

# ***NATURE CONSERVATION DESIGNATED SITES***

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## **Nature Conservation Sites – Explanatory Note**

Within the District sites have been designated according to their nature conservation importance. The hierarchy of designated sites is explained below and the sites are listed in the following schedule:

### **Hierarchy of Sites**

1. Special Areas of Conservation

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) are designated under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive). Candidate SAC's are selected from Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

2. Ramsar Sites and Special Protection Areas

None in the Vale.

3. National Nature Reserves

National Nature Reserves (NNR's) can be declared under section 19 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended by the Nature Conservancy Act 1973) or section 35 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

4. Site of Special Scientific Interest

English Nature has a duty under section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to identify Sites of Special Scientific Nature (SSSI's) which are of outstanding interest as a result of their flora, fauna or geological features. There are 21 such sites in the Vale.

5. Local Nature Reserves

Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) may be established by Local Authorities in consultation with English Nature under section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. They are habitats of local importance.

6. County Wildlife Sites

Sites of critical importance for nature conservation within Oxfordshire, which are not already statutory designations, are referred to as County Wildlife Sites (CWS's).

7. Ancient Woodlands

Ancient Woodlands are those areas of woodland which have had a continuous cover of native trees since at least 1600AD to the present day, having not been cleared and/or extensively replanted since then. The term applies to the site only, not the trees present. The data collection for the Oxfordshire ancient woodlands was carried out in the 1980's on behalf of the Nature Conservancy Council, now English Nature and the report was entitled 'Oxfordshire Inventory of Ancient Woodlands', D P Hughes, 1988.

8. Ecological Networks

Although specific site protection is extremely important there is now recognition that the health and quality of the wider countryside can affect the long term viability of individual habitats and species. Wildlife corridors and ecological networks can play an important role in maintaining the diversity of the environment. Corridors (such as hedgerows, road verges, watercourses and their banks) and ecological networks (including small woods and ponds) can be both beneficial to nature conservation and landscape features in their own right but may not be covered by a specific designation.

9. Alert Maps

Alert Maps collate information on significant known sites of nature conservation importance in Oxfordshire. These Alert Maps can be inspected at the District Council's Offices, in Abingdon.

10. Local Wildlife Sites, also known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's)

None.

11. Geologically Important Sites

English Nature is promoting the identification of Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIG's) through the establishment of local groups. RIG's will be non-statutory, locally based sites which will be designated and managed informally and voluntarily.

## Schedule of Designated Sites

1.	<b>Special Areas of Conservation</b>	<b>Parish</b>
	Cothill Fen, Candidate status	Besselsleigh
	Hackpen Hill, Candidate status	Childrey
2.	<b>National Nature Reserves</b>	
	Cothill, part of SSSI	Besselsleigh
3.	<b>Sites of Special Scientific Interest</b>	
	Appleton Lower Common	Appleton with Eaton
	Ashdown Park	Ashbury
	Aston Upthorpe Downs	Blewbury
	Barrow Farm Fen	Marcham and St Helen Without
	Buckland Warren	Buckland
	Cothill Fen and Parsonage Moor (this site includes a National Nature Reserve)	Besselsleigh and St Helen Without
	Cumnor (Near Spring Farm)	Cumnor
	Dry Sandford Pit	St Helen Without
	Fernham Meadows	Uffington and Fernham
	Frilford Heath, Ponds and Fens	Frilford, Fyfield and Tubney
	Grafton Lock Meadow	Eaton Hastings
	Hackpen, Warren and Gramps Hill Downs	Childrey
	Hurst Hill (Including Chawley Brick-Pitts SSSI)	Cumnor
	Iffley Meadow, Kennington	Kennington
	Lamb and Flag Quarry	Hinton Waldrist
	Lashford Lane Fen	Besselsleigh and Wootton
	Shellingford Crossroads Quarry	Stanford in the Vale
	Sugworth	Radley
	Tuckmill Meadows	Shrivenham and Watchfield
	Whitehorse Hill	Uffington
	Wicklesham and Coxwell Pits	Little Coxwell and Faringdon
	Wytham Ditches and Flushes	Wytham
	Wytham Woods	Wytham and Cumnor

#### 4. Local Nature Reserves

Tuckmill Meadows	Shrivenham
Abbey Fishponds (proposed)	Abingdon
Chilswell Valley (proposed)	South Hinksey
Iffley Fritillary Meadows (proposed)	Kennington (part only)
Kennington Pond (proposed)	Kennington

#### 5. County Wildlife Sites

Appleton-with-Eaton	Appleton Upper Common	50.78 ha
Ardington	Hutchins's Copse	4.48 ha
Ardington	Isley Bottom	8.48 ha
Ardington	Knollend Grassland	4.12 ha
Ardington	The Cuttings	13.5 ha
Ardington	The Cuttings	0.71 ha
Ashbury	Kingstone Coombes	8.74 ha
Ashbury	Kingstone Down	8.29 ha
Ashbury	Kingstone Down	1.27 ha
Ashbury	Kingstone Down	14.57 ha
Ashbury	Middle and Hailey Woods	46.67 ha
Ashbury	Odstone Coombes	7.84 ha
Ashbury	Odstone Hill Lane	2.07 ha
Ashbury	Upper Wood	38 ha
Blewbury	Above Lids Bottom	10.38 ha
Blewbury	Blewburton Hill	5.32 ha
Blewbury	Blewbury Hill	2.24 ha
Blewbury	Blewbury Hill	1.14 ha
Blewbury	Chilton Disused Railway Line	7.99 ha
Blewbury	Chilton Disused Railway Line	0.53 ha
Blewbury	Chilton Disused Railway Line	0.32 ha
Buckland	Buckland Marsh (East)	20.45 ha
Buckland	Buckland Warren Woods	128.04 ha
Buscot	Buscot Park Lake	8.72 ha
Charney Bassett	Cherbury Camp	10.02 ha
Childrey	Pigtrough Bottom	2.9 ha
Cumnor	Bushey Leaze Copse	6.04 ha
Cumnor	Chawley Footpath	3.18 ha
Cumnor	Farmoor Reservoir	190.96 ha
Cumnor	Long Copse	3.3 ha
Cumnor	Long Leys Farm Meadows	4.46 ha
Cumnor	Pasture near Chawley	1.71 ha
Cumnor	Smith Hill Copse	4.99 ha
Cumnor	Somerford Mead	5.76 ha

Cumnor	Thames Island west of Farmoor	1.76 ha
Denchworth	North Mead Lane Meadow	6.72 ha
East Hanney	Cowslip Meadow	14.82 ha
East Hendred	Knollend Down	8.66 ha
Eaton Hastings	Taylor's Hill Annexe	1.06 ha
Fyfield and Tubney	Tubney Woods	54.27 ha
Fyfield and Tubney	Tubney Woods	48.92 ha
Great Coxwell	Coxwell Wood	48.73 ha
Great Faringdon	Badbury Forest – Eaton Wood	121.1 ha
Great Faringdon	Faringdon Wet Meadow	3.65 ha
Hatford	Chinaman Copse	2.44 ha
Kennington	Bagley Wood (3 areas)	56.91 ha
Kennington	Bagley Wood (3 areas)	124.2 ha
Kennington	Bagley Wood (3 areas)	36.44 ha
Kennington	Fiddlers Elbow Island	2.39 ha
Kennington	Kennington Memorial Field	4.8 ha
Kennington	Kennington Pool	0.85 ha
Kingston Lisle	Crog Hill and Scary Hill	9.12 ha
Kingston Lisle	Long Spinney Copse	6.85 ha
Letcombe Regis	Castlehill	0.88 ha
Letcombe Regis	Castlehill	0.95 ha
Letcombe Regis	Letcombe Cress Beds	7.37 ha
Letcombe Regis	Letcombe Reed Swamp	1.24 ha
Littleworth	Edge of Grove Wood	0.87 ha
Lockinge	Lattin Down, Lockinge	4.37 ha
Longworth	Newhouse Cover	7.51 ha
Marcham	Denman Fishponds	1.09 ha
Marcham	Gozzards Ford Fen	1.79 ha
Marcham	Marcham Salt Spring	0.56 ha
North Hinksey	Harcourt Hill Scrub	17.29 ha
Pusey	Turf Pits Covert	10.81 ha
Radley	Radley Large Wood	21.98 ha
Radley	Radley Little Wood	3.02 ha
Radley	Thames Cut	1.25 ha
Shellingford	Chaslins Copse	3.23 ha
Shellingford	Lyde Copse	2.07 ha
Shrivenham	Pennyhooks Brook Marsh	2.44 ha
South Hinksey	Chilswell Valley	6.83 ha
South Hinksey	Limekiln Copse and Valley	8.96 ha
Sparsholt	Beech Wood, Westcot Down	2.67 ha
Sparsholt	Wixen Bush	0.84 ha
Steventon	Steventon Copse	3.17 ha
Uffington	Kingstone Warren Down (north)	10 ha
Wantage	Ashen Pen	4.53 ha

Wantage	Black Bushes Wood	4.76 ha
Wantage	Upper Black Bushes	4.83 ha
West Hendred	Ginge Brook	5.5 ha
Woolstone	Kingston Warren (South)	Down 1.2 ha
Wootton	Foxcombe	11.14 ha
Wootton	Memorial Garden	0.74 ha

## 6. Ancient Woodlands

Oxfordshire Inventory (Provisional) held on maps available in Planning Strategy Section (at the District Council Offices in Abingdon).

## 7. Geologically Important Sites

Coxwell Pit	Faringdon
Faringdon (Rogers Concrete)	Faringdon
The Manger, Whitehorse Hill	Woolstone
Hatford Sand Pit	Hatford
Gimbro Copse Quarry	Pusey
Dry Sandford Quarries	St Helens Without
Tubney Woods	Fyfield and Tubney
Shellingford Quarry	Shellingford
Wicklesham Quarry	Faringdon