

A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Oxfordshire



Green infrastructure A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.

The term covers networks at different scales from streets or villages to landscapes and townscapes. It helps to identify the importance and value of Oxfordshire's assets for recreation, health and wellbeing, economic recovery, preventing flooding, conserving biodiversity and the historic environment, and improving our resilience to climate change. In planning for growth, the impact and value of Green Infrastructure can be considered as part of every

development, from a few homes to a new community. A strategy will help communities and decision-makers to identify important assets, gaps in existing networks, and investment opportunities to improve local areas. Green Infrastructure is in the National Planning Policy Framework and needs to be considered within plans and strategies.



Scale

River Thames, Windrush Valley, Oxford Canal, Wilts and Berks Canal, Cotswolds, Chilterns, and North Wessex Downs AONBs, Otmoor, Bernwood, Oxford Greenbelt, The Ridgeway and Thames Path National Trails, Oxfordshire Way, D'Arcy Dalton Way.

Shotover Country Park, Brasenose, Wittenham Clumps, Spiceball County Park, Witney Lakes, Abbey Meadows, Farmoor Reservoir, Rushy Common and Stanlake, Cothill Fen NNR/SSSI, Common. Connected networks of Rights of Way, greenways and cycle paths.

Street trees, green roofs, local parks and gardens, market squares, cafe quarters, village greens, local routes and walks, Cemeteries, churchyards, ponds and streams, local woodlands, play areas, Local nature reserves, school grounds, sustainable urban drainage schemes.

Oxfordshire

Oxford & Towns

Street & village

Multifunctionality

Provision & production

- Food & fibre
- Clean water & air
- Minerals & materials
- Fuel & energy (eg biomass)

Regulation

- Carbon sequestration
- Climate regulation
- Water and air purification
- Crop pollination
- Pest and disease control

Support

- Nutrient cycling
- Seed dispersal
- Primary production

Cultural functions

- Cultural, intellectual and spiritual inspiration
- Recreation resources
- Health & wellbeing
- Sense of place



Why produce an Oxfordshire strategy?

Growth, economy & Investment

Green infrastructure can enhance land and property prices, and improve the quality of life, health and productivity of employees. A strategy will encourage investment in Oxfordshire's green infrastructure.

Local communities

Identifying local need, issues, priorities and sources of funding will help communities to work together to enhance their local areas.

Health & wellbeing

Access to public parks, green spaces and rights of way helps people to improve their health, reducing preventable illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease.

Flooding & climate change

Urban green infrastructure can help reduce summer temperatures, provide shade, and improve air quality. It can also increase flood water storage, reduce surface run-off, and improve water quality.

Protect heritage

Planning for green infrastructure at an early stage in developments or projects can improve the quality of the development and ensure that our natural and heritage assets are protected and managed in the long term.

The Oxfordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy is due to be published by March 2014. It will:

- Cover the whole of Oxfordshire
- Be strategic in scale
- Compliment existing and planned district authority work
- Provide both a technical evidence base and a concise strategy

Further work may be undertaken at a neighbourhood scale of focus at a district level. Some district authorities already have Green Infrastructure strategies in place.

What Will it Cover?

Landscape

Historic Environment

Woodlands and Trees

Rights of way

Biodiversity

Water and flooding

Recreational assets

How do I get involved?

Workshops will be held in late 2012 and spring 2013, aimed at Green Infrastructure specialists and delivery bodies.

Contact

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