

Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Place, Environment and Climate Action

***Thursday, 26 February 2026 at 2.00 pm
Room 3 - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND***

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this [Live Stream Link](#).
However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

Items for Decision

The items for decision under individual Cabinet Members' delegated powers are listed overleaf, with indicative timings, and the related reports are attached. Decisions taken will become effective at the end of the working day on 3 March 2026 unless called in by that date for review by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

Copies of the reports are circulated (by e-mail) to all members of the County Council.

These proceedings are open to the public



Martin Reeves
Chief Executive

February 2026

Committee Officer: ***Email:***
committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Note: *Date of next meeting: 26 March 2026*

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Items for Decision

1. Declarations of Interest

See guidance below.

2. Questions from County Councillors

Any county councillor may, by giving notice to the Proper Officer by 9 am three working days before the meeting, ask a question on an item on the agenda.

The number of questions which may be asked by any councillor at any one meeting is limited to two (or one question with notice and a supplementary question at the meeting) and the time for questions will be limited to 30 minutes in total. As with questions at Council, any questions which remain unanswered at the end of this item will receive a written response.

Questions submitted prior to the agenda being despatched are shown below and will be the subject of a response from the appropriate Cabinet Member or such other councillor or officer as is determined by the Cabinet Member, and shall not be the subject of further debate at this meeting. Questions received after the despatch of the agenda, but before the deadline, will be shown on the Schedule of Addenda circulated at the meeting, together with any written response which is available at that time.

3. Petitions and Public Address

Members of the public who wish to speak on an item on the agenda at this meeting, or present a petition, can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection.

Requests to present a petition must be submitted no later than 9am ten working days before the meeting.

Requests to speak must be submitted no later than 9am three working days before the meeting.

Requests should be submitted to committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the technology fails, then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9am on the day of the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 7 - 8)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January to be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

5. Biodiversity Action At Oxfordshire County Council (Jan 2023-Dec 2025) (Pages 9 - 48)

Cabinet Member: Place, Environment and Climate Action

Forward Plan Ref: 2026/002

Contact: Beccy Micklem, Team Leader – Landscape and Nature Recovery
(Beccy.Micklem@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Report by Director of Environment and Highways (**CMDPECA5**).

This report has been prepared to report how we are fulfilling our ‘strengthened’ biodiversity duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended). The report summarises a range of actions we have implemented to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to:

- a) **Approve the ‘Biodiversity Action at Oxfordshire County Council Jan 2023-Dec 2025’ report for publication.**

6. Approve and Authorise the Award of the HIF1 Clifton Hampden Bypass Construction Contract (Pages 49 - 54)

Cabinet Member: Place, Environment and Climate Action

Forward Plan Ref: 2025/267

Contact: Tim Mann, Senior Project Manager (Timothy.Mann@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Report by Director of Environment and Highways (**CMPECA6**).

This is a key decision to approve and authorise the award of the HIF1 Clifton Hampden Bypass construction contract.

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to:

- a) **Delegate authority to the Director of Environment and Highways to award the Stage Two NEC4 Engineering and Construction Contract for the HIF1 Clifton Hampden Bypass scheme to John Graham Construction Limited under the Crown Commercial Service Construction Works and Associated Services Framework RM6088, Lot 4.1 (England and Wales) subject to:**
 - (i) **agreement of the target cost (within the released budget),**
 - (ii) **agreement of the programme for the works and**
 - (iii) **finalising the contract terms.**

Councillors declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed 'Declarations of Interest' or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (i.e. payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member 'must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself' and that 'you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned'.

Members Code – Other registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your other registerable interests then you must declare an interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person's quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

Other registrable interests include:

- a) Any unpaid directorships

- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority.
- c) Any body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

Members Code – Non-registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under other registrable interests, then you must declare the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

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DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR PLACE, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday, 22 January 2026 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 2.05 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Judy Roberts – in the Chair

Officers: Jack Ahier (Senior Democratic Services Officer),
Mohamed Gulamhussein (Project Manager).

The Cabinet Member considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.

13/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda No. 1/26)

There were none.

14/26 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Agenda No. 2/26)

There were none.

15/26 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda No. 3/26)

There were none.

16/26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(Agenda No. 4/26)

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

17/26 NORTH WEST BICESTER STRATEGIC LINK ROAD AWARD OF DETAILED DESIGN CONTRACT

(Agenda No. 5/26)

The Chair introduced the item and invited officers to address the report.

Officers confirmed that the contract amount was £1.9m for the professional services related to the detailed design of the scheme. It was confirmed that the County Council were delivering sections of the scheme from the Railway Bridge to Middleton Stoney junction, with the developer delivering the other sections from the Railway Bridge to Lords Lane.

The Chair noted that Bicester had grown rapidly in recent years, so a strong highways network was necessary to alleviate traffic concerns, noting the closure of London Road due to East-West Rail plans, which would further impact these areas in Bicester.

The Chair thanked officers and agreed to the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED to:

- a) Authorise the procurement of a contract for the detailed design of the North West Bicester Strategic Link Road using the Scape National Consultancy Framework with Perfect Circle JV Ltd; and**
- b) Delegate authority to the Director of Environment & Highways, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Head of Legal and Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer) to award the Professional Services Contract.**

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR PLACE, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

26 FEBRUARY 2026

Biodiversity Action at Oxfordshire County Council (January 2023 - December 2025)

Report by Director Environment and Highways

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to:

- a) Approve the 'Biodiversity Action at Oxfordshire County Council Jan 2023-Dec 2025' report for publication.

Executive Summary

1. The 'Biodiversity Action at Oxfordshire County Council Jan 2023-Dec 2025' report ('The Biodiversity Report') has been produced in line with requirements of Section 40 and Section 40A of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, as amended by the Environment Act 2021.
2. If approved, the Biodiversity Report will be published on the Council's website within 12 weeks of 31st December 2025, and the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan 25/26 will be reviewed and updated for 26/27 to ensure alignment with the 'future actions' identified in the Biodiversity Report.

Summary of the Biodiversity Report

3. The Biodiversity Report documents the policies and actions the Council has carried out to comply with its [biodiversity duty](#),
4. The biodiversity duty provides that the Council must:
 - Consider what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity
 - Agree policies and specific objectives based on that consideration
 - Act to deliver its policies and achieve its objectives
5. The legislation sets out that the first reporting period for this report should begin from the date the authority becomes subject to the duty (1st January 2023) and end no later than 1st January 2026. The Biodiversity Report therefore reports for the period from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2025.
6. Approval of the Biodiversity Report is therefore sought to allow it to be published on the Council's website by 25th March 2026.

7. The Biodiversity Report has been produced in line with requirements of Section 40 and Section 40A of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, as amended by the Environment Act 2021, and following [guidelines](#) published by Defra.
8. The report communicates what the Council is doing to improve the environment and will support sharing of best practice amongst Local Authorities.
9. The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) intends to include references to Local Authority biodiversity reports in future reviews of the [Environmental Improvement Plan](#).
10. As required by law, the Biodiversity Report includes:
 - a summary of the action the Council has taken to comply with the biodiversity duty ('Actions we've taken'). This includes actions we have taken alone, as well as in partnership with others;
 - how the Council plans to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period ('Future actions');
- the actions the Council as local planning authority has carried out to meet biodiversity net gain obligations;
- details of biodiversity net gains resulting from, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans the Council as local planning authority has approved; and
- how the Council, as local planning authority, plans to meet biodiversity net gain obligations in the next reporting period.
11. Additionally, The Biodiversity Report includes a summary of the Council's top achievements for biodiversity during the reporting period, as well as 'spotlight features' covering:
 - The Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy,
 - Biodiversity in procurement,
 - Road Verge Nature Reserves,
 - Partnership working,
 - The Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project,
 - Community Action Groups Oxfordshire, and
 - The Lower Windrush Valley Project.

These spotlight features provide greater depth on certain key work areas to promote sharing of best practice.

12. The Biodiversity Report relates directly to the recently approved Oxfordshire County Council Biodiversity Action Framework 2025-2030 and is structured to reflect the 5 Council objectives set out in the Framework:

- Nature Positive Council
 - A Natural Capital Approach,
 - Oxfordshire-wide Nature Recovery,
 - Biodiversity Awareness, and
 - Access to Nature for All.
13. Throughout the report it highlights how the Council's reported and future actions for biodiversity are aligned with the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Background to the Biodiversity Report

14. The Environment Act 2021 introduced a strengthened the biodiversity duty for public authorities by amending Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2026. This strengthened duty requires all Local Authorities in England to:
- a) Consider what they can do to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity
 - b) Agree policies and specific objectives based on the consideration
 - c) Act to deliver the policies and achieve the objectives.
 - d) Publish a Biodiversity Report.
15. Steps a) – c) have been completed through production of an Initial Considerations Report (Jan 2023), and the Biodiversity Action Framework and Action Plan, which were approved by Cabinet in October 2025.
16. The structure of the Biodiversity Report reflects the objectives agreed in the Council's Biodiversity Action Framework, to help demonstrate how the actions deliver against these objectives.
17. Actions for inclusion in the Biodiversity Report were gathered from relevant service areas within the Council and align with other Council reporting on similar data where relevant. Future actions have been informed by a process of internal consultation, this began in 2023 with production of the Initial Considerations Report and continued through internal consultation on the Biodiversity Action Framework and Action Plan. The future actions identified align with those in the approved Biodiversity Action Plan and/or other service area work plans. The Biodiversity Action Plan 25/26 will be reviewed and updated for 26/27 to align with the future actions in the Biodiversity Report.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

18. The [Council's vision](#) is to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier county. This is centred around strong and connected communities, healthy places to live, and a thriving local economy that benefits everyone.
19. The Biodiversity Report directly relates to the objective for a greener Oxfordshire, demonstrating how the Council is fulfilling its objective in the

Corporate Plan to speed up efforts to protect nature and wildlife in Oxfordshire, and working with partners to deliver the county's Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

20. The Biodiversity Report also reports on actions that align with the Councils objectives for a healthier and fairer Oxfordshire, particularly by identifying how the Council is working with local organisations to tackle inequalities in access to nature, as well as helping Oxfordshire communities to benefit from the mental and physical health benefits of nature.

Financial Implications

21. There are no new financial implications arising from approval of the Biodiversity Report; most of the future actions listed are to be delivered through existing Council staff and budgets.
22. Extra burdens funding is received from Defra on an annual basis in relation to ecological support for the LPA planning function for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG); in 25/26 £27,142 was allocated to Oxfordshire County Council for this purpose, it has been confirmed that the BNG grant for local authorities for financial years 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29 has been consolidated into the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and will be distributed to local authorities according to the new Fair Funding Assessment. Any reduction in the level of funding for BNG would be managed within the Countryside and Waste Service.
23. Co-ordination of delivery of the LNRS is supported by a grant of £135,000 from Defra, which will support this work until November 2026. It is anticipated that further grant funding will be received from Defra, if this were not forthcoming then the Council's capacity to co-ordinate delivery of the LNRS would be much reduced. Defra have indicated that funding to move to delivery post LNRS publication has been announced as part of integrated settlements. For organisations such as Oxfordshire County Council, not receiving an integrated settlement, any funding will continue to be provided through Section 31 grants; funding has not yet been confirmed. LNRS funding remains separate from BNG funding. Funding for LNRS delivery will not be included in the Local Government Finance Settlement.
24. The Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre, Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership, Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project, Community Action Groups Oxfordshire, and Lower Windrush Valley Project are currently supported by funding from the Council and the future actions have been written with the assumption that this level of funding continues. The exception to this is the Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project, where an increase in budget has already been sought through the budget setting process for 26/27; the wording of the action reflects that the 26/27 budget has not yet been agreed.

25. Alongside an annual grant from Oxfordshire County Council, the Lower Windrush Valley Project is supported by Section 106 funding; unless further Section 106 funding is forthcoming to support the project, this source of funding will run out in the next 2-3 years. Unless another source of funding is secured the Project's scope would be much reduced.
26. Some of the actions, including towards supporting strategic projects to deliver the LNRS, and Oxon Green Futures will seek to attract private investment to support nature recovery in the County. If habitat banks on Council land are established, it is intended that these would generate income.

Comments checked by:

Matthew Kocak, Finance Business Partnering Manager,
Matthew.Kocak@Oxfordshire.gov.uk (Finance)

Legal Implications

27. Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 ("NERC 2006") places a duty on the Council to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
28. Section 40A NERC 2006 requires the Council to publish a biodiversity report containing:
29. (a) a summary of the action the Council has taken over the period of the report, consistent with the proper exercise of its functions to further the general biodiversity objective for the purpose of complying with its duties under section 40(1) and (1A) of the NERC 2006

The summary needs to include reference to the policies and specific objectives that the action was taken pursuant to;

(b) a summary of the Council's plans for complying with those duties over the period of five years following the end of the period covered by the report,

(c) any quantitative data required to be included in the report by regulations under subsection (8)(b) of the NERC 2006, and

(d) any other information that the Council considers it appropriate to include in the report.

30. As the Council is a local planning authority, its biodiversity report must also contain—
- (a) a summary of the action taken in carrying out its functions under Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (biodiversity gain as a condition of planning permission) over the period covered by the report,
 - (b) information about any biodiversity gains resulting or expected to result from biodiversity gain plans approved by it during that period, and
 - (c) a summary of its plans for carrying out those functions over the five year period following the end of the period covered by the report.
31. The biodiversity report must specify the period covered by the report. The first report must cover a period of no longer than three years and must be published within 12 weeks following the last day of that period.
32. Subsequent biodiversity reports must begin the day after the previous one ends and cover a period of no longer than five years.
33. The biodiversity reports must be produced to comply with the requirements of section 40 and 40A of the NERC 2006, and in accordance with [government guidance](#) and regulations.

Comments checked by:

Karen Jordan, Senior Solicitor and Team Leader (Environment Team)
karen.jordan@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Staff Implications

34. There are no new or additional staff implications of approving the Biodiversity Report. The future actions listed are to be delivered through existing Council staff or through working with partner organisations.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

35. The Report has been screened for relevance against the Council's statutory duties to promote equality and an impact assessment (EIA) has been completed. The EIA has concluded that the actions taken and those planned for the future do not bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community. However, the need to ensure that actions relating to training and communications are accessible to all, in line with existing Council standards is identified.

36. Positive impacts are identified in relation to addressing inequalities in access to nature, particularly in relation to areas of deprivation. In relation to wider impacts: policies are introduced which apply across Council services; positive impacts are identified in relation to staff, through actions to improve skills, tools and culture in relating to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

Sustainability Implications

37. A Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) has been completed which demonstrates that the Biodiversity Report contributes positively towards the Councils climate and ecology commitments across wide range of the areas assessed.

Risk Management

38. Risks involved in the Biodiversity Report are limited as a large proportion of the report focuses on actions already taken. Therefore, risk only lies with commitment to the future actions and risks associated with not fulfilling the legislative requirements for biodiversity reporting.
39. Future actions: there is a risk that some of the future actions will prove not to be deliverable. This has been mitigated as much as possible through consultation across affected services areas in development of the actions. There is a remaining risk linked to those actions that are supported by grant funding from Defra and Section 106 funds, where security of this funding is not certain for the full 5 year period until the next Biodiversity Report is due. However, for most of these actions it is envisaged that the actions could still be taken forward, but with a much more limited scope.
40. Fulfilling legislative requirements: the risk of not fulfilling legislative requirements has been mitigated through following government published guidance on biodiversity reporting. To ensure that the Council is compliant with the legislation, the Biodiversity Report will need to be published by 25th March 2026; the recommendation in this report will enable the Council to comply with the legislative timetable.

Consultations

41. The content of the Biodiversity Report has been informed by an iterative internal consultation process starting in 2023 with an initial consideration of what the Council can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. This included consideration of what the Council was currently doing, as well as potential future actions. Information was gathered from across Council services through an online 'Lunch and Learn' and an internal survey on Let's Talk; this was collated in the Initial Considerations Report 2023 (provided as a Background Paper to this report). The report was presented to and discussed at Directorate

Leadership Team meetings in early 2024 as a first step in informing development of the Biodiversity Action Framework and Action Plan.

42. Throughout 2024 and 2025 ongoing dialogue with relevant teams and data gathering refined the potential actions identified in the Initial Considerations report to inform development of the Biodiversity Action Framework and Action Plan. Drafts of the documents were consulted on internally through a Let's Talk survey and direct discussions with relevant teams between April and July 2025.
43. The Biodiversity Action Framework 2025-2030 and Action Plan 25/26 were approved by Cabinet in October 2025. The Biodiversity Report has drawn on the data gathered throughout this process, including the Initial Considerations Report 2023, as well as collecting feedback from lead officers for actions included in the Biodiversity Action Plans for 24/25 and 25/26 on progress made, as well as to inform the future actions included in the Biodiversity Report.

Paul Fermer
Director of Environment and Highways

Annex: Annex 1: Biodiversity Action at Oxfordshire County Council
Jan 2023-Dec2025

Background papers: Biodiversity Action Framework 2025-2030
Biodiversity Action Plan 25/26
Biodiversity Duty Initial Considerations Report

Other Documents: [Guidance on complying with the biodiversity duty](#)
[Guidance on reporting biodiversity duty actions](#)
[Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#)
[Oxfordshire County Council Corporate Plan](#)
[Environmental Improvement Plan 2025](#)
[Section 40/40A Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 \(as amended\)](#)

Contact Officer: Beccy Micklem, Landscape and Nature Recovery Team
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February 2026



Biodiversity Action at Oxfordshire County Council

Report Jan 2023-Dec 2025



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About Oxfordshire County Council

We're the local authority for Oxfordshire, committed to delivering top quality services and value for money on behalf of the county's 600,000+ residents. We are responsible for providing a wide range of services, including education (schools, libraries and youth services), adult and children's services, highway maintenance, waste disposal, emergency planning, consumer protection and planning for matters to do with minerals, waste, highways and education.

Our vision, as set out in our Strategic Plan 2025-2030 is to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier county. This is centred around strong and connected communities, healthy places to live, and a thriving local economy that benefits everyone.

How we can affect biodiversity

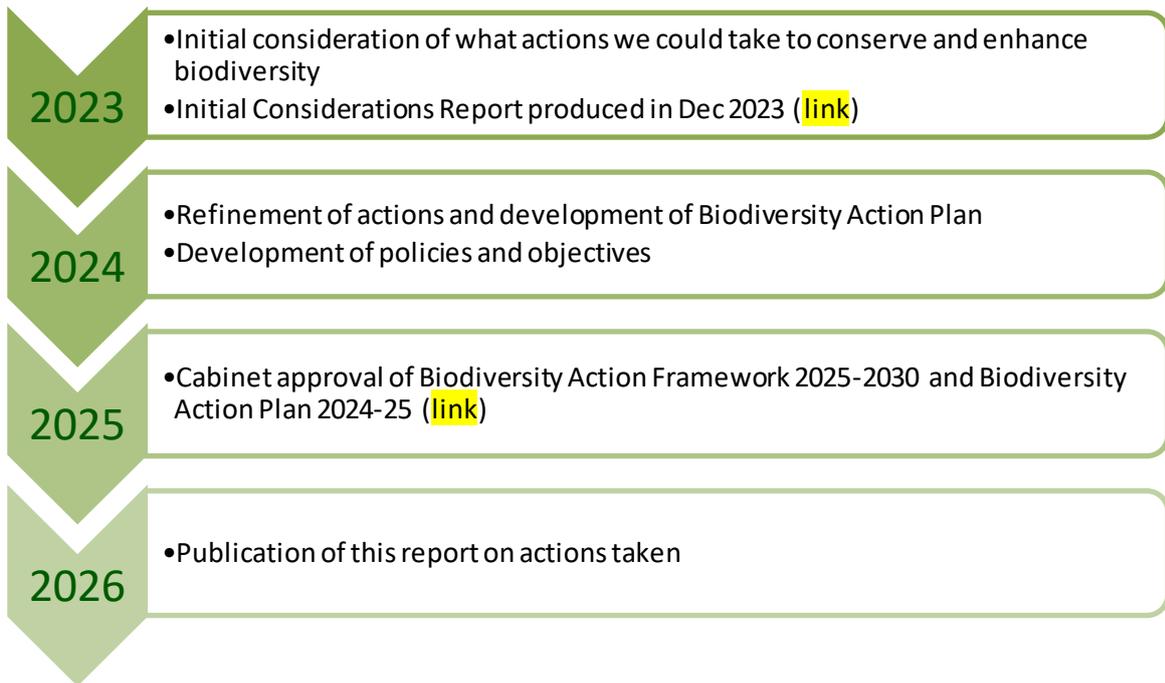
The Council is responsible for a wide range of services, and in providing these has the potential to affect biodiversity both positively and negatively. Through our Biodiversity Action Framework (see page 6) we have committed to be 'Nature Positive' meaning that we will work to reduce our negative impacts on nature and deliver enhancements to contribute towards reversing local, national, and global biodiversity declines.

Effects on biodiversity, both positive and negative, can arise through a range of Council activities including how we manage our land, through our planning applications and decisions, through advice we give, through raising awareness and through impacts of our operations on the environment. Much of what we can achieve towards taking strategic positive action to help nature recover is through the strength of working with our partners across the County towards the priorities identified in our Local Nature Recovery Strategy (see page 8).

Meeting our Biodiversity Duty

This report has been prepared to report on how we are fulfilling our 'strengthened' biodiversity duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended).

With respect to this duty, which was strengthened under the Environment Act 2021 we have undertaken the following steps:



This report includes:

- a summary of the action OCC have taken to comply with the biodiversity duty;
- how OCC plan to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period;
- the actions OCC have carried out to meet biodiversity net gain obligations;
- details of biodiversity net gains resulting from biodiversity gain plans OCC have approved; and
- how OCC plan to meet biodiversity net gain obligations in the next reporting period.

Our Top Achievements for Biodiversity

Council Climate Action Scorecards

In 2025 we were assessed as the leading county council in England for climate action and their individual biodiversity score: [County Councils' Climate Action Scorecards | Climate Emergency UK](#).

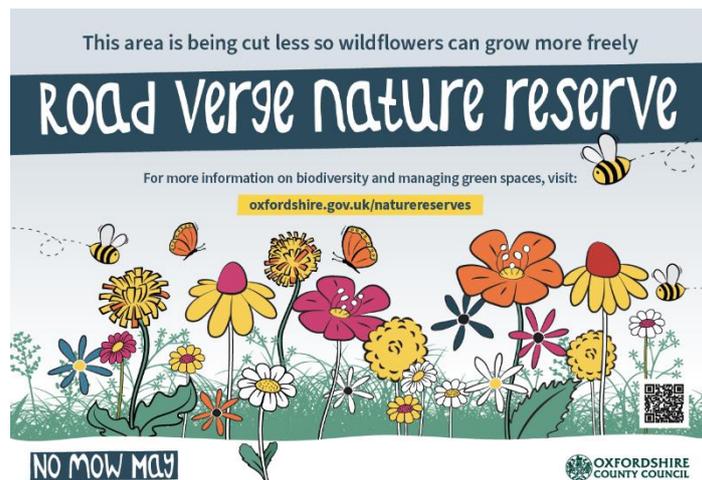


We published the first Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire. The strategy can be found here: [Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\) | Oxfordshire County Council](#).



We have recruited **66 biodiversity volunteers** since the launch of the biodiversity volunteer programme in 2024, providing over 350 hours of volunteer time. Further information about this role and how to apply can be found at: [Biodiversity Volunteer](#).

We have designated **25 new Road Verge Nature Reserves (RVNRs)** since 2023 and launched a new online form for proposal of new RVNR sites and other actions to improve the biodiversity value of verges in Oxfordshire.



More information can be found here: [Taking action for the environment | Oxfordshire County Council](#).



Biodiversity Net Gain

Since 2023, through voluntary Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on our own planning applications, we delivered an average of:

17.84% BNG (biodiversity net gain) for area habitat units

135.07% BNG for hedgerow units

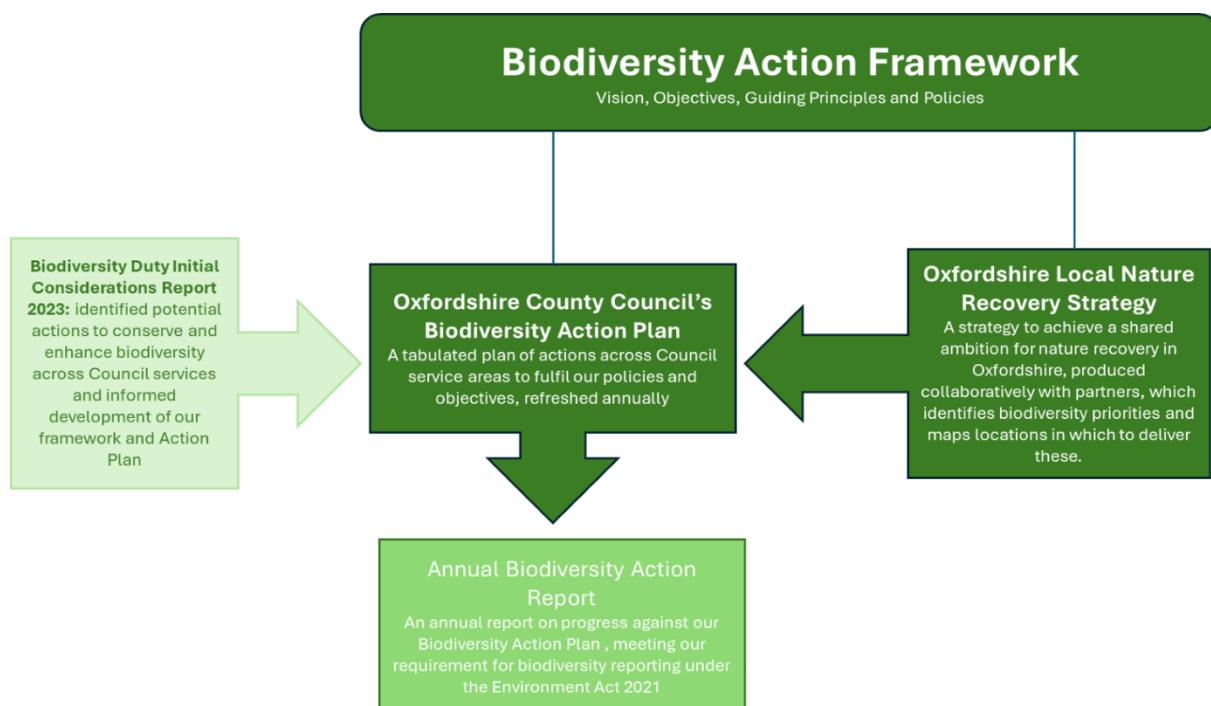
90.03% BNG for watercourse units

Biodiversity Action Framework 2025-2030: our policies and objectives

Our Biodiversity Action Framework 2025-2030 ([link](#)) was approved by our Cabinet in November 2025. It sets out our guiding principles, policies and objectives for tackling the ecological emergency and fulfilling our statutory obligations to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity through two connected roles:

- Transforming our own organisation through our Biodiversity Action Plan which focusses on our own organisation, building on existing good practice and identifying additional specific actions we can take across our services to further conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. The Biodiversity Action Plan will be reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis and we will report on actions taken to meet the reporting requirement of our Biodiversity Duty under the NERC Act 2006.
- Leading a collaborative approach with partners across Oxfordshire to enable nature's recovery through our role as Responsible Authority for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and through wider partnership working.

The Biodiversity Action Framework and Action Plan help identify how we can help deliver against the priorities set out in the Oxfordshire LNRS. As the two were developed alongside one another, the annual refresh of our Biodiversity Action Plan will allow us to review how we can further align our actions to deliver against the LNRS priorities.



The Biodiversity Action Framework sets out our vision and objectives, which are supported by 31 policies.

Biodiversity Action Framework Vision

By 2030, actions are in place which are minimising the Council's negative impacts on nature and contributing to reversing declines in biodiversity. We are a lead voice in encouraging others to do the same across Oxfordshire. Thriving plants and wildlife are recognised across the Council and our communities as critical and key to our ability to adapt to climate change and support health and wellbeing.

By 2050, action within the Council and by partners has reversed declines in biodiversity in Oxfordshire, with at least double the current area of wildlife-rich habitats and increases in indicator species populations. The Council, our partners and communities, are contributing positively to national and global nature recovery.

Objective 1: Nature positive council

We will reduce our negative impacts on nature and deliver enhancements to contribute towards reversing local, national, and global biodiversity declines.

Objective 2: A Natural Capital Approach

We will understand the natural capital value of the Council's natural assets and the ecosystem services provided by nature and take this into account in decision making.

Objective 3: Oxfordshire-wide nature recovery

We will collaborate with private, public and voluntary sectors to enable nature recovery across Oxfordshire, contributing towards an increase in the area of land managed for nature in the County and reversing species declines.

Objective 4: Biodiversity Awareness

We will work with partners to improve awareness amongst our communities of why we need to conserve and enhance biodiversity and what action they can take.

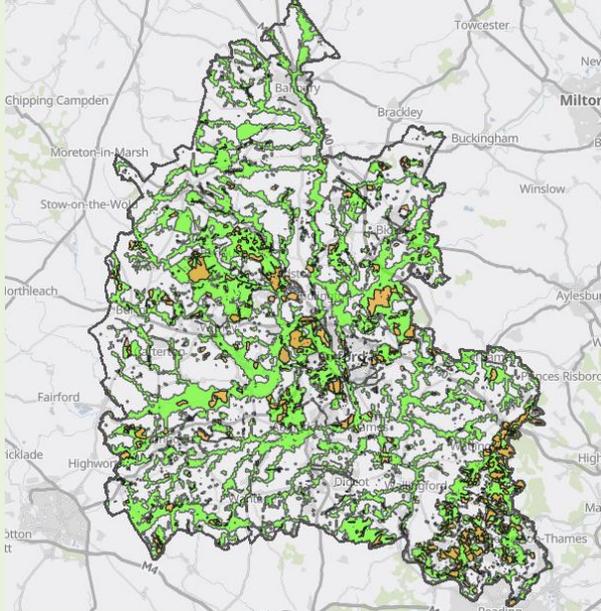
Objective 5: Access to Nature for All

We will work with partners to improve access to nature across the County, tackling inequalities in access, to improve health and wellbeing.

Throughout this document we have aligned our reporting against these five overarching objectives.

Spotlight on: Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

In November 2025 we published the [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#), an ambitious, evidence-led roadmap influenced by local people and organisations.



For 2 years, we worked with organisations spanning nature conservation, farming, local business, local authorities, and community groups to develop the strategy, which is designed to result in a well-connected, biodiversity-rich, network of nature that is resilient into the future, restored for the health and wellbeing of future generations, and for nature’s own sake.

The partnership met people, listened to local priorities and crafted a set of targeted actions for priority habitats and species in the County.

The LNRS includes an innovative, interactive map that guides nature recovery efforts to areas that could become particularly important for biodiversity, offering every corner of Oxfordshire the chance to play its part in this collective endeavour.

The LNRS was launched at the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Forum at the Oxford Museum of Natural History, where over 100 attendees heard from key speakers and engaged in workshops to inform how we identify strategic projects that will support LNRS delivery.

As we transition to delivery of the LNRS we will work with and through the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership to convene partners, embed the LNRS into decision making, identify and support strategic projects, and monitor and report on progress.



Nature Positive Council

Objective: We will reduce our negative impacts on nature and deliver enhancements to contribute towards reversing local, national, and global biodiversity declines.

We have included 13 policies against this objective in our Biodiversity Action Framework

Actions we've taken

Internal Policies and Processes

✓ Ethical Procurement

- In September 2024 the Council adopted a new Ethical Procurement Policy which includes conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a key consideration for the Council's supply chain.
- This was followed by Ethical Procurement Policy Service Area Guidance (August 2025) which integrated consideration of our Biodiversity Action Framework commitments including:
 - The need for pre-market engagement
 - BNG and Biodiversity Mitigation Hierarchy compliance
 - Assessment of supplier capabilities
 - Inclusion of monitoring and reporting on biodiversity outcomes

✓ Up-to-date biodiversity data

We have updated our GIS database with new data from the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) relating to:

- Local Wildlife Sites
- Protected and Notable Species
- Priority Habitat
- Invasive non-native species

From April 2023 – April 25 474, 678 new records were added to the TVERC database within Oxfordshire (TVERC Annual Report 23/24 Oxfordshire County Council and TVERC Annual Report 24/25 Oxfordshire County Council), including data relating to great crested newts, harvest mice, swifts, water voles, birds, bats, badgers, habitats and flora.

✓ In-house ecological staff and volunteer capacity

We have increased our ecological staff capacity from 0.7 FTE to 5.7 FTE during the reporting period.

Approximately 390 volunteer hours have supported ecological survey work across Oxfordshire, as well as habitat management work within the Lower Windrush Valley.

✓ Carbon and Circular Economy

As recognised in our Biodiversity Action Framework, action by the Council towards becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030 and to embed a circular economy approach will be beneficial to biodiversity by reducing the pressures on the biodiversity resulting from climate change and over consumption.

Actions relating to climate are reported separately through the Council's Climate Action programme; OCC's corporate operational emissions, including property emissions have reduced by 71% against our baseline in 2010/11. Further information is available [here](#). In 2025 Oxfordshire County Council was assessed as the leading county council in England for climate action: [County Councils' Climate Action Scorecards | Climate Emergency UK](#).

In 2025 we adopted a Circular Economy Plan to design out waste and pollution, keep materials and products in use for longer, and regenerate natural cycles and systems.

✓ **Key Performance Indicators for biodiversity**

We have introduced new key performance indicators relating to biodiversity;

-Publication of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy- Publication of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in Autumn 2025

-Management of Local Wildlife Sites- Percentage of local wildlife sites being actively managed

Spotlight on: Biodiversity in Procurement, Highways Contracting

Our Social Value Policy enables us to look beyond the financial cost of a contract or purchase, we can also consider how it might also improve the county's economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

Through appointment of our Highways Maintenance Contractors, M Group, in 2024 we secured a range of Social Value Commitments including £100,000 towards environmental & biodiversity conservation initiatives through M Groups 'Green and Blue Spaces' Initiative.

M Group have set up a Biodiversity Working Group with OCC officers to help support both consideration of biodiversity in implementation of highways maintenance work, and also to guide how to best deliver against their Social Value Commitment to biodiversity, so that it aligns with the priorities in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and with our commitments in our Biodiversity Action Framework.

Managing Land to Improve Biodiversity

Currently 79.2ha of our landholding is under conservation management. We have reviewed the management of designated wildlife sites we own or manage through baseline habitat surveys and a review of management plans to identify priority areas of improvement. It has been confirmed that Stratfield Brake DWS and Milhamford Field and Quad LWS are in positive conservation management.

Spotlight on: Road Verge Nature Reserves



Road verges rich in biodiversity provide connectivity between wildlife areas, helping maintain and restore a green network through which wildlife can move and survive.

In recognition of the importance of road verges for wildlife, since 1991 the Council has designated verges particularly rich in biodiversity, including scarce and threatened plants and habitats, as Road Verge Nature Reserves (RVNRs).

An additional 25 Road Verge Nature Reserves (RVNRs) have been designated during the reporting period. This brings total RVNRs in Oxfordshire to 57 sites, holding populations of locally or nationally rare plant species, such as Autumn Crocus and Meadow Clary. The verges are protecting valuable remnants of chalk and limestone grassland in the Cotswolds and Chilterns National Landscapes.

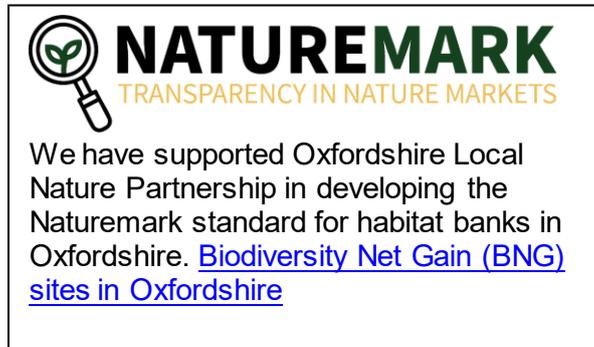
Each RVNR is identified with signage and has a proposed tailored management regime. RVNRs are monitored regularly through a survey visit every 5 years. 16 RVNRs are now in active conservation management, and we have committed to bring an additional 6 RVNRs into active management per year.



Creation and enhancement of Road Verge Nature Reserves have been included as a priority within the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Planning, including Biodiversity Net Gain Information

- ✓ **Developing a habitat bank on Council land:** In 2025, 6 Council owned sites were surveyed by TVERC to produce baseline biodiversity data in relation to developing a Habitat Banking Vehicle for delivery of BNG on Council owned land.



- ✓ **Report on Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Biodiversity Gain Evidence**
We commissioned the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre to provide evidence of biodiversity changes delivered at historic mineral sites across Oxfordshire, using the statutory biodiversity metric. The goal was to determine the potential scale of BNG delivery at similar sites in the future and inform future planning policy. Nine historic mineral extraction and restoration sites in Oxfordshire were assessed for BNG delivery.

Biodiversity Net Gain Data

Minerals and Waste Planning Applications

Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for determining Minerals and Waste planning applications in Oxfordshire. During the reporting period the approved applications with the references MW.0049/23 (Dewars Farm Quarry), MW.0106/22 (Oxford Science Park), MW.0070/23 (Great Tew Quarry) and MW.0057/21(Castle Barn Quarry) had BNG related conditions fully discharged. **These applications were not subject to the mandatory BNG condition as they were submitted before February 12th 2024.** The combined figures from these applications are:

% permissions delivering 10% BNG	25%
% BNG onsite (as a percentage of the total number of all units of each unit type delivered)	Area habitats: 100% (53.40 units) Hedgerow units: 100% (11.20 units) Watercourse units: 100% (11.98 units)
% BNG offsite in Oxfordshire (as a percentage of the total number of all units of each unit type delivered)	0%
% BNG offsite outside Oxfordshire (as a percentage of the total number of all units of each unit type delivered)	0%
% BNG from statutory credits	0%
Average % BNG delivered	Area habitats: 19.43% Hedgerow units: 338.72% Watercourse units: 90.93%
Total BNG units delivered	Area habitats: 53.40 Hedgerow units: 11.20 Watercourse units: 11.98
Total areas/lengths of habitats created in Oxfordshire	Area habitats: 72.33ha Hedgerows: 1.75km Watercourses: 1.94km
Total areas/lengths of habitats enhanced in Oxfordshire	Area habitats: 0.74ha
Area of irreplaceable habitat lost	None

Biodiversity Net Gain Data (cont'd)

Our own planning applications Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for determining applications under Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act for which Oxfordshire County Council is the applicant. For applications that fall under Regulation 3, objective 3 of the OxCam Arc Principles ([CA NOV1522R08 Appendix 1 Arc Environment Principles.pdf \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)) sets out an aim to achieve and where possible exceed government and local biodiversity net gain targets with an ambition of achieving 20% net gain. This objective has been adopted into the County Council's Oxfordshire Environmental Principles ([mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s62859/CA NOV1522R08 Appendix 1 Arc Environment Principles.pdf](#)) and Climate and Natural Environment Policy Statement ([aebhdfh \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)) in 2022 as target for this type of application where Oxfordshire County Council is the applicant. In 2025 we developed more detailed policy around aiming to deliver 20% in our Biodiversity Action Framework.

During the reporting period the approved applications with the references R3.0135/24 (A40/B4022 Shores Green Junction), R3.0013/25 (Lodge Hill Interchange) and Tramway Road (R3.0062/25) had BNG related conditions fully discharged. **These applications were not subject to the mandatory BNG condition as they were submitted before February 12th 2024.** The combined figures from these applications are:

% Reg 3 planning applications delivering 20% BNG	66%
% BNG onsite (as a percentage of the total number of all units of each unit type delivered)	Area habitats: -150.81% (-25.23 units) Hedgerow units: 92.14% (17.11 units) Watercourse units: 134.11% (3.46 units)
% BNG offsite in Oxfordshire (as a percentage of the total number of all units of each unit type delivered)	Area habitats: 161.51% (27.02 units) Hedgerow units: 7.86% (1.46 units) Watercourse units: -34.11% (-0.88 units)
% BNG offsite outside Oxfordshire (as a percentage of the total number of all units of each unit type delivered)	Area habitats: 89.30% (14.94 units)
% BNG from statutory credits	0%
Average % BNG delivered	Area habitat units: 17.84% Hedgerow units: 135.07% Watercourse units: 90.03%
Total BNG units delivered	Area habitat units: 16.73 Hedgerow units: 18.57 Watercourse units: 2.58
Total areas/lengths of habitats created in Oxfordshire	Area habitats: 20.81ha Hedgerows: 3.63km Watercourses: 0.91km
Total areas/lengths of habitats enhanced in Oxfordshire	Area habitats: 9.04ha Hedgerows: 1.32km
Area of irreplaceable habitat lost	None

Future Actions

- We will continue to collaborate with Oxford University around emerging techniques we could use to develop a biodiversity footprint for the Council, helping us to understand where we have the greatest impacts on global biodiversity to help us focus future actions.
- We will look to include biodiversity aspects within the development of standard clauses in contracts below threshold spend
- We will keep our environmental data up-to-date, including ensuring the newly published LNRS Local Habitat Map is integrated appropriately.
- We will continue to integrate our Biodiversity Action Framework objectives into a new Impact Assessment Tool based around Doughnut Economics Principles and use the Local Nature Recovery Strategy to inform this. We will support teams in implementing the biodiversity-related requirements of this tool.
- We will refresh our Carbon Action Framework, integrating the role of nature recovery in climate mitigation and adaptation through nature-based solutions.
- We will continue to implement our Carbon Management Plan, including retrofitting of Council buildings to reduce carbon emissions, working with communities to dim, or switch off street lighting, phase out Council petrol and diesel fleet vehicles, roll-out carbon literacy training to staff and undertake climate impact assessments to inform decision making. In line with our Residual Carbon and Offsetting Policy, we will work with partners to develop an Oxfordshire-wide carbon offsetting credit scheme with local nature-based projects aligned to our LNRS.
- We will use the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Biodiversity Gain Evidence Report (February 2025) to inform development of future mineral and waste policy. In the meantime we will share lessons learned from the report.
- We will develop and implement an internal communication and engagement plan including development of biodiversity champions, tailored biodiversity and landscape training for officers and Councillors, and work to embed LNRS delivery across Council Service areas.
- We will review the need for further biodiversity related Key Performance Indicators across Council teams.
- We will continue to progress the development of a biodiversity net gain habitat bank using Oxfordshire County Council estates, using the LNRS to help ensure the habitat banks deliver against local nature recovery priorities.
- We will continue to monitor our Road Verge Nature Reserves and increase the number of sites in active management by 6 annually.
- We will continue to monitor the management status of all designated wildlife sites under the responsibility of OCC and explore opportunities for sites not yet in positive conservation management.
- We will continue to reduce use of peat, herbicides and pesticides and will provide guidance to operational teams with regards this.

- We will identify opportunities to deliver against LNRS priorities through service delivery
- We will continue to collect and report on data relating to BNG secured through the planning process for the next reporting period.
- We will explore and where possible implement a mechanism for tracking the delivery of BNG regarding developments undertaken on OCC landholdings, projects undertaken by OCC not subject to planning control, or implemented under OCC's permitted development rights.

A Natural Capital Approach

We will understand the natural capital value of the Council's natural assets and the ecosystem services provided by nature and take this into account in decision making.

We have included 6 policies against this objective in our Biodiversity Action Framework

Actions we've taken

- ✓ Kept schools up to date with opportunities and provided bespoke ecological advice. We have contacted schools via the schools newsletter to highlight the support they have available from OCC's Landscape and Nature Recovery Team as well as national initiatives such as the Education Nature Park ([Home | Education Nature Park](#)). During the reporting period we have provided bespoke site specific ecological advice to school sites regarding legally protected species and opportunities to enhance the biodiversity of their site in order to connect pupils and nature.
- ✓ We have set up internal systems and a network of staff involved in planning delivery of Green Infrastructure.
- ✓ We have helped shape a new research project with the Leverhulme Centre of Nature Recovery to investigate whether local and national government policies are working together effectively to support greenspace and access to it in ways that improve health, social equity and climate resilience.
- ✓ **Natural Flood Management** has been integrated into our responses to local flooding, with 32 natural flood management schemes recommended in Section 19 reports by the flood risk management team. During the reporting period two natural flood management schemes have been implemented and an additional 4 are in development. We are currently forecasting to spend £93,700 with partners across 4 projects from our own OCC Priority Action funding in 2025/26. 2 of these same projects we have also successfully supported with applications of £50k each to the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) Natural Flood Management programme.
- ✓ **Trees:** over the reporting period we have planted 1714 highway trees, achieving a 94% survival rate. Through the Coronation Living Heritage Fund we have also worked on approximately 20 different orchard projects planting a total of 247 orchard trees.

- ✓ **Health and Nature:** Growing evidence shows that contact and connectedness with nature improve health and wellbeing, reduce stress, build resilience, and support recovery from poor health.

We have funded a People and Nature Post based within the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership, we co-chair the OLNP People and Nature Subgroup which champions opportunities for everyone to spend time in nature, connect with nature, and benefit from all of nature's gifts that support our wellbeing. We also support the Inclusive Nature Recovery working group.

Our Public Health Team has worked with the OLNP and Greener Practice Oxfordshire to offer a menu of free training options on nature-based practice for people working with adults or children in a health, care, or support capacity. This project began October 2025 and will run for one year with funding from Oxfordshire County Council Public Health. More information is available [here](#).

Future Actions

- We will provide internal training and guidance to colleagues on assessing natural capital implications of proposals for land-use change, building on the work of the Oxford University Environmental Change Institute which provides a natural capital baseline for the County, as well the potential use of the Environmental Benefits of Nature Tool.
- We will produce design guidelines for infrastructure and schools projects to ensure good design of biodiversity net gain and to inform consideration of biodiversity on already existing school sites.
- We will continue to collect information regarding opportunities that support connecting pupils with nature and share them with schools via the schools newsletter.
- We will continue to undertake school site visits as required to help improve opportunities for connecting pupils with nature across the school sites.
- We will continue to co-ordinate work on Green Infrastructure across Council Service areas to seek to maximise multifunctional benefits alongside biodiversity enhancement

Spotlight on: working with partners



The Council supports, funds and participates in the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership (OLNP), an organisation of key partners working together to radically enhance nature, its positive impact on our climate and the priority it is given, helping to make Oxfordshire a county where people and nature thrive. The OLNP has three key focus areas:

Nature Finance
Nature Recovery
Nature and Health

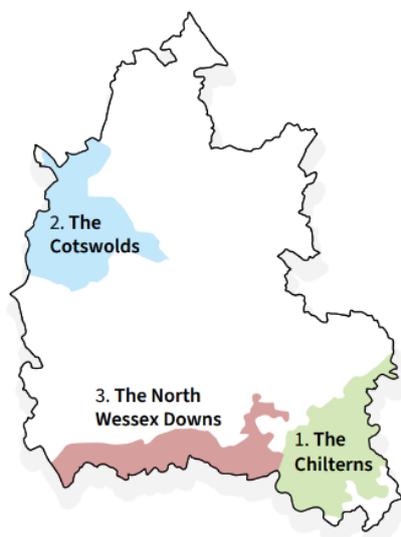
Involvement in these areas supports the Council's delivery of biodiversity conservation and enhancement across a range of services including planning, public health, climate adaptation and production and delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, allowing us to extend reach and impact and enabling collaboration with a wide range of partners.



We support, fund and host the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC), alongside all Oxfordshire and Berkshire Local Authorities and the Environment Agency.

TVERC holds over 3 million records of flora and fauna across Berkshire and Oxfordshire, as well as information about Local Wildlife and Geological Sites, NERC Act S41 Habitats of Principal Importance, Conservation Target Areas, and Nature Recovery Networks. They collect this data from the general public, skilled volunteers/amateur recorders, professionals working for wildlife charities and government agencies, and ecological consultants.

The information is critical in supporting Oxfordshire County Council in taking action for biodiversity. It helps ensure action is focussed where it will have the most benefit, informs our land management activities to ensure we protect rare species and habitats, and is critical in supporting our role as planning authority to make informed decisions and to evidence strategic plans.



National Landscapes

There are 3 National Landscapes falling partially within Oxfordshire; the Cotswolds, the North Wessex Downs and the Chilterns. We support all three National Landscapes, we have Councillor Link Members on the board of the Chilterns and Cotswolds National Landscapes and are part of the North Wessex Downs Council of Partners. During the reporting period we have supported the updating of management plans for all three national landscapes and staff from the National Landscapes have been instrumental in shaping the Oxfordshire LNRS.

Oxfordshire-wide Nature Recovery

We will collaborate with private, public and voluntary sectors to enable nature recovery across Oxfordshire, contributing towards an increase in the area of land managed for nature in the County and reversing species declines.

We have included 7 policies against this objective in our Biodiversity Action Framework

Actions we've taken

- ✓ In November 2025 we published the [Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) (see page 8). We are now working with and through the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership to ensure we convene a suitable range of partners to support delivery of the strategy, to put in place processes and systems to monitor LNRS delivery, to embed the LNRS into local decision making and to support strategic projects which will help deliver against the LNRS.
- ✓ [Oxon Green Futures](#)
In 2025 we launched [Oxon Green Futures](#) at the 100 Together Conference. Oxon Green Futures has identified an initial suite of investment-ready opportunities focused on the current priority investment areas of Nature Recovery & Biodiversity Net Gain and Green Construction. It has also created a Green Investment Pipeline which reflects upcoming opportunities for impactful investment in high-impact, scalable projects that will accelerate Oxfordshire's transition to a net-zero, nature-positive economy
- ✓ We have continued to fund and support the [Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project](#), in partnership with the District Councils (see page 22). There are currently 401 Local Wildlife Sites in Oxfordshire; during the reporting period, the TVERC LWS project officers surveyed 115 Local Wildlife Sites to ensure we have access to up-to-date information about the wildlife value of these sites, and ensure all sites selected continue to meet the LWS Selection Criteria. As a result of this rolling programme of survey 66.7% Local Wildlife Sites have relatively up-to-date survey data (<10 years old). BBOWT LWS Project Officers provided management advice visits to the owners or managers of more than 75 sites. In 2023/24 45% Local Wildlife Sites were reported as being in positive conservation management, rising to 47% in 2024/25.
- ✓ [Local Plan consultation responses](#): during 2025 the following Local Plan consultation responses were provided to encourage development of Local Plan policies which exceed the minimum 10% biodiversity net gain requirement, have regard to the Oxfordshire BNG Principles and support delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy:
 - Cherwell District Council Regulation 19
 - West Oxfordshire District Council Regulation 18
 - Oxford City Regulation 18

- Swindon Borough Council Regulation 18
- Buckinghamshire County Council Regulation 18
- South Warwickshire Preferred Options

Future Actions

- We will update the 'Biodiversity and Planning in Oxfordshire' document to reflect current policy and legislation, including biodiversity net gain and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- We will continue to respond to local plan consultations to promote policies that exceed minimum 10% biodiversity net gain requirement, embed the Oxfordshire BNG Principles, and support delivery of the LNRS.
- We will seek to further the work of the Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project to reach more site owners and align advice to delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- We will work with and through the OLNP to ensure we convene a suitable range of partners to support delivery of the strategy, to put in place processes and systems to monitor LNRS delivery, to embed the LNRS into local decision making and to support strategic projects which will help deliver against the LNRS.
- We will work with Oxfordshire LNP and through Oxon Green Futures to support projects which support LNRS priorities to become investment ready.
- We will continue to work with our National Landscapes, Lower Windrush Valley Project, Community Action Groups and other relevant partners to support action that delivers against the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Spotlight on: Oxfordshire Local Wildlife Sites Project



Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are areas of land recognised for having significant value for the conservation of wildlife. There are currently 401 Local Wildlife Sites in Oxfordshire which support rare or threatened habitat and species from ancient woodlands to pockets of fen and wildflower-rich meadows. These sites have a central role to play in meeting local and national targets for biodiversity conservation. Found on both public and mainly private land, they are of county, and even national, importance.

Alongside the Districts, we fund and support the Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project, which is a partnership project led by the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) and the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) on behalf of the Oxfordshire Local Authorities. The Project has been running for over 20 years. It involves a rolling programme of survey and selection of Local Wildlife Sites according to agreed selection criteria, and provision of conservation management advice to the owners and managers of Local Wildlife Sites.



Support of the Oxfordshire Wildlife Sites Project enables us to deliver against a range of our responsibilities in relation to biodiversity:

- Alongside nationally designated sites and irreplaceable habitats, Local Wildlife Sites form the core areas of existing importance for biodiversity from which the Local Nature Recovery Strategy sets out a blueprint to buffer, extend and join up habitat to create a nature recovery network.
- The selection of Local Wildlife Sites, and maintenance of up-to-date data relating to them is key to informing our planning policy and development management functions, ensuring that we appropriately identify Local Wildlife Sites through the planning process, and can correctly apply the planning policies which protect them.
- The identification of Local Wildlife Sites also helps inform our own land management where they fall within our ownership
- The project plays an important role in ensuring that Local Wildlife Site owners have good awareness of the importance of their land for biodiversity and receive good advice on appropriate land management, a priority within our LNRS.
- The percentage of Local Sites in positive management is a key government statistic in relation local authority performance with regards to local nature conservation.

Biodiversity Awareness

We will work with partners to improve awareness amongst our communities of why we need to conserve and enhance biodiversity and what action they can take.

We have included 1 policy against this objective in our Biodiversity Action Framework

Actions we've taken

Improving awareness of the need to conserve and enhance biodiversity has been integral to much of our work both within the Council and with partners this has included:

- ✓ Recognising the importance of early and ongoing engagement during development of the Oxfordshire LNRS. This was supported by creation of a Communications and Engagement partnership group which helped develop and deliver against an engagement plan. Our engagement included 14 workshops and an online survey, a public consultation which received a national record high of 2100 responses and was supported by attendance at over 50 meetings and events with over 700 local people. We went through all these responses to inform changes to the strategy. In total we received around 3500 responses during the creation of our strategy.
- ✓ Developing LNRS user guides for a range of groups, including residents and community groups.
- ✓ Ran a community capacity building workshop on climate adaptation, linking this to local nature recovery
- ✓ Launching our biodiversity volunteer programme which includes training in ecological survey and assessment techniques.
- ✓ Engaging internally with colleagues to inform development of our Biodiversity Action Framework, including running a 'Lunch and Learn session', running an internal staff survey and meeting with all Directorate Leadership Teams at an early stage to inform our policies and action plan.
- ✓ Contributing biodiversity related actions of the Climate Action Oxfordshire website

Future Actions

- Continue the work of the Communications and Engagement Group developed for the LNRS through a new Local Nature Partnership Communications Group; we will engage with partners through this group to co-ordinate work to raise biodiversity awareness, and help maintain oversight to ensure this raises awareness of the LNRS and the priorities it identifies for habitats and species.
- Complete a review of our webpages to ensure they are up-to-date and signpost communities to information to improve biodiversity awareness

- Continue to work with Climate Action Oxfordshire to raise awareness of biodiversity actions within the community that can increase climate resilience

Spotlight on: Community Action Groups Oxfordshire

- Our ongoing support and funding of [Community Action Groups Oxfordshire](#) helps deliver across the full range of our Biodiversity Action Framework objectives from nature recovery, to improving biodiversity awareness.
- Many groups focus on increasing biodiversity and supporting nature recovery in their local areas. Tree and hedgerow planting and maintenance, management of greens and verges for wildflowers, bulb planting and litter picking are some of the primary activities.
- CAGs host the Oxfordshire Nature Project, ensuring communities can access opportunity reports in collaboration with TVERC as well as other resources and guides that support the LNRS.
- Groups also include community growing projects and orchards that provide space for people to learn practical food-growing skills that employ climate and nature friendly methods.
- Community gardens have partnered with an impressive range of organisations to enable a variety of people to attend and benefit from the gardens. These include families, refugees, elderly people, faith groups, school-aged children, adults and children with physical and learning disabilities and young people experiencing social exclusion.
- A Connecting Communities with Nature grant scheme focused on supporting opportunities for communities experiencing health inequalities in Oxfordshire to connect with the outdoors, green spaces, and nature.
- In partnership with the Earth Trust, Wild Oxfordshire, Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership the CAGs helped to share Oxfordshire's commitment to the Nature 2030 campaign through co-ordinated press releases, social media posts, newsletter items and speakers at events.

Access to Nature for All

We will work with partners to improve access to nature across the County, tackling inequalities in access, to improve health and wellbeing.

We have included 2 policies against this objective in our Biodiversity Action Framework

Actions we've taken

- ✓ **Integrating access to nature in the LNRS:** We have included mapping of 16 priority neighbourhoods in Oxfordshire which are in the lowest 30% of socio-economic deprivation in England and lack access to greenspace alongside our LNRS Local Habitat Map and have directed people considering delivering biodiversity actions or tree planting in urban areas towards these areas within our Statement of Biodiversity Priorities.
- ✓ **Community Transport Pilot:** Our Public Health team funded a pilot to test the feasibility and impact of subsidised community transport for greenspace access through the Oxfordshire Comet minibus service. Over Spring/Summer 2025 the OLNP worked with three Voluntary, Community Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations on this pilot project to understand the impact on wellbeing, and what would be needed to set up a longer-term fund, whilst developing local information resources.
- ✓ **Nature buddies:** Our Public Health team have funded work by the OLNP with BBOWT, OCVA, Wild Oxfordshire, and The Nature Effect, to develop a Nature Buddies scheme in Oxfordshire.

Nature Buddies are specially-trained volunteers who enable a person, on a one-to-one basis or as part of a small group, to overcome barriers to accessing nature, based on individual needs. People may face a range of barriers to participation, from physical (transport, physical access, etc), to personal (lack of confidence or generalised anxiety), to socio-cultural (lack of feeling of belonging or welcome in nature spaces).

Following an initial stakeholder workshop in September 2024, in spring 2025 the project moved into a co-design phase for a 2-3 year pilot study that will help to develop a network of organisations hosting Nature Buddies across Oxfordshire.

- ✓ **Rights of Way and National Trails:** we maintain a rights of way network of 2,639 miles and host the Ridgeway and Thames Path National Trails; we have supported chalk grassland restoration trials on Bury Down with Oxford University and the National Trails Volunteers.

Future Actions

- An independent evaluation of the Community Transport Pilot will be produced and reviewed. Our Public Health team have committed £7k/y for the next 3 years to continue delivery of community transport to greenspaces with other partners.

- We will continue to support the 2-3 year pilot study to develop a network of organisations hosting Nature Buddies across Oxfordshire
- We will work with North Wessex Downs and Chilterns National Landscapes to support project development in the Ridgeway Landscape Connections Focus Area.

Spotlight on: Lower Windrush Valley Project

The Lower Windrush Valley covers 28 square kilometres of West Oxfordshire, incorporating the floodplain of the River Windrush from Witney to where it joins the River Thames at Newbridge.

Over the last 60 years the landscape character of the valley has been transformed by mineral extraction with large areas of the riverside pasture transformed into a mosaic of open water.

With mineral extraction set to continue for many years to come the Lower Windrush Valley Project (LWVP) was created by Oxfordshire County Council to create and implement an environmental strategy for this area.

LWVP has worked with many environmental organisations, mineral operators, landowners and the local community to co-ordinate, deliver and help manage a wide range of initiatives that aim to:

- strengthen and develop the evolving landscape of the valley protect and enhance the biodiversity it supports
- improve opportunities for people to access and enjoy the countryside
- raise awareness, understanding and involvement in the diverse issues that influence the environment in the valley.



Recent activities have included rejuvenating the bird hide and bird viewing screen at the two Nature Reserves in the Lower Windrush area, Rushy Common and Standlake Common.

The old roof on the Rushy Common bird hide had started to leak and we have replaced them with metal sheets to allow the continued use of the bird hide.

The old hazel hurdle bird screen at Rushy Common has been replaced by a much stronger and larger screen, giving a much better view over the lake. This viewing screen is now open to all visitors to Rushy Common Nature Reserve. Funding for both works were kindly funded by Smiths of Bletchington.



At Standlake Common, we re-roofed the bird hides and also took advantage of the dry weather to cut the reed and vegetation along the north and east side of the reserve, using a new remote controlled flail mower. We hope that bird hide key holders will enjoy the drier conditions and better views out onto the lake.

The extremes of the weather

From winter floods in 2024/25, that started off in mid September and seemed to carry on until April, to the low rainfall of the summer, the full range of weather conditions has been experienced in recent years.



The floods brought in lots of pintails and wigeon to Standlake Common and the low water levels exposed large areas of gravel, which the lapwing, oystercatchers and terns took full advantage of. We also had some rarities that dropped into Standlake Common, including Marsh Sandpiper that breeds on the Russian steppe, which is a rare, but annual, visitor to our shores and the Pectoral Sandpiper, again a rare visitor from arctic America and eastern Siberia.



There was also one of the highest ever count of Great white Egrets recorded in Oxfordshire on Standlake Common gravel pit, with numbers reaching a peak of 30 birds.

Circular Walks in the Lower Windrush Valley

The Project has created three circular paths in the project area. We continue to highlight these great walks to the general public, to allow better access to nature. [Gill Mill Circular Walk](#), [Northmoor Circular Walk](#)

Lower Windrush Valley Volunteer Group.

The volunteer work party have been clearing the picnic area and paths around Standlake Common, maintaining the bird hides and cutting and raking the wildflower bank at Standlake Village Hall. This autumn we have been working on clearing viewing points to the lakes for public to get views across the lake and widening the path to allow better access.



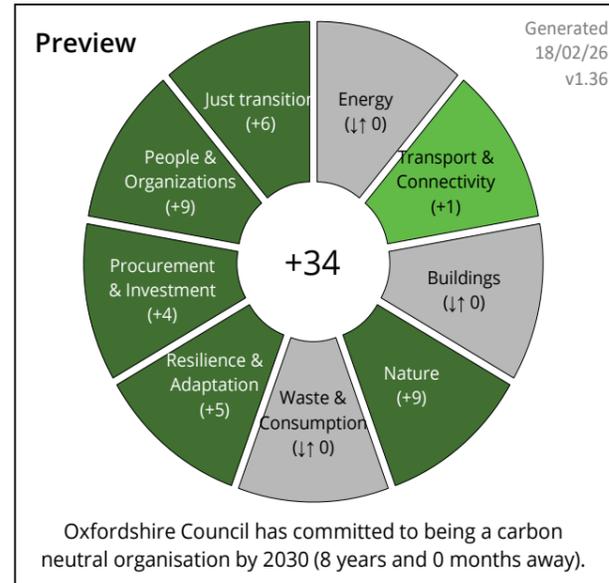
Reptile surveys

The Lower Windrush Project volunteers undertook a Reptile survey at Rushy Common, which is part of the national reptile survey run by Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC). It hasn't been the best year for grass snake numbers, but with some changes to habitat management and creating grass snake egg laying heaps, hopefully next year will be better.

Climate Impact Assessment

Summary

Directorate and Service Area	Environment and Highways, Countryside and Waste Service
What is being assessed	Biodiversity Action at Oxfordshire County Council 2023-2025 Report
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	New reporting requirement under Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended).
Summary of assessment	The Biodiversity Report includes actions the Council have undertaken over the last 3 years to conserve and enhance biodiversity, as well as future planned actions. The report contributes positively towards the Councils climate and ecology commitments across wide range of the areas assessed.
Completed by	Rebecca Micklem, Landscape and Nature Recovery Team Leader
Climate action sign off by	
Director sign off by	
Assessment date	



Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p>	<p>The Biodiversity Report includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a summary of the action the Council has taken to comply with the biodiversity duty ('Actions we've taken'). This includes actions we have taken alone, as well as in partnership with others; • how the Council plans to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period ('Future actions'); • the actions the Council have carried out to meet biodiversity net gain obligations; • details of biodiversity net gains resulting from biodiversity gain plans the Council have approved; and
<p>Proposal</p>	<p>Much of the report is focused on reporting actions already taken.</p> <p>The NERC Act requires the report to set out how the Council plans to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period. Therefore, future actions have also been included in the report.</p> <p>These future actions have been informed by a process of internal consultation, this began in 2023 with production of the Initial Considerations Report and continued through internal consultation on the Biodiversity Action Framework and Action Plan, which was approved by Cabinet in October 2025. The future actions identified align with those in the approved Biodiversity Action Plan and/or other service area work plans.</p>
<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p>	<p>Information was gathered from across Council services through an online Lunch and Learn and an internal survey on Let's Talk; this was collated in the Initial Considerations Report. The report was presented to and discussed at Directorate Leadership Team meetings in early 2024 as a first step in informing development of the Biodiversity Action Framework and Action Plan.</p> <p>Throughout 2024 and 2025 ongoing dialogue with relevant teams and data gathering refined the potential actions identified in the Initial Considerations report to inform development of the Framework and Action Plan. Drafts of the documents were consulted on internally through a Let's Talk survey and direct discussions with relevant teams between April and July 2025. The Biodiversity Action Framework and Action Plan were approved by Cabinet in October 2025. The actions from the Biodiversity Action Plan 25/26 has informed the future actions identified in the Report, as well as some additional actions included in existing service area plans (e.g. access to nature actions planned by Public Health).</p>
<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p>	<p>Doing nothing is not an option, since the report has been developed to fulfil a legal obligation. Initial consideration of actions was developed through consultation across Council service areas and refined through consultation and direct discussion with relevant teams.</p>

Category	Impact criteria	Score (-3 to +3)	Description of impact	Actions or mitigations to reduce negative impacts	Action owner	Timeline and monitoring arrangements
Energy	Increases energy efficiency	N/A				
Energy	Promotes a switch to low-carbon or renewable energy	N/A				
Energy	Promotes resilient, local, smart energy systems	N/A				
Transport & Connectivity	Reduces need to travel and/or the need for private car ownership			Actions included and proposed to be further developed include use of subsidised community transport for greenspace access through the Oxfordshire Comet minibus service. This potentially reduced the need for travel by private car.		
Transport & Connectivity	Supports active travel	N/A				
Transport & Connectivity	Increases use of public transport	N/A				
Transport & Connectivity	Accelerates electrification of transport	N/A				
Buildings	Promotes net zero new builds and developments	N/A				
Buildings	Accelerates retrofitting of existing buildings	N/A				
Nature	Protects, restores or enhances biodiversity, landscape and ecosystems			The report is specifically focused on what action the Council has and will take to conserve and enhance biodiversity . The report includes sections on what action the Council has and will take in relation to improving land management for biodiversity, securing biodiversity net gain, taking a natural capital approach and improving access to nature, all of which support the development of blue and green infrastructure. The report includes a chapter around the Council's objective to improve access to nature for all, reporting on actions taken and future actions including provision of community transport to greenspaces and a nature buddies scheme.		
Nature	Develops blue and green infrastructure					
Nature	Improves access to nature and green spaces					
Waste & Consumption	Reduces overall consumption	N/A				
Waste & Consumption	Supports waste prevention and drive reuse and recycling	N/A				
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience to flooding			Actions to deliver and continued commitment to natural flood management is included in the report.		

Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience to other extreme weather events (e.g., storms, cold snaps, heatwaves, droughts)		2	Delivery of the actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity will support resilience particularly to heatwaves in urban areas.
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience of council services, communities, energy systems, transport infrastructure and/or supply chains	N/A		
Procurement & Investment	Procurement practices prioritise low-carbon options, circular economy and sustainability		3	The report includes the new Ethical Procurement policy and commitments to further develop understanding of how we can better understand procurement impacts on biodiversity.
Procurement & Investment	Investment being considered supports climate action/ is consistent with path to net zero	N/A		
People & Organizations	Drives behavioural change to address the climate and ecological emergency		3	Includes actions to promote biodiversity awareness internally and externally.
People & Organizations	Drives organizational and systemic change to address the climate and ecological emergency		3	Includes actions to promote biodiversity awareness internally including future internal biodiversity training and a working group.
Just transition	Promotes green innovation and job creation		2	Actions include attracting nature investment through support of strategic projects that will help deliver the LNRS
Just transition	Promotes health and wellbeing		2	The report recognises the importance of biodiversity in promoting human health and wellbeing.
Just transition	Reduces poverty and inequality		2	The report includes actions that seek to understand and address inequalities in access to nature

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR PLACE, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

26 FEBRUARY 2026

Didcot Garden Town Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF1) - Clifton Hampden Bypass construction contract

Report by Director of Environment and Highways

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) **Delegate authority to the Director of Environment and Highways to award the Stage Two NEC4 Engineering and Construction Contract for the HIF1 Clifton Hampden Bypass scheme to John Graham Construction Limited under the Crown Commercial Service Construction Works and Associated Services Framework RM6088, Lot 4.1 (England and Wales) subject to:**
 - (i) **agreement of the target cost (within the released budget),**
 - (ii) **agreement of the programme for the works and**
 - (iii) **finalising the contract terms.**

Executive Summary

1. This report seeks a delegation to the Director of Environment & Highways to award and enter into the Stage 2 main construction contract for the Clifton Hampden Bypass scheme, one of three major infrastructure projects within the Didcot Garden Town Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF1) programme.
2. The Clifton Hampden Bypass forms a critical component of the wider HIF1 package designed to improve connectivity between Didcot and Culham, relieve congestion, and support the delivery of over 12,655 new homes and significant employment growth across the Science Vale.
3. The Full Business Case (FBC) for the Clifton Hampden Bypass scheme has been approved.
4. The Stage Two construction contract is an NEC4 Engineering and Construction Contract (ECC) Option C, and will be funded primarily through the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) grant, supplemented by approved Council capital allocations, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) and S106 contributions.

Background

5. The Clifton Hampden Bypass is a single carriageway bypass for Clifton Hampden, between Culham Science Centre and B4015 just north of Clifton Hampden Village (1.8km including link roads). It includes a new relief road northwest of the village between the A415 at Culham Science Centre and the B4015 Oxford Road north of Clifton Hampden, a new roundabout at the western end near Culham Science Centre and Culham Rail Station, and other access junctions along the Bypass. Walking and cycling facilities segregated from the carriageway are also proposed.
6. The scheme forms part of the wider HIF1 Access to Didcot Garden Town Programme, which also includes:
 - Didcot to Culham River Crossing
 - Didcot Science Bridge
7. Planning permission for Clifton Hampden Bypass and associated infrastructure was granted by the Secretary of State in December 2024 following a conjoined Planning and Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) Inquiry. The CPO was confirmed by the Department for Transport on 30 June 2025, with publication on 31 July 2025.
8. The project is fully funded under the revised Grant Determination Agreement (GDA) with Homes England, approved by Cabinet in July 2024, which secures total programme funding of £332.538 million and a £79.6 million Homes England funder contingency.
9. The contractor's estimated cost to complete construction is circa £38m, with the target cost still to be agreed.

Key Issues

10. The approval of this construction contract is essential to maintain programme momentum and ensure expenditure of the Homes England grant within the agreed timeframe of March 2028.
11. Delay in contract award would risk non-delivery of key milestones, loss of confidence from funders, and potential withdrawal of grant funding.
12. The scheme directly supports the housing delivery target of 12,655 set out in the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Local Plans and is a fundamental enabler of the Didcot Garden Town Delivery Plan and Science Vale Transport Strategy.
13. The scheme also supports employment growth along the length of the scheme with the proposed expansion of Culham Science Centre. There are also commercial sites proposed on the old Didcot power station site and to the south of the A4130 Road close to the Milton Interchange.

Procurement Strategy

14. The Procurement Strategy recommended that:
- Detailed design and construction should be procured via the Crown Commercial Services framework (CCS) with a mini competition.
 - The contract should be in two stages (detailed design & construction) using a Professional Services Contract (PSC) Option A for detailed design and an Engineering Construction Contract (ECC) using Option C for construction, with the option of using Engineering Construction Short Contracts (ECSC) for any enabling works.
15. A competitive tender under the Crown Commercial Service Construction Works and Associated Services Framework RM6088, Lot 4.1 was undertaken whereby three separate contracts are awarded to John Graham Construction Limited. Stage One contracts were awarded for detailed design and early contractor involvement (a Professional Service Contract) and site investigation and enabling works (an Engineering and Construction Short Contract). The Stage Two contract for the main construction works is to be awarded pending agreement on the construction programme and a target cost for the works.

Financial Implications

16. The approved Clifton Hampden Bypass Full Business Case releases budget, largely funded by HIF grant, to cover the costs up to the end of Stage 3 (construction) and includes suitable contingency and inflation allowances.
17. The released budget covers the cost of the proposed contract to deliver the construction of the scheme.

Comments checked by: Rob Finlayson, Strategic Finance Business Partner
(rob.finlayson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Legal Implications

18. The Council is acting in its capacity as the highway authority for Oxfordshire under the Highways Act 1980 in respect of the delivery of the Clifton Hampden Bypass scheme.
19. A mini-competition under the Crown Commercial Service Construction Works and Associated Services Framework RM6088, Lot 4.1 was undertaken in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. A single tendering exercise provided for a two-stage process whereby three separate contracts are awarded to one contractor. The successful contractor was John Graham Construction Limited. Stage One contracts were awarded for detailed design and early contractor involvement (a Professional Service Contract) and site investigation and enabling works (an Engineering and Construction Short Contract). The Stage Two contract for the main construction works is to be awarded pending agreement on the construction programme and a target cost for the works.

Comments checked by: Jayne Pringle, Principal Solicitor (Contracts)
Jayne.pringle@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Insurance requirements

25. The main NEC4 contract insurances have all been confirmed through Oxfordshire County Council insurance team and are acceptable to the contractor.

Staff Implications

26. No additional staff resources are required as a result of this decision. The scheme will continue to be managed within the existing HIF1 Project Team under the leadership of the Programme Lead.

Sustainability Implications

27. The scheme supports the Council's Climate Action Framework by promoting modal shift through high-quality active travel provision and reducing congestion within Didcot. The design includes biodiversity enhancements and carbon reduction measures. There are no implications related to the previously completed CIA and EQIA as a result of this decision. Both documents are noted as background documents.

Social Value

28. Under this contract the contractor shall be required to provide Social Value, while this may change during the construction process it will include some of the following:

- Creating Local employment opportunities
- Minimising the carbon impact of the construction process
- Support local communities through various initiatives

Current Programme

29. The projects programme overview is as below:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| • Receipt of Planning Approval: | December 2024 |
| • Main Contractor into Contract: | February 2026 |
| • Land Acquisition: | February 2026 |
| • Enabling Works: | September 2025 – March 2026 |
| • Main Construction: | April 2026 – December 2027 |
| • Infrastructure Start on Site: | April 2026 |
| • Homes England: End of funding period: | March 2028 |

Risk Management

30. The current total risk allowance for the CHB scheme is £4.2 million (11.4% of total stage 3 costs), incorporating, optimism bias, and QCRA outputs. Key risks include inflationary pressures, statutory undertaker delays, and compliance with funder milestones. These are managed through monthly risk reviews and reporting to the HIF1 Programme Board.

Consultations

31. Extensive public consultation was undertaken in 2018 and 2020, supported by exhibitions and online engagement. Stakeholder engagement has continued throughout planning and inquiry stages, with regular liaison with local members, parish councils, statutory consultees, and developers. No further consultation is planned.
32. Recent public information events were held in October 2025 in six different locations to inform the public in advance of enabling and construction works. The public will continue to be informed of progress with the scheme via a regular e-newsletter and website updates.

Paul Fermer
Director of Environment and Highways

Background papers:

- Cabinet Report 16 July 2024 – Didcot Garden Town Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF1): Amendments to the Grant Determination Agreement
- Climate Impact Assessment (originally included within Reg 25 planning submission dated 26 October 2022)
- Equalities Impact Assessment (originally included within Appendix 13 of the Statement of Case for the conjoined Planning and Orders Inquiry dated November 2023)

Contact Officer:

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February 2026

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