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Climate, Biodiversity & Planning
Committee Meeting of Witney Town Council

Tuesday, 26th November, 2024 at 6.00 pm

To members of the Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee - A Bailey, G Meadows, J Aitman, S Simpson, G Doughty, J Doughty and R Smith (and all other Town Councillors for information).

You are hereby summonsed to the above meeting to be held in the **Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney** for the transaction of the business stated in the agenda below.

Admission to Meetings

All Council meetings are open to the public and press unless otherwise stated.

Numbers of the public will be limited, with priority given to those who have registered to speak on an item on the agenda. Any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting should contact the Committee Clerk derek.mackenzie@witney-tc.gov.uk in advance.

Recording of Meetings

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 the council's public meetings may be recorded, which includes filming, audio-recording as well as photography.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings, please let the Town Clerk or Democratic Services Officer know before the start of the meeting.

Agenda

1. **Apologies for Absence**

   To consider apologies and reasons for absence.

   Committee Members who are unable to attend the meeting should notify the Committee Clerk derek.mackenzie@witney-tc.gov.uk **prior to the meeting**, stating the reason for absence.

   Standing Order 30(d)(v) permits the appointment of substitute Councillors to a Committee whose role is to replace ordinary Councillors at a meeting of a Committee if ordinary Councillors of the Committee have informed the Proper Officer **before** the meeting that they are unable to attend.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

   Members are reminded to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests in any of the items under consideration at this meeting in accordance with the Town Council's code of conduct.

3. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 30)

   a) To adopt and sign as correct the minutes of the committee held on 17 September, 8 October and 5 November 2024.

   b) Matters arising from the minutes of 17 September, 8 October and 5 November 2024.

Date of Publication 19 November 2024

4. **Public Participation**

The meeting will adjourn for this item.

Members of the public may speak for a maximum of five minutes each during the period of public participation, in line with Standing Order 42. Matters raised shall relate to the following items on the agenda.

5. **Finance Report: Revised Revenue Budget 2024/25 and Draft Base Revenue Budget for 2025/26**

To receive and consider the report of the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) and the Draft Revised Revenue Budget for 2024/25 and Draft Budget for 2025/26.

To Follow

6. **Revenue Growth Items, Special Revenue Projects, and Capital Projects**

To receive and consider the report of the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) with an update on the current year's work programme relating to Capital and Special Revenue Projects; as well as projects identified during the course of the year for inclusion as Revenue Growth Items or Special Revenue Projects in the Council's Revenue Budget or Capital Projects for 2025/26 and beyond.

To Follow

7. **Planning Applications** (Pages 31 - 33)

To receive and consider a schedule of Planning Applications from West Oxfordshire District Council.

8. **Planning Decisions** (Pages 34 - 37)

To receive and consider a schedule of planning decisions from West Oxfordshire District Council.

9. **OCC Planning Changes Consultation** (Pages 38 - 39)

To receive correspondence from Oxfordshire County Council concerning the proposed update to Oxfordshire County Council's Local List of Information Requirements for validation of planning and related applications.

Documents can be found at:
https://myeplanning2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/LL.0119/24?cuuid=668B2AF5-6921-4BC2-8A2B-39F7DF2C4831#undefined

10. **Biodiversity Update** (Pages 40 - 54)

To receive the report of the Biodiversity & Green Spaces Officer.

11. **Witney Lake & Country Park - Operational Update** (Pages 55 - 60)

To receive the report of the Biodiversity & Green Spaces Officer.

12. **Witney Lake & Country Park - Management Plan** (Pages 61 - 63)

To receive the report of the Biodiversity & Green Spaces Officer.

13. **WODC Infrastructure Delivery Plan - Green Infrastructure** (Pages 64 - 195)

Based on the above agenda items and updates, to consider correspondence from WODC regarding the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which will inform the new Local Plan and offer any suggestions of items to be included.

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Mrs Sharon Groth FSLCC FCMI
Town Clerk

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14. **Cotswolds National Landscape Draft Management Plan** (Pages 196 - 290)

To receive and consider providing comments in response to the Cotswolds National Landscape's draft management plan for 2025-2030.

Deadline for comments is 18th December 2024.

15. **Church Green & Corn Street proposed parking restrictions** (Pages 291 - 330)

To receive notification of the Consultation by Oxfordshire County Council in respect of proposed parking restrictions for Church Green & Corn Street.

16. **A40 Eynsham Park & Ride to Wolvercote Public Engagement** (Pages 331 - 332)

To receive notification of the Public Engagement for the proposed A40 Eynsham Park & Ride to Wolvercote Scheme.

https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/A40EynshamToWolvercote

17. **Footpath Modification Order 2024 - Marlborough Lane, Witney** (Pages 333 - 334)

To receive and consider notification from Oxfordshire County Council in respect of a footpath modification order.

Oxfordshire County Council has made this Order because there is a gap between the legally recorded extent of Footpath No. 32 and the public road at Marlborough Lane that has not been recorded on the Definitive Map in error. There is sufficient evidence to suggest that a public right of way on foot subsists or is reasonably alleged to subsist and therefore this 'missing link' is to be shown on the map and statement.

Details can be found at https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/03807-witney

18. **Application for Renewal of Pavement Licence - Greggs, 4-5 Welch Way, Witney** (Pages 335 - 338)

To receive and consider a Pavement Licence Application for Greggs, 4-5 Welch Way, Witney under the Business and Planning Act 2020.

19. **Witney Traffic Advisory Committee Minutes 24 September 2024** (Pages 339 - 343)

To receive the minutes of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee meeting held on 24 September 2024.

In addition to noting the minutes, Members are asked to consider an item concerning lining at the entrance to Windrush Leisure Centre under minute no. T53 and if the Town Council should make a formal request for these to be re-marked.

20. **Witney Shores Green - Condition 8 (Lighting Scheme) - Planning Ref: R3.0103/24** (Page 344)

To note the approval of Condition 8 (Lighting Scheme) for the development. Details of documents can be found at:
https://myeplanning2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/R3.0103/24?cuuid=32F26CB2-6E89-4452-9C4B-C52AC8160B63#undefined

21. **Witney Shores Green - Condition 19 (European Protected Species Mitigation Licence) - Planning Ref: R3.0118/24** (Page 345)

To note the approval of Condition 19 (European Protected Species Mitigation Licence) for the development. Details of documents can be found at:
https://myeplanning2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/R3.0118/24?cuuid=8FD8E061-195B-4282-9A70-2EF4160EA4A2#undefined

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22. **Witney Shores Green - Condition 20 and 21 (Drainage strategy) - Planning Ref: R3.0104/24** (Page 346)

To note the approval of Condition 20 and 21 (Drainage strategy) for the development. Details of documents can be found at:
https://myeplanning2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/R3.0104/24?cuuid=FE8918F8-B955-4127-B04D-592514029200#undefined



Town Clerk

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday, 17 September 2024

At 6.00 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney

Present:

Councillor G Meadows (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)

Councillors:	S Simpson	J Doughty
	G Doughty	R Smith
Officers:	Derek Mackenzie	Senior Administrative Officer & Committee Clerk
Others:	No members of the public.	

P496 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Aitman.

P497 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from Members or Officers.

P498 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee meetings held on 16 July, 6 August & 3 September 2024 were received.

P472 - The Committee Clerk clarified that the submission wording was acceptable to the Committee. The response had been separately circulated to all Members of the Council by email on 11 September and no amendment or additional comments had been received by Officers.

Resolved:

That, the minutes of the Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee meetings held on 16 July, 6 August & 3 September 2024 be approved as a correct record of the meetings and be signed by the Chair.

P499 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

P500 **FINANCE REPORT**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) detailing income and expenditure for budgets which were the responsibility of the committee.

Members were pleased to see that expenditure was on track after four months of the financial year.

A Member noted that the work to de-silt the River Windrush at Bridge Street which was agreed at the meeting of the Committee 30 January 2024 was yet to be actioned. Officers were asked to provide an update and ensure this is budgeted for in the 2025/26 budget.

Recommended:

1. That, the report be noted and,
2. That, the management accounts of the Climate, Biodiversity and Planning Committee for the period 1 April to 31 July 2024 be approved and,
3. That, Officers prepare an update on the progress of the Bridge Street De-silting and,
4. That, funds for the Bridge Street Desilting works are included in the 2025/26 budget.

P501 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee received and considered a schedule of planning applications from West Oxfordshire District Council.

Resolved:

That, the comments, as per the attached schedule be forwarded to West Oxfordshire District Council.

P502 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Committee received and considered a schedule of planning decisions received from West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC).

Resolved:

That, the list circulated advising of WODC planning decisions be noted.

P503 **APPLICATION FOR PAVEMENT LICENCE - GAILS, 17 MARKET SQUARE, WITNEY**

The Committee noted the Pavement Licence Application for Gails, 17 Market Square, Witney under the Business and Planning Act 2020.

Resolved:

That, the following response be forwarded to the licencing team at West Oxfordshire District Council.

"Witney Town Council has no objections to this application"

P504 **ADDRESS MANAGEMENT - SCHOOL LAND, WEST WITNEY (WINDRUSH ESTATE)**

The Committee received and considered correspondence from Address Management at West Oxfordshire District Council in respect of their request for suggestions for the naming of two streets and one building.

Members agreed that the naming should reflect either the current theme in that area of the estate where names of important people to Witney had been used or, that the area backs onto the natural green corridor that passes thorough the estate.

The Committee made the suggestion that the roads be called "Titherington Close" and "Pavilion Place".

Arthur Titherington was a WW2 labour camp survivor who went on to campaign for compensation for former Japanese prisoners of war and held the position of Chair of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors Association, he was also a Mayor of Witney and Chair of Witney Urban District Council. Arthur passed away in 2010. Members acknowledged that this did not meet with WODC's recommendation of 20 years passing before the use of an individual names however, asked that WODC still consider the request.

The name of Pavilion Place would clearly assist visiting sports teams to locate the pavilion, thus ensuring that traffic would be reduced on other estate roads as the access to Pavilion Place would be from the main spine road Centenary Way.

Members agreed that due to the siting of the building being along the edge of the green corridor that passed through the estate then the name of "Green View" should be considered.

Members agreed that these suggestions should be forwarded to all councillors prior to a submission being made by Officers ahead of the 7 October deadline.

Resolved:

1. That, the correspondence be noted and,
2. That, Officers circulate the request to all council members that street names of "Titherington Way" and "Pavilion Place" along with a building name of "Green View" be considered for submission.

P505 **ADDRESS MANAGEMENT - MARKET VIEW APARTMENTS, LANGDALE GATE**

The Committee formally received and considered the correspondence from West Oxfordshire District Council's Address Management Officer regarding a request to name 10 flats that would be sited above the shops of 21-27 Market Square, Witney.

Given the short statutory timescale for Witney Town Council to respond, by prior agreement of West Oxfordshire District Council, Members considered the request informally on 3 September 2024 and had no objection to the proposed building name 'Market View Apartments'.

Resolved:

That, Witney Town Council raises no objection to the name "Market View Apartments".

P506 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - RIGHTS OF WAY - PLANNING REF: R3.0069/24**

The Committee received correspondence relating to the approval of Planning Application Ref: R3.0069/24 (Rights of Way) at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Resolved:

That, the correspondence be noted

P507 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - SOILS AND AGRICULTURAL LAND - PLANNING REF: R3.0077/24**

The Committee received correspondence relating to the approval of Planning Application Ref: R3.0077/24 (Soils & Agricultural Land) at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Resolved:

That, the correspondence be noted

P508 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - CLIMATE RISK VULNERABILITY - PLANNING REF: R3.0079/24**

The Committee received correspondence relating to the approval of Planning Application Ref: R3.0079/24 (Climate Risk Vulnerability) at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Resolved:

That, the correspondence be noted

P509 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN - PLANNING REF: R3.0094/24**

The Committee received and considered the Carbon Management Plan under Planning Ref: R3.0094/24 in respect of the works at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Members welcomed the detailed information provided in the report as the project proceeded.

Resolved:

That, the following response be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council:

Witney Town Council welcomes the application which will provide benefits for Witney residents and visitors of the Town, including those that will take up residence in the proposed Witney East Housing Development.

Witney Town Council ask that fortnightly updates are provided from this point forward and as the project proceeds in order to be fully aware of any impact that may affect the residents of the Town so that they may be duly informed and notified.

Due to the detailed technical nature of the report the council ask those responses from professionals in the respective field are considered fully.

P510 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT - PLANNING REF: R3.0095/24**

The Committee received and considered the Arboricultural Impact Assessment under Planning Ref: R3.0095/24 in respect of the works at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Members welcomed the detailed information provided in the report as the project proceeded.

Resolved:

That, the following response be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council

Witney Town Council welcomes the application which will provide benefits for Witney residents and visitors of the Town, including those that will take up residence in the proposed Witney East Housing Development.

Witney Town Council ask that fortnightly updates are provided from this point forward and as the project proceeds in order to be fully aware of any impact that may affect the residents of the Town so that they may be duly informed and notified.

Due to the detailed technical nature of the report the council ask those responses from professionals in the respective field are considered fully.

P511 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - LANDSCAPE ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AND BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN REQUIREMENT - PLANNING REF: R3.0096/24**

The Committee received and considered the Landscape Ecological Management Plan and Biodiversity Net Gain Requirement Plan under Planning Ref: R3.0096/24 in respect of the works at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Members welcomed the detailed information provided in the report as the project proceeded.

Resolved:

That, the following response be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council

Witney Town Council welcomes the application which will provide benefits for Witney residents and visitors of the Town, including those that will take up residence in the proposed Witney East Housing Development.

Witney Town Council ask that fortnightly updates are provided from this point forward and as the project proceeds in order to be fully aware of any impact that may affect the residents of the Town so that they may be duly informed and notified.

Due to the detailed technical nature of the report the council ask those responses from professionals in the respective field are considered fully.

P512 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - ECOLOGY SURVEYS AND EUROPEAN PROTECTED SPECIES MITIGATION LICENCE - PLANNING REF: R3.0097/24**

The Committee received and considered the Ecology Surveys and European Protected Species Mitigation Licence Plan under Planning Ref: R3.0097/24 in respect of the works at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Members welcomed the detailed information provided in the report as the project proceeded.

Resolved:

That, the following response be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council

Witney Town Council welcomes the application which will provide benefits for Witney residents and visitors of the Town, including those that will take up residence in the proposed Witney East Housing Development.

Witney Town Council ask that fortnightly updates are provided from this point forward and as the project proceeds in order to be fully aware of any impact that may affect the residents of the Town so that they may be duly informed and notified.

Due to the detailed technical nature of the report the council ask those responses from professionals in the respective field are considered fully.

The meeting closed at: 6.55 pm

Chair

Witney Town Council

Planning Minutes - 17 September 2024

501

501- 1 WTC/125/24 Plot Ref :-24/02131/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 09/09/2024

Location :- 7 WESTFIELD ROAD WESTFIELD ROAD Date Returned :- 18/09/2024

Proposal : Erection of single and two storey rear extensions

Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application it asks that all possible considerations are given to improve Insulation and drainage.

501- 2 WTC/126/24 Plot Ref :-24/02119/LBC Type :- LISTED BUI

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 09/09/2024

Location :- NEWLAND NURSING HOME 50 NEWLAND Date Returned :- 18/09/2024

Proposal : Erection of rear orangery (amendments to previously approved 23/02902/LBC)

Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns and recognises the benefit of the addition to residents, it notes the loss of permeable drainage and lack of SuDS. Whilst the development is small, Members expressed concern that rainfall and surface water is to discharge to existing drainage. The age of the building and its internal infrastructure may not be suitable for this additional capacity, with the possibility of this causing increased flood risk elsewhere. The application site is uphill from an area that suffers from flooding. Members ask that a SuDS strategy and mitigating measures like a soakaway are considered to help decrease the possibility of surface water flooding in nearby areas, in accordance with policy EH7 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031. Further, Members ask that the applicant consider the possibility of rainwater harvesting – given the proximity of WC facilities, could rainwater run-off be re-used sustainably?

501- 3 WTC/127/24 Plot Ref :-24/02090/ADV Type :- ADVERTISED

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 09/09/2024

Location :- 108 - 110 HIGH STREET HIGH STREET Date Returned :- 18/09/2024

Proposal : Erection of a non-illuminated fascia sign

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

501- 4 WTC/128/24 Plot Ref :-24/02212/PN42 Type :- PRIOR NOTI

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 09/09/2024

Location :- 48 PENSCLOSE PENSCLOSE Date Returned :- 18/09/2024

Proposal : Erection of replacement rear single storey extension (5m x 2.6m height to

eaves/ 2.6m max height)

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

501- 5 WTC/129/24 Plot Ref :-24/02179/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 09/09/2024

Location :- FORMER HACKETTS WESLEY WALK
WESLEY WALK
Date Returned :- 18/09/2024

Proposal : New structural opening to accommodate commercial kitchen extraction system and the installation of 3 number external air conditioning condensers.

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

501- 6 WTC/130/24 Plot Ref :-24/02253/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 09/09/2024

Location :- 411 THORNEY LEYS
THORNEY LEYS
Date Returned :- 18/09/2024

Proposal : Proposed single storey rear extension and extended dropped kerb.

Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns, it notes the loss of permeable drainage and would ask that mitigating measures are considered to help decrease the possibility of surface water flooding in this area, in accordance with policy EH7 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

501- 7 WTC/131/24 Plot Ref :-24/02154/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 10/09/2024

Location :- 9 WOODGREEN
WOODGREEN
Date Returned :- 18/09/2024

Proposal : Erection of a garden shed.

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

501- 8 WTC/132/24 Plot Ref :-24/01733/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 11/09/2024

Location :- LAND SW OF WW SPORTS GROUND
BURFORD ROAD
Date Returned :- 18/09/2024

Proposal : Construction of a depot building, general storage building and vehicle parking building together with associated works.

Observations : Witney Town Council makes no comment regarding this application.

501- 9 WTC/133/24 Plot Ref :-24/02284/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 11/09/2024

Location :- 198 COLWELL DRIVE
COLWELL DRIVE
Date Returned :- 18/09/2024

Proposal : Entrance hall extension.

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

The Meeting closed at : 6:55pm

Signed : Chairman Date:

On behalf of :- Witney Town Council

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday, 8 October 2024

At 6.03 pm in the Virtual Meeting via MS Teams - Virtual Meeting

Present:

Councillor A Bailey (Chair)

Councillors:	G Meadows	R Smith
	J Aitman	T Ashby (In place of G Doughty)
	S Simpson	J Treloar (In place of J Doughty)
Officers:	Adam Clapton	Deputy Town Clerk
	Derek Mackenzie	Senior Administrative Officer & Committee Clerk
	Cara Cannon	Admin- Communities & Planning
Others:	No members of the public.	

P545 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Doughty & G Doughty. Councillors T Ashby & J Trelaor attended as a substitutes.

P546 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from members or officers.

P547 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

(Councillor J Trealor joined the meeting at 6:06pm)

P548 **RESIDENTS SATISFACTION SURVEY ACTIONS**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding actions resulting from the annual resident's satisfaction survey.

Members asked that Officers prepare estimates for the widening of the Country Park so that a formal decision may be made as to whether this would be viable.

The Committee also discussed the issues experienced with pollution events that occur in the lake and ask that Officer provide details of the processes follow to manage any impact.

Resolved:

1. That, the report be noted and,
2. That, Officers prepare estimates options for the widening of the path around the Country Park Lake and,
3. That, Officers provide details of the procedures followed to monitor Pollution of the Lake.

P549 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee received and considered a schedule of planning applications from West Oxfordshire District Council.

Resolved:

That, the comments, as per the attached schedule be forwarded to West Oxfordshire District Council.

P550 **CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING 24/02119/LBC NEWLAND NURSING HOME, 50 NEWLAND, WITNEY.**

The Committee noted the correspondence received from West Oxfordshire District Council in respect of Planning Application 24/02119/LBC.

Given the urgent nature of the request requesting Witney Town Council to respond, by prior agreement of West Oxfordshire District Council, documents were circulated electronically to members of this Committee in order to meet the deadline.

Resolved

That, the following response was submitted to WODC on 4 October 2024.

While Witney Town Council notes the loss of permeable drainage and lack of SuDS, Members also note the objections raised by the Conservation Officer on 20th September and would object to designs that would harm the character and appearance of this listed building

P551 **APPLICATION FOR MINOR VARIATION - WITNEY LOCAL, 9 MARKET SQUARE, WITNEY**

The Committee noted the Application for Minor Variation from Witney Local, 9 Market Square, Witney under the Licencing Act 2003.

Given the short statutory timescale for Witney Town Council to respond, by prior agreement of West Oxfordshire District Council, documents were circulated electronically to members of this Committee.

Resolved:

That, the response "Witney Town Council has no objections to the amendment of this application" was forwarded to the licencing team at West Oxfordshire District Council 7 October 2024.

P552 **APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF PAVEMENT LICENCE - THE FLEECE HOTEL, 11 CHURCH GREEN, WITNEY,**

The Committee received and considered the Pavement Licence Application for The Fleece Hotel, 11 Church Green, Witney under the Business and Planning Act 2020.

Resolved:

That, the following response be forwarded to the licencing team at West Oxfordshire District Council.

"Witney Town Council has no objections to this application"

P553 **APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF PAVEMENT LICENCE - PART & PARCEL PUB LTD, 2-4 MARKET SQUARE, WITNEY - W/24/01045/PAVLIC**

The Committee noted the renewal Pavement Licence Application for Part & Parcel Pub Ltd, 2-4 Market Square, Witney under the Business and Planning Act 2020.

Given the short statutory timescale for Witney Town Council to respond, by prior agreement of West Oxfordshire District Council, documents were circulated electronically to members of this Committee.

Resolved:

That, the following response was submitted to the licencing team at West Oxfordshire District Council on 7 October 2024.

"Witney Town Council has no objections to this application"

P554 **APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF PAVEMENT LICENCE - HUFFKINS, 35 HIGH STREET, WITNEY - W/24/00993/PAVLIC**

The Committee noted the renewal Pavement Licence Application for Huffkins, 35 High Street, Witney under the Business and Planning Act 2020.

Given the short statutory timescale for Witney Town Council to respond, by prior agreement of West Oxfordshire District Council, documents were circulated electronically to members of this Committee.

Resolved:

That, the following response was submitted to the licencing team at West Oxfordshire District Council on 30 September 2024.

"Witney Town Council has no objections to this application"

(Councillor S Simpson left the meeting at 6:45pm)

P555 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - LIGHTING SCHEME - PLANNING REF: R.103/24**

The Committee received and considered the Lighting Scheme under Planning Ref: R3.0103/24 in respect of the works at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Members welcomed the detailed information provided in the report as the project proceeded.

Resolved:

That, the following response be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council:

Witney Town Council welcomes the application which will provide benefits for Witney residents and visitors of the Town, including those that will take up residence in the proposed Witney East Housing Development.

Witney Town Council ask that fortnightly updates are provided from this point forward and as the project proceeds in order to be fully aware of any impact that may affect the residents of the Town so that they may be duly informed and notified.

Due to the detailed technical nature of the report the council ask those responses from professionals in the respective field are considered fully.

P556 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - DRAINAGE STRATEGY - PLANNING REF: R3.0104/24**

The Committee received and considered the Drainage Strategy under Planning Ref: R3.0104/24 in respect of the works at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Members welcomed the detailed information provided in the report as the project proceeded.

Resolved:

That, the following response be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council:

Witney Town Council welcomes the application which will provide benefits for Witney residents and visitors of the Town, including those that will take up residence in the proposed Witney East Housing Development.

Witney Town Council ask that fortnightly updates are provided from this point forward and as the project proceeds in order to be fully aware of any impact that may affect the residents of the Town so that they may be duly informed and notified.

Due to the detailed technical nature of the report the council ask those responses from professionals in the respective field are considered fully.

P557 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - LANDSCAPING SCHEME - PLANNING REF: R3.0105/24**

The Committee received and considered the Landscaping Scheme under Planning Ref: R3.0105/24 in respect of the works at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Members welcomed the detailed information provided in the report as the project proceeded.

Resolved:

That, the following response be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council:

Witney Town Council welcomes the application which will provide benefits for Witney residents and visitors of the Town, including those that will take up residence in the proposed Witney East Housing Development.

Witney Town Council ask that fortnightly updates are provided from this point forward and as the project proceeds in order to be fully aware of any impact that may affect the residents of the Town so that they may be duly informed and notified.

Due to the detailed technical nature of the report the council ask those responses from professionals in the respective field are considered fully.

P558 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN - PLANNING REF: R3.0078/24**

The Committee received correspondence relating to the approval of Planning Application Ref: R3.0078/24 (Construction Environmental Management Plan) at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Resolved:

That, the correspondence be noted

P559 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - ARCHAEOLOGY WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION - PLANNING REF: R3.0081/24**

The Committee received correspondence relating to the approval of Planning Application Ref: R3.0081/24 (Archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation) at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Resolved:

That, the correspondence be noted

P560 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT - PLANNING REF: R3.0095/24**

The Committee received correspondence relating to the approval of Planning Application Ref: R3.0095/24 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment) at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Resolved:

That, the correspondence be noted

The meeting closed at: 6.49 pm

Chair

Witney Town Council

Planning Minutes - 8th October 2024

549

549- 1 WTC/134/24 Plot Ref :-24/02259/S73 Type :- VARIATION

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/09/2024

Location :- 141 QUEEN EMMAS DYKE Date Returned :-
QUEEN EMMAS DYKE

Proposal : Variation of condition 2 of permission 20/03068/FUL to allow changes to approved plans to extend the ground floor layout.

Observations :

549- 2 WTC/135/24 Plot Ref :-24/02319/S73 Type :- VARIATION

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/09/2024

Location :- LAND AT THORNEY LEYS Date Returned :- 09/10/2024
THORNEY LEYS

Proposal : Variation of conditions 2, 3, 18 and 21 of planning permission 15/00647/FUL to increase the height of the acoustic fence (retrospective).

Observations : Whilst Witney Town Council does not object to this application in principle, Members ask that a revised acoustic assessment be conducted to assess the effect of the proposed amendments in the mitigation of vehicle noise from the A40.

549- 3 WTC/136/24 Plot Ref :-24/02258/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 13/09/2024

Location :- 81 HIGH STREET Date Returned :- 09/10/2024
HIGH STREET

Proposal : Proposed replacement windows and doors.

Observations : Witney Town Council does not object in principle and is pleased to see modern energy efficient solutions being implemented; however, Members request re-consultation should the opinion of the Conservation/Heritage Officer not concur.

549- 4 WTC/137/24 Plot Ref :-24/02293/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 13/09/2024

Location :- 11 STANWAY CLOSE Date Returned :- 09/10/2024
STANWAY CLOSE

Proposal : Erection of a porch and single storey rear extension.

Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns, it notes the loss of permeable drainage and would ask that mitigating measures are considered to help decrease the possibility of surface water flooding in this area, in accordance with policy EH7 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

549- 5 WTC/138/24 Plot Ref :-24/02279/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 25/09/2024

Location :- 18 THE CRESCENT
THE CRESCENT
Date Returned :- 09/10/2024

Proposal : Erection of a replacement garage to side elevation with living area in roof space, and rear single storey extension with associated works.

Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns, it notes the loss of permeable drainage and would ask that mitigating measures are considered to help decrease the possibility of surface water flooding in this area, in accordance with policy EH7 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

549- 6 WTC/139/24 Plot Ref :-24/02162/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 25/09/2024

Location :- 59 BARRINGTON CLOSE
BARRINGTON CLOSE
Date Returned :- 09/10/2024

Proposal : Change of use of residents land from amenity to residential and erection of timber boundary fencing (Retrospective)

Observations : Witney Town Council objects to this application. This proposal is not compliant with Policy OS2 in that it would involve the loss of an area of open space that makes an important contribution to the character or appearance of the area. The character of the Deer Park estate along with other across the town is identified by these parcels of amenity space and for these be allowed to be fenced away from view it harms that character and takes this amenity from the rest of the community.

Furthermore, members discussed the contribution to biodiversity as is provided by these small parcels of land, this small but important contribution would be lost if the space was allowed to continue to be incorporated as part of a privately owned domestic garden. Witney Town Council values all open spaces and amenity lands across Witney. These areas, regardless of size or location contribute to the visible, recreational, and biodiverse landscape across the town. Grass areas in particular aid drainage and help mitigate against surface water flooding.

Members are also aware of a number of issues regarding the landscaping and restrictive covenants in this vicinity that may be considered to be in breach of planning policies. It would ask that a clear, fair, and consistent approach is adopted for this application and any future ones.

549- 7 WTC/140/24 Plot Ref :-24/02270/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 25/09/2024

Location :- 69 BURFORD ROAD
BURFORD ROAD
Date Returned :- 09/10/2024

Proposal : Removal of existing porch and construction of a new porch

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

549- 8 WTC/141/24 Plot Ref :-24/02387/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 25/09/2024

Location :- 11 DONNINGTON CLOSE
DONNINGTON CLOSE
Date Returned :- 09/10/2024

Proposal : Proposed single storey side link extension and first floor extension over existing garage.

Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns, it notes the loss of permeable drainage and would ask that mitigating measures are considered to help decrease the possibility of surface water flooding in this area, in accordance with policy EH7 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

549- 9 WTC/142/24 Plot Ref :-24/02403/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 25/09/2024

Location :- 9 CHIPMUNK DRIVE CHIPMUNK DRIVE Date Returned :- 09/10/2024

Proposal : Installation of air source heat pump.

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections to this application and welcomes thermal efficient and low-carbon enhancements.

549- 10 WTC/143/24 Plot Ref :-24/02341/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 25/09/2024

Location :- 33 MOORLAND CLOSE MOORLAND CLOSE Date Returned :- 09/10/2024

Proposal : Erection of a single storey rear extension along with construction of decking area and associated works.

Observations : Whilst Witney Town Council offers no objections to this application, Members ask, as the proposal includes development in a high-density area with close proximity to neighbouring properties that officers pay due regard to the harmful loss of privacy to neighbouring properties.

549- 11 WTC/144/24 Plot Ref :-24/02312/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 25/09/2024

Location :- 13 MARKET SQUARE MARKET SQUARE Date Returned :- 09/10/2024

Proposal : Reconstruction of the chimney stack, repair works to the dormer windows and cheeks

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

549- 12 WTC/145/24 Plot Ref :-24/02313/LBC Type :- LISTED BUI

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 25/09/2024

Location :- 13 MARKET SQUARE MARKET SQUARE Date Returned :- 09/10/2024

Proposal : Reconstruction of the chimney stack, repair works to the dormer windows and cheeks.

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

549- 13 WTC/146/24 Plot Ref :-24/02431/LBC Type :- LISTED BUI

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 27/09/2024

Location :- CROFTDOWN, 34 CORN STREET CORN STREET Date Returned :- 09/10/2024

Proposal : Internal alterations to include removal of existing corner fireplace stack in living

room and form a new hearth and fireplace, formation of new steps to conservatory room, raising of lintel above kitchen stove unit and floor insulation works.

Observations : Whilst Witney Town Council offers no objections to this application, Members ask that the Officer confirm the type of fuel (if any) could be used in the reformed fireplace and would request alternative renewable energy solutions are considered by the applicant (as per CO17 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031), to mitigate against carbon emissions being released into the environment.

549- 14 WTC/147/24 Plot Ref :-24/02328/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 27/09/2024

Location :- 19 MOTT CLOSE
MOTT CLOSE
Date Returned :- 09/10/2024

Proposal : Change of use of part of existing garage to a beauty business (retrospective).

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

549- 15 WTC/148/24 Plot Ref :-24/02422/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 30/09/2024

Location :- UNITS 9-12 EAGLE IND ESTATE
EAGLE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
Date Returned :- 09/10/2024

Proposal : Change of use of existing brewery to Class E use.

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections to this application. Members support and encourage these changes and welcomes the potential employment opportunities this change of use may bring.

The Meeting closed at : 6:49

Signed : Chairman Date:

On behalf of :- Witney Town Council

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday, 5 November 2024

At 6.00 pm in the Virtual Meeting via MS Teams - Virtual Meeting

Present:

Councillor A Bailey (Chair)

Councillors:	G Meadows	J Doughty
	S Simpson	R Smith
	G Doughty	
Officers:	Adam Clapton	Deputy Town Clerk
	Derek Mackenzie	Senior Administrative Officer & Committee Clerk
	Cara Cannon	Admin- Communities & Planning
Others:	No members of the public.	

P608 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Aitman.

P609 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from Members or Officers.

(Councillor G Meadows joined the meeting at 6:02pm)

P610 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

(Councillor S Simpson joined the meeting at 6:16pm – From Application 4.6 24/02578/FUL)

P611 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee received and considered a schedule of planning applications from West Oxfordshire District Council.

Resolved:

That, the comments, as per the attached schedule be forwarded to West Oxfordshire District Council.

P612 **ADDRESS MANAGEMENT - LOCAL CENTRE, WEST WITNEY**

The Committee received and considered correspondence from Address Management at West Oxfordshire District Council in respect of their request for suggestions for the naming of a street.

Members agreed that the naming should reflect the current theme of that area of the estate where names of people with historical connections to Witney had been used.

The Committee made the suggestion that the road be named after Sir Frederick Clarke who was an advocate for education reform. The street would be located on land originally assigned for a secondary school which was later dismissed so Members thought this appropriate.

Members were unsure for which suffix would best suit and therefore deferred the decision to West Oxfordshire District Council.

Resolved:

1. That, the correspondence be noted and,
2. That, the request to name the street after Sir Frederick Clarke be forwarded to the Address Management Team at WODC.

P613 **EV MICROHUBS**

The Committee received and considered the correspondence received.

Resolved:

That, the correspondence be noted.

P614 **HAILEY 20MPH CONSULTATION**

The Committee received and considered the correspondence received from Oxfordshire County Council regarding the proposed introduction of a 20mph scheme in the neighbouring parish of Hailey.

The item had been referred to the Committee from the meeting of the Council on 14 October (Minute 589 refers). Officers advised the closing date for the consultation had passed however, OCC Officers had confirmed that a response was still able to be submitted and would be heard verbally when the matter was considered.

Members were in favour of supporting the scheme having seen improvements in the Town since the introduction of the 20mph scheme in 2022. Members wanted to stress the importance of reduction of emissions and the improvement in Air Quality, as well as the potential benefits of road safety.

Resolved:

That, the following response be submitted to Oxfordshire Country Council.

As a neighbouring parish where lower speed limits were introduced in 2022, Witney Town Council supports the introduction of 20mph speed restrictions in Hailey village which will help provide

continuity for residents of Witney and West Oxfordshire. Its introduction would also improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians in the area and compliment the proposed active travel proposals for the Hailey Road corridor which are detailed in the Witney Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

A reduction to 20mph helps realise Oxfordshire County Council's Vision Zero approach that, no human being should be killed or seriously injured as the result of a road collision; whichever mode of transport you are using. As stated in their Vision Zero Strategy, 'At 20mph a pedestrian is likely to survive an impact with a motor vehicle whereas at 30mph the pedestrian is significantly more likely to be killed.'

Additionally, evidence published by the Welsh Government in June 2024, where a 20mph limit is implemented nationally, shows casualties have reduced on roads since the introduction of the 20mph speed limits in 2023.

The Town Council extols the benefits of 20mph speed limits which result in a healthier and safer walking, cycling, and driving environment. In Witney, Community Speedwatch sessions carried out in 20mph areas is showing evidence that tolerances to the 20mph limits are better than perceived.

Lastly, should the proposed North Witney Strategic Development Area proceed then this will bring Witney much closer to Hailey Village emphasising the need for consistency in the speed limits.

P615 **WODC - SECTION 106 INFORMATION LEAFLET**

The Committee received an Information Leaflet from West Oxfordshire District Council relating to Section 106 funding requests

Members expressed how useful they found the information and that it highlighted the need to ensure that Section 106 requests be considered and submitted at the outset of consideration of Planning Applications.

The Committee asked that Officers forwarded the information leaflet to all Members of the Council.

Additionally, the Deputy Town Clerk advised that Members should note that it was possible to make an application for Section 106 funding even if the Committee was minded to object to a planning application in the future.

Resolved:

1. That, the correspondence be noted and,
2. That, Officers forward the Information leaflet to all Members of the Town Council.

P616 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN- PLANNING REF: R3.0094/24**

The Committee received correspondence relating to the approval of Planning Application Ref: R3.0094/24 (Carbon Management Plan) at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Resolved:
That, the correspondence be noted.

P617 **WITNEY SHORES GREEN - CONDITION 17 (ECOLOGY SURVEYS) AND 19 (EUROPEAN PROTECTED SPECIES MITIGATION LICENCE) PLANNING REF: R3.0097/24**

The Committee received correspondence relating to the approval of Planning Application Ref: R3.0097/24 (Ecology Surveys) and 19 (European Protected Species Mitigation Licence) at the Shores Green Junction of the A40.

Resolved:
That, the correspondence be noted.

P618 **PLANNING APPEAL RECEIVED - 75 OXLEASE, WITNEY - REF: 24/01448/HHD**

The Committee received notice of the Planning Appeal Public Inquiry for 75 Oxlease, Witney Appeal Ref: APP/D3125/D/24/3352870. Original Planning Application 24/01448/HHD

Officers advised that due to the notification being received the day prior to the meeting, that details of the hearing would be circulated following the meeting.

Resolved:
That, Officers forward the Planning Appeal notification to Members.

P619 **APPLICATION FOR PAVEMENT LICENCE - CORN EXCHANGE, 19 MARKET SQUARE, WITNEY**

Members received verbal notification that an application for a Pavement Licence for The Corn Exchange, 19 Market Square, Witney was open for comments. The normal notification of the application had not been issued by West Oxfordshire District Council however, Officers were aware of the application due to the Council being the applicant.

Members agreed that the following submission be made.

Thank you for contacting Witney Town Council with regards to Pavement Licence W/24/01168/PAVLIC for The Corn Exchange, 19 Market Square, Witney.

Witney Town Council offers no comment on this application.

Resolved:
That, the response be forwarded to the licencing team at West Oxfordshire District Council.

The meeting closed at: 6.51 pm

Chair

Witney Town Council

Planning Minutes - 5th November 2024

611

611- 1 WTC/149/24 Plot Ref :-24/02523/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 15/10/2024

Location :- 112 THE CROFTS
THE CROFTS
Date Returned :- 06/11/2024

Proposal : Conversion of detached garage to create ground and first floor living space.

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

611- 2 WTC/150/24 Plot Ref :-24/02537/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 15/10/2024

Location :- 17 CORNDELL GARDENS
CORNDELL GARDENS
Date Returned :- 06/11/2024

Proposal : Erection of single storey side and front extensions to replace existing conservatory and sheds.

Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns, it notes the loss of permeable drainage and would ask that mitigating measures are considered to help decrease the possibility of surface water flooding in this area, in accordance with policy EH7 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

611- 3 WTC/151/24 Plot Ref :-24/02475/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 15/10/2024

Location :- 39 SPRINGFIELD OVAL
SPRINGFIELD OVAL
Date Returned :- 06/11/2024

Proposal : Conversion of existing loft, including alterations to change hip roof to gable and insertion of two dormer windows and rooflights, to create additional living space.

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

611- 4 WTC/152/24 Plot Ref :-24/02104/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 15/10/2024

Location :- 37 NEWLAND MILL
NEWLAND MILL
Date Returned :- 06/11/2024

Proposal : Change of use of land to increase the domestic curtilage along with an increase to the height of the boundary fencing (part retrospective)

Observations : Whilst Witney Town Council does not object to this application, members were disappointed to see removal of trees resulting in a loss of biodiversity & natural habitat space, which is contrary to policy EH3 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) of the WODC LP2031 and ask that the householder compensate for the loss by way of replanting.

611- 5 WTC/153/24 Plot Ref :-24/02454/LBC Type :- LISTED BUI

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 15/10/2024

Location :- MASONIC HALL 20 CHURCH GREEN
CHURCH GREEN
Date Returned :- 06/11/2024

Proposal : Exterior alterations to include the installation of a defibrillator, a blue plaque and two flag pole holders to the front elevation (Retrospective)

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application, and Members were pleased to see an additional defibrillator provision for the Town.

611- 6 WTC/154/24 Plot Ref :-24/02578/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 23/10/2024

Location :- 5A WEST END
WEST END
Date Returned :- 06/11/2024

Proposal : Conversion of existing first and second floor apartment to form two separate apartments.

Observations : Whilst Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns and welcomes the provision of accommodation close to the Town centre, Members note the scale of the proposed apartments and are concerned that they appear very cramped. Within the General Principles of policy OS2 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan, the development does not appear to be of a proportionate and appropriate scale to its context and does not form a logical complement to the existing scale and pattern of development.

611- 7 WTC/155/24 Plot Ref :-24/02579/LBC Type :- LISTED BUI

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 23/10/2024

Location :- 5A WEST END
WEST END
Date Returned :- 06/11/2024

Proposal : Internal and external alterations to divide the existing apartment into two separate apartments. Works to include installation of timber stud partitioning and the replacement of rear windows to include changing second floor external door with a window.

Observations : Whilst Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns and welcomes the provision of accommodation close to the Town centre, Members note the scale of the proposed apartments and are concerned that they appear very cramped. Within the General Principles of policy OS2 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan, the development does not appear to be of a proportionate and appropriate scale to its context and does not form a logical complement to the existing scale and pattern of development.

611- 8 WTC/156/24 Plot Ref :-24/02615/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 23/10/2024

Location :- 15 PARK ROAD
PARK ROAD
Date Returned :- 06/11/2024

Proposal : Erection of two storey front extension.

Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns, it notes the loss of permeable drainage and would ask that mitigating measures are considered to help decrease the possibility of surface water flooding in this area, in accordance with policy EH7 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

611- 9 WTC/157/24 Plot Ref :-24/02592/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 23/10/2024

Location :- 5 WEST END
WEST END
Date Returned :- 06/11/2024

Proposal : Demolition of existing timber shed and erection of a replacement building comprising 2 x 1 bedroom apartments.

Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns, the Council ask that the development complies with policy OS4, and that the proposal does not harm the use or enjoyment of land and buildings nearby including living conditions in residential properties. Since the proposal includes development in a high-density area with close proximity to neighbouring properties, can officers pay due regard to ensuring that the development does not cause harmful loss of privacy to neighbouring properties.

611- 10 WTC/158/24 Plot Ref :-24/02656/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 24/10/2024

Location :- 13A BURFORD ROAD
BURFORD ROAD
Date Returned :- 06/11/2024

Proposal : Removal of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension. Enclose front entrance porch and conversion of garage to create additional living space.

Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns, it notes the loss of permeable drainage and would ask that mitigating measures are considered to help decrease the possibility of surface water flooding in this area, in accordance with policy EH7 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

611- 11 WTC/159/24 Plot Ref :-24/02638/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 28/10/2024

Location :- 22 SNOWSHILL DRIVE
SNOWSHILL DRIVE
Date Returned :- 06/11/2024

Proposal : Formation of habitable room in roof space with rear dormer and front Velux roof light.

Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

The Meeting closed at : 6:51pm

Signed : Chairman Date:

On behalf of :- Witney Town Council

Witney Town Council

Climate, Biodiversity & Planning 26.11.2024

7

7 . 1 **WTC/160/24** Plot Ref :- 24/02573/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/11/2024

Parish :- SOUTH Date Returned :-

Location :- 27 MARKET SQUARE Agent
MARKET SQUARE

Proposals :- Conversion of retail storage/ancillary space to two flats.

Observations :-

7 . 2 **WTC/161/24** Plot Ref :- 24/02697/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/11/2024

Parish :- CENTRAL Date Returned :-

Location :- JUNIPER HOUSE 3A Agent
BURFORD ROAD
BURFORD ROAD

Proposals :- Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Observations :-

7 . 3 **WTC/162/24** Plot Ref :- 24/02740/S73 Type :- VARIATION

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/11/2024

Parish :- SOUTH Date Returned :-

Location :- 1 FRENCH CLOSE Agent
FRENCH CLOSE

Proposals :- Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 22/02953/FUL to allow the removal of shared access with changes to surfaces and relocation of bike and bin store for plot 1 and bike store for plot 2.

Observations :-

7 . 4 **WTC/163/24** Plot Ref :- 24/02742/S73 Type :- VARIATION

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/11/2024

Parish :- SOUTH Date Returned :-

Location :- 38 LANGDALE GATE Agent
LANGDALE GATE

Proposals :- Variation of condition 2 (to allow changes to floor area and layout, and alterations to the roof design including rooflight locations) and condition 3 (to allow the use of brick in place of timber at ground floor level) of planning permission 22/01630/HHD.

Observations :-

7 . 5 **WTC/164/24** Plot Ref :- 24/02645/S73 Type :- VARIATION

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/11/2024

Parish :- SOUTH Date Returned :-

Location :- 60 CORN STREET Agent
CORN STREET

Proposals :- Variation of condition 2 of permission 11/1725/P/FP to allow the addition of an external door and accessway

Observations :-

7 . 6 **WTC/165/24** Plot Ref :- 24/02646/LBC Type :- LISTED BUI

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/11/2024

Parish :- SOUTH Date Returned :-

Location :- 60 CORN STREET Agent
CORN STREET

Proposals :- Internal and external alterations (amendments to listed building consent 11/1726/P/LB to include formation of a doorway in external wall at first floor rear gable elevation to provide means of escape and construction of a raised external balcony to provide linked access to existing balcony) Part retrospective.

Observations :-

7 . 7 **WTC/166/24** Plot Ref :- 24/02763/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/11/2024

Parish :- NORTH Date Returned :-

Location :- 67 EARLY ROAD Agent
EARLY ROAD

Proposals :- Demolish garden wall and erection of 1m high boundary wall.

Observations :-

7 . 8 **WTC/167/27** Plot Ref :- 24/02762/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/11/2024

Parish :- NORTH Date Returned :-

Location :- 67 EARLY ROAD Agent
EARLY ROAD

Proposals :- Demolish conservatory, erection of single storey rear extension, front porch, new door into the existing bay and enlarge existing front windows.

Observations :-

7 . 9 **WTC/168/24** Plot Ref :- 24/02643/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/11/2024

Parish :- NORTH Date Returned :-

Location :- 56 NEW YATT ROAD Agent
NEW YATT ROAD

Proposals :- Erection of single storey rear extension with a lean to roof and an open gable end porch.

Observations :-

7 . 10 **WTC/169/24** Plot Ref :- 24/02179/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/11/2024

Parish :- CENTRAL Date Returned :-

Location :- FORMER HACKETTS Agent
WESLEY WALK
WESLEY WALK

Proposals :- New structural opening to accommodate commercial kitchen extraction system and the installation of 3 number external air conditioning condensers.

Observations :-

7 . 11 **WTC/170/24** Plot Ref :- 24/02702/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/11/2024

Parish :- WEST Date Returned :-

Location :- UNIT C NEWMAN COURT Agent
NEWMAN COURT

Proposals :- Change of use from B1 to B2 motor service and repairs.

Observations :-

7 . 12 **WTC/171/24** Plot Ref :- 24/02393/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/11/2024

Parish :- EAST Date Returned :-

Location :- WITNEY MILLS CC Agent
NEWLAND
NEWLAND

Proposals :- Installation of a 3 lane enclosed practice cricket facility.

Observations :-

7 . 13 **WTC/172/24** Plot Ref :- 24/02394/FUL Type :- FULL

Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 12/11/2024

Parish :- EAST Date Returned :-

Location :- WITNEY MILLS CC Agent
NEWLAND
NEWLAND

Proposals :- Increase in height of the boundary net fence.

Observations :-

NOTIFICATIONS OF PLANNING DECISIONS FROM West Oxfordshire District Council

Minute Ref 8 **Tue 26 November 2024** **District Ref**

' C ' Contrary to District 'CD' Contrary Delegated
' D ' Delegated
' E ' Endorsed by District 'ED' Endorsed Delegated

GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSIONS

E	WTC/063/24	Approved	HALL REAR OF 52 HIGH STREET
E	WTC/091/24	Approved with Conditions	33 BURFORD ROAD
E	WTC/095/24	Approved	LAND AT WEST WITNEY
E	WTC/103/24	Approved	65 SHERBOURNE ROAD
E	WTC/104/24	Approved	23 STANTON HARCOURT ROAD
E	WTC/105/24	Approved	23 STANTON HARCOURT ROAD
E	WTC/106/24	Approved	LAND EAST ISABELLE SPENCER WAY
E	WTC/107/24	Approved	OLD COURTHOUSE 28 BRIDGE ST
E	WTC/108/24	Approved	OLD COURTHOUSE 28 BRIDGE ST
E	WTC/111/24	Approved	STABLE BARN STUDIOS MARLB. LN
E	WTC/112/24	Approved	138 OXLEASE
E	WTC/113/24	Approved	115 RALEGH CRESCENT
E	WTC/115/24	Approved	WODC WOODGREEN
E	WTC/116/24	Approved	94 FARMERS CLOSE
E	WTC/118/24	Approved	1 OLLEY CRESCENT
E	WTC/119/24	Approved	12 CRAWLEY ROAD
E	WTC/120/24	Approved	39 BURFORD ROAD
E	WTC/122/24	Approved	UNIT 25 WOOLGATE CENTRE
E	WTC/124/24	Approved	74 WEST END
E	WTC/125/24	Approved	7 WESTFIELD ROAD
E	WTC/127/24	Approved	108 - 110 HIGH STREET

' C ' Contrary to District 'CD' Contrary Delegated
' D ' Delegated
' E ' Endorsed by District 'ED' Endorsed Delegated

GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSIONS

E	WTC/128/24	Approved	48 PENSCLOSE
E	WTC/130/24	Approved	411 THORNEY LEYS
E	WTC/131/24	Approved	9 WOODGREEN
C	WTC/133/24	Approved with Conditions	198 COLWELL DRIVE

District COMMENT Before first occupation of the building/extension hereby permitted the window(s) east side elevation window shall be fitted with obscure glazing and shall be retained in that condition thereafter.

REASON: To safeguard privacy in the adjacent property.

Local COMMENT Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

E	WTC/136/24	Approved	81 HIGH STREET
E	WTC/137/24	Approved	11 STANWAY CLOSE
E	WTC/138/24	Approved	18 THE CRESCENT
C	WTC/139/24	Approved	59 BARRINGTON CLOSE

District COMMENT Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (or any Order revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification), no development permitted under Schedule 2, Part 1, Class E shall be carried out other
than that expressly authorised by this permission.

REASON: Control is needed to protect the visual amenity of the area.

Local COMMENT Witney Town Council objects to this application. This proposal is not compliant with Policy OS2 in that it would involve the loss of an area of open space that makes an important contribution to the character or appearance of the area. The character of the Deer Park estate along with other across the town is identified by these parcels of amenity space and for these be allowed to be fenced away from view it harms that character and takes this amenity from the rest of the community.

Furthermore, members discussed the contribution to biodiversity as is provided by these small parcels of land, this small but important contribution would be lost if the space was allowed to continue to be incorporated as part of a privately owned domestic garden. Witney Town Council values all open spaces and amenity lands across Witney. These areas, regardless of size or location contribute to the visible, recreational, and biodiverse landscape across the town. Grass areas in particular aid drainage and help mitigate against surface water flooding.

Members are also aware of a number of issues regarding the landscaping and restrictive covenants in this vicinity that may be considered to be in breach of planning policies. It would ask that a clear, fair, and consistent approach is adopted for this application and any future ones.

NOTIFICATIONS OF PLANNING DECISIONS FROM West Oxfordshire District Council

Minute Ref 8 **Tue 26 November 2024** **District Ref**

' C ' Contrary to District 'CD' Contrary Delegated
' D ' Delegated
' E ' Endorsed by District 'ED' Endorsed Delegated

GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSIONS

E	WTC/140/24	Approved	69 BURFORD ROAD
E	WTC/141/24	Approved	11 DONNINGTON CLOSE
E	WTC/142/24	Approved	9 CHIPMUNK DRIVE
E	WTC/144/24	Approved	13 MARKET SQUARE
E	WTC/145/24	Approved	13 MARKET SQUARE
E	WTC/151/24	Approved	39 SPRINGFIELD OVAL

REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSIONS

C WTC/017/24 Refused WELCOME EVANGELICAL CHURCH

District COMMENT The proposed two storey extension to the western side elevation of the church, by reason of its siting, scale and massing, would result in significant detrimental impacts upon the living conditions of numbers 9, 10 and 11 Farriers Court through loss of light and overbearing impacts. Therefore, the proposal does not accord with WOLP Polices OS2 and OS4 with regard to neighbourly amenity impact as well as the guidance contained in Section 12 of the NPPF 2023 and the West Oxfordshire Design Guide 2016.

Local COMMENT While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns, it notes the increased footprint and would ask that mitigating measures are considered to help decrease the strain on the local sewer network. There are known issues locally, particularly during heavy rainfall and subsequent high infiltration rates. Members ask that a SUDS strategy and mitigating measures are considered to help decrease the possibility of surface water flooding in this area, in accordance with policy EH7 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

E WTC/097/24 Refused 65 WINFIELD DRIVE

C WTC/121/24 Refused NEWLAND NURSING HOME

District COMMENT The variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (materials) of application 23/02901/FUL to allow alternative materials would not preserve the significance of the listed building and its historic context with the Witney and Cogges Conservation Area. The proposal is considered contrary to
Policies OS4, EH9, EH10 and EH11 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031, West Oxfordshire Design Guide 2016 and the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF 2023.

Local COMMENT Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

C WTC/126/24 Refused NEWLAND NURSING HOME

District COMMENT The proposed materials to the

Local COMMENT While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns and recognises the benefit of the addition to residents, it notes the loss of permeable drainage and lack of SuDS. Whilst the development is small, Members expressed concern that rainfall and surface water is to discharge to existing drainage. The age of the building and its internal infrastructure may not be suitable for this additional capacity, with the possibility of this causing increased flood risk elsewhere. The

' C ' Contrary to District 'CD' Contrary Delegated
' D ' Delegated
' E ' Endorsed by District 'ED' Endorsed Delegated

REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSIONS

conservatory would have a harmful impact on the character and appearance of the Listed Building. As such the proposed changes would not conserve or enhance the special historical and architectural character, integrity and significance of the Listed Building. The proposal is therefore contrary to Section 16 of the NPPF and Section 16(2) of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act and West Oxfordshire Design Guide 2016.

application site is uphill from an area that suffers from flooding. Members ask that a SuDS strategy and mitigating measures like a soakaway are considered to help decrease the possibility of surface water flooding in nearby areas, in accordance with policy EH7 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031. Further, Members ask that the applicant consider the possibility of rainwater harvesting – given the proximity of WC facilities, could rainwater run-off be re-used sustainably?

OTHER PLANNING DETAILS

WTC/018/24	Withdrawn	WELCOME EVANGELICAL CHURCH
WTC/134/24	Withdrawn	141 QUEEN EMMAS DYKE

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date: 8 November 2024
OCC ref: LL.0119/24

Witney Town Council
Witney Town Council
Town Hall
Market Square
Witney
OX28 6AG

Economy and Place
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

Nicholas Perrins
Head of Strategic Planning

Dear Witney Town Council

I am writing to consult you on a proposed update to Oxfordshire County Council's Local List of Information Requirements for validation of planning and related applications.

It is a statutory requirement to update this list at least every two years. Annex 1 to this letter sets out what the proposed changes are.

The draft updated Local List can be viewed on the County Council's planning applications website at the link below. The consultation period will run until **2 December 2024**.

https://myeplanning2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/LL.0119/24?cuuid=668B2AF5-6921-4BC2-8A2B-39F7DF2C4831

The current Local List can also be viewed on the website for comparison.

Your comments on the draft updared Local List can we made via the online facility on the planning applications website, or by the email to [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

www.ox or s re.gov.u

Annex 1 – Proposed Changes to the Local List 2024

Aftercare and Restoration scheme

- Text now includes requirements on securing BNG

Biodiversity Assessment

- Text updated with references to new legislation and BNG requirements.

Heritage and Archaeological Statements

- Additional information on desk-based assessments

The following are proposed new additions to the Local List:

- Biodiversity Net Gain – Further Information
- Carbon Management Plan
- Climate Impact Assessment
- Health Impact Assessment

Validation Checklists

- Addition of Biodiversity Net Gain Plan, Carbon Management Plan, Climate Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment.

Appendices

- Updated graph to show optimal Ecological Survey Seasons (Appendix 1)
- Updated Information on DEFRA European Protected Species policies (Appendix 3)
- Updated information on Great Crested Newt Licence (Appendix 3)

Note:

*All references and links to the 2021 National Planning Policy Framework have been updated to refer to the 2023 National Planning Policy Framework.

*All references to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) have been amended to National Landscapes

*Links to relevant planning policy drivers and related guidance have been updated.

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item: Biodiversity Update

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 26 November 2024

Contact Officer: Biodiversity &Green Spaces Officer

The purpose of this report is to update members on actions taken to improve biodiversity in green spaces under the management of Witney Town Council.

Background

Over the last three years there has been a concerted effort by the Biodiversity and Green Spaces Officer and more recently the Green Spaces Operative to increase biodiversity within the Country Park.

Current Situation

Wildflower Areas: The Council, have at present 8 areas officers are developing as both current and new mini meadow areas. Officers are reviewing the roundabout planting as it was not as successful as hoped last year. The other established areas will be "refreshed over the next 12 months and the new areas on the lakeside will be seeded in April.

Tree Works: Remedial works identified by the tree survey programme are in progress which will be completed by the end of March 2025.

Addendum – Officers are currently dealing with a request to remove a tree on Thorney Leys Road opposite B&Q that the resident feels should be removed as it blocks light to their property. The initial findings and assessment do not support this request in line with the Council's tree policy (**Appendix A**). Likewise, a similar request has been received from another resident of Thorney Leys (requests attached as confidential **Appendices B & C**)

Biodiversity Policy: As part of the Council's Statutory requirements under the 2021 Environment Act, it needs to have a Biodiversity Policy, so this has been created and is attached to this report for consideration as **Appendix D**. Many of the items suggested have already been completed or are underway but this document encompasses the necessary points and is based on a draft model. The Management Plan does encompass this as well.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

a) Equality –Equality in biodiversity in green spaces refers to the idea that all species regardless of their size, role, or ecological status should have the opportunity to thrive and be represented within urban and natural green spaces. Achieving equality in biodiversity involves not just conserving a wide variety of species, but also ensuring that ecological systems are designed and managed in ways that support diverse species' needs. This can be applied to urban parks, nature reserves, forests, and other green spaces, aiming for a balance where no group of species is disproportionately favoured over others.
b) Crime & Disorder –Green spaces such as Lakes and Parks can contribute to reducing urban crime by making spaces more inviting and safer for residents.
c) Environment & Climate Emergency –This is deeply intertwined with both the protection of biodiversity and the fight against climate change. Both challenges require urgent and comprehensive action, as they not only affect the country's natural systems but also its economy, society, and future well-being.
d) All aspects of this report are to action our responsibilities to this situation

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Wildflower areas: these are low risk projects, the work to create them does carry a risk as it involves working on the highway and crossing to pathway on a regular basis however these are managed with stringent health and safety control measures in place.

Tree works: Officers evaluate and sign off risk assessments and method statements from contractors before authorising works.

Biodiversity policy: This is a document that will of great use in future applications for funding and recognition as a serious protector and planner to improve, enhance and create biological habitats.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

This value can be understood through various lenses, such as cultural, economic, health, and ethical considerations.

The aim of all the projects is to provide a resource that can be used by all to have areas that are safe, fun and interesting to visit.

Financial implications

- The Wildflower areas: The roundabouts will need around £300 in seed plus hire costs and X4 days for staff time
- The lake will need around £300 in seed and rotavator hire and work will be carried out by green space staff and volunteers

- All other areas will need around £300 in seed to supplement existing flora, and work will be carried out by Green Spaces team.

Tree work: is part of our programmed costs except the Thorney Leys tree by B&Q, this would cost up to £1000 to high pollard/or fell due to its location and the safety aspects that would need to be considered.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and;

1. Note the updates and work involved in enhancing the roundabouts and ither areas with wildflower planting, and tree works,
2. Consider approval of the biodiversity policy as presented (as this has also been presented to the Policy, Governance & Finance Committee on 25 November, this may be subject to amendment),
3. Consider the request for tree works at Thorney Leys – whether to carry out some works to otherwise healthy trees, in contravention of the Council's Tree Policy.

Tree Policy

Witney Town Council is responsible for over 9000 trees across the town and surrounding area. These trees provide a valuable amenity with many benefits for the town, parks and surrounding areas. These include maintaining and shaping the environment and align with the Council's commitment to Climate Change and maximising biodiversity value through proactive tree care and a tree planting programme. Trees also play an important role and structure for the town to help support flood alleviation, carbon sequestration, noise and air pollution, wildlife corridors (both urban and rural), and health and wellbeing.

The Town Council has a duty to inspect these trees and to comply with its legal obligations to manage and maintain. In addition to planned maintenance, the Town Council react to reported issues where there is a risk to the public or where damage has been caused to property.

Where trees are located on land not owned by the Council, the landowner will be responsible and should be contacted directly with any concerns.

The Town Council will respond to urgent matters reported within 24 hours where trees pose a risk to life.

Tree maintenance will only be carried out if necessary and in line with the following criteria:	
Safety	Significant risk to the public Dead trees located near properties or roads
Tree Health	Work which will prolong life and encourage the development of a good tree structure
Removal	Dangerous, diseased, damaging property or to comply with the Highways Act 1980 S.154

Tree maintenance will not be carried out for the following:	
Natural Characteristics	Shade Leaf, blossom, pollen or seed distribution Television reception View
Overhanging Vegetation	Which is not causing damage or a risk to health & safety. Any tree owned by us that is causing any of the above can be cut back to your boundary. (Before cutting back any tree you will need to check whether there is • Protected by a Tree Preservation Order • In a Conservation Area If the tree is protected in any way, you will need to seek our permission.

Adopted 10.06.2024 – Minute Ref: F314

Claims for subsidence and damage

When investigating claims of subsidence and/or damage to properties from tree roots emanating from a tree owned and maintained by the Council, the Council requires the property owner to submit a structural engineers report. This will enable the Council to review the evidence and determine the appropriate course of action.

The report must cover:

- Physical damage
- Presence of live roots of a suitable specie
- Seasonal movement or variation of the damage during different seasons

All claims regarding subsidence will be referred to the Council's Insurer along with a brief report detailing the age, type and condition of the tree and any other factors that may be of importance to the claim.

If evidence is insufficient any claim will be dismissed.

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

THE BIODIVERSITY DUTY

Introduction - Statutory Duty

Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

Government guidance published on 17th May 2023 clarifies that, as a public authority, town and parish councils must:

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives.

Town and parish councils, unlike other authorities, are not obliged to publish a report on their actions, but the Government guidance requires all public authorities to complete their first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024. They must agree their policies and objectives as soon as possible after this and may reconsider the selected actions within 5 years of completing their previous consideration, or more frequently if they choose.

To comply with the guidance, town and parish councils could as a minimum:

- Have biodiversity as an agenda item for a meeting before the end of 2023.
- Note what action in respect of biodiversity is already taking place locally.
- Agree what further steps to take at this stage.

Such steps may include:

- Reviewing what biodiversity or nature recovery plans are already in place from other local authorities.
- Making contact with local voluntary groups working on nature conservation.
- Carrying out a biodiversity audit of council landholdings and/or the whole council area
- Gathering expert advice on possible actions in support of biodiversity.
- Drafting an action plan that covers action that the council will take itself as well as support for the actions of other local bodies.

Whatever action is agreed, as a minimum local councils could ensure they address biodiversity concerns when commenting on planning applications.

WITNEY TOWN COUNIL DRAFT BIODIVERSITY POLICY

PREAMBLE

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, ***Witney Town Council*** will in exercising all its functions have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

This duty also means that town and parish councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

DEFINITION

According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet.

Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. It is the building block of our 'ecosystems'. These provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to work towards enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of ***Witney Lake and Country Park and Green Spaces***

All committees of ***Witney Town Council*** will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

In particular, ***Witney Town Council*** will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- support local businesses & council operations in the adoption of low impact practices.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

ACTIONS

Planning applications

- The council, when commenting on planning applications, will support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats.
- It will support protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.
- It will consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain.

Land and property management

- The council will carry out a biodiversity audit of its landholdings.
- The council will consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work.
- Special care will be taken in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- The council will consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings.

Local community

- The council will raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.
- The council will engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
- It will, where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.

Partners

- ***Witney Town Council*** will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the ***town***.
- It will review any local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies in respect of local sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.

This policy will be reviewed each year at the Annual Meeting, together with a summary of how the policy has been implemented in the previous twelve months.

DRAFT MODEL ACTION PLAN

SITE / OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET (Years)	REPORTING / PUBLICITY
Whole council area Protect and support biodiversity	Raise local awareness of biodiversity. Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity.	Gain local support for action. Connect & diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species	Ongoing Ongoing	Newsletter Mapping
Cemetery / churchyard	Additional planting Maintain and renew bird, bat and Owl boxes as required. Adopt a plan to support wildlife & diversity whilst maintaining the site in a way which enables visitors to experience quiet and calm remembrance.	Increased diversity of habitats and food sources Increased cover for invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. Encouraging insects particularly butterflies & bees.	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	Newsletters, social media, Town notice boards Surveys and habitat creation Surveys and habitat creation
Recreation ground	Sympathetically maintain hedging. Leave some areas unmown. Only use environment friendly pesticides where absolutely necessary and only in ideal weather conditions.	Food sources & cover Encourages insects. Sustain & enhance natural habitats.	Ongoing Ongoing As per council policy	As per management plan If appropriate Only trained staff to carry out
Common / other open spaces	Adopt a management plan. Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs. Work with the county & district council on verge management Encourage residents to adopt areas to look after.	Sustain & enhance natural habitats. Protecting habitats Protecting/enhancing habitats Regular attention.	Done Ongoing Ongoing Where appropriate	Ongoing Regular programmes and equipment for public use After assessment

SITE / OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET (Years)	REPORTING / PUBLICITY
The Built Landscape	Ensure that planning consultations are considered against the requirements of the Local Plan Encourage hedgehog/small animal highways with permeable boundaries	Protecting/enhancing habitats Extending habitats.	Ongoing Within next 5 years	Council policy Newsletters, social media, Town notice boards
Increase community awareness of biodiversity	Ask residents for their views on what they would like to be done to conserve biodiversity within the parish. Raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife, with possible actions highlighted in the parish magazine. Create a page on the parish council website for photographs / information / links Provide seed bombs / bulbs etc. for residents' use. Discourage floodlighting.	Engagement/ownership of biodiversity Promote biodiversity. Promote biodiversity. Extending habitats. Protect nocturnal animals.	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Over next 3 years Council policy	Newsletters, social media, Town notice boards Regular programmes and events Already doing this Annual programs to develop this idea Constant review
Support Community Projects	Support hedge/tree planting in any appropriate areas. Work in partnership with the school to develop young people's awareness of the environment around them.	Extending habitats. Promote biodiversity.	Ongoing process Annual review and promotions through comms team	As per Management Plan Comms team have a number of events/promotions

	Consider events and offer volunteering opportunities to support biodiversity, working with local organisations.	Promote biodiversity.	Ongoing Volunteer programme	

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Agenda Item: Lake and Country Park - Operational Update

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 26 November 2024

Contact Officer: Biodiversity & Green Spaces Officer

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the work and projects within the Country Park in recent months.

Background

Over the last three years the lake and Country Park has had a substantial amount of maintenance to the blue and green infrastructure (trees, bank work, fishing, meadow creation, wetland creation, removal of invasive species, bird/owl and bat box installation) to mention just a few. We have also experienced some issues such as Blue/Green Algae, and flooding. The Council also entered for the second year the In Bloom competition in the Country Park section. The council also has been given the opportunity to apply for funding to create Two Community Orchards.

Current Situation

Blue/Green Algae: This has all but dissipated and the Green Spaces staff are monitoring the situation and have purchased a water testing kit.

In Bloom: The Council achieved a Silver Gilt award. It could take a further three years to have the infrastructure to obtain a gold award and officers are keen to work towards this. The feedback from the Thames & Chiltern judging panel is included as **Appendix A**.

Orchards: The Council is applying for funding to plant two community orchards, one in Thorney Leys and one on Snipe Meadow. The bids should be in to the District Council by the end of the month.

Lakeside Allotments: There has been a number of posts on social media regarding flooding on the lower plots and that Witney Town Council should carry out work to the ditches that surround the site. None of the watercourses are within Witney Town Councils remit,

- Emma's Dyke is under Environment Agency management
- The ditch bordering the field on the main entrance side is the Farmers responsibility
- The ditch on the Lakeside Apartments side is managed by the flats management company

Officers have checked the areas immediately adjacent and previous reports on this have been provided to the Council which indicate to take any action to avoid this happening is cost-prohibitive and would not be guaranteed to succeed.

Fishing Platforms: The Council and Witney Angling Society have agreed a design to create fishing platforms around the lake where there is at present "ad hoc" swim stations and have agreed that members will volunteer to carry out the work under the guidance of the Green Spaces team.

In addition to the above, there has been regular day-to-day maintenance at the Lake & Country Park and other Council areas including, clearing of vegetation, habitat making, hedge-cutting, and management of wildflower planting areas. The Biodiversity Officer has also been working with the Communications and Community Engagement team to enhance information available via the Council's website by way of a new webpage https://www.witney-tc.gov.uk/parks-open-spaces/witney-lake-and-country-park-biodiversity-page/ This was partly in response to responses in the Council's resident's survey about residents not knowing the Lake & Country Park was there. This also provides biodiversity information.

Further updates have been made to Members via Councillor Committee bulletins.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

a) Equality – None of the above reports have any effect on people's equality
b) Biodiversity – Algae, has had a significant effect on the water quality for a number of weeks this is now dissipating so the lake is slowly returning to normal BUT we are still getting an influx of river water with a very high Nitrate content

   Orchards – This project will increase the biodiversity of Snipe Meadow (we will be monitoring to what level over time).

   The Fishing platforms will create "micro" habitats underneath them and allow escape areas for young fish.

c) Crime & Disorder – Both the Orchard and the fishing platforms could be open to being damaged and measures to capture and report this are in place
d) Environment & Climate Emergency - The Blue/green algae could have an effect on the lake flora and fauna (this is being monitored). The Orchards will hopefully improve air quality, and the appearance of the local environment.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

All risks have been looked at for the above projects and plans developed to help mitigate them.

- Algae, regular monitoring
- Platforms, damage from public
- Orchard, eating unripe fruit

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

The platforms will be of great use to the fishing club and also act as a stable area for members of the public to watch wildlife on the lake.

The orchard will provide a great resource for the public to “wild harvest” fruit and provide an “outdoor classroom” for schools to use as needed.

Financial implications

- Blue/Green Algae: until the Council has a means of managing the risk from water incursion from the Windrush during flood events, it is open to a repeat of this potentially dangerous occurrence.
- In Bloom: The cost to bring the site to the standard needed is covered at present by the assigned budget.
- Orchards: main funding from WODC and any extra cost year on year will need to come from the Country Park budget.
- Fishing Platforms: Witney Town Council and Witney Fishing Society will share costs for the construction of the platforms within existing budgets.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and

1. Support the plans to develop the Country Park and associated costs,
2. Request any extra information if further clarity is needed to understand the report contents.

BRITAIN IN BLOOM with the RHS
THAMES & CHILTERNS

Thames & Chilterns in Bloom - Parks and Open Spaces Marking sheet

NAME OF ENTRY: Witney Lake & Country Park **LOCATION:** Witney

ASSESSORS: [redacted] **DATE:** 24 July 2024 **WEATHER CONDITIONS:** Warm, Sunny and Dry

SIZE/TYPE	*Pocket Park/garden*	*Park*	*Large Park*	*Country Park*	*Cemetery*	*Church Yard*	*Commercial*
				X			

MARKS	*Community*	*Maintenance*	*Environment*	**TOTAL**	**AWARD**	*Gold*	*Silver Gilt*	*Silver*	*Bronze*	*Cert. of Ach.*
	7	8	8	23			x			

SUMMARY

Witney Lake and Country Park is a good example of the positive outcome that can result from a former industrial site. Its origins lay in the construction of the Witney bypass, the A40 in the mid 1980's. The site was dug as a source of gravel to use in the build. Subsequently it was decided to flood one pit to form a lake, while back filling the rest of the 27 acre site to create a traditional hay meadow and wet grassland. To further add to the attractiveness of the site, it is bounded by the River Windrush. The exciting element here is that Witney Town Council, post COVID and in response to the declaration of a Climate Emergency, has invested in extra staffing to enhance and improve this resource for the benefit of all. The results of the input of staff resource are clearly visible, even over the period of the last year since our previous visit.

The Town Council and its team are to be congratulated on this and we continue to look forward to see how this Park develops in the years to come.

AREAS OF ACHIEVEMENT

1. Key to the success of the Parks development has been the choice of the Bio-diversity Officer and his assistant, who are both enthusiastic and knowledgeable. In addition to putting together a work programme for themselves, they have readily engaged with Park visitors and developed successful relationships with outside groups and resources, such as BBOWT, Men's Sheds, the Woodland Trust, the local angling club and others.

2. One of those engagement groups from the local community has been Witney Sheds. This group has been used to great effect building and installing bird boxes, information posts and rubbing posts, the latter aimed at attracting young people's interest. Much of this is made from recycled wood and plastic, that would otherwise be disposed of within the Witney area.
3. As part of the above, signage is being reviewed, replaced and refurbished as necessary. Included in this is a deliberate identifiable branding exercise, extending to seating as well. The impact of this can now clearly be seen, giving the impression of a well-cared for and maintained Country Park.
4. Accessibility is being addressed where possible, with the local angling society building fishing platforms out into the lake and some picnic tables being modified for wheelchair access.
5. Historically, this had been a site with basic management and maintenance. It is pleasing to see the strides forward being taken with the advent of more staff resource and the achievement of this involving relevant groups in the local community and Wildlife and Conservation Sector. This includes undertaking surveys of the lake, meadows and their flora and fauna, to establish base line data, thus determining ongoing management.
6. In light of the above, areas of targeted and programmed maintenance are now taking place including the removal and control of invasive plant species, 'opening up' pathways through the Park to encourage a safer feel, 'scrapes' within the existing wildflower meadow and bringing in Oxfordshire native wildflower rich grassland cuttings in order to improve the quality of the meadows and, finally, the building and installation of two tern rafts.
7. Good to notice the presence of a female, wild swimming group, a point that further proves the diversity of activity in this Park and its importance and relevance to the local community.
8. Excellent range of inter-active leaflets available for the site, to cater for all age groups. (We presume a programme exists to update and change the jokes and word searches – which one judge very much enjoyed!)

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT
1. Primarily, more of the same. Continue surveying, upgrading infrastructure and the maintenance of the Park. Excellent forward momentum being achieved, as previously stated.
2. Pursue and ensure areas of work identified in Maintenance Programmes for 2024 – 25 are achieved.
3. Ensure achievement of Local Nature Reserve status for the Park.

Parks Category Scoring Matrix

For each section individually:		For overall/total marks:	
9-10	Gold	26-30	Gold
7-8	Silver Gilt	20-25	Silver Gilt
5-6	Silver	14-19	Silver
3-4	Bronze	8-13	Bronze
1-2	Certificate of Achievement	0-7	Certificate of Achievement

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Agenda Item: Lake and Country Park Management Plan

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 26 November 2024

Contact Officer: Biodiversity and Green Spaces Officer

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Town Council's Country Park Management Plan that outlines the vision, objectives, and strategies for managing the country park in a sustainable and effective way. It serves as a guide for managing the park's natural, historical, recreational, and community assets to offer a blend of outdoor activities, wildlife conservation, landscape management, and visitor services.

The current plan can be viewed here:

https://www.witney-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Witney-Lake-and-Country-Park-Management-Plan-Summary-2024-2025.pdf

Background

Local Nature Reserve (LNR) The Lake and Country Park has no status at present.

Meadows Update: Snipe and Mill Meadow have had substantial work on to improve biodiversity through a grant from Natural England.

Water Sampling: In response to the blue/green algae occurrence this year it was felt that the water quality needs to be monitored.

Path work: The extreme flooding over the last couple of years and increased usage has causes the path around the lake to become very worn with multiple potholes and "scouring" from water ingress/egress. This increases the level of maintenance required during the months of Spring. Several comments were received the Council's satisfaction survey 2023 regarding accessibility around the lake.

Grants: The council is looking to obtain more grants to develop and improve the Country Park with a number of external funders.

Current Situation

LNR: The Country Park has at present no official status and officers are looking to gain a status of Local Wildlife Site (LWS) It would be helpful to designate the Country Park as a LNR at a council level. Officers have informed Natural England of an interest to designate the Lake and Country Park, and upon approval by council can proceed with the application.

Meadows Update: Through funding from Natural England and the council's own management program it has been possible to begin restoration of 3ha of wildflower meadow on Mill Meadow and the creation of "scrapes" covering 0.1ha as part of a wetland creation program on Snipe Meadow.

Water Sampling: A water testing kit has been purchased (Oase professional water analysis kit). This tests for Nitrate, Nitrite, pH, Carbonate Hardness, Total Hardness, Ammonia/Ammonium, and Phosphate, to investigate if the excessive water flow from the river Windrush over topping is carrying excessive Nitrate and Potassium into the lake and causing the occurrence of the large algal bloom that was present earlier in the year.

Path Work: The path around the lake has suffered greatly from high usage and the effects of the long-term flooding. It is proposed to cost out the materials, machines and staffing needed to, repair where needed upgrade where necessary, and widen where needed.

Grants: £9,500 has been received from Natural England for the management of the meadows, and £1,000 from the WODC councillor fund for the creation of a dragon fly area on Mill Meadow. Also £1,700 from WODC for the creation of a community orchard on Snipe Meadow.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

a) Equality –Equality in biodiversity in green spaces refers to the idea that all species regardless of their size, role, or ecological status should have the opportunity to thrive and be represented within urban and natural green spaces. Achieving equality in biodiversity involves not just conserving a wide variety of species, but also ensuring that ecological systems are designed and managed in ways that support diverse species' needs. This can be applied to urban parks, nature reserves, forests, and other green spaces, aiming for a balance where no group of species is disproportionately favoured over others.
b) Crime & Disorder –Green spaces such as Lakes and Parks can contribute to reducing urban crime by making spaces more inviting and safer for residents.
c) Environment & Climate Emergency –This is deeply intertwined with both the protection of biodiversity and the fight against climate change. Both challenges require urgent and comprehensive action, as they not only affect the country's natural systems but also its economy, society, and future well-being.
d) All aspects of this report are to action our responsibilities to this situation

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

The path around the lake has had some substantial "scouring" from both water flowing from the Windrush across the path and into the lake and exiting the lake in various locations back into the river and Emma's Dyke. Should this occur again there is a high probability that this

will happen again. This does lead to the path around the lake not being DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant and inclusive for all. We need to obtain the necessary permits from Environment Agency before we are able to carry out the work needed to restore and protect the path around the lake.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

This value can be understood through various lenses, such as cultural, economic, health, and ethical considerations.

The aim of all the projects is to provide a resource that can be used by all to have areas that are safe, fun and interesting to visit.

Financial implications

- The path work does have a substantial cost in both time and money, (around 6-8K) but it is needed to maintain a valuable council asset.
- The other projects will all be part of the prescribed management plan for the Country Park

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and approve

1. Officers to apply for LNR status,
2. To note the updates on the meadow, water sampling and grants,
3. Officers to obtain costings to prevent flooding of the lake with work to raise and widen the path.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 1:35 PM
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Updating the West Oxfordshire IDP - Green Infrastructure

Dear Sir / Madam

I have been asked to assist in updating the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) for West Oxfordshire to support the new Local Plan. IDPs aim to provide information on the level of infrastructure, both physical and social, needed to support the delivery of the Local Plan. This work is now very important given the new Government increasing the required housing delivery numbers for West Oxfordshire.

We met with representatives from the Wychwood Forest Trust, Wild Oxfordshire, Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust and Lower Windrush Project and they suggested we should reach out to you to ask about the projects you are working on so that we can consider them for inclusion in the updated IDP.

In particular we would be interested to understand current and possible future projects relating to biodiversity and Green Infrastructure in and around West Oxfordshire, including

- Improvements to existing open space and access to nature
- Improvements to pedestrian and cycle paths/ rights of way, and bridleways
- Green corridors
- Those related to biodiversity net gain and / or the creation of nature networks

I have attached the current IDP so that you can see the general structure and purpose of the document.

Local Plans generally look 15+ years ahead.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[redacted]
Principal Planning Consultant
Capita Local Public Services
[redacted]
Capita
[redacted]

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West Oxfordshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)

November 2016 update

www.westoxon.gov.uk/localplan2031

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) has been prepared in support of the submission draft West Oxfordshire Local Plan and seeks to identify the infrastructure that is needed to support future growth in the District to 2031. It takes account of proposed Main Modifications to the Local Plan which are the subject of consultation from 11 November until 23 December 2016 and therefore supersedes the previous draft IDP which was published in July 2015.

1.2 By 'infrastructure' we mean essential services and facilities such as schools, roads, water, gas and electricity and open space.

Typical Infrastructure Types



1.3 New development often puts existing infrastructure under pressure, creating a need for new or improved facilities to be provided. A good example would be a new housing development proposed where the nearest school is already full. In this case, either an existing nearby school would need to be expanded or if the development was large enough, a new school might need to be provided.

1.4 The main purpose of the IDP is to identify the infrastructure needed to support future growth planned in West Oxfordshire. The draft Local Plan which was submitted to Government in July 2015 had an overall housing target of 10,500 homes in the period 2011 – 2031 (525 per year) along with 60 hectares of land for business. The Local Plan examination was held in November 2015 but the Inspector determined that the proposed housing requirement was not justified and suspended the examination to allow the Council to undertake further work including the identification of additional sites.

1.5 The proposed changes to the Local Plan include an increase from 10,500 to 15,950 homes along with the potential for up to 89 hectares of land for business (including a 40 hectare science park north of the A40 near Eynsham which will also meet needs beyond 2031). The majority of the planned housing provision (13,200 homes) is to meet West Oxfordshire's housing needs but a proportion (2,750 homes) are proposed to assist neighbouring Oxford City under the duty to co-operate.

Why prepare the IDP?

1.6 The importance of robust infrastructure planning is emphasised in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)[1] which states that:

> Local planning authorities should work with other authorities and providers to:
>
> - assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure for transport, water supply, wastewater and its treatment, energy (including heat), telecommunications, utilities, waste, health, social care, education, flood risk and coastal change management, and its ability to meet forecast demands; and
>
> - take account of the need for strategic infrastructure including nationally significant infrastructure within their areas.

[1] National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)

1.7 The NPPF emphasises the importance of identifying and co-ordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure. Planned infrastructure should be delivered in a timely fashion and local authorities should work with neighbouring authorities and transport providers to develop strategies for the provision of viable infrastructure necessary to support sustainable development.

1.8 The Government's planning practice guidance[2] states that as part of the Local Plan process, local authorities should identify what infrastructure is required and how it can be funded and brought on stream at the appropriate time whilst ensuring that the requirements of the plan as a whole will not prejudice the viability of development.

1.9 The Local Plan should make it clear for at least the first 5-years, what infrastructure is required, who is going to fund and provide it and how it relates to the anticipated rate and phasing of development. The detail concerning planned infrastructure provision can be set out in a supporting document such as an infrastructure delivery programme that can be updated regularly. However the key infrastructure requirements on which delivery of the plan depends should be contained in the Local Plan itself.

1.10 As well as meeting the requirements of the NPPF and NPPG, there are other sound reasons for preparing an infrastructure plan:

- It is a pro-active approach that identifies necessary infrastructure before development takes place, not 'after the event';
- Identifies the cost of infrastructure needed, the availability of any existing funding and the extent of the 'funding gap' that needs to be met by new sources of revenue such as CIL[3];
- Provides developers and landowners with more certainty about the Council's requirements;
- Provides local communities with greater reassurance that new development will not have an unreasonable impact on services and facilities;
- Facilitates infrastructure providers business and investment planning by providing certainty about the development that is expected to come forward and the infrastructure needed to support it; and
- Helps to demonstrate the 'deliverability' of development proposals.

How has the IDP been prepared?

1.11 The IDP has been prepared by West Oxfordshire District Council through a process of on-going engagement and dialogue with key stakeholders including Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Water, various utility providers, NHS Oxfordshire and bus and rail providers.

[2] Local Plans (March 2014) Paragraph 018
[3] Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

1.12 The first draft West Oxfordshire IDP was published alongside the Draft Local Plan in November 2012. It built on previous discussions with infrastructure providers during the early development of the Local Plan and also reflected the Oxfordshire Local Investment Plan (LIP) March 2010 prepared by the Oxfordshire Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership (SPIP), now the Oxfordshire Growth Board Executive.[4]

1.13 The second draft IDP (June 2014 Update) was published in early August 2014 alongside the Local Plan Housing Consultation Paper (July 2014). This was updated to reflect the proposed increase in housing numbers at that time. The third IDP update was published alongside the Submission Local Plan in July 2015 and was based on an overall level of housing provision of 10,500 homes.

1.14 This revised IDP update takes into account higher housing figures proposed in the Local Plan proposed Main Modifications (15,950 homes including 2,750 homes for Oxford City's unmet needs).

What status does the IDP have and how will it be used?

1.15 The IDP forms part of the evidence base underpinning the Local Plan. Whilst it does not form part of the plan itself, it helps to identify the infrastructure that will be needed to support future growth.

1.16 The IDP also forms part of the evidence base underpinning the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in West Oxfordshire. CIL is essentially a charge levied on new buildings and extensions according to their floor area. The money paid by the developer can then be spent on infrastructure.

1.17 In December 2013, the Council published its CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (PDCS) for consultation. As part of the supporting evidence base, the Council published an infrastructure funding gap analysis.

1.18 The findings demonstrated that the cost of infrastructure needed to support new growth exceeds any existing funding that may be available and that there is a 'funding gap' which CIL will help to meet. The updated schedule of future infrastructure requirements attached at Appendix 1 provides a further assessment of likely infrastructure costs and funding available and will be used to inform an updated funding gap analysis prepared in support of the Council's CIL Draft Charging Schedule (DCS).

[4] A forum comprising representatives of the Oxfordshire local authorities and key partners. Seehttps://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-growth-board

How is infrastructure funded and provided?

1.19 Infrastructure can be funded and provided in a number of different ways including by central government, local government and the private and voluntary sectors.

Central Government

1.20 Large-scale strategic infrastructure such as major transport, health care and defence projects are generally provided by central Government through one of its relevant departments or agencies, often in partnership with the private sector.

1.21 Funding may also be made available through the Local Growth Fund for projects linked to the Strategic Economic Plan priorities which is administered by OxLEP (the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership).

Local Government

1.22 Local authorities provide some forms of infrastructure such as leisure and arts facilities and waste management through their own capital investment programmes. Funding for this comes from various sources including central government grants and the capital receipts from the sale of assets as well as developer contributions. However, local authorities are facing a substantial decline in the amount of money available and are increasingly looking at alternatives sources of funding such as the 'New Homes' bonus.

1.23 In addition, the 'Community Infrastructure Levy' or CIL is a levy that local authorities can charge on new developments in their area depending on the size and type of development. It is intended to operate alongside the existing system of planning obligations (Section 106 of the 1990 Act) which is being scaled back to deal primarily with affordable housing and site-specific matters. Money raised through CIL can be used to support development by funding infrastructure in the local area.

1.24 The Council published its CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (PDCS) for consultation in December 2013 and its CIL Draft Charging Schedule (DCS) in March 2015. However, as the Local Plan examination was suspended until December 2016, the CIL examination has also been suspended until then.

1.25 The schedule at Appendix I provides an indication of which items the Council expects to be funded by CIL and those that are more likely to be funded through a traditional legal agreement. This information has been used to inform the Council's draft CIL Regulation 123 list.

Private Sector

1.26 In some instances the private sector has an obligation to provide new or enhanced infrastructure as part of their business plan. A good example is Thames Water which publishes a business plan setting out the investment they will make over a 5 year period such as improvements to their existing networks.

1.27 The private sector may also become involved in providing infrastructure through partnership working with the public sector and a range of partnership models have evolved in recent years.

1.28 The development industry often provides or contributes towards the provision of new infrastructure as a result of new development. Examples include new schools, roads and open spaces. As described above, historically this has been done through Section 106 legal agreements, however as more local authorities move towards CIL, the role of Section 106 agreements will be scaled back to focus on affordable housing and infrastructure which is directly related to development, such as junction improvements and on-site facilities including new schools.

Local Communities & the Voluntary Sector

1.29 In some instances local communities fund and provide infrastructure such as improvements to local community halls or other community facilities including green spaces such as community woodlands. Traditionally funding has come from sources such as fundraising events and voluntary donations but notably the revised CIL regulations and the Localism Act allow for a proportion of CIL generated funds to be transferred to the local community in which a development takes place (15% increasing to 25% if the community has an adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan in place).

<u>Updating the IDP</u>

1.30 The IDP is a 'living document' and will be regularly updated and monitored as more information becomes available and as new schemes are completed or new infrastructure requirements are identified.

1.31 Monitoring will normally be carried out annually and will include an update of the infrastructure delivered along with the infrastructure which remains outstanding, an assessment of the risk of infrastructure projects being undelivered and a record of CIL and S106 receipts.

2 WHAT DO WE MEAN BY INFRASTRUCTURE?

2.1 In this section we explain in more detail what we mean by the term 'infrastructure'.

What is infrastructure?

2.2 'Infrastructure' is a generic term used to refer to the broad range of services and facilities needed to support society. It includes everything from health care to transport and from education to open space. For ease of reference, the IDP considers three main categories:

- Physical Infrastructure
- Social Infrastructure
- Green Infrastructure

These are broken down further in Table 1 overleaf.

2.3 It is inevitably the case that some infrastructure schemes are more critical than others. For example, if a new housing development could only go ahead when a new road junction is built, that junction is 'critical' because without it the housing cannot be built. Prioritising new infrastructure helps to ensure that any available funding is spent on the most important items first.

2.4 In light of this, the schedule of future infrastructure requirements at Appendix 1 includes a 'priority' categorisation for each infrastructure item.

2.5 The categories used are:

- **Critical** i.e. infrastructure without which development cannot commence (e.g. transport/utility infrastructure);
- **Necessary** i.e. infrastructure that is needed to support new development, but the precise timing and phasing of it is less critical and development can commence ahead of its provision (e.g. schools/primary health care);
- **Preferred** i.e. infrastructure needed to build sustainable communities, but the timing and phasing of which is not critical over the plan period (e.g. libraries, green infrastructure, youth provision).

Infrastructure Types and Relevant Organisations

A. Physical Infrastructure		
Category	Sub-Category	Relevant Organisations
Transport	• Highways • Bus services • Rail services • Community transport • Walking, cycling and riding opportunities • Parking	Oxfordshire County Council Bus Operators Network Rail Rail Operators Community transport groups SUSTRANS West Oxfordshire District Council Community First Oxfordshire
Water	• Water supply • Wastewater disposal and treatment • Surface water drainage, flood alleviation and defence	Thames Water Environment Agency West Oxfordshire District Council Oxfordshire County Council (as lead flood authority)
Energy	• Gas generation and distribution • Electricity generation and distribution • Biomass Processing • Decentralised, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	National Grid Scotia Gas Networks West and Wales Utilities Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks
Waste and Recycling	• Collection & management (including transfer) • Re-use, Recycling, Recovery and Disposal	Oxfordshire County Council West Oxfordshire District Council Waste Management Industry
Minerals	• Extraction (quarries) • Processing facilities	Oxfordshire County Council Mineral Industry

Telecommunications	• Broadband • Mobile phone infrastructure	Oxfordshire County Council West Oxfordshire District Council Broadband Delivery UK
B. Social Infrastructure		
Category	Sub-Category	Relevant Organisations
Education	• Nursery and pre-school • Primary • Secondary • Further & higher education • Special schools • Adult Learning Centres	Oxfordshire County Council Individual Providers
Leisure and sport	• Sports centres • Swimming pools • Outdoor sports facilities (tennis courts, sports pitches, athletics tracks, artificial pitches, bowling greens, golf courses, school and other institutional playing fields and outdoor sports areas)	West Oxfordshire District Council GLL Individual Providers
Health	• Primary healthcare (i.e. first point of consultation e.g. GP services, health centres, dentists, ophthalmic services, pharmacy services and drug treatment centres) • Secondary care (i.e. services provided in or by general hospitals, acute care, outpatients clinics) • Tertiary healthcare (specialist hospitals e.g. mental health, children's hospital etc.) • Community healthcare (e.g. community hospitals)	NHS Oxfordshire Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Oxfordshire County Council

Public Safety	• Police • Fire and Rescue • Ambulance • Armed Forces	Thames Valley Police Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust Ministry of Defence RAF Brize Norton
Community and culture	• Children's Centres • Early Intervention Hubs • Community Centres • Libraries • Museums • Theatres/arts centres • Community Art	Oxfordshire County Council Community Groups West Oxfordshire District Council Town and Parish Councils Local communities Individual providers
Social Care	• Supported accommodation (care homes, nursing homes, sheltered housing, extra-care, other supported accommodation e.g. vulnerable adults, disabilities, mental health, hostels, children's homes) • Child and Adult Social Care/Services • Day Care Services	Oxfordshire County Council West Oxfordshire District Council Individual Providers Care providers
Criminal Justice	• Courts (County, Magistrates, Crown) • Probationary and Prison Service	National Probation Service Thames Valley Probation HM Prison Service Ministry for Justice

C. Green Infrastructure		
Category	Sub-Category	Relevant Organisations
National/Regional	• Green Belt • Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) • Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) • National Nature Reserves (NNR) • Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) • Ancient Woodlands • Historic Parks and Gardens • National Trails • Long distance walking and riding routes	Natural England Cotswolds AONB Conservation Board Forestry Commission Landowners Wildlife Trust RSPB DEFRA Historic England The Blenheim Estate / The Cornbury Estate Oxfordshire County Council
Sub-Regional/District	• The Wychwood Project • Lower Windrush Valley Project • Windrush in Witney Project • Conservation Target Areas • Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) • Local Geological Sites • Green Corridors (including river corridors and canals) • Formal greenspace • Informal greenspace • Public rights of way	Initiatives including the Wychwood Project, Lower Windrush Valley Project, Windrush in Witney Project West Oxfordshire District Council Town and Parish Councils Natural England Oxfordshire County Council Environment Agency The Blenheim Estate BBOWT Wild Oxfordshire

3 PART A - PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

TRANSPORT

HIGHWAYS

3.1 The District Council works closely with Oxfordshire County Council (the highway authority) to identify the key transport issues of relevance to the District as well as the programme of future infrastructure improvements that are likely to be needed to support planned growth.

3.2 There are no trunk roads within the District and responsibility for public highways falls to Oxfordshire County Council. The principal routes include the A40, A44, and A361.

3.3 Traffic volumes are highest on the A40 between Witney and Oxford and the A44 south of Woodstock to Oxford. The most severe congestion is on the A44 at the Bladon roundabout and on the A40 to the east of Witney, particularly during the morning peak hours.

3.4 Witney has direct road access to Oxford via the A40, which bypasses the town to the south. Access to the town can be achieved at the all movements A415 Ducklington Lane junction and Shores Green which currently has east facing slip roads only. The town can also be accessed from the west by Burford Road (B4047), from the north by Hailey Road (B4022), and from the north east and south west by the A4095. Witney suffers from congestion in the town centre, particularly at peak weekday hours and on Saturdays.

3.5 The Carterton road network suffers little from congestion and serves the town well. However there is currently no A-road access to the town and this has been identified as a key issue to be addressed. Access from the A40 can be achieved via the B4477 at Minster Lovell (from the east only) and the B4020 at Burford (all movements). Due to the relatively rural location of Carterton, there is limited through traffic which is encouraged to use the B4020/B4477 Upavon Way instead of the town centre.

3.6 Chipping Norton lies on the A44 approximately 20 miles (32km) north west of Oxford and about 12 miles (19km) north of Witney. Chipping Norton sits astride the junction of the A44 and A361 which is a very busy through route, especially for lorries and as a result the town centre suffers from congestion and air pollution with an air quality management area (AQMA) currently in place.

3.7 In terms of the other main centres, the A40 and B4449 at Eynsham suffer from severe congestion during peak hours due to the limited capacity of the nearby Swinford Toll Bridge. Woodstock lies on the A44 and high levels of through-traffic (particularly lorries) have long been an issue for the town. Burford is situated at the junction of the A40, A361 and A424 and is an important tourist destination as well as a local service centre. The narrow bridge over the River Windrush at the north of the town can cause

considerable congestion, and the relatively high level of lorry traffic has a negative impact on the environment.

3.8 Inevitably, the quantum of new development planned over the Local Plan period (15,950 homes, up to 89 hectares business land) will increase the number of vehicular trips on the highway network. Oxfordshire County Council has therefore identified a number of highway improvements needed to support future growth in the District. Key schemes include:

3.9 Witney

- Works have now been completed on the Ducklington Lane/Station Lane junction improvements. This provides capacity improvements at the junction of Ducklington Lane/Station Lane and widening of Ducklington Lane (south) to manage traffic flows and allow traffic to move efficiently through this busy junction.

- Downs Road/A40 junction improvements. This involves an at grade roundabout on the A40 at Downs Road and will be provided as part of the committed urban extension at West Witney (North Curbridge) which benefits from a resolution to grant outline planning permission for 1,000 homes.

- Shores Green Slip Roads. The provision of west facing slip roads at the Shores Green junction onto the A40 has been identified as part of a package of preferred transport measures for Witney (including the Downs Road and Ducklington Lane schemes – above) and is a pre-requisite of the proposed Strategic Development Area at East Witney (450 homes) allocated in the pre-submission draft Local Plan (2015).

- Improvements to Oxford Hill/Cogges Hill Road/Jubilee Way junction.

- West End Link Road - Phase 2. A link road between Mill Street and West End providing an additional river crossing. This is needed to support potential growth to the north of Witney which has been allocated for 1,400 homes in the proposed Local Plan Main Modifications (November 2016). The development would be expected to facilitate delivery of the WEL scheme as it is needed to mitigate the impact of the proposed development.

- Northern Distributor Road to connect the B4022 Hailey Road to the A4095 Woodstock Road and Jubilee Way via New Yatt Road. In addition a 30mph chicane/ gateway feature on the Woodstock Road should be provided to complement this. This would supplement the West End Link and would therefore be needed to support further growth to the north of Witney as proposed. The proposed development would be expected to fund this improvement.

- A mixture of complementary schemes to improve the town centre environment for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users.

3.10 Carterton

- Shilton Link Road, Carterton. This involves the provision of a new road between Elmhurst Way (in Shilton Park) and B4020 Shilton Road. This road is necessary to gain access to housing development north of Swinbrook Road.

- Improved access by road to Carterton and RAF Brize Norton. Following an evaluation of different options by Oxfordshire County Council, the B4477 Minster Lovell Road has been identified as a priority for upgrading to A-road standard together with the provision of west facing slip roads at the junction of the B4477 and A40.

Chipping Norton

3.11 In Chipping Norton, the County Council has identified the removal of the primary route status from the A44 between Oxford and Moreton-in-Marsh to deliver improvements in the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and provide relief to the town centre by imposing Heavy Goods Vehicles weight restrictions on Horsefair.

3.12 The County Council has also identified the potential for a new link road to the east of Chipping Norton to come forward as part of the proposed increased housing allocation at Tank Farm (an increase from 600 to 1,400 new homes plus 9 hectares of business land). This would allow for access to the larger strategic site, provide traffic relief to the centre of Chipping Norton and may offer an opportunity to improve air quality within the town's Air Quality Management Area. It is expected that the link road serving the Tank Farm SDA will be delivered and funded by the development through a S106 package.

Eynsham

3.13 As part of the Local Plan proposed Main Modifications (November 2016) land west of Eynsham has been identified for a potential urban extension of around 1,000 homes. As part of this proposal it is anticipated that a western link road will be provided connecting the A40 with the B4449 to the south of Eynsham. It is expected that the link road will be delivered and funded by the development through a S106 package. The cost and delivery of this link will need to be worked up in more detail through a masterplan and delivery framework.

3.14 The proposed Main Modifications also anticipate the creation of a new 'Garden Village' to the north of the A40 near Eynsham. This proposal is at a very early stage and the intention is that the concept will be developed further through an 'Area Action Plan'. In terms of highway infrastructure it is anticipated that the garden village is likely to have some sort of northern link road. This could for example connect the A40 through Cuckoo Lane and onto Lower Road.

3.15 Other general road transport improvements which have been identified and/ or are in the design stages in the Eynsham area include the A40 Science Transit Scheme which comprises:

- A Park and Ride at Eynsham, the proposed location is to the north of the A40 and west of Cuckoo Lane.
- An eastbound bus lane between Eynsham Park and Ride and the Duke's Cut bridge near Wolvercote;
- Westbound bus priority on the approaches to Cassington traffic signals and Eynsham roundabout;
- Junction improvements along the A40 corridor between Witney bypass and Eynsham roundabout.
- In implementing this scheme the current Witney to Oxford cycle route will be retained and will be developed into a part of the Oxfordshire Cycle Premium Route network.

BUS SERVICES

3.16 A comprehensive bus service exists in West Oxfordshire. Most services are currently operated by Stagecoach on a commercial basis but there are a number of less frequent services in the rural hinterland, along with those serving Witney Town, that are local-authority funded. Oxfordshire County Council and Stagecoach have been approached by the Council and have helped to determine the challenges and improvements identified in this section which are then reflected in the future requirements identified at Appendix 1.

3.17 Since the 1990s, patronage on the main services has developed strongly as Stagecoach has invested heavily in improving frequencies and in new vehicles. Today there are three premium services connecting Oxford and some other settlements with Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton, operating typically at least every 30 minutes. There are also a number of important inter-urban services linking Witney to Abingdon and Woodstock that operate approximately every hour and are now run as commercial operations.

3.18 Witney is served by two Premium Bus Route services (S1 & S2) linking the town to Carterton, Eynsham, Botley, and Oxford. Six buses an hour offer direct connection to Oxford, with regular evening and Sunday services. However, peak journey time reliability between Witney and Oxford is variable due to congestion approaching Oxford and also within Witney itself. There are also regular bus services to surrounding towns, such as Burford, Bampton, Woodstock, Charlbury and Chipping Norton. Since June 2014, Witney has benefitted from additional services to Long Hanborough including the 233 service which serves Hanborough Station on a broadly hourly basis (except Sundays).

3.19 At Carterton, there is a frequent and comprehensive bus service to Witney and Oxford. Bus stops along the route have been enhanced to the County Council's Premium Route standard, with electronic Real-Time Information. There are less-regular bus services to Lechlade and Swindon and to Bampton through Clanfield. There is also a local bus service to the Shilton Park residential area. There is only a limited bus service to Burford, whilst connections to other nearby places, such as Cheltenham, Faringdon and Wantage require a change of bus in Witney, Oxford or Swindon.

3.20 Chipping Norton is connected to Oxford with an hourly bus service 7 days a week (S3). Stops along the route have been enhanced to Premium Route standards with Real-Time Information. There are also hourly bus services to Witney and to Banbury. A connecting RailBus operates to Kingham station on the Cotswold rail line. There are less frequent services to Stratford-upon-Avon and to other areas.

3.21 In addition to the above, a new weekend and bank holiday bus service is proposed by Stagecoach to travel between Carterton, Witney, Eynsham, Thornhill Park & Ride and seven destinations in London. The ticket will be linked to the Oxford Tube service between London and Oxford to provide a greater level of flexibility. While the main settlements are well-served by the frequent premium inter-urban bus services, recent large-scale urban extensions in both Witney and Carterton are not well penetrated, and residents often have to walk distances greater than the 400m maximum recommended by the Institute of Highways and Transportation. This can reduce the convenience and attractiveness of bus services when compared with car use.

3.22 Many of the smaller towns are also served by comprehensive bus services, especially to Oxford and Witney, although some subsidised services have recently been withdrawn across the District. Eynsham enjoys very frequent services to Witney, Carterton and Oxford. Woodstock is served by the S3 service to Chipping Norton and Oxford. This is also a frequent service. In addition, service 233 offers an hourly link to Witney via Hanborough Station. Charlbury has good bus links with Woodstock, Oxford, Chipping Norton and Witney, whilst Burford is connected to Witney, Oxford and Cheltenham by bus.

3.23 Oxfordshire County Council has previously identified a range of requirements to support future growth in the District, to include enhanced frequency of the premium routes, upgrading of bus stops on premium routes with Real Time Information, measures to improve bus journey times, future routes to improve access to the rail network and to employment areas and the provision of a Park & Ride facility at Eynsham. Details of the proposed improvements are set out in Appendix 1.

3.24 Oxfordshire County Council is also in the design stages of a bus priority lane scheme along the A40 to improve options for sustainable journeys between Eynsham and Oxford, which will be implemented during the Local Plan

period. As plans develop further, the details of this scheme, including the estimated costs, will be included in future iterations of the IDP.

3.25 These improvements are essential to ensure that future planned development does not lead to any further deterioration in journey times, especially on journeys into Oxford via the A40, B4044 and A44. Since 1990 the time scheduled for the bus departing Carterton, arriving in Oxford City Centre just before 9am has increased from 55 minutes to over 100 minutes. Actual arrival times in the morning peak can vary by up to 40 minutes on specific journeys. These delays impact directly both on the attractiveness of the service, but also substantially raise the costs involved in providing capacity improvements as vehicle productivity is much reduced.

3.26 In addition, Oxford City and Oxfordshire County Councils are working with developers to deliver a major mixed-use development at Oxford's Northern Gateway. This strategically-placed highways node is subject to very serious congestion, however major highways and sustainable transport improvements are envisaged aimed at improving the current situation, at least in the short-medium term. These improvements tie into measures to improve the efficiency of public transport along the arterial corridors from the major towns to Oxford, and especially the A40 between Oxford and Eynsham.

3.27 To assist this, a grant of £35m was provisionally allocated from the Government in September 2014 to investigate the options and to invest in capacity improvements on the A40 between Witney and Oxford. The option being taken forward as 'Phase 1 A40 improvements' is a bus priority lane eastbound between Eynsham and Oxford. Phase 2 will provide a west bound bus priority lane between these two destinations. In addition, Oxfordshire County Council will be developing a longer term strategy for the improvement of travel beyond Eynsham which will investigate the potential for further dualling of the A40 between Witney and Oxford.

RAIL SERVICES

3.28 Network Rail is responsible for the railway network and rail services are provided by First Great Western. There are two rail lines running through West Oxfordshire and eight passenger stations. The Oxford-Banbury line passes through the eastern edge of the District with a station at Tackley whilst the Cotswolds & Malvern line runs through the middle of the District from east to west with stations at Hanborough, Combe, Finstock, Charlbury, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Shipton-under-Wychwood and Kingham.

3.29 The most heavily used stations are Charlbury, Kingham and Hanborough. This reflects the number of services available from these stations, including a direct line to London. Passenger use at most stations has increased in recent years particularly at Hanborough where the car parking facilities have recently been extensively increased. Exceptional growth has been seen at Hanborough (up 239%) and at the busiest station on the line at Charlbury (up 30%).

3.30 The Cotswold line has benefited from re-instating 20 miles of track between Charlbury and Evesham which was completed in 2011. This included new platforms at Charlbury and Ascott under Wychwood.

3.31 In terms of future upgrades, First Great Western advised the Council in November 2014 that initial proposals are being developed to improve facilities at a number of stations in West Oxfordshire including Hanborough, Charlbury and Kingham with relatively minor improvements also planned at Combe and Finstock. The key improvements identified include an additional car park deck at Charlbury Station, platform lengthening and passing loop for trains at Hanborough and a new bridge and car park extension at Kingham. The estimated costs for each of these three stations are £1m, 1.4m and 5m respectively although it should be noted that the works are subject to design clarification and consultation.

3.32 Whilst the County Council have no direct responsibility for specifying or funding the railways, they do have a general obligation to secure the provision of public passenger transport services and therefore work in close partnership with the rail industry to plan, fund and deliver local and strategic improvements in the rail network.

3.33 The County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP4) incorporates a rail strategy which includes as a general strategic priority, support for further capacity and service enhancements on the North Cotswold Line. It also includes a strategic aspiration to develop Hanborough Station as a transport hub to help reduce congestion on the A40 as part of a package of public transport measures. The plan also identifies the need for further redoubling of the Cotswold line at the eastern and western ends of the line, between Wolvercot Junction and Hanborough, and from west of Evesham towards Pershore. This would allow up to three trains per hour to Hanborough and/or Charlbury and two trains per hour between London and Worcester, with a journey time under two hours. Network Rail is preparing a detailed business plan to complete the dualling of the Cotswold Line between Oxford and Worcester. It is proposed that the works will be carried out between 2019 and 2024 although the funding sources have yet to be fully identified.

3.34 Given the responsibilities outlined above, no specific future rail infrastructure requirements have been identified in Appendix 1 but measures to improve connections to the stations have been identified. Particularly important will be the provision of effective pedestrian, cycle and public transport links between Hanborough Station and the proposed garden village to the north of the A40 near Eynsham. This proposal is at a very early stage and will be worked up in more detail through an Area Action Plan (AAP) which will provide the opportunity to consider in detail how to most effectively link the garden village with key destinations including Hanborough Station.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

3.35 The definition of 'community transport' is broad but generally refers to transport provided by voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations using a combination of volunteers and paid staff. Sometimes these organisations receive public funding but often they do not. Community transport can offer solutions for people who have no other transport options including people in rural areas where there is no public transport provision, people with mobility impairments and people on low incomes for whom alternative transport options are unaffordable.

3.36 Examples of community transport schemes include car sharing and car schemes, shared taxis, taxi buses, community minibuses, dial a ride and some scheduled services. There are a number of community transport schemes operating in West Oxfordshire including Oxfordshire County Council Dial-a Ride and The Villager Community Bus. The District Council has no direct responsibility for community transport but works in partnership with relevant organisations including Oxfordshire County Council and Community First Oxfordshire[5].

3.37 At the present time no specific requirements have been identified although with the forecast ageing of the local population, it is reasonable to assume that demand for such services is likely to increase, especially due to recent cuts in bus subsidies.

WALKING, CYCLING AND RIDING

3.38 West Oxfordshire is reasonably well-served in terms of walking and cycling facilities although most of these are focused on the main towns. There are dedicated cycle routes (some shared with pedestrians) in the main towns.

3.39 Outside the main towns, the best cycling opportunities exist on 'quiet roads' rather than on dedicated cycle paths although there are a number of national cycle network routes running through the District. There is a reasonable network of public rights of way including routes suitable for horseriders, although there are some areas which are poorly catered for and improvements to these routes where they are fragmented or obstructed will be encouraged.

3.40 Witney has a number of different pedestrian routes running across the town and on the rural fringes. There are some good cycle routes around the town but some gaps in cycling infrastructure. Cycle networks linking Witney to nearby settlements are poor, with no dedicated link between Witney and Carterton. Whilst cyclists, horse riders and walkers can use bridleways and byways, often these do not connect safely with roads that are safe and attractive to use.

[5] See http://www.communityfirstoxon.org/ and www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/communitytransport

3.41 Carterton benefits from a number of dedicated pedestrian routes running across the town and also on the rural fringe including the Kilkenny Lane Country Park. There are some good cycle routes, particularly to the north east of the town centre associated with Shilton Park. Improvements have recently been made to Burford Road to provide a dedicated cycle route from Shilton Park to the town centre.

3.42 At Chipping Norton, a reasonable range of public rights of way connect the town to the surrounding countryside and settlements. However, the network is disjointed in many places where paths meet the road network and this can present dangers to users, including horseriders who are vulnerable road users. There are no cycle links within Chipping Norton or from the surrounding settlements and within the town some roads are too narrow for cycle paths. Cycle parking at key destinations within the town centre is generally poor.

3.43 Within the Eynsham/Woodstock area, walking and cycling opportunities are reasonably good for recreational journeys but relatively limited for commuting. At Eynsham there are dedicated cycle and pedestrian routes to the south and south east of the village and also running along the A40 towards Oxford, which will be improved as part of the wider capacity improvements to the A40. A group called 'Bikesafe' has been set up to promote the delivery of a new cycle path from Eynsham to Botley along the B4044 Eynsham Road which will cost in the region of £3-4m (2016).

3.44 Particularly important in the Eynsham area will be the provision of effective pedestrian, cycle and public transport links between Hanborough Station and the proposed garden village to the north of the A40 near Eynsham. This proposal is at a very early stage and will be worked up in more detail through an Area Action Plan (AAP) which will provide the opportunity to consider in detail how to most effectively link with key destinations including Hanborough Station.

3.45 At Woodstock there are a reasonable number of public rights of way and quiet roads suitable for cycling and walking and riding but the main opportunity is presented by the dedicated cycle and pedestrian route from Woodstock along the A44 towards Oxford.

3.46 The Burford/Charlbury area is predominantly rural in character and there are a number of opportunities for walking, cycling and riding along relatively quiet roads. There is a bridleway suitable for cycling to the south east of Charlbury linking the village with Stonesfield.

3.47 Various future requirements have been incorporated into this IDP update many of which were identified by the County Council's Countryside Access Officer. The projects identified include the provision of additional connecting links, improvements to current routes (to include surfacing and signage for all users, including horseriders) and the creation of crossing points. Where possible and suitable, the Council will also encourage the provision of multi-use routes to improve off-road access for all users. In addition, on and off-site

walking, cycling and riding provision associated with individual development sites will need to be assessed and upgrades secured through planning conditions and obligations. The improvements identified as being necessary to support future growth over the period of the Local Plan are set out at Appendix 1.

PARKING

3.48 The District Council provides free parking in all of its 16 car parks. The Council's current policy approach of providing free parking assists in maintaining the vitality and viability of the town centres. There are time management controls in place to help ensure that adequate levels of short-stay spaces are available to meet the needs of shoppers and other visitors to the area.

3.49 Car park use in Witney has increased in recent years and there is very little off-street car parking capacity on Saturdays, with a limited amount of space in the Woolgate and Marriotts Walk car parks during the weekdays.

3.50 Witney continues to be a focus for growth and as such there is a need to continue to implement the integrated parking management strategy to ensure the most efficient use of existing car parks and to provide additional off-street car parking spaces to support town centre businesses and further town centre development.

3.51 In 2012 the Council's Cabinet resolved to investigate a commuted sum policy for future retail/commercial and housing development to contribute to future parking provision within the district. This resolution reflects the draft Local Plan policies which seek to ensure that development proposals that would significantly increase car parking demand will be expected to make appropriate public car parking provision or provide equivalent financial contributions.

3.52 Future commercial and housing development will create additional demands for car parking and therefore it is critical that future provision is considered. If commuted contributions are collected from new development (either through Section 106 or CIL when introduced) this will help contribute towards the cost of additional car parking spaces.

3.53 In Carterton, car parking capacity is not highlighted as a significant issue at present. The two recently opened supermarkets, Aldi and Morrisons have on-site car parking that meets present demand. However, the situation needs to be monitored as further development in Carterton comes forward. There are no suitable sites for additional car park development in the centre of the town.

3.54 In Chipping Norton, public car parking spaces in the town centre are insufficient to meet peak demand on market day (Wednesday) and Saturday. This creates congestion and could potentially affect the viability of the town centre. It is an issue that has been highlighted in the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan. The potential for further provision will therefore need

to be investigated, although town centre parking options are limited and innovative solutions may be required.

3.55 Car parking is also under pressure in popular tourist towns such as Burford and Woodstock where there is extremely limited capacity, particularly at weekends. However, as the car parking demand is mainly created by tourists, additional housing in these towns is unlikely to have a significant impact on parking demand.

3.56 In addition, parking provision at the stations in Long Hanborough and Charlbury has been identified as being close to capacity, despite the large car parking extension at Hanborough Station.

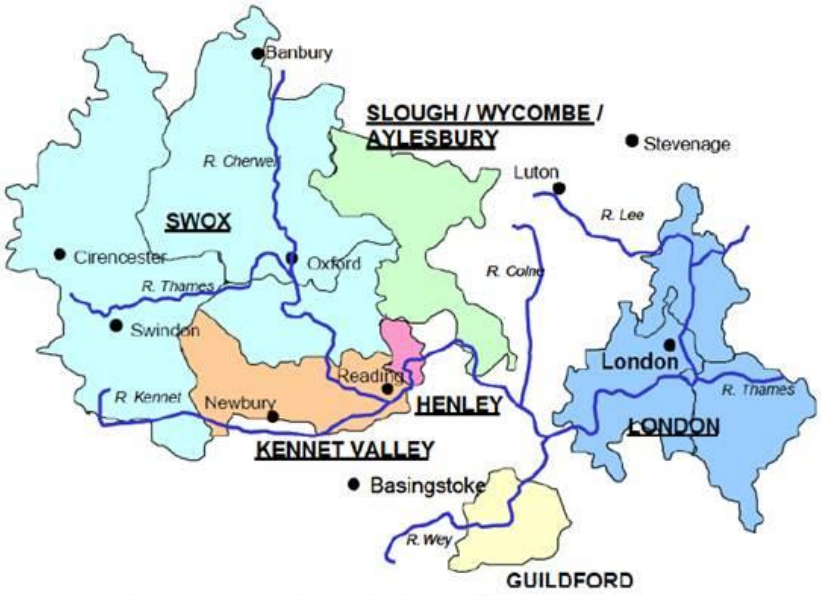
3.57 Survey work to establish parking capacity has been completed in-house to date and has been largely focussed on Witney. The Council recognise that it is important for a District wide parking strategy to be completed in order to review parking provision and needs for the District. The Council has commissioned a consultant to survey on and off-street parking usage needs and data will be collected over a period of six to eight months. The consultant will focus on the long term and future demands for parking provision across the district, reflecting the expected growth in residential and commercial development. The consultants will also identify any improvements to capacity, quality, safety and the environment of current parking provision. This work is currently on-going but once this has been completed and agreed by the Council, this will feed into future iterations of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

WATER

WATER SUPPLY

3.58 Public water supply in West Oxfordshire is the responsibility of Thames Water and the District falls within the 'SWOX' Water Resource Zone of Thames Water's Supply Area as detailed on the map provided below. Thames Water has a duty to maintain the security of water supplies and to produce a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) every five years.

3.59 The current WRMP covering the period 2015 – 2040 was approved in 2014 and the next WRMP which will cover the period 2020 – 2045 will be drafted in the coming years. This will take account of increased growth proposed within the Local Plan (including proposed Main Modifications) so that longer term growth can be met.



3.60 Thames Water is also required to submit a business plan which reflects the funding necessary to operate the business and undertake new investment every five years to the water regulator Ofwat. The current Thames Water Business Plan covers the period 2015-2020. The next plan covering 2020-2025 is being prepared and will be submitted to Ofwat (The Water Industry regulator) in 2017.

3.61 In addition, Thames Water has published a 25-year strategic direction statement entitled 'Taking Care of Water – Our Plan for a Sustainable Future'. The strategy covers the period 2010 – 2035.

3.62 The current WRMP (2015 – 2040) identifies a baseline deficit of water supply over demand (with target headroom) from 2020 within the Swindon and Oxfordshire Water Resource Zone over the plan period. To address this, the WRMP provides for investment in measures to restore security of supply. The investment involves a significant programme of demand management and the development of new sources of supply.

3.63 Water supply is in balance in the short term with continuing demand management proposed to maintain a small surplus until 2020. Demand management measures comprise leakage reduction, a targeted metering programme and enhanced water efficiency.

3.64 In general terms, water supply is not considered to be a significant constraint to the scale of development being proposed. Thames Water is obliged to provide connections for waste and fresh water to future domestic properties although commercial properties do not have the 'right' to connect.

3.65 However, given the fact West Oxfordshire is located within an area of demonstrable 'water stress', the Local Plan proposed Main Modifications (November 2016) seek to introduce a requirement for all residential development to achieve the more stringent optional building regulations standard on water efficiency.

WASTE WATER (DISPOSAL & TREATMENT)

3.66 There are 20 sewage treatment works within West Oxfordshire. The main ones are based in Witney, Carterton, Woodstock, Charlbury, Bampton and Stanton Harcourt.

3.67 Thames Water assesses the performance of its process and network infrastructure against projected housing numbers identified by local authorities through their Local Plans. Where capacity shortfalls are identified, detailed investigations will be undertaken with a view to providing additional capacity ahead of development by inclusion in a 5 year asset planning period.

3.68 Where there are network capacity problems or potential adverse amenity impacts on future occupiers or the wider environment, developers may be required to partly fund any necessary network upgrade works. In some circumstances, a drainage strategy will need to be produced by the developer in liaison with Thames Water to ensure the appropriate upgrades are in place ahead of occupation of the development. A lead time of up to three years may be necessary to deliver the required water supply and sewerage infrastructure unless the developer choices to requisition the infrastructure to deliver it in a shorter time frame.

3.69 As water and sewerage undertakers have limited powers under the Water Industry Act to prevent connection to its network ahead of infrastructure upgrades, they rely heavily on the planning system to ensure infrastructure is provided ahead of development either through phasing or the use of Grampian style conditions.

3.70 In terms of future requirements necessary to support growth, we have liaised with Thames Water to explain the increase in housing numbers and they have advised that the following improvements are likely to be necessary to meet this increased level of development:

Witney

3.71 In terms of water supply, significant levels of growth can be accommodated in this sub-area as a new reservoir was constructed in 2008 at Worsham Service Reservoir.

3.72 Considering sewerage infrastructure, local upgrades will be required to accommodate the proposed strategic developments at west and east Witney. Development to the north of Witney (1,400 homes proposed) will need to be supported by substantial improvements through the centre of Witney in

order to convey flows to the sewage treatment works located to the south of the town. This site is expected to come forward later in the plan period after 2021 allowing time for these upgrades to be delivered and aligned with the development.

Carterton

3.73 Thames Water has confirmed that the level and distribution of housing development identified in the Local Plan consultation can be supported. Although not identified as a preferred site, if development were to come forward to the west of Carterton, additional reinforcement mains through the town may be required and the strategic transfer capacity of the network in this area may need to be upgraded. If upgrades were required, these would take a minimum of three years to carry out and developer contributions would be sought towards this work.

3.74 Local improvements to the sewerage network will be required to accommodate future growth. The committed urban extension at East Carterton (700 homes) will require substantial infrastructure improvements in order to convey foul water to Carterton STW. These will be funded by the development.

Chipping Norton

3.75 There is significant water supply as a new reservoir was constructed to the east of Chipping Norton in 2013. Additional booster pumping may be required and would need to be funded by the developer.

3.76 To support planned growth to the east of Chipping Norton (1,400 homes) substantial sewerage infrastructure improvements would be required through the centre of Chipping Norton in order to convey flows towards the sewerage treatment works located to the west of the town. These will be funded by the development.

Eynsham

3.77 The Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications (November 2016) highlight the potential for large scale growth to the west of Eynsham and to the north of the A40 near Eynsham. Cumulatively this could result in 3,300 additional homes plus a significant amount of new business land (potentially up to 40 hectares in the form of a science park north of the A40). The potential impact of this growth will need to be carefully considered. Initial evidence prepared on behalf of the District Council has suggested that further infrastructure enhancements may be needed in terms of waste water treatment capacity. This will be further considered through detailed masterplanning for the land west of Eynsham and an Area Action Plan for the proposed Garden Village on land north of the A40 near Eynsham.

Woodstock

3.78 In Woodstock there are currently no specific supply concerns, however proposed development identified in the Local Plan proposed Main Modifications (300 homes on land to the east of Woodstock, 120 homes on land to the north of Hill Rise, Woodstock and 250 on land north of Banbury Road, Woodstock) would require upgrades to the booster station before additional flows can come online. The booster upgrade is proposed to be constructed between 2015 and 2020 and forms part of the draft Business Plan submission, the outcome of which has yet to be finalised. In addition, the developments in Woodstock are likely to necessitate sewage network capacity upgrades.

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE, FLOOD ALLEVIATION AND DEFENCE

3.79 Following extensive flooding in 2007, the District Council, County Council and Environment Agency investigated options to improve the level of protection from flooding in a number of areas of the District in 2008. Grant funding of around £1,000,000 has been received from DEFRA and other funding streams administered by the Environment Agency for numerous projects throughout the District since 2007.

3.80 Flood defence projects across the District have either been completed or are in progress and several further flood mitigation schemes are being progressed.

3.81 Many of the flood mitigation projects which the Council has delivered have been enabled by funding administered by the Environment Agency (such as Flood Defence Grant Aid and Local Levy funding) and the County Council. The availability of such funding is becoming more limited and is expected to be targeted at more significant flood mitigation schemes and schemes which attract greater levels of partnership funding. One such scheme which could attract partnership funding is the West End Link Road which is required to support development at North Witney.

3.82 This is provided that the road serves a dual role in terms of transport and flood risk reduction. The EA have identified this opportunity in their Witney Flood Alleviation report[6] as the land reserved for the link road is similar to the area investigated for a flood storage area on the River Windrush. The Witney Level 2 Strategic FRA[7], which was completed in 2015, concluded that the benefits of utilising the WEL bridge crossing as part of a wider flood alleviation scheme should be considered alongside other more engineered flood alleviation solutions upstream of the bridge crossing, so further work is needed in assessing the various options.

[6] Witney Flood Alleviation Initial Assessment April 2014
[7] Witney Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment March 2015

3.83 In West Oxfordshire there is a continuing requirement to investigate and implement minor interventions and enforce riparian responsibilities. Such interventions include minor drainage improvements, very small scale communal flood defence schemes, property level protection, ditch clearance, maintenance of critical watercourses and assistance to residents involving private piped systems. These maintenance projects do not qualify for funding administered by the Environment Agency and developer contributions will be required towards the maintenance of existing flood defence assets as well as off-site flood mitigation where appropriate.

3.84 Opportunities may also exist to use natural flood management techniques further up the catchments to modify the rate of water flow reaching more developed areas. The Evenlode Catchment Partnership is in the early stages of a five year demonstration project on natural flood management techniques that are applicable to the local area. Once this work has been developed further, specific projects will be incorporated within the IDP, where appropriate, and funding may be secured through development.

3.85 In terms of on-site drainage, all qualifying development will be expected to incorporate SuDs within their developments to ensure that flood risk is not increased on or off-site.

3.86 Future requirements are summarised at Appendix 1.

ENERGY

GAS (GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION)

3.87 The National Grid owns and operates the high pressure gas transmission system in England. The National Grid has a duty to develop and maintain an efficient co-ordinated and economical transmission system for the conveyance of gas.

3.88 Scotia Gas Networks (SGN) owns and operates the local gas distribution network in most of the District with West and Wales Utilities (WWU) covering some western parts. Reinforcements and developments of the local distribution network are generally as a result of overall demand growth in a region rather than site specific developments.

3.89 No specific future gas infrastructure requirements have been identified at this stage.

ELECTRICITY (GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION)

3.90 National Grid owns and operates the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) that links the major power stations and transports electricity in bulk across the country.

3.91 Distribution companies own and operate the lower voltage electricity network, connecting the smaller power stations and the national grid to every electricity customer in Britain. The distribution company with responsibility for making new grid connections in the District is Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks.

3.92 The Council has met with Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks to explain the proposed quantum and distribution of growth envisaged through the emerging Local Plan. They have advised that where existing electricity infrastructure is inadequate to support the increased demands from new development, the costs of any necessary upstream reinforcement required will normally be apportioned between the developer and the Distribution Network Operator.

3.93 The timescale for implementing the works would normally be a maximum of 2 years and therefore should not impede delivery of any development. Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks have also confirmed that there may be sufficient capacity available to be able to supply the proposed Garden Village to the north of the A40 from their Eynsham primary substation and the existing hv distribution network although it will be subject to off-site reinforcement works to the existing hv distribution network.

3.94 Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks monitors each primary substation in the Oxford area. Based on measured peak loads and knowledge of greater expected take-up of Authorised Capacity by existing customers in the locality, the load growth on each substation is categorised and reinforcement works are undertaken when appropriate at the expense of Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks to ensure supplies remain secure.

3.95 Where new loads from development necessitate upstream reinforcement being bought forward, charges will either be met in full by the developer or apportioned in accordance with Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks 'Statement of Methodology and Charges for Connection to Southern Electric Power Distributions PLC's Electricity Distribution System'. As such, each development is costed at the time electricity connections are requested and it is not possible to calculate the future network costs at an earlier stage. No specific requirements or costs are therefore identified at Appendix 1.

BIOMASS PROCESSING

3.96 There is a growing interest in the use of biomass as a source of renewable energy. The supply of biomass from local woodlands helps to improve woodland management with associated green infrastructure benefits. The two main areas where interest is strongest are at the small, domestic scale and at

the larger estate scale, particularly where estates are able to harvest their own fuel.

DECENTRALISED, RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON ENERGY

3.97 The UK remains committed to meeting at least 15% of its energy demand from renewable and low carbon sources by 2020 and to an 80% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (Climate Change Act 2008).

3.98 In West Oxfordshire, four large scale renewable energy generating facilities are operational at the time of writing – three solar farms and an anaerobic digestion facility. Recent evidence commissioned by the District Council[8] seeks to identify the potential for further renewable and low carbon energy development.

3.99 The report identifies that there is potential to develop further renewable and low carbon technologies in West Oxfordshire. However this needs to be balanced with West Oxfordshire District Council's vision to meet the needs of the district's communities without significant change to the intrinsic character of the District, and the aims of maintaining an attractive and biodiversity rich environment and protecting the distinctive qualities of the district's towns and villages.

3.100 In terms of wind power the report concludes that the potential for large scale and medium scale wind power is very limited and limited, respectively. However, the potential for small scale wind power is significant.

3.101 With regard to solar energy the report concludes that there is significant potential for further solar farm development in the district subject to careful consideration of individual development proposals.

3.102 Small scale renewables (photovoltaics, solar hot water, ground and air sourced heat pumps, micro hydro, biomass heating systems and small scale wind) could also play a useful role in increasing the generation of renewable energy in the District, although viability and feasibility will vary from site to site. WODC will also support woodland management schemes and energy storage solutions where appropriate.

WASTE AND RECYCLING

3.103 West Oxfordshire District Council is responsible for the collection of waste and recycling from domestic properties as the waste collection authority (WCA) and for the management of 24 recycling 'bring sites' throughout the District. The Council also provide all street cleansing services including the provision of litter and fido bins. It also offers a commercial waste and recycling collection service.

[8] Renewable Energy And Low Carbon Energy Assessment And Strategy For West Oxfordshire – LDA (October 2016)

3.104 Oxfordshire County Council is the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) and is responsible for disposing of the waste that is collected by the District Councils. Like most areas, Oxfordshire has previously been reliant on landfill as the primary means of waste disposal, however a new energy recovery facility (ERF) at Ardley opened at the end of April 2014. This has significantly reduced the percentage of the County's municipal waste which is sent to landfill. The plant also treats commercial and industrial waste.

3.105 In terms of existing waste management facilities in West Oxfordshire, there is a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Dix Pit near Stanton Harcourt. There is also an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility at Cassington which treats organic waste such as food and a green waste treatment plant in the District which handles and recycles all domestic garden waste produced. There is a waste transfer facility at Dix Pit, where household waste is bulked up for onward transfer to the Ardley ERF; and a recycling facility for collected recyclable household waste in Witney.

3.106 The County Council is also the Waste Planning Authority (WPA) for Oxfordshire and is preparing a new Minerals and Waste Local Plan in two parts. The submission draft Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (2015) sets out the vision, objectives, overall spatial strategy and policies for meeting requirements for new waste management facilities in Oxfordshire up to 2031. The strategy covers all types of waste, including municipal, commercial and industrial, and construction, demolition and excavation wastes. The Core Strategy will be accompanied by a separate Site Allocations DPD allocating specific sites for waste management development.

3.107 There is a significant need over the plan period for further capacity for, recycling to reduce the quantities of waste disposed through landfill which the new plan will provide for. Within West Oxfordshire, additional waste management facilities are mainly expected to be small to medium in scale, providing for local needs, but there may be a need for larger facilities required close to Oxford.

3.108 The future need and location of new waste management facilities will be addressed by Oxfordshire County Council in their new Minerals and Waste Core Local Plan. The IDP will be updated accordingly as the strategy is progressed to adoption.

MINERALS

3.109 Oxfordshire has extensive sand and gravel resources, particularly in the south along the River Thames and its tributaries. Within West Oxfordshire, sand and gravel working has taken place in the Lower Windrush Valley and between Eynsham, Cassington and Yarnton where there are quarries at Gill Mill (Ducklington), Stanton Harcourt and Cassington. Limestone and ironstone are found in the north and west of the county, where there are quarries within West Oxfordshire at Burford, Sarsden, Great Tew and Rollright.

3.110 The County Council is the Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) for Oxfordshire and is preparing a new Minerals and Waste Local Plan in two parts. The submitted Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (2015) will set out the vision, objectives and overall spatial strategy for meeting mineral requirements in Oxfordshire up to 2031. The Core Strategy will be accompanied by a Site Allocations Document.

3.111 The Local Plan needs to make provision for mineral working and supply to meet the needs for growth and development that is likely to take place in Oxfordshire over the next 15 years. The provision of aggregates for construction is a key element of the Strategy.

3.112 In West Oxfordshire, the plan identifies a strategic resource area for sand and gravel working; the Thames Lower Windrush and Lower Evenlode Valleys area from Standlake to Yarnton. It also identifies a strategic resource area for crushed rock working: the Burford area south of the A40.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

BROADBAND and MOBILE PHONE INFRASTRUCTURE

3.113 The rural nature of West Oxfordshire and the associated wide distribution of premises mean that access to high speed communications is extremely important to local residents and businesses. However, due to its rural nature, investment in new telecommunications infrastructure is not commercially viable in large parts of the district and relies on Government (both national and local) support.

Superfast broadband

3.114 The rollout of superfast or "Next Generation" broadband will have a major impact on the economy, giving businesses and employees greater flexibility in the way they work as well as the way in which individual businesses can compete on a global scale. It will also have major social impacts such as facilitating the provision of "telehealth" care.

3.115 Significant public funds are already being invested in this rollout. Oxfordshire County Council is leading a project to ensure approximately 90% of premises in the district have access to superfast broadband. West Oxfordshire District Council is investing a further £1.6m to secure rollout to the last 10% with the aim of full coverage across the District by the end of 2017.

3.116 Future development (both commercial and residential) in the District will be required to include infrastructure for future proof access to superfast broadband as a standard utility. This is a requirement of Local Plan Policy OS2 – Locating Development in the Right Places.

Mobile Communications

3.117 In many rural areas, mobile phone coverage lags behind that available in towns and cities. The ability to access data with mobile devices is becoming an essential requirement and the lack of availability hinders business development and deters further investment.

3.118 Much like the business case for the commercial rollout of broadband, so there is a limited commercial case for market driven investment in mobile coverage in West Oxfordshire due to the rural nature of the District. The Government has pledged £150m nationally through the Mobile Infrastructure Project but further local funding will be required to ensure good coverage throughout the District.

4 PART B – SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

EDUCATION

4.1 Oxfordshire County Council is the local authority responsible for education in West Oxfordshire and has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available within the area. There are a total of 47 primary schools, two infant schools, one nursery, one special school and seven secondary schools in the District which are listed below:

School	Settlement	Type
ACE Centre Nursery School	Chipping Norton	Nursery
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Carterton	Carterton	Primary
Eynsham Community Primary School	Eynsham	Primary
Our Lady Of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, Witney	Witney	Primary
Bampton Primary School	Burford	Primary
Brize Norton Primary School	Burford	Primary
Burford Primary School	Burford	Primary
Clanfield Primary School	Burford	Primary
Leafield Primary School	Burford	Primary
St Christopher's Primary School, Langford	Burford	Primary
St Kenelm's Primary School	Burford	Primary
St Peter's Infants' School	Burford	Primary
Wychwood Primary School	Burford	Primary
Carterton Primary School	Carterton	Primary
Edith Moorhouse Primary School	Carterton	Primary
Gateway Primary School	Carterton	Primary
St John The Evangelist Primary	Carterton	Primary
Chadlington Primary School	Chipping Norton	Primary
Charlbury Primary School	Chipping Norton	Primary
Enstone Primary School	Chipping Norton	Primary

Great Rollright Primary School	Chipping Norton	Primary
Great Tew Primary School	Chipping Norton	Primary
Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School	Chipping Norton	Primary
Kingham Primary School	Chipping Norton	Primary
Middle Barton School	Chipping Norton	Primary
St Mary's Primary School, Chipping Norton	Chipping Norton	Primary
Freeland Church of England Primary School	Eynsham	Primary
Hanborough Manor Church of England School	Eynsham	Primary
St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Cassington	Eynsham	Primary
Standlake (Church of England) Primary School	Eynsham	Primary
Stanton Harcourt Church of England Primary School	Eynsham	Primary
Aston & Cote Primary School	Witney	Primary
Ducklington Primary School	Witney	Primary
Finstock Primary School	Witney	Primary
Hailey Primary School	Witney	Primary
Madley Brook Primary School	Witney	Primary
North Leigh Primary School	Witney	Primary
Queen Emma's Primary School	Witney	Primary
St Mary's Infant School	Witney	Primary
The Batt Primary School, Witney	Witney	Primary
The Blake Primary School	Witney	Primary
Tower Hill School	Witney	Primary
West Witney Primary School	Witney	Primary
Witney Primary School	Witney	Primary
Bladon Primary School	Woodstock	Primary
Combe Primary School	Woodstock	Primary
Stonesfield Primary School	Woodstock	Primary
Tackley Primary School	Woodstock	Primary
Woodstock Primary School	Woodstock	Primary
Wootton-by-Woodstock Primary School	Woodstock	Primary
Burford Secondary School	Burford	Secondary
Chipping Norton School	Chipping Norton	Secondary
Bartholomew School	Eynsham	Secondary
The Henry Box School	Witney	Secondary
The Marlborough Church of England School	Woodstock	Secondary
Carterton College	Carterton	Secondary
Wood Green School	Witney	Secondary
Springfield School	Witney	Special

4.2 The County Council produces a Pupil Place Plan (PPP) which sets out the framework for and approach towards the provision of school places. The plan includes present and predicted pupil numbers together with information about birth rates, school capacity and new housing. The current PPP considers the period 2015-19, with the 2016-20 PPP being published in November 2016.

4.3 Nationally, education provision is undergoing a period of change. The Education Act 2011 is a key driver and under the Act, Oxfordshire County Council is no longer the default provider of services, but is expected to encourage Academies and Free Schools to meet demand. These changes could have significant implications for school provision in both the primary and secondary sector.

NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL

4.4 The Government will fund the cost of some early education for 2 and 3 year olds in Oxfordshire. All County Council maintained primary schools include some level of Foundation Stage provision, in many cases through private, voluntary and independent childcare providers.

4.5 Many primary schools in West Oxfordshire already include nursery provision for 3-year-olds and where new primary schools are required, they would be expected to include provision for 2 and 3-year-olds in line with government policy

4.6 No forecasts are currently prepared for nursery schools, although a shortage of early education places, especially for 2-year-olds, has been identified. Pressure on places is already growing in Witney, Eynsham and Carterton and the proposed strategic developments identified in the Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications are likely to increase demand further. In addition to new schools, appropriate accommodation for use by early year's providers should also be delivered through new community halls and similar facilities where possible.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

4.7 Typically a development of around 700 - 800 new homes is required to make a new primary school viable. Wherever possible, the County Council's preferred model of school organisation is for primary schools to be one or two complete forms of entry – i.e. with admission numbers of 30 or 60 – as this conforms to statutory class size requirements and the most effective use of revenue resources.

4.8 This is not always possible, and many schools in the county are 0.5 or 1.5 form entry. It is also County Council policy to maintain a percentage of spare places to cater for unforeseen changes in demand due to market forces e.g. parental preference.

4.9 Detailed primary school capacities, current and forecasted future pupil numbers up to 2019/20 are presented in the current Pupil Place Plan. The forecasts presented in this Plan were based on West Oxfordshire's planned housing delivery as it stood prior to the 2014 Strategic Housing Market Assessment.

4.10 Throughout much of the District primary schools are either already under pressure or are forecast to fill as pupil numbers are increasing. There are a few exceptions, notably at Carterton (although numbers here are now rising rapidly, and existing capacity is expected to be filled by incoming RAF families) and also at Middle Barton, Finstock and Stonesfield

4.11 New primary schools will be needed to support the proposed strategic development areas at West Witney, North Witney, East of Chipping Norton and West Eynsham. Up to two new primary schools will also be required as part of the proposed Garden Village north of the A40 near Eynsham. The proposed development of land at East Witney will be required to make a contribution towards increasing capacity locally. At Carterton, the committed urban extension to the east of the town will incorporate a new primary school on-site, with the redevelopment of REEMA North and Central potentially making a financial contribution towards school capacity.

4.12 Elsewhere, sufficient capacity will need to be provided through a variety of means, including absorbing extra demand into existing buildings, considering the availability of space in neighbouring schools and providing new accommodation through school extensions. Future housing development will be expected to contribute towards increasing school capacity where necessary.

4.13 Where schools are at or reaching capacity, even relatively small additional housing developments can be difficult for village schools to accommodate. This provides a limitation on the extent to which significant levels of development can be dispersed to the rural communities.

4.14 Woodstock Primary School has already expanded to 1.5 form entry size and its current site area is below that required for a larger school. An increased site area for the school, or moving some facilities off-site, would be required. Depending on the scale of housing growth, an alternative solution to providing more school capacity in the town would be the provision of a new school site.

4.15 Eynsham Primary School has already expanded to 2 form entry size and is unlikely to be able to expand further. The school has limited ability to absorb further housing growth in Eynsham and therefore any new strategic sites in Eynsham will be expected to provide new primary schools.

4.16 Hanborough Primary School is 1 form entry size and is almost full in most year groups. Additional land area in the form of an off-site playing field has been secured through a recent planning permission. Once this has been implemented, the school would be able to expand to 1.5 form entry, which is expected to be sufficient for permitted housing growth.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

4.17 There are seven state maintained secondary schools in West Oxfordshire, all within the District's larger towns and villages. The most common model of curriculum delivery is 11-18 years with a sixth form; Carterton Community School has previously been 11-16, but extended its age range to include a sixth form from September 2014. Sixth forms are already offered at Wood Green and Henry Box Schools in Witney, Chipping Norton School, Bartholomew School in Eynsham, Marlborough School in Woodstock and Burford Secondary School.

4.18 It is expected that most of Oxfordshire's secondary schools will have converted to Academy status during the time period of the current Pupil Place Plan. As Academies, they will be responsible for their own admissions arrangements, and any changes in school size would need to be agreed by the Department for Education. Secondary school numbers are already rising before housing growth is taken into account, as the rising birth rate which has affected primary schools is now starting to affect secondary schools.

Witney

4.19 The proposed development of land at North Witney (1,400 homes) in addition to development at West and East Witney, as identified in the Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications, is expected to necessitate the delivery of a secondary facility on the West Witney site. Therefore, a 5ha site for a new secondary facility has been reserved at West Witney.

Carterton

4.20 In Carterton, secondary pupil numbers are expected to increase due to the rapid growth in pupil numbers in Carterton's primary schools in recent years which will feed through into the secondary school. In addition the levels of additional new development proposed through the Local Plan, including the proposed strategic development areas at Carterton East and REEMA North and Central, will further increase demand.

4.21 This will absorb the spare capacity that currently exists at Carterton Community College and an expansion of the College will be required. The exact scale and nature of additional accommodation at the Collage has yet to be identified but the site has sufficient site area to accommodate any necessary expansions.

Chipping Norton

4.22 At Chipping Norton, the secondary school has some spare capacity and OCC has advised that even with the proposed development to the east of the town, the school's site should be able to accommodate the additional pupil numbers likely to be generated (although some expansion of buildings may be necessary in the longer term).

Eynsham

4.23 The County Council has identified that Bartholomew School in Eynsham will experience rising demand over the next few years. It is currently expanding by one form of entry. Additional capacity will be needed to meet demand resulting from proposed additional development to the west of Eynsham and north of the A40 at Eynsham Garden Village. This could be in the form of a second site for Bartholomew School within the West Eynsham development.

Rest of District

4.24 The Marlborough School in Woodstock is expected to experience rising demand over the next few years and it is likely that the school will need to expand by one or two forms of entry.

4.25 There is some flexibility within existing secondary schools elsewhere to accommodate modest amounts of new development. Given the scale and distribution of growth envisaged through the Main Modifications Local Plan it is not expected that there will be any significant capacity issues arising in the more rural parts of the District although some alterations/extensions may be required and the position will be reviewed regularly.

FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

4.26 Abingdon and Witney College offers part time and full time further and higher education courses – including GCSEs, foundation degrees and degree courses, apprenticeships and vocational courses. The college also works with secondary schools offering part time courses for 14-16 year olds.

4.27 The College has put forward various schemes of redevelopment and refurbishment including upgrades to the College's engineering building . The college aims to upgrade all accommodation in the medium to long term and has plans to construct new buildings such as a new Advanced Technology Centre.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

4.28 Just over 1% of Oxfordshire Pupils attend Special Educational Needs schools. Other children benefit from specific resources within mainstream schools.

4.29 There is one special school in West Oxfordshire, Springfield School in Witney, which caters for pupils with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties aged 2-16 years. Primary provision is co-located with Madley Brook Community Primary School in purpose built accommodation (opened in 2003), including an integrated nursery. Secondary provision is in a purpose built facility (opened in 2005) on the Wood Green School site.

4.30 In addition, there is a special unit in Carterton Community College catering for pupils with complex learning difficulties, aged 11-16 and at the Marlborough CE School in Woodstock there is a specialist resource facility for pupils with physical disabilities and language and communication disabilities.

4.31 Demand for special school places is expected to grow broadly in line with the overall school population, and Oxfordshire County Council keeps all special schools under review to strategically plan for any necessary growth; it is not currently expected that his would require a new establishment in West Oxfordshire. Special schools are not catchment based; children with special needs attend the school which best meets their needs.

4.32 There are increasing numbers of children with autism in mainstream schools and a growing need for resource bases. The only such specialist resourced provision in West Oxfordshire is in Woodstock, and the County Council will consider whether a resource base is appropriate in any future schools.

ADULT LEARNING CENTRES

4.33 Adult learning centres are situated in Carterton and Chipping Norton with provision in Burford, Charlbury, Eynsham and Witney.

4.34 There is a deficit of Adult Learning services in Witney and it is a high priority to have an Adult Learning Centre in the town. Any new centre would need to be accessible to the whole community of Witney and the surrounding area and careful thought would need to be given to its location and available funding.

LEISURE AND SPORT

SPORTS CENTRES, SWIMMING POOLS, OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

4.35 Major sports facilities in the District are considered to be well within an acceptable travel time and distance for the residents in a rural district. However, some of the facilities are poor quality and there are some deficiencies which have been identified in the recent open space[9] and [10]playing pitch studies.

[9] West Oxfordshire Open Space Study 2013
[10] Playing Pitch Strategy 2014

4.36 Many towns and villages have community halls or other facilities which provide for local sport and community recreation as detailed below:

Witney Sub-Area

4.37 Witney's main sport and leisure facilities include:

- Henry Box School Sports Hall
- Wood Green School Sports Hall, Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) and playing pitches
- Windrush Leisure Centre
- Witney Artificial Turf Pitch
- Leys Recreation Ground
- Witney Mill Cricket Ground
- King George V Playing Fields
- Burwell Recreation Ground
- West Witney Sports Ground
- Witney Rugby Club

4.38 Further pitch provision and facilities in Witney will be required as part of any Strategic Development Area in Witney. Playing fields and associated facilities, for community and school use are proposed as part of the West Witney Strategic Development Area. Funding is also proposed towards a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). Development to the north of Witney would also be required to include provision for further pitch provision and facilities. The topography and size of the proposed development to the east of Witney may render on-site provision of formal greenspace (pitches etc.) difficult and a financial contribution may be sought towards new facilities and/or upgrades to existing.

4.39 In terms of built indoor facilities, the District Council is investigating options and developing plans for the long term future of the Windrush Leisure Centre.

4.40 The existing site is constrained, limiting future expansion and a new site is likely to be needed in an accessible location. There are no obvious sites available within the town at present and the capital cost of a new leisure centre is likely to be £22 - 25m.

4.41 The financial return from any redevelopment or re-use of the existing site will be highly significant but other external funding such as lottery funding and/or developer contributions are likely to be required.

Carterton Sub-Area

4.42 The main sports and leisure facilities in Carterton are:

- Carterton Leisure Centre
- Monahan Way football pitches and cricket square
- Carterton Community College Sports Hall

- Carterton Artificial Turf Pitch (3g)
- Carterton Community Centre
- Swinbrook Road Recreation Ground and Squash Courts
- Carterton Football Club
- Carterton Bowls Club

4.43 Recent and future growth of the town, including the expansion of RAF Brize Norton is creating additional demands on leisure space in Carterton and there are several unmet demands for further sports hall provision and additional pitch provision.

4.44 The Council's Playing Pitch Strategy 2014[11] advises that within the Carterton Sub-Area an additional full size artificial grass pitch, or equivalent, should be provided, based on the existing population and the best solution may be 2 half size pitches. The Council's leisure service estimates that at least two additional pitches and associated facilities would be required to meet demand with improved provision at other locations. This demand is proposed to be met by additional outdoor pitches and associated facilities as part of the committed urban extension to the east of Carterton.

4.45 Phase 2 of Carterton Leisure Centre is proposed to include floodlit 5/7 a side football courts, a larger second hall for dance, aerobic and martial arts use and squash courts. The extension of the leisure centre will cost in the region of £5m and will be secured through a combination of funding, including lottery and developer funding, some of which has already been secured.

Chipping Norton Sub-Area

4.46 The main sports and leisure facilities in the Chipping Norton area include:

- Chipping Norton Leisure Centre
- Greystones Leisure Facility
- Chipping Norton Lido (Outdoor Pool)
- Chipping Norton Football Club
- Chipping Norton Cricket Club
- Kingham Hill School Sports Centre

4.47 Chipping Norton now has a 'made' neighbourhood plan. This further informs future leisure needs in the town. The main need would appear to involve bringing local sports clubs together to agree what facilities are needed and can realistically be progressed. This process is likely to conclude that an all-weather pitch for football and rugby is required and that opportunities for the future of the Greystones site should be explored.

4.48 The Council's Playing Pitch Strategy 2014 advises that within the Chipping Norton Sub-Area the provision of a full-size AGP (or equivalent) is required based on the existing population. This might be comprised of two half-size pitches, but the ideal solution is one full-sized pitch. The best location might

[11] http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/765284/Playing-Pitch-Strategy-2014.pdf

be on the dual use Chipping Norton School campus. A shorter pile 3G surface would meet the training needs of both local football and rugby clubs.

Eynsham – Woodstock Sub-Area

4.49 The main facilities are located at Eynsham and Woodstock as the two larger settlements in this area.

4.50 Eynsham has the following main facilities:

- Bartholomew Sports Centre
- Eynsham Artificial Turf Pitch
- Eynsham Village Hall
- Eynsham Recreation Ground
- Eynsham Cricket Club

4.51 Within Woodstock the main facilities are:

- Marlborough School Sports Hall
- Outdoor pool
- Tennis and Bowls Club
- Community Centre
- Old Woodstock Town Football Club

4.52 The District Council's priority in Woodstock is to support the community in looking at the feasibility of an outdoor floodlit training area or ATP plus additional changing accommodation and will assist in maximising any external funding opportunities.

4.53 Given the scale of development proposed within the Woodstock and Eynsham Sub-Area the Council will need to work with the respective Town and Parish Councils to determine the current and future needs for sport and leisure provision locally. Eynsham has an emerging neighbourhood plan which should be able to assist in determining local needs.

Burford – Charlbury Sub-Area

4.54 There are football, cricket, bowls and tennis facilities at the Nine Acres Recreation Ground in Charlbury and facilities at Burford School and Burford Recreation Ground.

4.55 Burford School (secondary) aspire to provide an ATP primarily for hockey. Once provided, a good programme of community use will help meet needs in this area, although further changing facilities may be needed. Provision of an ATP also provides an opportunity to re-programme community use of the sports hall to widen participation.

HEALTH

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

4.56 Discussions with Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) were carried out in October/ November 2016. OCCG explained that they are in the middle of a country-wide health service review, known as the Oxfordshire Transformation Programme. This Programme will consider future provision of healthcare in Oxfordshire and consultation is due to be carried out from January 2017. As such, some aspects of healthcare provision and how these are provided may change in the future.

4.57 OCCG have also flagged up at this stage that any development aimed at people with an enhanced need for primary care (for example assisted living, care/nursing homes) are likely to represent an additional workload for GPs and will impact on the capacity of a practice to accommodate growth.

4.58 OCCG have provided further comments in relation to the following key areas:

Witney

4.59 Since the preparation of the 2015 IDP, primary health care provision in Witney has changed due to the expiration of the Deer Park Surgery contract, which is due to close by the end of March 2017. In order to absorb planned growth, existing health care provision will need to be expanded in Witney and a review is currently being undertaken by the OCCG.

Carterton

4.60 Capacity of the three Carterton surgeries will need to be monitored going into the future. However, improvements/ extensions to these are likely to be required in order to accommodate planned growth.

Chipping Norton

4.61 A new primary health care centre on London Road in Chipping Norton is now completed and this replaces the two existing surgeries in Chipping Norton known as the White House Surgery and West Street Surgery. Overall, this will provide sufficient capacity to support planned growth including the proposed strategic development site to the east of the town, although some upgrades may be necessary including additional parking provision.

Eynsham

4.62 The level of growth proposed on land to the west of Eynsham and to the north of the A40 near Eynsham (Garden Village) is unlikely to be able to be accommodated within existing practice capacities. The upgrades necessary to support growth will need to be reviewed by the OCCG and future iterations

of the IDP will be updated accordingly. Further consideration to this issue will be given through a masterplan and Area Action Plan (AAP).

Woodstock

4.63 There are early discussions underway regarding the relocation of the Woodstock Practice as the existing site is constrained and parking is limited. A site has yet to be confirmed, although the costs of relocating the surgery have been estimated to be in the region of £4.5m.

Burford - Charlbury

4.64 OCCG have confirmed that additional growth should be able to be accommodated within existing capacities although this will need to be reviewed going forward.

SECONDARY CARE

4.65 Secondary care is in most cases provided by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, generally from one of the hospitals in Oxford. However it is NHS policy to increase the commissioning of care types in GP surgeries and other community settings which have traditionally been provided in acute hospitals, to improve access for patients. For example the ground floor of the Windrush Health Centre in Witney is in part a base for community services including podiatry and in part clinical space for locally commissioned services such as endoscopy and other visiting consultant clinics.

4.66 No specific future requirements for secondary care provision have been identified at this stage to support the level of growth identified in the emerging Local Plan.

TERTIARY HEALTHCARE

4.67 Tertiary care is specialised consultative healthcare, often for patients who have been referred by a primary or secondary health care professional. Examples include specialist hospitals such as those dealing with children or people with mental health issues. There are currently no tertiary health care facilities in West Oxfordshire, the nearest being located in Oxford.

4.68 No specific future requirements have been identified at this stage to support the level of growth identified in the emerging Local Plan.

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

4.69 There are two community hospitals in West Oxfordshire, the Witney Community Hospital and the Chipping Norton Community Hospital which also has a maternity unit.

4.70 No specific future requirements for community healthcare provision have been identified at this stage.

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

4.71 Policing in West Oxfordshire is the responsibility of Thames Valley Police (TVP), the largest non-metropolitan police force in England and Wales, covering Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and serving more than 2 million people. The TVP force area is divided into 14 Local Policing Areas (LPAs) of which West Oxfordshire is one.

4.72 Within West Oxfordshire, TVP work on a neighbourhood basis with 15 neighbourhood's currently defined covering Witney (6), Carterton/Bampton/Burford (3), Chipping Norton (3), Woodstock (2) and Eynsham (1).

4.73 A number of measures to improve police related facilities/ equipment have been identified by TVP, including the internal adaptation of Witney Police Station TVP are also working closely with Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service regarding a new joint facility at Carterton and sharing existing space in Woodstock to provide appropriate space to meet the demands of future growth.

4.74 In addition, on strategic residential development sites consisting of approximately 1,000 dwellings or more, on-site infrastructure including potential on-site drop-in "neighbourhood offices" may be required. The proposed developments to the north of Witney (1,400 homes), Garden Village (2,200 homes), west of Eynsham (1,000 homes) and East of Chipping Norton (1,400) are therefore likely to trigger such a requirement.

FIRE & RESCUE

4.75 Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS) is organised around 3 Fire Risk Areas covering the County. There are 7 fire stations in West Oxfordshire. Currently these are located on Welch Way, Witney, Burford Road, Chipping Norton, Hensington Road, Woodstock, Station Road, Eynsham, Sturt Road, Charlbury, Witney Street, Burford and New Road, Bampton.

Witney

4.76 Witney has a good level of fire provision capable of meeting the requirements associated with planned growth and there are no current plans to move the fire station from the current Welch Way site.

Carterton

4.77 Due to the intensification of activity at RAF Brize Norton and the level of future growth identified in the emerging Local Plan, it has been identified that a future fire station in Carterton will be required in the next five years.

4.78 Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service have identified in their Draft Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2015-16 that the introduction of additional emergency cover in Carterton has the potential to improve the overall response time standards for the area. The option to build a new station has been informed by detailed analysis of the current and future development of the town and the increased risks to the community.

4.79 A site for the new station has been provisionally identified on land to the east of Carterton as part of the strategic site for 700 homes.

Rest of District

4.80 A further consideration is the long term sustainability of the Bampton and Burford fire stations.

4.81 The County Council will continue to evaluate and assess risk throughout West Oxfordshire and the rest of the county through a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) which sets out what the County Council aim to achieve, including the priorities they will focus on and the high level measures and targets which will let them know if they are on track to deliver.

AMBULANCE

4.82 West Oxfordshire is covered by the South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) NHS Foundation Trust.

4.83 Within West Oxfordshire, there are ambulance standby points in Witney and Chipping Norton.

4.84 The District is also covered by the air ambulance service for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire which is a separate organisation.

4.85 Discussions with SCAS have been held and the need for additional ambulance standby points has been identified to provide for the level of growth identified in the Local Plan. An ambulance standby point consists of a ground floor room with a tea point and toilet facilities along with parking for an ambulance and another vehicle. It is likely that 2-3 additional standby points will be required across the District, each of which is 'manned' by nine paramedics.

4.86 It is unlikely that a new ambulance resource centre will be required although this will be reviewed throughout the Plan period.

ARMED FORCES

4.87 West Oxfordshire is home to RAF Brize Norton, the largest RAF station in the UK, located between Carterton and Brize Norton village.

4.88 RAF Brize Norton is being expanded and will become the single air movement base for the military in the UK as RAF Lyneham has now closed.

4.89 The expansion means that more troops and their families have moved to the local area. The MOD is progressing the redevelopment of older areas of MOD housing to meet the needs of service families. Two areas of housing currently have planning permission for redevelopment and replacement. Some additional housing and a significant amount of additional Single Living Accommodation is being provided on the base. Although positive for the local economy, the influx of personnel has implications for local infrastructure provision, notably education, sports facilities and pitch provision which are considered elsewhere in the IDP.

4.90 Operational development on the base is not typically subject to planning control. Such development may however have significant implications for transport, flood risk and other infrastructure in the local area. The Council will work with the RAF and MOD to address infrastructure issues.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND EARLY INTERVENTION HUBS

4.91 There are six children's centres in West Oxfordshire.

4.92 Children's centres provide a variety of advice and support for parents and carers. Centres are intended to be the first, local port of call when a mother, father or carer needs help or advice. Some offer wider services including dentist, dietician or physiotherapist, stop smoking clinic, citizen's advice, parenting classes and language services.

4.93 'Early Intervention Hubs' provide a venue to work with children, young people and their families through youth sessions normally delivered in the evenings and weekends. Outreach services are also delivered from the 'hub' in satellite locations and other community locations.

4.94 There is one early intervention hub in West Oxfordshire which is based at the Witney Young People's Centre on Witan Way.

4.95 Where new schools or community centres are required, the Council will consider whether they should incorporate facilities to support the 'satellite' delivery of children centres and/or early intervention services to meet the needs of the expanded population.

COMMUNITY CENTRES

4.96 There are a number of community centres and halls throughout West Oxfordshire including Madley Park Hall which opened in 2011 as part of the Madley Park residential development and Carterton Community Centre located within the Shilton Park development at Carterton. Responsibility for owning and running the community centres within the District rests with a number of different bodies including local Town and Parish Councils, local churches and the voluntary sector. Community Facilities Grants are often

available to help fund improvements and extensions to community centres and other facilities and recent funding has been awarded to extend Warwick Hall in Burford and the Methodist Church in Bladon.

4.97 It is likely that any large-scale residential development including the proposed strategic development areas identified in the Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications will need to make suitable provision for new community facilities.

LIBRARIES

4.98 There are 11 libraries in West Oxfordshire which are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council. Carterton, Chipping Norton, Eynsham and Witney libraries have been designated as core libraries.

4.99 Chipping Norton library has been consistently identified as being unfit for purpose in terms of its size, internal configuration and access due to the location of the library.

4.100 In Charlbury there is a very long standing commitment to improve the library, which may be delivered as part of any future progress on the Spendlove Centre initiative.

4.101 It has been identified through discussions with Oxfordshire County Council that the level of growth proposed for Witney, Carterton, Chipping Norton, Eynsham and Woodstock will place additional pressures on these libraries and developer funding, alongside CIL, will therefore be sought to extend and refurbish these buildings.

4.102 In general terms, the level of growth proposed in Oxfordshire will place pressure upon all libraries and particularly the Central County Library in Oxford. Consequently Oxfordshire County Council will also request a contribution from new residential development towards local and central library provision.

MUSEUMS AND MUSEUM RESOURCE CENTRE

4.103 There are a number of museums and heritage centres in West Oxfordshire including:

- Bishop's Palace, Witney
- Charlbury Museum
- Chipping Norton Museum of Local History
- Churchill and Sarsden Heritage Centre
- Cogges Manor Farm
- Combe Mill
- Witney and District Museum
- Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock
- Museums Resource Centre, Standlake

4.104 The Oxfordshire Museum at Woodstock and Museum Resource Centre at Standlake are run by Oxfordshire County Council and the other establishments are generally run by a mixture of societies, trusts and volunteers.

4.105 Oxfordshire County Council will continue to seek contributions from new residential development towards their Museum Resource Centre.

THEATRES/ ARTS CENTRES

4.106 There is one theatre in the District at Chipping Norton which is supported by the District Council but run by local people. There are discussions underway regarding the future provision of an Arts Centre in Witney.

4.107 The Council will seek to improve access to such facilities for residents and visitors and this may involve new build, refurbishment and conversion.

4.108 Where appropriate, provision will also be sought for production, rehearsal and education space for arts. This also includes spaces which could encompass media and recording studios, incubation spaces for small arts businesses and sole traders and facilities which are used by learning providers and community groups.

COMMUNITY ART

4.109 Community Art is defined as a process of engaging artists' creative ideas in the public realm. It is always site specific and can take many forms that may include traditional sculptures as well as integrated purposeful features such as benches, paving and furniture. Over recent years community art has also been more widely seen as temporary events and activities.

4.110 For some years West Oxfordshire District Council has sought the provision of community art as part of major new developments, particularly in town centres, leisure centres and residential areas. This has been funded by developers and covers not only the provision but also the management and future maintenance of art.

4.111 The Council will continue to seek the incorporation of community art as part of major developments and town centre developments, where appropriate.

SOCIAL CARE

SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

4.112 By 'supported' accommodation we mean that which is provided for people with particular needs. Examples include care homes and nursing homes, sheltered housing and extra-care housing plus other forms of supported accommodation including that which is provided for vulnerable adults and people with disabilities.

4.113 There are a number of existing supported accommodation facilities in West Oxfordshire including residential care homes, nursing homes, age exclusive and sheltered housing and extra care. There are also some existing facilities for vulnerable adults, people with learning disabilities and mental health issues within the District.

4.114 Local demographic projections show not only an increase in the size of the population and in the number of households but also a significant growth in the number of older people. In West Oxfordshire, the number of people aged 55 and over is expected to increase by 54% over the next twenty years[12]. Whilst not all older person households will want to downsize as many will wish to retain their family home, due to health issues associated with ageing there is likely to be a requirement for specialist housing options moving forward. It has been identified in the Oxfordshire SHMA (April 2014) that this need will be highest in West Oxfordshire mainly due to a rapidly growing older person population, and the County Council has published an Extra Care Housing Strategy which aims to deliver 55 units of extra-care housing per 1,000 population aged 75 or over. This rate is to meet an expected demand across West Oxfordshire of 945 units by 2031.

4.115 The County Council has identified that as well as need for Extra Care Housing in Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton, there is also need in Burford, Bampton, Long Hanborough, Charlbury, Eynsham and Woodstock. To cater for this increased need, a number of residential care homes and extra-care housing schemes have been granted planning permission over recent years and this trend is likely to continue. This will require continuation of joint working arrangements with health care providers and the County Council.

OLDER PERSONS DAY CARE SERVICES

4.116 Small day centres for older persons operate in towns and villages throughout the County, usually on a Monday to Friday basis, although some open on a Saturday. These centres are supported by Oxfordshire County Council and run by a variety of organisations such as Age UK.

4.117 Oxfordshire County Council supports eight health and wellbeing resource centres across the County supporting primarily older people but some also support adults with physical disabilities and mental health problems of all ages.

4.118 In addition, Oxfordshire County Council supports a number of other services for adults with mental issues and those with learning disabilities. In Witney these form part of the Witney Resource Centre but there are other separate centres in Carterton and Chipping Norton.

[12] Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014

4.119 The County Council will seek the provision of new community buildings for day care services as part of strategic development areas in Witney to enable the delivery of Tier 2 day care services.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

4.120 West Oxfordshire falls within the Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) one of 21 CRCs in England and Wales. Together with HM Prison Service, Thames Valley CRC forms part of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) which falls under the Ministry for Justice.

COURTS (COUNTY, MAGISTRATES, CROWN)

4.121 Following the closure of the Magistrate's Court in Witney, there are no courts in West Oxfordshire. The nearest County and Crown Courts are located in Oxford.

4.122 There are no identified future requirements in West Oxfordshire.

PROBATIONARY AND PRISON SERVICE

4.123 There are no probation offices in West Oxfordshire, the nearest being Oxford, Bicester and Banbury. There are no prisons either, the nearest being Bullingdon Community Prison at Bicester.

4.124 There are no identified future requirements in West Oxfordshire.

5 PART C - GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

5.1 Green Infrastructure is defined as a network of multi-functional green space in both urban and rural settings. It fulfils a wide variety of environmental, social and economic functions and plays a part in adapting to and mitigating climate change.

5.2 Green Infrastructure can include nature reserves, designated sites, recreational grounds, parks and open spaces, public rights of way, allotments, cemeteries and many other green areas such as woodlands and even street trees.

5.3 In order to inform this section of the Plan, the following bodies/ officers have been consulted and asked to provide information regarding future green infrastructure projects which they are aware of or are involved in:

- The Wychwood Project
- The Lower Windrush Valley Project
- Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust
- Historic England – Historic Environment Planning Advisor
- County Council - Ecologists
- County Council - Countryside Access Strategy and Development Officer
- West Oxfordshire District Council - Landscape and Forestry Officer

- West Oxfordshire District Council – Conservation Team
- Wild Oxfordshire – Oxfordshire's local nature partnership

5.4 The information provided has been woven into this document where possible. Further work to identify Green Infrastructure projects throughout the County is being coordinated by the County Council in collaboration with other bodies. The intention is to produce a county-wide Green Infrastructure framework and it is hoped that this work will feed into the Council's IDP once completed.

5.5 Whilst Green Infrastructure projects will be funded through many different funding streams which may include contributions provided through CIL, it is important to list these so that they can be considered for possible funding at the appropriate time.

NATIONAL/REGIONAL

GREEN BELT

5.6 The Oxford Green Belt covers an area of 1610.4ha to the eastern edge of West Oxfordshire. There is limited existing development within the Green Belt, comprising primarily agricultural land. The only villages that lie within Green Belt are Cassington and Bladon.

5.7 There are no current plans to redefine the Green Belt boundary in West Oxfordshire and any development activity taking place within the Green Belt will be guided by a combination of the Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In order to meet the level of housing need identified for Oxford City in the Oxfordshire SHMA (2014) a study of the Green Belt boundary has been conducted which the District Council has been fully involved with. This process has been in accordance with the duty to co-operate and the statement of co-operation that all of the Oxfordshire Districts signed up to.

AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB)

5.8 The Cotswolds was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1966 in recognition of its rich, diverse and high quality landscape. It is the largest of 40 AONBs in England and Wales. A review of the boundaries in the 1980s resulted in a three-fold increase in the AONB in West Oxfordshire, now covering an area of 24,379ha of the District.

5.9 There are no plans to review the boundary of the Cotswolds AONB. Great weight will be given to protecting landscape and scenic beauty, as well as the conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage. Development and conservation activity in the area will continue to be guided by the adopted and emerging Local Plan, the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan and the Cotswolds Conservation Board Business Plan Work Programme.

5.10 Financial contributions will be sought towards this work programme from development within or affecting the AONB, where appropriate, including through CIL when introduced.

SPECIAL AREAS FOR CONSERVATION (SAC)

5.11 SACs are areas which have been given special protection under the European Habitats Directive, to provide increased protection to a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats.

5.12 There is one area designated as a Special Area of Conservation in West Oxfordshire at Cassington Meadows, which forms part of the Oxford Meadows SAC. The area covers 6.96 ha and has been designated for the protection of the rare 'Lowland Hay Meadow' habitat.

5.13 A District wide Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)[13] has been undertaken to assess the impact of planned growth on Natura 2000 or European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites, either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects, and to devise appropriate mitigation strategies where such effects are identified.

NATIONAL NATURE RESERVES (NNR)

5.14 National Nature Reserves are areas designated for the importance of their biological or geological interest. NNRs are owned or leased by Natural England, or bodies approved by them, or are managed in accordance with Nature Reserve Agreements with landowners or occupiers.

5.15 There are 2 NNRs in West Oxfordshire: Wychwood NNR and Chimney Meadows NNR.

5.16 Wychwood NNR in central West Oxfordshire is the largest continuous area of ancient broadleaved woodland in Oxfordshire. The designation covers an area of 263 ha and lies within a large Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It forms part of the private country estate of Cornbury Park.

5.17 Chimney Meadows NNR on the southern edge of the District covers an area of approximately 50 hectares and is protected for its species rich floodplain meadow habitat.

5.18 Funding will be sought where appropriate towards improving the management of the NNR sites and expanding their setting/buffer as well as towards improving public accessibility, where suitable.

[13] Habitats Regulations Assessment December 2014 (and updated October 2016)

SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI)

5.19 A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is a national conservation identification denoting a protected area of land of special interest by virtue of its fauna, flora, geological or physiographical/geomorphological features.

5.20 There are 29 SSSIs in West Oxfordshire covering an area of approximately 1,119 hectares. The SSSIs comprise a wide range of habitats of varying quality, however 706 ha is in unfavourable recovering condition with management plans in place to improve their condition.

5.21 Contributions from new development will be sought, where appropriate, towards measures to protect SSSIs in the District.

ANCIENT WOODLANDS

5.22 Ancient semi-natural woodland are places which have had a continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD and have only been cleared for underwood or timber production.

5.23 Ancient woodlands in West Oxfordshire cover an area of approximately 2,241ha. Contributions from new development will be sought, where appropriate, towards measures to protect and enhance this network.

HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

5.24 There are 16 parks and gardens of historic interest in the District that are listed on Historic England's (previously English Heritage) database of nationally designated heritage assets. Blenheim Palace is also registered as a World Heritage Site, in recognition of its outstanding international importance.

5.25 These parks and gardens are a valuable asset and are a key aspect of the District's historic character. They cover large areas of land and are therefore an important element within the local green infrastructure network.

5.26 Historic England provides grant aid for restoration projects of Grade I and II* sites. Funding may also be available from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other grants such as the Countryside Stewardship Schemes. Contributions from new development will also be sought where appropriate. This will include revenue from CIL when introduced.

SUB-REGIONAL/DISTRICT

THE WYCHWOOD PROJECT

5.27 The Wychwood Project aims to encourage local people to understand, conserve and restore the Wychwood Forest Area and its rich mosaic of landscapes and wildlife habitats through a wide range of activities.

5.28 The District Council has contributed to the core project costs since the inception of this initiative. However, in order to maintain the current level of services and outputs, alternative sources of project funding will be required. Charitable donations, local fundraising and external grants, for example, are already being pursued. Contributions from new development will also be sought where appropriate.

5.29 Projects included in Part C of Appendix 1 have been identified by The Wychwood Project and some further information about the projects areas are detailed below:

- Foxburrow Wood is a 22 acre community woodland created by the Wychwood Project, a local charity, on the northern edge of Witney. The woodland is open to public access throughout the year and as demand to use this new green space increases, there will be ongoing demands for further improvements.

- Grimes Meadows are 14 acres of ancient riverside meadow in the heart of Witney owned and managed by the Wychwood Project. The meadows are managed for their biodiversity interest. The Wychwood Project is in the process of reinstating appropriate management and additional funding is required to complete the outstanding works to further improve the condition of the meadows..

- Langel Common is part of the historic riverside meadow complex in the heart of Witney and is covered by the Windrush in Witney strategy. The visually important wrought iron railings alongside the well-used public path are in need of repair and replacement.

- Wigwell Nature Reserve in Charlbury is of importance for its rare and diverse limestone flora and is open for permissive public access. The lease for the site has recently been transferred to the Wychwood Project. Ongoing conservation and public access improvement works are required to maintain its special characteristics.

- Dean Common is a sand and gravel pit near Chadlington that has been restored to community woodland. The site is in need of thinning to promote development of the woodland and refurbishment of gates and site fencing.

- Woodstock Water Meadows are ancient flood meadows between Old and New Woodstock and an important wildlife and public access asset. Ongoing support is needed to implement the Water Meadows management plan which is being overseen by the Wychwood Project.

- Deer Park Wood is an 11 acre site owned by WODC and it is located along Deer Park Road in West Witney. The site has been managed by volunteers as a community woodland for approximately 6 years and it has been significantly enhanced by the planting of 800 trees and shrubs, the

creation of paths and wildflower beds as well as by regular cutting back of vegetation and grass.

LOWER WINDRUSH VALLEY PROJECT

5.30 The Lower Windrush Valley is an area of major landscape change associated with sand and gravel extraction which has many features of landscape and biodiversity value. It contains a diverse range of after uses, mostly associated with lakes created from the former sand and gravel pits.

5.31 The Lower Windrush Valley Project focuses on improving access to the countryside, recreation and educational opportunities, landscape and nature conservation along with improvements to the archaeological heritage of this area. The project area covers 2,800 ha in the Windrush valley between the A40 in Witney and the River Thames at Newbridge.

5.32 The project area includes two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which protect small areas of rare, species-rich lowland meadow habitat. Ducklington Mead, renowned for its snake's head fritillaries and Langley's Lane SSSI protects declining lowland meadow species such as green winged orchids.

5.33 Rushy Common and Standlake Common Nature Reserves were created by gravel extraction and are now managed by the LWVP. There is a strong focus on habitat management for birds but these reserves also provide a wide range of habitats that support a wealth of wildlife. Tar Lakes, opposite Rushy Common Nature Reserve, was designed with footpaths that enable access for all and link to the wider network of public rights of way.

5.34 The Lower Windrush Valley Project works with key partners to co-ordinate, deliver and help manage a range of initiatives in the project area. These projects are likely to be long term and contributions from new development towards the project will be sought where appropriate.

WINDRUSH IN WITNEY PROJECT

5.35 In 2005, the District Council set up a project focussed on the Windrush Valley as it passes through the town. The project looked at the important remnants of open spaces left following the growth of other parts of the town.

5.36 The Strategy includes a list of practical projects to be implemented as and when opportunities arise or by seeking external sources of funding. Many improvements have been made through negotiations as part of planning proposals and local volunteers have played an important role in helping to improve the management of the area.

5.37 There are further capital projects that the Council wishes to implement in the future as resources or opportunities allow. Contributions from new development towards this project will be sought where appropriate. This may include revenue from CIL when introduced.

CONSERVATION TARGET AREAS

5.38 Conservation Target Areas (CTAs) are one of the main mechanisms for delivering Oxfordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat targets. The main aim is to restore biodiversity at a landscape-scale through the maintenance, restoration and creation of BAP priority habitats.

5.39 Of the 36 CTAs across the County, ten fall either in full, or partly, within West Oxfordshire.

5.40 Delivery of CTA aims is co-ordinated by Wild Oxfordshire, who co-ordinate biodiversity and river catchment working groups. Where appropriate, development will be expected to contribute towards the aims of the CTAs. For example, within new developments we will require suitable on-site provision/management of land that meets the CTA aims and/or we will seek financial contributions for off-site works within nearby CTAs.

RIVER CATCHMENTS

5.41 Three of the six river catchments or sub-catchments in the county fall either fully, or partly, in West Oxfordshire. These include a large portion of the Windrush and Evenlode catchments and a portion of the Cherwell catchment.

5.42 The Catchment Partnerships in the district are co-ordinated by Wild Oxfordshire (Evenlode) and BBOWT (Lower Windrush / Cherwell portion) The Catchment Partnerships are working with key stakeholders to agree and deliver strategic priorities to benefit biodiversity, water quality and flood alleviation across the district. An example is the recently established natural flood management demonstration project in the Evenlode Catchment. Some of these projects have been included in Appendix 1.

LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES (LWS)

5.43 Local Wildlife Sites have been allocated for their wildlife value in a county context.

5.44 There are 98 LWS in West Oxfordshire, covering a total land area of 1,433 ha. They cover a wide variety of habitats and locations and the bulk of the sites are privately owned. Sites are monitored and reviewed by a Local Wildlife Sites Partnership (run by BBOWT and the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre) who also offer land management advice to the site owners.

5.45 Contributions from new development will also be sought to continue the effective management and monitoring of these sites where appropriate.

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES

5.46 Local Geological Sites are non-statutory protected sites, selected on a local basis according to a range of nationally agreed criteria including the value of the site for educational purposes and for study by both amateur and professional Earth scientists,

5.47 There are 17 such sites in West Oxfordshire covering an area of approximately 347 ha and contributions from development may be sought towards maintenance of these sites where appropriate.

GREEN CORRIDORS, INCLUDING RIVER CORRIDORS

5.48 There is an extensive network of public rights of way throughout the District as well as a broad reaching network of river corridors, particularly in the south of the District. Green corridors cover a total distance of 1,816 km in the District, however many of these routes are disconnected and made harder to use because of roads and traffic.

5.49 As West Oxfordshire lacks extensive areas of public open space, the green corridors, and network of public rights of way, are a particularly valuable asset for cyclists, walkers, horseriders.

5.50 Many cyclists make use of bridleways and quiet roads and there are more than twenty cycle routes specifically within West Oxfordshire promoted by the Oxfordshire Cotswolds. In addition, there are two proposed National Cycle Routes in the district: NCR 57 from Oxford to Witney and NCR 442 (Cotswold Line Cycle Route) from Oxford to Hanborough.

5.51 New commuting and leisure routes are being investigated, with the feasibility of creating a cycleway between Bampton and Witney and between Bampton and the Thames Path. New routes to Hanborough Station will also be investigated as part of the Garden Village proposal north of the A40 near Eynsham. Improving connections from the Thames Path National Trail to nearby settlements using public rights of way and quiet roads would greatly enhance this asset. In addition, this would benefit equestrianism which is a growing leisure activity in West Oxfordshire.

5.52 Contributions from new development will be sought, as appropriate, towards measures to protect and enhance the green corridor network for all users.

OTHER GREENSPACE – FORMAL

5.53 There are numerous areas and sites without a designation but which individually or cumulatively are equally as valuable to local communities. Areas with more formal specific uses include children's play areas, country parks, allotments and cemeteries.

5.54 Contributions towards additional and/or improved provision will be sought through new development as appropriate including the proposed strategic

development areas. Land at East Carterton for example will provide a green buffer to Brize Norton Village which will form an extension to the Kilkenny Lane Country Park.

5.55 There are numerous other projects throughout the District which fall into this category and, whilst only a limited number can be identified, where initial work has been carried out to establish the likely costs of a project, this can be presented for inclusion into the IDP, which will be reviewed annually. The identified projects could then attract CIL funding to supplement other funding mechanisms. One such project which has been identified involves the repair and restoration of listed memorials, including chest tombs, in the churchyard of St Mary's Church in Witney.

5.56 The churchyard contains 110 listed memorials, many of which are in a poor state of repair, and a small number of which are considered to be a danger to the public. While making these safe addresses an immediate health and safety issue, there remains the issue of the generally poor condition of the listed memorials, many of which are associated with the local wool trade, and which not only form a highly significant group in their own right, but which are fundamental to the setting of the Grade-I listed church in the most sensitive part of the Conservation Area. As such, the restoration of the monuments – and in particular of the finer chest tombs – is considered to be a worthy cause.

5.57 The costs of the works will depend on the extent of repair and restoration works; however this has been estimated to be in the region of £10,000.

OTHER GREENSPACE – INFORMAL

5.58 Most areas of green space generally perform a variety of functions. Open space can range from small areas of amenity land in new housing areas, to larger multi-functional green areas. In addition it can include historically and culturally important areas like Church Greens in Witney. In smaller settlements village greens can fulfil a similar function.

5.59 Natural England's standards for the provision of accessible natural green space show widespread deficiencies in large areas of West Oxfordshire. Other recent studies also identify deficiencies in green infrastructure in the District, such as allotments.

5.60 Woodlands and non-woodland trees and hedgerows make an important contribution to the landscape and character of West Oxfordshire. Some woodlands are also used for informal recreation. In recent years, there has been a number of new community woodlands planted, for example at Hailey, Eynsham and Woodstock. Common land is also a valuable resource in the District. There are currently approximately 19.5 ha of commons in the District.

5.61 The Council will make use of national and local[14] standards/good practice and, where appropriate developer and CIL contributions to ensure new development provides or contributes towards the provision of improvements to the District's network of green infrastructure, particularly where stakeholders/partnership projects already exist or are emerging. A new woodland and tree strategy for Oxfordshire '*In and Nutshell*' is being developed and it is hoped will help to focus action. Urban fringe areas provide an especially important potential resource for delivering leisure opportunities close to where people live.

5.62 Finally, Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SUDS) such as ponds and swales are increasingly used to manage the flow of water from new developments and will also form part of the district's future green infrastructure. Ongoing management of SUDS is required for these features to fulfil their intended function in the long-term and provide wider benefits and should form part of the development site negotiations.

[14] West Oxfordshire Open Space Study 2013

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Future Infrastructure Requirements

Part A – Physical Infrastructure

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Highway Improvements							
Downs Road/A40 junction improvements, Witney	Landowners OCC WODC	£6.1m (2012)	£1.25m held (S106)	£4.85m	S106 (West Witney SDA)	Critical 2016 – 2018	The scheme is a prerequisite of development at West Witney
Shores Green Slip Roads (SGSR) Witney	Landowners OCC WODC	£5.6m (2011)	£1.16m	£4.44	S106 (East Witney SDA)	Critical 2016 - 2021	The scheme is a prerequisite of development at East Witney
Improvements to Bridge Street and Staple Hall junction, Witney including public realm and traffic management measures.	Landowners OCC WODC	To be identified	None	To be identified	Currently S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2021 - 2023	To be delivered following the opening of the SGSR.
Improvements to Oxford Hill/Cogges Hill Road/Jubilee Way junction, Witney	Landowners OCC WODC	To be identified	None	To be identified	S106 (East Witney SDA) (S106)	Critical 2016 - 2021	Required to mitigate development at East Witney

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Re-designating the A4095 via Jubilee Way, Oxford Hill, A40 at Shores Green to Ducklington Lane and Thorney Leys.	OCC WODC	To be identified	None	To be identified	Currently S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2021 - 2023	To be delivered following the opening of SGSR
West End Link (WEL2), Witney	Landowners OCC WODC	£23.2m (2015)	None	£23.2m	To be facilitated by development of land at north Witney (S106)	Critical Long-term (2021 – 2026)	Necessary to support strategic growth to the north of Witney
Northern Distributor Road, Witney	Landowners OCC WODC	To be identified	None	To be identified	To be delivered by development of land at north Witney (S106)	Critical Long-term (2021 – 2026)	Necessary to support strategic growth to the north of Witney

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Improve access by road to Carterton and RAF Brize Norton, to include: a) Improve B4477 Minster Road from Monahan Way to A40 b)Upgrade B4477 to A Classification c) West facing slips at A40/ B4477	OCC WODC Developers	a) £3,954,276 b) £150,000 c) £7,276,583 Total - £11,380,859 (2015)	£1,720,000 secured and committed	£9.7m	S106 LEP CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016 - 2031	
General highway improvements in Chipping Norton. Remove Primary Route Status / National Lorry route from A44 and implement	OCC Glos County Council	To be identified	£20,797 towards transport/ highway infrastructure in Chipping Norton. £18,400 held towards zebra crossing on Over Norton Road Total - £39,197	To be identified	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016 – 2021	Would help to deliver improvements to the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
associated weight restrictions in Chipping Norton centre			(S106)				
East Chipping Norton Link Road	Developers, landowners Oxfordshire County Council	To be identified	None	To be identified	Delivered by development to the East of Chipping Norton (Tank Farm)	Critical Long-term (2021 – 2026)	Would alleviate traffic through the centre of Chipping Norton and help to deliver improvements to the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)
West Eynsham Link Road	Developers, landowners Oxfordshire County Council	To be identified	None	To be identified	Delivered by development to the west of Eynsham	Critical Long-term (2021 – 2026)	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
West Oxfordshire Garden Village Northern Link Road	Developers, landowners Oxfordshire County Council	To be identified	None	To be identified	Delivered by development to the west of Eynsham	Critical Long-term (2021 – 2026)	
Accessing Oxford – northern approach via A44	Developers, External funding partners, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council	To be identified	Funding sources to be identified. Oxfordshire County Council is the lead authority.	To be identified.	S106 CIL (when introduced) External funding sources.	Critical 2016 - 2021	Congestion on the A44 is a deterrent to growth in West Oxfordshire
Public transport Improvements							
A40 Science Transit (Eynsham P&R and eastbound bus lane)improvements – Phase 1	Developers, External funding partners, Oxfordshire County Council	£36.2m	£35m Local Growth Fund and £1.2m Local Contribution	None	External funding – Local Growth Fund	Critical 2016-2021	Help relieve congestion on the A40 eastbound into Oxford
A40 Longer Term Strategy- Wolvercote to	Developers, External funding	£55m	None	£55m	External funding – Local Growth	Critical 2021 - 2026	Help relieve congestion on the A40

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Eynsham P&R westbound bus lane and dual carriageway between Witney Shores Green interchange and Eynsham P&R improvements – Phase 2	partners, Oxfordshire County Council				Fund. S106 CIL (when introduced)		westbound from Oxford
Enhance frequency of S1/S2/S7 bus service between Witney, Carterton, Eynsham and Oxford	OCC Bus companies Developers WODC	£2m	None. Funding from development to be secured through S106.	£2m	External funding (such as the Local Sustainable Transport Fund) S106 from West of Eynsham and North of A40 Specific frequency improvement	Critical 2016 - 2021	Peak frequency increases could be facilitated through bus productivity improvements if sufficient bus priority on the A40 and A44 is introduced

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
					packages procured directly between developer and bus operator		
Improve public transport in Carterton including bus stops and Real Time information.	OCC Bus companies Developers	To be identified	£8,550 for upgrading existing bus stops and Real Time information in Carterton (S106)	To be identified	External funding (such as the Local Sustainable Transport Fund) CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016 – 2021	
Provision of bus stops near RAF Brize Norton main gate and Carterton Road in Carterton.	OCC, WODC, Bus companies, Developers	£118,000 (2012)	None	£118,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016 - 2021	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Enhance the frequency of the bus service between Woodstock, Witney and Burford via Hanborough Station	OCC WODC Bus companies Developers Network Rail Rail providers	£1m	£29,892 towards retention of existing bus services serving Woodstock (S106) £10,000 towards railway access improvements on A4095 in Long Hanborough £300,000 from West Witney (North Curbridge development)	£660,108	External funding (such as the Local Sustainable Transport Fund) S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016-2021	Currently one bus per hour is provided by Stagecoach on the 233 service. This would provide two buses an hour. Links with rail network at Hanborough.
Oxford to Chipping Norton Bus Service Frequency Enhancement	OCC WODC Bus companies Developers	£1m	To be identified.	To be identified	External funding (such as the Local Sustainable Transport Fund) CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016 – 2021	Pump priming the Oxford to Chipping Norton S3 bus service to increase the frequency to two buses per hour

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Alterations to bus stopping arrangements at West Street bus stops, Chipping Norton	OCC WODC Bus companies Developers	To be identified	None	To be identified	External funding (such as the Local Sustainable Transport Fund) CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016-2021	Alterations to bus stopping arrangements in West Street to enable three buses to stop in each direction
Promote and enhance the Railbus from Chipping Norton to Kingham Station	OCC WODC Bus companies Developers	To be identified	None	To be identified	Rail/ bus providers CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016-2021	
Upgrade stops along S1/S2/S3 bus routes to premium standard throughout the District	OCC Developers WODC	To be identified	£5,010 held towards bus stop improvements on the A40 (S106)	To be identified	External funding (such as the Local Sustainable Transport Fund) CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016-2021	Facilities for cycles should be identified at key potential interchange stops

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Provision of new stops for S1 / S2 to serve housing and employment development North of A40 at Eynsham	OCC, bus operators	To be identified	None	To be identified	S106 from West of Eynsham and North of A40	Necessary 2021 - 2026	
Provision of 2 x new buses to increase frequency along A40 serving new development at Eynsham	OCC, bus operators	£1.4m - £1.6m	None	£1.4m - £1.6m	S106 from West of Eynsham and North of A40	Necessary 2021 - 2026	
New and improved bus stops between Corn Street & Oxford Hill to serve the S1/S2 route in Witney	OCC Developers	To be identified (each new bus stop will cost in the region of £50,000)	£37,394 for public transport infrastructure in Witney. £6,384 for improvements to bus stops on Newland. Total - £43,778 (S106)	To be identified	External funding (such as the Local Sustainable Transport Fund) CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016-2021	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Enhance and/or develop community transport services, where other services do not meet needs across the District	OCC WODC Community transport groups Bus companies Developers	To be identified	None	To be identified	Community fund raising Other funding streams to be identified.	Necessary 2016-2031	
Walking, cycling and riding improvements							
Pedestrian refuge crossing on Mill Street, Witney	OCC Developers	To be identified	None	To be identified	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016 – 2019	
Pedestrian crossing on Bridge Street in Witney	OCC WODC	To be identified	£115,072 held towards crossing on either Bridge Street or Witan Way (S106)	To be identified. Low risk due to money secured via S106.	S106	Necessary 2016 – 2019	
Crossing on Curbridge Road, Witney	OCC Developers	To be identified	None	To be identified	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2019- 2024	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Completion of foot/cycleway from Woodstock Road to Newland, Witney	OCC Developers	£285,100 (2012)	None	£285,100	To be identified S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2019 - 2024	
Extension of the Station Lane cycle route along Witan Way to Langdale Gate and the town centre, Witney	OCC Developers	£324,500 (2012)	None	£324,500	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2019 - 2024	
Cycleway along Downs Road and to include Range Road, Witney	OCC Developers	To be identified	None	To be identified	Currently S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2019 - 2024	
Pedestrian crossing at Coral Springs, Witney	OCC/ Developers	To be identified	£185,000 secured for controlled pedestrian crossing at Coral Springs (S106)	To be identified	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016 – 2019	
Pedestrian crossing at Station Lane, Witney	OCC/ Developers	To be identified	TBC	To be identified	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016 – 2019	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Pedestrian/cycle improvements from Curbridge Road along Thorney Leys to Station Lane employment area in Witney	OCC/ Developers	To be identified	None	To be identified	OCC funding and other external funding. CIL (when introduced)	Necessary Long-term 2019 - 2024	
West Witney footpath link	OCC	£15,000	None	£15,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016-2019	
West Witney new bridleway link and improvements to existing route	OCC/ Developers	N/a – fully funded	On-site provision	None	S106 Developer undertaking works	Necessary 2016-2019	
West Witney cycletrack link	OCC	£150,000	None	£150,000	S106	Preferred 2016-2019	
West Witney bridleway surface upgrade	OCC/ Developer	£50,000	S106 West Witney development	None	S106	Necessary 2016-2019	
Shores Green linking footpath	OCC	£15,000	None	£15,000	S106 highways scheme	Preferred 2016-2019	
Witney North Footpath to	OCC	£30,000	None	£30,000	S106	Preferred 2016-2019	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
bridleway status upgrade					CIL (when introduced)		
Witney to Brize Norton bridleway	OCC/ Sustrans	£250,000	None	£250,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2019-2024	
Improve footway and cycle infrastructure in Carterton including the area in the vicinity of RAF Brize Norton main gate on Carterton Road	OCC Developers	£46,000 (2012)	£10,020 held towards transport improvements at Carterton to include improved pedestrian and cyclist links, and highway conditions	£35,980	OCC funding and other external funding. CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2019 - 2024	
Cycleway along Brize Norton Road to provide a formal cycle route from east Carterton to the town centre	OCC WODC Developers	To be identified	None	To be identified	S106 OCC funding and other external funding. CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2019 - 2024	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Cycleway along Alvescot Road to provide a formal cycle route into Carterton town centre	OCC WODC Developers	£195,000 (2012)	None	£195,000	OCC funding and other external funding. CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2019 - 2024	
Witney to Carterton cycleway	OCC WODC Developers	£574,340	None	£574,340	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016 - 2021	
Carterton Perimeter Path status upgrade to bridleway/cycle track and surface improvements	OCC/ MOD	£140,000	None	£140,000	S106	Preferred 2016-2019	
Carterton East improvements to footpath	OCC/ Developer	£10,000	None	£10,000	S106	Preferred 2016-2019	
Potential cycle route from Eynsham to Oxford following the B4044	OCC Bike Safe	£ 3-4m (2016)	£30,000. (£5,000 from Vale of the White Horse District Council and £25,000 from	£1.22m	CLG funding S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016 - 2021	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
			Communities and Local Government)				
Upgrading of cycle route along A40 (A40 Science Transit)	OCC, WODC Developers	To be identified	£35m secured from Local Growth Fund	To be identified	External funding	Preferred 2016-2021	
Upgrading of pedestrian / cycle / bridleways in and around Eynsham, including a cycle route to Hanborough Station	OCC WODC Developers	To be identified	None	To be identified	S106 from West Eynsham and North of A40 development	Preferred 2021 - 2026	
Provision of crossings of the A40 at Eynsham (A40 Science Transit)	OCC	To be identified	None	To be identified	S106 from North of A40 at Eynsham	Necessary 2021-2031	
Garden Village Bridge across the A40 to Eynsham.	Developers, landowners, OCC	To be identified	None	To be identified	S106 from North of A40 at Eynsham	Necessary 2021-2031	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
South Leigh Bridleway connecting link	OCC	£30,000	None	£30,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016-2021	
South Leigh Footpath to bridleway status upgrade	OCC	£15,000	None	£15,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016-2021	
South Leigh to Eynsham Bridleway surface upgrade	OCC	£25,000	None	£25,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016-2019	
High Cogges Footpath to bridleway status upgrade	OCC/ Lower Windrush Valley Project (LWVP)	N/a – fully funded	Gill Mill/Smiths onsite provision	None	Developer undertaking works	Preferred 2016-2019	
Ducklington new Bridleway/Footpath connecting links	OCC/LWVP	N/a – fully funded	Gill Mill/Smiths onsite provision	None	Developer undertaking works	Preferred 2016 – 2019	
Ducklington Footpath to Bridleway status upgrade	OCC/LWVP	N/a – fully funded	Gill Mill/Smiths offsite provision	None	S106	Preferred 2016-2019	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Ducklington bridleway connecting link	OCC/LWVP	£20,000	None	£20,000	Gill Mill minerals and waste development	Preferred 2016-2019	
Ducklington The Moors surface improvement	OCC	£30,000	None	£30,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016-2019	
Shilton Bridleway surface improvements	OCC	£20,000	None	£20,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016-2019	
Shilton Bridleway connecting links	OCC	£50,000	None	£50,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016-2019	
Signet Footpath upgrade to Bridleway	OCC	£30,000	None	£30,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016-2019	
Kencot bridleway link	OCC	£35,000	None	£35,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016-2019	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Lew linking off-road footpath	OCC	£15,000	None	£15,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016-2019	
Northmoor footpath to bridleway upgrade including lock crossing improvements	OCC/ EA	£45,000	None	£45,000	S106 Charitable bodies	Preferred 2019-2024	
Bablock Hythe crossing of River Thames	OCC	up to £1.5m	None	£1.5m	S106 Charitable bodies	Preferred 2019-2024	
Skinners Bridge crossing of River Thames	OCC	£200,000	None	£200,000	S106 Charitable bodies	Preferred 2019-2024	
Bampton extension of bridleway to Aston Road	OCC	£30,000	None	£30,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016-2019	
Aston bridleway upgrade of footpath to Yelford	OCC	£30,000	None	£30,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016-2019	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Clanfield and Bampton creation of linking bridleway	OCC	£50,000	None	£50,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2019-2024	
Northmoor footpath to bridleway upgrade	OCC/ EA	£30,000	None	£30,000	S106 Charitable bodies	Preferred 2019-2024	
Standlake to Cote bridleway upgrade of footpath and additional link	OCC/LWVP	£40,000	None	£40,000	S106 Charitable bodies	Preferred 2019-2024	
Standlake to Cutmill Farm upgrade to bridleway	OCC/LWVP	£40,000	None	£40,000	S106 Charitable bodies	Preferred 2019-2024	
Creation of bridleway at Tar Lane to Beard Mill & B4449	OCC/LWVP	£50,000	None	£50,000	S106	Preferred 2016-2019	
Cycle/foot path in selected locations along B4449 to link up existing FP/BWs that end at the road.	OCC	£100,000	None	£100,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2019-2024	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Stanton Harcourt new bridleway link from gravel pits and upgrade to bridleway	OCC/LWVP	£40,000	None	£40,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2019-2024	
Creation of Windrush Path as continuous definitive public footpath	OCC/LWVP	£40,000	None	£40,000	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2019-2024	
Parking							
Potential provision of additional off-street public car parking spaces in Witney	WODC OCC Developers	£3.2m	£300,000 secured towards Witney town centre improvements as part of development proposal at Springfield Nurseries (S106) and £250,000 from West Witney SDA for town centre improvements. Totalling £550,000. Half of this amount to be allocated towards car parking	£2.9m	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2019 - 2024	£3.2m is the estimated cost of a 400 space multi-storey car park (conservative estimate based on £8,000 per space).

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
			in Witney. Total - £275,000 (S106)				
Potential provision of additional off-street public car parking in Chipping Norton	WODC OCC Developers	To be identified	None	To be identified	S106	Necessary 2019 - 2024	
Potential additional off-street public car parking and improved coach parking in Burford	WODC OCC Developers	To be identified	None	To be identified	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2019 - 2024	
Potential additional off-street public car parking and improved coach parking in Woodstock	WODC OCC Developers	To be identified	None	To be identified	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2019 - 2024	
Water Supply							
Upgrade of the supply boosters at Woodstock	Thames Water	Not known. Detailed costs to be calculated in TW's Business Plan 2015-2020.	n/a	To be identified	Thames Water Business Plan Developers	Necessary –2016 – 2021	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Waste Water Disposal and Treatment							
Upgrade of sewage treatment works at Witney and additional infrastructure to meet water quality objective	Thames Water	Not known. Detailed costs to be calculated in TW's Business Plan 2015-2020.	n/a	To be identified	Thames Water Business Plan Developers	Necessary 2016 - 2021	
Substantial infrastructure upgrades through the centre of Chipping Norton to convey flows towards the sewage treatment works to the West of Chipping Norton.	Thames Water	Not known. Detailed costs to be calculated in TW's Business Plan 2015-2020.	n/a	To be identified	Thames Water Business Plan Developers	Necessary 2016-2021	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Surface Water Drainage, Flood Alleviation and Defence							
Provision and maintenance of sustainable drainage systems on development sites	County Council Developers	Costs to be determined on a site by site basis	None. Funded by the developer and managed by the County Council.	n/a	OCC to collect funds.	Necessary 2016 – 2031	All new development should incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage systems
Diversion works. Colwell Brook, Witney	WODC Environment Agency	£30,000	£30,000	None	Funding administered by the Environment Agency	Necessary 2016 – 2016	Following a bid to the EA funding has now been received by the District Council to enable further works to be carried out
Construction of storage area upstream of industrial estate in Crawley	WODC	£200,000	None.	£200,000	WODC revenue S106	Necessary 2016 - 2021	The EA has confirmed that they are not in a position to assist in the funding of this scheme.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Construction of upstream storage areas and reintroduction of water meadow in Shilton	WODC Environment Agency	£80,000	£80,000	None	Funding administered by the Environment Agency	Necessary 2016 – 2016	Although the scheme has been funded by the EA, maintenance costs are estimated to be approximately £1,000 per year.
Construction of a flood storage area north of Bampton	WODC Environment Agency	To be identified	None	To be identified	To be identified from a combination of potential sources (see comment)	Necessary 2016 - 2021	The EA consider that currently the costs outweigh the benefits but if partnership funding could be secured from other sources, the EA would help fund these works.
Culvert repairs and ditch creation/enlarging in Curbridge	WODC Environment Agency	£45,000	£45,000	None	Funding administered by the Environment Agency for	Necessary 2016 – 2031	Although funding for the works has been secured, future maintenance

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
					capital works. Maintenance works to be funded by WODC from Council revenue and other funding streams.		will still be required. This will cost in the region of £1,000-£2,000 per year.
West End Link Road flood storage area on the flood plain of the River Windrush upstream of Witney	WODC, OCC, Environment Agency, Developers	£2.2m	None	£2.2.m	S106 funding EA funding Other funding sources to be identified.	Preferred 2021 - 2026	Currently the EA consider that the costs outweigh the benefits but the link road may present an opportunity for the Environment Agency to attract partnership funding for a combined scheme.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Upstream storage above Hailey Road in Witney	WODC Environment Agency Developers	£3.8m	None	£3.8m	Funding sources to be identified. The EA is unlikely to fund these works (Witney Flood Alleviation report dated April 2014)	Necessary (2021 – 2026)	
Ditch clearance programme throughout the District	WODC Developers	£15,000 annually. (£225,000 to 2031)	£20,000 held for ditch clearance from East Eynsham Development (S106)	£225,000	Council revenue Other funding sources to be identified.	Necessary 2016 - 2031	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Maintaining critical watercourses in unregistered land throughout the District.	WODC Developers	£15,000 annually (£225,000 to 2031)	None	£225,000	Council revenue Other funding sources to be identified.	Necessary 2016 – 2031	
Legal and practical investigations and surveys on land drainage and flooding issues throughout the District	WODC Developers	Minimum of £10,000 annually (£150,000 to 2031)	None	£150,000 (minimum)	Council revenue Other funding sources to be identified.)	Necessary 2016 – 2031	
Assisting residents with problems involving private piped systems throughout the District	WODC Thames Water	£10,000 annually (£150,000 to 2031)	None	£150,000	Thames Water funding	Necessary 2016 – 2031	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Energy							
Potential reinforcement of gas network to support additional load as part of strategic development sites.	SGN Developer	To be identified	None	To be identified	SGN Development	Necessary 2016 – 2031	
Potential reinforcement of gas network at Carterton to support growth	WWU Developer	To be identified	None	To be identified	WWU Developer	Necessary 2016 – 2031	
Potential reinforcement of electricity network to support growth in Witney, Carterton and Eynsham.	SSE DNO Developers	To be identified	n/a	To be identified	DNO (Distribution Network Operator) Development	Necessary 2016 - 2031	
Potential provision of biomass processing, decentralised, renewable and low	Developers WODC	Costs determined on a site by site basis	None	To be identified	S106 (major development)	Preferred 2016 – 2031	Contributions from new development towards local wood fuel

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
carbon energy as part of major developments throughout the District							initiatives where appropriate.
Waste and Recycling							
Small-scale 'local' waste management facilities for re-use, and repair recycling and composting throughout the District	OCC WODC Waste operators, Third sector organisations	To be identified	None	To be identified	Waste management companies, Third sector organisations S106	Preferred 2016 – 2031	
Improvements to the strategic waste management and reuse infrastructure serving West Oxfordshire	OCC WODC Waste Operators Third Sector organisations	To be identified	£111,639 held/ secured for the provision and/ or extension and/ or improvement of infrastructure for strategic waste management (S106)	To be identified	Waste management companies, Third Sector Organisations S106	Preferred 2016 - 2031	OCC agreed a HWRC strategy on 15 December 2015. This includes proposals for site rationalisation in the long term. The provision of any new or

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
							refurbished sites to serve the district will take into account the need for increased capacity arising from new development.
New waste transfer station	OCC WODC Waste Operators	£3m to serve 20,000 households	None	In the region of £1.5m	Waste management companies Other funding sources to be identified.	Preferred 2016 – 2031	A new site serving 20,000 households costs £3,000,000
Waste collection, re-use and recycling facilities throughout the District	Developers WODC	To be identified	None	To be identified	Development (S106 for on-site provision) Other funding sources to be identified.	Critical 2016 – 2031	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Telecommunications –Superfast Broadband							
Provision of superfast broadband throughout the District	Central Government BDUK OCC BT Network builders and operators Developers	£6.4m	OCC Better Broadband Project has funded 90% of the rollout which has now been completed.	None	Co-investment model - £1.6m loan from WODC, £1.6m grant from BDUK,	Necessary 100% rollout is anticipated by the end of 2017	Essential for sustainable economic growth
Mobile Communications							
Provision of 4G mobile phone coverage	Central Government (DCLG and Ofcom) Network providers	To be identified.	None.	To be identified	Central Govt funding. External providers.	Necessary 2016 - 2031	Essential for sustainable economic growth

Part B – Social Infrastructure

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Education							
1.5FE Primary school (including nursery), on a 2.22ha site to enable future expansion to 2FE if required, West Witney	OCC Developers	Approximately £8.2m (at 4Q14 price base)	Fully funded by West Witney SDA	None	S106	Critical 2016 - 2021	Potential for school to expand to also meet the needs of other development in this area.
2FE Primary school (including nursery), on a 2.22ha site North Witney	OCC Developers	Approximately £9m (at 4Q14 price base)	To be fully funded by North Witney SDA	None	S106	Critical 2021 – 2031	To be provided as part of any strategic development to the north of Witney
1 x 1.5FE Primary school (including nursery), on a 2.22ha site to enable future expansion to 2FE if required, West Eynsham	OCC Developers	Approximately £8.2m (at 4Q14 price base)	To be funded by development to the west of Eynsham	None	S106	Critical 2016 - 2021 (subject to timing of housing delivery)	To be provided as part of any strategic development to West Eynsham, based on 1000 homes

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Up to 2 x 2FE Primary schools (including nursery), on 2 x 2.22ha, North of A40 at Eynsham	OCC Developers	Approximately £18m (£9m each - at 4Q14 price base)	To be funded by development at proposed Garden Village north of A40	None	S106	Critical 2021 – 2031	To be provided as part of any strategic development to the north of the A40 at Eynsham. Based on 2200 homes, it may be that 1x3FE school is appropriate, but two schools would minimise travel to school distances and provide a better foundation for any longer term additional growth.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
1 x 2FE Primary school (including nursery), on a 2.22ha site, East of Chipping Norton	OCC Developers	Approximately £9m (at 4Q14 price base)	To be funded by development to the east of Chipping Norton	None	S106	Critical 2021 – 2031	To be provided as part of any strategic development to the east of Chipping Norton
Improvements and capacity increases to existing primary school provision by approximately 1 form entry in Witney and surrounding area	OCC Developers Schools	To be identified	£47,696 held/ secured towards extension and/ or improvement to primary school infrastructure serving Witney (S106)	To be identified	S106 CIL (when introduced) Other funding sources to be identified.	Critical 2016 - 2031	Expansion of West Witney Primary School to 2 form entry will cost in the region of 2.3m and will be funded primarily by S106 Agreements associated with development to the west of Witney.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
1FE Primary school (including nursery), on a 2.22ha site to enable future expansion to 2FE if required, Carterton	OCC Developers	Approximately £6.5mm (at 4Q14 price base)	To be funded by development to the east of Carterton	None	S106	Critical 2016 - 2021	To be provided as part of the committed urban extension to the east of Carterton. Expansion potential would also meet the needs of further Carterton growth.
Improvements and capacity increases to existing primary school provision in Carterton and surrounding areas	OCC Developers Schools	To be identified	None	To be identified	County Council funding S106 CIL (when introduced)	Critical 2016 – 2031	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Expansion of Woodstock Primary School to 2 form entry, related to any strategic allocation	OCC Developers Schools	To be identified	None	To be identified	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Critical 2016 - 2031	Additional site area would be required, and/or some existing facilities reprovided off-site

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Potential capacity increases at primary schools throughout the District	OCC Developers Schools	To be identified	Funding held/ secured from various S106 Agreements towards the Phase 2 expansion of Woodstock Primary School, the extension of Eynsham Primary School, extension and/or improvements to primary school infrastructure serving Enstone and infrastructure improvements for primary schools serving Stanton Harcourt/ Sutton totalling approx. £600,000	To be identified	County Council funding S106 CIL (when introduced)	Critical 2016 - 2031	Additional land may be required in some instances to supplement the existing school site area, e.g. at Hanborough.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
New secondary education facility, Witney	OCC Developers	To be identified	None	To be identified	County Council funding S106	Critical 2016 – 2031	Land to be made available as part of West Witney SDA (S106). OCC to consult on possible models of provision.
Expansion of Wood Green School and/or Henry Box School, Witney	OCC Developers Schools	To be identified	Funding held/ secured for extending/ improving senior school infrastructure in Witney - £44,639 (S106)	To be identified	County Council funding S106 CIL (when introduced)	Critical 2016 – 2031	May not be required if a new facility is provided.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Expansion of Carterton Community College	OCC Carterton Community College Developers	To be identified	None	To be identified.	County Council funding S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016-2031	
Expansion of secondary school capacity serving Eynsham	OCC Academy trust Developers	To be identified	Extension and/ or improvements of secondary school infrastructure serving Eynsham - £324,148 (S106). DfE Targeted Basic Need Programme funding secured by OCC for recent expansion of Bartholomew School, £1,731,872	To be identified	S106 CIL (when introduced)	Critical 2016 - 2031	Bartholomew School recently expanded, however to meet the scale of housing growth indicated an additional site would be needed, which could provide for a split-site Bartholomew School.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Extension to Marlborough School, Woodstock	OCC Developers	To be identified		To be identified	S106 CIL (when introduced) Other funding sources to be identified.	Critical 2016 - 2031	
Potential specialist provision for children with special educational needs throughout the District	OCC Developers	To be identified	£41,166 held/ secured for extensions and /or improvement of special educational needs infrastructure across the District (S106)	To be identified	County Council funding S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016 – 2031	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
New adult learning centre, Witney	OCC Developers	[15]If new build required - £760,000 to build, excluding land plus £240,000 required to 2031 for new classroom provision across the District. Total - £1m	£7,732 held/ secured for infrastructure/ facilities for adult and community learning across the District (S106)	Approx. £1m (excluding land and assuming new building required)	Potential developer provision (S106) through new community building County Council funding Potential for CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016 - 2021	Any new centre would need to be accessible to the whole community of Witney and the surrounding area

[15] Based on data from Oxfordshire County Council, two new classrooms to provide facilities for adult learning cost £440,000 at 1st Quarter 2012 price base. This will provide facilities for 1,350 learners per annum which equates to £326 per learner. According to the County Council, at least 5% of the adult population is likely to take up adult learning and this equates to £16 per person.
Based on the Census 2011 and the 2014 based Sub National Population Projections, the population increase of adults in West Oxfordshire will beapproximately 15,000 from 2011 to 2031. 16 (contribution per person) x 15,000 (projected population increase to 2031) = £240,000

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Leisure and Sport							
Additional outdoor playing pitch provision and changing facilities in Witney	WODC Developers Witney Town Council	[16]£10.4m	£214,647 towards the West Witney Sports Ground (S106)	Approx. £10.2m	S106 including some provision to be provided as part of the West Witney Strategic Development Area CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016 – 2031	

[16] West Oxfordshire Census 2011 details a population increase of 4,757 residents in Witney from 2001 to 2011 (22,765 to 27,522) which is a 21% increase. This equates to a 2.1% increase in the population of Witney per year. Therefore, if this is carried forward the population increase between 2011 and 2031 is estimated to be 42% which equates to 11,559 additional residents. West Oxfordshire Open Space Study 2013 advises a contribution per person for parks/ recreation grounds to be £900.00. Multiplying this by the estimated population increase in Witney from 2011 to 2031 results in a required contribution of £10.4m

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Replacement of Windrush Leisure Centre, Witney	WODC Developers	£22m - £25m	None	£22m - £25m	External funding (such as Sport England) CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2021 - 2031	Financial contributions to be sought from development (CIL). Other potential sources of funding to be investigated e.g. lottery funding
Additional outdoor playing pitch provision and changing facilities, Carterton	WODC Carterton Town Council Developers	[17]Approx. £4.4m	Approx. £300,000 (S106)	Approx. £4m	S106 including at least 2 pitches to be provided as part of East Carterton SDA CIL (when introduced) External funding	Necessary 2016 – 2031	Provision for additional provision in the vicinity of the football club to be investigated

[17] West Oxfordshire Census 2011 details a population increase of 3,964 residents in Carterton from 2001 to 2011 (11,805 to 15,769) which is a 33.6% increase. However this includes communal establishment residents of RAF Brize Norton which were counted in the parish of Brize Norton in 2001 and therefore this has skewed the figures.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Phase 2 Carterton Leisure Centre	WODC Developers	£5m	£500,000 (S106)	£4.5m	External funding (such as Sport England) S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016 - 2021	Around £500,000 already collected in developer funding. Potential for external funding to be sought as well as contributions from new development

The growth in the population of West Oxfordshire between 2001 and 2011 was approximately 10% with most growth in Witney and Carterton. Taking a mid point between the growth in Witney (21%) and West Oxfordshire (10%) is 15.5%
Assuming a 15.5% increase, this equates to a 1.55% increase in the population of Carterton per year and projecting this forward equates to an increase of 31% from 2011 to 2031 which results in a population increase of 4,888 residents.
West Oxfordshire Open Space Study 2013 advises a contribution per person for parks/ recreation grounds to be £900.00. Multiplying this by the estimated population increase in Carterton from 2011 to 2031 results in a required contribution of = approximately £4,400,000

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Enhanced community use, changing and reception areas at Carterton Community College Sports Hall and ATP	WODC Carterton Community College Developers	To be identified.	None	To be identified.	External funding (such as Sport England) S106 CIL (when introduced)	Necessary 2016 - 2021	
All-weather pitch for football and rugby in Chipping Norton	WODC Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Town Council Football Club	To be identified.	None	To be identified.	External funding (such as Sport England) S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016 - 2021	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Enhanced changing facilities for school sports hall, Woodstock	Marlborough School	To be identified.	None	To be identified.	County Council S106 CIL (when introduced) Fund raising	Preferred 2016 - 2021	
Potential outdoor floodlit training area and/or ATP, Woodstock	WODC Town Council	To be identified.	Approx. £30,000 (S106)	To be identified.	External funding (such as Sport England) S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016 - 2021	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Skateboard facility, Woodstock	WODC Town Council	To be identified.	None	To be identified.	External funding/ community funding opportunities S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016 - 2021	
Provision of ATP plus potential additional changing facilities, Burford	WODC Burford School	To be identified.	None	To be identified.	Burford School are fund raising. External funding (such as Sport England) CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016 - 2021	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Other sporting opportunities including water polo sessions, street sports and dance workouts across the District	Sportivate WODC GLLAbingdon and Witney College Town/ Parish Councils	To be identified.	£11,800 received from Sportivate	To be identified.	Sportivate – Lottery funding	Preferred 2016 - 2021	Sportivate is a programme to provide leisure opportunities for 11-25 year olds
Health							
Relocation of GP practice in Woodstock	TVAT, NHSE GP Practices	In the region of £4.5	None	Approx. £4.5m	External funding – PCT S106 CIL (once introduced)	Necessary 2016 - 2021	
Air quality management at Witney and Chipping Norton	WODC	To be identified	£1,024 held for air quality management in Chipping Norton (S106)	To be identified	S106 Other funding sources to be identified.	Necessary 2016 – 2031	
Public Safety							

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Various requirements including: Witney - Adaptation of Police Station, unmarked police car, 1.5 Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), 1 APNR camera Carterton - Provision of new office within multi agency hub, led by OFRS, 2 PCSO, marked police car. Chipping Norton - Marked police car. ANPR cameras Woodstock/Eynsham - adaptations regarding additional space at Police Facility. Marked and Unmarked Police Vehicles Provision of ANPR cameras in the area	Thames Valley Police Developers WODC	£1.13 - £1.53m	£3,000 held for CCTV in Carterton town centre (S106), £13,125 towards information technology and automatic number plate recognition cameras in Woodstock (S106)	Approx £1 - £1.5m	Thames Valley Police (TVP) S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016 - 2031	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
New one pump 2 bay fire station in Carterton	County Council CLG TVP SCAS	£3.2m	To be identified	To be identified	CLG transformation fund Capital programme budget Potentially OCC Other delivery partners	Essential 2016-2018	The Fire Service is putting in a bid to CLG and OCC will decide whether to part fund this depending on the level of funding provided by CLG
2-3 ambulance standby points in the District	SCAS NHS Foundation Trust	£520,000 – 780,000 for 2-3 standby points including ambulance £540,000 – 810,000 annual paramedic costs	None	£520,000 – 780,000	External funding - NHS Foundation Trust including paramedic costs	Necessary 2016 – 2031	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Community and Culture							
Provision for new community facilities as part of large-scale development across the District including sites at North Witney, East Chipping Norton, West Eynsham and Garden Village.	WODC OCC Developers Parish/Town Councils Local churches Voluntary sector	Costs to be considered as part of development. Average cost for construction of a community hall is around £2,000 m^2. On-going running costs also need to be taken into account	NE Witney Community Hall and Community Grants Funds totalling approx. £600,000	n/a – to be funded as part of large-scale development	S106	Necessary 2016 – 2031	
Enhanced Library Provision at Witney, Carterton, Chipping Norton, Eynsham and Woodstock.	OCC Developers Parish Councils and community funding	[18]Approximately £1.7m	£230,262 towards Library infrastructure including extension/ improvements to libraries across the District, electronic tagging and library book stock (S106)	Approx. £1.5m	County Council funding S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016 – 2031	

[18] Oxfordshire County Council indicates the cost of standard library provision to be 27.5m2 per 1000 head of population. The cost of extending a library is £2,370 per m2 at 1st Quarter 2012 price base. Book stock should be increased by 2 volumes per additional resident and the price per volume is £10.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Museum Resource Centre	OCC Developers	[19]Approximately £480,000	£1,392 (S106)	Approx. £479,000	County Council funding S106 CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016 – 20231	

Based on the Census 2011 and the 2014 based Sub National Population Projections, the population increase in West Oxfordshire will increase by approximately 17,000 from 2011 to 2031. Therefore the additional floor space required is 467m2 which will cost approx. £1.1m. In addition book stock will cost an additional £340,000 based on the above costs per person. The County Council also seek £17.15 per person towards the Central Library in Oxford which will cost approx. £292,000.This will total - £1.7m

[19] Based on data from Oxfordshire County Council, an extension to the Museum Resource Centre to mitigate the impact of new development to 2026 is £460,000. This equates to £5 per person at 1st Quarter 2012 price base. Based on the 2014 based Sub National Population Projections there will be a population increase of approx. 4,000 from 2026 to 2031. Based on a contribution of £5 per person, between 2026 and 2031, the contribution required will be £20,000. £460,000 + 20,000 = £480,000

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Provision of community art in major developments	WODC Developers Local communities Local artists and craftspeople	Community art incorporated as part of a development site will be calculated at that stage. Approximately £560,000 (towards 16 community art projects across the District to 2019)	Various S106 Agreements including developments at NE Carterton, Marriotts Close,, Abbeycare,, Stanton Harcourt, Woodstock, and Eynsham totally aprrox. £90,000 (S106)	Approx. £450,000	On-site provision as part of development through S106 More general improvements funded by CIL when introduced	Preferred 2016 - 2031	
Witney Arts Centre	WODC Developers Local communities Local artists and craftspeople	Approximately £4m-£6m	None	£4m-£6m	S106 CIL (when introduced) Other potential sources e.g. lottery funding	Preferred 2019 – 2024	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Social Care							
Provision of extra care housing and specialised housing for people with disabilities across the District	OCC, Housing providers/ associations, Homes and Communities Agency, WODC, Developers	To be identified	Unknown	To be identified	S106 CIL (when introduced) External funding	Necessary 2016 – 2031	
Space within community facilities on strategic sites for delivery of Tier 2 services (targeted services for children), Witney	OCC Developers	To be identified	Space within community facilities on strategic sites for delivery of Tier 2 services	To be identified	Potential developer provision at East West and North Witney (S106)	Necessary 2016 - 2031	If community buildings are not provided, the County Council would seek contributions to expand the existing Resource Centre at a cost of £1,100 per person aged 65 years or older.

Part C – Green Infrastructure

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Projects							
Measures to conserve and enhance the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in the District	Cotswolds Conservation Board WODC OCC Developers Landowners Cotswold Volunteers	The cost and extent of the projects will vary depending on the location and aims of each project	Unknown	To be identified	S106 Charitable donations and local fundraising	Preferred 2016 – 2031	The Cotswolds Management Plan and the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Business Plan Work Programme guide activity in the AONB
Measures to protect and enhance ancient woodland as part of the District's network of green infrastructure	Forestry Commission Developers Landowners	The cost and extent of the projects will vary depending on the location and aims of each project	Unknown	To be identified	S106 Charitable donations and local fundraising	Preferred 2016 - 20231	
Measures to protect and enhance historic parks and gardens as part of the	Historic England Developers Landowners	The cost and extent of the projects will vary depending on the location	Unknown	To be identified	S106 Charitable donations and	Preferred 2016 - 2031	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
District's network of green infrastructure		and aims of each project			local fundraising		
Deer Park Wood, Witney. Woodland management, habitat creation, development and management of public recreation opportunities	Witney Woodland Volunteers (WWV), with support from the Wychwood Project	Estimated to be between £25,000 - £50,000	No funding secured	To be identified. Estimated to be £25,000 - £50,000	S106 from development within the locality. External funding, charitable donations and local fundraising	Preferred 2016 – 2031 (Woodland management is a priority).	WWV have already been active in site management and fund raising. Deer Park Wood is in close proximity to West Witney development areas
Willow pollarding at Grimes Meadows, Witney.	Wychwood Project	£1,000 per year for 10 years (c. 5 trees pollarded per year)	No funding secured	£10,000	Grant applications	Preferred 2016 – 2031	Pollarded willows are a key feature of the area and a valuable wildlife features.
Fencing and pasture pumps at Grimes Meadows, Witney	Wychwood Project	£3,500	No funding secured	£3,500	Grant applications	Preferred 2016 - 2031	Stock fencing to secure site boundary as pre-cursor to reintroducing grazing.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
							Livestock watering points.
Parkland fencing at Langel Common, Witney	Wychwood Project, Diocese Board, WODC	£10,000	No funding secured	£10,000	Grant applications	Preferred 2016 – 2031	Replace wrought iron fencing alongside main public thoroughfare. Modify gates for farming access.
Woodland improvements at Dean Common Community Woodland, Chadlington.	Wychwood Project, OCC	£10,000 then £2,500 per year	No funding secured	£10,000 and ongoing	To be identified	Preferred 2016 – 2031	Thinning / coppicing of woodland areas to enhance long-term woodland quality. Gate improvements. Parking improvements
Orchard planting at Foxburrow Wood, near Hailey.	Wychwood Project	£600	No funding secured	£600	Charity reserves Community contributions	Preferred 2016 – 2031	Additional planting of heritage fruit trees at community woodland.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
					CIL (when introduced)		
Create second car park for access to Witney Lake and Windrush Path	LWVP/ Witney TC/OCC	£30,000	None	£30,000	S106 Other funding sources to be identified.	Preferred 2016-2031	
Provide/improve disabled access to key sites around Witney e.g. Witney Lakes, Rushy Common and Tar Lakes, Windrush Path.	LWVP/ Witney TC/OCC	£50,000	None	£50,000	S106 Other funding sources to be identified.	Preferred 2016-2031	
Various projects to improve accessibility, recreation opportunities, tourism, landscape and nature conservation within the Lower	LWVP WODC OCC Mineral operators Developers Landowners	The cost and extent of the projects will vary depending on the location and aims of each project	£151,961 held towards the Windrush Project (S106)	To be identified	S106 Charitable donations and local fundraising	Preferred 2016 - 2031	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Windrush Valley Project area							
Windrush in Witney Project - various capital projects plus consolidation of on-going management and maintenance arrangements	WODC Developers Landowners	The cost and extent of the projects will vary depending on the location and aims of each project	None	To be identified	S106 Charitable donations and local fundraising	Preferred 2016 – 2031	
Conservation Target Areas - biodiversity restoration through maintenance, restoration and creation of BAP priority habitats across the District	WODC OCC ONCF TVERC Landowners	The cost and extent of the projects will vary depending on the location and aims of each project	£4,782 held for Conservation Target Areas (S106)	To be identified	S106 Charitable donations and local fundraising	Preferred 2016 – 2031	
Local Wildlife Sites - potential enhancements and improved connectivity across	WODC OCC ONCF TVERC BBOWT	The cost and extent of the projects will vary depending on the location	Unknown	To be identified	S106 Charitable donations and local	Preferred 2016 - 2031	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
the District	Landowners	and aims of each project			fundraising		
Public access improvements and river corridor maintenance at Wootton Jubilee Fields Local Wildlife Site.	Wootton Conservation Trust	To be identified	Unknown	To be identified	Grant applications and charitable donations.	Preferred 2016 – 2031	
Site maintenance and enhancement at Woodstock Water Meadows	Friends of Woodstock Water Meadows Wychwood Project	To be identified	Unknown	To be identified	Grant applications and charitable donations. CIL (when introduced)	Preferred 2016 – 2031	
Improve connectivity between habitats and built development to encourage sustainable transport, greater recreation usage of green corridors	WODC OCC Developers Landowners ONCF	The cost and extent of the projects will vary depending on the location and aims of each project	£1,606 secured for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and green infrastructure in Carterton and Eynsham. £6,528 for kissing gates on footpath in	To be identified	S106 Charitable donations and local fundraising	Preferred 2016 - 2031	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
and to facilitate species migration across the District			Eynsham and improved footpath to Church Lane in Witney. Total - £8,134 (S106)				
Remove fish pass and weir at Langley Mill to improve habitat Evenlode (Bledington to Glyme confluence).	E.A. Wild Oxfordshire.	£37,500 - £50,000	None	£37,500 - £50,000	Grant applications and charitable donations.	Preferred 2016 – 2031	There are some ownership issues which need to be resolved prior to commencing these improvements.
Reprofile banks North of Bruern Abbey to limit amount of steep sided clay banks favoured by signal crayfish, to reduce extent of invasive species.	EA. Cotswolds Rivers Trust. Wychwood Project. Wild Oxfordshire.	£166,000 – £250,000	None	£166,000 – £250,000	Grant applications and charitable donations	Preferred 2016 – 2031	
Fish passage around weir/sluice at Charlbury to	EA. Cotswolds Rivers Trust.	£75,000 – £100,000	None	£75,000 – £100,000	Grant applications and charitable	Preferred 2016 - 2031	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
improve modified habitat and the condition of riparian zone and/or wetland habitats.	Wychwood Project. Wild Oxfordshire.				donations		
Fencing to prevent poaching by cattle to manage diffuse point pollution and improve riparian habitat along Evenlode.	Cotswolds Rivers Trust. Wychwood Project. Wild Oxfordshire.	£5,000 – £10,000	None	£5,000 – £10,000	Grant applications and charitable donations	Preferred 2016 – 2031	
Connection of pond to river to provide backwater feature, improve riparian habitat and create new habitat at Shipton under Wychwood.	Cotswolds Rivers Trust. Wychwood Project. Wild Oxfordshire.	£17,000 - £25,000	None	£17,000 £25,000	Grant applications and charitable donations	Preferred 2016 – 2031	Scope of project is subject to pond survey to determine species of fish.
Lower the bank height, narrow the river channel and create a two stage channel along the	Cotswold Rivers Trust. Wild Oxfordshire. Upper	£300,000 – £500,000	None	£300,000 – £500,000	Grant applications and charitable donations	Preferred 2016 - 2031	High banks are a result of historic dredging and land drainage

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Evenlode Foscot – Bladon to improve habitat / morphological diversity.	Thames Fisheries Consultative. Cornbury Park. Blenheim Estate.						practices.
Restore flood plain connectivity through bank reprofiling and wetland/backwater creation to improve condition of riparian zone and wetland habitats. South of Shipton station.	Cotswold Rivers Trust. Wild Oxfordshire.	£300,000 – 500,000	None	£300,000 – 500,000	Grant applications and charitable donations	Preferred 2016 – 2031	Increasing the connectivity of the Evenlode with the floodplain will have wide ranging ecological benefits as well as providing additional flood storage.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
River Evenlode – reconnect floodplain to river at Blenheim to create wet woodland	Blenheim. Combe Mill. EA. Wild Oxfordshire.	£300,000 – £500,000	None	£300,000 – £500,000	Grant applications and charitable donations	Preferred 2016 – 2031	Increasing the connectivity of the Evenlode with the floodplain will have wide ranging ecological benefits as well as providing additional flood storage.
River Evenlode – Combe Mill restoration scheme	Blenheim. Combe Mill. EA. Wild Oxfordshire	£60,000	None	£60,000	Grant applications and charitable donations	Preferred 2016 – 2031	
River Evenlode - Reconnect paleochannels to reinstate historical meanders and improve habitat. (Bledington to Glyme confluence).	Cotswolds Rivers Trust. Wychwood Project. Wild Oxfordshire.	£37,500 - £50,000	None	£37,500 - £50,000	Grant applications and charitable donations	Preferred 2016 - 2031	Increasing the connectivity of the Evenlode with the floodplain will have wide ranging ecological benefits as well

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Foscot to Bladon.							as providing additional flood storage.
River Evenlode - Creation of backwater and lowering of bank to reconnect flood plain to the river channel in area of lower lying land. To improve floodplain connectivity near Chilson.	Cotswolds Rivers Trust. Wychwood Project. Wild Oxfordshire	£75,000 - £100,000	None	£75,000 - £100,000	Grant applications and charitable donations	Preferred 2016 – 2031	Increasing the connectivity of the Evenlode with the floodplain will have wide ranging ecological benefits as well as providing additional flood storage.
Restoration of Emma's Dike, Witney	Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, EA, Lower Windrush Valley Project	£25,000	None	£25,000	Grant applications and charitable donations	Preferred 2016 – 2031	

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Informal and Formal Open Space							
Children's play areas (District-wide)	WODC Parish/Town Councils Developers	[20]£2m.	Funding secured from various S106 Agreements towards play areas NE Witney,, Marriotts, Witney,,Woodstock, and East Eynsham totally approx £100,000	Approx £1.9m	On-site provision as part of development through S106 External funding (such as SITA Trust)	Necessary 2016 – 20231	£30,000 has been provided from the SITA Trust and Chill-Out Fund towards new play equipment at Burwell Recreation Ground.
Extension of Country Park, Carterton	WODC Town Council Developers	To be identified	£25,200 secured for Kilkenny Lane Country Park Phase 3 (S106) The committed east Carterton scheme will provide for an extension to the Kilkenny Country	To be identified.	S106	Necessary 2016 – 2026	The committed urban extension to the east of Carterton will provide for an extension to the Kilkenny Country Park (S106). Other enhancements

[20] West Oxfordshire Open Space Study 2013 advised a contribution per person for play space provision to be £119.00.
Based on the Census 2011 and the 2014 based Sub National Population Projections, the population increase in West Oxfordshire will increase by approximately 17.000 from 2011 to 2031. 119 (contribution per person for play space provision) x 17,000 (projected population increase to 2031) = £26m.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
			Park				and potential extensions from development (S106) as appropriate
Provision of additional allotments across the District	Town and Parish Councils Developers WODC	[21]£1.275m	None	£1.275m	On-site provision as part of development through S106 Private funding, charitable donations and local fundraising	Preferred 2016– 2031	Demand for allotments has significantly increased over the last 5 years. The West Witney urban extension will provide on-site provision which will help to reduce the current identified undersupply in Witney

[21] West Oxfordshire Open Space Study 2013 advised a contribution per person for allotment provision to be £75.00.
Based on the Census 2011 and the 2014 based Sub National Population Projections, the population increase in West Oxfordshire will increase by approximately 17,000 from 2011 to 2031. 75 (contribution per person for allotment provision) x 17,000 (projected population increase to 2031) = £1.275m.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
Repair listed memorials in the churchyard at St. Mary's Church, Witney	WODC Witney Town Council Oxford Diocesan Historic England	£10,000	None	£10,000	Church Buildings Council funding Grant applications and charitable donations	Necessary 2016-2018	
New and/or enhanced cemetery provision across the District	Town and Parish Councils Developers WODC Environment Agency	Not known. Likely to be the provision of land rather than financial contribution.	None	To be identified	S106 Grant applications and charitable donations	Preferred 2016 – 2031	
Informal open space – provision of and improvements to including accessible natural green	WODC Developers	[22]£5.1m	Contributions of £6,900 towards Budds Close, Woodstock Linear Park secured (S106)	Approx. £5.1m	On-site provision as part of development through S106	Necessary 2016 – 2031	

[22] West Oxfordshire Open Space Study 2013 advises a contribution per person for informal open space provision to be £300.00.
Based on the Census 2011 and the 2014 based Sub National Population Projections, the population increase in West Oxfordshire will increase by approximately 17,000 from 2011 to 2031.
300 (contribution per person for informal open space provision) x 17,000 (projected pop increase to 2031) = £5.1m.

Infrastructure Project and Location	Delivery Partners	Estimated Cost	Funding already Secured and Funding Source	Funding Gap	Anticipated Funding Mechanism	Priority and Timescale	Comments
space across the District					Other funding sources to be identified.		

Cotswolds National Landscape: area of outstanding natural beauty

Management Plan 2025 – 2030 Consultation Draft

This title follows the format Defra are being consulted on by the National Landscapes Association.

A note on terminology

In June 2020 the Cotswolds National Landscape Board decided to replace the term Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with National Landscape. All AONBs are now branded as National Landscapes.

This plan uses the name Cotswolds National Landscape for the area designated as the Cotswolds AONB. At times it is abbreviated to CNL. AONB is still the legal designation.

The name used for the organisation associated with the designation is the Cotswolds National Landscape Board. At times this is abbreviated to CNL Board or The Board.

The legal name of the organisation remains the Cotswolds Conservation Board but this name is no longer used in most circumstances.

Text in red is editorial narrative or an indication of likely future changes.

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Contents at a glance

This table will be added at the design stage. The text below includes a footnote so has been included here to maintain the correct footnote numbering.

Purpose 1: To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape[1]

[1] In delivering purposes 1 and 2, the Board has a duty to seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of people living in the National Landscape. This duty is addressed through relevant policies under the two purposes.

Executive summary

The Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) Management Plan is a statutory plan, which sets out the vision, outcomes and policies for the management of the CNL for the period 2025-2030. These are summarised in the table on the previous page.

The vision sets the overall context for the plan and was adopted in 2025 following consultation with stakeholders. The vison was drawn up in the light of three interlinked key issues:

1. The climate emergency

2. Nature's decline and the ecological crisis

3. Health and societal changes

The plan goes on to define the special qualities of the CNL. These are the aspects of the area's natural beauty which make it distinctive and which are considered valuable, especially at a national scale. It is the impact of these key issues, amongst others, on the special qualities that has informed the development of the plan's outcomes and polices.

The outcomes express the desired state of the CNL. They are arranged under three over-arching headings which reflect the CNL's purpose of designation (to conserve and enhance natural beauty) and the CNL Board's additional purpose (to increase understanding and enjoyment). These headings are illustrated further with three broad aims:

1. Cross Cutting Themes; Tackling 21st century issues through progressive partnerships.

2. Conserving and Enhancing Natural Beauty; Influencing and delivering for landscape, nature and climate.

3. Increasing Understanding and Enjoyment; Ensuring access, learning and wellbeing opportunities are for everyone.

When viewed together the outcomes paint a powerful picture of what the Cotswolds would be like if this plan's vision became a reality:

Outcome 1 – Climate action: We are on target to achieve net zero (or better) within the Cotswolds National Landscape by 2050 (or sooner), as a result of stakeholders implementing a clearly defined pathway to net zero, whilst also adapting to the consequences of climate change.

Outcome 2 – Working together: Through collaborative partnerships and a shared understanding, the purposes of the Cotswolds National Landscape and its Board are applied consistently across the whole area.

Outcome 3 – Landscape: The evolving landscape and much-loved character of the Cotswolds is better understood and at the heart of all we do and the decisions we make.

Outcome 4 – Local distinctiveness: In a world of constant and rapid change, the local distinctiveness of the National Landscape is valued, conserved and enhanced.

Outcome 5 – Tranquillity: Noise pollution and visual disturbance are minimised to maintain tranquillity across the National Landscape.

Outcome 6 – Dark skies: Fewer areas of the Cotswolds National Landscape are affected by light pollution.

Outcome 7 – Historic environment and cultural heritage: The historic environment and cultural heritage of the Cotswolds National Landscape is better understood, conserved and enhanced.

Outcome 8 – Biodiversity and nature recovery: There is concerted unified action for a widespread recovery of nature – conserving, restoring and enhancing a connected mosaic of distinctly Cotswolds habitats and species.

Outcome 9 – The water environment. Watercourses and bodies of water within the Cotswolds National Landscape have good ecological and chemical status.

Outcome 10 – Farming and land management conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape in ways which balance the needs of recovering nature, climate action, food production, supporting livelihoods and public access.

Outcome 11 – Development and transport: Development and transport schemes positively contribute to the purpose of national landscape designation and also play a key role in facilitating the economic and social wellbeing of local and rural communities.

Outcome 12 – Health and wellbeing: The Cotswolds National Landscape plays a full part in improving the nation's health, benefitting the mental and physical wellbeing of those who experience it.

Outcome 13 – Access and recreation: The Cotswolds is recognised as a welcoming place, where barriers to access are being removed and everyone feels connected to the landscape.

Outcome 14 – Sustainable tourism: Businesses and visitors have a shared commitment to contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape.

The policies outline in detail how these outcomes can be achieved and are perhaps the most important – and most utilised – part of the plan.

Although the CNL Board will play an important role in delivering the vision, outcomes and policies of the Management Plan, successful delivery is also dependent on all individuals and organisations with an interest in the Cotswolds.

The Management Plan identifies key actions for specific stakeholders. This is a plan for the place not the body. The Management Plan also identifies key indicators for each policy which will be used to gauge progress in its delivery. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 places a duty on relevant authorities to seek to further the statutory purposes of protected landscapes[2].

[2] More details can be found in appendix 4.

Chair's foreword

The Cotswolds National Landscape has previously produced a Management Plan every five years, however we made the decision to undertake a limited interim review of the last plan to cover the period 2023-25, so that we can align with the timeline of the government's 25-year Environment Plan and accommodate any changes in policy resulting from the 2019 Landscapes Review. This plan sees a return to the five yearly cycle.

Our plan continues to address the many issues currently facing the Cotswolds National Landscape. These include helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change, supporting the recovery of wildlife and helping nature to thrive, ensuring everyone has access to the landscape to help improve their health and wellbeing, producing food and other products, and ensuring businesses and livelihoods are maintained. All this, whilst still maintaining the special characteristics and elements of natural beauty which make it a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Many of these demands are increasing but our understanding of their consequences is improving all the time. In our Vision for the Cotswolds, we acknowledge the need to constantly find new win-win solutions that conserve and enhance the landscape and serve the people who live, work, and visit here. Working collaboratively, in partnership with others, will be essential to help identify and implement these solutions. This new plan informs how we work in the Cotswolds National Landscape to balance the needs of nature, people, climate – and how we transition into a future that will surely be very different from now.

Brendan McCarthy
Chair, Cotswolds National Landscape Board
February 2025

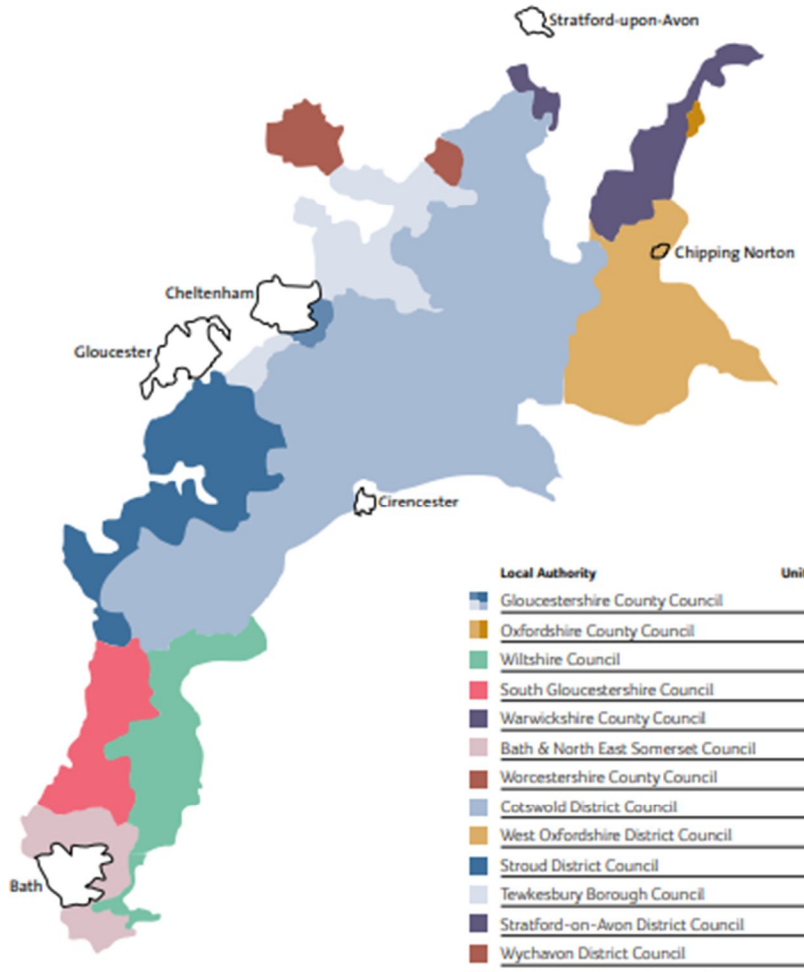
1. Introduction

Management Plan – context

What is the Cotswolds National Landscape?

The Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1966, and extended in area in 1990. Although AONB is still the legal name of the designation it was rebranded as a National Landscape for most purposes in June 2020. At 790 square miles, or 2038 square kilometres, it is the largest AONB – and the third largest protected landscape, including National Parks – in England. The CNL stretches from Bath and Wiltshire in the south, through Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire to Warwickshire and Worcestershire in the north. It cuts across 15 local authority areas.

Local Authority Boundaries



Local Authority	% AONB Area: County and Unitary Authorities	% AONB Area: District and Borough Authorities
Gloucestershire County Council	63.7	
Oxfordshire County Council	12.1	
Wiltshire Council	6.8	
South Gloucestershire Council	6.3	
Warwickshire County Council	5.1	
Bath & North East Somerset Council	3.6	
Worcestershire County Council	2.4	
Cotswold District Council		43.8
West Oxfordshire District Council		11.9
Stroud District Council		10.9
Tewkesbury Borough Council		8.5
Stratford-on-Avon District Council		5.1
Wychavon District Council		2.4
Cheltenham Borough Council		0.5
Cherwell District Council		0.2
	100%	83.3%

National landscapes are landscapes whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them[3]. The statutory purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance their natural beauty[4].

Each national landscape has been designated by reason of its 'special qualities'. These include the flora, fauna, historical and cultural associations as well as landscape and scenic views. Information on the 'special qualities' of the CNL is provided in Chapter 4.

Further information on national landscape designation is provided in Appendix 1 and information on 'natural beauty' is provided in Appendix 2.

What is the Cotswolds National Landscape Board?

The CNL Board ('the Board') was established by Parliament in 2004 as the Cotswolds Conservation Board and has two statutory purposes[5]:

1. To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape.
2. To increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape.

In fulfilling these roles, the Board has a duty to seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of people living in the National Landscape.

In circumstances where these purposes and duties are irreconcilable, the Board must give priority to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL[6].

The Board consists of 37 members, of whom 15 are nominated by local authorities, eight by parish councils and 14 are appointed by government. The Board's work programme is delivered by a small team of employees, supported by volunteers including the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens who deliver a programme of practical projects and guided walks across the CNL.

Further information about the Board can be found in Appendix 3 and on the Board's website: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

What is the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan?

The CNL Management Plan ('the Management Plan') is a statutory plan[7], which sets out policies for the management of the CNL[8]. The CNL Board is the body responsible for preparing and publishing the Management Plan and for reviewing it at intervals of no more than five years. This is the sixth such document prepared by the Board.

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[3] Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) (2015). Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Landscape Protection and Enhancement Support Scheme (England) 2015 – 17. Application to European Commission.
[4] Section 82, Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000).
[5] Section 87, Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000), as amended by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006).
[6] This prioritisation of conserving and enhancing is known as the 'Sandford Principle', after Lord Sandford, who chaired the National Parks Policy Review Committee between 1971 and 1974.
[7] Section 89 (1), Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) as amended by the NERC Act (2006).
[8] Section 89, Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) as amended by the NERC Act (2006).

Although the Board is the body responsible for preparing and publishing the Management Plan and will play an important role in its delivery, the Board doesn't actually own or directly manage any of the land in the National Landscape or its setting. As such, the policies of the Management Plan are also intended to guide the work of other stakeholders in delivering the Management Plan's vision and outcomes.

Why do we have a Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan?

The Management Plan is a key mechanism for achieving the purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL and increasing the understanding and enjoyment of the CNL's special qualities. The Management Plan is the only plan to guide the management of the CNL as a whole.

Who will deliver the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan?

This plan is ultimately about partnership working to make the vision a reality.

The CNL Board will play an important role in delivering the vision and outcomes of the Management Plan. However, its successful delivery is also dependent on other stakeholders, including local authorities and other public bodies, land owners and land managers, non-government organisations, developers, businesses and individuals. Many of these stakeholders already make a significant contribution to delivering the vision and outcomes of the Management Plan. This is a plan for the place and all the bodies and individuals engaged in it.

It is a legal requirement for 'relevant authorities', including all public bodies, to seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL. This legal requirement is known as the 'seek to further' duty[9]. This duty applies to relevant authorities in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in the CNL. Helping to deliver the outcomes, policies and targets of the Management Plan is an important component of fulfilling this duty.

More information about the 'seek to further' duty is provided in Appendix 4.

How will the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan be delivered?

How the Board will contribute to the delivery of the Management Plan itself, as well as encourage and support other stakeholders is set out in a three yearly Business Plan Framework which in turn is delivered through an annual work programme.

Every individual and organisation with an interest in the CNL can help make this plan's vision and outcomes a reality by contributing to its delivery. The 'Stakeholder Delivery' table in Appendix 5

[9] Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 introduced a new duty on relevant authorities in relation to management plans. For national landscapes, this is enacted through Section 90A of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which states that:
The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision:
(a) requiring a relevant authority … to contribute to the preparation, implementation or review of a plan under section 89 relating to an area of outstanding natural beauty in England;
(b) setting out how such a relevant authority may or must do so.
These regulations are likely to be developed, consulted on and come into force during the lifetime of this Management Plan.

provides an indication of the key measures that the Board invites specific stakeholders to undertake in order to help deliver this plan.

How will the delivery of the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan be monitored?

The Board will monitor and evaluate its contribution to the delivery of the Management Plan through the quarterly and annual review of its work programme. The 'State of the Cotswolds Report' – together with other local and national monitoring and surveys – will contribute to the provision of evidence, which is a crucial part of managing the National Landscape.

The Board will endeavour to monitor the key actions identified in the 'Stakeholder Delivery' table in Appendix 5. It will also endeavour to monitor compliance with the 'seek to further' duty (see Appendix 4).

Appendix 6 shows the key targets and monitoring indicators from the national Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework and additional local key indicators that will be used to monitor the delivery of the Management Plan. The monitoring indicators will demonstrate change over time. There are timed targets within supporting documents such as the Board's key performance indicators and the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan.

Management Plan – process

Much of the groundwork for the preparation of this plan has been undertaken in recent years. Throughout 2023 and 2024 research was commissioned taking a closer look at how the carbon footprint of the CNL could be developed into a pathway towards net zero. A great deal of stakeholder engagement has also been undertaken by partners through the development of the six Local Nature Recovery Strategies coincident with this Cotswolds.

A consultation was undertaken internally and with our local authority and public sector partners over the summer of 2024 and a wider fuller consultation was undertaken in the autumn. Throughout both of these consultations XX responses were received from XX individuals representing XX organisations. More individuals contributed as several responses were compiled from across teams.

Management Plan – structure and use

The core of the plan is made up of four components:

- Vision
- Key Issues
- Special qualities
- Outcomes and policies

The vision sets the overall context for the plan and was adopted by the CNL Board in June 2021 following consultation with stakeholders. The vison was drawn up in the light of three identified key issues:

1. The climate emergency
2. Nature's decline and the ecological crisis
3. Health and societal changes

The plan goes on to define the special qualities of the CNL. These are the aspects of the area's natural beauty which make the area distinctive and which are considered valuable, especially at a national scale. It is the impact of these key issues, amongst others, on the special qualities that has informed the development of the plan's outcomes and polices.

The outcomes and policies are arranged under three over-arching headings which reflect the National Landscape's purpose of designation (to conserve and enhance natural beauty) and the National Landscape Board's additional purpose (to increase understanding and enjoyment). These headings are illustrated further with three broad aims:

1. **Cross cutting themes**
   Tackling 21st century issues through progressive partnerships.
2. **Conserving and enhancing**
   Influencing and delivering for landscape, nature and climate.
3. **Increasing understanding and enjoyment**
   Ensuring access, learning and wellbeing opportunities are for everyone.

The outcomes are complimentary and inter-related. They express the desired state of the CNL and the policies outline how this can be achieved.

The supporting text for each outcome outlines the underlying issues that the policies are aiming to address. Each outcome is followed by a brief statement describing the primary relevant drivers for change. The outcomes have been derived from the vision and were used to establish the policies. They form the link between the long- term vision and immediate action.

The policies are perhaps the most important – and most utilised – part of the Management Plan. They serve five main purposes:

1. They are principles for how the CNL should be managed in order to:
   a. conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the CNL;
   b. increase the understanding and enjoyment of the CNL's special qualities;
   c. foster the social and economic wellbeing of local communities;
   d. address issues that are having an adverse effect on the CNL;
   e. achieve the vision and outcomes of the Management Plan.

2. They provide a framework for action by all stakeholders with a role to play in the management of the CNL including the CNL Board.

3. They represent the policies of the CNL Board.

4. They are intended to guide, influence and be used by stakeholders in their own plans, policies, proposals, work programmes and decision making.

5. Together with other guidance produced by the CNL Board, they are intended to facilitate a consistent and co-ordinated approach across the whole of the CNL.[10]

[10] The Management Plan and guidance documents produced by the Cotswolds National Landscape Board are the only publications that guide the management of the Cotswolds National Landscape as a whole. This is why the Board's guidance documents are specifically mentioned in several policies. The variation in local conditions and the importance of other plans and guidance that relate to specific parts of the National Landscape (i.e. individual local authorities) is also recognised.

It is important that all of the policies should be considered in their entirety, particularly in relation to development and rural land management. For example, when a development is being proposed in the CNL, the developer and the local authority should have regard to all of the policies, not just to Policy CE13 (Development and Transport – Principles).

One of the areas which the Management Plan policies relate to is in the policy-making and decision-making of local planning authorities (LPAs). For example, the CNL Board would encourage LPAs to have regard to the Management Plan policies when reviewing and developing their own policies, including those within their development plans. The same principle applies to parish or town councils in relation to the review and development of neighbourhood plans. The Management Plan policies are aspirational and as such, they might go further than current policies in individual development plans. It is intended that these aspirational policies will aid in helping to develop and evidence new local plan policies.

The Management Plan should be a material consideration in planning decisions. However, it is recognised that planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the LPA's development plan (unless material considerations indicate otherwise).

The forthcoming Defra guidance on the 'seek to further' duty may provide guidance on how national landscape management plans should be taken into consideration in relation to this duty. In the meantime, it is important to note that Natural England's view, in this regard, is that proposed measures to further the statutory purposes of a protected landscape … '*should align with and help to deliver the aims and objectives of the designated landscape's statutory management plan*'. .[11] In the context of planning, this principle should be applied in relation to plan-making and decision-taking. (This text will need updating once the Defra guidance has been published. However, the Defra guidance is expected to say something along the lines of the Natural England advice.)

Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act makes provisions for the Secretary of State to require relevant authorities to contribute to the preparation, implementation or review of national landscape management plans and to set out how a relevant authority may or must do so.[12] These provisions could potentially come into effect, via secondary legislation, as early as 2025.

The policies are consistent in the use of the verbs 'must', 'will' and 'should', as outlined below:

- '**Must**' is used where the relevant stakeholder has a statutory requirement to implement the policy.
- '**Will**' is used where the Board is the stakeholder with primary responsibility for applying and/or delivering the policy.
- '**Should**' is used where a stakeholder other than the Board has primary responsibility for applying and/or delivering the policy (although the Board would still play an active role in many of these).

The plan goes on to consider how it can be delivered and monitored. Further detail and evidence are then provided in appendices.

[11] In the context of the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan, 'aims and objectives' equates to outcomes and policies.
[12] Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.

2. Vision

A Cotswolds vision: a National Landscape for everyone

A time of opportunity

The Cotswolds is good for us; we feel better when we are here and engaged with the natural beauty of the landscape around us. In recent years we have been reminded of the intrinsic relationship between ourselves and the natural world – and the condition it is in. We believe the Cotswolds National Landscape offers opportunities for optimism, regeneration, wellbeing, and inclusion.

Challenges lie ahead

We are in the midst of a global climate emergency and an ecological crisis. Our awareness of ongoing social and economic inequalities is heightened. In the Cotswolds, these concerns are as real for us too, and we face significant challenges: climate change; threats to wildlife and habitat; changes to the farming landscape and agriculture; finding ways to deliver opportunities for younger people and provide for an ageing population; and achieving access to, and involvement in, the countryside for everyone – in ways which help benefit the countryside and encourage a diverse range of people to appreciate and care for the Cotswolds.

What can we do, and how should we do it?

To address these issues and begin to make improvements, we need to challenge ourselves. We must avoid complacency, and not adhere doggedly to past beliefs – this will hold us back, and limit how much positive change we can introduce. Instead, we need to embrace new ways of thinking in order to find win-win solutions which both conserve and enhance natural beauty, and serve the people who are here. We will work hard, and in partnership – to find outcomes which offer the most positive benefits and the least negative impact. We will need to demonstrate collaboration and leadership. We will need to be energetic and proactive. We will need to be bold, brave, and confident. Above all, we will need to acknowledge that we can't do it all alone – we want to work with other organisations and individuals to achieve results which benefit all of us, and nature.

The future should be bright

The treasured landscapes which make the Cotswolds nationally and internationally important are diverse in character, as are the people who live, work, and visit here. There is no 'one size fits all' for the future – but we have a greater opportunity than ever before to pull together as communities across the Cotswolds, and to work with each other to harness our dedication and expertise to forge the future of the Cotswolds. This place, the Cotswolds National Landscape, is for everyone, from all walks of life. In sharing it and looking after it, we will continue to create a place that is vibrant, unique, welcoming, and truly special – for people and for nature. We will work towards ensuring that the Cotswolds stays a working landscape, where agriculture thrives and supply chains are secure. Our communities should be connected and diverse, but self-sustaining. Visitors should feel welcome to enjoy being here, confident about access, and motivated to give something back to help look after the landscape. This should be a place where the landscape, nature, and people work in harmony with each other.

The Cotswolds will be a place that will inspire generations of people to look after it – now and in the years ahead.

3. Key issues

The Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) Board has identified three key issues that it considers to be having a significant effect on this plan's outcomes and in achieving its two purposes of:

- conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL; and
- increasing the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the CNL.

The impact of these key issues on the natural beauty of the CNL were considered during the development of the vision and the outcomes. They can be summarised as follows:

Key Issue 1 - The climate emergency

Mitigating and adapting to climate change whilst conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape.

Climate change is an important driver of environmental change in the CNL, and the symptoms of a changing climate are already being felt. The UK Met Office's Climate Projections Headline Findings report (2022)[13] states that climate change trends projected for the 21st century show an increased chance of warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers along with an increase in the frequency and intensity of extremes. These changes present a significant threat to the natural beauty and special qualities of the CNL. However, there is still a window of opportunity where the CNL can play a vital role in mitigating its worst impacts, whilst building a resilient landscape for future generations.

The Landscapes Review[14] emphasised the importance of the role National Landscapes should play in mitigating and adapting to climate change, and the CNL is committed to ambitious climate action.

In November 2021 the CNL Board adopted a Climate Crisis Commitment in which it states that:

"It is our commitment to identify a scenario which allows us to endorse a path to net zero emissions (or better) by 2050 (or sooner)."

In line with the commitment that all national landscapes have made in the Colchester Declaration[15], this scenario will include clear, measurable targets to achieve net zero.

National Landscapes are also now required to embed climate adaptation plans within future Management Plans[16], and will be expected to contribute to climate change targets in the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF).

The CNL Climate Change Strategy (adopted by the CNL Board in February 2022) summarises our current understanding of the climate change impacts on the Cotswolds and what stakeholders can do to both adapt to and mitigate these impacts. This strategy has been followed up with the investment in a consumption-based carbon assessment and a pathway to net zero. These resources demonstrate the CNL's commitment to ambitious climate action and provide the framework for achieving net zero by 2050, or sooner.

[13] Met Office (2022). *UK Climate Projections: Headline Findings*, version 4.
[14] Defra (2019) *Landscapes Review Final Report*
[15] A commitment to tackle the climate emergency and ecological crisis signed by all AONBs at a national conference in Colchester in 2019
[16] *Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3)* Annex 1: Climate risks and opportunities

Land use and management will be central to delivering this. Farming needs to adapt to focus on improving soil health to continue producing food, whilst reducing soil loss, sequestering carbon, protect water resources and providing better water quality and flood management; and tree cover needs to increase to capture carbon and provide shade and cooling. Wildflower grassland also helps to sequester carbon[17]. Other areas such as energy and transport, and food and drink will also need to be addressed, with much more of our energy needs met through low carbon energy technologies, buildings becoming more energy efficient and greater resilience built into our infrastructure; and community food networks being created to link farmers, businesses and consumers.

Some climate change mitigation and adaptation measures have the potential to adversely affect the natural beauty of the National Landscape, but with careful design and implementation, many of these measures can not only conserve but also enhance natural beauty. The challenge is to develop a pathway to net zero which also conserves and enhances natural beauty.

Key Issue 2 - Nature's decline and the ecological crisis

Enabling wildlife to recover, flourish and adapt to climate change through a robust nature recovery network which additionally provides us with clean air and water and healthy soils.

The story of our loss of wildlife is well documented and understood. Climate change is a well-recognised driver combining with habitat destruction and fragmentation to threaten the loss of our already diminished wildlife at an even greater scale and pace. The need for action is urgent if we are to avoid a mass extinction event. The Landscapes Review[18] found that this urgent need to do more for nature was a dominant theme:

> *In our call for evidence, the message was clear: more than any other single thing, people and organisations agreed that our landscapes should do more for nature.*

We know what we have to do to allow our wildlife to flourish and adapt to climate change. We need to create a robust and resilient nature recovery network – a landscape rich in joined up and well managed habitats. Such a nature recovery network is not only good for wildlife, it provides a range of 'ecosystem services' such as clean water or food or a beautiful place to get away from it all and enjoy some peace surrounded by nature. These ecosystem services are critically important to the wellbeing and economy of people living in and around the Cotswolds.

The Landscapes Review proposed that:

> *National Landscapes should form the backbone of Nature Recovery Networks – joining things up within and beyond their boundaries.*

National landscapes collectively responded to the challenge of the Landscapes Review with the Colchester Declaration[1915] which contains commitments to produce nature recovery plans and restore habitats and populations of endangered species.

[17] https://www.plantlife.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Grasslands-as-a-Carbon-Store.pdf
[18] Defra (2019) *Landscapes Review Final Report*
[19] A commitment to tackle the climate emergency and ecological crisis signed by all AONBs at a national conference in Colchester in 2019.

The Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan was adopted as CNL Board guidance in October 2021. It represents a detailed look at the species and habitats of the Cotswolds and what should be done to enable their recovery and adaptation to climate change , in a timely manner.

We are entering a new era of collective and resourced action on delivering nature recovery. Now is the time to raise our ambition for what can be achieved. The international obligation that the government has signed up to of 30% of land and sea managed for nature by 2030 is an indication of this ambition.

New statutory Local Nature Recovery Strategies have been developed (hopefully they will be by this plans publication or at least we will have a good idea of their content) which identify and map nature recovery priorities and measures. They are a key tool for driving and directing resources towards the recovery of nature. Biodiversity Net Gain already uses them for targeting and other funders have indicated a willingness to do the same. There are six of these strategies coincident with the Cotswolds and the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan has been used to influence their content.

The national statutory Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (Appendix 6) includes seven targets directly relevant to the recovery of nature in the Cotswolds. These are targets for the place and are owned by all stakeholders. When combined with the duties on public bodies to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to further the purposes of designation of protected landscapes they will help drive resources to the recovery of nature across the national landscape.

Key Issue 3 - Health and societal changes

Ensuring that livelihoods are maintained and that everyone within and around the National Landscape can realise the health and wellbeing benefits of accessing its natural beauty.

Wider societal changes continue to affect people living and working in the Cotswolds. These include worsening housing affordability, pressure on the agricultural sector and moves towards more hybrid and remote working.

We face unprecedented environmental challenges in the form of the climate emergency and ecological crisis. We have to respond quickly and vigorously to address them and furthermore we have to do this in a way that supports livelihoods and communities. The solutions have to work in social and economic terms as well as environmental if they are to have a lasting impact.

The mental and physical health benefits of accessing natural beauty are becoming increasingly understood and appreciated. The Landscapes Review published by Julian Glover in 2019 challenged Protected Landscapes to do more to welcome people and crucially to do a lot more to ensure that people from currently underrepresented groups can enjoy the benefits of accessing them too. A challenge that the Cotswolds National Landscape Board intends to address, building on current activity and continuing to work with stakeholders, old and new.

4. The special qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape

The 'special qualities' of a national landscape are those aspects of the area's natural beauty which make the area distinctive and which are considered valuable, especially at a national scale. They are the key attributes on which the priorities for its conservation, enhancement and management are based. They bring out the essence of the national landscape as an evocative description of the area rather than as a statistical account.

The Cotswolds is a rich mosaic of historical, social, economic, cultural, geological, geomorphological[2016] and ecological features. The special qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) are:

- The unifying character of the limestone geology – its visible presence in the landscape and use as a building material;
- The Cotswold escarpment, including views from and to the National Landscape;
- The high wolds – a large open, elevated predominately arable landscape with commons, 'big' skies and long-distance views;
- River valleys, the majority forming the headwaters of the Thames ~~with high-quality water~~;
- Distinctive dry stone walls;
- Flower-rich grasslands including floodplain meadows and neutral grasslands and particularly limestone grasslands;
- Ancient broadleaved woodland particularly along the crest of the escarpment.
- Variations in the colour of the stone from one part of the National Landscape to another which add a vital element of local distinctiveness;
- The tranquillity of the area, away from major sources of inappropriate noise, development, visual clutter and pollution;
- Extensive dark sky areas;
- Distinctive settlements, developed in the Cotswold vernacular with high architectural quality and integrity;
- An accessible landscape for quiet recreation for both rural and urban users, with numerous walking and riding routes, including the Cotswold Way National Trail;
- Significant archaeological, prehistoric and historic associations dating back 6,000 years, including Neolithic stone monuments, ancient drove roads, Iron Age forts, Roman villas, ridge and furrow fields, medieval wool churches and country estates and parks;

[20] Geomorphology is the physical features of an area, strongly influenced by geology.

- A vibrant heritage of cultural associations, including the Arts and Crafts movement of the 19th and 20th centuries, famous composers and authors and traditional events such as the Cotswolds Olimpicks, cheese rolling, Levellers day and woolsack races[21].

5. Cross cutting themes

Tackling 21st century issues through progressive partnerships

The climate emergency

Outcome 1 – Climate action:

Climate action: We are on target to achieve net zero (or better) within the Cotswolds National Landscape by 2050 (or sooner), as a result of stakeholders implementing a clearly defined pathway to net zero, whilst also adapting to the consequences of climate change.

The scale and urgency of climate action are very significant, and the CNL is not exempt from playing a full part. Indeed, analysis shows that emissions per person in the CNL are over 25% higher than the UK average. All the necessary actions need to be designed in ways which conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds for future generations, and carefully but urgently implemented.

Policy CC1: Climate change – mitigation

CC1.1. Climate change mitigation including the sequestration of carbon should be a key component of land management practices and Environmental Land Management, and rural development support mechanisms in the National Landscape. Examples include:

- Increase canopy cover through increased tree cover and woodland and hedgerow creation.
- Measures that capture and store carbon in soil such as using herb-rich leys, minimising cultivation and wildflower grassland restoration.
- Extensive grazing and integrating extensive livestock systems with arable production.

CC1.2. Greenhouse gas emissions should be minimised through reducing energy demand in existing and new buildings and infrastructure by:

- Improving energy efficiency, for example, by retrofitting existing buildings. Where traditional buildings including listed buildings are retrofitted and this effects the fabric of the building, this must be undertaken by historic building specialists and in a manner that is compatible with the purpose of National Landscape (AONB) designation;
- Reducing embodied carbon through the use of sustainably sourced timber and secondary and recycled materials within all construction unless demonstrably unachievable on technical and practical grounds;
- Utilising passive measures, for example the orientation of buildings, passive house design and the provision of high levels of insulation;

[21] A fuller list of heritage and cultural associations is in the Conserving and Celebrating Cultural Capital in the Cotswolds National Landscape position statement.

- Additional glazing, solar panels, heating systems (e.g. air or water source heat pumps) and low carbon driveway materials should be considered.
- Sustainable construction methods and management plans to reduce and manage construction waste should be implemented[22];
- Incentivising voluntary sustainability standards, for example BREEAM, Building with Nature, and One Planet Living principles.

CC1.3. Greenhouse gas emissions should be minimised through reducing emissions from both residents' and tourists' transport and travel by:

- Reducing car use for example, through increasing green and active travel including public transport and increasing shared mobility through car sharing schemes;
- Reducing the need to travel for example by encouraging home working and affordable housing provision close to sources of employment, services and facilities;
- Improving the sustainability of travel through for example; a comprehensive bus service linked to public transport hub promotion/integration and information.
- Prioritise the provision of walking, cycling and public transport use, including adequate cycle parking and safe cycle routes.
- Providing sufficient infrastructure for the charging of electric vehicles, scooters and bikes;
- Promoting messages aimed at minimising air travel by Cotswolds residents.
- Developers should be encouraged to evidence how their development will support active travel and public transportation use. This includes incorporation of cycle storage, workplace lockers, changing, dry room and shower facilities to encourage staff active travel, car club provisions, EV charging points that go above and beyond the current Building Regulations.

CC1.4. Greenhouse gas emissions should be minimised through generating and distributing energy from low carbon sources in a manner consistent with the purpose of National Landscape (AONB) designation, this plan and associated guidance including the CNL Renewable Energy Position Statement (June 2023):

- All developments, should have a net zero operational carbon balance and 100% energy provided by low carbon sources.
- Support community-led renewable energy production, in line with the CNL Renewable Energy Position Statement.

CC1.5 Greenhouse gas emissions from food production should be minimised by supporting the development of community food networks, linking farmers and businesses to each other and consumers; promote the purchasing locally produced food products and services and encouraging small-scale vegetable growing in gardens and allotments.

CC1.6. Climate action should be undertaken in a way that is compatible with and seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape.

CC1.7. Stakeholders should work towards the delivery of the relevant targets for climate change within the national Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.

Target 6. Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.

Target 8. Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

[22] This is backed up by CONFOR's 'The National Wood Strategy' and the 'Timber in Construction Roadmap''

Target 7 has been excluded as it concerns the area of peat restored. Target 8 is currently being apportioned across protected landscapes nationally and will additionally be further informed by local woodland opportunity mapping. The local target is likely to exceed the apportioned national target.

Policy CC2: Climate change – adaptation

CC2.1. The risks posed by the consequences of climate change should be reduced through a range of adaptation measures, including those identified in:

- relevant policies of this Management Plan. (references added in final version)
- the CNL Climate Change Strategy (2022)
- The CNL Climate Change Adaptation Plan (to be published by XXXX)

CC2.2. Climate change adaptation should be a significant driver in the design of all new development, infrastructure and transport provision[23].

CC2.3. Climate change adaptation should be a key component of land management practices and Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms, in the National Landscape.

CC2.4. Further research into the predicted impacts of climate change on the CNL should be undertaken. This research should be used to advise and inform sustained behavioural change to adapt to climate change and conserve and enhance the National Landscape and its special qualities.

Our climate is rapidly changing, driven by greenhouse gas emissions from human activities. We are already experiencing the dangerous impacts of a rapidly heating climate and many of the defining characteristics and special qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) are threatened by climate change and potentially our responses to it. Even if we cut emissions to zero tomorrow, further warming is inevitable due to the legacy of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that will take decades to decline to safe levels. However, a window of opportunity remains for ambitious climate action to prevent its worst impacts, and to help people and wildlife adapt.

To do this, the CNL has invested in a consumption-based carbon assessment, to understand the extent and sources of current emissions in the landscape, whilst setting out a rough scenario to reach Net Zero. A series of workshops with stakeholders ran throughout the winter of 2023. The resulting report published in February 2024 set these findings in the context of the CNL. These investments provide a clear framework for setting out these policies for the CNL to reach Net Zero by 2050, or sooner (Appendix 7).

Land use and management changes should be a priority area for reducing emissions and sequestering carbon, but any changes must seek to further and be compatible with the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL. This can be achieved through a range of actions, including:

- Creating a woodland, tree and hedgerow opportunity map in consideration of the core purposes of CNL and using this map to guide increased appropriate woodland and hedgerow

[23] Additional measures not explicitly addressed in the Management Plan include protecting transport infrastructure from extreme weather events and ensuring that all new and retrofit development recognises the need to compensate for hotter summers and extreme weather events.

creation. The potential for different tree species to be more resilient to climate change should be taken into consideration when choosing which species to plant[24].

- Quantify current emissions from farming and the potential contribution of regenerative agriculture to emissions reductions and climate mitigation. Use this to accelerate the uptake of regenerative agriculture practices in CNL.

This Management Plan covers 20% of the remaining harvests before 2050. Accordingly, actions cannot be delayed, and so further analysis, opportunity mapping etc. must happen alongside encouraging changes now in land use and management.

It is a cornerstone principle of resilience preparation that we plan for a wide range of possible future changes and the CNLs climate adaptation plan should identify the level of risk posed to each of the landscape's special qualities and provisioning services, whilst identifying the stakeholders/partners CNL will need to work with to address them.

Working together

Outcome 2 – Working together:

Through collaborative partnerships and a shared understanding, the purposes of the Cotswolds National Landscape and its Board are applied consistently across the whole area.

This Management Plan is a place-based plan for the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), not just the National Landscape Board – the Board is unable to deliver the plan by itself. The Plan helps inform the activity of a multitude of partners, stakeholders, landowners, communities and visitors in order to contribute to the purposes of the protected landscape designation.

Policy CC3: Compliance with section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act

CC3.1. Relevant authorities, including public bodies and statutory undertakers, must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL, in line with Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The legal requirement for relevant authorities to seek to further the purpose of National Landscape designation (the 'seek to further' duty) provides an important mechanism for conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape. Further information on the 'seek to further' duty is provided in Appendix 4.

Policy CC4: Working in partnership

CC4.1. Stakeholders should work in partnership to support the purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) and increasing the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities. Stakeholders should also cooperate in fostering the economic and social wellbeing of communities in and around the National Landscape.

CC4.2. Communities and businesses within and around the CNL should be

[24] Details are in the Cotswolds National Landscape Tree Species and Provenance Position Statement.

encouraged to value and celebrate being part of a nationally recognised landscape and to contribute to the purpose of national landscape designation.

CNL is an administratively complex area, extending across 15 local authorities and three geographical regions. This makes it very challenging to develop and deliver a consistent approach to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL including its special qualities and increasing the understanding and enjoyments of its special qualities. However, the potential benefits are huge, including better coordination of planning, development, Environmental Land Management schemes, nature recovery planning, tourism and recreation.

Taking a consistent approach, in this context, means being consistent in having regard to (and, ideally, being compatible with): the statutory purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape; national policy relating to national landscapes; the policies of the Management Plan; and the guidance and position statements published by the Board. However, this does not necessarily mean that decisions made or actions taken will always be the same across the whole of the National Landscape, as these will vary depending on local social, economic and environmental circumstances.

Guidance on what is meant by 'landscape- led' is provided in the Board's Landscape-led Development Position Statement.

The new duty to seek to further the purposes of designation combined with a statutory targets and outcomes framework act as a powerful driver for relevant authorities, including public bodies, to continue working collaboratively towards the outcomes in the plan and to contribute even more.

Though there is generally a significant level of appreciation for the Cotswolds landscape amongst communities and businesses in and around the CNL, awareness and understanding of its status as a protected landscape and the implications of this are lacking. This reduces awareness of the need for the conservation and enhancement of the sense of place, its distinctive features and special qualities.

6. Conserving and enhancing

Influencing and delivering for landscape, nature and climate.

Landscape

Outcome 3 – Landscape:

The evolving landscape and much- loved character of the Cotswolds is better understood and at the heart of all we do and the decisions we make.

Landscape changes over time. Such change is often perceived as slow or non-existent, but when a view or place is compared to its earlier self, even over a comparatively short time span, the change can be dramatic. Since national landscape designation in 1966 much has changed in the Cotswolds, driven to a large extent by government policies for farming, consumer demand for cheap food and global commodity markets supported by technological advances in agriculture.

Policy CE1: Landscape

CE1.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on, or create change in, the landscape of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the landscape character of the location, as described by the CNL Board's Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy and Guidelines. There should be a presumption against the loss of key characteristics identified in the landscape character assessment.

CE1.2. Proposals that are likely to impact on, or create change in, the landscape of the CNL, should seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the scenic quality of the location and its setting, views, including those into and out of the National Landscape and visual amenity.

CE1.3. Conserving and enhancing landscape character should be a key objective of Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms in the Cotswolds National Landscape.

CE1.4. Rural skills training and the utilisation of those skills – such as dry stone walling, stone-masonry, woodland creation and management and hedgelaying – should be supported to ensure the long-term retention, creation and management of the key features of the Cotswolds National Landscape.

Environmental Land Management schemes and woodland grants, changes in the shooting and equestrian sectors, tree diseases, fluctuations in commodity prices, population growth and migration and changes in employment and communications, all of which can be influenced by Government policy and financial support. Continued change is inevitable and will have an impact on the landscape and the appearance of the Cotswolds in the future. Addressing the climate emergency, nature's decline and the ecological crisis will cause more change. This change needs to be managed and guided to ensure the Cotswolds retains its landscape character and special qualities.

It is important to consider the cumulative impact of changes on landscape character. This applies to both incremental building development and land use change, particularly equestrian development and horticultural production under polytunnels.

The surroundings and setting of the National Landscape are important to its landscape and scenic beauty. For example, the impact of development and land management outside the National Landscape on views from – and to – the National Landscape is an important consideration, as is the retention of key views.

Support mechanisms for farming, forestry and other land management sectors could impact the conservation and enhancement of the landscape and special qualities of the National Landscape. It could also lead to legislative changes in environmental protection and management impacting on the conservation and enhancement of the National Landscape and its special qualities.

The loss of traditional skills is a significant issue for the future management of the landscape and the special qualities of the National Landscape.

In 2021 the National Landscape Board published a position statement on landscape-led development supported by appendices.

The CNL is significant for its geology and geomorphology with some features unique to the area. The geology influences the landscape, soils and biodiversity and has played a significant role in the National Landscape's industry and heritage. Survey work has also identified the Cotswolds as significant for tufa streams and springs. It is vital that this geological resource is protected, conserved, enhanced, promoted and better understood.

Policy CE2: Geology and Geomorphology

CE2.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the geological and geomorphological features of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of these features.

CE2.2. The geological and geomorphological features of the CNL should be conserved and enhanced through effective management.

CE2.3. Opportunities should be sought to promote awareness and understanding of the geological and geomorphological features of the CNL.

CE2.4. Exploration and research into the geology and geomorphology of the CNL should be continued in order to improve understanding of the landscape, and of the geological resource and its importance to inform the conservation and management of geological and geomorphological sites.

The Cotswolds represents the best-known section of the oolitic limestone band that arcs across England from Dorset to the Humber. The distinctive character of the Cotswolds and its special qualities are defined by this underlying limestone geology. It provides a unifying character with a visible presence in the landscape and use as a building material. The importance of geology in the CNL is illustrated by the designation of 36 geological Sites of Special Scientific Interest and over 85 Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites.

Policy CE3: Natural and cultural capital – principles

The CNL has a wealth of natural and cultural capital (the stock of natural and cultural heritage assets) that provide goods and services, often called ecosystem services, that benefit wider society as a whole. These assets – and the services that they provide – are of local, national and, for some services, international importance. However, they are not fully understood or valued.

CE3. 1. The natural and cultural capital of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), and the services they provide, should continue to be assessed and evaluated.

CE3. 2. The use of natural and cultural capital accounting should be encouraged in order to fully understand the implications of investment, development and management decisions.

CE3.3. The financial and non-financial benefits of natural and cultural capital and the services they provide should be promoted.

CE3.4. Proposals affecting the CNL should have regard to – and seek to conserve and enhance – the natural and cultural capital of the CNL and the services they provide.

CE3.5. Natural and cultural capital and the services they provide should be key components of

Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms in the CNL.

Natural capital stock includes renewable and non-renewable natural resources e.g. geology, minerals, soils, water, air, plants, animals, habitats and ecosystems. The National Landscape's cultural heritage assets are equally rich, including the cultural-historical landscape, individual heritage assets, historic settlements and vibrant cultural activity.

Ecosystem services include; food and fuel provision, the regulation of climate and purification of water, and wellbeing benefits to people through recreation and appreciation of nature.

The CNL Board published a Position Statement on 'Conserving and Celebrating Cultural Capital in the Cotswolds AONB' in 2019 and in 2021 the Board published 'A Natural Capital Evaluation of the Cotswolds National Landscape' and a 'Cotswolds Natural Capital Atlas'.

Local distinctiveness

Outcome 4 – Local distinctiveness:

In a world of constant and rapid change, the local distinctiveness of the National Landscape is valued, conserved and enhanced.

One of the special qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape is the unifying character of the limestone geology – its visible presence in the landscape and its use as a building material. Development pressures could potentially erode this local distinctiveness, for example, through the use of inappropriate building materials and inappropriate design.

Policy CE4: Local distinctiveness

CE4.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the local distinctiveness of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of this local distinctiveness. This should include:

- being compatible with the CNL Board's Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Strategy and Guidelines, Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change and any relevant position statement or guidance published by the Board.
- being designed to respect local settlement patterns, building styles, scale and materials and in accordance with design guidance prepared by local planning authorities;
- using an appropriate colour of Cotswold limestone to reflect local distinctiveness.

CE4.2. Innovative designs, compatible with the conservation of natural beauty – which are informed by local distinctiveness, character and scale – should be welcomed.

CE4.3. The development of design guidance – which is supported by a robust evidence base and which reflects relevant guidance published by the CNL Board – will be encouraged.

CE4.4. Provision should be made for the quarrying of limestone, at an appropriate scale, in order to provide building materials that help maintain and enhance the local distinctiveness of the National Landscape. Any production of aggregate and agricultural lime should only be as by-product for local use (within the CNL) and only for essential operational purposes, with sufficient material being left to deliver the agreed restoration plan (or a more natural

landform) without relying on imported material. Any such mineral sites should be required to demonstrate that they do not have any significant adverse effects on the natural beauty of the National Landscape including its special qualities or the integrity of existing wildlife sites. Where there are multiple quarries in close proximity to each other, consideration should be given to cumulative impacts, including the impact of HGV movements.

The publication and promotion of design guidance that reflects local distinctiveness is an essential tool for addressing this issue. It will also be important to maintain an adequate supply of locally sourced, appropriately coloured limestone as this varies across the Cotswolds and stone sourced from too far away will be intrusive and undermine local distinctiveness.

Local distinctiveness includes natural elements including but not limited to: woodlands, grasslands, species, the shape and scale of fields, and the character of field boundaries such as hedges and walls. These elements should guide the design of new green and blue infrastructure.

The elements that contribute to local distinctiveness are described in detail within the report Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change. They also include building walls, roofing and features.

Tranquillity

Outcome 5 – Tranquillity:

Noise pollution and visual disturbance are minimised to maintain tranquillity across the Cotswolds National Landscape.

Research undertaken by CPRE has identified a growing loss of tranquil areas in England, down from 75% of England in the 1960s to around 50% in 2007[25].

Policy CE5: Tranquillity

CE5.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the tranquillity of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of this tranquillity, by seeking to avoid and where avoiding is not possible, minimise noise and other aural and visual disturbance.

CE5.2. Measures should be taken to remove and where removal is not possible, minimise existing sources of noise and other aural and visual disturbance in order to enhance the tranquillity of the CNL.

CE5.3. Proposals that are likely to impact on the tranquillity of the CNL should have regard to – and be compatible with – the CNL Board's Tranquillity Position Statement.[26]

Although the CNL has a relatively high level of tranquillity, the CNL is being increasingly affected by unwanted, man-made noise and by activity arising from developments. For example, the increasing demand for air transport is leading to expansion of controlled air space over the CNL. Additionally,

[25] CPRE (2007). Developing an Intrusion Map of England
[26] Cotswolds National Landscape Board (2019). Tranquillity Position Statement.

the use of drones, both commercially and privately, is likely to increase, further reducing levels of tranquillity.

Tranquillity relates to issues of visual impact and light pollution as well as noise and other disturbance. However, given that Policy CE1 addresses visual impacts and Policy CE6 addresses light pollution, Policy CE5 has an emphasis on noise. This incorporates issues such as significant increases in traffic in the towns, villages, smaller settlements and across the wider countryside of the CNL, including increased traffic arising from developments outside of the CNL. [27] Increased use of electric vehicles will not help reduce traffic noise as most vehicle noise, when moving, is generated tyres and air noise.

The CNL Board published a position statement on tranquillity in 2019.

It is important to note that this policy is not intended to prevent the noise arising from normal working countryside operations such as operating power tools or farm machinery or non-mechanised quiet recreation.

Dark skies

Outcome 6 – Dark skies:

Fewer areas of the Cotswolds National Landscape are affected by lighting at night.

The CNL has relatively dark, nighttime skies compared to other parts of England that are not in national landscapes, with these dark skies being one of the CNL's special qualities. For example, Cotswold District, which covers 44% of the CNL, ranks 13th for the quality of its dark skies out of all the districts, boroughs and unitary authorities in England. However, light pollution from surrounding urban areas and from market towns within the CNL does significantly and increasingly affect the dark skies of the CNL in those locations. 'Light pollution' of the night sky is an intrusion into the countryside at night, which can have harmful effects on the health of people and wildlife. With ever-increasing levels of new housing (and other lit development) in the CNL, light pollution is likely to get worse unless action is taken to address this issue.

Policy CE6: Dark skies

CE6.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the dark skies of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of these dark skies, by seeking to avoid and where avoiding is not possible, minimise lighting.

CE6.2. Measures should be taken to increase the area of dark skies in the CNL by removing and, where removal is not possible or appropriate, reducing existing sources of lighting.

CE6.3. Proposals that are likely to impact on the dark skies or dark landscapes of the CNL should have regard to and be compatible with:

[27] The Board's Tranquillity Position Statement identifies that, as a 'rule of thumb', if a proposed development would increase traffic movements (and / or HGV movements) on roads within and / or along the boundary of the CNL by 10% or more, this should be considered a significant increase.

- best practice standards and guidance, in particular, that published by the Institution of Lighting Professionals and the Commission for Dark Skies.
- the National Landscapes Board's Dark Skies & Artificial Light Position Statement.[28]

CE6.4. Consideration will be given to seeking a formal dark sky designation for those parts of the Cotswolds National Landscape that are least affected by light pollution.

There are three main forms of light pollution: sky glow, glare and light trespass. It is also important to consider a fourth source of light pollution, which is 'presence'. Even if a lighting scheme were designed that avoided sky glow, trespass and glare, there still exists the possibility of significant residual impacts on dark and sensitive landscapes and wildlife due to the presence of the lights and the illuminance it provides. The CNL Landscape Strategy and Guidelines seeks to address the issue of 'presence' by discouraging the introduction of lit elements into dark, night-time landscapes within the CNL. This is particularly relevant for isolated dwellings in the countryside and for other forms of lighting in isolated locations.

With any lighting installation, the aim should always be: the right light, in the right place at the right time.

The CNL Board adopted and published a Cotswolds Dark Skies & Artificial Light Position Statement in 2019. It is supported by three appendices:

Appendix A Cotswolds night lights map.

Appendix B1 Institution of Lighting Professionals Guidance Note For the reduction of Obtrusive Light.

Appendix B2 Commission for Dark Skies Good Lighting Guidance.

New Dark Skies Guidance due in the summer and may lead to further changes to the policy and/or supporting text. This guidance will include a description of dark landscapes which will be used here too.

Historic environment and cultural heritage

Outcome 7 – Historic environment and cultural heritage:

The historic environment and cultural heritage of the Cotswolds National Landscape is better understood, conserved and enhanced.

The historic environment is irreplaceable and is continuing to decline and be lost due to development, changes in land management and a lack of understanding and management particularly with regard to the wider historic landscape and the less visible and non- designated sites which have little or no protection. The historic environment also includes historic and cultural features of the wider landscape including but not limited to: field (enclosure) patterns and road and path networks.

[28] Cotswolds National Landscape Board (2019). Tranquillity Position Statement.

Policy CE7: Historic environment and cultural heritage

CE7.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on the historic environment and cultural heritage of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of these heritage assets and their setting. This should include respecting the historical elements of landscape character including features such as; buildings, sites, layout and context, including the relationship between the existing feature or settlement and the landscape.

CE7.2. Heritage and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments should be used when considering any change to a heritage asset and to influence decisions regarding the management of the historic environment and cultural heritage assets.

CE7.3. The historic environment and cultural heritage of the CNL, both designated and non-designated[29], should be conserved and enhanced through effective management.

CE7.4. Designated historic environment sites, such as scheduled monuments and listed buildings, and non-designated heritage assets of equivalent significance, should be protected, in line with national policy and guidance.

CE7.5. Historic environment and cultural heritage should be a key component of Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms in the CNL.

CE7.6. Opportunities should be sought to promote the awareness, understanding and use of Historic Environment Records, Conservation Area Appraisals, Historic Landscape Characterisation and Heritage Strategies and Action Plans. These should be used to influence decisions regarding the management of the CNL's historic environment and cultural heritage.

CE7.7. The cultural heritage of the Cotswolds should be better understood and celebrated in arts, cultural, and social activities across the National Landscape.

CE7.8. Stakeholders should work towards the delivery of the relevant targets for heritage assets within the national Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. The indicators for monitoring this target are outlined in appendix 6.

Target 10	Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.

Our historic environment and cultural heritage is the result of a complex history of interaction between people and the natural environment. The historic landscape and natural environment form the foundations of our regional identity and local distinctiveness, contributing to the character and natural beauty of the area.

Cultural heritage in the Cotswolds runs deeper than associations made with established examples such as the Arts and Crafts Movement or the music of Vaughan Williams. It is more than how the landscape inspires people. It is intrinsically linked to our understanding of the landscape, the changing seasons, farming, and the natural world. Cultural heritage includes many intangible elements, for example; oral history, folklore, superstition, tradition and ritual. Without understanding

[29] 'Non-designated' covers the full spectrum of undesignated assets related to the historic environment, for example, ranging from archaeological sites to sites associated with the Arts and Crafts movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

and celebrating this rich cultural heritage, there is a risk it will be lost, and with it will go a key part of the local identity. The government ratified the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in March 2024.

If historic buildings go out of use, they become at high risk of dereliction and potentially full loss. It is important to keep historic buildings in use, or adapt them appropriately for re-use wherever possible to prolong their lives and character.

Not all heritage assets[30] have currently been identified and it is likely that heritage assets of equal significance to designated sites such as listed buildings or scheduled monuments may survive within the Cotswolds.

Our historic environment and cultural heritage is the result of a complex history of interaction between people and the natural environment.

The need to understand and promote the connectivity of historic sites and their settings as part of the wider landscape character is vital in order to effectively conserve and manage the historic environment and Historic Landscape Character[31]31. Historic Environment Records (HER) of non-designated assets of local significance and Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), produced by local authorities need to be better promoted and used by all stakeholders. Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) is a method of identification and interpretation of the varying historic character within an area that looks beyond individual heritage assets as it brings together understanding of the whole landscape and townscape into repeating HLC Types. It can be used to help secure good quality, well designed and sustainable places.

Land management, farming practices, wildlife conservation and public access all impact upon the historic environment. Current agri-environment/ELM (Environmental Land Management) schemes have contributed to the management and conservation of historic features such as archaeological remains, registered historic parks and gardens, barns, dew ponds and walls in the wider landscape. It is essential that new support mechanisms will play a significant role in encouraging investment in the National Landscape which conserves and manages the historic environment.

New developments, by virtue of their scale and design, surrounding the historic cores of settlements can cause separation of historic cores from the wider landscape and have a detrimental effect on their distinctive character. The conversion or extension of historic buildings and farmsteads, the introduction of domestic clutter, lighting and landscaping resulting from development can harm the historic character of buildings and their setting, and their relationship to the wider landscape.

However, the historic environment can also act as the inspiration or catalyst for positive change through creative and sympathetic design. The NPPF (paragraph 196) states that plans should take into account “opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place “

Climate change is likely to increase the extremes of wetting and drying, leading to accelerated decay of stonework and an increased risk of subsidence. Increased flooding and erosion may cause damage to buildings and to archaeological sites. Policy CE7 should help to reduce the potential impacts of

[30] A heritage asset is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework as: A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

[31] More information on Historic Landscape Characterisation is available on the Historic England Website

climate change on the historic environment. Additional measures relating to climate change are provided in Policies CC1 and CC2.

Nature recovery and biodiversity

Outcome 8 – Nature recovery and biodiversity:

There is concerted unified action for a widespread recovery of nature – conserving, restoring and enhancing a connected mosaic of distinctly Cotswolds habitats and species.

The internationally important habitats and species found across the Cotswolds have been declining significantly for decades. This greatly diminished wildlife now faces additional challenges resulting from climate change. We are now at a turning point where thanks to new funding mechanisms we can achieve the recovery of nature, just before it is too late.

Policy CE8: Nature recovery and biodiversity

CE8.1. Biodiversity (including the abundance of wildlife) in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be conserved and enhanced by establishing a coherent and resilient nature recovery network across the CNL and in its setting. This should be achieved in accordance with the outcomes, priorities, targets and measures within the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan and Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs), and focus on the priority species and habitats listed in Appendix 8. The relevant LNRS's are:

i. Gloucestershire Add Link when final version published
ii. Oxfordshire Add Link when final version published
iii. Warwickshire Add Link when final version published
iv. West of England Add Link when final version published
v. Wiltshire Add Link when final version published
vi. Worcestershire Add Link when final version published

CE8.2. Policy and strategic documents that are likely to impact on the biodiversity of the CNL should have regard to the CNL Management Plan and guidance including the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan and position statements. This includes but is not limited to, the following:

i. Local Plans.
ii. Local Nature Recovery Strategies
iii. Neighbourhood Development Plans.
iv. Green Infrastructure Strategies.
v. Tree and Woodland Strategies.
vi. Ecological Emergency and Climate Change Strategies.

CE8.3. Proposals that are likely to impact on the biodiversity of the National Landscape should seek to further the conservation and enhancement of this biodiversity. They should have regard to – and be consistent with the CNL Management Plan and guidance including the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan. This would include, but is not limited to, the following delivery mechanisms:

i. Environmental Land Management and other grant schemes and rural development support mechanisms;

ii. Biodiversity Net Gain;
iii. Payment for Ecosystem Services including but not limited to carbon sequestration and storage, flood management, water supply and water quality improvements.

CE8.4. Stakeholders should work towards the delivery of the relevant targets for nature recovery within the national Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. The apportioned targets for the Cotswolds to be achieved are:

Target 1. Restore or create more than is 28,079 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline). Interim target based on Nature Recovery Plan.

Target 2. 80% Percent of SSSIs in favourable condition by 2042

Target 3. 60% Percent of SSSIs assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.

Target 4. Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already In favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.

Target 5. 65% to 80% of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.

Target 8. Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

Target 8 is currently being apportioned across protected landscapes nationally and will additionally be further informed by local woodland opportunity mapping. The local target is likely to exceed the apportioned national target.

CE8.5. A mitigation hierarchy should be applied to development proposals whereby adverse impacts on biodiversity are: (i) avoided; (ii) mitigated; and (iii) compensated for. Development proposals should provide a net gain in biodiversity of at least 20% particularly with regard to the species and habitats listed in Appendix 8.

CE8.6. Damage or loss of irreplaceable habitat should be avoided. Irreplaceable habitat includes but is not limited to:

I. Ancient and veteran trees
II. Ancient woodland (continually wooded since 1600)[32];
III. Ancient unimproved grassland (surviving since 1945);
IV. Ancient hedgerows (present since before the Enclosure Acts, passed mainly between 1720 and 1840).

This will be reviewed in the light of the outcome of the proposed Defra consultation.

CE8.7. Development near the habitats listed in appendix 8 should secure significant gains in the form of enhancing existing habitat condition, buffering the habitat and improving greater connectivity between similar habitats.

CE8.8. Measures to conserve and restore biodiversity including the outcomes, priorities,

[32] Note this includes ancient semi-natural woodland, ancient wood pasture and parkland, and plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) Natural England and the Forestry Commission have published joint Standing Advice for Ancient Woodland and Ancient and Veteran Trees, (updated in January 2022). This Standing Advice can be a material consideration for planning decisions.

targets and measures within the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan should be delivered in a way that is compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape.

The story of our loss of wildlife is well documented and understood. Climate change is a well-recognised driver combining with habitat destruction and fragmentation to threaten the loss of our already diminished wildlife at an even greater scale and pace. The need for action is urgent if we are to avoid a mass extinction event.

We know what we have to do to allow our wildlife to flourish and adapt to climate change. We need to create a robust and resilient nature recovery network – a landscape rich in joined up and well managed habitats. The Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan[33] was adopted as CNL Board guidance in October 2021. It represents a detailed look at the species and habitats of the Cotswolds and what should be done to enable their recovery and adaptation to climate change.

The current extent of wildlife rich habitats within the Cotswolds is 48,000 Ha which is 23% of the area of the National Landscape. The extent of these habitats needed to form a robust nature recovery network that will enable wildlife to flourish and adapt to climate change is 82,000 Ha, 40% of the area. The rationale for these figures is outlined in the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan and summarised in Appendix 9.

We are entering a new era of collective and resourced action on delivering nature recovery. Now is the time to raise our ambition for what can be achieved. The international obligation that the government has signed up to of 30% of land and sea managed for nature by 2030 is an indication of this ambition.

New statutory Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) have been developed which identify and map nature recovery priorities and measures. They are a key tool for driving and directing resources towards the recovery of nature. Biodiversity Net Gain already uses them for targeting and other funders have indicated a willingness to do the same. There are six of these strategies coincident with the Cotswolds and the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan has been used to influence their content. They should be followed as a means of delivering the Cotswolds Management Plan and Nature Recovery Plan.

Supporting LNRS delivery is one of the ways that public authorities including the CNL Board can demonstrate their compliance with the biodiversity duty[34] that the Environment Act 2021 introduced. Under this duty they "*must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England*."

LNRS's should be compatible with the CNL Management Plan and guidance (including the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan.) This is one of the ways that the accountable bodies responsible for them can demonstrate compliance with their duty to seek to further the statutory purposes of protected landscapes[35].

The national statutory Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (Appendix 6) includes seven targets directly relevant to the recovery of nature in the Cotswolds. These are targets for the place and are owned by all stakeholders. When combined with the duties on public bodies to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to further the purposes of

[33] Adopted by the Cotswolds National Landscape Board.
[34] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty
[35] Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (legislation.gov.uk)

designation of protected landscapes they will help drive resources to the recovery of nature across the National Landscape. Contributing towards the delivery of the area targets within the national framework will also support the national 30 by 30 target (subject to national clarification of criteria).

In the wider countryside agri-environmental programmes are expected to be the most important single mechanism for developing a nature recovery network and Environmental Land Management schemes will play a critically important role. It is essential that they include the measures recommended in the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan and Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

Additional funding mechanisms are starting to play an increasingly significant role in supporting the recovery of nature particularly Biodiversity Net Gain as mitigation from development and Payments for Ecosystem Services. Water and carbon collection and storage are becoming increasingly valued as ecosystem services and their importance will continue to grow.

Although the national statutory requirement for net gain in biodiversity arising from development proposals will be 10%, the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan states that it should be 20% within the Cotswolds National Landscape. The justification for this enhanced net gain in biodiversity is outlined in Appendix 9.

The inclusion of species within the biodiversity net gain policy is aspirational and would take place outside of the formal development plan related biodiversity net gain process.

New development can have an impact on habitats by increasing access and the erosion, disturbance and litter that comes with it. This impact can be mitigated, for example Stroud District Council have a 'roof tax' to help fund the management of Rodborough Common to offset the impacts of increasing use

The priority habitats and species list in Appendix 8 is adapted from Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, which lists the habitats and species that are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The habitats and species in appendix 8 are considered to be:

(i) characteristic of the Cotswolds; and/or

(ii) those for which the Cotswolds National Landscape is considered to a stronghold. There are other priority habitats and species within the National Landscape, which merit an appropriate level of protection, but which do not meet the two criteria outlined above. Habitats and species not on the NERC Act list but which have been identified, by the National Landscape Board and relevant stakeholders, as priorities for the Cotswolds National Landscape are also included.

the species list will be reviewed when we have more data from the LNRS' process

The Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan defines ancient and veteran trees (based on a list of characteristics), ancient woodland (continually wooded since 1600) and ancient grasslands ("unimproved" and predating modern agricultural practices) as irreplaceable habitat. A wildflower grassland present in 1945 at the end of the Second World War is likely to be ancient. This should be taken into account when considering proposals that are likely to impact on them.

Ancient hedgerows (present since before the Enclosure Acts, passed mainly between 1720 and 1840) are included as irreplacable habitat and this should be taken into account when considering proposals that are likely to impact on them because:

- Hedgerows are a priority habitat.
- Hedgerows are a key characteristic/feature of many of the landscape character

types within the National Landscapes's Landscape Character Assessment.
- Ancient hedgerows are an important component of the historic environment and the cultural heritage of the area.

Although Policy CE8 focuses on the National Landscape and its setting, consideration will also need to be given to ecological networks in the wider environment, for example, river corridor ecological networks where the rivers start in the National Landscape but extend well beyond its boundaries.

One of the ways wildlife adapts to climate change is to move northwards to a new 'climate space'. This means that we need to think about the National Landscape's future wildlife in addition to that currently present, particularly that currently found to the south of the Cotswolds. Big Chalk is a partnership programme aiming to improve ecological connectivity across and between the calcareous landscapes of southern England from the south coast to the midlands.

Water

Outcome 9 The water environment

Watercourses and bodies of water within the Cotswolds National Landscape have good ecological and chemical status.

None of the rivers in the Cotswold's achieve good chemical status and only 11.7% of their length achieve good ecological status[36]. Most of the WFD failures are linked to fish, macrophytes and Phosphate. The water quality of the CNL's rivers is affected by pollution from:

- Wastewater and sewage
- Diffuse rural pollution from agriculture
- Diffuse pollution from towns, villages and roads

Water management needs to address a range of issues including quality, supply and flow in an integrated manner.

Policy CE9: Water

CE9.1. Water resources should be managed and conserved to: improve water quality; ensure adequate aquifer recharge; ensure adequate river flows; and contribute to natural flood management systems.

CE9.2. Development (new and existing sites) should assess and minimise flood risk and implement sustainable drainage schemes, adopt high water efficiency standards in line with RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge and domestic water use targets, and water conservation measures, for example rainwater harvesting and/or water recycling and grey water systems.

CE9.3. New development that links to the sewerage system should not be commenced until the sewerage infrastructure (including the relevant sewage treatment works) has sufficient capacity to cope with the additional load, including future loads resulting from changing rainfall patterns.

CE9.4. Sewage pollution from storm overflows and continuous outfalls should be minimised and be at least within legal and regulatory requirements.

[36] Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework 2024 data release.

CE9.5. Phosphorus treatment should be provided at all sewage treatment works to achieve good Water Framework Directive (WFD) status for Phosphate.

CE9.6. Planning conditions such as the provision of appropriate manure storage facilities for farming and/or equestrian sites, including disposal frequency and method etc. can be explored to help mitigate run off and subsequent water contamination. Similar conditions can be imposed to septic tanks and cess pits, to prevent degradation and overflow and subsequent contamination.

CE9.7. Practical measures to improve water quality and quantity should be implemented including:

I. The restoration of river and wetland habitats. New wetland habitats could be sited to intercept runoff from roads and reedbeds can be created to filter potentially polluted water from settlements before it is discharged to rivers.
II. Minimising soil erosion and run off by implementing soil conservation measures including habitat creation.
III. Minimising pesticide and artificial fertiliser use and implementing measures to reduce pollution from agriculture
IV. Promote individual measures and behaviours in the home and workplace that protect water volume and quality in rivers.
V. Citizen science programmes to monitor water quality.

CE9.8. For proposals on sites incorporating or located adjacent to watercourses, opportunities should be sought through careful design and landscaping to re-naturalise the water courses where possible, including restoration of the bankside and instream habitats and leaving an undeveloped buffer zone of at least 10 metres width

The proportion of pollutants from wastewater and sewage, agriculture, and towns villages and roads varies across and within the different river catchments. For example, within the Evenlode 85% of Phosphate is derived from the water industry and the rest from mainly agriculture and a small percentage from urban sources. Consequently, the phosphate status for the whole of the River Evenlode is poor. Comparison with another river to follow.

A significant issue caused by a combination of new development and lack of investment in waste water treatment is sewage treatment works operating beyond their designed capacity. The issue is exacerbated by ground and surface water ingress compounded by warmer and wetter winters caused by climate change. The result is storm overflow discharges releasing untreated sewage into the rivers.

There are also big issues around urban creep from new developments leading to less permeable surfaces and more surface water running into the sewers. Reduction in storm overflows is complex, but sustainable urban drainage has a part to play to reduce overflows.

Storm overflows may run for a few hours or days but phosphorous from sewage treatment works, even during normal operation, is a constant. The technically achievable limit of Phosphorous removal at sewage treatment works is 0.25 mg/litre and whilst a good target to aim for may not be required at all sites to achieve good status. Typically, good status for a waterbody is between 0.05 mg/l – 0.075 mg/l depending on waterbody characteristics such as altitude and alkalinity.

To help address this issue, some local authorities have imposed ‘Grampian conditions’ which prevent housing development (and other development that requires a connection to the sewerage system) from being occupied until the sewerage infrastructure has capacity to deal with the additional load.

Diffuse pollution from towns, villages and roads comes from run-off, commerce e.g. car washes, drainage misconnections e.g. domestic appliances connected to the surface water network and inappropriate disposal of domestic materials.

Sewage and diffuse pollution contain nutrients, chemicals including heavy metals, pathogens, microplastics and sediment resulting in eutrophication, loss of biodiversity, risks to human health, increased cost of water treatment and harm to tourism and recreation.

Redevelopment of sites incorporating/ adjacent to a watercourse present the valuable opportunity for ecological betterment. Through considered design and landscaping, opportunities should be sought to re-naturalise the watercourse, restore the bankside and instream habitats, leave an undeveloped buffer zone of at least 10 metres width and update and improve the site's surface water drainage infrastructure. In some cases, this may require reinstatement of the buffer zone on previously developed land. Upgraded drainage infrastructure should look to use natural strategies such as ecological swales and reedbeds to improve the quality of water discharged into the watercourse.

The water in the CNL is mainly from deep in the limestone aquifers. The Cotswolds is home to a large aquifer which supplies water to homes and businesses both inside and outside the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL). There are 14 groundwater bodies in the CNL. 50% are rated good and 50% as poor. The main sources of groundwater pollution are pesticides, herbicides and nitrates from agriculture. As a consequence, most of the CNL is designated as a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone and a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone. It could, however, take decades for the pollutants to work through the aquifer.

The rivers in the CNL are important for water supply, recreation and biodiversity. They provide a range of habitats which are reliant on particular water flow and levels. However, some stretches of Cotswold’s rivers are already prone to low flows and drought, resulting in damage to riverine habitat, concentration of pollutants and less water for abstraction. Over- abstraction can have a detrimental impact on these factors. Summers are predicted to become drier, which would exacerbate this problem even further and the water system as a whole, needs to become more resilient to climate change. Good quality and diverse riverine habitats are essential for improving resilience to drought.

The CNL is not, at present, an area widely prone to flooding. However, in extreme rainfall events, such as that of July 2007, some towns and villages have been affected by flooding from rivers or as a result of limited drainage. Climate change is likely to increase the risk of flooding and the frequency of such extreme rainfall events.

The rivers that originate in the CNL flow downstream through larger towns and villages outside of the National Landscape which are more prone to flooding. As such, land management in the river valleys of the National Landscape can play a key role in helping to reduce flood risk downstream. Natural flood management works with natural processes to ‘slow the flow’ of flood waters. This helps to reduce the maximum water height of a flood (the ‘flood peak’) and/or delay the arrival of the flood peak downstream, increasing the time available to prepare for floods. Sustainable drainage systems, and ecological river restoration projects are important components of natural flood management.

With the anticipated drier summers and wetter winters, there is likely to be an increased demand for rainwater harvesting and storage.

The CNL is a distinct geographical and geological area important for its water in terms of supply, quality, landscape, natural beauty, biodiversity and economy. The CNL is, however, divided across 7 catchments, 4 water companies (4 of which supply water and 3 treat waste water) and three Environment Agency regions making managing water across the CNL complex. River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) describe the framework used to protect and improve the quality of waters in each river basin district. They are the strategic plans for water in England and include information on the current condition of waterbodies, reasons why they are not in good condition, objectives, and measures to achieve these. They are updated every 6 years with the next update in 2027. This plan and supporting guidance, particularly the The Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan support measures within RBMPs and similarly the delivery of RBMPs should reflect this plan's policies and associated guidance.

Consideration should be given to developing an integrated water plan for the CNL with a primary goal of thriving plants and wildlife enhancing the beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment. This would be underpinned by goals such as improving environmental quality, using nature's resources sustainably and improving climate change mitigation.

Farming and land management

Outcome 10 – Farming and land management:

Farming and land management conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape in ways which balance the needs of recovering nature, climate action, food production, supporting livelihoods and public access.

The CNL is a farmed landscape, its landscape is largely a product of farming and will continue to be so. 87% of land in the CNL is agricultural land, 49% of which is arable and 43% grassland[37]. Farming is worth around £800 million annually to the National Landscape's economy, and in turn provides the landscape which supports the Cotswolds tourism industry (annually worth around £1 billion). In addition to these major and long-established economic drivers, farming and land management decisions are increasingly influenced by a far more diverse set of societal needs, such as carbon storage, nature recovery, clean energy and public access.

Policy CE10: Farming and land management

CE10.1. Farming and land management in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) and in the setting of the CNL should be compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL. It should also help increase the understanding and enjoyment of the CNL's special qualities.

CE10.2. Farming and land management in the CNL and in the setting of the CNL should be compatible with and seek to further the CNL Management Plan. It should also be compatible with and seek to further guidance produced by the CNL Board, including the:

i. CNL – Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

[37] Cotswolds National Landscape Board (2015). *Farming, Forestry and the Equestrian Sector in the Cotswolds AONB, Update* A new study can provide more up to date figures

ii. CNL – Landscape Character Assessment
iii. CNL Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change
iv. CNL Board Position Statements
v. Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan
vi. CNL Pathway to Net Zero and Climate Change Strategy

CE10.3. Woodland creation and tree planting proposals (including natural colonisation) should be compatible with seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL in accordance with guidance produced by the CNL Board. In particular they should:

i. Work with the landscape character of their setting and compliment the open views that people enjoy from viewpoints, roads and public rights of way.
ii. Be located where they best meet the objectives of the nature recovery network, improving the connectivity of woodland habitats whilst avoiding damaging other habitats and their potential to be better connected.
iii. Be located in accordance with the CNL canopy cover opportunity mapping.

CE10.4. Farmers and land managers should have access to clear and consistent sources of advice, guidance and support, including fair access to markets and payments for environmental services.

The two main aspects of rural land management are farming and woodland management.

Farming and land management in the UK is undergoing a period of significant change and disruption, largely driven by changes to policy that have altered the way farmers can access public funding to support their businesses. This has involved a shift from an approach largely based on subsiding the cost of agricultural activities, to one that pays farmers for environmental goods and services (or 'public goods'). Managing this transition and maintaining a viable farm business can be very challenging.

In addition to the policy context, farmers are under increasing pressure to respond to many other factors that are influencing the way they use and manage land. For example, the climate crisis requires farmers to not only identify how they can reach net zero within their farm businesses and supply chains, but additionally find ways of sequestering and storing carbon in the landscape for the rest of society. They also have to achieve this without compromising food security by taking too much land out of production or failing to develop farming systems that are climate resilient. Additionally farming also has an essential role to play in nature recovery, as many of the distinctive Cotswold habitats are a result of farming activity, and farming operations such as grazing are necessary to manage and restore them. These combined challenges are complex and we need to seek ways of decision-making that achieves holistically optimal outcomes.

The continued development of more sustainable and regenerative farming practices, which may span conventional and organic systems, has an important role to play in delivering multiple social and environmental objectives whilst simultaneously producing food. A focus on improving landscape function can help inform any approach and lead to more holistically optimal outcomes. Landscape function considers underpinning resources and process such as:

- The mineral/nutrient cycle
  Actions to minimise the use of artificial inputs and improve the natural fertility of agricultural soils, increasing the nutritional value of food produced from them.
- The water cycle

Actions to increase soil infiltration rates, slowing the flow of water through farmed and managed land, improving drought resilience and reducing diffuse pollution.

- Energy flow
  Actions to increase the amount of solar energy being captured by plants and trees (including crops), sequestering more atmospheric carbon and driving food chains for people and wildlife.
- Biodiversity/community dynamics
  Actions to increase the diversity and abundance of plants and wildlife on farmland, supporting greater natural resilience to pests, disease and other environmental stresses.

Farm businesses need to be economically viable and resilient to deliver everything we are asking of them. This requires continued public and private investment that is accessible and effective, as well as fair access to markets. For example, the success of publicly funded schemes, such as ELM and the Farming Investment Fund, supported by advice and guidance, is essential. Similarly, the rollout of privately funded green finance schemes needs to be effective in delivery both environmental outcomes and supporting farm businesses and livelihoods.

Wider societal changes are impacting on farming and land management. An ageing farm population and the rapid development of new technology both increases the risks of a loss of skills and land fragmentation and offers opportunities for the wider adoption of sustainable, regenerative and nature recovery practices.

Bringing woodlands back into management is a priority and can be more important than planting new woodlands. Actively managing woodland in a sustainable way helps the woodland become more resilient to climate change and disease, benefits biodiversity and supports the rural economy. Lack of management is due to many factors, but especially the lack of appropriate markets for woodland products. Ash dieback has prompted many woodland owners to bring woodland back into management but 38% of woodland, 10,158ha, in the CNL is still classed as unmanaged. Bringing ancient woodland back into management is particularly important for biodiversity and 9,218ha of ancient woodland (35% of the total woodland) is still classed as unmanaged.

To contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation the Government's target is to increase tree cover in England from 14.5% in 2023 to 16.5% by 2050. The CNL's canopy cover is around 18% but there is capacity to increase canopy cover through woodland creation and planting trees outside of woods. The latter includes wood pasture, hedgerows and hedgerow trees, in-field trees, agroforestry and trees in towns and villages, particularly in new development.

Woodland creation and tree planting should consider its impacts on the landscape setting and, in particular, its effects on the open views that people enjoy from viewpoints, roads and Public Rights of Way. In some instances, tree planting that is implemented to mitigate the visual impact of new development can also adversely affect landscape character. Planting design and use of open ground can help but it may not be appropriate for a particular site to be planted because of the value of the existing habitat, potential to create and link other priority habitats or landscape character.

The creation of new woodland should occur where it best meets the objectives of the nature recovery network and it should be appropriately managed. Opportunities for natural colonisation should be looked for in concert with opportunities for planting to assist this process.

'Right Tree, Right Place, Right Reason' principles should be applied when planting trees. For example, the planting of 'privacy belts' around property is having a detrimental impact on landscape character and views, particularly from roads.

In woodlands used for timber production, ecologically sound forestry practices such as continuous cover management regimes should be applied. These create a diverse woodland structure and bring a multitude of environmental benefits to the woodland whilst producing a sustainable timber source. Understanding of the local supply chain, and enhance connections between woodland owners/managers and timber markets should be increased.

Woodland creation and tree planting, including restocking after felling and loss through ash dieback, should seek to retain the character of existing Cotswold woodlands and treescapes outside of woodlands whilst considering species diversity, genetic diversity (provenance and origin) and mitigation of climate change and pests and diseases

The CNL Board has commissioned an opportunity map to guide the creation of new canopy cover. If completed before the management Plan is published add link.

Farming, woodland management and other rural land management practices that make a positive contribution to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape have been largely reliant on payments from agri-environment schemes. It is critical that Environmental Land Management Schemes maintain and build on what has been achieved to date. In addition, payments for carbon sequestration, nature recovery, nutrient neutrality and ecosystem services are areas that will grow.

Climate change is likely to result in an increase in crop and grass yields, but with a greater variability in quantity and quality, including crop failure. New management methods and new varieties are likely to be adopted in response to warmer, drier conditions. The area of energy crops and novel crops is likely to increase. The overall area of grassland is not expected to change significantly, but management may become more extensive. With regards to forestry, increased timber and biomass production can be expected, but with a reduction in quality, particularly timber. Some species, such as oak, are expected to fare better than others such as beech. Land management practices, together with Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms, will need to encompass and deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation measures appropriate to the National Landscape. Relevant measures to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, in relation to rural land management, are outlined elsewhere in this Management Plan, notably in policies CC1 and CC2.

Policy CE11: Problem species[38], pests and diseases

CE11.1. The population of grey squirrel and deer in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should continue to be controlled and managed. This should be undertaken and coordinated at a landscape scale.

CE11.2. National guidance – and guidance produced by the CNL Board – on Ash Dieback should be followed to ensure any measures implemented will conserve and enhance the qualities of the landscape.

CE11.3. National and local guidance – including guidance from Government Agencies and the Non-Native Species Secretariat – on invasive non-native species, pests and diseases should be followed and appropriate biosecurity measures promoted.

[38] These species are not addressed in the Biodiversity section as they are not species that we are aiming to conserve and enhance (see Appendix 8).

Increasing deer and grey squirrel populations and lack of coordinated management is having an adverse impact on the landscape of the CNL and on the quality of woodland, woodland biodiversity and timber. There is a need for more deer management groups and landscape scale coordination along with and a coordinated approach to managing grey squirrels.

There is an increasing prevalence of tree pests and diseases resulting from climate change, increased global trade, travel and the importation of diseased material. In particular, Ash Dieback will continue to have an increasing impact on woodland and trees in the landscape during the life of the Management Plan.

Invasive non-native species pose a serious risk to ecosystems, outcompeting native species, disrupting ecological processes and transforming habitats.

There are a number of invasive non-native species present in the CNL that are having a harmful impact, particularly on biodiversity. These include the American Signal Crayfish, Himalayan Balsam and New Zealand Pygmy Weed in rivers and ponds, and Holm oak and Cotoneaster on species rich grassland. Driven by climate change and globalisation, there is an increasing risk of further plant and animal pests and disease becoming established in the CNL and having a harmful impact on landscape, biodiversity and the economy. Ash dieback is a recent example.

Any activity (i.e., Development) that facilitates or fails to adequately mitigate the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species, can cause detrimental impacts on native biodiversity and the ecosystem functionality.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), it is a legal offense to introduce or encourage the proliferation of any species listed as invasive under schedule 9. Similarly, species classified as 'controlled waste' under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 must be handled in accordance with legal regulations. These species must be safely disposed of at a licensed landfill site to prevent further proliferation and environmental harm.

Control measures including check, clean, dry should be integral throughout all plans/ method statements of any formal work within or that interacts with the natural landscape (i.e., included but not limited to check clean dry).

Up to date, representative data of invasive populations is essential. The recording of invasive species activity/ presence (i.e., via citizen science) is a key strategy to inform management strategies.

Policy CE12: Soils

CE12.1. Soil degradation should be halted and reversed by managing soils in a way that: (i) increases organic content, water retention and carbon sequestration; and (ii) minimises erosion, water pollution and compaction.

CE12.2. Soil management should remain a key component of Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL).

Across the CNL there are many different soil types, which are subject to degradation from a variety of factors. Loss of soil organic matter results in soils being more prone to drought and less resilient, and requiring higher levels of input to support yields. This, in turn, leads to compaction of soils and the leaching of nitrate and pesticides to groundwater.

With a predicted 22% decrease in summer rainfall by 2080, the free draining Cotswold soils will become more prone to drought. Extreme weather events and a predicted 22% overall increase in winter rainfall could lead to flooding and poaching of soils[39]. These combined impacts would lead to soil damage, erosion and nutrient loss. Soil management practices will, therefore, become even more important.

Development and transport

Outcome 11 – Development and transport:

Development and transport schemes positively contribute to the purpose of national landscape designation and also play a key role in facilitating the economic and social wellbeing of local and rural communities.

The CNL is a living and working landscape in which the social and economic wellbeing of local communities is an important consideration. Maintaining vibrant and thriving local communities is essential to the long-term future of the CNL. The provision of housing and services that meets local needs plays an important role in achieving these aspirations. However, these aspirations should be delivered in a way that is compatible with the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL.

Policy CE13: Development and transport – principles

CE13.1. Development and transport proposals in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) and its setting should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL including its special qualities. In doing so, they should have regard to – and be compatible with the CNL Management Plan and guidance produced by the CNL Board, including the:

(i) CNL – Landscape Strategy and Guidelines
(ii) CNL – Landscape Character Assessment
(iii) Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan
(iv) CNL - Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change
(v) CNL Board Position Statements
(vi) CNL Pathway to Net-Zero

CE13.2. Development and transport proposals in the CNL should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seek to further the purpose of increasing the understanding and enjoyment of the CNL's special qualities. They should also contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of CNL communities, in a way that is compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL.

CE13.3. Development and transport proposals in the CNL and its setting should comply with relevant national planning policy and guidance, particularly with regards to those paragraphs of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that relate to national landscapes.

CE13.4. The purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL and

[39] Cotswolds National Landscape Board (2022). Climate Change Strategy

increasing the understanding and enjoyment of the CNL special qualities should be identified as strategic priorities in Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, Local Transport Plans and other relevant plans and strategies. These plans and strategies should explicitly identify the CNL Management Plan as a material consideration.

CE13.5. The cumulative impacts of development proposals on the natural beauty of the CNL should be fully assessed.

CE13.6. A landscape-led approach should be applied to development and transport proposals in the CNL and its setting, proportionate to the type and scale of development being proposed, whereby proposals:

a) address the natural beauty of the CNL as primary consideration at all stages of the development process (including design), from initial conception through to implementation
b) address all of the factors that contribute to the natural beauty of the area
c) address access to natural beauty including the character of the public rights of way network and its role within wider green infrastructure
d) reflect and enhance the character of the local area
e) avoid adverse effects where possible and, if adverse effects can't be avoided, minimise them
f) seek opportunities to enhance the natural beauty of the CNL and
g) deliver substantially more beneficial effects than adverse effects for the natural beauty of the CNL.[40]

This landscape-led approach is particularly important for major development[41].

This policy provides principles relating specifically to development and transport. However, itis important to note that development and transport proposals should have regard to the Management Plan policies as a whole. For example, Policy CE8 (Nature Recovery and Biodiversity), paragraph 5, relating to biodiversity net gain, would be a key consideration in development proposals.

Other important policies which have a significant bearing on development and transport are CC1 Climate Change Mitigation and CC2 Climate Change Adaptation.

Policy CE13 refers to relevant sections of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for context, as this national policy underpins much of what Policy CE13 is seeking to achieve. However, Policy CE13 expands on this national policy by referencing relevant case law and best practice.

Planning legislation and policy affords the highest level of protection to National Landscapes in relation to landscape and scenic beauty – the same level of protection as for National Parks. Although some level of development may be required to meet local (CNL) housing needs and to ensure that the vitality of CNL settlements is maintained and enhanced, development should not be at such scale that either individually or cumulatively, it erodes the special qualities of the CNL. This would undermine the reason for the Cotswolds being designated as national landscape in the first place.

[40] This was a design principle for the A417 Missing Link Scheme – see Case Study 3 in Appendix 1 of the Board's *Landscape-led Development Position Statement* for further details.

[41] 'Major development', in this context, equates to the definition provided in Footnote 64 of the NPPF. See also Policy CE11.

With regards to cumulative impacts, a particularly important consideration is where multiple, separate developments have been implemented or proposed in the same locality. Individually, they might not be particularly significant. However, collectively, their impacts could be significant.

In planning decisions, national landscape considerations will need to be weighted in the overall planning balance alongside other relevant considerations. In line with national planning policy, great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL. It is worth noting that case law has clarified that this great weight should also be applied in relation to the impact of development outside a national landscape on views from the national landscape. (i.e. development in the setting of the national landscape). More information on this issue is provided in the Board's position statement on Development in the Setting of the Cotswolds AONB.[42]

The factors that contribute to natural beauty include landscape quality/beauty, scenic quality/beauty, relative tranquillity (including dark skies), relative wildness, natural heritage (including biodiversity) and cultural heritage (including historic environment). These factors derive from Natural England's 'Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England'[43]. The 'special qualities' of the CNL are a key component of the area's natural beauty.

Increasing traffic volume and vehicle sizes on the National Landscape's roads can lead to congestion, noise and air pollution, damage to roadside verges (with consequent drainage and soil erosion issues), reduced safety for non-motorised road users and traffic 'rat- running' along minor roads and through villages. Measures to address these issues should be integral considerations in new developments and can include lowering speed limits, the provision of suitably designed speed reduction schemes, the provision of off-road routes for non-motorised users and the provision of appropriate signage. In line with the recommendations in the Board's Tranquillity Position Statement, if a development proposal would increase in traffic movements (or HGV movements) by 10% or more, this should, as a 'rule of thumb', be considered significant in terms of impact on tranquillity.[44]

The distinctive character of minor roads reflects and contributes to the character of the wider CNL and these roads are an important means for people to experience the CNL. Insensitive, over-engineered road schemes and excessive lighting can have a detrimental impact. Impacts on landscape character are addressed in Policy CE1 (Landscape).

The transport recommendations within Policy CC1 and the CNL Pathway to Net Zero should also be pursued.

Further information on what is meant by a landscape-led approach to development is provided in the Board's 'Landscape-led Development Position Statement'.[45] Appendix 3 of the Position Statement specifically addresses landscape-led principles for major development.

Policy CE14: Major development

CE14.1. In line with national planning policy, permission should be refused for major

[42] Cotswolds National Landscape Board (2017) *Development in the Setting of the Cotswolds AONB*
[43] Natural England (2011) *Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England* (see Table 3 and Appendix 1).
[44] Cotswolds National Landscape Board (2019) *Tranquillity Position Statement* (see Section 4.5).
[45] Cotswolds National Landscape Board (2021) *Landscape-led Development Position Statement* and appendices.

development within the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), in the context of paragraph 183 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), other than in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest.[46]

CE14.2. Relevant stakeholders should fully assess relevant site allocations and development proposals to see if they constitute major development. In considering or deciding whether a proposed development constitutes major development, relevant stakeholders should have regard to the major development checklist in Appendix 5 of the Board's Landscape-led Development Position Statement. [47]

CE14.3. Local authorities and other relevant stakeholders should explicitly state whether they consider relevant allocations and development proposals to be major development [48].

CE14.4. The mandatory major development 'tests' specified in paragraph 183 of the NPPF should be rigorously applied and documented for all allocations and development proposals that are deemed to be major development.

CE14.5. When relevant stakeholders are considering or applying the major development 'tests' specified in paragraph 183 of the NPPF, it should be recognised that:

- 'exceptional need' does not necessarily equate to 'exceptional circumstances';[49]
- no permission should be given for major development save to the extent the development was needed in the public interest, met a need that could not be addressed elsewhere or in some other way and met that need in a way that to the extent possible, moderated detrimental effect on the environment, landscape and recreational opportunities.[50]

CE14. 6. When making decisions on major development proposals, local authorities (and/or other relevant decision makers) should not simply weigh all material considerations in a balance, but should refuse an application unless they meet the exceptional circumstances and public interest criteria.[51]

As with Policy CE13, Policy CE14 refers to relevant sections of the National Planning Policy (NPPF) for context, as this national policy underpins much of what Policy CE13 is seeking to achieve. However, Policy CE14 expands on this national policy by referencing relevant case law and best practice.

[46] Paragraph 183 of the NPPF

[47] Cotswolds National Landscape Board (2021) *Landscape-led Development Position Statement* and appendices.

[48] There are examples of case law where planning permissions have been quashed because the local authority (specifically, the planning committee) did not explicitly address the issue of major development and the related issue of 'exceptional circumstances' (e.g. R (Mevagissey Parish Council) v Cornwall Council [2013] EHWC3684 (Admin).

[49] R (Advearse) v Dorset Council v Hallam Land Management Ltd [2020] EWHC 807. Direct quote from paragraph 35

[50] R (Mevagissey Parish Council) v Cornwall Council [2013] EHWC 3684 (Admin), paragraph 51: 'The planning committee are required, not simply to weigh all material considerations in a balance, but to refuse an application unless they are satisfied that...'

[51] R (Mevagissey Parish Council) v Cornwall Council [2013] EHWC 3684 (Admin), paragraph 51: 'The planning committee are required, not simply to weigh all material considerations in a balance, but to refuse an application unless they are satisfied that...'

Paragraph 183 of the NPPF states that '*when considering applications for development within National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest'*. Footnote 64 of the NPPF explains that 'whether a proposal is 'major development' is a matter for the decision maker, taking into account its nature, scale and setting, and whether it could have a significant adverse impact on the purposes for which the area has been designated or defined' (footnote 64).

This definition of major development differs from the definition in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (or 'DMP' for short), which relates specifically to: minerals and waste development; housing developments of 10 or more dwellings or on sites having an area of 0.5 hectares or more; the provision of buildings where the floor space to be created is 1,000 square metres of more; or development on a site having an area of one hectare or more. However, the DMP definition is still a relevant consideration in relation to footnote 60 of the NPPF. There may be circumstances where a development that is larger than the DMP thresholds would not constitute major development in the context of paragraph 183 of the NPPF. Equally, there may also be circumstances where a development that is smaller than the DMP threshold would constitute major development in the context of paragraph 183 of the NPPF.

Paragraph 183 of the NPPF specifically addresses the issue of major development in the context of planning permissions (i.e., as part of the development management process). However, legal opinion has stated that 'it would arguably amount to an error of law to fail to consider [paragraph 183] at the site allocations stage of plan making... The consequence of doing so would be to risk allocating land for major development that was undeliverable because it was incapable of meeting the major development test in the NPPF'[52]. As such, it is appropriate to address the issue of major development at the plan making stage as well as at the development management stage.

The 'Assessment of Site Allocations Against Major Development Considerations' undertaken by the South Downs National Park Authority in 2015[53] and 2017[54] as part of their Local Plan process is an excellent case study in this regard.

The major development checklist in the Board's Landscape-led Development Position Statement is not intended to set rigid criteria. Instead, it is intended to help guide the decision maker (and other stakeholders) through the process of assessing if a proposed development constitutes major development.

Due to their scale, major infrastructure and development projects, such as roads or energy developments, are likely to have a more significant impact on the natural beauty of the CNL than smaller-scale developments. There is an even stronger need for these projects to be exemplars for how they have regard to the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL including its special qualities.

[52] Landmark Chambers (2017) *In the matter of the South Downs National Park and in the matter of paragraph 116 of the NPPF* (see paragraph 5).
[53] South Downs National Park Authority (2015) *South Downs Local Plan Preferred Options: Assessment of Site Allocations Againts Major Development Considerations – Technical Report*.
[54] South Downs National Park Authority (2017) *South Downs Local Plan Pre-Submission: Assessment of Site Allocations Againts Major Development Considerations – Technical Report*.

Further guidance regarding major development is provided in Appendix 10 of the Management Plan and in Section 7.3, Appendix 3 and Appendix 5 of the Board's Landscape-led Development Position Statement.[55]

Policy CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need

CE15.1. Housing delivery in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be focused on meeting affordable housing requirements, particularly housing that is affordable in perpetuity such as social rented housing.[56]

CE15.2. When local planning authorities are reviewing their Local Plans, they should give consideration to setting policies for affordable housing provision in the CNL that require:

- at least 50% affordable housing in market housing developments
- 100% affordable housing on Rural Exception Sites, with a lower percentage only being permitted in exceptional circumstances and the absolute minimum being 75%
- on-site affordable housing provision for housing developments of five units or fewer

CE15.3. Priority should be given to maintaining and enhancing local community amenities and services and improving access to these amenities and services. Priority should also be given to supporting local employment opportunities.[57]

CE15.4. It should be recognised that:

a) The housing need figure derived from the Government's 'standard method' for calculating housing need is an unconstrained assessment of housing need[58] and does not present a target for housing provision.[59]

b) The decision on how many homes should be planned for (i.e., the 'housing requirement' figure in Local Plans) should only be made after consideration of the constraints that the local authority faces, including the AONB designation, and consideration of the land that is actually available for development.[60] As such, when these constraints are factored in, the 'housing requirement' could potentially be smaller than the standard method's 'housing need' figure.

c) The application of national planning policies relating to national landscapes may mean that it is not possible to meet objectively assessed needs (OAN) in full in local authority areas that overlap with the CNL.[61]

(d) The CNL is unlikely to be a suitable area for accommodating unmet needs from

[55] Cotswolds National Landscape Board (2021) Landscape-led Development Position Statement and appendices.

[56] Sections 5.4 and 5.5 of the Board's Housing Position Statement and appendices provide additional context on this issue.

[57] Sections 5.4 and 5.5 of the Board's Housing Position Statement and appendices provide additional context on this issue.

[58] UK Government (2020) Guidance on Housing and economic needs assessment. Paragraph 001.

[59] Government response to the local housing need proposals (2021) in "Changes to the current planning system - Proposed changes to the standard method for assessing local housing need".

[60] See previous footnote. The issue of how constraints should be addressed is also covered in the Government's guidance on Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment. Key extracts from this guidance are provided in Appendix 1 of the Board's Housing Position Statement and appendices.

[61] Government Guidance on the Natural Environment. Paragraph 041

adjoining, non-designated areas.[62] In the context of the CNL, this includes unmet needs relating to adjacent urban areas and unmet needs arising in local authority areas that do not overlap with the CNL.

(e) Meeting housing need is never a reason to cause unacceptable harm to the CNL.[63]

(f) The scale and extent of development in the CNL should be limited.[64]

CE15.5. Consideration should be given to whether the constraints relating to the national landscape designation merit 'exceptional circumstances' which may justify using an alternative approach to the standard method for assessing housing need.[65]

CE15.6. When the allocation of sites is being considered in the Local Plan process, regard should be given to the evidence of need specific to: (i) the settlement/parish where the allocation is being proposed; and (ii) the CNL 'sub-area' within which the allocation is being proposed.

CE15.7. Within the CNL, windfall housing proposals on undeveloped land adjoining, or outside of, built up area boundaries (or equivalent) should only be supported where there is robust evidence of a specific local housing need such as needs identified through a neighbourhood plan or affordable housing needs specific to a particular settlement.

CE15.8. Where choice-based lettings systems, such as Homeseeker Plus, are used as part of the evidence base for affordable housing need:[66]

- the 'local connection' component of the choice-based lettings system should be applied consistently; and
- data from the choice-based lettings systems should not be used explicitly as a measure of affordable housing need unless the data has been verified and there is a clear local connection to – and preference for – the settlement in question.

CE15.9. When local authorities are reviewing their Local Plans, they should give consideration to setting policies that ensure that new market housing is used as a principal residence rather than as a second home or holiday home.

Housing in the Cotswolds is amongst the most unaffordable in the country. Some types of "affordable housing" as defined by national planning policy are unaffordable in real terms to people that have a local connection to the Cotswolds.

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[62] See previous footnote. Section 5.3 of the Board's Housing Position Statement and appendices provide additional context on this issue.

[63] Government response to the local housing need proposals (2021) in "Changes to the current planning system - Proposed changes to the standard method for assessing local housing need" Paragraph 61 of the National Planning Policy Framework now clarifies that the standard method figure is just an advisory starting point. In relation to the revised paragraph 61 of the NPPF, the Secretary of State, Michael Gove, stated, in a speech in December 2023, that '*local authorities have the comfort of knowing that they need not …sacrifice protected landscapes to meet housing needs'*.

[64] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2023) *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). Paragraph 182.

[65] Paragraph 61 of the NPPF recognises that there may be exceptional circumstances that justify an alternative approach to the 'standard method', albeit that this alternative approach would still have to reflect current and future demographic trends and market signals.

[66] Sections 5.6 and 5.10 of the Board's Housing Position Statement and appendices provide additional context on this issue.

With regards to paragraphs 1 to 3 of Policy CE15, Government guidance recognises that national parks are not suitable locations for unrestricted housing. Instead, *'the expectation is that new housing will be focused on meeting affordable housing requirements, supporting local employment opportunities and key services'*. The same guidance requires national park authorities to work to *'ensure that... affordable housing remains so in the longer term'*.[67] National landscapes have the same level of protection as national parks, with regards to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty, and the scale and extent of development in both designations should be limited.[68] As such, it is logical to apply the same principles, outlined above for national parks, in national landscapes as well.

The targets in paragraph 2 of the Policy CE15 are based on what the Board would consider to be best practice within other protected landscapes. The Board acknowledges that these aspirations might exceed current policy in Local Plans. However, we consider that they are appropriate targets to aim for in a protected landscape, where the main focus for housing provision should be the provision of affordable housing. We acknowledge that these targets would be subject to viability assessments.

Paragraph 35 of the NPPF states that, in order to be sound, Local Plans should 'as a minimum, seek to meet the area's objectively assessed needs' (OAN). However, paragraph 11 of the NPPF allows for circumstances in which the OAN might not be met in full, including with regards to NPPF policies that relate to national landscapes. Government guidance explicitly states that the application of policies in the NPPF relating to the protection of national landscapes *'may mean that it is not possible to meet objectively assessed needs in full through the plan-making process'*.[69] As such, it should be recognised that, in some circumstances, it might be appropriate for the housing requirement figure identified in development plans (that overlap with national landscapes) to be less than the OAN / "standard method" figure.

With regards to paragraph 6 of Policy CE15, the lack of a specific housing need figure, or housing requirement figure, for the AONB 'sub-area' within which an allocation is being considered could potentially make the allocation (and the Plan) unsound. This was the case in West Oxfordshire, where the Local Plan inspector concluded that *'in the absence of a housing need figure for the Burford – Charlbury sub-area... the allocation in the plan of housing sites, and the reliance on additional windfall housing development, in the Burford – Charlbury area, over and above existing completions and commitments, would not be sound'*.[70]

The wording of paragraph 7 of Policy CE15 is based on paragraph 5.39 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan, which states that: '*Within the Cotswolds AONB, windfall housing proposals on undeveloped land adjoining built up areas... will only be supported where there is convincing evidence of a specific local housing need such as needs identified through a neighbourhood plan or affordable housing needs specific to a particular settlement, for example through a rural exception site*'.[71]

There is concern that high levels of second home ownership, retirement homes and buy to let have removed housing from the market that could otherwise be made available to people who need a home within the Cotswolds that they can afford to buy or rent. This results in increased demand

[67] Defra (2010). *English National Parks and the Broads – UK Government Vision and Circular 2010*, Paragraphs 78 and 79.
[68] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2023) *National Planning Policy Framework*. Paragraph 182.
[69] Government Guidance on the Natural Environment. Paragraph 041.
[70] Planning Inspectorate (2018) *Report on the Examination of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031*. Paragraph 219.
[71] West Oxfordshire District Council (2018). *West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031*.

within a reduced pool of housing stock, which inflates house prices and makes housing less affordable. The Board is particularly concerned that that younger people, families, key workers, those who care for the landscape of the CNL and others who form part of the Cotswold communities are able to live within the Cotswolds. This is vital for sustaining community services such as schools and reducing long distance commuting form locations where housing is more affordable.

All of these issues, including relevant case studies, are addressed in more detail in the Board's Housing Position Statement. The recommendations in the Housing Position Statement are based on government guidance and on best practice in the Cotswolds and other protected landscapes. Many of these recommendations have now been incorporated into Policy CE15, although the Position Statement provides additional, useful context.[72]

Policy CE16: Waste management and the circular economy

CE16.1. Waste management should align with the following hierarchy, as set out in the Government's Waste Management Plan 2021:

a. Prevention
b. Prepare for reuse
c. Recycling
d. Other recovery
e. Disposal

CE16.2. Measures that help to deliver a circular, or closed-loop, economy, in which waste generation is avoided, should be encouraged.

CE16.3. Proposals for new landfill sites and strategic waste facilities should not normally be permitted in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL), especially where they involve importing significant amounts of waste into the CNL (for example, waste generated in neighbouring urban areas).

CE16.4. Any waste management facilities that are permitted in the CNL should: (i) be sited in such a way that adverse environmental impacts are minimised, in line with relevant permitting regimes; and (ii) be primarily to receive waste that arises within the CNL (within close proximity to the proposed facility).

CE16.5. The management or use of waste by way of depositing it to land as an inert 'recovery' operation, land raising and bunding or for further restoration of previous landfill operations, should only be allowed: (i) in very limited circumstances within environmental limits; (ii) where it can demonstrate a significant net-benefit for the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL; and (iii) where it complies with the policies of the relevant Waste Local Plan and relevant environmental regulations.

Communities and businesses within the Cotswolds produce a significant amount of waste which needs to be disposed of in an appropriate and safe manner. In future, efforts must concentrate on minimising waste and dealing with it in close proximity to where it is produced. The reduction of waste should be promoted by supporting policies and plans which result in re- use, reduction and recycling of waste materials and the efficient and effective collection of waste in a manner that will support its management as high up the waste hierarchy as is practicably possible.

[72] Cotswolds National Landscape Board (2021). *Housing Position Statement* and appendices.

Proposed activities including development, should proactively support the transition to a circular economy throughout the CNL. They should apply waste avoidance and reduction practices and adopt procurement strategies that favour the purchase of goods and services, which contribute to closing energy and material loops within supply chains.

The significant number of urban areas close to the CNL has the potential to create pressure to import waste into the CNL, particularly to former quarry locations. This can generate additional lorry traffic within the National Landscape, with associated negative impacts on communities, the rural road network and roadside verges. There are also implications for the groundwater resource due to the permeable nature of limestone.

Infilling with inert waste is sometimes proposed for quarries within the CNL. The need for infilling should be minimised by ensuring that a sufficient quantity of by-product is retained during the quarry operation to enable an appropriate restoration scheme to be achieved. Retrospective infilling may require a considerable number of HGV movements which can adversely affect the tranquillity of the CNL and result in unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions. As such, the potential benefits of restoring a former quarry to a more natural landform will need to be weighed in the balance against these potential adverse effects.

7. Increasing understanding and enjoyment

Ensuring access, learning and wellbeing opportunities are for everyone.

Health and wellbeing

Outcome 12 – Health and wellbeing:

The Cotswolds National Landscape plays a full part in improving the nation's health, benefitting the mental and physical wellbeing of those who experience it.

The mental and physical health benefits of accessing natural beauty are becoming increasingly understood and appreciated. The Landscapes Review published by Julian Glover in 2019 challenged Protected Landscapes to do more to welcome people and crucially to do a lot more to ensure that people from currently underrepresented groups can enjoy the benefits of accessing them too.

Policy UE1: Health and wellbeing

UE1.1. Further opportunities for improving health and wellbeing in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be created, improved and promoted, including, where appropriate, the provision of: green spaces or water within easy reach of communities; walking, cycling and riding routes, including routes for disabled people; opportunities to access and interact with nature; and volunteering and personal development opportunities.

UE1.2. Children and young people resident within and around the CNL should be provided with environmental education opportunities to experience the CNL through direct contact with the natural environment.

UE1.3. The health sector should make greater use of the benefits that the National Landscape provides for the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors, for example, by prescribing exercise in the CNL countryside.

A lack of physical activity can lead to a variety of chronic diseases and conditions such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease which, combined with an ageing population, is contributing to a public health crisis. A lack of access to scenic, wildlife- rich green space and other open spaces can also adversely affect mental health. Many people, particularly children and young people, do not readily have opportunities to learn about the environment or to develop an understanding and appreciation of the Cotswolds countryside. The Cotswolds Outdoor Learning Network has drawn together Partner organisations to share best practice and funding opportunities within the Cotswold and will be a great source for creating further learning opportunities with schools and community groups going forward. The new natural History GCSE will also help to further understanding of the natural environment and facilitate more involvement from the education sector and encourage future citizen scientists and connection to the Cotswolds and its wildlife.

The health and wellbeing benefits of volunteering in the countryside cannot be underestimated. Volunteering helps to improve physical health, and working and walking in the outdoors can also help with a variety of mental health challenges such as social isolation, bereavement and low confidence and self- esteem. Volunteer groups often struggle to attract those from underrepresented communities due to perceived and real-life barriers and so more support is needed for organisations to encourage and enable a more diverse range of volunteers to participate. The variety of

opportunities available across the National Landscape and wider partnership of organisations needs to be more clearly signposted.

There is a need to implement and develop a variety of approaches to address these issues, including the provision of outdoor activities and experiences. There is also a need to promote the link between physical and mental health and enjoying and understanding the special qualities of the National Landscape. This should include encouraging more partnership working between health professionals and other stakeholders to implement measures such as 'green' prescriptions (for example, prescribing walks in the CNL). Where appropriate, links should be developed between these health and wellbeing aspirations and the enhancement of ecological networks and the provision of green infrastructure

Access and recreation

Outcome 13 – Access and recreation:

The Cotswolds is recognised as a welcoming place, where barriers to access are being removed and everyone feels connected to the landscape.

The Landscapes Review published by Julian Glover in 2019 challenged Protected Landscapes to do more to welcome people, and to do a lot more to ensure that people from currently underrepresented groups can enjoy the benefits of accessing them too.

Policy UE2: Access and recreation

UE2.1. A safe, pleasant, accessible, clearly waymarked and well-connected Public Rights of Way network that welcomes people of all abilities should be maintained, enhanced and promoted across the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) and into surrounding communities.

UE2.2. Improvements to access and recreation provision including rights of way should be undertaken in a way that is compatible with and seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of CNL. Innovative ways of providing named routes without introducing additional signage should be explored. This should be balanced with the needs of groups that lack confidence in exploring the countryside, sensitive sites and of landowners and farmers who need to keep people on designated routes.

UE2.3. Open Access Land and other land including Country Parks, that is open to public access[73] should be maintained, enhanced and promoted across the CNL. Where appropriate, more land should be made available for public access.

UE2.4. Sustainable funding for National Trails, including the Cotswold Way and Thames Path, should be secured.

UE2.5. Visitors, residents and local communities should be provided with opportunities to increase their understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the CNL.

[73] This includes access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (which includes commons) and where public access is permitted on land managed by landowners, non-government organisations and charities such as the National Trust, the Wildlife Trusts and the Woodland Trust.

UE2.6. A priority for engagement in the CNL should be individuals who are not currently enjoying or engaged with the benefits of the landscape. Particularly those from within the CNL and from the surrounding urban areas, especially those from areas of high deprivation and those that are not traditional visitors to the Cotswolds.

UE2.7. Easily accessible online, downloadable and onsite resources for walking, cycling, horse riding, volunteering and educational activities should be provided in the CNL to help promote access to the area and understanding and appreciation of its special qualities.

UE2.8. Visitor facilities and routes that are accessible to those of all abilities should be provided.

UE2.9. Guided walks and activities for those who are not confident walking in the countryside should be provided to increase confidence and share knowledge of the CNL and its special qualities.

UE2.10. Arts and cultural experiences should be provided to encourage people to deepen their emotional connection to the landscape and support the engagement of new and existing audiences.

UE2.11. The Countryside Code should be promoted to educate visitors and communities to act appropriately in the countryside and to improve understanding between visitors and those living and working in the area.

UE2.12. The provision of new, and level of use of existing, access and recreational opportunities should be delivered in a way that is compatible with and seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the CNL. Where recreational use is having or is likely to have, an adverse impact on the natural beauty of the National Landscape or on the integrity of existing wildlife and historic sites, steps should be taken to evaluate, prevent or mitigate these impacts. Such steps can include enhanced maintenance and wayfinding, onsite engagement, legal restrictions, and the provision and promotion of access and recreational opportunities in new alternative suitable locations.

UE2.13. Where there is a conflict between (i) conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and (ii) public enjoyment of this natural beauty in the CNL, the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty should be given greater weight.

UE2.14. Stakeholders should work towards the delivery of the relevant target for access and recreation within the national Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. The indicators for monitoring this target are outlined in appendix 6.

Target 9 Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.

The use of the term “everyone” within the wording of this outcome is deliberate and is intended to promote equity, diversity and inclusion.

The extensive 3000 miles of public rights of way network provides a huge opportunity to enhance public enjoyment and appreciation of the CNL. For some people, due to financial, health or cultural reasons there are barriers to accessing and enjoying this network. These barriers should be broken

down and access provision should be adapted and extended where possible to reach the widest demographic and people of all abilities

Partners including the National Landscape Board, Highway Authorities, parishes and landowners should work together to improve rights of way furniture, surfacing and facilities for the benefit of everyone.

Digital platforms such as websites and social media should be used, alongside targeted communications in more underrepresented communities to promote the extensive self-guided walks and guided walks programme that will appeal to a variety of audiences.

Offering high quality arts and cultural experiences which encourage people to deepen their emotional connection to the landscape will be an important part of how new and existing audiences are engaged in the future. Weaving thought-provoking and inspiring arts and culture activity into access and recreation work has the potential to connect people with nature and the landscape. The Arts in the Landscape strategy, led by the National Landscapes Association and adopted by the Cotswolds National Landscape Board in 2021 will support this work.

A current lack of long-term and increasing funding from Natural England for National Trails makes long-term planning, maintenance and promotion more challenging. Ongoing partnership working with the Cotswold Way Association (CWA) and the new National Trails Charity (NTUK) will be key to the long term sustainability of these internationally recognized flagship Trails.

New Agri- environment schemes have the potential to create additional access to the Cotswolds and improve existing routes and should be encouraged.

The recreational use of the National Landscape should not be allowed to adversely affect the National Landscape's special qualities. For example, measures will need to be put in place to avoid, minimise and mitigate recreational pressure arising from new developments both inside and outside the National Landscape, especially where these developments are located close to sensitive locations, such as designated nature conservation sites and Scheduled Monuments.

The prioritisation of 'conserving and enhancing natural beauty' over 'public enjoyment' is known as the 'Sandford Principle', after Lord Sandford, who chaired the National Parks Policy Review Committee between 1971 and 1974. This principle is embedded in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, in relation to Conservation Boards.[74]

Sustainable tourism

Outcome 14 – Sustainable tourism:

Businesses and visitors have a shared commitment to contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the National Landscape.

The natural beauty of the CNL is the foundation on which the tourism industry in the Cotswolds is based. This natural beauty is an asset which needs to be managed, conserved and enhanced. The

[74] Section 87, Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000).

tourism sector should, therefore, contribute to the conservation and enhancement of this natural beauty.

Policy UE3: Sustainable tourism

UE3.1. Tourism within the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) should be delivered and managed in a way that is compatible with and seeks to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of CNL and should minimise the emission of greenhouse gases in accordance with policy CC1.

UE3.2. Visitors, residents, local businesses and communities should be provided with opportunities to directly contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL and improve access to the area through local individual, community and employee volunteering opportunities.

UE3.3. The 'Caring for the Cotswolds' visitor giving scheme will raise awareness of the CNL and generate funds from visitors to directly help to look after it by supporting projects which conserve habitats and species, look after heritage and landscape, improve access, and help provide education resources encouraging people to understand the landscape and nature better.

UE3.4. Visitors should be provided with a variety of accommodation options over a range of prices. The siting and design of visitor accommodation should be compatible with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the CNL including its special qualities.

UE3.5. Air travel arising from the Cotswolds as a destination should be minimised.

UE3.6. Existing sustainable and integrated transport initiatives should be supported and new initiatives developed to help facilitate the car free visitor experience.

New tourism products that increase the sustainable tourism offer should be encouraged. Further research and evidence are needed to better understand the impacts and patterns of tourism in the CNL to ensure it becomes sustainable. Updated visitor and tourism survey data would help to underpin Policies UE2 and UE3.

Visitors' emissions, including travelling to/from the Cotswolds, are equivalent to about half of total residents' emissions. Their emissions overwhelmingly come from travelling to/from the Cotswolds, rather than what they do, buy and eat while they are here. In particular, emissions from travelling are dominated by flying (48%) and road fuel (41%). Of the remaining 11%, while visitors are here, about half their emissions are due to food and drink.[75]

Though there is generally a significant level of appreciation for the Cotswolds landscape amongst visitors, awareness and understanding of its status as a protected landscape and the implications of this are lacking. This reduces awareness of the need for protection and enhancement of the sense of place and its distinctive features and special qualities.

[75] Cotswolds National Landscape (2023). Creating a Pathway to a Climate-Friendly Cotswolds. A Layman's Guide to Small World Consulting's Carbon Baseline Assessment Technical Report.

Limited availability of low-cost accommodation, including camping, can exclude families and those on low incomes from staying in the area, reducing the diversity of visitors. Provision of such accommodation should be compatible with the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty.

The limited provision of public transport - and limited integration of this provision – restricts the scope for visitors (and residents) without a car to explore the Cotswolds resulting in a heavy reliance on car usage. Transport providers should be supported to increase and promote integrated travel initiatives in order to encourage a car-free visitor experience.

Following the 2021 "*de Bois Review: an independent review of Destination Management Organisations in England*" and the government response, VisitEngland is currently creating a portfolio of nationally supported and strategic 'Local Visitor Economy Partnerships' (LVEPs). These LVEPs will provide strong local leadership and governance in tourism destination all over the country. In 2023 the Cotswolds Plus Local Visitor Economy Partnership was accredited by VisitEngland, and now provides strategic advice and direction to the following destination marketing organisations: Cotswolds Tourism (lead partner), Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Tourism, Marketing Cheltenham, Visit Gloucester, Visit Gloucestershire. The Cotswolds Plus LVEP has a Management Board made up of strategic partners including Gloucestershire County Council and local authority representatives from the geographic area of the LVEP and is independently chaired by a representative of the Cotswolds National Landscape Board. The main themes of work are: Sustainability (transport and active travel); Sustainability (business practices and biodiversity); Accessibility and Inclusion; Skills and Training; Research and Data; Business Support; Travel Trade; and Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE).

8. Delivery and monitoring

Cotswolds National Landscape Board delivery

The Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) Board will play an important role in delivering the vision, outcomes and policies of the Management Plan. How the CNL Board will contribute to the delivery of the Management Plan is set out in a three yearly Business Plan Framework which in turn is delivered through an annual work programme. Together these show how the vision, outcomes and policies of the Management Plan are translated into measurable actions for the Board.

Stakeholder delivery

Although the CNL Board is the body responsible for preparing and publishing the Management Plan and will play an important role in its delivery, the Board doesn't actually own or directly manage any of the land in the CNL or its setting. As such, the policies of the Management Plan are also intended to guide the work of other stakeholders in helping to deliver the Management Plan's vision and outcomes.

The detail of how other stakeholders contribute to the delivery of the Management Plan is too complex to cover in this Management Plan, particularly given that the National Landscape cuts across 15 local authority areas. However, the 'Stakeholder Delivery' table in Appendix 5 outlines the key actions that the Board invites specific stakeholders to undertake in order to help deliver the Management Plan. The actions and policies listed in the table are not intended to be exhaustive.

In essence, stakeholders are asked to:

- have regard to the Management Plan, including its vision, outcomes and, perhaps most importantly, its policies;
- incorporate the Management Plan's vision, outcomes and policies into their own plans, policies, proposals, work programmes and decisions, where appropriate.

Monitoring

The National Landscape Board will monitor and evaluate its contribution to the delivery of the Management Plan through the quarterly and annual review of its work programme. The 'State of the Cotswolds Report' – together with other local and national monitoring and surveys – will contribute to the provision of evidence, which is a crucial part of managing the National Landscape.

Where practicable the Board will monitor the key actions identified in the 'Stakeholder Delivery' table in Appendix 5 and compliance with the 'duty of regard' (see Appendix 4).

The delivery of the Management Plan will be monitored through the national Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework. These targets are listed in appendix 6 where a suite of additional monitoring indicators which have been developed for each policy are also listed.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1: National Landscape (AONB) designation

The Cotswolds National Landscape was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1966 and extended in area in 1990. At 790 square miles, or 2038 square kilometres, it is the largest AONB and the third largest protected landscape in England.

Although AONB remains the legal name of the designation, the Board of the Cotswolds Conservation Board decided in June 2020 to use the name National Landscape (NL) for the area designated as an AONB and the name Cotswolds National Landscape Board for the Cotswolds Conservation Board. All AONBs now use the name National Landscape.

This plan uses the term National Landscape for the designated area and National Landscape Board for the organisation.

AONBs are landscapes whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them[76]. They have the same landscape status as national parks.

The statutory purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance their natural beauty[77]. AONBs are designated in law following a prescribed process which includes an objective appraisal of landscape quality, statutory assessments by the national conservation agencies and wide consultation with stakeholders including local landowners, residents and businesses[78].

Each AONB has been designated by reason of its 'special qualities'. These include the flora, fauna, historical and cultural associations as well as landscape and scenic views, as outlined in Chapter 2 of the Management Plan.

AONBs exist within a legal framework which has been progressively strengthened since the first AONBs came into existence after the Second World War. The primary, or enabling, legislation for the designation of AONBs was the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 subsumed and strengthened the AONB

provisions of the 1949 Act. It confirmed the purpose and significance of AONBs, clarified the procedure for their designation, and created a firm legislative basis for their designation, protection and management. The Act also provided for the establishment of Conservation Boards to manage AONBs – see Appendix 3.

AONBs are part of a family of protected areas recognised and classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) throughout the world. IUCN recognises AONBs and National Parks in England and Wales as Category V Protected Landscapes – a protected area whose special qualities are the result of the interaction between people and nature. As such, they are an international designation as well as a national-level designation. They are managed mainly for landscape protection and recreation.

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[76] Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) (2015) *Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Landscape Protection and Enhancement Support Scheme (England) 2015 – 17. Application to European Commission*.

[77] Section 82, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

[78] National Association of AONBs (2018) *AONB Management Plan Revision. Specimen text: policy and legal framework*.

Appendix 2: Natural beauty

The concept of natural beauty is one of the cornerstones of legislation to protect landscapes in the UK. It has been the basis for the designation of national landscapes (AONBs) and National Parks since the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act.

Natural beauty goes well beyond scenic or aesthetic value. It encompasses everything that makes an area distinctive: geology, climate, soil, plants, animals, communities, archaeology, buildings, the people who live in it, past and present, and the perceptions of those who visit it[79]. It is widely accepted that natural beauty is, in part, due to human intervention, such as agriculture[80].

Natural England has developed a list of natural beauty criteria[81] to be used when assessing landscapes for designation as AONBs or National Parks, as outlined in the table below. It is Natural England's view that the practical application of the natural beauty criteria is identical for National Park and AONB designations, despite there being differences in the degree to which the criterion is clarified in the legislation[82]. So, for example, the extent to which wildlife and cultural heritage are factored into natural beauty assessments by Natural England is the same for both AONBs and National Parks. It is also the Government's formal position that the natural beauty required of an AONB and a National Park are the same[83].

The list is not intended to be exhaustive and other factors may be relevant in some circumstances. Not all factors will be relevant in every case.

Table of factors related to natural beauty[84]79

Landscape quality
This is a measure of the physical state or condition of the landscape.

Scenic quality
The extent to which the landscape appeals to the senses (primarily, but not only, the visual senses).

Relative wildness
The degree to which relatively wild character can be perceived in the landscape makes a particular contribution to sense of place.

Relative tranquillity
The degree to which relative tranquillity can be perceived in the landscape.

Natural heritage features

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[79] Countryside Agency (2001) *Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans*. A guide. Countryside Agency Publications. West Yorkshire
[80] Natural England (2011) *Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England*.
[81] Natural England (2011) *Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England* (see Table 3 and Appendix 1).
[82] Natural England (2011) *Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England*.
[83] See Lords Hansard 20 Mar 2006 (Col 51) and Commons Hansard 13 June 2000 (Col 556W).
[84] Table extracted from the Natural England guidance Natural England (2011) *Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England*.

The influence of natural heritage on the perception of the natural beauty of the area. Natural heritage includes flora, fauna, geological and physiographical features.

Cultural heritage
The influence of cultural heritage on the perception of natural beauty of the area and the degree to which associations with particular people, artists, writers or events in history contribute to such perception.

Appendix 3: Cotswold National Landscape Board

The Cotswolds Conservation Board ('the Board') was established by Parliamentary Order[85] in 2004. It was renamed as the Cotswolds National Landscape Board for most purposes in June 2020 (although the legal name remains unchanged). It has two statutory purposes[86]:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape.
- To increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape.

In fulfilling these purposes, the Board has a duty to seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities within the National Landscape[87].

These purposes and duties are modelled on those of the National Park Authorities. In circumstances where the two purposes are irreconcilable, the Board must give priority to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape[88].

The Board consists of 37 members, of whom 15 are nominated by local authorities, eight by parish councils and 14 are appointed by government. The Board's work programme is administered by a small team of staff, supported by a network of Cotswold Voluntary Wardens who deliver a programme of practical projects and guided walks across the National Landscape. It is one of only two Conservation Boards in England, the other being the Chilterns Conservation Board.

The Board has a statutory responsibility, under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000, to draft and publish the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan and to review it at least every five years. The Board's work programme for how it will contribute to the delivery of the Management Plan is set out in the Board's separate, rolling, three-year Business Plan.

The Board has a series of functions or powers that it shares with the Local Authorities, as specified in the Board's Establishment Order.

As the only organisation with responsibilities for the Cotswolds National Landscape as a whole, the Board produces a variety of publications and guidance. This is to facilitate a consistent and coordinated approach across the whole of the National Landscape, which puts the purpose of National Landscape designation at the heart of plans, proposals, decisions and work programmes affecting the National Landscape.

Board publications that are of particular relevance to the Management Plan – and which are referred to in some of the Management Plan policies and or supporting text – are outlined below:

- **Cotswolds National Landscape** – **Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)**: The LCA provides an assessment of the character, distinctiveness and qualities of the Cotswolds National Landscape. It also identifies and describes the National Landscape's component landscape character types (LCTs). It identifies 19 different LCTs in the Cotswolds National Landscape.

[85] The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Establishment of Conservation Board) Order 2004.
[86] Section 87, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, as amended by the NERC Act 2006.
[87] Section 87 of the CROW Act specifies that, *'a conservation board... shall for that purpose [i.e. fostering social and economic wellbeing] co-operate with local authorities and public bodies whose functions include the promotion of economic or social development within the area of outstanding natural beauty*'.
[88] This prioritisation of conserving and enhancing is known as the 'Sandford Principle', after Lord Sandford, who chaired the National Parks Policy Review Committee between 1971 and 1974.

- **Cotswolds National Landscape** – Landscape Strategy and Guidelines: The Landscape Strategy and Guidelines provides an overview of the forces for change that are influencing the landscape of the Cotswolds National Landscape and outlines a series of landscape and land management strategies to help guide change in a positive and sustainable way. It is intended to help developers, local planning authorities, land managers and other decision makers to make informed decisions about the suitability of proposed development – or other changes – within each of the LCTs.

- Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan. The Nature Recovery Plan represents a detailed look at the species and habitats of the Cotswolds and what should be done to enable their recovery and adaptation to climate change. It sets priorities and targets for natures recovery and describes the measures that can achieve it.

- Position Statements: The Board issues a number of Position Statements, which expand on specific policies in the Management Plan and on related issues. They contain further background information and recommended good practice. They are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

- Cotswolds National Landscape Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change[8984]: This document aims to assist a wide range of stakeholders to broaden their understanding of what makes the Cotswolds National Landscape special and different from other parts of the country.

- **The Cotswolds National Landscape** Climate Change Strategy (adopted by the National Landscape Board in February 2022).This summarises our current understanding of the climate change impacts on the Cotswolds and what stakeholders can do to both adapt to and mitigate these impacts.

[89] Conservation Board (2003) *Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change*. Produced by Latham Architects for the Cotswolds AONB Partnership.

Appendix 4: The "seek to further" duty.

Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023[90] places a duty on relevant authorities[91] to seek to further the statutory purposes of protected landscapes[92] (the 'seek to further' duty). With regards to national landscapes, this requirement has been incorporated into Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act, which now states:

- *In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty in England, a relevant authority other than a devolved Welsh authority must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.*[93]

This replaces the previous version of Section 85 of the CROW Act, which required relevant authorities to have regard to the statutory purpose of national landscape designations.

Section 245 was inserted into the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill by the House of Lords as it made its way through Parliament. The Government's Explanatory Notes on the Lords Amendments to the Bill for this Act provide that (emphasis added):

- *The clause strengthens the duty on certain public authorities when carrying out functions in relation to these landscapes to seek to further the statutory purposes and confers a power to make provision as to how they should do this*.[94]

The 'seek to further' duty is, therefore, clearly intended to impose new and more onerous requirements with respect to the statutory purposes than existed before.[95]

In this regard, the Government's press release, when the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill became law in October 2023, stated that (emphasis added):

- *The Act will enhance our national network of beautiful, nature-rich protected landscapes that can be enjoyed right across the country*.[96]

The 'seek to further' duty is, therefore, clearly intended to ensure that the natural beauty of protected landscapes (including national landscapes) will be enhanced (i.e. left in a better state) as a result of relevant authorities exercising or performing their functions.

The LURA confers powers on the Secretary of State to make provisions for how a relevant authority is to comply with the 'seek to further' duty, including what the authority may, must or must not do to comply with the duty. It is also anticipated that the Government will provide guidance on how the duty should be applied in due course. However, the duty is not dependent on these provisions or on

[90] Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (link).
[91] 'Relevant authority', in this context, includes any Minister of the Crown, public body, statutory undertaker or person holding public office.
[92] 'Protected landscapes' means national parks, the Broads and national landscapes.
[93] Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (link).
[94] UK Parliament (2023) *Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill – Explanatory Notes on Lords Amendments*. Updated version, 12 October 2023. (Link). Page 35.
[95] Landmark Chambers (2024) *Re: section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.* Instructed by the Campaign for National Parks. (Link). Paragraph 6.
[96] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-to-speed-up-planning-build-homes-and-level-up

this guidance – it is in force now, and must be complied with as part of any decision or course of action that has implications for these protected areas.[97]

At the present time, the two most useful reference points relating to the 'seek to further' duty are the advice produced by Natural England[98] and the legal opinion obtained by Campaign for National Parks (CNP)[99].

The Natural England advice states that:

- *The duty to 'seek to further' is an active duty, not a passive one. Any relevant authority must take all reasonable steps to explore how the statutory purposes of the protected landscape (A National Park, the Broads, or an AONB) can be furthered.*
- *The new duty underlines the importance of avoiding harm to the statutory purposes of protected landscapes but also to seek to further the conservation and enhancement of a protected landscape. That goes beyond mitigation and like for like measures and replacement. A relevant authority must be able to demonstrate with reasoned evidence what measures can be taken to further the statutory purpose. If it is not practicable or feasible to take those measures the relevant authority should provide evidence to show why it is not practicable or feasible.*
- *The proposed measures to further the statutory purposes of a protected landscape, should explore what is possible in addition to avoiding and mitigating the effects of the development, and should be appropriate, proportionate to the type and scale of the development and its implications for the area and effectively secured. Natural England's view is that the proposed measures should align with and help to deliver the aims and objectives of the designated landscape's statutory management plan. The relevant protected landscape team/body should be consulted.*

The CNP's legal opinion sets out a number of principles to help ensure compliance with the 'seek to further' duty:[100]

(a) The new duties are very broad in scope, applying to "any functions" in relation to, or so as to affect, land in the protected areas. Relevant authorities would do well to assume that if their decision touches in any way upon an AONB, National Park or the Broads, the relevant duty is engaged.

(b) The duties are pro-active, and not merely an afterthought: the authority must "seek to further" the stated purposes in the exercise of their functions. That means that the duties should be pro-actively considered as part of any decision to which the duty applies. A failure to consider those duties, or a failure to understand their pro-active and mandatory nature, would be an error of law.

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[97] Landmark Chambers (2024) *Re: section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.* Instructed by the Campaign for National Parks. (Link). Paragraph 2a.

[98] This advice (link – Annex 2) was submitted, in December 2023, by Natural England, as a statutory consultee, to the Examining Authority for the examination of the Lower Thames Crossing, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

[99] Landmark Chambers (2024) *Re: section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.* Instructed by the Campaign for National Parks. (Link).

[100] Landmark Chambers (2024) *Re: section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.* Instructed by the Campaign for National Parks. (Link). Paragraph 17.

(c) *An authority must factor in the relevant duty before the adoption of a proposed policy and not merely as a "rearguard action", following a concluded decision.*
(d) *It will be important for relevant authorities to record the steps taken by the decision maker in seeking to meet the statutory requirements and demonstrate how the decision complies with the duty.*
(e) *While there is no obvious requirement to expressly reference the new duties in every decision, they are not merely a box-ticking exercise, and they must be rigorously applied as part of any relevant decision.*
(f) *General regard to the benefit of protecting these landscapes is not the same as having specific regard to the statutory purposes, by way of conscious approach to the statutory criteria.*
(g) *These duties are outcome-based: they do not simply require "due regard" to be had to them. If, having considered the implications of a decision, an authority reaches the view that the decision does not "seek to further" the applicable legislative purpose, it would be hard to argue that the decision would in fact be open to the relevant authority: because it would appear to be in breach of the applicable duty. In those circumstances, the decision would need to either be withdrawn or modified such that the relevant authority could confidently say that it did seek to further the relevant purpose.*
(h) *To be clear, however, this does not mean that the duty precludes decisions that are "net harmful" to an AONB, National Park of the Broads: if that were so, the duty would be to "further the purpose" rather than to "seek to further the purpose." But what is required is positive evidence that the relevant authority has, in all the circumstances, sought to further the purpose: not merely through mitigation of harm but by taking all reasonable steps to further the purpose.*
(i) *As to whether a decision or course of action in fact seeks to further the relevant purpose … this is a question for the relevant authority in the first instance, subject to challenge on Wednesbury principles. But a positive conclusion that the decision or course of action does seek to further that purpose is clearly required.*

The legal opinion goes on to pose a number of questions that a relevant authority should ask itself when considering whether it has complied with the duty:[101]

i. *What are the required statutory purposes my decision must seek to further?*
ii. *Does my decision in fact pro-actively seek to further those purposes? If so, how does it do so? If not, how can my decision be modified so that I can confidently conclude that it does seek to further the relevant purposes?*
iii. *As a matter of best practice, have I recorded how I have concluded that my decision seeks to further the required purposes, which I can produce in the event of a subsequent legal challenge?*

The legal opinion makes the following additional points:[102]

- [Relevant authorities] *would be well-advised not treat the new duties as "business as usual" and to consider the pro-active duties now placed on them to seek to further the purposes of AONBs, National Parks and the Broads. I agree with Natural England that this means that*

[101] Landmark Chambers (2024) *Re: section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.* Instructed by the Campaign for National Parks. (Link). Paragraph 19.
[102] Landmark Chambers (2024) *Re: section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.* Instructed by the Campaign for National Parks. (Link). Paragraph 21.

relevant authorities should ensure, with evidence, that their decisions do all they reasonably can to further the statutory purposes, including going beyond merely mitigating harm. This could include, for example, delivering enhancements to the natural beauty of the area, or creating new opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of national parks by the public (rather than merely maintaining or supporting existing opportunities). Moreover, if there is an obvious alternative approach that better furthers the statutory purposes and the relevant authority cannot evidence (1) why it cannot reasonably adopt that approach or (2) that its chosen approach also seeks to further the statutory purposes, the decision will be open to legal challenge.

Appendix 5: Stakeholder delivery – priority actions

National Landscape Board Delivery How the National Landscape Board will contribute to the delivery of the Management Plan is set out in a three yearly Business Plan Framework which in turn is delivered through an annual work programme.

Recommended Stakeholder Actions Every individual and organisation with an interest in the National Landscape can help make this plan's vision and outcomes a reality by contributing its delivery. Many of these stakeholders already make a significant contribution to delivery. This 'Stakeholder Delivery' table provides an indication of the key measures that the Board invites specific stakeholders to undertake in order to help deliver this plan.

Stakeholder	Key measure (i.e. 'if you do nothing else to support the implementation of the Management Plan, please do this')	Most relevant policies (update)
All 'relevant authorities'[103]	Seek to further the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL). In doing so, have regard to and align with the CNL Management Plan and other National Landscape guidance. This should include helping to deliver the vision, outcomes and policies of the National Landscape Management Plan by: (i) addressing them – and, where appropriate, adopting them – in relevant plans, policies, proposals, work programmes, decisions and actions; and (ii) recognising them as priorities for investment.	CC3, CE1, CE3, CE8, CE10
	Contribute to the delivery of targets within the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework where relevant.	
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	Publish and promote guidance on the 'seek to further' duty.	CC6, CE10
	Develop secondary legislation on how relevant authorities should comply with the 'seek to further' duty.	CC6, CE1, CE8, CE10
	Develop secondary legislation on how relevant authorities should contribute to the production and implementation of protected landscape management plans and the delivery of the targets within the Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework.	CC7
	Ensure that Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms contain measures appropriate for the Cotswolds National Landscape and are targeted towards the delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and the delivery of the targets within the Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework, in particular targets 2,3,4,5,8 &9.	CE8
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	Publish new guidance, to accompany the National Planning Policy Framework, which clarifies and explains: • the meaning of 'highest status of protection'; • that development in AONBs should be limited; • what the development priorities should be for AONBs (i.e. affordable housing and improvement of services); • what constitutes 'exceptional circumstances' and 'in the public interest', in the context of major development.	CC6, CE10, CE11, CE12

[103] As defined in Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which is explained in Appendix 4. Includes all public bodies and statutory undertakers.

Natural England	Support the establishment and delivery of Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms specifically for the Cotswolds National Landscape.	CE8
	Provide funding for National Trails through three-year rolling funding streams, and provide cohesive national co-ordination	CE7
	Contribute to the delivery of targets within the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, in particular targets 2, 3, 4, & 10	
Forestry Commission	Develop and support land management and rural development support mechanisms appropriate for the Cotswolds National Landscape.	CE8, CE7
	Ensure that publicly funded woodland creation schemes reflect Cotswolds National Landscape Board guidance including the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines and the Nature Recovery Plan.	CE1, CE7
	Contribute to the delivery of targets within the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, in particular targets 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 8.	
Environment Agency	Support the delivery of the Cotswold Nature Recovery Plan and the River Valleys Nature Improvement Area, for example, through appropriate policies and actions in River Basin and Catchment Management Plans.	CE7
	Lead on the delivery of actions to implement the Water Framework Directive.	CC5
	Contribute to the delivery of targets within the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, in particular targets 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5.	
Historic England	Facilitate greater access to the Cotswolds National Landscape Historic Landscape Character Assessment and Historic Environment Records.	CE6
	Work with other stakeholders to enhance the interpretation of core properties and scheduled ancient monuments.	CE6
	Support measures to ensure that scheduled ancient monuments are brought into good condition contributing to the delivery of target 10 within the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.	CE6
Health and Wellbeing Boards	Commission health walks and conservation activity as an adjunct or alternative to normal prescription treatment.	UE1
	Invest in programmes to help deprived communities, within the Cotswolds National Landscape and surrounding areas, overcome barriers preventing them from realising the mental and physical health benefits of enjoying the National Landscape.	UE2
Local Enterprise Partnerships	Support the development of funding mechanisms that leverage private finance to provide for payments for ecosystem services (Gloucestershire LEP roles and responsibilities transferred to Gloucestershire County Council from April 2024).	CE8, CE10, CE1, UE3
Local Authorities	Endorse the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan.	
	Recognise the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan as a material consideration in Local Plans and in planning decisions.	CE10
	Include a policy specifically about the Cotswolds National Landscape in Local Plans, which specifies how the purpose of	CE10

	National Landscape designation will be achieved in the Local Plan area.	
	Ensure that Local Nature Recovery Strategies take account of the outcomes, priorities and measures of the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan.	CE7
	Prioritise the provision of affordable housing to meet identified local needs arising from within the National Landscape.	CE12
	Maintain and enhance public access, roads, public transport and countryside management, in line with the policies of the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan.	UE2, CE10, UE3, CE1, CE6, CE7, CE8
	Contribute to the delivery of targets within the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework where relevant.	
Town and Parish Councils and Parish Meetings	Use the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan and Landscape Strategy and Guidelines to inform Neighbourhood Plans, Parish Plans and Village Design Statements and when considering planning applications.	CC6, CC7, CE10, CE12
Town and Parish Councils and Parish Meetings	Celebrate and promote the fact that the town or parish lies within the Cotswolds National Landscape by: • utilising National Landscape boundary markers; • incorporating 'within the Cotswolds National Landscape' text in village or town entry signs; • providing information about the Cotswolds National Landscape on information panels and displays in the town or parish.	UE2
Conservation organisations	Help to halt and reverse declines in priority habitats and species.	CE7
	Help to establish and manage coherent and resilient nature recovery networks that join up across the National Landscape as outlined in the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan.	CE7
	Contribute to the delivery of targets within the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework where relevant.	
Historic environment and cultural heritage organisations	Support the conservation, enhancement, promotion and monitoring of the historical environment and cultural heritage of the Cotswolds National Landscape.	CE6
	Contribute to the delivery of targets within the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, particularly target 10.	
Farmers, landowners, land managers and related organisations	Use the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan and guidance published by the Cotswolds Conservation Board, including the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines and Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan, to inform investment, development, and land management decisions and actions.	All
	Ensure that environmental land management and rural development support mechanisms support the Cotswolds National Landscape's policies and guidance and deliver Local Nature recovery Strategies.	CE8
	Support the delivery of targets within the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework where relevant.	
Tourism organisations	Support the development of and contribute to the Caring for the Cotswolds visitor giving scheme.	UE3

and tourism providers	Support a coordinated approach to tourism across the whole of the Cotswolds.	CC6, UE2, UE3
Geology Trusts	Support the conservation and enhancement of geological and geomorphological features in the Cotswolds National Landscape.	CE2
	Support the increased understanding and awareness of geological and geomorphological features in the Cotswolds National Landscape.	CE2
Developers and infrastructure providers (including utilities, rail and highways)	Avoid adverse impacts on the Cotswolds National Landscape resulting from development and infrastructure provision. Mitigate unavoidable impacts and, as a last resort, compensate for impacts that cannot be mitigated on site, for example, by enhancing visual amenity.	CE1, CE10
	Ensure that any major infrastructure projects that are permitted in the Cotswolds National Landscape are 'landscape-led'[104].	CE11

[104] See Policy CE10.6, paragraph 2, for more details on what 'landscape-led' means in this context.

Appendix 6: Monitoring indicators

Targets in the National Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF).

These are the indicators for the national targets set by Defra within the protected landscapes targets and outcomes framework. Three of them, wildlife rich habitats restored or created, peat and canopy cover are currently being apportioned across all protected landscapes through a national process.

Abbreviations;
PLTOF – Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework
NLs – National Landscapes
NPs – National Parks
PLs – Protected Landscapes
TI – Target Indicator

Management Plan Outcomes and Policies	National PLTOF Target	Target indicator	Cotswolds baseline figure from the 2024 data release	Cotswolds Target 2030	Cotswolds Target 2050	Notes	Statistic Code
1. Climate action CC1: Climate change – mitigation	7. Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.	Extent of peat under restoration in Protected Landscapes	0 Ha	0 Ha	0 Ha		TI_07
	6. Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.	Level of greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes	1,090.32 kt CO2e			2022. Data each year from 2005 (1740.2 a reduction of 649.88) is available. See https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2022. Overall emissions are given as a single figure, measured in kilotons of carbon dioxide equivalent (KtCO2e), by weighting non-carbon dioxide gases by their global warming potential (GWP).	TI_06

1. Climate action CC1: Climate change – mitigation 8. Biodiversity and nature recovery CE8: Nature recovery and biodiversity	8. Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).	Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes	35,903 Ha			Indicator is in development. Interim statistics provided for woodland cover & tree canopy. Woodland based on national forest inventory = 2,6105 ha + Trees Outside woods based on trees outside woods and orchards maps. 9,798 ha. The target is currently being apportioned across protected landscapes nationally and will additionally be further informed by local woodland opportunity mapping. The local target is likely to exceed the apportioned national target.	TI_08
2. Working together CC4: Working in partnership	9.Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.	Policies in place to ensure Protected Landscapes are taking positive action to widen the diversity of their staff, boards and volunteers	1	1	1	Equalities and Diversity Policy published December 2020. Note. Unlike the other targets, this target is not repeated under the relevant policy within the main body of the plan. This is because it relates to the CNL Board alone and not the CNL as a place.	TI_09i
7. Historic environment and cultural heritage CE7: Historic environment and cultural heritage	10. Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.	Number and percentage of nationally designated heritage assets in Protected Landscapes to be deemed at risk	62	tba	tba	Historic England are being consulted on this target.	TI_10
	10. Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.	Number and percentage of nationally designated heritage assets in Protected Landscapes to be deemed at risk	0.56%	tba	tba	Historic England are being consulted on this target.	TI_10
8. Biodiversity and nature recovery CE8: Nature recovery and biodiversity	1. Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).	Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites	Not available CNRP (2021) 41,471 Ha	17,331 Ha	33,684 Ha	Indicator is in development. Interim targets based on Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan targets less hedgerows. Habitat definitions may vary from the indicator when completed. 2042 target is 28,079 Ha arrived at by adding 2/5 of the difference between 2040 & 2045 targets to 2040. Baseline is the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan existing habitat figures less hedgerows.	TI_01
	2. Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042	Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition	49%	59%	84%	Percentage of SSSI features in favourable condition. NLs 41.3%, NPs 34.8%, PLs 38.6%, England 39.5%.	TI_02

						Interim 2030 & 2050 targets estimated by calculating the average annual increase to meet the 2042 target assuming a steady rate (1.72%pa) & projecting that forward. Natural England are being consulted on this target.	
	3. For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.	Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition	14.4%	83.0%	100%	"Negative" refers to actions which have not been yet undertaken or which are resulting in a negative impact on the SSSI. NLs 15.3%, NPs 10.8%, PLs 13.4%, England 14.1%. A feature can only be considered to have an 'action on track' if it has an up-to-date condition assessment. Many do not and so do not count as having 'actions on track'. When the assessments are updated, if they are still favourable, they will then count as having 'actions on track'. Interim 2030 target estimated by calculating the average annual increase to meet the 2028 target & (11.3%pa) & projecting it forward by 2 more years. Natural England are being consulted on this target.	TI_03
	4. Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.	Extent of priority habitat within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes	Not available			Indicator is in development.	TI_04
	5. Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.	Percentage of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on_ a percentage of their land	Not available			Indicator is in development.	TI_05
12. Health and wellbeing	9. Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all	Number of visits and volunteer days facilitated by new equipment	Not available			Indicator is in development.	TI_09e

UE1: Health and wellbeing	using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.	Number of schools engaged (primary and secondary) both inside and outside the Protected Landscape boundary	Not available			Indicator is in development.	TI_09f
		Number of volunteer days	Not available			Indicator is in development.	TI_09g
13. Access and recreation UE2: Access and recreation	9. Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.	Metres of accessible path as a % of total path	Not available			Indicator is in development.	TI_09a
		Number of accessible toilets and rest stops	Not available			Indicator is in development.	TI_09b
		Number of disability accessible parking spaces	Not available			Indicator is in development.	TI_09c
		Number of accessible gates and gaps	Not available			Indicator is in development.	TI_09d
		Number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved	Not available			Indicator is in development.	TI_09h

Monitoring Indicators

There are an additional 24 data sets within the PLTOF and they are supplemented with additional local indicators. The PLTOF indicators have statistic codes starting with “Stat” and the supplementary indicators have codes starting with “Local”. The PLTOF indicators will be monitored nationally with data cut to their boundaries provided to the protected landscapes. The local indicators will be monitored locally.

Management Plan Outcomes	Management Plan Policies	Description of statistic	Cotswolds baseline figure from the 2024 data release	Notes	Statistic Code
1. Climate action	CC1 – Climate change mitigation	Area, depth and percentage cover of peatland within Protected Landscapes	24.45 Ha	Deep peaty soils (= 0%). NLs 6.18% PLs 9.01%	Stat_06

1. Climate action	CC1 – Climate change mitigation	Estimate of the amount of carbon stored and sequestered by habitats within Protected Landscapes	34,533,221 tonnes of carbon (t C)	Sum of the median estimate for 0-150cm soil depth and the median estimate for biomass.	Stat_07
1. Climate action	CC1 – Climate change mitigation	Total predicted output from new renewable energy schemes permitted in the Cotswolds National Landscape each year.	0	No records of solar or wind proposals permitted within recent years. This is the predicted output from planning applications which is frequently greater than the actual output.	Local_01
2. Working together	CC3 – Compliance with section 85 of the CRoW Act	% of planning decisions that are made in line with CNL Board recommendations (where the Board has objected).	56%	When a local authority (or planning inspector) has reached a decision that is contrary to our recommendation it doesn't necessarily mean that they have failed to comply with the 'seek to further duty'.	Local_02
2. Working together	CC3 – Compliance with section 85 of the CRoW Act	% of decisions (for development management proposals that we have commented on) that explicitly refer to the S85 'seek to further' duty.	Available end Dec 2024	The 'seek to further' duty was only introduced at the end of Q3 in 2023/24 so we don't have a baseline figure for the whole of 2023/24.	Local_03
2. Working together	CC3 – Compliance with section 85 of the CRoW Act	% of decisions (for development management proposals that we have commented on) that, in CNL opinion, adequately address the S85 'seek to further' duty.	Available end Dec 2024	The 'seek to further' duty was only introduced at the end of Q3 in 2023/24 so we don't have a baseline figure for the whole of 2023/24.	Local_04
3. Landscape	CE1 – Landscape	National Character Areas which contain Protected Landscape(s), where changes to landscape and waterscape character is assessed as improving/no change/declining	Not available		Stat_10
3. Landscape 8. Nature recovery and biodiversity	CE1 – Landscape CE8 – Nature recovery and biodiversity	Length of hedgerows and other traditional field boundaries (drystone walls) within Protected Landscapes	13100 km	Initial figures are for the length of hedgerow. Figures will be added for the length of dry-stone walls and shared in April 2025. Quite a lot of drystone walls are already included in the hedgerow data as the methodology could not differentiate walls with scrub or trees alongside them.	Stat_11
3. Landscape	CE2 – Geology	Number of geological and geomorphological SSSI unit features and percentage in favourable or recovering condition	40		Stat_15

3. Landscape	CE2 – Geology	Number of geological and geomorphological SSSI unit features and percentage in favourable or recovering condition	58%		Stat_15
5. Tranquillity	CE5 – Tranquillity	% of National Landscape recorded as 'most tranquil'	5.9% most tranquil.	0.96% of England is most tranquil. This is the most tranquil decile. Top 3 deciles is 31.88% for the Cotswolds compared to 8.6% for England. Data from 2006	Local_05
6. Dark skies	CE6 – Dark skies	% of National Landscape affected by light pollution	26.9%	Affected by light pollution defined as >0.25 NanoWatts/cm2/sr. Data CPRE 2016	Local_07
7. Historic environment and cultural heritage	Policy CE7	Number of nationally designated heritage assets in Protected Landscapes	11,112		Stat_09
8. Nature recovery and biodiversity	CE8 – Nature recovery and biodiversity	Extent of priority habitat and other habitats within Protected Landscapes	23,655 Ha	Statistics on 'other habitats' available in April 2025,	Stat_01
8. Nature recovery and biodiversity	CE8 – Nature recovery and biodiversity	Extent of priority habitat and other habitats within Protected Landscapes	13%	Statistics on 'other habitats' available in April 2025,	Stat_01
8. Nature recovery and biodiversity	CE8 – Nature recovery and biodiversity	Area of land within Protected Landscapes designated at international, national and local level for nature conservation	6,080.43 Ha	Excludes Local Wildlife Sites	Stat_02
8. Nature recovery and biodiversity	CE8 – Nature recovery and biodiversity	Area of land within Protected Landscapes designated at international, national and local level for nature conservation	3%	Excludes Local Wildlife Sites	Stat_02
8. Nature recovery and biodiversity 10. Farming and land management	CE8 – Nature recovery and biodiversity CE10 - Farming and land management	Area of woodland within Protected Landscapes under sustainable management	16,142 Ha		Stat_03
8. Nature recovery and biodiversity	CE8 – Nature recovery and biodiversity	Extent of ancient woodland within Protected Landscapes	9,353.1 Ha	Includes PAWS	Stat_04
9. Water	CE9 – Water	Ecological status of watercourses and water bodies within Protected Landscapes	11.7%	% Length of rivers, canals & surface water transfers in good ecological status (no high in Cotswolds). NLs 17.26%, PLs 23.27%	Stat_05
9. Water	CE9 – Water	Ecological status of watercourses and water bodies within Protected Landscapes	0%	% lakes in good ecological status (no high in the Cotswolds). NLs 1.02%, PLs 11.20%	Stat_05

9. Water	CE9 – Water	Ecological status of watercourses and water bodies within Protected Landscapes	50%	% Groundwater bodies in good ecological status. NLs 20.35%, PL's 23.27%.	Stat_05
9. Water	CE9 – Water	Ecological status of watercourses and water bodies within Protected Landscapes	12.61%	% Waterbody catchments in good ecological status (no high). NLs 14.83, PLs 23.68	Stat_05
10. Rural land management	CE10 - Farming and land management	Total area of land managed under agri-environment schemes and total value of schemes within Protected Landscapes	68,500 Ha	Countryside Stewardship (CS), Environmental Stewardship and the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) . Also includes the value of CS and SFI 2022 agreements	Stat_12
10. Rural land management	CE10 - Farming and land management	Total area of land managed under agri-environment schemes and total value of schemes within Protected Landscapes	£3,537,600	Value of CS and SFI 2022 agreements	Stat_12
10. Rural land management	CE10 - Farming and land management	Area of land under different agricultural land uses within Protected Landscapes and number of livestock	Not available	Not in data release	Stat_13
10. Rural land management	CE10 - Farming and land management	Area and distribution of main landcover types within Protected landscapes	Not available	Not in data release	Stat_14
10. Rural land management	CE10 - Farming and land management	Extent of agricultural businesses within Protected Landscapes (number and size of holdings, number of agricultural workers)	Not available	Not in data release	Stat_16
11. Development and transport	CE13 – Development and transport principles	Number of adopted Local Plans with policy-level reference to the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan.	10	Out of the 15 local planning authorities that overlap with the CNL (76%)	Local_08
11. Development and transport	CE14 – Major development	Number of development proposals (that CNL have commented on), which have been permitted, that the Board considers to be major development	3	In the context of paragraph 183 of the NPPF. 2023/24	Local_09
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Population estimates for Protected Landscapes	169,600		Stat_17
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Average age of the population living in Protected Landscapes	46		Stat_18

11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Proportion of the population within each ethnic group in Protected Landscapes	1%	Asian, Asian British, or Asian Welsh. All NLs 1%, All PLs 1%, England 10%	Stat_19
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Proportion of the population within each ethnic group in Protected Landscapes	0%	Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean, or African. All NLs 0%, All PLs 0%, England 4%.	Stat_19
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Proportion of the population within each ethnic group in Protected Landscapes	2%	Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups. All NLs 2%, All PLs 2%, England 3%.	Stat_19
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Proportion of the population within each ethnic group in Protected Landscapes	97%	White. All NLs 96%, All PLs 96%, England 81%	Stat_19
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Proportion of the population within each ethnic group in Protected Landscapes	0%	Other. All NLs 0%, All PLs 0%, England 2%	Stat_19
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Median earnings in Protected Landscapes	£2,350 pcm	All NLs = £2,300, All PLs = £2,300. Rural England = £2,300, England = £2,350	Stat_20
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	House price affordability ratios in Protected Landscapes	11x	Ratio of mean house purchase price to mean gross annual household income. All NLs = 11, All PLs = 11, Rural England = 8, England = 8	Stat_21
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Number of new housing units (i.e. dwellings) permitted through planning applications CNL has commented on.	16	2023/24	Local_10
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Registered businesses by size and type in Protected Landscapes	1,345	10+ employees. Cotswolds all sizes 12,855	Stat_22
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Registered businesses by size and type in Protected Landscapes	9,540	1-9 Employees. Cotswolds all sizes 12,855	Stat_22
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Registered businesses by size and type in Protected Landscapes	1,965	0 employees. Cotswolds all sizes 12,855	Stat_22

11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Registered businesses by size and type in Protected Landscapes	10%	10+ employees. NLs 11%, PLs 11%, Rural England 9%, England 10%	Stat_22
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Registered businesses by size and type in Protected Landscapes	74%	1-9 Employees. NLs 73%, PLs 71%, Rural England 74%, England 80%	Stat_22
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Registered businesses by size and type in Protected Landscapes	15%	0 employees. NLs 18%, PLs 18%, Rural England 17%, England 10%	Stat_22
11. Development and transport 12. Health and wellbeing	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Proportion of the population living in each decile of deprivation in Protected Landscapes	Median decile = 8	NLs, PLs & rural England; 7. England 5.	Stat_23
11. Development and transport	CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need	Number of pupils on the school roll (against total capacity) in Protected Landscapes	86%	Proportion of school capacity reached	Stat_24
11. Development and transport	CE16 – Waste management and the circular economy	Number of landfill and strategic waste management sites permitted.	1	2023/24. Using a threshold of 50,000 tonnes per annum as a definition of 'strategic	Local_11
13. Access and recreation	UE2: Access and recreation	Length of National Trails within Protected Landscapes	163.4 km		Stat_08

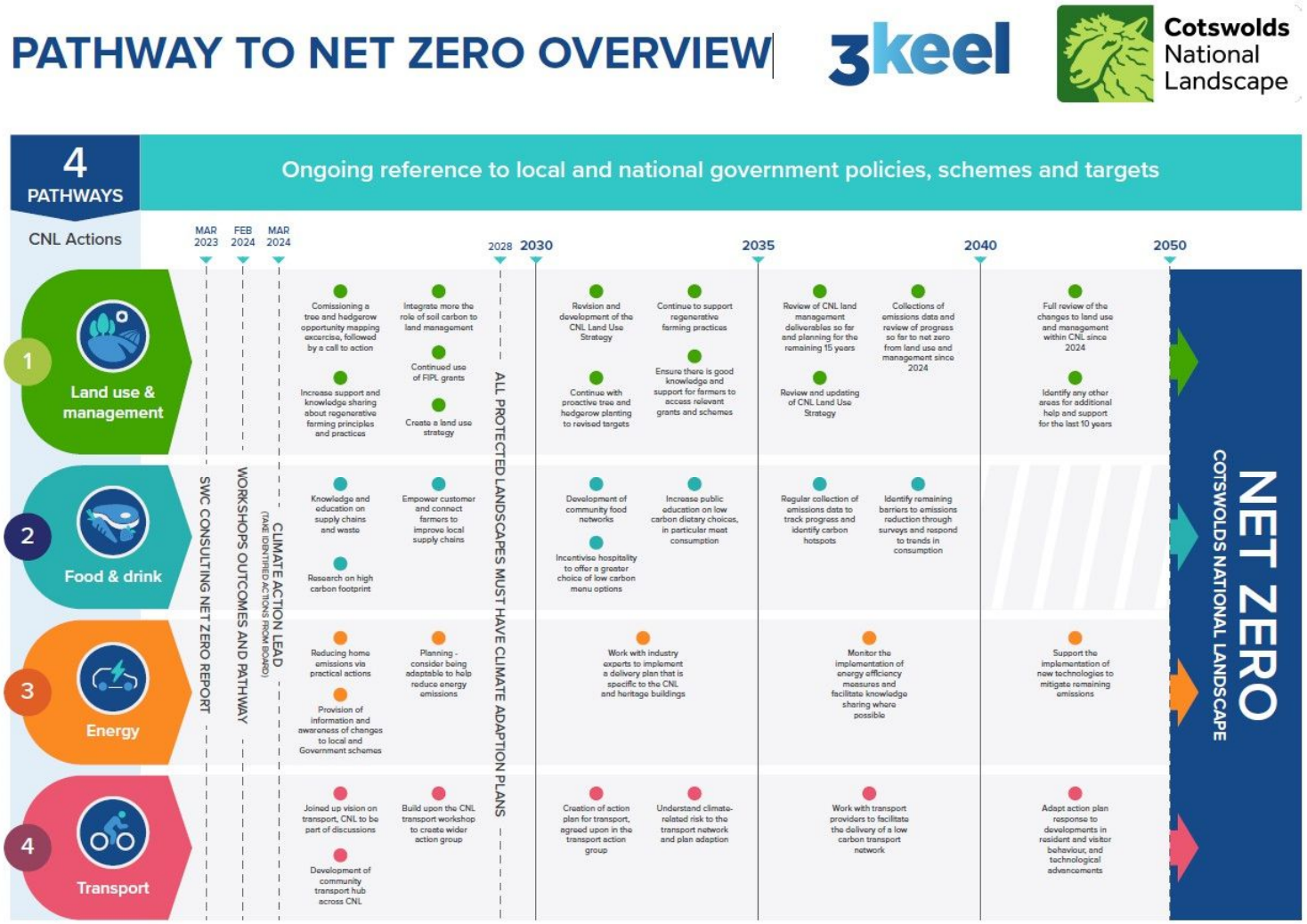
Indicators from the 2023 – 2025 Management Plan which have been removed

Note. This table is included in the consultation draft so people can see the change. It will be removed from the final draft. It does not include local indicators that have been removed due to repetition with PLTOF indicators.

Management Plan Outcomes	Management Plan Policies	Description of statistic	Reason for removal
Climate action (Outcome 1)	CC1 – Climate change mitigation	Adoption by partners of the National Landscape's pathway to net zero emissions (or better) by 2050 (or sooner), including clear, measurable targets, and the delivery of the 2025-30 actions.	Many partners have their own targets e.g LAs are aiming for 2030. LAs will endorse the pathway via management plan endorsement
Climate action (Outcome 1)	CC2 – Climate change adaptation	Publication of a CNL climate change adaptation plan & tracking its delivery with partners.	This is a milestone not a monitoring indicator. Tracking delivery requires more definition to monitor. The adaptation plan will inform the 2030-35 management Plan.
Working together (Outcome 2)	Policy CC3 – Compliance with section 85 of the CRoW Act	% of planning decisions that demonstrably seek to further the purpose of National Landscape designation.	Not a very precise indicator, too subjective.
Working together (Outcome 2)	Policy CC4 – Working in Partnership	% of respondents 'highly valuing' the Cotswold National Landscape in residents & visitor surveys.	Not monitored
Landscape (Outcome 3)	Policy CE1 – Landscape	Changes to landscape character identified through fixed-point photography.	No baseline & new indicator (Stat 10) will replace
Landscape (Outcome 3)	Policy CE3 – Natural and cultural capital - principles	Extent to which the natural and cultural capital of the Cotswolds National Landscape has been assessed and evaluated.	vague
Local Distinctiveness (outcome 4)	CE4 – Local distinctiveness	Publication of development design guidance.	Milestone not an indicator. CNL design guidance not a priority. Quality not publication of LA design guidance is important

Historic environment and cultural heritage (Outcome 7)	Policy CE7 – Historic environment and cultural Heritage	Area of land under agri-environment/Environmental Land Management schemes for the management and protection of archaeological features.	No indication that it will me monitored under the PLTOF
Farming and land management (Outcome 10)	Policy CE10 – Farming and land management	Establishment of a Cotswolds- specific package of Environmental Land Management and rural support payments.	Not an indicator
Farming and land management (Outcome 10)	Policy CE11 – Problem species, pests and diseases	Extent of tree pests and diseases.	No indication that it will me monitored under the PLTOF
Farming and land management (Outcome 10)	Policy CE12 – Soils	Area of land under agri-environment/Environmental Land Management schemes for soil management.	No indication that it will me monitored under the PLTOF
Health and wellbeing (Outcome 12)	Policy UE1 – Health and wellbeing	Number of educational projects run by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens.	Relates to the CNL body not the place.
Access and recreation (Outcome 13)	Policy UE2 – Access and recreation (see also Indicator 8):	Number of improvements made to the Public Rights of Way network by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens.	Relates to the CNL body not the place.
Access and recreation (Outcome 13)	Policy UE2 – Access and recreation (see also Indicator 8):	Downloads of walking and exploring resources from the Cotswolds National Landscape Board website.	Relates to the CNL body not the place.
Sustainable tourism (Outcome 14)	Policy UE3 – Sustainable tourism	Number of businesses that are signed up to the Caring for the Cotswolds visitor giving scheme.	Relates to the CNL body not the place.
Sustainable tourism (Outcome 14)	Policy UE3 – Sustainable tourism	Income generated through the Caring for the Cotswolds visitor giving scheme.	Relates to the CNL body not the place.

Appendix 7: Pathway to net zero overview.



[Download the full report.]

Appendix 8: Priority habitats and species

This list of priority habitats and species for the Cotswolds National Landscape is adapted from Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, which lists the habitats and species that are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The habitats and species listed below are considered to be: (i) characteristic of the Cotswolds; and/or (ii) those for which the Cotswolds National Landscape is considered to be a stronghold of those particular habitats or species. There are other priority habitats and species within the National Landscape, which merit an appropriate level of protection, but which do not meet the two criteria outlined above. Habitats and species with an asterisk (*) are not on the NERC Act list but have been identified, by the National Landscape Board and relevant stakeholders, as priorities for the Cotswolds National Landscape.

Habitats

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Lowland beech and yew woodland
- Wood pasture, parkland, veteran trees and large areas of tree, scrub and grassland mosaic
- Lowland wildflower rich calcareous and neutral grasslands
- Flushes, streams and rivers
- Arable field margins important for birds and plant species
- Hedgerows
- Common box woodland
- Areas important for bats (‘batscapes’) *
- H7720 petrifying springs with tufa formation (Crataneurion)*

Species

- Farmland birds, such as skylark, lapwing and corn bunting
- Pasqueflower
- Pearl-bordered fritillary
- Arable plants
- Juniper
- Cotswold pennycress
- Bats
- Dormouse
- Water vole
- Brown hare
- Limestone grassland butterflies
- Marsh fritillary
- Violet click beetle
- White clawed crayfish
- Native brown trout
- Bath asparagus*
- Common box*
- Rockrose pot beetle
- Rugged oil beetle
- Ancient woodland ground flora, such as helleborines and angular Solomon seal.
- Ancient grassland flora such as musk and fly orchid

Appendix 9: Why biodiversity is an important consideration in the Cotswolds National Landscape

Introduction
This appendix sets out why biodiversity is an important consideration in the Cotswolds National Landscape (including why a higher biodiversity net gain requirement would be appropriate in the Cotswolds National Landscape, compared to neighbouring, non-designated areas).

Statutory purposes, duties and powers The Cotswolds National Landscape is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The statutory purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of these areas.[105] Local authorities and other 'relevant authorities' have a statutory duty to seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of AONBs.[106] Local authorities also have the statutory power to take action to accomplish this purpose.[107]

Public authorities also have a statutory biodiversity duty[108] that the Environment Act 2021 introduced. Under this duty they "*must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England*."

Link between natural beauty and biodiversity
Natural heritage (including biodiversity) is one of the factors that contributes to the natural beauty of AONBs.[109] As such, the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is an important consideration when seeking to further the purpose of AONB designation.

Paragraph 176 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that *'the conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in [AONBs]'*.[110]

Biodiversity Net Gain and the Seek to Further Duty
Research by the Kent Nature Partnership (KNP) has identified that increasing biodiversity net gain (BNG) delivery from 10% to 20% doesn't significantly affect viability. [111]
A recent Wildlife and Countryside Link report on BNG refers to that KNP research.[112] It also states that Defra's own research[113] has shown that 10% BNG is the minimum that is required to ensure no net loss. So, it could be argued that in order to actually deliver a genuine gain in biodiversity, you need to have a BNG figure higher than 10%.

[105] Section 82 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000.
[106] Section 85 of the CROW ACT 2000. Further information on the 'duty of regard' is provided in Appendix 4 of the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2025-2030.
[107] Section 84 of the CROW Act 2000.
[108] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty
[109] Natural England (2011) *Guidance for assessing landscapes for designations as National Park or AONB in England*. Table 3, page 13, and Appendix 1, page 25.
[110] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021) *National Planning Policy Framework*. Paragraph 176, page 50.
[111] https://cieem.net/kent-assesses-20-biodiversity-net-gain-requirement/
[112] Wildlife and Countryside Link (2024) *Biodiversity Net Gain: more than a fancy offset?* (link).
[113] https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use/net-gain/supporting_documents/181121%20%20Biodiversity%20Net%20Gain%20Consultation%20IA%20FINAL%20for%20publication.pdf. The relevant section is 5.1.1, page 18.

The University of Kent's research into BNG outcomes for early adopter councils shows that certain loss of biodiversity is being traded for the promise of unverifiable gains at some point in the future.[114]

This is relevant to the new statutory duty to seek to further the purpose of protected landscapes designation (i.e. for national landscapes, to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the protected landscape). As outlined above, natural heritage / biodiversity is one of the factors that contributes to the natural beauty of a national landscape. If 10% BNG is the minimum that is required to ensure no net loss, then 10% BNG isn't necessarily enhancing the natural beauty of the area, in this regard, it is just ensuring no net loss. For actual enhancement of natural beauty (in relation to biodiversity), it could be argued that a BNG figure of more than 10% is necessary.

Landscapes Review, Government response and '30 by 30'

The Government-commissioned Landscapes Review Final Report[115] proposes that:

- national landscapes[116] should form the backbone of Nature Recovery Networks – joining things up within and beyond their boundaries;[117]
- national landscapes should have a renewed mission to recover and enhance nature;[118]
- there should be stronger purposes in law for our national landscapes, including 'recover, conserve and enhance... biodiversity';
- strengthened [AONB] Management Plans should set clear priorities and actions for nature recovery.[119]

The Government's response to the Landscapes Review Final Report states that:

- Working with... AONBs in the coming years, we will ensure our protected landscapes boost biodiversity.[120]
- Our vision for protected landscapes is a coherent national network of... nature-rich spaces... Protected landscapes will drive forward nature recovery.[121]
  - The Prime Minister has committed to protect 30% of UK land for nature by 2030 (30 by 30)[122]...Achieving 30 by 30 will rely on improvements in how these areas are protected and managed for nature recovery.[123]
  - We will put our protected landscapes at the heart of delivering our nature recovery... policies.[124]

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[114] Zu Ermgassen, S.O.S.E., Marsh, S., Ryland, K., Church, E., Marsh, R., Bull, J. W. (2021). *Exploring the ecological outcomes of mandatory biodiversity net gain using evidence from early-adopter jurisdictions in England*. Conservation Letters. 14: e12820. https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12820

[115] Defra (2019) *Landscapes Review Final Report*.

[116] The phrase 'national landscapes' relates to AONBs and national parks.

[117] Proposal 4, page 52.

[118] Proposal 1, page 36.

[119] Proposal 3, page 43.

[120] Landscapes review: government response. Foreword.

[121] Landscapes review: government response. Introduction.

[122] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-commits-to- protect-30-of-uk-land-in-boost-for-biodiversity. This press release implies that the 30% figure includes the entirety of AONBs: *'Existing National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other protected areas already comprise approximately 26% of land in England. An additional 4%... will be protected to support the recovery of nature'. However, the Government's response to the Landscapes Review states that 'at present, under their current statutory purposes, level of protection and management, protected landscapes cannot be said to contribute towards 30 by 30 in their entirety'*.

[123] Landscapes review: government response. Since the publication of the review - nature and climate.

[124] Landscapes review: government response. Chapter 2: Nature and climate.

- Given their spatial scale, and track records in planning and delivering landscape-scale restoration projects, protected landscapes could play a particularly important role in the delivery of the Nature Recovery Network.[125]
- We will explore ways for protected landscapes to support responsible authorities in preparing [Local Nature Recovery Strategies].[126]
- By strengthening the first purpose [of protected landscape designation] for nature... we will ensure these areas can contribute to this ambitious commitment for biodiversity and our wider nature recovery ambitions.[127]
- We will strengthen this purpose [to 'conserve and enhance'], making it clear that we need to actively recover nature in these areas, rather than simply conserve what remains.[128]
- A core function of protected landscapes should be to drive nature recovery.[129]

The Government report 'Delivering 30by30 on land in England'[130] states that '30by30' will be delivered across three themes:

1. Strengthening.
2. Extending and creating.
3. Investing.

Measures identified under the 'strengthening' theme that relate specifically to protected landscapes include:

- Action through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act to enhance Protected Landscape management plans and place a stronger requirement on partners such as local authorities and public bodies to contribute to their delivery.
- The creation of a new partnership between the National Landscapes Association (formerly the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), National Parks England, National Trails UK and Natural England to deliver a range of exciting projects and programmes on nature recovery and widening access to nature. The partnership will also boost opportunities for private sector investment in our Protected Landscapes.
- A new outcomes framework for Protected Landscapes, which will set targets for their contributions to national environment and climate commitments, to be embedded in their management plans. We are also updating Protected Landscape management plan guidance to ensure consistency.
- Our response to the consultation on implementing the Landscapes Review, which sets out our action plan for Protected Landscapes.

Measures identified under the 'investing' theme that relate specifically to protected landscapes include:

- Committing to invest £100 million in thriving farming businesses through our successful Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme. More than 5,000 farmers and land 8 of 15 managers have engaged with the programme, delivering projects that achieve outcomes for climate, nature, people and place.
- Investing in National Parks Partnerships and the National Landscapes Association to build the capacity to create a pipeline of projects to generate more private finance in Protected Landscapes.
- Pledging a further £15 million to support our existing National Parks and National Landscapes, helping to support our most iconic landscapes.

The report also states that protected landscapes will be at the heart of 30by30.

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[125] Landscapes review: government response. The Nature Recovery Network and 30 by 30.
[126] Landscapes review: government response. The Nature Recovery Network and 30 by 30.
[127] Landscapes review: government response. The Nature Recovery Network and 30 by 30.
[128] Landscapes review: government response. A stronger mission for nature recovery.
[129] Landscapes review: government response. A stronger mission for nature recovery.
[130] Department of Farming, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) (2024) *Delivering 30by30 on land in England* (link).

As such, protected landscapes (including national landscapes) are clearly a vital component of delivering the 30by30 commitment (i.e., ensuring that 30% of land in England is managed for nature).

Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework

The Government's Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework identifies several biodiversity-related targets, specifically for protected landscapes, that are relevant to the Cotswolds National Landscape:[131]

- **Target 1:** Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites, by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).[132]
- **Target 2:** Bring 80% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.
- **Target 3:** For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.
- **Target 4:** Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.
- **Target 5:** Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.
- **Target 8:** Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

It is important to note that the Target 1 figure of 250,000 hectares is half of the Government's target of creating or restoring 500,000 hectares in England by 2042[133]. So, protected landscapes are expected to deliver 50% of the national (England) target for habitat restoration / creation even though they only cover 25% of England. In other words, protected landscapes will be expected to restore / create three times as much wildlife-rich habitat, per unit area, as land outside protected landscapes.

Colchester Declaration

The 'Colchester Declaration', launched in 2019, is a formal commitment by the family of AONBs, under the umbrella of the National Association of AONBs (NAAONB), to redress declines in species and habitats within the context of a wider response to climate change.

The commitments include that, by 2030:

- At least 200,000ha of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in AONBs will be in favourable condition.
- At least 100,000ha of wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites will have been created/restored in AONBs.

[131] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protected-landscapes-targets-and-outcomes-framework/protected-landscapes-targets-and-outcomes-framework

[132] This is half of the national target (including areas outside protected landscapes) of restoring or creating 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat, outside protected sites, by 2042 (link), even though protected landscapes only cover 25% of England.

[133] The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, in 2018, introduced a target to create or restore 500,000ha of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected landscapes network (link – page 26). This target was reiterated in the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan, in 2023, which specified that this target would be met by 2042 (link – page 31). This target became legally binding in the Environmental Targets (Biodiversity) (England) Regulations 2023 (link). This target is also reiterated in the Government's '30by30' policy paper (link – page 7).

- At least 36,000ha of new woodland will have been planted or allowed to regenerate in AONBs following the principle of the right tree in the right place.

Considerations specific to the Cotswolds National Landscape

Two of the 'special qualities' of the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL)[134] are the:

- Flower-rich grasslands particularly limestone grasslands;
- Ancient broadleaved woodland particularly along the crest of the escarpment.

The special qualities of the CNL are those aspects of the area's natural beauty which make the area distinctive and which are valuable, especially at a national scale. They are the key attributes on which the priorities for the area's conservation, enhancement and management should be based.

In the 1930s, 40% of the CNL was covered in wildflower-rich grasslands. Sadly, agricultural intensification and changing land management practices have led to the loss of almost all of this wildflower grassland... less than 1.5% remains.[135]

In 2019, the CNL Board published the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan (CNRP)[136] which identifies that in order to form a robust nature recovery network, the extent of wildlife rich habitats withinthe CNL needs to expand from 48,000ha (23% of the CNL area) to 82,000ha[137] (40% of the CNL area), with the target being to achieve this by 2050. This is consistent with the current scientific evidence[138].

The highest priority habitats in the CNRP are:

- veteran trees;
- ancient woodland;
- ancient, unimproved, limestone grassland.

The CNRP states that achieving this target will require a farmer and land manager led approach to nature recovery, for example, through Environmental Land Management Schemes and Payment for Ecosystems. Biodiversity Net Gain mechanisms will also play an important role. It is also intended that the CNRP will feed into the forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

[134] Chapter 4 provides a full list of the National Landscape's special qualities.
[135] Cotswolds National Landscape. Glorious Cotswold Grasslands.
[136] Cotswolds Conservation Board (2021). *Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan*.
[137] The figure rises to over 190,000ha if arable fields containing environmental measures are included.
[138] Defining and delivering resilient ecological networks: Nature Conservation in England. Isaac. N.J. et al 2017. Journal of Applied Ecology

Appendix 10: Major development

Footnote 64 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) clarifies that:

- *'For the purposes of paragraphs 182 and 183 [relating to protected landscapes, including national landscapes], whether a development is 'major development' is a matter for the decision maker, taking into account its nature, scale and setting, and whether it could have a significant adverse impact on the purposes for which the area has been designated or defined'*.

As such, it is not possible or appropriate to apply a blanket definition for what should be treated as major development in the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL). Nevertheless, there are some key factors that help to define if a development is major, as outlined below.

The purpose for which the CNL has been designated is to conserve and enhance its natural beauty. Therefore, the judgement as to whether or not a development is major development depends, to a large degree, on whether or not the development could have a significant adverse impact on the natural beauty of the CNL. As outlined in Appendix 2, natural beauty incorporates a number of criteria, including landscape quality, scenic quality, tranquillity, natural heritage and cultural heritage. Within the context of the CNL, those aspects of the CNL's natural beauty which make the area distinctive and which are particularly valuable – the CNL's 'special qualities' – are listed in Chapter 2.

On this basis, a development should be considered 'major' if, by reason of its nature, scale and/or setting, it could have a significant adverse impact on any of the above criteria, including the CNL's 'special qualities'. As well as potential impacts within the CNL, consideration should also be given to impacts on these criteria within the setting of the CNL, particularly in the context of visual impact (i.e. views into and out of the CNL) and impacts on tranquillity.

As outlined in paragraph 183 of the NPPF, applications for such development should include an assessment of:

a. *'the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy'*;

The Board would expect any such development proposal be accompanied by a statement of need in the context of national considerations and, ideally, in the context of needs arising from within the National Landscape. The impacts of permitting or refusing the development should be clearly identified, including the social, economic and environmental impacts, with specific reference to the impacts upon the natural beauty, special qualities of the CNL, and the economic and social needs (including housing needs) of the local communities affected. Such a statement should be based upon objective assessment and clear evidence.

b. *'the cost of, and scope for, developing outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way*';

The Board would encourage any such development proposal to be accompanied by a report setting out a sequential approach to site selection. This should evidence the extent to which alternative sites have been assessed before the selection of sites within the National Landscape, and clearly identify why sites outside of the designated area could not be developed. The report should also identify and evidence why the need for the development could not be met in some other way. The report should include relevant evidence of the cost of developing outside of the National Landscape.

c. *'any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated'*.

The Board would expect any such development proposal to be accompanied by a report identifying any detrimental effects upon the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities. Such a report should relate directly to the special qualities of the National Landscape as a whole as well as those specific to the development site.

Any mitigation identified to moderate these impacts should be:

- clearly detailed, in line with the duty to conserve and enhance the National Landscape,
- be compatible with the objectives of the CNL Management Plan, and
- be capable of realisation through robust planning conditions or obligation.

This Management Plan was adopted by the Cotswolds National Landscape Board February 2025

Cotswolds National Landscape
New registered office address to be added here.

info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk
cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

The Cotswolds National Landscape is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), managed and looked after by the Cotswolds Conservation Board

[redacted]

Sent: 13 November 2024 08:45
Subject: CONSULTATION – Church Green & Corn Street (Witney) proposed parking restrictions
Importance: High

RE: CONSULTATION – Church Green & Corn Street (Witney) proposed parking restrictions

We are writing to seek your views on the proposal to make changes to on-street parking restrictions within Witney, in order to help better manage the provision of residential and short-stay parking in parts of the town. Specifically the proposals comprise of the following aspects:

'Shared-use (permit holder, or general 2 hour parking) bays – Monday to Saturday, 8am to 6pm, with no return in 2 hours' in place of current time limited & unrestricted parking bays:

- Church Green:
  - Eastern arm, east side – four separate bays between its junctions with Market Square & Farm Mill Lane,
  - Southern arm, south side – two separate bays adjacent to St Marys Church,
- Corn Street:
  - North side - a) two bays adjacent to Nos.58-76, b) three bays adjacent to Nos.88-110, and c) two bays adjacent to Nos.154-170,
  - South side - a) two bays adjacent to Nos.45-63, b) two bays adjacent to Nos.71-109, and c) two bays adjacent to Nos.117-129.
- Market Square (south of Buttercross):
  - East side - one bay between its junction with Langdale & Church Green,
  - West side - one bay between its junction with Langdale & Church Green.

'Shared-use (permit holder, or general 4 hour parking) bays – All days, 6am to 10pm, with no return in 1 hour' in place of current time limited & unrestricted parking bays on:

- Church Green:
  - Central arm, west side – three separate bays between its junction with Market Square & the southern arm of Church Green.

Note: Those properties which would be eligible to apply for permits would be residents of: Church Green (Even Nos.2-44, Odd Nos.1-29), Corn Street (Even Nos.36-172, Odd Nos.27-151), and Market Square (Even Nos.52-58, Odd Nos.29-39).

In light of this, please find the following documents attached:

- Public Notice,
- Statement of Reasons,
- Consultation Plan(s),
- Draft Traffic Regulation Orders.

The proposals are scheduled to be advertised in the Witney Gazette newspaper today; Wednesday 13th November 2024. Further information & details are also available to view on the Councils consultation portal at the address below:

https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/witney_churchgreencornstreet_parking2024

As stated on the notice, any objections or other representations on the proposals should be submitted by **15th December 2024**.

Note. parish & town councils and local Cllrs (County, District, Parish etc..) are all encouraged to use the information contained within & attached to this email to publicise the proposals locally amongst their residents as necessary

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

Network Management|Highways & Operations|Environment & Place
Oxfordshire County Council|County Hall|New Road|Oxford|OX1 1ND

To report a problem: **Web:** https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk
For general highway enquiries: **Tel:** 0345 310 1111
The Forward Plan of Cabinet Member Decisions meetings can be viewed here
For how Oxfordshire County Council manages your personal information please see our Privacy Notice.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS - WEST OXFORDSHIRE) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND PERMITTED PARKING) (VARIATION No.) ORDER 20****

STATEMENT OF REASONS

To help better manage the supply of residential and short-stay parking in parts of Witney, the County Council are proposing a number of changes to the Traffic Regulation Order governing the on-street parking restrictions.

Residents of addresses in Corn Street and Church Green will be eligible to apply for permits. Contractors may also apply for short term permits, and visitors permits will be available for residents at eligible addresses, regardless of whether they have applied for a residents permit for their own vehicle.

'Shared Use' parking bays are proposed in parts of Corn Street and Church Green with residents permit holders able to park without time limit, however non-permit holders will also be allowed to park for up to 2 hours, operating Mon – Sat 8am – 6pm.

'Shared Use' parking bays are proposed in parts of Church Green, with residents permit holders able to park without time limit, however non-permit holders will also be allowed to park for up to 4 hours, operating at any time between 6am and 10pm.

The Council continues to consider the provision of suitable and adequate parking and to [1] facilitating the expeditious, convenient, and [2] safe movement of vehicles and other traffic; and in particular [3] to manage the demand between retail and residential parking.

Detailed documents accompany this form.

Dated: 13 November 2024

Traffic Regulation Order & Schemes for the
Director of Environment & Highways
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

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[1] Section 1 (1) (a) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
[2] Section 1 (1) (c) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

[3] Section 1 (1) (f) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
1. (VARIOUS ROADS - WEST OXFORDSHIRE) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND PERMITTED PARKING) (VARIATION No.*) ORDER 20**
2. (CARERS` PERMIT) (AMENDMENT No.*) ORDER 20**

NOTICE is given that Oxfordshire County Council proposes to make the above orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all enabling powers. The effect of Orders is to help better manage the provision of residential and short-stay parking in parts of Witney town, by introducing various parking restrictions as follows:

1. Proposed parking places:
a) 'Shared use parking bays, 'Permit holders or 2 hours no return within 2 hours, Mon-Sat 8am-6pm' – to be introduced on the following roads, replacing the existing time limited & unrestricted parking bays:

- Church Green (eastern arm):
    - east side – four separate bays between its junctions with Market Square & Farm Mill Lane,
- Church Green – (southern arm):
    - south side – two separate bays adjacent to St Marys Church.
- Corn Street:
    - north side – a) two bays adjacent to Nos.58-76, b) three bays adjacent to Nos.88-110, and c) two bays adjacent to Nos.154-170,
    - south side – a) two bays adjacent to Nos.45-63, b) two bays adjacent to Nos.71-109, and c) two bays adjacent to Nos.117-129.
- Market Square (south of Buttercross):
    - east side – one bay between its junction with Langdale & Church Green,
    - west side – one bay between its junction with Langdale & Church Green.

b) 'Shared use parking bays, 'Permit holders or 4 hours no return within 1 hours, on all days 6am-10pm' – to be introduced on the following road, replacing the existing time limited & unrestricted parking bays:

- Church Green (central arm): west side – three separate bays between its junction with Market Square & the southern arm of Church Green.

2. Eligible properties:
Residents will be able to apply for annual Residents and Visitors` Parking Permits and a local identifier of `WY` will be shown on permits and on road signage for bays where restrictions apply. Properties eligible to apply will be residents of Church Green (Even Nos.2-44, Odd Nos.1-29), Corn Street (Even Nos.36-172, Odd Nos.27-151), and Market Square (Even Nos.52-58, Odd Nos.29-39).

3. Residents permits:
Will be limited to one per resident with a maximum of two permits per property. A resident may obtain a temporary permit for a replacement vehicle while their permanent vehicle is off the road.

4. Visitors permits:
Will be available for residents at the above eligible addresses, usually a maximum of 50 days' worth of permits will be issued per year and provided in blocks of 25. A temporary resident will be entitled to 25 visitors permits.

5. Charges:
a) for residents permits per property will be £65 per annum. Visitors permits for residents aged 70 or over will be free of charge, for all other residents the first block of 25 visitors permits will be free, and the second block will cost £25.
b) The charge for each Business Permit will be £50.50 for 3 months; £95.00 for 6 months; £145.00 for 9 months and £190.00 for 12 months.
c) Contractors may apply for a permit to use a resident`s parking place at a charge of £31.50 for any period not exceeding a week.

6. Other Matters:
a) A permit may be withdrawn if found to be granted based on false information, or a permit has not been used in accordance with the provisions of the Order, where it has been abused, or where the agreed terms have not been complied with. This may result in suspension of eligibility for further permits.

b) Exemptions to the waiting restrictions and the restrictions on the use of parking places will include following exemptions: For disabled badge holders (maximum of three hours where there are `No Waiting` restrictions are in force), Carers Permit holders, for loading and unloading, people boarding or alighting a vehicle, emergency services, universal service providers and vehicles being used in connection with road works and works to the utility services, and official funeral vehicles.

c) Order 1 will further amend the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) Order 2012 to bring the proposed measures into that base order. Order 2 will amend the (Carers Permit) Order 2023 to include permission for eligible carers vehicles to park temporarily in the proposed new resident bays.

Documents giving more details of the proposals are available for public inspection online by visiting: *https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk* Copies may also be made available on request.

Objections to the proposals and other representations specifying the grounds on which they are made may be sent in writing to the address below by the end of **15 December 2024**. The Council will consider objections and representations received in response to this Notice. They may be disseminated widely for these purposes and made available to the public.

Traffic Regulation Order & Schemes (Ref: CM/12.6.410/P0279) for the Director of Environment & Highways, Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND. (Email: christian.mauz@oxfordshire.gov.uk Telephone: 0345 310 1111)

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS – WEST OXFORDSHIRE) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND PERMITTED PARKING) (VARIATION No.) ORDER 20****

The Oxfordshire County Council ("the Council") in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 4, 32 & 45 and Part IV Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the Act") and all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, make the following Order.

1. This Order may be cited as the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.**) Order 202* and shall come into force on the day of 202*.

2. (1) Any reference in this Order to any enactment (meaning any act and any subordinate legislation as defined in the Interpretation Act 1978) shall be construed as a reference to that enactment as amended or replaced by any subsequent enactment.

(2) Words importing the masculine gender shall also include the feminine gender and words in the singular include the plural and vice versa.

(3) The restrictions imposed by this Order shall be in addition to and not in derogation from any restriction or requirement imposed by any other enactment.

3. The Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) Order 2012, as amended by the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.1) Order 2012, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.2) Order 2013, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.3) Order 2014, and the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.4) Order 2014, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.5) Order 2014, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.6) Order 2014, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.7) Order 2014, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.8) Order 2015, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.9) Order 2016, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.9) Order 2016, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire)

(Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.10) Order 2016, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.11) Order 2016, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.12) Order 2018, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.13) Order 2018, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.14) Order 2019, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.15) Order 2019, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.16) Order 2019, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.17) Order 2019, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.18) Order 2019, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.19) Order 2020, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.20) Order 2020, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.21) Order 2021, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.22) Order 2022, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.23) Order 2022, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.24) Order 2022, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.25) Order 2022, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.26) Order 2023,the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.27) Order 2023, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.28) Order 2023, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.29) Order 2023 the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.30) Order 2024, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.31) Order 2024, the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.32) Order 2024, and the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads – West Oxfordshire) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Permitted Parking) (Variation No.33) Order 2024 ("the 2012 Order") is amended in the manner and to the extent specified in the Schedule to this Order.

GIVEN UNDER the Common Seal of the Oxfordshire County Council

this day of 20**.

SCHEDULE

Amendments to “the 2012 Order”.

1.)

Amendments to index:

New Parts XIV, XV, XVI, XVII & XVIII are added to the order

New Schedules 47, 48 & 49 are added to the index.

Existing Schedule 49 `**(PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLE PARKING PLACES - All days 8-00am to 6-00pm)**` is renamed as Schedule 50.

Reference to `Schedule 49` in article 39 shall be replaced by `Schedule 50`.

2.)

New Parts are added (at Page 4) of the order as follows:

“PART XIV
RESIDENT’S PERMIT SCHEME

47. Application
48. Permit Terms
49. Application Process
50. Permit Formalities
51. Temporary Permits
52. Surrender and Withdrawal of Resident’s Permit
    Validity of Resident’s Permit
53. Replacement Permits

PART XV
VISITORS PERMIT SCHEME

54. Application
55. Permit Terms
56. Application Process
57. Permit Formalities
58. Surrender and Withdrawal of Visitor’s Permits – Validity of Visitor’s Permits
59. Replacement Permits

PART XVI
BUSINESS PERMITS SCHEME

60. Application
61. Permit Terms
62. Application Process
62. Permit Formalities
64. Surrender and Withdrawal of a Business Permit
Validity of a Business Permit
65. Replacement Permit

PART XVII
HOTEL VISITORS PERMIT SCHEME

66. Application
67. Permit Terms
68. Application Process
69. Permit Formalities
70. Records
71. Surrender and Withdrawal of Hotel Visitor's Permits
Validity of Hotel Visitor's Permits."
72. Contractors Permit

73. Carers Permit Order

3.)

At page 4 of the 2012 Order the index of Schedules is deleted and replaced as follows:

"SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1
Towns and Parishes

SCHEDULE 2
Orders to Be Revoked

SCHEDULE 3
Not used

SCHEDULE 4
Special Provisions

SCHEDULE 5
Certificate of exemption – West End, Witney

SCHEDULE 6
Not used

CLEARWAYS

SCHEDULE 7
24 Hour Clearway

SCHEDULE 8
Not used

SCHEDULE 9
Not used

PROHIBITION OF LOADING AND UNLOADING

SCHEDULE 10
Prohibition of Loading/Unloading at any time

SCHEDULE 11
Prohibition of Loading/Unloading – 8.00am to 9.30am and 4.30pm to 6.00pm Monday to Saturday inclusive

SCHEDULE 12
Prohibition of Loading/Unloading –10.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Saturday inclusive
SCHEDULE 13
Not used

SCHEDULE 14
Not used

RESTRICTIONS ON WAITING

SCHEDULE 15
No waiting at any time

SCHEDULE 16
No waiting at any time between Good Friday to 30 September

SCHEDULE 17
No Waiting – All Days – 7.00am to 7.00pm
SCHEDULE 18
No waiting – All days - 8.00am to 6.00pm

SCHEDULE 19
No waiting - All days – 8.00am to 5.00pm

SCHEDULE 20
Not used

Monday to Saturday

SCHEDULE 21
No waiting – Monday to Saturday inclusive – 7.00am to 6.00pm

SCHEDULE 22
No waiting – Monday to Saturday inclusive – 8.00am to 6.00pm

SCHEDULE 23
Not used

Monday to Friday

SCHEDULE 24
No waiting – Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 6.00pm
SCHEDULE 25
No waiting – Monday to Friday inclusive – 11.00am to 12.00noon

SCHEDULE 26
No waiting – Monday to Friday inclusive – 2.00pm to 3.00pm
SCHEDULE 27
Not used

SCHEDULE 28
Not used

Other Days

SCHEDULE 29
No Waiting – Thursdays only – 6.00am to 5.30pm

SCHEDULE 30
No Waiting – Thursdays only – 12noon to 6.00pm
(as and when Traffic Signs indicate)

SCHEDULE 31
Not used

TIMED LIMITED WAITING

All Days

SCHEDULE 32
Waiting Limited to 2 hours with no return 2 hours
All Days 6.00am to 6.00pm

~~***SCHEDULE 33***~~
~~***Waiting Limited to 4 hours with no return for 1 hour***~~
~~***All Days 6.00am to 10.00pm***~~
SCHEDULE 33
Not Used

SCHEDULE 34
Waiting Limited to 4 hours with no return for 1 hour
All Days 8.00am to 6.00pm

SCHEDULE 35
Not Used

SCHEDULE 36
Not Used

Monday to Saturday

SCHEDULE 37
Waiting Limited to 30 minutes with no return for 1 hour,
Monday to Saturday inclusive – 8.00am to 6.00pm

SCHEDULE 38
Not Used

SCHEDULE 39
Not Used

SCHEDULE 40
Waiting Limited to 2 hours with no return for 1 hour,
Monday to Saturday inclusive – 8.00am to 6.00pm

SCHEDULE 41
Waiting Limited to 2 hours with no return for 1 hour,
Monday to Saturday inclusive – 8.30am to 6.00pm

SCHEDULE 42
Waiting Limited to 2 hours with no return for 2 hours,
Monday to Saturday inclusive – 8.00am to 6.00pm

SCHEDULE 43
Not Used

SCHEDULE 44
Not Used

SCHEDULE 45
Not Used

VEHICLE LOADING BAYS

SCHELDULE 46
All days – 7.00am to 7.00pm – Goods Vehicles

RESIDENT PERMIT HOLDERS

SCHEDULE 47
Properties Eligible to Apply for Residents and Visitors Permits `WY`

SCHEDULE 48
Shared-Use Parking Bays
Permit Holders or Waiting Limited to 2 hours with no return within 2 hours,
Monday to Saturday inclusive – 8am to 6pm

SCHEDULE 49
Shared-Use Parking Bays
Permit Holders or Waiting Limited to 4 hours no return within 1 hour,
All days – 6am to 10pm

PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLE PARKING PLACES

SCHEDULE ~~49~~ 50
All days 8.00am to 6.00pm

4.)

New Definitions are inserted/replaced alphabetically into article 2 of the Order as follows:

Definitions

"Business" means any trade or profession conducted from premises whose address is listed in Schedule 47 and which are wholly or principally used or adapted for use for those purposes, such premises being listed in either a local or central non–domestic rating list;

"Business Operation" means the operation of a business for business purposes and for the avoidance of doubt does not include commuting;

"Business Permit" means a permit issued by the Council to a Business under the provisions of Part XVI of this Order to park, subject to the provisions of this Order, a Permitted Vehicle in respect of which the permit has been issued in the Parking Places specified in Schedules 48 & 49;

"Business Permit Holder" means a Business to which a Business Permit has been issued under the provisions of Part XVI of this Order;

"Carers Permit Order" means the Oxfordshire County Council (Carers Permit) Order 2010 as amended from time to time;

"Civil Enforcement Officer" means a person authorised under Section 76 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 to undertake enforcement of parking contraventions (as defined in that Act);

“Home” means a Property which is either a home for older people (including a nursing home for older people) or a communal hostel or home for nurses;

“Hotel Visitor’s Permit” means a permit issued by the Council to a hotel or guesthouse under the provisions of Part XVII of this Order to park a Permitted Vehicle, subject to the provisions of this Order, in the Parking Places specified in Schedules 48 and 49;

“Hotel Visitor’s Permit Holder” means a hotel or guesthouse to which a Hotel Visitor’s Permit has been issued under Part XVII of this Order;

“Penalty Charge” means a penalty charge imposed further to Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and set by Oxfordshire County Council further to paragraph 3 of Schedule 9 to that Act;

“Penalty Charge Notice” means a notice issued by a Civil Enforcement Officer pursuant to regulations made further to Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004;

“Permitted Vehicle” means
(a) any vehicle whose maximum gross weight (as defined in Schedule 1 to the Traffic Sign Regulations and General Directions 2016) does not exceed 2.25 tonnes, whose height (excluding any attachments) according to the manufacturer’s specification does not exceed 2 metres, whose length according to the manufacturer’s specification does not exceed 5 metres and whose width according to the manufacturer’s specification does not exceed 2 metres and which is:
    () a passenger vehicle, being a vehicle constructed or adapted for the carriage of not more than twelve passengers exclusive of the driver and their effects and not drawing a Trailer; or
    () a dual purpose vehicle, as defined in Regulation 3 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986; or
    () a light goods vehicle, being any motor vehicle or Trailer which is constructed or adapted for the carriage of goods of any description
(b) a Motor Cycle

“Prescribed Hours” means:
a) in relation to any Parking Place specified in Schedule 35 on any day
b) in relation to any Parking Place specified in Schedule 33 on any day from 6.00am to 10.00pm
c) in relation to any Parking Place specified in Schedule 32 on any day from 6.00am to 6.00pm
d) in relation to any Parking Place specified in Schedule 46 on any day from 7.00am to 7.00pm
e) in relation to any Parking Place specified in Schedule 34 on any day from 8.00am to 6.00pm
f) in relation to any Parking Place specified in Schedules 37, 38, 39, 40, 42 and 43 on Mondays to Saturdays inclusive from 8.00am to 6.00pm.

g) in relation to any Parking Place specified in Schedule 41 on Mondays to Saturdays inclusive from 8.30am to 6.00pm

h) in respect of shared parking places specified in Schedule 48 from 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday

i) in respect of shared parking places specified in Schedule 49 from 6am to 10pm all days

"Property" means a property the postal address of which is within the list of authorised addresses in Schedule 47 to this Order and for the avoidance of doubt:

(a) each flat comprised in a block of flats constitutes a single Property;
(b) any house or flat divided into or let out as bed sitting rooms constitutes a single Property; and
(c) each school, college, hotel, hostel or guest house constitutes a single Property only

"Public Service Vehicle" means, subject to the provisions in Section 1 of the Public Passenger Vehicle Act 1981, a vehicle (other than a tramcar) which:-

(a) being a vehicle adapted to carrying more than 8 passengers, is used for carrying passengers for hire or reward; or
(b) being a vehicle not so adapted is used for carrying passengers for hire or reward at separate fares in the course of a business of carrying passengers

"Recognised Badge" has the meaning given in Section 21A of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970;

"Registered Owner/Keeper" means:

(a) the person whose name appears in the vehicle registration document of the vehicle and in whose name the vehicle is registered at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency; or
(b) a person who has established to the satisfaction of the Council that he has the permanent use of a specified vehicle and that the person whose name appears in the vehicle registration document of the vehicle and in whose name the vehicle is registered at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is his employer; or
(c) a person who has established to the satisfaction of the Council that he has an arrangement with a vehicle leasing business for the lease for a minimum period of 12 months of a specified vehicle and that the person whose name appears in the vehicle registration document of the vehicle and in whose name the vehicle is registered at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is that vehicle leasing business; or
(d) a person who has established to the satisfaction of the Council that he has the permanent use of a specified vehicle, that his employer for whom he works full–time has an arrangement with a vehicle leasing business for the lease of that vehicle and that the person whose name appears in the vehicle registration document of the vehicle and in whose name the vehicle is registered at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is that vehicle leasing business, provided always that where such circumstances apply if the person works part–time only then at the absolute discretion of the Council

such person may be treated as a Registered Owner/Keeper for the purposes of this Order

“Relevant Position” means:
(a) in respect of a Disabled Person’s Badge, displayed in the manner prescribed by Regulation 12 of the Disabled Person’s (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (England) Regulations 2000;
(b) in respect of a Parking Disc displayed in the manner described in Regulation 4 (2) of the Local Authorities’ Traffic Orders (Exemption for Disabled Persons) (England) Regulations 2000;
(c) in respect of a Residents’ Permit, Temporary Permit, Business Permit, Visitor’s Permit or Hotel Visitor’s Permit displayed on a vehicle so that the permit is readily visible and legible from the front or nearside of the vehicle

“Renewal Date” means for each Resident of the age of 17 years of more the date on which that Resident is first issued with an allocation of 25 days’ worth of Visitor’s Permits free of charge and each anniversary of that date (so that for the avoidance of doubt each Resident of the age of 17 years or more will thereby have a personal Renewal Date);

“Resident” means a person who has as his usual place of abode a Property and who has established this to the satisfaction of the Council;

“Resident (Short–term)” means a person who is temporarily resident for work purposes for a minimum of a month at a Property, and who has established this to the satisfaction of the Council and for the avoidance of doubt a Resident (Short–term) does not include a person who is resident for study purposes. A Resident (Short–term) is a Resident for the purposes of Parts XIV & XV of this Order;

“Residents’ Permit" means a permit issued by the Council to a Resident under the provisions of Part XIV of this Order to park, subject to the provisions of this Order, the Permitted Vehicle in respect of which the permit has been issued, in the Parking Places ;

“Residents’ Permit Holder” means a Resident to whom a Residents’ Permit or as applicable a Temporary Permit has been issued under the provisions of Part XIV of this Order;

“Temporary Permit” means a permit issued by the Council to a Resident under the provisions of Article 51 of this Order to park, subject to the provisions of this Order, the Permitted Vehicle in respect of which the permit has been issued, in the Parking Places ;

“Virtual Parking Permit” means a permit issued by the County Council in electronic format only, not requiring same to be displayed on a Resident Permit Holders Vehicle”;

“Visitor’s Permit” means a permit issued by the Council to a Resident under the provisions of Part XV of this Order to enable the Resident, a person residing at

the same Property as the Resident, a person visiting the Resident or a person visiting another person residing at the same Property as the Resident to park a Permitted Vehicle, subject to the provisions of this Order, in the Parking Places;

"Visitor's Permit Holder" means a Resident to whom a Visitor's Permit has been issued under the provisions of this Order."

5.)

Article 23 is amended as follows:

"Designation of Time Limited Parking Places

23. Each of the lengths of road specified in Schedules 32-43 and 48 & 49 to this Order is authorised to be used subject to the provisions of Parts V, VI & XIV of this Order, as a parking place for vehicles."

6.)

Article 25 is amended as follows:

Time Restrictions on Waiting

25. Save as provided in Articles 18, 19 and 27 (Exemptions), no person is to cause or permit any vehicle to wait during the Prescribed Hours, except upon the direction or with the permission of a Civil Enforcement Officer, the Council or a police constable in uniform:-

(1) in any Timed Parking Place specified in Schedule 37 during the Prescribed Hours:-
   (a) for a period longer than 30 minutes; or
   (b) if a period of less than 1 hour has elapsed since the termination during the Prescribed Hours of the last period of stay (if any) of the vehicle in the same Parking Place

(2) in any Timed Parking Place specified in Schedule 38 during the Prescribed Hours:-
   (a) for a period longer than 1 hour; or
   (b) if a period of less than 1 hour has elapsed since the termination during the Prescribed Hours of the last period of stay (if any) of the vehicle in the same Parking Place

(3) in any Timed Parking Place specified in Schedule 39 during the Prescribed Hours:-
   (a) for a period longer than 1 hour; or
   (b) if a period of less than 2 hours has elapsed since the termination during the Prescribed Hours of the last period of stay (if any) of the vehicle in the same Parking Place

(4) in any Timed Parking Place specified in Schedule 40 or 41 during the Prescribed Hours:-
   (a) for a period longer than 2 hours; or
   (b) if a period of less than 1 hour has elapsed since the termination during the Prescribed Hours of the last period of stay (if any) of the vehicle in the same Parking Place

(5) in any Timed Parking Place specified in Schedule 32, 42 or 48 during the Prescribed Hours:-
   (a) for a period longer than 2 hours; or
   (b) if a period of less than 2 hours has elapsed since the termination during the Prescribed Hours of the last period of stay (if any) of the vehicle in the same Parking Place

(6) in any Timed Parking Place specified in Schedule 43 during the Prescribed Hours:-
   (a) for a period longer than 3 hours; or
   (b) if a period of less than 2 hours has elapsed since the termination during the Prescribed Hours of the last period of stay (if any) of the vehicle in the same Parking Place

(7) in any Timed Parking Places specified in Schedule 33, 34 or 49 during the Prescribed Hours:-
   (a) for a period longer than 4 hours; or
   (b) if a period of less than 1 hour has elapsed since the termination during the Prescribed Hours of the last period of stay (if any) of the vehicle in the same Parking Place

(8) in any Timed Parking Place specified in Schedule 35 during the Prescribed House:-
   (a) for a period longer than 23 hours; or
   (b) if a period of less than 2 hours has elapsed since the termination during the Prescribed Hours of the last period of stay (if any) of the vehicle in the same Parking Place.

7.)

PART XIV
RESIDENT'S PERMIT SCHEME

Application

47. Any Resident who is the Registered Owner/Keeper of a Permitted Vehicle may apply to the Council for the issue of a Resident's Permit for the leaving of that vehicle, subject to the provisions of this Order in any Parking Place.

Permit Terms

48.
(1) No Resident's Permit will be valid for a period in excess of 12 months,
(2) The Council will fix the day when a Residents' Permit issued to a Resident will cease to be valid.
(3) No more than one Residents' Permit which is valid at the same time will be issued to any Resident, and no more than 2 per property.
(4) Subject as provided in Articles 48 (5) and 48 (6), the charge for each Resident's Permit shall be:

£65 per annum for a permit to be issued to a Resident where no more than one other Residents' Permit, which is valid at the same time, has been issued to a Resident who resides at the same Property as the applicant;

(5) Subject as provided in Article 48 (6) the charge for each Resident's Permit shall be £65 per annum where the Resident's usual place of abode is a Home.

(6) Where a Residents' Permit is issued for a period of 11 months or less the charge will be 1/12th of the relevant annual charge multiplied by the number of months (rounded up to the nearest full number) for which the permit is valid.

Application Process

49.

(1) An application for a Residents' Permit must be made either via the on-line portal, or on a form issued by and obtainable from the Council and include the particulars and information required by such form and must be accompanied by a remittance for the appropriate charge specified in Article 48;

(2) The Council may require an applicant for a Resident's Permit to produce such evidence in respect of their application as it may reasonably require to verify any particulars or information given to it;

(3) Subject as provided in Article 49 (4), if the Council is satisfied:

() that the applicant is a Resident provided always that where a vehicle is registered in the name of the applicant as provided in paragraph (a) of the definition of Registered Owner/Keeper the Council may conclude that the applicant is not a Resident if his address as recorded on the vehicle registration document is not the same address as the address of the applicant as specified in the application (being the address of a Property); and

() that the Resident is the Registered Owner/Keeper of a Permitted Vehicle; and

(c) that the appropriate charge specified in Article 48 has been paid

and the information and particulars required to be supplied by the application form have been supplied to the satisfaction of the Council, and the Council is satisfied generally as to the completed application form, then the Council will issue to the applicant one Residents' Permit for the leaving, subject to the provisions of this Order, of the Permitted Vehicle to which such Residents' Permit relates in any Parking Place.

(4) The Council will not issue a Residents' Permit if:

() a Residents' Permit which remains valid has been issued to the applicant; or

() during the period of three months prior to the application a Residents' Permit issued to the applicant was withdrawn by the Council further to Article 52 (5).

(5) The Council may at any time require a Residents' Permit Holder to produce such evidence in respect of any Resident's Permit or as applicable any Temporary Permit as it may reasonably require to verify that the permit is valid and/or that the Resident's Permit Holder remains eligible for such permit.

Permit Formalities

50. A Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit will include the following particulars:

(1) the registration number of the vehicle for which the Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit has been issued;

(2) the period during which, subject to the provisions of Article 52 of this Order, the Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit will remain valid;

(3) (an indication that the Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit has been issued by the Council; and

(4) the zonal designation WY

Temporary Permits

51.

(1) A Resident may surrender his Resident's Permit temporarily and receive in return a Temporary Permit for the period during which his Residents' Permit is temporarily surrendered.

(2) There will be no charge for such a Temporary Permit.

(3) This facility will be available where the Council is satisfied that the vehicle for which the Residents' Permit has been issued is 'off road' temporarily and that the Resident to whom the Residents' Permit was issued has the use of another Permitted Vehicle during this period.

(4) A Temporary Permit will cease to be valid on the same day as the Residents' Permit ceases to be valid (unless previously surrendered).

Surrender and Withdrawal of Resident's Permit, Validity of Permit.

52.

(1) A Residents' Permit Holder may surrender a Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit to the Council at any time.

(2) A Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit will cease to be valid on the earliest of the following:

) the expiration of the period specified on the permit;

) the occurrence of any of the events specified in Article 52 (3); as provided in Article 52 (6).

(3) A Residents' Permit Holder must surrender a Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit to the Council on the occurrence of any of the following events:

() the Residents' Permit Holder ceasing to be a Resident;

() the Residents' Permit Holder ceasing to be the Registered Owner/Keeper of the vehicle in respect of which the Residents' Permit was issued;

() the vehicle in respect of which the Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit was issued being adapted or used in such a manner that it ceases to be a Permitted Vehicle;

() the issue of a replacement Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit.

(4) If it appears to the Council that any one of the events specified in Article 52 (3) has occurred, the Council may by written notice, addressed to the Residents Permit Holder and sent by first class post to or delivered to the address shown by him on his application for the Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit or to any other address believed to be that person's place of abode, withdraw a Residents' Permit and/or as applicable Temporary Permit and the Residents' Permit Holder must surrender the Residents' Permit and/or as applicable Temporary Permit to the Council within 3 days of the date of posting or as applicable delivery of such notice.

(5) If it appears to the Council that any of the provisions contained in Parts XIV, XVI or XVII of this Order is being or has been abused (including the provision of inaccurate information in connection with an application for a Residents Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit, the sale or attempted sale of the permit or the alteration or attempted alteration of the permit) or is not being complied with in respect of the use of a Residents Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit or application for it, the Council may by giving notice as provided in Article 52 (4) withdraw a Residents Permit and/or as applicable Temporary Permit and the Residents Permit Holder must surrender the Residents Permit and/or as applicable Temporary Permit to the Council within 3 days of the date of posting or as applicable delivery of such notice.

(6) Where a notice is given further to Article 52 (5) the Residents Permit and/or as applicable Temporary Permit issued to the Residents Permit Holder will cease to be valid at the end of the third day following the day of posting or as applicable delivery of the notice.

(7) Where a Residents Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit is surrendered to the Council for any of the reasons specified in Article 52 (3) other than Article 52 (3)(d) (issue of replacement) and this takes place more than one month before its expiration date the Council will make a refund to the Residents' Permit Holder equal to 1/12th of the annual charge paid multiplied by the number of months (rounded down to the nearest whole number) until its expiration but

there will be no refund of the charge for a permit withdrawn or surrendered further to Article 52(5).

Replacement Permits

53.

(1) A Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit will become invalid if it is mutilated or accidentally defaced or the figures or particulars on it have become illegible or the colour of the Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit has become altered by fading or otherwise, and the Residents' Permit Holder will either surrender it to the Council or apply to the Council for the issue of a replacement Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit by completing the application form obtainable from the Council.

(2) A Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit will become invalid if it is lost or destroyed and the Residents Permit Holder may apply to the Council for the issue of a replacement Residents' Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit and the Council, upon being satisfied as to such loss or destruction, will issue a replacement Residents Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit so marked.

(3) The provisions of this Part of this Order will apply to a replacement Residents Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit or an application for it as if it were an original Residents Permit or as applicable Temporary Permit or as the case may be an application for it save that no charges will be payable for a replacement permit.

PART XV

VISITORS PERMIT SCHEME

Application

54. Any Resident of the age of 17 years or more may apply to the Council for the issue of a Visitors Permit for the leaving, subject to the provisions of this Order, in any Parking Place of a Permitted Vehicle belonging to or on hire or lease to the Resident or any other person residing at the same Property as that Resident or a person visiting that Resident or a person visiting another person residing at the same Property as that Resident.

Permit Terms

55. (1) No person is to cause or permit a Visitor's Permit to be displayed in a vehicle, when the vehicle is parked in a Parking Place, unless that vehicle belongs to or is on hire or lease to a person visiting the Visitor's Permit Holder or other person residing at same Property as the Visitor's Permit Holder and that visit is the primary purpose for so parking the

vehicle or the vehicle belongs to or is on hire or lease to the Visitor's Permit Holder or a person residing at the same Property as that Visitor's Permit Holder.

(2) Subject as provided in Article 55 (4) any Resident of the age of 17 years or more is entitled to up to 2 allocations of Visitor's Permits (with each allocation containing 25 days' worth of Visitor's Permits) during each year (commencing on the Renewal Date for that Resident).

(3) (a) The first allocation of Visitor's Permits issued to a Resident during each year commencing on the Renewal Date for that Resident will be free of charge.

(b) The charge for the second allocation of Visitor's Permits issued to a Resident during each such year is £25.00 but this shall be reduced to nil where the Council is satisfied that the Resident is aged 70 years or older.

(c) The charge for any additional discretionary Visitor's Permits is 60 pence per permit but the Council may waive the charge and shall waive the charge where the Resident is aged 70 years or more.

(d) A Resident (Short-term) of the age of 17 years or more is entitled to up to 25 days' worth of Visitor's Permits which will be free of charge.

Application Process

56. (1) An application for Visitor's Permits must be made either via the on-line portal, or on a form issued by and obtainable from the Council and include the particulars and information required by such form.

(2) The Council may require an applicant for Visitor's Permits to produce such evidence in respect of an application as it may reasonably require to verify any particulars or information given to it.

(3) Subject as provided in Article 55 (4), if the Council is satisfied that the applicant is a Resident of the age of 17 years or more, the information and particulars required to be supplied by the application form have been supplied to the satisfaction of the Council and the Council is satisfied generally as to the completed application form, the Council will issue to the applicant an allocation of 25 days' worth of Visitor's Permits.

(4) The Council will not issue Visitor's Permits if, during the period of six months prior to the application or such lesser period as the Council in its discretion may decide, a Visitor's Permit issued to the applicant was withdrawn by the Council further to Article 58 (5).

(5) (a) No Resident (Short-term) will be entitled to more than 25 days' worth of Visitor's Permits,

(b) Subject as provided in Article 56 (7), no Resident will be entitled to more than an initial allocation of 25 days' worth of Visitor's Permits during the first half of the year (calculated from the Renewal Date for that Resident) followed by a second allocation of a further 25 days' worth of Visitor's Permits which shall not be issued until the second half of that year.

(6) When one allocation of 25 days' worth of Visitor's Permits has been used up no further Visitor's Permits will be issued until a further application form has been completed and submitted to the Council with a remittance for the appropriate charge specified in Article 55 (3) and the Council is satisfied with the application as provided in Article 56 (3).

(7) The Council may in its absolute discretion issue to a Resident more than 50 days' worth of Visitor's Permits in any year if it is satisfied, upon consideration of such supporting evidence as the Council may require, that to do so would be appropriate in the circumstances and the Council may waive the charge for any such additional discretionary Visitor's Permits.

(8) The Council may at any time require a Visitor's Permit Holder to produce such evidence in respect of any Visitor's Permits issued by the Council as may reasonably be required to verify their validity and/or that he remains eligible for the permits.

Permit Formalities

57. (1) Visitor's Permits will include the following particulars:

(a) an indication that the Visitor's Permits have been issued by the Council; and
(b) the zonal designation WY

and may specify the period during which, subject to the provisions of Article 58, the Visitor's Permits may be used.

(2) A Visitor's Permit must be displayed in the Relevant Position and must not be cut or defaced in any way.

(3) A Visitor's Permit will be valid for a period of twenty four hours from the validation time provided that it is validated by the Visitor's Permit Holder, or by a person authorised by him, by writing in ink on the face of the Visitor's Permit (or by such other means as the Council may direct) the time of the day the vehicle is left in the Parking Space using the twenty four hour clock (being the validation time) and the date on which it is left (being the validation date) and that no other writing or mark appears on it.

Surrender and Withdrawal of Visitors Permits – Validity of Permits

58. (1) A Resident may surrender a Visitor's Permit to the Council at any time

(2) A blank Visitor's Permit will cease to be valid on the earlier of the following:

(a) the occurrence of any of the events specified in Article 58 (3);
() as provided in Article 58 (6).

(3) A Visitor's Permit Holder must surrender to the Council all blank Visitors Permits previously issued to him on the occurrence of the following:

(a) the expiration of the period (if any) as specified on the Visitors Permits;
(b) the Visitors Permit Holder ceasing to be a Resident;
(c) the issue of replacement Visitors Permits.

(4) If it appears to the Council that any of the events specified in Article 58 (3) has occurred, the Council may, by written notice addressed to the Visitor's Permit Holder and sent by first class post to or delivered to the address shown by the Visitor's Permit Holder on his application for the Visitor's Permits or to any other address believed to be that person's place of abode, withdraw his Visitor's Permits and the Visitor's Permit Holder must surrender his Visitor's Permits to the Council within 3 days after the date of posting or as applicable delivery of such notice.

(5) If it appears to the Council that any of the provisions contained in Parts XIV, XVI or XVII of this Order is being or has been abused (including the provision of inaccurate information in connection with an application for Visitor's Permits, the sale or attempted sale of a permit or the alteration or attempted alteration of a permit) or is not being complied with in respect of the use of Visitor's Permits or application for them, the Council may by giving notice as provided in Article 58 (4) withdraw from a Visitor's Permit Holder his Visitor's Permits and the Visitor's Permit Holder must surrender his Visitor's Permits to the Council within 3 days of the date of posting or as applicable delivery of such notice.

(6) Where notice is given further to Article 58 (5) the Visitor's Permits issued to the Visitor's Permit Holder will cease to be valid at the end of the third day following the day of posting or as applicable delivery of the notice.

(7) On the surrender of any blank Visitor's Permits for which payment has been made the Council will issue a refund at the rate of 60p per blank Visitor's Permit save that there will be no refund of the charge paid for a permit withdrawn or surrendered further to Article 58 (5).

Replacement Permits

59. (1) A Visitor's Permit will become invalid if it is mutilated or accidentally defaced or the figures or particulars on it have become illegible, and the Visitor's Permit Holder will either surrender it to the Council or apply to the Council for the issue of a replacement Visitor's Permit by completing the application form obtainable from the Council.

(2) The provisions of this Part of this Order will apply to a replacement Visitor's Permit or an application for it as if it were an original Visitor's Permit or as the case may be an application for it save that no charge will be payable for a replacement permit.

PART XVI
BUSINESS PERMITS SCHEME

Application

60. Any Business may apply to the Council for the issue of a Business Permit for the leaving, subject to the provisions of this Order, in any Parking Place of a Permitted Vehicle belonging to or on hire or lease to or otherwise associated with that Business (and whose registration number will be identified on the Business Permit) when it is essential for the Business Operations of that Business to park there.

Permit Terms

61. (1) No person is to cause or permit a Business Permit to be displayed in a vehicle, when the vehicle is parked in a Parking Place unless it is essential for the vehicle to be parked there for the Business Operations of the Business Permit Holder.

(2) A Business Permit may be valid for 3 months, 6 months or 12 months but no Business Permit will be valid for more than 12 months.

(3) The Council will fix a day when each Business Permit will cease to be valid.

(4) The charge for each Business Permit will be:

(a) £50.50 for 3 months
(b) £95.00 for 6 months
(c) £145.00 for 9 months
(c) £190.00 for 12 months

and the charge is payable on or before the issue of the permit.

(5) (a) No Business will be eligible for a Business Permit unless the Council is satisfied that it is essential for the Business Operation

of the Business to park a vehicle in the area stated in Schedule 1 to this Order.

(b) No Business will be eligible for more than one Business Permit unless the Council is satisfied that it is essential for the Business Operation of the Business to park more than one vehicle in the roads stated in Schedule 47 to this Order.

(c) No Business will be eligible for more than two Business Permits which are valid at the same time

Application Process

62. (1) An application for a Business Permit must be made either via the on-line portal, or on a form issued and obtainable from the Council and must include the particulars and information required by the form and be accompanied by payment of the appropriate charge further to Article 35 (4).

(2) The Council may at any time require an applicant for a Business Permit to produce such evidence in respect of the application as may reasonably be required to verify any particulars or information given to the Council.

(3) If the Council is satisfied that:

(a) the applicant is a Business; and

(b) it is essential for the Business Operation of the applicant for a vehicle or vehicles belonging to or on hire or lease to or otherwise associated with it to park in the roads stated in Schedule 47 to this Order; and

(c) either the applicant is eligible for two Business Permits and has no more than one Business Permit which is valid, or the applicant is eligible for one Business Permit and it has no Business Permit which is valid; and

(d) the appropriate charge specified in Article 62 (4) has been paid.

And the information and particulars required by the application form have been supplied to the satisfaction of the Council, and the Council is satisfied generally with the completed application form, then, save as provided in Article 62 (4), the Council will issue a Business Permit to the applicant.

(4) The Council will not issue a Business Permit to an applicant if, during the period of three months prior to the application, any Business Permit issued to the applicant has been withdrawn by the Council further to Article 64 (5);

(5) The Council will not issue more than two Business Permits which are valid at the same time to any Business and in the case of a Business which is only eligible for one Business Permit further to Article 61 (5) it will not issue more than one Business Permit. which is valid at any time.

(6) The Council may at any time require a Business Permit Holder to whom a Business Permit has been issued to produce such evidence in respect of any Business Permit as may reasonably be required to verify that the Business Permit Holder remains eligible for such permit and/or that the Business Permit is valid.

Permit Formalities

63. A Business Permit will include the following particulars:

(1) the registration number of the vehicle for which the Business Permit has been issued;
(2) the period during which, subject always to the provisions of Article 64, the Business Permit remains valid;
(3) an indication that the Business Permit has been issued by the Council;
(4) the zonal designation WY

Surrender and Withdrawal of a Business Permit – Validity of Permit

64. (1) A Business Permit Holder may surrender a Business Permit to the Council at any time.

(2) A Business Permit will cease to be valid on the earliest of the following:

(a) the expiration of the period shown on it;

(b) the occurrence of any of the events specified in Article 38 (3) and as provided therein;

(c) as provided by Article 64 (6);

(3) (a) A Business Permit Holder must surrender all Business Permits issued to it on the happening of any of the following events:
(i) the Business ceasing to operate from an address specified in Schedule 47
(ii) the Business ceasing to be eligible for any Business Permit by virtue of Article 61 (5)(a).

(b) A Business Permit Holder must surrender a Business Permit issued to it on the happening of any of the following events:
(i) the issue of a replacement Business Permit;
(ii) the Business ceasing to use the vehicle in respect of which the Business Permit was issued;
(iii) the vehicle in respect of which the Business Permit was issued being adapted or used in such a manner that it ceases to be a Permitted Vehicle.

(c) A Business Permit Holder must surrender a Business Permit issued to it if the Business has two Business Permits which are

valid and it becomes eligible for one Business Permit only by virtue of Article 61 (5)(b)

(4) If it appears to the Council that any of the events specified in Article 64 (3) has occurred, the Council may, by written notice addressed to the Business Permit Holder and sent by first class post to or delivered to the address shown by the Business Permit Holder on his application for the Business Permit or to the registered or principal office of the Business Permit Holder, withdraw a Business Permit or as applicable all his Business Permits and the Business Permit Holder must surrender the Business Permit or as applicable all his Business Permits to the Council within 3 days of the date of posting or as applicable delivery of such notice.

(5) If it appears to the Council that any of the provisions contained in Parts XIV, XVI or XVII of this Order is being or has been abused (including the provision of inaccurate information in connection with an application for a Business Permit, the sale or attempted sale of the permit or the alteration or attempted alteration of the permit) or is not being complied with in respect of the use of a Business Permit or application for it, the Council may by giving notice as provided in Article 64(4) withdraw a Business Permit(s) and the Business Permit Holder must surrender the Business Permit(s) to the Council within 3 days of the date of posting or as applicable delivery of such notice.

(6) Where a notice is given further to Article 64 (5) the Business Permit(s) issued to the Business Permit Holder will cease to be valid at the end of the third day following the day of posting or as applicable delivery of the notice.

(7) When a Business Permit is surrendered or withdrawn the Business Permit Holder is not entitled to any refund of the charge paid for the permit.

Replacement Permit

65. (1) A Business Permit will become invalid if it is mutilated or accidentally defaced or the figures or particulars on it have become illegible or the colour of the Business Permit has become altered by fading or otherwise, and the Business Permit Holder will either surrender it to the Council or apply to the Council for the issue of a replacement Business Permit by completing the application form obtainable from the Council.

(2) The Business Permit will become invalid if it is lost or destroyed and the Business Permit Holder may apply to the Council for the issue of a replacement Business Permit and the Council, upon being satisfied as to such loss or destruction, will issue a replacement Business Permit so marked.

(3) The provisions of this Part of this Order will apply to a replacement Business Permit or an application for it as if it were an original Business Permit or as the case may be an application for it.

(4) The fee for a change of vehicle for business permits is £25.

PART XVII
HOTEL VISITORS PERMIT SCHEME

Application

66. Any hotel or guest house located at premises whose address is listed in Schedule 47 to this Order may apply to the Council for the issue of Hotel Visitor's Permits for the leaving, subject to the provisions of this Order, in any Parking Place, of a Permitted Vehicle belonging to or on hire or lease to a paying guest at the hotel or guest house.

Permit Terms

67.

() No person is to cause or permit any Hotel Visitors Permit to be displayed on a vehicle when it is parked in a Parking Place unless it belongs to or is on hire or lease to a paying guest at the hotel or guest house to whom the permit was issued

() The charge for each Hotel Visitors Permit will be £1 and the charge is payable on or before the issue of the permit.

Application Process

68.

(1) An application for Hotel Visitors Permits must be made either via the on-line portal or on a form issued by and obtainable from the Council and must include the particulars and information required by the form and be accompanied by the appropriate charge further to Article 67 (2).

(2) The Council may at any time require an applicant for Hotel Visitors Permits to produce such evidence in respect of the application as may reasonably be required to verify any particulars or information given to the Council.

() Save as provided in Article 68 (4), if the Council is satisfied that the applicant is an authorised representative of a hotel or guest house located at premises whose address is listed in Schedule 47 and the information and particulars required by the form have been supplied to the satisfaction of the Council and the Council is generally satisfied with the completed application form the Council will issue to the applicant the number of Hotel Visitor's Permits applied for provided always that the issue of such permits may be subject to 28 days prior notice.

() The Council will not issue a Hotel Visitor's Permit if, during the period of six months prior to the application or such lesser time period as the Council may in its discretion decide, a Hotel Visitor's Permit issued to the applicant was withdrawn by the Council further to Article 71 (4).

() The Council may at any time require a Hotel Visitor's Permit Holder to produce such evidence in respect of any Hotel Visitor's Permit as it may reasonably require to verify that the permit is valid and/or that the Hotel Visitor's Permit Holder remains eligible for the permit.

Permit Formalities

69.

(1) Each Hotel Visitors Permit will include the following particulars:

() An indication that the Hotel Visitors Permit has been issued by the Council;

() The zonal designation WY.

(2) Each Hotel Visitors Permit will be valid for a period of up to 24 hours from when it is validated provided that it is validated by the Hotel Visitors Permit Holder or by a person authorised by it by writing in ink on the permit the name of the hotel or guest house, the name of the road in which the permit is being used, the time of day the vehicle was parked there (being the validation time), the day of the week and date on which the permit is being used (being the validation date) and the registration number of the vehicle on which the permit is displayed.

Records

70. A hotel or guest house to which Hotel Visitors Permits are issued must keep records of the allocation of permits by them by date of use, room number occupied by the paying guest and vehicle registration number of the vehicle in respect of which the permit is allocated and those records must be available for inspection by the Council at all reasonable times.

Surrender and Withdrawal of Hotel Visitor's Permits – Validity of Permits

71.

(1) A Hotel Visitors Permit Holder may surrender its Hotel Visitors Permits to the Council at any time.

(2) A Hotel Visitors Permit will cease to be valid on the earlier of the following:

() The Hotel Visitors Permit Holder ceasing to operate a hotel or guest house at premises whose address is listed in Schedule 3;

() As provided in Article 71 (5).

(3) If it appears to the Council that a Hotel Visitor's Permit Holder has ceased to operate a hotel or guest house at premises whose address is

listed in Schedule 47 the Council may, by written notice, addressed to the Hotel Visitor's Permit Holder and sent by first class post or delivery to the address shown on the application for the Hotel Visitor's Permit or any forwarding address, withdraw the Hotel Visitor's Permits of the Hotel Visitor's Permit Holder and the Hotel Visitor's Permits Holder must surrender its Hotel Visitor's Permits to the Council within 3 days of the date of posting or as applicable delivery of the notice.

(4) If it appears to the Council that any of the provisions contained in Parts XIV, XVI or XVII of this Order is being or has been abused (including the provision of inaccurate information in connection with an application for a Hotel Visitor's Permit, the sale or attempted sale of the permit or the alteration or attempted alteration of the permit) or is not being complied with in respect of the use of a Hotel Visitor's Permit or application for it, the Council may, by giving notice as provided in Article 71 (3), withdraw the Hotel Visitor's Permits of a Hotel Visitor's Permit Holder and the Hotel Visitor's Permit Holder must surrender its Hotel Visitor's Permits to the Council within 3 days of the date of posting or as applicable delivery of such notice.

(5) Where notice is given further to Article 71 (4) the Hotel Visitor's Permits issued to the Hotel Visitor's Permit Holder will cease to be valid at the end of the third day following the day of posting or as applicable delivery of the notice.

() When a Hotel Visitors Permit is surrendered or withdrawn the hotel or guest house is not entitled to any refund of the charge paid for the permit.

Contractors Permit

72. Where the Council, in the exercise of its discretion further to Article 16 agrees to authorise the use of any Parking Place by a contractor undertaking any demolition, excavation or building or maintenance operations or repair works at premises in the area stated in Schedule 1 to this Order the charge for such authorisation will be £31.50 for any period not exceeding a week.

PART XVIII
THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (CARERS PERMIT) ORDER 2023

73. The Carers Permit Order is applied to this order so that nothing in this order will prohibit or restrict a vehicle from waiting in accordance with the provisions of that order."

8.)

Schedule 33 of the order is deleted in its entirety.

~~***"SCHEDULE 33***~~
~~*(Waiting Limited to 4 hours with no return for 1 hour*~~
~~*All days 6-00am to 10-00pm)"*~~

9.)

In **Schedule 37**

(Waiting Limited to 30 minutes with no return for 1 hour, 8-00am to 6-00pm Monday to Saturday inclusive)

Within Item 78 WITNEY, the following item is deleted:

~~. *Corn Street:*~~

~~*South side - from a point 12.5 metres east of its junction with Swingburn Place south eastwards to a point 33.5 metres west of its junction with Corndell Gardens.*~~

10.)

In **Schedule 42**

(Waiting Limited to 2 hours with no return for 2 hours, 8-00am to 6-00pm Monday to Saturday inclusive)

Item 78 WITNEY is deleted and replaced as follows:

"ITEM 78: WITNEY

~~*1. Church Green:*~~

~~*(a) Eastern arm – east side:*~~

~~*() from a point 18.5 metres north of its junction with Farm Mill Lane in a northerly direction for a distance of 34 metres;*~~

~~*() from a point 78.5 metres north of its junction with Farm Mill Lane in a northerly direction to its junction with Market Square;*~~

~~*(b) Southern arm (along the northern frontage of St Mary's Church) - south side - from a point 11 metres west of its junction with Station Lane in a westerly direction for a distance of 30 metres.*~~

~~*2. Corn Street:*~~

~~*(a) North side;*~~

(i) ~~*from the boundary between Nos. 56 and 58 Corn Street in a westerly direction to a point 13.5 metres east of its junction with Holloway Road;*~~

(ii) ~~*from the boundary between Nos. 86 and 88 Corn Street in a westerly direction for a distance of 4.5 metres;*~~

(iii) ~~*from a point 4 metres west of the boundary between Nos. 88 and 90 Corn Street in a westerly direction for a distance of 37 metres;*~~

(iv) ~~*from the boundary between Nos. 108 and 110 Corn Street in an easterly direction for a distance of 19 metres;*~~

(v) ~~*from the boundary between Nos. 144 and 146 Corn Street in a westerly direction for a distance of 20.5 metres;*~~

(vi) ~~*from a point 4 metres east of the boundary between 154 and 156 Corn Street in a westerly direction for a distance of 9 metres;*~~

(vii) ~~*from a point 7 metres east of the boundary between Nos.160 and 162 Corn Street in a westerly direction to a point 54 metres east of its junction with Corn Bar.*~~

~~*(b) South side;*~~

(i) ~~*from the boundary between Nos 43 and 45 westwards to a point 4 metres west of the boundary between Nos 55 & 57;*~~

(ii) ~~*from the boundary between Nos 57 & 59 westwards to a point 14.5 metres east of its junction with The Crofts.*~~

(iii) ~~*from a point 17.5 metres west of its junction with The Crofts in a westerly direction for a distance of 37.5 metres;*~~

(iv) ~~*from a point 1.6 metres west of the eastern flank wall of No. 87 Corn Street in a westerly direction to a point 12 metres east of its junction with Corndell Gardens.*~~

3. Farm Mill Lane.

North Side.- from a point 36 metres east of the eastern kerb line of the eastern arm of Church Green in an easterly direction for a distance of 24 metres.

~~*4. Market Square – southeast of Buttercross:*~~

~~*(a) East side - from a point 17 metres south of its junction with Langdale Gate in a southerly direction to its junction with Church Green.*~~

~~*(b) West side - from a point 16 metres south of its junction with Langdale Gate in a southerly direction to a point 0.5 metres north of the southern flank wall of No. 56 Market Square.*~~

5. The Crofts: (north-south arm)

East side - from a point 13 metres south of the southern kerb line of Corn Street southwards for a distance of 19 metres."

11.)

New Schedules 47, 48 and 49 are inserted as follows:

"SCHEDULE 47

Properties Eligible to Apply for Residents and Visitors Permits `WY`

Eligible streets	Eligible properties
Church Green	Even Nos.2-44, Odd Nos.1-29
Corn Street	Even Nos.36-172, Odd Nos.27-151
Market Square	Even Nos.52-58, Odd Nos.29-39

SCHEDULE 48

SHARED-USE PARKING BAYS
Permit Holders or Waiting Limited to 2 hours with no return within 2 hours, Monday to Saturday inclusive – 8am to 6pm

1. Church Green:

a) Eastern arm – east side:
   i. from a point 16 metres north of the centre of the junction with Farm Mill Lane, northwards for a distance of 15 metres,
   ii. from a point 37 metres north of the centre of the junction with Farm Mill Lane, northwards for a distance of 14 metres,
   iii. from a point in line with the southern flank wall of No.15 Church Green, northwards for a distance of 12 metres,
   iv. from a point 7 metres north of the southern flank wall of No.11 Church Green, northwards for a distance of 67 metres.

b) Southern arm (along the northern frontage of St Mary's Church)

south side:

i. from a point 11 metres west of its junction with Station Lane, westwards for a distance of 30 metres.
ii. from a point 39 metres west of its junction with Station Lane, westwards for a distance of 10 metres.

2. Corn Street:

a) North side:

i. from a point 6 metres southeast of the western flank wall of No.170 Corn Street, south-eastwards for a distance of 30 metres,
ii. from a point in line with the eastern flank wall of No.154 Corn Street, north-westwards for a distance of 9 metres,
iii. from a point in line with the common property boundary of Nos.110 & 108 Corn Street, south-eastwards for a distance of 19 metres,
iv. from a point in line with the western flank wall of Nos.96-100 Corn Street, south-eastwards for a distance of 38 metres,
v. from a point in line with the common property boundary of Nos.88 & 86 Corn Street, north-westwards for a distance of 5 metres,
vi. from a point in line with the eastern property boundary of No.74b Corn Street, north-westwards for a distance of 12 metres,
vii. from a point in line with the western flank wall of No.72 Corn Street, south-eastwards for a distance of 57 metres.

b) South side:

i. from a point in line with the western flank wall of No.129 Corn Street, south-eastwards for a distance of 23 metres,
ii. from a point in line with the western flank wall of No.119 Corn Street, south-eastwards for a distance of 11 metres,
iii. from a point in line with the common property boundary of Nos.109a & 109 Corn Street, south-eastwards for a distance of 64 metres,
iv. from a point 2.5 metres southeast of the common property boundary of Nos.85 & 83 Corn Street, south-eastwards for a distance of 37 metres,
v. from a point inline of the eastern property boundary of No.59 Corn Street, north-westwards for a distance of 36 metres,
vi. from a point in line with the common property boundary of Nos.43 & 45 Corn Street, north-westwards for a distance of 49 metres.

3. Market Square – southeast of Buttercross:

a) East side - from a point 17 metres south of its junction with Langdale Gate, southwards for a distance of 32 metres.
b) West side - from a point 16 metres south of its junction with Langdale Gate, southwards for a distance of 28 metres.

SCHEDULE 49

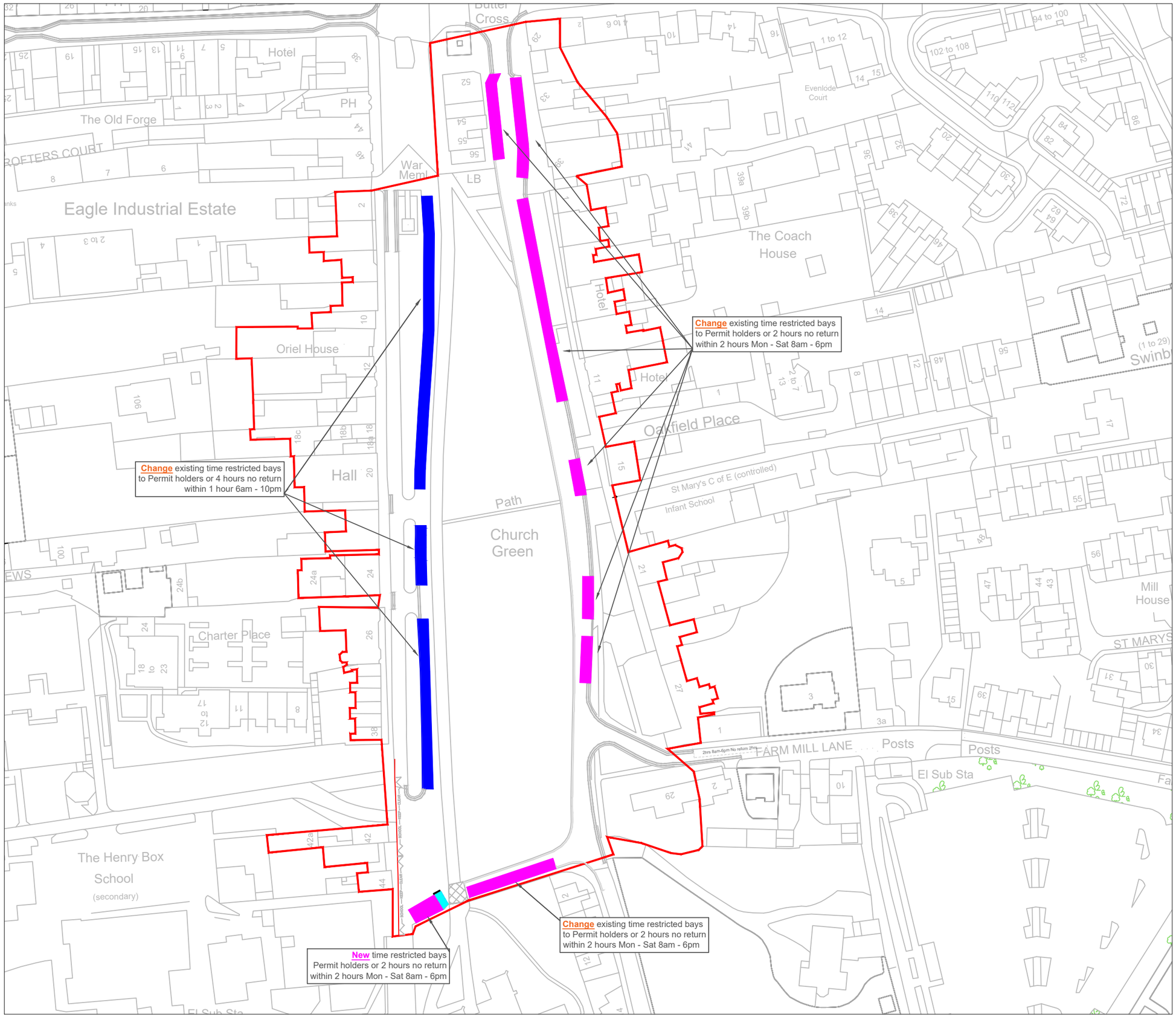
SHARED-USE PARKING BAYS
Permit Holders or Waiting Limited to 4 hours no return within 1 hour,
All days – 6am to 10pm

1. Church Green:

    a) Central arm – west side:
        i. from a point 9.5 metres north of the common property boundary between Nos.2 & 4 Church Green, southwards for a distance of 95 metres,
        ii. from a point 5.5 metres south of the northern flank wall of No.22 Church Green, southwards for a distance of 19 metres,
        iii. from a point 5 metres south of the northern flank wall of No.26 Church Green, southwards for a distance of 55 metres."

THE COMMON SEAL of **THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** was affixed in the presence of:

Solicitor / Designated Officer



Drawing No.

Revision 0

KEY

- EXISTING 'No waiting at any time' (Double yellow lines)
- Existing 'No waiting Mon-Sat 8am-6pm (Single yellow line)
- Existing disabled parking bay to remain
- Proposed dual use parking bays Permit holders or 2 hours no return within 2 hours Mon - Sat 8am-6pm
- Proposed dual use parking bays Permit holders or 4 hours no return within 1 hour 6am - 10pm
- Properties eligible for resident or visitor permits

SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARDS/RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES OF WORK DETAILED ON THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT RESIDUAL RISKS

CONSTRUCTION
(ENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE)
MAINTENANCE/CLEANING
(ENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE)
USE
(ENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE)
DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION
(ENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE)

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Paul Fermer
Director of
Environment & Highways
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND
Tel: 0845 310 1111

Project title

CHURCH GREEN WITNEY
PARKING RESTRICTION
DESIGN OPTIONS

Drawing title

CHURCH GREEN WITNEY
PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTION CHANGES
DUAL USE & PERMIT HOLDERS PARKING

Drawing Status

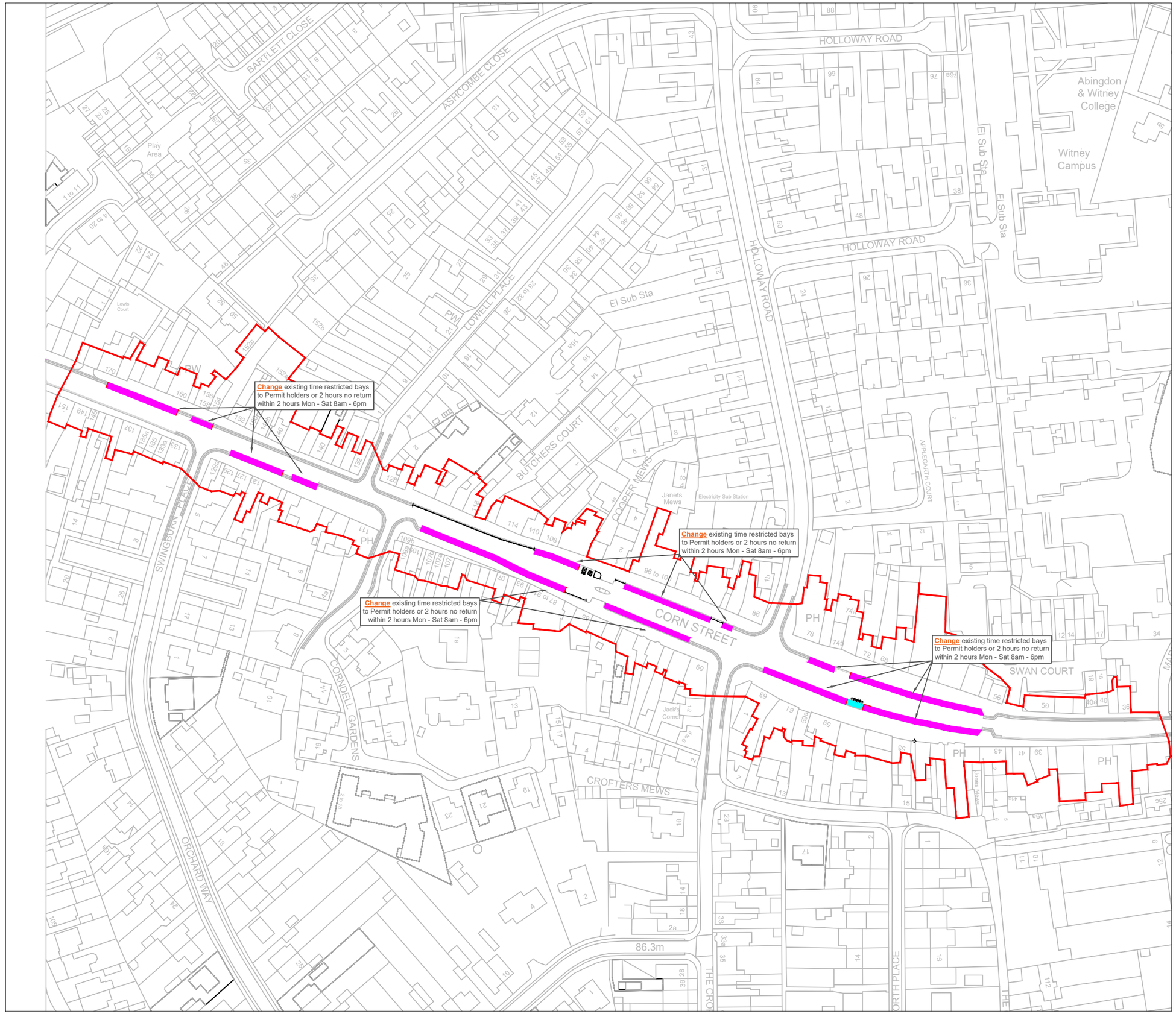
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
1:1200	EP		
	Date drawn AUG 2024	Date checked	Date approved

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

Drawing No.

Revision 0

P:\2. Network Management\Parking Control\SCHEMES & MAINTENANCE\2. District Areas\5. West Oxfordshire\CAD files\Church Green, Witney\CAD files\Church Green & Corn Street, Witney.dwg



Drawing No.

Revision 0

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MAINTENANCE/CLEANING
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USE
(ENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE)
DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION
(ENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE)

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Paul Fermer
Director of
Environment & Highways
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND
Tel: 0845 310 1111

Project title

CORN STREET, WITNEY
PARKING RESTRICTION
DESIGN OPTIONS

Drawing title

CORN STREET, WITNEY
PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTION CHANGES
DUAL USE & PERMIT HOLDERS PARKING

Drawing Status

Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
1:1500	EP		
	Date drawn AUG 2024	Date checked	Date approved

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

Drawing No.

Revision 0

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Page 330

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** A40 Corridor
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2024 11:51 AM
To: A40 Corridor <A40corridor@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Public engagement on A40 Eynsham Park and Ride to Wolvercote

Dear Stakeholder,

We would like to inform you about the public engagement on the proposals for the A40 Eynsham Park and Ride to Wolvercote scheme which starts on 25 November 2024.

Residents are being invited to share feedback on Oxfordshire County Council's plans for the A40 Eynsham Park and Ride to Wolvercote major infrastructure improvement scheme after securing £126 million of government funding in October.

The proposed scheme includes constructing a new junction onto the A40 to bring the Eynsham Park and Ride into use, bus lanes between the park and ride and Wolvercote, upgraded walking and cycling paths, and new signal-controlled crossings to enhance safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists.

There will be an in-person engagement on **Monday 25 November between 3 pm and 7 pm** at Cassington Village Hall, The Green, Cassington, OX29 4AX. A second session will take place on **Wednesday 4 December 2024, from 3 pm to 7 pm**, at Eynsham Village Hall (Main Hall), 46 Back Lane, Eynsham, OX29 4QW. The events will allow residents to see the proposed plans for the scheme, offer feedback on them and have their questions answered.

For those unable to attend the two public events, there will be an opportunity to engage online. The online public engagement will run from **12pm on 25 November 2024** to **23:59 on 1 January 2025** at https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/A40EynshamToWolvercote.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]
Programme Lead, A40 Improvements

A40 Eynsham Park and Ride to Wolvercote Scheme



We want your input!

Join us in shaping the future of travel along the A40. Oxfordshire County Council invites you to participate in the public engagement for the A40 Eynsham Park and Ride to Wolvercote scheme.

Scan me to have your say online

Online public engagement:

Have your say from **12.00pm** on **25 November 2024** to **23:59pm** on **1 January 2025**

www.letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/A40EynshamToWolvercote

Public events:

Monday 25 November, 3pm–7pm
Cassington Village Hall (main hall),
The Green, Cassington, OX29 4AX

Wednesday 4 December, 3pm–7pm
Eynsham Village Hall (main hall),
46 Back Ln, Eynsham, OX29 4QW

For alternative formats of the engagement or for other questions, please contact the team by email:

A40corridor@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Building connections, expanding opportunity

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER
SECTION 53 OF THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

The Oxfordshire County Council
Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way for Oxfordshire
Witney Footpath No. 32 (part) Modification Order 2024

The above Order made on the 4 November 2024, if confirmed as made, will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding the length: -

> *From the existing western end of Footpath No. 32 at OS grid reference SP 3555 0963 running westwards for approximately 20 metres to Marlborough Lane at SP 3553 0963.*

A copy of the Order, the Order map and an explanatory statement may be:-

1. Viewed online at https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/03807-witney (accessible via the QR code)
2. Obtained free of charge on request from countrysideaccesslegal@oxfordshire.gov.uk
3. Seen free of charge during opening hours at: -
   - Oxford Westgate Library, 228 The Westgate, Oxford, OX1 1PE Tel: 01865 815509
   - Witney Library, Welch Way, Witney, OX28 6JH. Tel: 01993 703659

Any representation or objection relating to the order must be sent in writing to **Countryside Access – Research and Legal Record, Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND,** or countrysideaccesslegal@oxfordshire.gov.uk not later than **10 January 2025** and applicants are requested to state the grounds on which it is made.

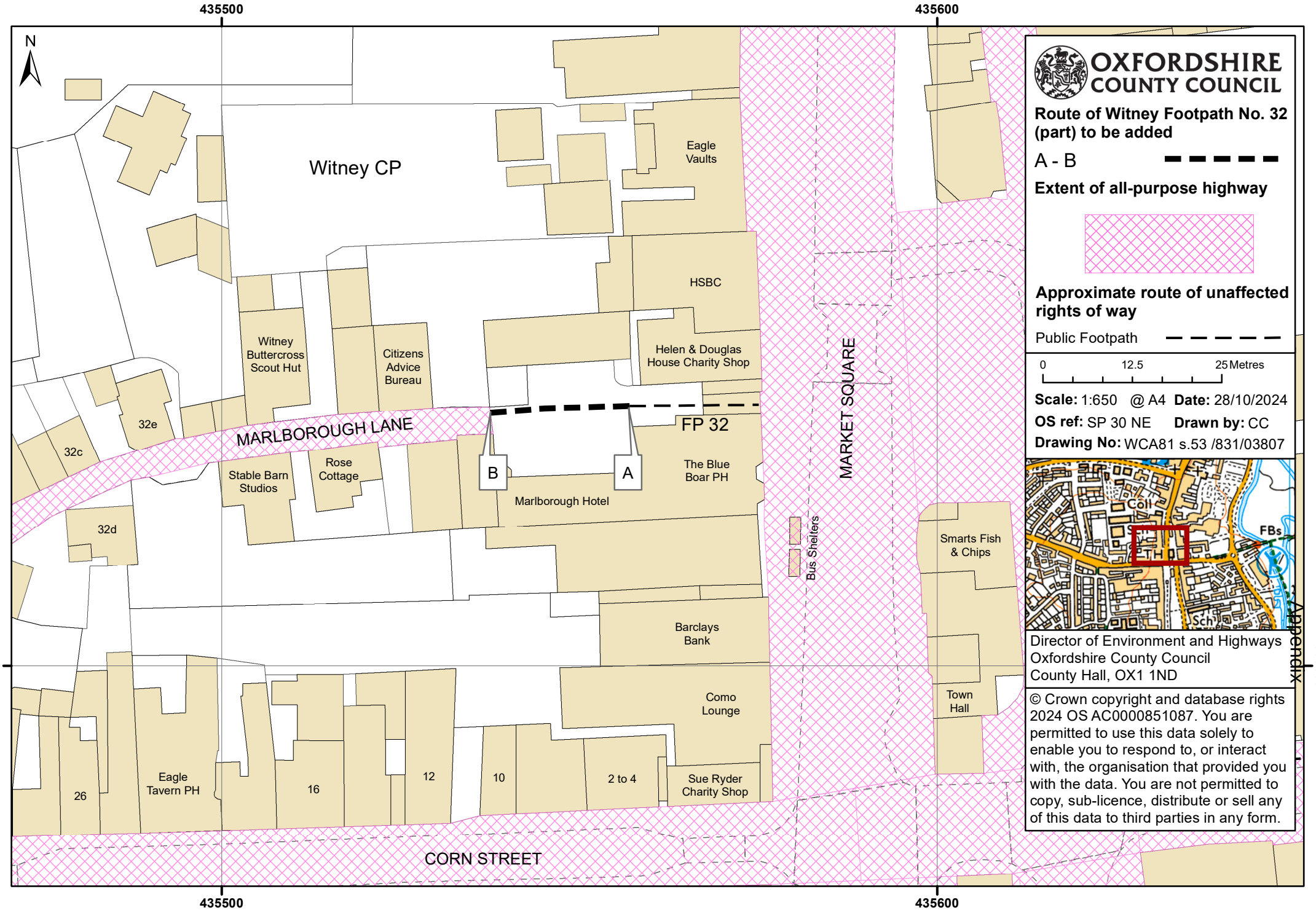
If no representations or objections are duly made to the order, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Oxfordshire County Council, instead of submitting the order to the Secretary of State may itself confirm the order. If the order is submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs any representations or objections which have been duly made and not withdrawn will be sent with it.

Dated 14 November 2024

Director of Environment and Highways
Oxfordshire County Council

GDPR and Data Protection Act: Oxfordshire County Council will collate correspondence and comments received in response to this communication, for further consideration. They may be disseminated widely for these purposes and made available to the public.

The Oxfordshire County Council Witney Footpath No. 32 (part) Modification Order 2024



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Appendix

Reply to : Licensing Team
Tel : 01993 861000
Email: ers@westoxon.gov.uk

Council Offices
Woodgreen,
WITNEY,
Oxfordshire,
OX28 1NB
Tel: 01993 861000
www.westoxon.gov.uk

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Town Council

Your Ref: W/24/01367/PAVLIC

Date: 21st November 2024

Dear Town Clerk,

BUSINESS AND PLANNING ACT 2020
APPLICATION FOR PAVEMENT LICENCE

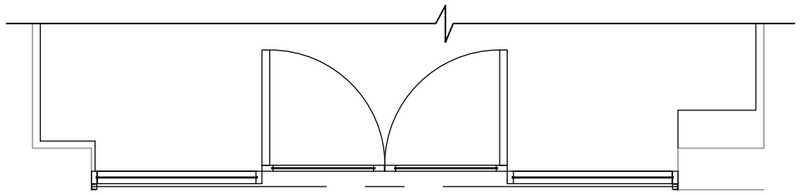
We have received an application for **Greggs Unit 4 5 Welch Way Witney Oxfordshire OX28 6JH** under the Business and Planning Act 2020.

The application form and supporting docs are attached to this email. If you would like to make formal representation please email ERS@westoxon.gov.uk, the closing date is **5th December 2024**.

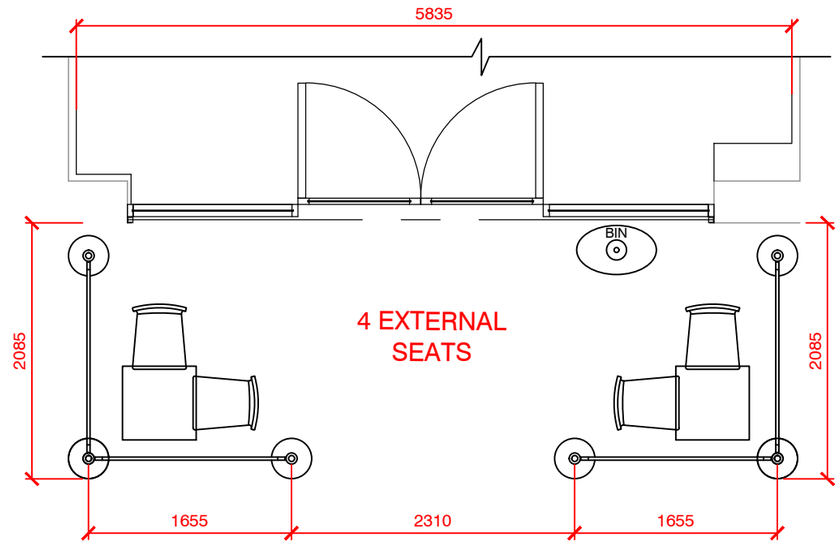
Yours faithfully

Licensing Team
Environmental and Regulatory Services

West Oxfordshire District Council may share information provided to it with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds in order to prevent and detect fraud under Section 6 of the Audit Commission Act 1998



EXISTING FLOOR PLAN (1:50)



PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN (1:50)

GREGGS OUTDOOR SEATING SCALE 1:50 @ A3
U4 WELCH WAY WITNEY OX28 6JH

0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500mm
SCALE 1:50



Tables tops are 600 x 600mm in size.
The tops are Melanine Sheet with transfer with African Hardwood and chipwood moulded and are 17mm in the middle and expand out to 35mm.



Dimensions	
Overall Height:	800mm
Overall Width:	440mm
Overall Depth:	530mm
Seat Height:	440mm
Arm Height:	n/a
Weight:	3.080kg
Material:	Polypropolene
	Anodized alu legs
Colour/Finish	Black
	White
COM	n/a
Stacking	Yes
Feet	
Adjustable	n/a
Thread size	
Rec. Top Size	n/a
Outdoor?	Yes



Dimensions	
Overall Height:	710mm
Overall Width:	To fit 600, 700, 800
Overall Depth:	To fit 600, 700, 800
Seat Height:	n/a
Arm Height:	n/a
Weight:	
Material:	Aluminium
Colour/Finish:	Silver
	Grey
COM:	n/a
Stacking:	Yes
Feet:	
Adjustable:	
Thread size:	
Rec. Top Size:	600mm Square
	700mm Square
	800mm Square
Outdoor?	Yes

Business premises use	Other use for the sale of food or drink for consumption on or off the premises
Description of the area	Paved area outside shop Plan attached
Monday start time	06:30
Tuesday start time	06:30
Wednesday start time	06:30
Thursday start time	06:30
Friday start time	06:30
Saturday start time	06:30
Sunday start time	09:00
Monday finish time	17:30
Tuesday finish time	17:30
Wednesday finish time	17:30
Thursday finish time	17:30
Friday finish time	17:30
Saturday finish time	17:30
Sunday finish time	16:00
Furniture purpose	For the purpose of consuming food or drink
Description of the furniture	2 x Black tables with aluminium legs 4 x black chair with aluminium legs 4 x Blue canvas banners held with HD posts 1 x Customer black bin
Do you intend to alter any of the building and / or frontage to accommodate this proposal?	No

WITNEY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 24 September 2024

At 2.30 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney

Present:

Councillor A Coles (Chair)

Councillors:	T Fenton	R Smith
	J Aitman	T Ashby
	S Simpson	S McCarroll (WODC) - (Sub for M Brooker)
Officers:	Adam Clapton	Witney Town Council
	Derek Mackenzie	Witney Town Council
	Odele Parsons	Oxfordshire County Council
	Kim Sutherland	Oxfordshire County Council
	John Charlton	Oxfordshire County Council
	Duncan Stewart	Oxfordshire County Council
	Nick Howdle-Smith	Oxfordshire County Council
Others:	Adrian Bullock	
	David Miles	
	Kevin Hickman	

No members of the public.

T41 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Nominations were sought for the position of Chair for the municipal year.

It was proposed and duly seconded that Cllr Andrew Coles be elected Chair. There being no other nominations it was:

Resolved:

That, Cllr Andrew Coles be elected Chair of the Committee for the municipal year.

T42 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from T Bayliss of Stagecoach, A Lyon of West Oxfordshire Community Transport, Cllr D Enright and Cllr M Brooker for whom Cllr S McCarroll attended as substitute.

T43 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

T44 **TO ADOPT AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JUNE 2024 (COPY ENCLOSED)**

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2024.

Resolved:

That, the minutes of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee meeting held on 18 June 2024 be adopted as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

T45 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED IN SUBSEQUENT ITEMS**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2024.

T46 **COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee received and considered its constitution and terms of reference which was reviewed at least once annually at this, its annual meeting.

The future timing of the meetings was discussed and it was suggested they begin at 3pm to assist other members in attending. There was also discussion on whether the next meeting of the Committee should be hybrid as the terms of reference allowed this and new equipment had been installed in the Corn Exchange. It was however, agreed to leave a decision until the following meeting.

With regard to representatives, a Member noted that Witney Community Transport should now be listed as West Oxfordshire Community Transport and that Pulham's Coaches, as a further bus company providing services in Witney, should be invited.

Resolved:

1. That, the Committee Terms of Reference be re-adopted with the following amendments:

   3.1 Meetings should commence at 3pm.
   6.1 Witney Community Transport should be listed as West Oxfordshire Community Transport.
   Pulham's Coaches should be invited to send a representative to future meetings.

T47 **PLACE & PLANNING**

The Committee received and considered the report prepared by the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Place & Planning Team, along with a Penalty Charge Notice Update from the Civil Enforcement Team.

Members received clarification on road collision data which had been presented to the previous meeting along with updates on the Shores Green (Access to Witney) project, Bridge Street Area Options Appraisal, Corn Street and Fiveways roundabout ambitions, Windrush Place Active Travel Schemes and Madley Park path improvements, all of which were welcomed by Members.

The Committee were provided with further updates concerning the possibility of a path at Thorney Leys connecting Richmond Village and parking/lining and bollards in Hailey Road near to the Primary School.

Members also welcomed news that parking changes were being considered in Corn Street and Church Green and looked forward to an official consultation later in the autumn. A Member expressed the importance that parking must remain free of charge.

Finally, the Committee were provided with a summary of penalty charge notices issued in Witney from June-August. A verbal update from the Civil Enforcement Team Leader advised resources had been stretched during the summer months but further evening enforcement, particularly in Corn Street would be taking place. There had been a large number of tickets issued for parking on double yellow lines and if there were any other problem areas, he would investigate.

Resolved:

1. That, the report and contents on each issue be noted and,
2. That, Members's organisations engage with the Corn Street/Church Green parking consultation when it is advertised.
3. That, OCC officers confirm residents at Deer Park had been made aware of the County Council's policy on marking near junctions.

T48 **WITNEY HIGH STREET ENHANCEMENTS CONSULTATION**

The Committee received a brief presentation and update from the Oxfordshire County Council Witney High Street project team.

The Project Team also answered Members questions and clarified a number of points regarding subjects including the Taxi & Bus waiting area, Loading & Unloading access for businesses and the orientation and siting of benches.

Resolved:

That, the update be noted.

T49 **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding the Community Speedwatch Scheme and attached data from the Speedwatch portal.

Members were updated on the current number of volunteers and locations, with three sessions being held since the last meeting.

The Chair advised the scheme was going well and was receiving positive feedback and outcomes concerning educating drivers on speed, along with data on action being taken by the police. The volunteer numbers had doubled since the last meeting and it was hoped this would result in two sessions a month being held.

Resolved:

That, the report be noted.

T50 **THAMES VALLEY POLICE SAFER ROAD STATISTICS**

The Committee received road safety statistics from Thames Valley Police for the Cherwell and West Oxfordshire areas.

The data tied in well with the previous Community Speedwatch item and it was agreed the figures were helpful moving forward to understand the wider picture of speed enforcement across the District.

Resolved:

1. That, the TVP road safety statistics be noted and,
2. That, they continue to be brought to this Committee for information.

T51 **PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE**

The Committee received a deferred update on bus services from the Oxfordshire County Council report and a verbal update from the Independent Parish Transport Representative.

The Couty Council update included four new bus service improvements from the beginning of September and an increased rate of buses on the H2 route from February 2025.

The Parish Transport Representative confirmed this was good news about the new services but it would mean more buses in Witney.

New MyBus tickets were selling well and the County Council were pleased but they may have to source additional funding as the ticket offered a huge saving to schoolchildren.

Finally, there was an update on a Bus Stop capture exercise being undertaken by the County Council. An audit of all stops in every parish was being undertaken before the end of November and it had been originally discussed that a Contractor would be hired to conduct this in the larger towns such as Witney. If this did not materialise, the parish Transport Representative would compile this information.

Resolved:

That, the County Council and Parish Transport Representative's updates be noted.

T52 **WITNEY BUS USERS MEETING**

The Chair reiterated the Bus Users Meeting which would be taking place on 3 October 2024 and as this had been arranged by the Committee, he hoped to see as many Members as possible there.

Resolved:

That, the verbal update be noted.

T53 **ITEMS RAISED AT THE MEETING**

Windrush Leisure Centre – Cllr S Simpson raised concerns of the faded white lines when leaving the car park which led to users' confusion and potential accidents occurring.

Farmers Close – Cllr S Simpson raised concerns that there was no barrier to restrict access onto the road from the footpath that ran in front of 152-157 Farmers Close.

Mopeds & E-Scooters – Cllr S Simpson raised concerns of the use on path and cycleways. A member noted that a clampdown by TVP had recently reported that over 100 over a 5-day period had been confiscated and therefore this was a clearly being taken seriously and enforced.

Staple Hall Road Closure – D Miles raised concerns for the lack of suitable crossing of Bridge Street in light of the footpath closure. It was noted this could be alleviated by the opening of a footpath at Staple Court however this was a private access footpath.

Farmers Close Verges – Cllr R Smith reported that these are not cut in a timely manner leading to potential hazards for road and pedestrian users.

Ageing Population – Cllr R Smith raised the importance of the Committee being mindful of the aging population of Witney and that mobility scooters and line painting is now even more important to ensure safe passage around the Town.

Salt Bins at Kingfisher Development – Witney Town Council officers raised the issue of no salt bin provision with Oxfordshire County Council who were currently following up with the developer.

T54 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING(S)**

Members were advised the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 21 January 2025 at 3pm.

The meeting closed at: 4.00 pm

Chair

Date: 12 November 2024
OCC ref: R3.0103/24

Environment and Place
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

Nicholas Perrins
Head of Strategic
Planning

Mrs Groth
Clerk to Witney Town Council
Witney Town Council
Town Hall
Market Square
Witney
OX28 6AG

Dear Mrs Groth

Details Pursuant for Oxfordshire County Council County Hall, New Road, Oxford , OX1 1ND for: Details pursuant to Condition 8 (Lighting scheme) of planning permission no. (R3.0142/23). at A40/B4022 Shores Green Junction.

The Details Pursuant has now been approved for the above development.

Please click on the link to view the details:
https://myeplanning2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/R3.0103/24?cuuid=32F26CB2-6E89-4452-9C4B-C52AC8160B63

Yours sincerely

Anna Herriman

Anna Herriman
Senior Planner

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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date: 13 November 2024
OCC ref: R3.0118/24

Mrs Groth
Clerk to Witney Town Council
Witney Town Council
Town Hall
Market Square
Witney
OX28 6AG

Environment and Place
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

Nicholas Perrins
Head of Strategic
Planning

Dear Mrs Groth

Non-Material amendment for Oxfordshire County Council County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND for: Non-Material Amendment to permission R3.0142/23 removal of condition 19 (European Protected Species Mitigation Licience). at A40/B4022 Shores Green Junction

The Non-Material amendment has now been approved for the above development.

Please click on the link to view the details:
https://myeplanning2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/R3.0118/24?cuuid=8FD8E061-195B-4282-9A70-2EF4160EA4A2

Yours sincerely

Anna Herriman

Anna Herriman
Senior Planner

Direct line: 07990 368235
Email: Anna.Herriman@Oxfordshire.gov.uk
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Date: 12 November 2024
OCC ref: R3.0104/24

Environment and Place
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

Nicholas Perrins
Head of Strategic
Planning

Mrs Groth
Clerk to Witney Town Council
Witney Town Council
Town Hall
Market Square
Witney
OX28 6AG

Dear Mrs Groth

Details Pursuant for Oxfordshire County Council County Hall, New Road, Oxford , OX1 1ND for: Details pursuant to Condition 20 and 21 (Drainage strategy) of planning permission no. (R3.0142/23) at A40/B4022 Shores Green Junction

The Details Pursuant has now been approved for the above development.

Please click on the link to view the details:
https://myeplanning2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/R3.0104/24?cuuid=FE8918F8-B955-4127-B04D-592514029200

Yours sincerely

Anna Herriman

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