswold Valleys Conservation Target Area



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

<b>South Cotswold Valleys 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)	1.2		12.2									0.5
% of CTA area	0.4		4.5									0.2
% of county resource	0.2		1.1									0.2