

Cotswold District Green Infrastructure Strategy

(including open space and play)

Draft for Consultation March 21)



Contents

Foreword:	4
Introduction	4
1: Overview and Introduction to Green Infrastructure	6
1.1 What is Green Infrastructure?	6
1.2. The Benefits of Green Infrastructure	7
1.3 The Aims of the Cotswold Green Infrastructure Strategy	8
1.4. The Gloucestershire context for the Cotswold GI Strategy	10
1.5 The Key Standards used to shape the Cotswold Green Infrastructure Strategy	19
1.6 Other Green Infrastructure Standards	20
2. Green Infrastructure Issues and Potential for the Cotswold District	24
2.1 The Strategic GI Issues for Cotswold District	24
2.2 Possible solutions to address GI issues	26
2.3 Delivering Potential GI in the 17 Principal Settlements	29
South Cotswold Principal Settlements	29
Cirencester	29
Down Ampney	30
Survey and improve habitat for swallows, house martins and swifts.	30
Fairford	30
Kemble	31
Lechlade	31
South Cerney	32
Tetbury	32
Mid Cotswold Principal Settlements	33
Andoversford	33
Bourton on the Water	33
Northleach	33
Stow on the Wold	34
Upper Rissington	34
North Cotswold Principal Settlements	35
Blockley	35
Chipping Campden	35
Mickleton	35
Moreton in Marsh	36
Willersey	36
3. Delivering Green Infrastructure through New Developments	37
3.1	37

3.2 Policy Background	37
3.3 Designing Excellent Green Infrastructure in New Developments	41
4. Delivering Green Infrastructure through Community and Partnership working	44
4.1 Community and Partnership Activities and Projects	44
4.2 Community Planning	45
5. The Evidence – what does the evidence tell us?	47
5.1 GI Mapping	47
5.2 Policies and information within the current District Local Plan and its existing evidence base	49
5.3 Desktop Research carried out in 2015/16	49
5.4 Emerging evidence that is being collated as part of the Local Plan Review	49
5.5 Engagement with principal settlements in 2018	49
5.6 Feedback from relevant stakeholders	49
5.7 International, national and county-level legislation, policy and guidance	50
5.8 Other data from international, national, county and local information sources	50
5.9 Access to Open Spaces	50
6. GI Potential in the Principal Settlements	54
6.1 South of the District - Cirencester	54
Down Ampney	55
Fairford	56
Kemble	57
Lechlade	58
South Cerney	59
Tetbury	60
6.2 Middle of the District	61
Andoversford	61
Bourton on the Water	62
Northleach	63
Stow on the Wold	64
Upper Rissington	65
6.3 North of the District	66
Blockley	66
Chipping Campden	67
Mickleton	68
Moreton in Marsh	69
Willesley	70
Glossary	71
Appendices (to be updated following consultation)	79

Please note that the strategic approach to sport in the Cotswold District is covered by the Cotswold District Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan and Strategic Assessment Report 2017.

Foreword:

Foreword from Rachel Coxcoon - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Forward Planning.

One of the findings of the strategy is quite sobering. It is assumed that as a District access to the countryside and safe places to cycle is a given, and there is lots of it for us to enjoy. This strategy highlights that this is not the case. However, the strategy does illustrate that there are many opportunities open to the development industry, land owners and partners both in the public, private and voluntary sectors to make a difference if we focus our minds and work together.

The Pandemic and the Lockdown has had a profound impact on the lives of everyone. The world we took for granted, and was familiar to us all, changed in a matter of days.

For many of us our gardens and the green spaces around us provided a calm and tranquil environment we could feel safe in and, for a while, escape the overwhelming new reality.

As we adjust to this new world the importance of the environment and how we look after it is at the forefront of our minds. Recently the Council declared a Climate Change Emergency and last year an Ecological Emergency.

The Council's Corporate strategy embeds both of these strategies at its heart, with a commitment to making the next version of the Local Plan Green to the Core.

Parks, Open Spaces, access to the countryside and the appreciation of nature have emerged as increasingly important in this new way of life. There has been a vast number of surveys, across the country that support this view. The National Trust (NT) Summer Solstice Poll9 found that nearly 70% of adults in the UK said that spending time noticing nature around them has made them feel happy during lockdown and that since lockdown interest in nature has risen by 33%, particularly in the 25-34 year old age group. However, there is still an urgent need to address the inequalities regarding access to the countryside for all.

However, it is not just access to open spaces that have captured peoples' imagination during the lockdown. Applications for council-run allotments in England have soared during the coronavirus pandemic. In August, this year, the National Allotment Society (NAS) reported that 40% of English councils responded to a survey to say that they had experienced a "significant uplift" in applications to join waiting lists during April. This has also been reported by many of our own Town and Parish Councils.

This Green Infrastructure Strategy has been written to support the Ecological Emergency and the update to the Local Plan. Key to the backbone of this strategy is the Building with Nature Benchmark and the improvements that can be made to our Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to this strategy. This includes the Town and Parish Councils in the District, The Cotswold AONB Board, The Cotswold Water Park Board, The Woodland Trust and Dr Gemma Jerome Director of Building with Nature.

Introduction

Why has the Green Infrastructure Strategy been prepared?

To direct the design and delivery of green infrastructure in Cotswold District to maximise its environmental, community and economic benefits. It is a guide for delivering high quality Green Infrastructure through new developments, community partnership and land management. It identifies a number of Green Infrastructure issues at a District and at a more local scale. A range of evidence has been used to inform the Strategy and is included in the Strategy appendices. It forms part of the evidence base for the review of the Local Plan and other new plans and strategies, as well as providing further detail to reinforce the current Local Plan 2011-2031 and any further updates. Please note that the strategic approach to sport in the Cotswold District is covered by the Cotswold District Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan and Strategic Assessment Report 2017.

Who is the Strategy for?

- Developers and their agents,
- Statutory decision makers and consultees,
- Town and parish councils,
- land owners/managers,
- The general public/community groups.

1: Overview and Introduction to Green Infrastructure

1.1 What is Green Infrastructure?

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines green infrastructure as:

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

Natural England has provided a more comprehensive definition:

"...green infrastructure incorporates a range of green spaces and features, which delivers multi-functional benefits. Areas of green infrastructure and green infrastructure assets can be important for their own intrinsic value, such as biodiversity, but can also have a key connectivity function".

The Town and Country Planning Association definition helps to add more detail:

"Green infrastructure describes the networks of parks, green spaces, green roofs, green walls, verges, street trees, rivers and waterways that are vital to our cities, towns and villages.

High quality green infrastructure provides a wide range of valuable benefits, including: improvements to people's physical and mental health; opportunities for people to meet friends and neighbours; opportunities for children to learn through play; mitigation of the effects of climate change; reduction in flooding; reduction in air pollution; increased biodiversity; increased economic activity; places for active transport e.g. walking and cycling".

This Strategy assumes all references to green infrastructure include both green and blue, i.e. water-related features and infrastructure.

Examples of green (and blue) infrastructure in Gloucestershire include rivers; cemeteries; canals; sports pitches; orchards; green roofs; parks; open fields and woodland.

Green infrastructure can be considered at a range of scales, from international, such as the Severn Estuary to the local, such as a pond or a hedgerow around a garden or field.

1.2. The Benefits of Green Infrastructure

The key environmental and social benefits have been highlighted as –

- Ensuring a more attractive place for people to live, work and visit, which in turn creates a greater sense of civic pride.
- Giving opportunities for outdoor relaxation, play and access to nature.
- Improving health and well-being – lowering stress levels and providing opportunities for exercise.
- Helping climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as carbon sequestration, for example by flood alleviation and cooling urban heat islands and planting trees and broader hedgerows.
- Improving air and water quality and managing surface water runoff to minimise flood risk.
- Giving space for habitats and providing wildlife corridors and linkages.
- Providing sustainable transport routes – for cycling and walking.
- Enabling local food production - in allotments, gardens and through agriculture.

The key economic benefits as –

- Attracting inward investment - a more attractive area to business investors and potential residents.
- Attracting increased visitor spend - a more attractive area for tourists and visitors.
- Generating employment - attracting new businesses and residents to the area, increasing office occupancy rates and increasing the number of jobs in the area.
- Saving environmental costs - improving air quality, reducing the urban heat island effect, filtering diffuse pollution, helping to manage flood risk and storing water during droughts.
- Providing health benefits - impacts on health through improved air quality and surroundings which encourage activity or active lifestyles and improve mental health and well-being.
- Promoting food production - enabling increased productivity.

The key point is that green infrastructure provides a wide range of benefits simultaneously and from the same area of land.

These benefits have been taken from the [Strategic Framework for GI in Gloucestershire](#) ¹

¹ [Green Infrastructure Framework | Gloucestershire LNP](#)

1.3 The Aims of the Cotswold Green Infrastructure Strategy

The Key Aims of the Strategy are to:

- Protect and enhance the GI framework of the District for the benefit of everyone, wildlife and the wider environment.
- Ensure that new and enhanced GI relates to the local character of the area and meets local needs.
- Set out and drive the GI priorities for the District and in particular for Cotswold District Council and its key partners.
- Illustrate Cotswold District Council's commitment to the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership GI pledge and vision for GI in the County.
- Ensure that climate change adaptation and mitigation is central to all GI policies, projects and initiatives.
- Reinforce the measures in the Cotswold District Ecological Emergency Action Plan.
- Ensure that new development delivers high quality, timely, well-managed and beneficial GI e.g. through the use of the Building with Nature Benchmark and where possible, formal Accreditation through the Building with Nature Assessment and Audit process.
- Extend and improve access to Green Infrastructure to better include groups that don't currently benefit from it directly.
- Provide a baseline to evaluate the key GI elements in the District.
- Provide detailed data, mapping and analysis of GI across the District and beyond including key shared GI with neighbouring local authorities but, particularly within the 17 principal settlements.
- To augment the information, policies and guidance provided within the Cotswold District Local Plan, including the Cotswold Design Code (2018).
- Bring open space and play provision issues ([particularly from the 2017 strategy part 1², 2³ & 3⁴](#)) under the overall GI banner.

In preparing the Strategy, a range of evidence, including maps and data, including space standards has been taken into account to develop a set of GI priorities for the District and from those an implementation plan for Cotswold District Council has been produced. To deliver on the aims and priorities of the Strategy many other partners, stakeholders and individuals will also have to play their part. The Council will support action by others both practically and by providing a leadership role.

There are many GI projects and initiatives underway both locally and nationally, for example the updating of the GI components of the National Planning Practice Guidance, the Environmental Land Management Scheme, the development of the county's Nature Recovery Network, biodiversity net gain, the re-notification of the Cotswold Water Park Sites of Scientific Interest, Rural SuDs schemes, and many community specific projects. **Refer to Section 4.1 Community and Partnership Activities and Projects.** This Strategy cannot incorporate or predict the outcomes of this ongoing and other

²<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/tnegerid/5406-green-infrastructure-open-space-and-play-space-strategy-part-1-aug-2017.pdf>

³<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/zsplnte2/5406-green-infrastructure-open-space-and-play-space-strategy-part-2-aug-2017.pdf>

⁴<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/mxhjugpq/5406-green-infrastructure-open-space-and-play-space-strategy-part-3-aug-2017.pdf>

future work; however those initiatives and projects will help to deliver the Strategy priorities. It is important that the Strategy is regularly reviewed and updated.

The Strategy will be of use to a range of organisations and individuals including;

- Voluntary sector and community groups, e.g putting together environmental projects and grant bids.
- Developers and their agents, e.g designing new developments in the District.
- The Council, e.g determining planning applications; developing its next Local Plan and new strategic initiatives.
- Parish and Town Councils, e.g preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans.
- Residents and visitors, e.g looking for more information about the local environment.
- Farmers, landowners and land managers, e.g. drawing up and delivering agri-environment and Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMs)

1.4. The Gloucestershire context for the Cotswold GI Strategy

Useful Cotswold District Green Infrastructure Facts, Figures and Issues

Wellbeing and Access
There are 89,860 people living in the Cotswold District, of which, 13% of households do not have a car compared with 26% across England. (Extract taken from the OCSI, generated 19/10/20)
According to the OS 2017 data the total amount of green space provided by Parks and Gardens is 0.4 % compared with the England average of 0.8 %. (Extract taken from the OCSI, generated 19/10/20)
80% of the District is within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This is a greater coverage by a national landscape designation than any other District in England. However, the AONB is more than a landscape designation. See page 12.
Dark Skies are a key characteristic of the District and an important GI factor. Mapping produced by the CPRE in 2016 shows the Cotswolds still has good areas of dark skies, but previous mapping shows that more than 40% has been lost since 1993.
The District falls within 3 National Character Areas (a landscape classification system led by Natural England) -106: Severn and Avon Vales; 107: Cotswolds; 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales.
There are 969.35 miles of Public Rights of Way, which includes the Cotswold Way National Trail, Monarch Way, Diamond Way, the Millennium Way and the Thames Path National Trail.
There are three Sustrans routes (Cycle Routes) – 45, 48, and 57 covering 67.76 miles Total length on road 63.11 miles Total length off road 4.65 miles
The Cotswold AONB Voluntary wardens have created 85 self-guided walks. They cover a range of options for people from short easy routes suitable for wheelchairs such as the ‘walks on wheels’ series, easy access routes of up to 6 miles without stiles and a new longer route for all terrain mobility scooters. Many start from the Principal Settlements
Imported plant pathogens will have a huge effect on the physical look of the District’s landscape, for example, Ash Dieback.
81% of the District is farmland worked by approximately 750 active farms. (DEFRA 2019)
The District generally has good air quality. There are only two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) at Thames Street in Lechlade and the Air Balloon Junction at Birdlip. The Cotswold Climate Change Emergency Strategy identifies road traffic as the biggest contributor to pollution in the District at just over 45%.
The North and South Cotswold GP localities have the oldest populations in Gloucestershire. A high proportion of patients suffer from long-term health problems, particularly conditions linked to age. It is estimated that Cotswold has around 1,500 people aged 65 and over with dementia. This forecast is to rise to 2,500 by 2030. Comparatively high rates of diabetes are also experienced in the District. (Understanding Cotswold JSNA 2015)
Approximately 9% of households live in ‘Fuel Poverty’, compared to the national average of 11.1%. (Department for Energy and Climate Change 2016)
The averages for the highest prevalent diseases in the Cotswold District compared to the England average are Asthma - CDC 6.7 v England 5.9. High Blood Pressure - CDC 15.3 v England 14. Not above the England average, but still high is Depression - CDC 8.3 v England 9.9. Obesity - CDC 8.2 v England 9.8. (Extract taken from the OCSI, generated 19/10/20)

The known benefits of Green Space at a National Level

£2.1 billion per year could be saved in health costs if everyone in England had good access to greenspace, due to increased physical activity in those spaces.

in Birmingham, the annual net benefit to society of their parks and greenspace is nearly £600 million, which includes £192 million in health benefits

In Sheffield, for every £1 spent on maintaining parks, there is a benefit of £34 in health costs saved, with local residents being the primary beneficiaries

(Taken from Improving Access to Greenspace: 2020 Review. Public England)



Water
The majority of the district is a surface water and Nitrate Vulnerable Zone(NVZ) as well as a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone
There are 51 river bodies and one reservoir
The River Thames, the Thames and Severn Canal and the Cotswold Water Park are in or pass through the district.
Surface water quality is generally good in the District; however the Water Cycle Study states there are failures of Water Framework Directive standards. There are some very high concentrations of phosphate, affecting the potential for watercourses to achieve good ecological status. The Cirencester WwTW may require further upgrade to prevent a WFD deterioration for Ammonia.
Cotswold is part of 'SWOX' the Swindon-Oxford Water Resource Zone (WRZ) which is the second largest WRZ in Thames area after London. The Thames area and SE is classed as 'seriously water stressed' and one of the driest regions .
There are 170 lakes, set over 42 square miles formed as a result of mineral extraction in the Cotswold Water Park.
The watercourses in the District are part of two main catchments – the Thames and the Severn
20% of surface waters within the Severn river basin have good ecological status or potential and 79% of ground waters have good quantitative status. Only 8% of surface waters within the Thames river basin have good ecological status or potential and 53% of ground waters have good quantitative status.
The District was severely affected by the 2007 floods, as well as the recent flooding incident in December 20/ January 21.

Wildlife
37 Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
Over 260 locally designated Local Wildlife Sites;
The Cotswold grasslands are home to a large number of rare and declining plants including many species of orchid and other flowers including Pasque Flower and Cotswold Pennycress. Cotswold grassland also supports nationally rare butterflies such as the Chalkhill Blue and the Duke of Burgundy.
Wildflower grassland was created by human activity and has developed since early farmers cleared forested areas to make grazing land for their livestock. In the 1930s 40% of the Cotswolds was covered in Jurassic limestone grassland, today that has fallen to less than 1.5%
Natural England has recently reviewed the boundaries of the Sites of Scientific Interest in the Cotswold Water Park to better reflect important bird populations.
20,000 birds over winter in the Cotswold Water Park including the Goldeneye and the Smew.
8 Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust reserves in the District.
The key habitat types for the District are – ancient woodland, unimproved limestone grassland, unimproved and good semi-improved neutral grassland, traditional orchards, wetlands, rivers, streams and standing open water.
There are a range of European protected species found within the District including - bat species, great crested newts, dormouse, otter and white clawed or freshwater crayfish.
There are a number of imported plant pathogens that are likely to affect the biodiversity of the District for example, Ash Dieback.
Approximately 50 % of SSSIs are in an unfavourable condition for a range of reasons including water quality and poor management. In addition, to the quality status of the sites, the monitoring of them remains an issue.



Cotswold District has a diverse range of habitats, species, important sites and features for biodiversity. The District has a small proportion of the internationally significant Cotswold Beechwoods Special Area for Conservation (SAC) within its boundary and Rodborough Common SAC, North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC are within 3 KM of its boundary. The Local Plan highlights issues regarding the recreational disturbance at Beechwoods SACs and work is currently in progress to understand the potential recreational pressures and what can be done to mitigate it.

The District supports a number of nationally and locally designated sites

Designation	Number of Sites	Total area of sites	Percentage of the District
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - includes a percentage Cotswold Beechwood & Cotswold Water Park	37	468Ha	0.4%
Local Wildlife Sites	Over 260	5,027.2Ha	4.31%
Strategic Nature Reserves	67	15,230.2Ha	13%
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves	8	139.41Ha	0.12%
Local Nature Reserves	2	13.41Ha	0.0115%
Ancient Woodlands.	146	3,566 Ha	3 %

Percentage of land within the District covered by priority habitats and wildlife sites

Designation/ Land type	Percentage of land cover in the District
Priority Habitat	11 %

In 2016 the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership endorsed a strategic framework for GI in Gloucestershire. The approach in this framework formed part of the evidence base for the current Cotswold District Local Plan.

THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership

VISION

That Gloucestershire's green infrastructure is enhanced, extended, promoted and managed to maximise its contribution to our high quality natural and historic environment, our health and well-being, our economy, our resilience to climate change and to a better quality of life for all.

And that sustainable economic growth in the county is strengthened by giving green infrastructure the same consideration as other key county-wide infrastructure issues.

The framework included a map to show the location of the strategic GI in the county and how it links to GI across the county boundaries. The key GI features of relevance to the District are the wider Cotswold Water Park area (Upper Thames Vales), the Cotswold Scarp and the main rivers that run NW/SE across the District.

The Local Nature Partnership Discussions are reviewing the framework and accompanying map to complement the GI work that is going on at the District level and to reflect new county level GI-related initiatives. Some of these new initiatives have been incorporated into the Cotswold District GI Strategy, however others are still in the development phase.

Other key strategic Gloucestershire Initiatives

The Cotswold Area of Outstanding Beauty

The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Beauty signed up to the Colchester Declaration. Under the declaration all AONBs will prepare a Nature Recovery Plan. For the [Cotswolds AONB](#)⁵ this is being developed with the Cotswolds Ecological Network Forum. It will look at nature recovery from a whole Cotswolds landscape scale perspective and will help inform the Nature Recovery Strategies.

Access and Well-Being

[The Local Transport Plan \(LTP\) 2015-2031](#)⁶ is a living document setting out the transport strategy for Gloucestershire.

[The Draft Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy \(2019 - 2030\)](#)⁷ has a number of priorities that can be addressed, at least in part, by high quality GI provision. "Evidence suggests that as little as 10% of someone's health and wellbeing is linked to health care – it's our environment, jobs, food, transport, houses, education, and our friends, families and local communities that affect our health and wellbeing most." The Draft Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2019 - 2030)

⁵ <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/>

⁶ <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/>

⁷ https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2091568/gcc_2596-joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy-summary-version_dev2.pdf

[The Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health strategy](#)⁸ describes the strategic approach in Gloucestershire to improving air quality and mitigating its impact on health as it relates to nitrogen oxides and particular matter. The Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership have been working to steer the strategy to incorporate wider considerations of green infrastructure and active travel to reduce harmful emissions, along with endorsing the Building with Nature standards.

Water

A range of projects, particularly looking at upstream rural sustainable drainage approaches are underway and given that water catchments are not confined to local authority boundaries a wider scale view is crucial.

Wildlife

The Gloucestershire First Local Economic Partnership [Gfirst LEP](#)⁹ along with Local Authorities in Gloucestershire, including Cotswold District Council commissioned the [Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership \(GLNP\)](#)¹⁰ to develop a number of maps. The partnership have developed a Nature Recovery Network and Ecosystem Services map for the County.

Led by [Ecosulis](#) and working closely with [Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust](#)¹¹ and [Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records](#)¹², the Project has mapped the baseline distribution of existing ecosystem services in the County. The work will help guide land-use and planning decisions, identify opportunities for investment in the enhancement of natural capital in the County and provide a tool for delivering positive, integrated benefits for people, wildlife and the economy, including net gain. [The website is a work in progress](#)¹³. When visiting the site, refresh the site regularly to see the latest available map tools and layers.

This work will also help to deliver on the Lawton principles of [Lawton principles of Bigger, Better, More and Joined Up](#)¹⁴ Bigger, Better, More and Joined Up and the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan's (2018) commitment to "develop a Nature Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife, and provide opportunities to re-introduce species that we have lost from our countryside."

8

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s52324/Gloucestershire%20Air%20Quality%20and%20Health%20Strategy%20v.%204.pdf>

⁹<https://www.gfirstlep.com/>

¹⁰<https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/>

¹¹<https://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/>

¹²<https://gcer.co.uk/>

¹³<https://naturalcapital.gcerdata.com/>

¹⁴<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130402170324/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf>



There are a number of new projects, initiatives and strategies happening, at both a National and local level, for example, the [Gloucestershire Tree Strategy](#)¹⁵. Therefore, updates to the strategy will be required overtime to ensure it remains a living document.

[The emerging Environment Bill](#)¹⁶ also introduces provisions requiring the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs), based upon this mapping. These tools will support better spatial planning for nature recovery, by setting out priorities and opportunities for protecting and investing in nature within a local area. They will also support strategic planning for housing and infrastructure and help direct net gain investment so that it has the greatest benefit for local wildlife and people.

The [Nature Recovery Network](#) mapping also forms the first stage in developing natural capital mapping for the area.

This Nature Recovery Network mapping and analysis will, in time, replace the current Gloucestershire Nature Map; however this is the best strategic ecological approach available at present. The Gloucestershire Nature map (hosted by the LNP) is a strategic approach to showing the best places to maintain and extend terrestrial habitats at a county scale. The Nature Map identifies the Lowland Calcareous (Limestone) Grassland, lowland Meadows, Floodplain grazing marsh, Woodland Mosaic and rivers as strategic areas for the Cotswolds.

Gloucestershire Local Nature Improvement Areas

DEFRA define Nature Improvement Areas as:
“large (in the region of 10,000-50,000 hectares), discrete areas that, by taking a landscape–scale approach, will deliver a step change in nature conservation, where a local partnership has a shared vision for their natural environment. “

[The Local Nature Partnership have designated three “locally-designated” NIA¹⁷s](#) within and/or adjacent to Cotswold District; [Appendix A.pdf](#)

- The Cotswold Scarp.
- The Cotswold Valleys.
- Cotswold Water Park.

The Cotswold District

In addition to the [Climate Change Emergency](#) declared in 2019 and [The Ecological Emergency](#) in 2020 there a number of documents, which will also contribute towards the Lawton principles of ‘Bigger, Better and More Joined up’. (Lawton J, 2010, Making Space for Nature: A review of England’s Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network, DEFRA)

The Cotswold District Leisure Strategy is expected to be published in Spring 2021. In the strategy access to the countryside and the outdoors forms a key part.

The Cotswold District Renewable Energy Strategy and the Sustainable Transport Strategy, when adopted, will also have a fundamental role to play in securing Green Infrastructure in the District.

¹⁵ <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/glos-tree-strategy>

¹⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020>

¹⁷ <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/nature-improvement-areas>

1.5 The Key Standards used to shape the Cotswold Green Infrastructure Strategy

Building with Nature (BwN)

[Building with Nature](#)¹⁸ is a national GI benchmark that supports the delivery of high quality GI at all stages in the development process including policy, design, planning, implementation, construction and long-term management. It was originally developed by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and the University of West of England with support from a wide partnership including Cotswold District Council. The benchmark is now, used across the country.

The Cotswold District GI Strategy has been developed using the Core Standards and benefit-driven themes set out in BwN, to ensure that the Strategy is comprehensive and reflects best practice. Some of the BwN Standards have been applied to GI provision in the District. As well as informing the Strategy, they provide the criteria for those using the Strategy.

Although developers can pay for formal accreditation of their proposals the benchmark is also available on a free to use basis, with formal accreditation requiring the services of a trained Assessor. If a development proposal can demonstrate that it meets the BwN benchmark, it is highly likely that it will meet the requirements of the relevant national and local plan policy.



There are five core BwN standards; they distinguish a green infrastructure approach from a more conventional approach to the design and delivery of open and green space. The 5 core standards encompass the following principles:

- 1. Green Infrastructure forms a multifunctional network, operating at a landscape scale.**
Ensures that individual features form and contribute to a multifunctional network of green infrastructure operating at a landscape scale.
- 2. High quality Green Infrastructure reflects and enhances the character of the local environment.**
Ensures that green infrastructure reflects the character of the local environment and positively contributes to local identity, landscape character and vernacular, and a sense of place.
- 3. The type, quality and function of Green Infrastructure responds to the local policy context.**
Ensures green infrastructure effectively meets local priorities and needs as articulated in local policy or through consultation with local stakeholders.

¹⁸ <https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/about>

4. **Green Infrastructure is resilient to climate change and enhances environmental quality.**
Ensures that green infrastructure is resilient to climate change, and opportunities for shade provision, carbon storage, improved soil and air quality, and reduced noise and light pollution are maximised.

5. **Provision is made for long-term management and maintenance of Green Infrastructure.**
Ensures that adequate provision is made for how long green infrastructure will be managed and maintained including the responsibility for these activities and their funding.

In addition to the five core Standards there are the three themed Building with Nature standards for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife.

Wellbeing	Standards aim to secure the delivery of health and wellbeing outcomes through the delivery of green infrastructure features. (Wellbeing includes access)
Water	Standards aim to provide green infrastructure to effectively manage water quantity and quality, increase flood resilience, and maximise opportunities for amenity.
Wildlife	Standards aim to ensure that green infrastructure allows nature to flourish, both within the boundary of development, and at a landscape scale.

The policies in the Cotswold Local Plan, including INF7 (Green Infrastructure) and EN2 (Design of the built and natural environment) and the Cotswold Design Code are compatible with the Building with Nature Standards. The Local Plan is currently undergoing a partial review. The review will ensure these policies will align as much as possible with the National Standards.

1.6 Other Green Infrastructure Standards

There are a range of other GI-related standards that have been developed locally, nationally and internationally. The current Local Plan (D.66 a) makes clear that:

“The amount, type and design of GI should be informed by the appropriate national and local standards, guidance and best practice, including the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards from Natural England and the national allotment provision recommendations from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners”

A number of these standards have been used in analysing the data and mapping within this Strategy. The information in this section will provide the relevant detail to help developers deliver GI that meets all the required standards.

Public Health England and Access to Green Space

In 2020, Public Health produced new guidance for accessing greenspaces called [Improving access to Greenspace a new review for 2020](#)¹⁹. In the guidance, the importance of the Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt) still applies.

¹⁹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904439/Improving_access_to_greenspace_2020_review.pdf

The guidance states “ Several organisations have produced access standards, for example, Natural England’s Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt), Fields in Trust’s Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play, The Woodland Trust’s Woodland Access Standards and the London Plan (174-177). These all present a cumulative opportunity approach to access. Fields in Trust further includes standards for quality. ANGSt is the most comprehensive, not only setting standards for access, quantity and quality, but for services as well.”

Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt)

Publically accessible natural open spaces play a fundamental role in the effective delivery of the wellbeing benefits of GI, for example, there is robust evidence that access to natural greenspace is beneficial for mental and physical health. In order to encourage the provision of more natural green spaces, Natural England developed the [Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards \(ANGSt\)](#)²⁰ The National Planning Policy Guidance (Reference ID: 8-007-20190721) makes reference to the ANGSt being applied when assessing green infrastructure provision. The amount of Accessible Natural Green Space available in the District, has been established using the ANGSt.

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should be within easy reach of accessible natural greenspace:

ANGSt standards	
Size of Site	Distance from Home
of at least 2 hectares in size	no more than 300 metres (5 minute walk) from home;
at least one accessible 20 hectare site	within two kilometre of home;
one accessible 100 hectare site	within five kilometres of home; and
one accessible 500 hectare site	within ten kilometres of home
A minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.	

This standard has been applied to open space provision in the District and the data shows that there is a shortfall in the provision of Accessible Natural Greenspace at all levels.

Other Standards are available and include:

- The Play Standards,
- Fields in Trust Standard and Guidance – outdoor sport, play and informal open space,
- Play England Design for Play Guidance,
- Allotments Standards - The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners,
- Woodland Access Standard.

The 2017 Strategy took into consideration and advised, for best practice the use of The Play Standards and the Fields in Trust Standard and Guidance for outdoor sport, play and informal open space. Building on these standards this Strategy supports the concept of natural play endorsed by Play England Design for Play ‘A Guide for Creating a Successful Play Spaces’.

In recent years there has been a move to open up the idea of play to more than the traditional idea of outside play for children. From pieces of specific equipment and locations to viewing play and associated learning as an activity for all areas not just the playground. The results from the 2017

²⁰https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605111422/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east_of_england/ourwork/gi/accessiblenaturalgreenspacestandardangst.aspx

Strategy demonstrated that play and opportunities for play were not wholly seen as traditional play areas/grounds [Appendix B](#)²¹

The Play Standards

The Play Fields in Trust has offered guidance for practitioners on open space provision and design known as the Six Acre Standard (6AS) most recently updated to Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play (PDOSP) in 2008. While there is a need for review, given the changes in political, planning and social landscapes since 2008, the benchmark standards within PDOSP still remain a useful guidance tool.

The PDOSP seeks the protection, provision and improvements of outdoor spaces for sport and play and good planning and design is central to the philosophy and objectives. Using this current guidance will help to ensure that the provision of play is a sufficient size to enable effective use; is located in an accessible location and in close proximity to dwellings; and of a quality to maintain longevity and encourage its continued use.

Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play (PDOSP) 2008	Play Standards	New and existing Play areas LAPs – Local Areas for Play (very young children) LEAP – Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) (for children who can go out and play independently) NEAPS - Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (aimed at older children)
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The 2017 GI, Open Space and Play Space Strategy identified that there were 40 play areas in the 17 principal settlements. Each of the play areas were assessed as a result of site visits in 2016. The quality standards used included assessing the mix of play experiences, litter bin provision, benches and seats, safety of site, parking, dog free area, the location, lighting and disabled access. (SEE [Appendix C. 17 Play Area Standards 1.docx](#)).

Fields in Trust Standard and Guidance – outdoor sport, play and informal open space

The guidance is based on a broad recommendation that 6 acres (2.4 hectares) of accessible green space per 1,000 head of population enables residents of all ages to participate in sport and play.

Play England Design for Play Guidance

[Play England Design for Play - A guide to creating successful play spaces](#)²²

Design for Play includes 10 design principles which are at the core of a fresh, design-led approach to commissioning, and which are encapsulated in one ‘golden rule’:

‘A successful play space is a place in its own right, specially designed for its location. Designers should take a holistic perspective on designing for play. Play opportunities should be embedded in the site as a whole.’

Allotments Standards - The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners

[The National Allotment Society](#)²³ states that ‘An allotment is an area of land, leased either from a private or local authority landlord, for the use of growing fruit and vegetables. In some cases this land will also be used for the growing of ornamental plants, and the keeping of hens, rabbits and

²¹ <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17Qs1leL3xsKXZpm0olvMrgNuiygQts-0>

²² <http://www.playengland.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/design-for-play-introduction.pdf>

²³ <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/>

bees. An allotment is traditionally measured in rods (perches or poles), an old measurement dating back to Anglo-Saxon times. 10 poles is the accepted size of an allotment, the equivalent of 250 square metres or about the size of a doubles tennis court. There should be 15 allotment plots per 1000 households' (SEE APPENDIX D [Allotment Standard.docx](#))

The update to the 2017 Strategy has drawn on the original data regarding allotments. This data has been used to confirm the importance of allotments in the GI Strategy. In particular, they deliver key elements of the Strategy, for example, Wellbeing and Wildlife.

(APPENDIX C [Allotment Standard.docx](#)) The results of the findings highlight the inequality of allotment provision in the District. Some principal settlements have a deficit and some more than the suggested standard requirement. The Standard is viewed as a minimum not as a maximum.

The Woodland Access Standard – Forestry Commission

According to the ²⁴[Woodland Access Standard](#) (endorsed by the Forestry Commission), no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size. There should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km of people's homes. This is intended to be an aspirational benchmark and some flexibility and local assessment is needed in its interpretation. Currently only 18.2% of the population of Britain lives within 500m of accessible woodland, in the Cotswolds this is 6.3 %. This standard has not been used in assessing GI provision within the District as it is, to some degree, covered by the ANGSt standard.

²⁴ <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/43913/woodland-indicators-by-parliamentary-constituency.pdf>

2. Green Infrastructure Issues and Potential for the Cotswold District

These issues come from evidence prepared as part of this Strategy and from other data and evidence sources. Also refer to evidence in Section 5

2.1 The Strategic GI Issues for Cotswold District

Access and Wellbeing led Issues

- To ensure that high quality GI, is created and maintained, for the benefit of all, as part of new developments.
- To address the lack of accessible natural green space, including allotments and appropriately sized gardens, in order to meet specific local needs.
- To create new strategic GI cycle and pedestrian links, linking up existing settlements and other important destinations.
- To improve access to and create new public footpaths in and around the principal settlements.
- To increase play provision, including informal play opportunities, within new developments and elsewhere.

Water Led Issues

- To improve the water quality of water courses.
- To deliver Hydro-energy projects (particularly those that may also provide fluvial flood resilience).
- To ensure that SUDS are incorporated within new developments.
- To improve the management of watercourses, including their banks.
- To deliver upstream new SUDS.
- To consider water and its value as a natural and valuable resource at a catchment based level.

Wildlife Led Issues

- To reverse habitat and species loss and fragmentation and build resilience to climate change and disease.
- To address recreational pressures on the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).
- To develop a strategic approach to biodiversity conservation in the Cotswold Water Park.
- To implement biodiversity net gain in a way that maximises the outcomes for biodiversity and GI more widely.
- To ensure that habitats created and enhanced reflect locally important habitat networks.

Planning Led Issues

- To ensure that the natural environment, natural capital and GI is fully considered in all investment decisions relevant strategies and policies, including community planning, the review of the local plan and strategic level projects and their implementation.
- To maximise the contribution that GI can make to the climate change agenda – both mitigation and adaptation.
- To continue to develop the evidence base to support effective GI provision.
- To develop a stewardship model for the management of GI in new developments.

2.2 Possible solutions to address GI issues

The actions required to deliver these possibilities for GI in the District are being, and will be, carried out by a range of partners and stakeholders at the national, county, district and local level. The possible solutions and research, in turn form the basis of a potential plan for the Cotswold District Council. Many of the possible solutions will deliver more than one potential element of GI in the District.

GI Potential in the Cotswold District

Wellbeing and Access
Investigate the potential for the creation of new (and particularly medium to large scale) country or natural parks within the District
Work with partners, for example the Highways Authority (through the emerging county cycle strategy) to investigate the potential for the creation of new and enhancement of existing GI led strategic cycle and pedestrian routes in the District, with an emphasis on – linking up existing settlements (within and outside the District) and other important destinations, prioritising – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cirencester to Kemble (included in Local Plan) Kemble to Tetbury(included in Local Plan) Cirencester to South Cerney, the Cotswold Water Park and out to Swindon Fairford to Lechlade (included in Local Plan) The settlements along the Fosseway <p>Ensuring that as many of these routes as possible are off-road or traffic free</p> <p>Re-using disused railway lines and canals.</p> <p>Providing routes that are accessible for all users, including families and disabled people and horse riders.</p> <p>Designs that also increase wildlife habitat connectivity</p> <p>Those routes that can be delivered through new developments</p>
Encourage the creation and promotion of circular, signed and accessible for all, circular walks around each of the 17 principal settlements for the benefit of local residents, workers and visitors.
Encourage the provision of new allotments in all of the settlements.
To encourage landowners to provide opportunities for GI and natural capital as part of the Green Recovery.
Provide better guidance on and encourage the provision of play opportunities in new developments and elsewhere, with a particular emphasis on natural play and play provision that is integrated across the whole development.
Where appropriate, review the management of the Council’s own land holding to maximise its contribution to the GI network and to climate change adaptation and mitigation
Water
Work in partnership with landowners and other key stakeholders to improve the water quality of water courses and to deliver Hydro- energy projects (particularly those that may also provide fluvial flood resilience)
Ensure that SUDS are considered from the first point of developer engagement with the Council; emphasising not only their water management role but also their potential to deliver biodiversity and amenity benefits.
Work with riparian owners and other partners to improve watercourse management.

Wildlife
Support and work with key partners to minimise recreational pressures on the Cotswold Beechwoods SACs and North Meadow/Clattinger Farm SAC.
Work with partners to produce and implement a biodiversity strategy for the Cotswold Water Park.
Work with partners to prepare nature recovery network mapping and an Nature Recovery Strategy for Gloucestershire, that is fully reflected in District level policy and strategy.
Ensure that habitat gain achieved through any District-licensing projects also delivers on wider GI objectives.
Investigate how Biodiversity Net Gain can best deliver wider GI objectives and whether there is a case for delivering Net Gain at a higher level than mandated nationally.
Planning
Ensure that the current GI policies and design code principles are met and delivered in new developments
Ensure there are mechanisms in place for the management of new or enhanced GI from the first stages of design to ensure high quality management, community involvement and that the mechanism for stewardship will deliver on aspirations.
Review the success of the current local plan policies and GI principles; amending them where necessary as part of the local plan review.
Ensure that the review of the local plan, including new allocations and revised policies (including any revised Cotswold Design Code) fully considers better alignment with the Building with Nature benchmark and any emerging Natural England GI standards; the Gloucestershire Nature Recovery network, other new legislation, policy and guidance and that they form part of an overall natural capital approach.
Consider how GI issues can be highlighted within the site allocation process, for example by including the GI on and offsite requirements for each proposed development site and within the relevant policies.
Encourage the provision of new accessible open spaces through the local plan review – considering whether a “call for sites” for such areas or open space / natural park site allocation would be appropriate.
Consider how any new cycle or pedestrian routes could be included in the review of the local plan and how funding from development, for example via CIL, might be achieved.
Highlight the importance of the consideration of the natural environment, natural capital and GI within Neighbourhood Development Plans; for example by providing – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GI mapping ● Analysis of GI mapping – looking for opportunities to enhance and connect GI. an evidence paper and policy template for NDPs on GI and the natural environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review the current evidence base for the designation of Special Landscape Areas and update where necessary.
Investigate the carbon sequestration potential of GI, comparing different land uses and habitats.
Work with Highways England and other partners to maximise the opportunities for the A417 (Missing Link) project and any related projects to deliver GI benefits.

Work with the LNP and Duty to Cooperate and other partners to review the Strategic Framework for GI in Gloucestershire.

Planning

Ensure that the Chesterton Strategic Development delivers on its aspirations to provide high quality GI (that meets the BwN benchmark).

Encourage the ecologically appropriate planting of more trees and woodland and rewilding projects to address climate change. Ensuring that this occurs in the design and creation of areas where multi-benefits are maximised.

Review and Monitoring Actions.

Monitor the success of the GI strategy; review new GI-related initiatives and review the GI strategy, as necessary.

2.3 Delivering Potential GI in the 17 Principal Settlements

In addition to actions at a District level, consideration has been given to GI actions that could be delivered at a settlement level, focusing on those larger principal settlements where development is most likely to come forward. These were derived from the existing Local Plan or came forward as part of the 2018/19 community consultation. These actions are detailed within this section.

Other settlements in the District are likely to have similar actions and/or priorities. Preparing further GI mapping and undertaking additional community consultation with those settlements will help to identify these. A useful way to achieve this would be via the NDP process.

Proposed GI for the 17 Principal Settlements

South Cotswold Principal Settlements

Cirencester			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	<p>Provision of additional play space and facilities for children and young people;</p> <p>Improvement of the functionality, amenity, safety, biodiversity, environment and attractiveness of city bank;</p> <p>Improving pedestrian /cycle linkages between Chesterton, the Amphitheatre and the town centre.</p> <p>Cycling infrastructure in Cirencester, including improvements to Tetbury Road and London Road corridors.</p>		
Locally prepared GI ideas	<p>Improve non-car access to open spaces.</p>	<p>Enhance the Daglingworth stream</p>	<p>Improve school and hospital grounds for wildlife</p>

Down Ampney			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	<p>Improvements to footpaths in and around the village, including a pedestrian crossing in the village centre</p> <p>Improvements in links to The Folley and Down Ampney Pitts, and existing pocket parks;</p> <p>Contributions to, a new natural open space or pocket park.</p>		
Locally prepared GI ideas	<p>Improve enhance new routes to amenity areas and consider activities to increase their use</p>	<p>Improve the Ampney Brook</p>	<p>Survey and improve habitat for swallows, house martins and swifts.</p>

Fairford			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	<p>The route for the multi-use path from Fairford to Lechlade along the former railway to be safeguarded;</p> <p>The provision of land for allotments.</p>	<p>Improvements to the provision of footpath and cycle links between Fairford and the riverside, the Cotswold Water Park and canal route;</p>	
Locally prepared GI ideas	<p>Improve access to GI to the south of the town and around Fairford Park</p>	<p>Enhance the river bank for wildlife</p>	<p>Improve habitat for hedgehogs</p>

Kemble			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	Improvement of bus and cycle links between the village and Kemble Enterprise Park Provision of a safe footpath between Ewen and Kemble.		
Locally prepared GI ideas	Enhance existing walking routes, including Thames Path	Create more small ponds	Improve local green space and recreation ground for wildlife

Lechlade			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	The route for the multi –use path from Fairford to Lechlade along with the line of the former railway will be safeguarded; and Installation of a new footbridge over the River Thames ; Improvements to the public realm at the entrances to Lechlade and the town centre; The regeneration of the riverside area as a prominent gateway to the town for tourist, leisure and retail related uses, taking into account the potential flood risk.		
Locally prepared GI ideas	Improve non-car routes to Coln Country park	Create new habitats for water voles, otters and newts	Improve local green space for key species

South Cerney			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	A new and improved cycle path from Cirencester, the Cotswold Water Park and the Duke of Gloucester Barracks.		
Locally prepared GI ideas	Improve links to playing fields	Investigate reinstating tributaries	Enhance biodiversity at the golf club

Tetbury			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan			
Locally prepared GI ideas	Extend the railway path towards Cirencester	Improve riparian habitats along railway and Avon	Improve school and hospital grounds for wildlife

Mid Cotswold Principal Settlements

Andoversford			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	NA	NA	NA
Locally prepared GI ideas	Link up school and new housing area. Create new allotments	Re-use water run-off from Parish buildings	Improve bankside quality for wildlife

Bourton on the Water			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	NA	NA	NA
Locally prepared GI ideas	Improve non-car access to Greystones nature reserve	Improve river corridors for wildlife	Increase resilience of species by creating new areas for wildlife

Northleach			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	Improvements to the market Place	NA	NA
Locally prepared GI ideas	Enhance green ring around town for non-car access	Improve riparian habitat along river	Improve wildlife value of Fortey woodland

Stow on the Wold			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	NA	NA	NA
Locally prepared GI ideas	Increase GI in new developments, particularly visual and auditory access	Make the riverside walk along the Dickler more accessible	Enhance King George V playing fields for wildlife

Upper Rissington			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	New natural open space or pocket park and; allotment provision.	NA	
Locally prepared GI ideas	Create green routes. Build a multi-use games area	Manage water courses and ponds to increase water quality	Enhance Godfrey's Grounds and Ansell's Pasture for wildlife

North Cotswold Principal Settlements

Blockley			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	Provision of allotments; Improvement of footpath and cycle links;		
Locally prepared GI ideas	Audit seating and benches	Enhance mill ponds for wildlife	Improve habitat quality and connectivity along the Brook

Chipping Campden			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	A new open space or pocket park in the north and the east of village.	NA	NA
Locally prepared GI ideas	Create circular routes linking to Cotswold Way and open spaces	Improve the River Cam for key wildlife species	Provide for key species in new developments

Mickleton			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	NA	NA	NA
Locally prepared GI ideas	Improve provision of accessible GI	Re-use water run-off from Parish buildings	Hedgerow restoration

Moreton in Marsh			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	NA	Flood alleviation bund and channel to the north-west	NA
Locally prepared GI ideas	Consider creation of new country park	Enhance water courses in public open spaces	Improve cemeteries and churchyards for wildlife

Willersey			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	NA	NA	NA
Locally prepared GI ideas	Improve park for amenity and wildlife	Manage water run-off from High Street with swales etc	Improve roadside verges for wildlife, especially pollinators

3. Delivering Green Infrastructure through New Developments

3.1

The creation and enhancement of GI are key components of delivering high quality new developments and creating excellent places for people to live, work and play. This Strategy should help to ensure that this happens.

3.2 Policy Background

3.2.1. The potential of GI to help create great places is recognised in local, national and international policy and guidance. For example, the [NPPF](#)²⁵ covers GI in a number of different sections, including design and the natural environment, highlighting the multi-functional nature of GI. There is a specific section on GI in the national [Planning Practice Guidance](#)²⁶ and GI is referenced in the [new national design guide](#).²⁷

There is a range of international and national legislation, policy and guidance that relates to specific GI benefits or issues, for example The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Water Framework Directive.

National and international policy, legislation and guidance on the natural environment, including GI is evolving very quickly, for example the emerging Environment Bill will affect the legislative framework for GI. For that reason a list of the relevant documents is not included in this Strategy. [The Town and Country Planning Association \(TCPA\)](#)²⁸ holds the UK's biggest GI knowledge base, this knowledge base is constantly being updated.

3.2.2 Local Policy - Cotswold District Local Plan 2011 -2031

The Local Plan has a range of policies that relate to GI, however the two main policies are EN2 and INF7, which should be considered in conjunction with the Cotswold Design Code (appendix D). The implementation of the policies within the Local Plan and the Design Code GI principles will help to ensure that local GI requirements are met and that high quality developments are delivered.

GI Policies in the Local Plan	
Policy INF1	Infrastructure Delivery
Policy INF7	Green Infrastructure (to be read in conjunction with appendix D - The Cotswold Design Code)
Policy EN1	Built, Natural & Historic Environment
Policy EN2	Design of the Built and Natural Environment (to be read in conjunction with appendix D - The Cotswold Design Code)
Policy EN5	Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Policy EN6	Special Landscape Areas
Policy EN 7	Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands
Policy EN8	Biodiversity & Geodiversity: Features, Habitats & Species
Policy EN9	Biodiversity & Geodiversity Designated Sites
Policy EN14	Managing Flood Risk

²⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

²⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

²⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide>

²⁸ <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/News/uks-biggest-green-infrastructure-knowledge-base-launched>

Policy EN15	Pollution & Contaminated Land
Policy INF1	Infrastructure Delivery
Policy INF2	Social & Community Infrastructure Policy
Policy INF3	Sustainable Transport
Policy INF4	Highway Safety
Policy INF8	Water Management Infrastructure Policy
Policy S2	The Strategic Site
Policy SP3	Thames and Severn Canal
Policy SP4	The River Thames
Policy SP5	Cotswold Water Park: Post-mineral extraction after use

Policy EN2

Design Of The Built And Natural Environment

Development will be permitted which accords with the Cotswold Design Code (Appendix D). Proposals should be of design quality that respects the character and distinctive appearance of the locality.

Policy INF7 Green Infrastructure

1. Development proposals must contribute, depending on their scale, use and location, to the protection and enhancement of existing Green Infrastructure and/or the delivery of new Green Infrastructure.
 2. New Green Infrastructure provision will be expected to link to the wider Green Infrastructure network of the District and beyond.
- Green Infrastructure will be designed in accordance with principles set out in the Cotswold Design Code (Appendix D)

Cotswold Local Plan Appendix D – Cotswold Design Code

(Sections D1 – D65 include issues that are also of relevance to the design of GI, for example the consideration of setting, inclusive design, boundary treatments etc.)

Effective Green Infrastructure and High Quality Landscape

D.66 High quality well integrated and carefully designed green infrastructure (GI) and landscape provision is crucial to the long-term success of developments, ensuring that the maximum multi-functional benefits are achieved for those that live in, work at and visit new developments.

The spaces in between new buildings, the surrounding areas, and the connections between a new development and the existing townscape or landscape, are equally important to the design of the structures themselves.

The detail of the GI and landscape provided on a development site will be related to various factors including the nature of the site itself, and the type, size and impact of the development. Improved GI and high quality landscape is also of great benefit when introduced into existing built areas. Key principles include the following:

The Cotswold Design Code		
a	National and local standards and best practice	The amount, type and design of GI should be informed by the appropriate national and local standards, guidance and best practice, including the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard from Natural England and the national allotment provision recommendations from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners.
b	Local character	The design of newly created elements of GI and landscape should be inspired by and enhance the character of the existing GI, landscape, biodiversity and built environment of the site and the wider area.
c	Existing landscape features	GI design and distribution should be informed by existing landscape, ecological and historical features. For example, stone walls, hedgerows, trees and ponds should be retained and successfully integrated into the GI network.
d	Heritage assets	A new development site may include or fall within the setting of historic buildings and structures, and archaeological sites. The GI network should be designed, used and managed in such a way as to protect and enhance the heritage assets and their settings, preserving key views and buffer areas.
e	Interface with existing properties	The interface between a new development and any existing adjacent properties should be designed to respect the amenity of existing residents and to ensure that the existing and new developments are well integrated.
f	On-site GI network	This should function as a network of interconnected green (and blue/aquatic) spaces, which fulfil various functions including: formal sport; recreation; pedestrian and cyclist routes; accessible natural green space; structural landscaping; SuDS; and wildlife habitat. Most of the elements of the GI should be multi-functional.
g	Distribution of GI across the site	The GI network should be designed to ensure that all residents, employees and visitors have convenient access to green spaces. This should be achieved through dispersal of meaningful and usable areas across the site. Elements of the GI should be of sufficient size to be functional and easily managed. The GI and landscape provision should be located so that it makes best use of and enhances important local views.
h	GI and landscape provision on individual plots	The landscape design of individual plots and the areas immediately surrounding them (e.g. roadside verges) should be of high quality and should reflect the landscape, ecological and built character of the area. Private spaces such as gardens should be of an appropriate size for the dwelling provided, and should be designed to ensure privacy and adequate daylight. Private spaces should be clearly recognisable as such, through the use of suitable boundary treatments.
i	Inter-relationship with off-site GI	The on-site GI should be designed to ensure that it links physically with off-site GI to maximise opportunities for ecological connections, footpath and cycle links, continuity of landscape features, etc.
j	Off-site GI enhancements	Where possible enhancements to off-site GI assets should be achieved, for example increasing public access to nearby land, and better management of wildlife sites in the locality.
k	Sustainable drainage solutions	The principle approach to the SuDS infrastructure should be to ensure that as much of it as possible is provided on the surface, mimicking the natural drainage of the site. This will reduce the burden on the existing sewerage system. The SuDS infrastructure should not only serve a drainage role, but also contribute to the visual amenity and the wider environmental performance of the development. Its management should be fully integrated with the management of other aspects of GI.
l	Green features on buildings	Green features (living roofs and walls, bird or bat boxes, etc.) should be incorporated, where appropriate, into new and existing buildings.
m	Biodiversity enhancements	Opportunities should be taken within all areas of GI (and the built environment) to enhance biodiversity through species choice, creation of new habitats, land management etc. There should be linkages with existing biodiversity assets and networks, and increasing access to nature for people.

n	Species choice	Within planting schemes, species choice should be guided by appropriateness to the local area (with an emphasis on native species); suitability for its function (for example winter screening); value for wildlife; and resilience to climate change.
o	Street trees	Wherever possible street trees should be planted to improve amenity and environmental performance. Street trees can also be used to help to define the character of different areas of a development and improve legibility.
p	Road junctions	The landscape design of new or significantly altered road junctions, particularly at visually prominent locations, should be of high quality, reflect the landscape character of the area, help to give a sense of place, and ensure greater legibility.
q	Pedestrian and cycle routes	The walking and cycling network, which will form part of the GI, should encourage “active travel”, in line with the highway user hierarchy principle. On-site routes should link to off-site non-vehicular routes, particularly those that lead to key destinations such as shops, schools and railway stations. These routes should be designed so that they are also available to the existing residents and businesses in the locality, and they should be implemented early in the delivery of the development.
r	Healthy lifestyles	GI should be designed to encourage healthy lifestyles for all, including: encouraging walking and cycling; provision of formal and informal sports facilities; providing volunteering opportunities; and food production.
s	Provision for all sectors of the community	The amount, distribution and type of GI across a site (and any off-site GI enhancements) should be based on an assessment of the needs of the new residents and other users of the site. Consideration should also be given to helping to meet any shortfall in existing provision.
t	Accessibility	The majority of the GI should be accessible, both physically and socially, to all sectors of the community, providing safe, attractive, welcoming and engaging spaces for local people. It should meet the needs of all sectors of the community, including “hard to reach” groups and those who may require specific provision (for example seating to assist those with limited mobility).
u	Timing of “construction” of GI	Where appropriate, elements of the GI network should be “constructed” in advance of built development. Where this is not appropriate, the timing of their “construction” should be tied to the relevant phase of built development.
v	Long-term Management	The management and monitoring of GI should usually be controlled by a management plan. The plan should clearly set out who will be responsible for the management of the GI and landscape provision. Management plans should be implemented in full and regularly reviewed. Where appropriate the local community should be involved in the management of GI.

3.2.3 Neighbourhood Development Plans

There are a number of made and draft Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) in the District and some of these include policies with GI themes. More detail on [Neighbourhood planning](#) can be found on the CDC website.

Examples of GI related policies in made Neighbourhood Development Plans			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
Tetbury Neighbourhood Plan	Policy 4: Protection and enhancement of the rights of way network Policy 6: Open Spaces Policy 8: Local Green Spaces		Policy 9: Protection of mature and landmark trees.
Lechlade Neighbourhood Plan	Policy D1 Design Principles Conform to the (Local Plan) Cotswold Design Code or its successor document. Includes guidance on GI. Policy E3 Proposals for development or redevelopment of the marina will be supported provided that these would: b) provide links to the town and the adjoining public footpath network, including the Riverside pub and riverside park south of the river. Policy G2 Lechlade Cricket Ground		Policy G1 Local Green Spaces
Northleach Neighbourhood Plan	Policy NE3: Design of the built and natural environment iv. improving footpath links from the town to the countryside and within the town.	Policy NE1: Public Parking Prior to any development taking place a site-specific flood risk assessment will be required.	Policy NE6: Local Green Spaces – designating spaces

3.3 Designing Excellent Green Infrastructure in New Developments

Delivering the benefits of GI

Planning policies require new developments to fully consider GI issues but there are also benefits for developers in creating excellent GI which go beyond those policy requirements, including to :-

- Ensure that all the land within the development site is used optimally delivering a range of benefits from flood management and cycle routes to biodiversity mitigation and landscape enhancements.
- Resolve local community concerns about new development, for example by providing new public open spaces.
- Demonstrate a commitment to high quality.

Table: How can High Quality GI Contribute to the 3 Benefit Based Themes? (Taken from Building with Nature)

How can High Quality GI Contribute to the 3 Benefit-Based Themes?		
Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
Can be designed to promote health, wellbeing, community cohesion and active living	Can be used to minimise surface water runoff and manage flood risk as part of SuDS	Can be used to avoid, mitigate and compensate for negative impacts on existing biodiversity; and offer the opportunity to restore, create and enhance biodiversity in line with targets
Can be designed to be inclusive of the needs of vulnerable and excluded groups	Can be used to improve water quality	Can contribute to the target conservation status of key species
Can be designed to be used and enjoyed all year round	Can be designed to create better places for people and wildlife to live	Can include ecological features around and within the built environment
Can assist in supporting local priorities for reducing/and or preventing health inequalities	Can provide opportunities to improve water management at a catchment level	Can play a role in restoring and sustaining wider ecological networks
Can inspire innovative solutions to overcoming social and cultural boundaries to use and enjoy GI	Can provide a range of features to minimise pollution downstream	
Can add positively to distinctiveness of place	Water management features can add value to the overall design of a place	

Designing GI

The Cotswold Design Code provides a framework of principles for designing high quality GI within new developments. Additional information on the Cotswold Design Code [advice on green infrastructure](#)²⁹, particularly at the pre-application stage, has been prepared for (funded by the MHCLG Innovation Fund) site specific pre-application advice on GI can be obtained from [Cotswold District Council](#)³⁰

A simple, additional way for developers to demonstrate that they are delivering high quality GI at both the design, implementation and long-term management stages is to make use of the BwN benchmark process (see section 1.5)

²⁹ <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/4sojaskr/green-infrastructure-planning-advice.pdf>

³⁰ [Cotswold District Council](#)

Green Infrastructure Checklist for Developers

- Consider what the GI requirements for the site may be before purchase of a site to ensure that the land value fully reflects those requirements.
- Engage with CDC at an early stage to make sure GI is central to the design of the development, including using the Green Infrastructure Pre Application Advice Note.
- Consider how the GI will be managed from the first stages of design to ensure high quality management community involvement and that the mechanism for stewardship will deliver on aspirations.
- Use the full range of Local Plan policies to consider the broader elements of GI.
- Use the Design Code in the Local Plan and Building with Nature Benchmark to inform what GI is appropriate, in terms of location, type, quantum and quality (including reference to the standards set out in [section 1.5](#) of this GI Strategy).
- Engage, at an early stage, with local Town and Parish Councils to better understand community GI aspirations.
- Ensure that the GI related policies and projects in adopted and draft Neighbourhood Plans are fully considered.
- Use the mapping data and other evidence in this GI Strategy to better understand the local GI context. This will maximise the opportunities for the GI enhanced or created as part of new development to contribute to the overall GI network of the area and to deliver multiple benefits for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife at a local as well as at a district level.
- Have a full understanding of the context of the site and its role in the GI network of the area, for example by referring to the Nature Recovery Network mapping, when available and the [Landscape Character Assessments](#)³¹. In addition to the mapping and other information in this Strategy.
- Ensure that all the relevant assessments and studies have been undertaken, for example ecological appraisals; landscape visual impact assessments etc and that these have informed the design of the new development.
- Look for opportunities to deliver the District and local actions in the GI Strategy in [section 2 - Green Infrastructure Issues and Potential for the Cotswold District](#)
- Consider in full the range of soft and hard landscape interventions to ensure the maximum usability, quality and attractiveness of GI.
- Put long-term mechanisms in place to retain and manage new or enhanced GI.

³¹ <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/our-landscape/landscape-strategy-guidelines/>

4. Delivering Green Infrastructure through Community and Partnership working

4.1 Community and Partnership Activities and Projects

There are a wide range of GI-related activities, projects and initiatives happening in the District, from those at a landscape scale, such as the [WILD project](#)³² to individual actions, for example; installing a single bat box in a garden. Information on many of these projects can be found on [Gloucestershire Nature Project Map](#).³³ This mapping illustrates the diverse nature of the organisations involved in GI, and the importance of partnership working to ensure that the right people are involved and that the most effective use is made of the resources available.

Examples of Working in Partnership to Achieve Green Infrastructure Outcomes

Working In Partnership To Achieve Green Infrastructure Outcomes				
Organisation	Project	Well-being	Water	Wildlife
Cotswold District Council	Health & Wellbeing Partnership CDC leads on this quarterly meeting of voluntary and statutory organisations who work in the area of health and wellbeing to share information about their activities.	X		
Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Environment Agency	Flood Defences 28 Parishes in the Cotswold District have either had work completed or have work planned or both on flood defences since 2007; including 11 of the 17 key settlements.	X	X	X
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	The Wild Towns Project will create, connect and enhance green spaces for wildlife in seven towns across Gloucestershire, including: Cirencester, Tetbury, Fairford and Moreton in Marsh	X	X	X
Cotswolds National Landscape	Glorious Cotswold Grasslands ³⁴ Project aims to create the largest network of wildflower rich Jurassic limestone grassland in the country – around 100 hectares in total, over three years.	X	X	X
Gloucestershire County Council Highways	Gloucestershire Rights of Way and Countryside Access Improvement plan 2011-2016	x	x	x

³² <https://www.gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk/erdf>

³³ <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/gloucestershire-nature-project-map>

³⁴ <https://www.cotswoldsaoib.org.uk/looking-after/our-grasslands-projects/glorious-cotswolds-grasslands/>

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	The Cotswold Water Park WILD Project³⁵ Water with Integrated Local Delivery) is a three year project set within the Cotswold Water Park, it aims to improve water quality and biodiversity in order to meet the demands of EU legislation	X	X	X
Gloucestershire Highways	Biodiversity Guidance³⁶ contains advice to help the County Council implement its statutory duty to conserve biodiversity (Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006) whilst carrying out its highways functions.	X	X	X

Although many of these projects focus on one of the benefit-based outcomes of Wellbeing, Water or Wildlife, as the table above shows, they usually have beneficial outcomes for all.

Most of the GI-related activities, projects and initiatives in the District are already delivering on many GI elements within this strategy and new ones will come forward that are also able to do that. The setting out of a clear list of issues and possibilities for the District may help projects to focus their activities and to justify what they are doing where this is necessary, for example within funding bids. The mapping and other evidence in the strategy should also assist in identifying where projects and partnerships can target their work to enhance the GI network of the District – and also improve delivery at a more local community level.

4.2 Community Planning

Local communities, including Parish and Town Councils are keen to shape their towns and villages and this can be achieved through project work – as can be seen in some of the projects under [section 3.2.3](#), where local communities are key to successful outcomes, or by community planning initiatives, such as Parish Plans, Community Design Statements or Neighbourhood Plans. There is robust evidence, in new plans, to show that community involvement in GI has many benefits, including addressing social exclusion and improved mental health outcomes. Using GI as a focus for community effort can also encourage a wider range of people to become involved and to harness the energies of those who might otherwise be considered to be “hard to reach”, for example young families are unlikely to engage in traditional community planning exercises but may be interested in wildlife projects.

Some local communities have already included GI in their NDPs. The GI Strategy provides robust evidence on which to base GI policies and projects in NDPs. This includes some detailed mapping of the GI assets (Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife) focused on the 17 principal settlements in the District. Similar mapping and data collation exercises would also be useful for other communities embarking on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan. New plan stakeholder feedback has indicated that there is insufficient guidance on incorporating GI and other natural environment issues within NDPs, particularly within a local context.

This Strategy should help to provide that local context:

³⁵ <https://www.waterpark.org/wild-project/>

³⁶ <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/19592/ghbg-v31-dec2019.pdf>

- The maps and additional information the GI Strategy should also help local communities to :-
- Develop local community GI projects, (based on evidence of need).
- Support bids for external funding.
- Inform the Neighbourhood Planning process for example helping to identify breaks in connectivity for footpaths or wildlife that could be addressed through the NDP.
- Ensure that new developments can contribute to local GI by working directly with developers – showing them where the GI priorities lie or by providing detailed comments that refer to GI in responses to planning applications and other consultations .
- Inform NDP site allocations by providing clarity on sites that may not be suitable for development in GI terms or by highlighting opportunities to create new or improve existing GI within new site allocations (including providing detail on the type, location and quantum of GI that should be incorporated).

Local Green Spaces

An important example of GI within community planning for green infrastructure is Local Green Spaces (LGS). The [NPPF](#)³⁷ makes provision for local communities to identify green areas of particular importance to those communities, where development will not be permitted except in very special circumstances. Local Green Spaces can be designated through a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Development Plans.

A limited number of LGS were designated in the [current Local Plan](#)³⁸ following community consultation; and additional ones have been designated in NDPs; however further sites are likely to be suitable for designation and these could come forward, either within emerging NDPs or in the review of the Local Plan.

The Council has developed a tool kit to assist in the selection and designation of [Local Green Spaces](#)³⁹.

Using this toolkit ensures that any proposed designation is robust and will stand up to challenge and in addition it provides consistency across the District.

³⁷https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

³⁸<https://cotswold.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=885eb94398bf4819b17bd66d64275e59>

³⁹<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17Qs1leL3xsKXZpm0olvMrgNuiygQts-0>



5. The Evidence – what does the evidence tell us?

The GI issues and possibilities in the strategy are underpinned by a range of evidence including:

- 5.1 GI Mapping
- 5.2 Policies and information within the current District Local Plan and its existing evidence base
- 5.3 Desktop Research carried out in 2015/16
- 5.4 Emerging evidence that is being collated as part of the Local Plan Review
- 5.5 Engagement with principal settlements in 2018
- 5.6 Feedback from relevant stakeholders
- 5.7 International, national and county-level legislation, policy and guidance
- 5.8 Other data from international, national, county and local information sources
- 5.9 Access to Open Spaces

5.1 GI Mapping

The mapping for the Strategy took place during 2018 and 2019, with additional amends made in 2020. The maps, listed below, helped to establish a picture of existing work in the GI field at a County level. These maps are and include The Strategic Framework for GI in the County, The Gloucestershire Nature Map and Gloucestershire Nature Improvement Areas.

Focusing on the Cotswold District, the following maps established key elements of GI within it, or on the District’s boundary. These maps include:

- All the elements of Green Infrastructure in the District as well as a 15KM from the boundary line to recognise that GI does not respect boundary lines and our neighbours GI,
- Linear Green Infrastructure, which includes existing Sustrans Routes , National Trail (Cotswold Way & Thames Path) Promoted Routes (Diamond Way, Macmillian Way & Monarch’s Way) and rivers,
- Agricultural Land Classification in the District,
- Landscape Classifications Cotswold District,
- Nature Conservation Plans and Key Access Routes and areas of opportunity.

Finally, maps were set up for each of 17 principal settlements to mirror the Local Plan. For each of the 17 settlements a Wellbeing, Water, and Wildlife map was created to pull through the Building with Nature themes.

The following table shows the GI asset mapped for each of the Building with Nature themes.

Main GI assets mapped	
Wellbeing	Access Land, Allotments, Amenity Green Spaces, AONB, Cemeteries and Churchyards, Common Land (registered), Historic Parks and Gardens (registered), Local Green Space, National Trail, Permissive Footpaths, Playgrounds (including school playgrounds), Playing Fields (including school playing Fields), Promoted Routes, Public Rights of Way, Railway line Active, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Special Landscape Area, Sports Grounds, Sustran Route
Water	Bogs, Flood Zone 3b, Lakes, Main Rivers, Marshland, Thames and Severn Canal, Watercourses (this includes river tributaries) Cotswold Water Park

Wildlife	Ancient Woodland, Dismantled Railway, Key Wildlife Sites, National Forestry Inventory, Priority Habitat, Scientific Sites of Special Interest, Regionally Important Geological Sites
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The mapping work for the 17 principal settlements was undertaken in partnership with the parish and town councils and builds on earlier work conducted for the Open Spaces Strategy in 2015/16. The Parish and Town Councils added their suggestions and refinements to the maps (and suggested further GI ideas. [see section 2 & 6](#))

The detailed outcomes of this mapping and data work with the 17 principal settlements along with a brief analysis of the information collated as part of the 2017 work and other data are set out in [section 6](#).

Open Space provision

Further analysis of the mapping, was conducted, with a particular emphasis on access to open spaces and provision of open spaces in the District. In addition, research into linear routes, for example, public rights of way (PROW) and cycle routes also took place. By using the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) as referred to in Section 1.6 as an overall guide.

The following information became apparent: –

ANGSt standards		
Size of Site	Distance from Home	Does provision in the Cotswold District meet this standard?
of at least 2 hectares in size	no more than 300 metres (5 minute walk) from home;	Desktop mapping has taken place, but input by a community, by community basis would be helpful.
at least one accessible 20 hectare site	within two kilometre of home;	No
one accessible 100 hectare site	within five kilometres of home; and	No
one accessible 500 hectare site	within ten kilometres of home	No
A minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.		No

Off-road Cycle and pedestrian routes

Within the District, access to services is a key issue, with a lack of regular public transport. In addition, there is a strong tourism sector, with an increasing emphasis on the walking and cycling offer. The county Health and Wellbeing Strategy also emphasises the need to increase activity levels and walking and cycling could make a cost-effective contribution to this, as well as helping to deliver against the climate change agenda with a modal shift from private cars to walking and cycling. The data, derived from the mapping evidence, shows that there are currently very few off-road cycle routes and that many of the public rights of way do not readily link up settlements and other key destinations (including those outside the District). There are a number of linear features, which have potential to deliver (in some cases long distance) linear off-road routes; this includes disused railway lines and canals.

There are also opportunities to create and better promote circular pedestrian routes from the 17 principal settlements as well as a circular route around the Cotswold Water Park. These measures would benefit not only tourism, but also local residents and those that work in the settlements.

5.2 Policies and information within the current District Local Plan and its existing evidence base

Information on the relevant policies in the current local plan can be found in [section 3. The evidence base](#)⁴⁰ on which the current local plan was based is extensive and includes –

- Cotswold Water Park Topic Paper 2015.
- Special Landscape Areas Review 2017.
- Local Green Spaces Evidence Paper 2017.
- Water Cycle Study 2015.

5.3 Desktop Research carried out in 2015/16

The desk top research and community engagement work carried out for the GI, Open Space and Play Space Strategy (2017) in 2015/16. This evidence can be found at ⁴¹[Evidence base and monitoring Studies and documents which the local plan was developed from](#)

5.4 Emerging evidence that is being collated as part of the Local Plan Review

The local plan review is at an early stage, but work on the forthcoming Sustainability Appraisal and the review of the effectiveness of current policies has already highlighted a number of key GI issues. For example the need to ensure that GI is considered within the larger natural capital agenda, the issues highlighted in the emerging Environment Bill, including biodiversity net gain and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The Sustainable Appraisal also provides more contextual information on the District, for example on social deprivation, the economy.

5.5 Engagement with principal settlements in 2018

As already highlighted in [section 2](#) local communities were not only asked to comment on and improve the local GI mapping they were also asked to highlight some GI ideas within their parishes. These have been summarised in [section 2](#).

5.6 Feedback from relevant stakeholders

The Council is part of a number of partnerships and stakeholder groups, for example the Local Nature Partnership. Recently, feedback from those partnerships, have informed the development of this strategy. For example, the need to consider how the agricultural community can contribute to and benefit from the GI agenda. The increasing importance of natural capital data and the multiple benefits of creating circular walks from the market towns in the District to benefit tourism and leisure but that will also benefit those that live and work in the towns.

⁴⁰ <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/adopted-local-plan/evidence-base-and-monitoring/>

⁴¹ <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/adopted-local-plan/evidence-base-and-monitoring/>

5.7 International, national and county-level legislation, policy and guidance

Details on the current legislative, policy and guidance background is provided in [sections 3 & 5](#)

5.8 Other data from international, national, county and local information sources

There is a wealth of GI related data available from the local, such as the work currently being undertaken to review recreational pressures on the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC to the national, such as [the State of Nature Report](#)⁴² and the international, such as the 2019 IPCC report on Climate Change and Land [Special Report on Climate Change and Land — IPCC site](#)⁴³

5.9 Access to Open Spaces

In this section, access to open spaces in the District is broken down to explain the conclusions drawn in [5.1](#). Again using the ANGST standard, for the following:

- Potential sites 20 - 100 ha in area (indicating principal settlements within 5KM)
- Potential sites over 100 ha (indicating principal settlements within 5 KM)
- Potential Accessible Natural Greenspaces over 500 ha. (indicating principal settlements within 10 KM)

The Access Tables show the distance from where people live. The distance to the nearest principal settlement was used as a proxy to measure this; as the majority of people in the District live within these settlements. Access issues are also examined in the settlement specific sections [see Section 2 and 6](#).

It is clear from the data in the tables that although some of these open spaces are of a relevant size, they are not fully accessible to the public for reasons listed below.

- Access may be limited to public footpaths so people are unable to roam freely,
- The site might be outside the Cotswold District Boundary,
- There may be a charge for access, including a cost for parking,
- Access might be restricted as a result of irregular public transport,
- Access may be limited to certain days or times etc.
- Access is at the discretion of the landowner.

A description of why particular sites are discounted, can be found in [Section 6](#). Delivering GI in the Principal Settlements in the District.

Sites below 20ha have not been included on the District level mapping and the data tables, but are identified, on the wellbeing maps for the 17 principal settlements. Natural green spaces 2ha for each of the Principal Settlements are also mapped on the wellbeing maps and are listed in the tables that indicate how delivering GI in the Principal Settlements might be achieved. [See Section 6](#).

⁴² <https://nbn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/State-of-Nature-2019-UK-full-report.pdf>

⁴³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/>

Potential sites 20 - 100 ha in area (indicating principal settlements within 5KM)							
Site	Principal Settlements within 5KM	Size	Location – within District or within 15km buffer	Access Limitations e.g. entrance fee; footpath access only	Ownership	Cost of access	Does this site constitute accessible natural greenspace?
Dovers Hill	Blockley Chipping Campden Mickleton	75 ha	Within District	Footpaths	National Trust	Yes	No
Greystones Nature Reserve	Bourton on the Water	66 ha	Within District	Footpaths	Glos Wildlife Trust	None	No
Clattinger Farm SAC	Kemble South Cerney	60 ha	Within 15km buffer	Footpaths	Natural England	None	No
North Meadow	Down Ampney South Cerney	44 ha	Within 15km buffer	Footpaths	Natural England	None	No
Lineover Wood	Andoversford	50 ha	Within District	Footpaths	Woodland Trust	None	No
Barber Wood	None	39 ha	Within District	Footpaths	Woodland Trust	None	No
Crickley Hill	None	27 ha	Within 15km buffer	Footpaths	National Trust & Glos Wildlife Trust	None	No

Potential sites over 100 ha (indicating principal settlements within 5 KM)							
Site	Principal Settlements within 5KM	Size	Location – within District or within 15km buffer	Access Limitations e.g. entrance fee; footpath access only	Ownership	Cost of Access	Does this site constitute accessible natural greenspace?
Westonbirt Arboretum	Tetbury	242 ha	Within District	Footpaths	Forestry England	Yes	No
Newark Park	None	222 ha	Partially in District	Footpaths	National Trust	Yes	No
Hidcote	Chipping Camden Mickleton	125 ha	Within District	Footpaths	National Trust	Yes	No
Batsford Estate	Blockley Morton in Marsh	114 ha	Within District	Footpaths	Private	Yes	No

Potential Accessible Natural Greenspaces Over 500 ha. (indicating principal settlements within 10 KM)							
Site	Principal Settlements within 10 KM	Size	Location – within District or within 15km buffer	Access Limitations e.g. entrance fee; footpath access only	Ownership	Cost of Access	Does this site constitute accessible natural greenspace?
Sherborne Park	Northleach Bourton on the Water, Upper Rissington	1160 ha	Within District	Footpaths	National Trust	Yes	No
Cirencester Park	Cirencester, Kemble, South Cerney. Down Ampney	1055 ha	Within District	Access based on goodwill of owner. Some PROW limitations	Private	None	No
Beechwood SAC	None	590 ha	Partly within District	Open access. High level of recreational disturbance, further unlimited access should not be encouraged	Natural England	None	No

Official Local Nature Reserves in the Cotswold District

Standard – A minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population. CDC population 2011 Census – 82,881 – number of LNR = 2

Where	Size	Ownership	Cost access	Does this site constitute accessible natural greenspace?
Coke's Pit (Lake 34)	10 ha	Cotswold Water Park is on a lease from Gloucestershire County Council.	Free	Yes
Cirencester City Bank Local Nature Reserve	3 ha	Cirencester Town Council	Free	Yes

Special Areas of Conservation – Cotswold Beechwoods SAC and North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC

These two sites lie close or partially within the District. Therefore, they could be considered, to be publicly accessible natural greenspace; however, these are very vulnerable to recreational disturbance and without additional measures being put in place, increased access to these sites should not be encouraged. This is, recognised, in the Local Plan, policy INF7 Green Infrastructure. For this reason, the two SACs have not been included in the analysis of publicly accessible open space. Currently Cotswold District Council is working with other key stakeholders, such as Natural England and the partner local authorities, to investigate the recreational pressures, particularly on the Cotswolds Beechwoods and to develop mitigation packages for the sites, including how the role of future development.

The challenge of creating new country and natural parks

The data analysis in the strategy, particularly the application of the ANGSt standards has indicated that the District’s provision of country and natural parks at all scales is poor.

Providing new country and natural parks will be challenging, particularly as very little land in the District is in public ownership. These parks are likely to come forward either as part of development proposals or where a landowner can see sufficient benefit for them in opening up access. There are a number of landowners, particularly in the charitable sector, where increasing access to the countryside is at the core of their work, but other landowners, such as farmers, will also need to see significant economic benefits. These may arise from agri-environment schemes, payment of ecosystems services and other grants; delivery of biodiversity net gain; off-site provision of GI or open space that is required to meet development needs; increased diversification potential. There are pockets of land in the Cotswold District that are not suitable for either high productivity agriculture or development, and these may provide useful opportunities for creating new accessible open spaces.

The need for this type of provision has become even more evident as a result of the pandemic.

6. GI Potential in the Principal Settlements

6.1 South of the District - Cirencester

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Numerous parks and public open spaces, including the registered Cirencester Park	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Abbey Grounds lake and, The River Churn is the first tributary river of the River Thames	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	The City Bank Local Nature Reserve. The ancient woodlands within Cirencester Park and the River Churn	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit north, north east, & west	Four sites – Abbey Grounds, Kingshill South, City Bank & Amphitheatre
20 ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	No Sites
100 ha site within 5KM	No	No Sites
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Cirencester Park is 1055 hectares and is the largest publically accessible open space in Cirencester. It should be noted that this site could be closed to the public at any point as it is only open due to the owner's goodwill, the Bathurst Estate
Additional Information from Cirencester Town Council		
Other parks	Cirencester Abbey Grounds, Four Acres, Two Acres, The Amphitheatre, St Michael's Field (Green Flag holder 17/18 & 18/19)	
Local Nature Reserve	City Bank Nursey awarded 2018	
Public Rights of Way	11,780 metres within 2km buffer of the town	
Wild Town Project	Cirencester is taking part in the Wild Towns Project	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were happy to accept these suggestions. However, the Town Council will have the opportunity, if they wish to update or alter the suggestions at the consultation stage of the GI strategy.		
Wellbeing	Improve and enhance new routes to amenity green space to encourage use and enjoyment for existing and new communities. Consider activities to enhance use and enjoyment of the amenity green spaces, e.g. forest school.	
Water	Improve school and hospital grounds for biodiversity value, especially urban species.	
Wildlife	Continue to work on improvements to the City Bank Local Nature Reserve and encourage wildlife enhancement along the neighbouring Daglingworth stream.	

Down Ampney

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Numerous PROW and permissive paths, including a circular walk of the village. Amenity green space, Community Garden and Millennium Recreation Area	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Ampney Brook. Further mineral extraction may lead to the creation of new open water bodies in the future	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Stubs Copse and Estate Yard Copse; Down Ampney Pits KWS and other areas of priority habitat – mainly woodland. (The whole of Down Ampney falls within the Cotswold Water Park NIA	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit north, north east	1 site – land off Oak Road
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	North Meadow - outside of Cotswold District Boundary
100 ha site within 5KM	No	No Sites
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Cirencester Park - Private Park with access granted by the Bathurst Estate.
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	7388 metres within a 2KM buffer of Down Ampney	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Parish Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Parish Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Water, Wildlife and Wellbeing.		
Wellbeing	Improve and enhance new routes to amenity green space to encourage use and enjoyment for existing and new communities. Consider activities to enhance use and of the amenity green spaces, e.g. forest school	
Water	Continue work on Ampney Brook as part of wider intervention quality of Upper Thames.	
Wildlife	Survey of House Martin, Swifts and Swallow nests to identify where to concentrate on enhancements. Encourage monitoring to adopt a management plan to secure flourishing populations.	

Fairford

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	The Thames and Severn Way, Walnut Tree Playing Field, Coln House Playing Field.	
Main GI Water Assets:	The River Coln, The Cotswold Water Park, Horcott Lakes	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Fairford falls within the CWP NIA. There are a number of standing open water Key Wildlife Sites, as well as other areas of priority habitat, including woodland and floodplain grazing marsh.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit all of settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	17728 metres within 2km buffer of the town	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team, with additions made by the Town Council. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Parish Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Water, Wildlife and Wellbeing.		
Wellbeing	Managing arc of land around the south of town to improve Green infrastructure access to special features e.g. non-designated heritage assets. Incorporate Fairford park and green gap between Fairford and Horcott. As well as the Coln House Playing Field.	
Water	Explore the enhancements of the river bank with the aim of creating and enhancing areas for target species. Including the river bank opposite the Coln House School playing field	
Wildlife	Encourage habitat for hedgehogs which have been recorded in the area. Interventions in new and existing built environment e.g. gaps in fencing and hedgehog boxes.	

Kemble

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Kemble Community Garden, Special Landscape, Clayfurlong Playing Field.	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Upper Thames	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Deciduous woodland, ancient and semi natural woodland, SSSI along the Kemble active railway line. Old Mill Farm lowland meadow.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit all of settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	Clattinger Farm SAC, North Meadow SAC, Cleveland Lakes. All outside Cotswold District Boundary.
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Cirencester Park - Private Park with access granted by the Bathurst Estate.
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	10,484 metres within 2km buffer of the village	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife.		
Wellbeing	Using GI to increase attractiveness of routes for walking and cycling between Kemble and Cirencester (and the Water Park) Also incorporate Thames Path along the river.	
Water	Encourage creation of small ponds in gardens/community gardens to increase surface area which can contribute to water management and habitat for wildlife.	
Wildlife	Encourage creation of small ponds in gardens/community gardens to increase surface area which can contribute to water management and habitat for wildlife	

Lechlade

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	The National Trail, Coln Country Park and Sports Grounds	
Main GI Water Assets:	The River Thames and Marshland	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Previous mineral sites have over time become valuable for wildlife. A good example includes the lakes that form part of the Edward Richardson & Phyllis Amey Reserve at Lechlade.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit in central area	2 sites Riverside Park & Edward Richardson & Phyllis Amey Nature Reserve
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	14,386m metres within 2km buffer of the town	
Nature Reserve	Eric Richardson & Phyllis Amey Nature Reserve & designated Local Green Space.	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Wellbeing Water and Wildlife		
Wellbeing	Increase accessible routes to Country Park Claydon Pike/Bowmoor.	
Water	Where applicable, encourage the creation of new habitats for water voles, otters and Great Crested Newts and build on the work carried out previously in the area.	
Wildlife	Improve local Green Space for Great Crested Newts and other species, including toads and grass snakes.	

South Cerney

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Bow Wow Lane, Sailing Club, Upper Up Playing Fields, Sustrans Route 45, The Allotments at Upper Up, The Thames and Severn Way.	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Lakes, CWP - Do you mean CWP? The River Churn and Cerneywick Brook.	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	The Dismantled Railway, four SSSI's, The disused airfield, A Strategic Nature Reserve, The River Churn Corridor, a floodplain grazing marsh.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit to south and south east	1 - Upper Up Playing Field.
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	Clattinger Farm SAC , North Meadow SAC. All outside Cotswold District Boundary.
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None - Clevedon Lake is outside Cotswold District Boundary
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Cirencester Park - Private Park with access granted by the Bathurst Estate.
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	17,667 metres within 2km buffer of the town	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Parish Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Parish Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife.		
Wellbeing	Improve links to playing fields and consider how playing fields are managed to consider any enhancements which would make the park more enjoyable to use.	
Water	Investigate with the assistance of the appropriate bodies the reinstating of review tributaries in South Cerney.	
Wildlife	Improving biodiversity measures at the golf club.	

Tetbury

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Thirteen open spaces including two school playing fields, Allotments, Amenity Green Spaces and Sports Grounds, 3 play areas located at Dolphins Recreation Ground, Webb Road and Suffolk Close.	
Main GI Water Assets:	The River Avon, Tetbury branch	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Priority habitat along the dismantled railway. Deciduous woodland. 11 public open spaces including St Saviours Churchyard and the Cutwell Valley.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No- deficit, north, east & south	1 – Recreation Ground
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	Westonbirt Arboretum - Cost for entry
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Minchinhampton Common - Outside Cotswold District Boundary
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	22,522m within 2km buffer of the town	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife.		
Wellbeing	Consider extension of disused railway path from Tetbury towards Cirencester to encourage use as recreational path.	
Water	Improve riparian habitats along the railway path and improve the opportunity for biodiversity along the River Avon	
Wildlife	Improving school and hospital grounds for biodiversity value, especially urban species	

6.2 Middle of the District

Andoversford

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	The Playing Fields and Playground	
Main GI Water Assets:	The River Coln, lakes in Sandywell Park	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	The line of the dismantled railway line, three Key Wildlife Sites and four National Forest Inventory areas.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit all of settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	Lineover Wood - footpaths, but not open access
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	28,646m within 2km buffer of the village	
	Limited amount of open space; the largest site is the Playing Field with a small amount of space available on the Temple Fields Estate. Both sites, collectively measure under 2ha.	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife.		
Wellbeing	Linking access from school to new housing in centre of village – safe routes to school. Creation of new allotments in any new development.	
Water	Reduce surface runoff by creating opportunities to collect water; for example installing water butts on Parish buildings with the view to installing Rain Water Harvesting if/when funds allow.	
Wildlife	Work with landowners to improve bankside quality. Consider, indicator species e.g. otters and bats.	

Bourton on the Water

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Greystones Farm Nature Reserve, Monarch's Way, three allotments, three play areas an orchard.	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Rivers Dickler, River Eye and River Windrush and numerous lakes.	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Priority habitat, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, Salmonsbury meadow SSSI.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit all od settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	Yes	Greystones Farm Nature Reserve - Free access if within walking distance. No parking on site, nearby public car parks serve the site.
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Sherborne Park - Cost for entry
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	34,559m within 2km buffer of the village	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were happy to accept these suggestions. However, the Town Council will have the opportunity, if they wish to update or alter the suggestions at the consultation stage of the GI strategy.		
Wellbeing	Improve access – green active travel routes to Greystones, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve.	
Water	Improve river corridor for biodiversity, for example not cutting bankside vegetation too short. Leaving the grass to grow longer provides cover for wildlife including water voles.	
Wildlife	Increase resilience of species. Alleviating recreational pressure on Greystones by creation/enhancement of new areas (e.g. Country Park) and optimising other sites in settlement for species protected at Greystones	

Northleach

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Allotments, Amenity Green Space, The Monarch Way and The Diamond Way, Sustrans Route 48	
Main GI Water Assets:	The River Leach,	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Local Wildlife Site, Priority habitat - good quality semi improved grassland	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No	2 – King George Field, Water meadow, but deficit all of settlement - see wellbeing map.
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Sherborne Park - Cost for entry
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	32,495 m within 2km buffer of the village	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Water, Wildlife and Wellbeing.		
Wellbeing	Enhance green ring around the outside of the town – accessible routes for cycling/walking.	
Water	Enhanced through improving and restoring riparian habitat along the edge of the river. Particularly consider adjacent gardens and playing fields.	
Wildlife	Improve wildlife value of Forte woodland.	

Stow on the Wold

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	The allotments, cricket field and recreation ground, Gloucestershire and Monarch's Way	
Main GI Water Assets:	Given its hilltop location, there are no significant water assets in Stow on the Wold although the River Dickler is near to the Parish boundary.	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Priority habitat including areas of deciduous woodland	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No	2, QE2 Field & King Georges Field - there is a deficit in central area. See wellbeing map
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	9,056m within 2km buffer of the village	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
Wellbeing	Increase access to GI in all new development by considering non-physical access (i.e. auditory and visual access), which is particularly important for older people	
Water	Create an accessible link and improve riverside walk from Stow on the Wold to the River Dickler.	
Wildlife	Introduce enhancements at King George V playing field for wildlife value, e.g. wildflower meadow and hedgerow improvements.	

Upper Rissington

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Cate Park – formal park, Firefly Walk and Folland Park	
Main GI Water Assets:	Cate Britton Pond and Hazelford Brooks.	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Ansell’s Pasture, limestone grassland between Ansell’s copse and Smith Barry Circus / Crescent	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	Partially – deficit, south east area	5 – Folland Park, The Rec, Godfrey’s Ground & combined – Cate Britain Pond, Ansell’s Hill Copse, Peaks Coppice & Victoria Country Park
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	Sherborne Park - cost for entry
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	13, 189m within 2km buffer of the village	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below were given by the Town Council. However, the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or alter their suggestions at the consultation stage of the GI strategy.		
Wellbeing	Create green routes across the settlement to community facilities such as school and shops. Link the village to the network of rights of way in the area through targeted creation of new paths. These are needed because the original military planning of Upper Rissington as a secure site. Build a Multi-Use Games Area for young people. With such a young population (30 per cent under 18) new facilities for young people are a high priority.	
Water	Manage and operate Cate Britain Pond in order to maximise its benefit to wildlife in the heart of the village whilst attenuating storm flows and providing a source of recycled water. Protect head waters of Hazelford Brooks in order to improve the quality of the streams. Advocate for the most stringent standards for the effluent from Upper Rissington STW as it discharges into the headwaters of Hazelford Brook with very low levels of dilution.	
Wildlife	Protect and enhance the species rich limestone grassland in Godfrey’s Grounds and Ansell’s pasture. These areas already have a high diversity of plants including orchids but need proper management. Selectively plant new trees to replace existing protected trees reaching the end of their life. Protect areas of ancient woodland within the village to encourage wildlife. Advocate with the RAF to manage large areas of grassland on the Little Rissington Airfield to encourage a greater diversity of flora and fauna.	

6.3 North of the District

Blockley

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	A central Amenity Green Space, Station Road Allotment and Sports Grounds, Diamond Way and Heart of England Way	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Blockley Brook runs down through the centre of the town	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	LGS 1, Local Green Space Blockley Mill (also known as the Water Board site). Norcombe Wood, The Warren Wood.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – all of settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	Dovers Hill - Cost for parking
100 ha site within 5KM	No	Batsford Estate - Cost for entry
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	28,881 within 2km buffer of the village	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Water, Wildlife and Wellbeing.		
Wellbeing	Do an audit of benches in the village. Are thy located in the right places?	
Water	Enhance existing mill ponds to increase opportunities for wildlife	
Wildlife	Improving quality of habitat along the Brook to connect to habitat to the south of the settlement.	

Chipping Campden

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Amenity Green Spaces, Playing Fields, Allotment, Ernest Wilson Gardens, Heart of England Way, Monarch's Way and Cotswold Way.	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Cam runs through and adjacent to the Town.	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	The Campden Wood, ancient woodland, traditional orchards,	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit east and north east of settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	Dovers Hill - Cost for parking
100 ha site within 5KM	No	Hidcote - Cost for entry
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	26,730 within 2km buffer of the village	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Water, Wildlife and Wellbeing		
Wellbeing	Creation of circular walking/cycling (active travel) route around the settlement i.e. Station Road/Aston Road towards Hoo Lane. Linking up to the Cotswold Way and parks and open spaces.	
Water	Look into the possibilities for further improvements along the River Cam that will encourage new habitats for key species such as water voles.	
Wildlife	Provision of key species in any new development e.g. swift boxes.	

Mickleton

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	The Allotment, Play Ground and Sports Grounds, Heart of England Way, Sustrans route 442,	
Main GI Water Assets:	Norton Brook, Gran Brook	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Mickelton Woods and the line of the dismantled railway line, SSSI Campden Tunnel Gravel Pitt	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit all of settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	Dovers Hill - Cost for parking
100 ha site within 5KM	No	Hidcote - Cost for entry
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	23,547 within 2km buffer of the village	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife		
Wellbeing	Lack of accessible public open space for use by people – improve provision of accessible GI for use and enjoyment	
Water	Reduce surface water runoff by creating opportunities to collect water from Parish owned buildings to be used for local planting schemes.	
Wildlife	Hedgerow restoration including in gardens and edge of fields and along Public Rights of Way to benefit range of species e.g. dormice, bats, birds etc.	

Moreton in Marsh

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Two Parks, Allotments, Amenity Green Space and Sports Grounds and Playing Fields. Monarch's Way, Diamond Way, Sustrans Route 48	
Main GI Water Assets:	River Evenlode, balancing ponds	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	Blenheim Park and Queen Victoria Gardens, Good quality semi improved grassland	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No	2, Queen Victoria Gardens & Blenheim Open Space – deficit south & east of settlement
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	Batsford Estate - Cost for entry
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	15,274 within 2km buffer of the village	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were made aware of the suggestions, but did not put forward any alternative ideas. At the consultation stage of the GI Strategy the Town Council will have the opportunity to update or change their suggestions for Water, Wildlife and Wellbeing.		
Wellbeing	Consider creation of new Country Park to serve the North Cotswolds, e.g. how can any new development coming forward to contribute to it.	
Water	Enhancing water courses in public open spaces for the benefit of Green Connectivity Network and enhance role of existing water features for water and surface water management	
Wildlife	Consider any improvements to churchyards & cemeteries to improve for wildlife.	

Willersey

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Amenity Green Spaces, Playgrounds, Registered Common land and Allotments	
Main GI Water Assets:	The Duck Pond.	
Main GI Wildlife Assets:	The Cotswold Scarp Nature Improvement area limestone grassland lowland beech and yew woodland as well as deciduous woodland areas.	
Overview of information collated in 2018/19 The ANGSt Standards		
ANGSt Standard	Meets ANGSt Standard?	Description and Name of Site
2 ha + within 300m	No – deficit all of settlement	None
20 + ha – 100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
100 ha site within 5KM	No	None
500 + hectares site within 10km of home	No	None
Additional Information		
Public Rights of Way	15,274 within 2km buffer of the village	
Opportunities for GI enhancements on the three themes of water, well-being and wildlife		
The GI enhancements, as listed below, were suggestions given by the GI team. The Town Council were happy to accept these suggestions. However, the Town Council will have the opportunity, if they wish to update or alter the suggestions at the consultation stage of the GI strategy		
Wellbeing	Improve landscape of park for amenity and biodiversity value, e.g. use of hard and soft features.	
Water	Manage surface water runoff along the high street with the creation of swales, rain gardens and tree planting.	
Wildlife	Improve high street (roadside verges) for biodiversity – bees, butterflies and other pollinators by considering change of management and planting pollinator friendly plants. For example pockets/swathes of wildflowers and trees, (planting of trees links to Water measures)	

Glossary

A

Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGst) – are a set of national benchmarks for ensuring access to a variety of greenspaces near to where people live.

Active travel – a concept of travel that includes only those forms of transport that require active use of the human body as a transport machine. Examples include walking and cycling, as these burn off energy in contrast to sedentary forms of travel, such as driving or getting the bus. People who already walk or use a bicycle as a primary mode of transport may do so for environmental, health or practical reasons.

Affordable Housing – social rented and intermediate housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market.

Air pollution - Degradation of air quality with negative effects on human health or the natural or built environment due to the introduction, by natural processes or human activity, into the atmosphere of substances (gases, aerosols) which have a direct (primary pollutants) or indirect (secondary pollutants) harmful effect

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) Since December 1997 each local authority in the UK has been carrying out a review and assessment of air quality in their area. This involves measuring air pollution and trying to predict how it will change in the next few years.

Allocated – land which has been identified in the development plan for a specific form of development.

Amenity – those qualities of life enjoyed by people that can be influenced by the surrounding environment, in which they visit, live or work. ‘Residential amenity’ includes for example, a reasonable degree of privacy, freedom from noise nuisance, air pollution etc. normally expected at home.

Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) – ancient woodland is land that has had a continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD, and may be ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW), which retains a native tree and shrub cover that has not been planted, although it may have been managed by coppicing or felling and allowed to regenerate naturally; or plantation on ancient woodland sites where the original tree cover has been felled and replaced by planting, often with conifers, and usually over the last century. The location of ancient woodlands over 2 ha in area is recorded in the National Inventory of Ancient Woodlands, which is maintained by Natural England.

Ancillary – use or development of a different subsidiary use, but which is related to and often found in association with primary use or development.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – a designated area of nationally important landscape value within which the conservation and enhancement of its natural beauty is the priority. The Cotswolds AONB is the largest in the country and covers 80 % of the District. It was designated by the Countryside Commission in 1966.

Aquifer – underground layers of water-bearing permeable rock or drift deposits from which groundwater can be extracted for human use may be extracted by means of wells or boreholes. Aquifer designations reflect the importance of aquifers in terms of groundwater as a resource (drinking water supply) but also their role in supporting surface water flows and wetland ecosystems.

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) – a report on how the Council is performing in terms of the Local Plan. Includes monitoring implementation and performance of policies following changes brought in by the Local Planning Regulations 2012. It replaces the Annual Monitoring Report. Local planning authorities are no longer required to send an Annual Monitoring Report to the Secretary of State and instead monitoring should be a continuous process.

B

Biodiversity - Biological diversity means the variability among living organisms from all sources, including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (UN, 1992)

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) The United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan or (UK BAP) was the UK government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity, opened for signature at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. The UK was the first country to produce a national Biodiversity Action Plan. It was published in 1994 and created action plans for priority species and habitats in the UK that were most under threat so as to support their recovery

Biofuel - A fuel, generally in liquid form, produced from biomass. Biofuels currently include bioethanol from sugarcane or maize, biodiesel from canola or soybeans, and black liquor from the paper-manufacturing process. See also Biomass and Bioenergy.

Biomass - Living or recently dead organic material. See also Bioenergy and Biofuel.

Bluespace/ Blue infrastructure Outdoor environments, either natural or built, that prominently feature water such as streams, ponds, canals and other water bodies.

Building with Nature - (BWN) Puts nature at the heart of development in a way that's good for people and for wildlife. Through the Building with Nature Standards, which provide planners and developers with evidence-based, how-to, guidance on delivering high-quality green infrastructure. Through supporting and championing best-practice, BWN aim to help great schemes get built, raise the bar for industry, and mainstream green infrastructure in placemaking.

Building with Nature Standards

Wellbeing Standards aim to secure the delivery of health and wellbeing outcomes through the delivery of green infrastructure features. (Wellbeing includes access)

Water Standards aim to provide green infrastructure to effectively manage water quantity and quality, increase flood resilience, and maximise opportunities for amenity.

Wildlife Standards aim to ensure that green infrastructure allows nature to flourish, both within the boundary of development, and at a landscape scale.

C

Carbon sequestration - The process of storing carbon in a carbon pool. See also Blue carbon, Carbon dioxide capture and storage (CCS), Uptake and Sink.

CIL - The Community Infrastructure Levy is a levy that local authorities can choose to charge on new developments in their area. The money should be used to support development by funding infrastructure that the council, local community and neighbourhoods want

Climate - Climate in a narrow sense is usually defined as the average weather, or more rigorously, as the statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities over a period of time ranging from months to thousands or millions of years. The classical period for averaging these variables is 30 years, as defined by the World Meteorological Organization. The relevant quantities are most often surface variables such as temperature, precipitation and wind. Climate in a wider sense is the state, including a statistical description, of the climate system.

Climate change - Climate change refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings such as modulations of the solar cycles, volcanic eruptions and persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use. Note that the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in its Article 1, defines climate change as: 'a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.' The UNFCCC thus makes a distinction between climate change attributable to human activities altering the atmospheric composition and climate variability attributable to natural causes.

Cotswold District Council - (CDC) The Local District Authority, which covers the Cotswold District

D -

E

Ecosystem Services - The components of nature that are directly and indirectly enjoyed, consumed, or used in order to maintain or enhance human well-being.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) – A procedure to be followed for certain types of project to ensure that decisions are made in full knowledge of any likely significant effects on the environment.

Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS)

There are 3 new schemes that will reward environmental land management:

- Sustainable Farming Incentive
- Local Nature Recovery
- Landscape Recovery

These schemes are intended to support the rural economy while achieving the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and a commitment to net zero emissions by 2050.

Through these schemes, farmers and other land managers may enter into agreements to be paid for delivering the following:

- clean and plentiful water
- clean air
- thriving plants and wildlife
- protection from environmental hazards
- reduction of and adaptation to climate change
- beauty, heritage and engagement with the environment

Environmental Net Gain - Environmental Net Gain means improving all aspects of environmental quality through a scheme or project.

Evidence Base – is the information and data gathered by local authorities to justify the “soundness” of the policy approach, including physical, economic, and social characteristics of an area.

F

Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) – is an assessment of the likelihood of flooding in a particular area so that development needs and mitigation measures can be carefully considered.

Flood - The overflowing of the normal confines of a stream or other body of water, or the accumulation of water over areas that are not normally submerged. Floods include river (fluvial) floods, flash floods, urban floods, pluvial floods, sewer floods, coastal floods, and glacial lake outburst floods.

G

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) – A computer software system to record, store, process, and analyse overlays of information linked to geographic areas.

Global warming - The estimated increase in global mean surface temperature (GMST) averaged over a 30-year period, or the 30-year period centered on a particular year or decade, expressed relative to pre-industrial levels unless otherwise specified. For 30-year periods that span past and future years, the current multi-decadal warming trend is assumed to continue. See also Climate change and Climate variability.

Gloucestershire First or GFirst – is the service that promotes Gloucestershire as a location for business, for visitors and for investors and are the driving force for the recently formed Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) that promotes business in the Forest of Dean, Cotswold hills and major settlements of Gloucester, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Stroud.

Gloucestershire Nature Map - represents the core of an ecological network for the future. The selected landscape-scale blocks of land called Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs), show where the characteristic habitats that typify the county can be expanded and linked to help wildlife survive in an uncertain future. The SNAs can be grouped together within priority landscapes. Main rivers

marked in blue on the schematic map as well as looking after existing and new strategic green infrastructure.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) – is a gas in an atmosphere that absorbs and emits radiation within the thermal infrared range. This process is the fundamental cause of the greenhouse effect.

Greenspace - Any area of vegetated land, urban or rural. This includes both public and private spaces such as parks, gardens, playing fields, children’s play areas, woods and other natural areas, grassed areas, cemeteries and allotments, green corridors, disused railway lines, rivers and canals, derelict, vacant and contaminated land which has the potential to be transformed.

Green Infrastructure (GI) – is a network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It needs to be planned and delivered at all spatial scales from national to neighbourhood levels. The greatest benefits will be gained when it is designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits (ecosystem services) for local communities. Green Infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, river and canal corridors allotments and private gardens.

Greenfield Land – is land (or a defined site) usually farmland, that has not previously been developed.

Green stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) An approach to moving stormwater away from the built environment aiming to reduce surface water flooding, improve water quality and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of the environment. GSI attempts to mimic nature and uses simple landscaping features such as green roofs, rain gardens and bioswales to slow, collect, infiltrate, and filter stormwater. Similar to Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS).

Ground Water Source Protection Zones – is an integral part of land surface zoning within the Environment Agency’s Policy and Practice for the Protection of Groundwater. Groundwater provides a third of our drinking water in England and Wales, and it also maintains the flow in many of our rivers

H

Habitat Action Plan (HAP) - is target programme of management measures aimed at maintaining/restoring a specific habitat.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) - a document to determine impacts of nearby Natura 2000 sites.

I -

J -

K -

L

Landscape Character Assessment – identifies areas with similar features or qualities, mapping and classifying them and describing their character. It is based on an understanding of landscape character and of the natural, historic and aesthetic factors that combine to create local distinctiveness.

Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) – A body, designated by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, established for the purpose of creating or improving the conditions for economic growth in an area.

Local Nature Partnership (LNP) – A body, designated by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, established for the purpose of protecting and improving the natural environment in an area and the benefits derived from it

Local Nature Reserve – is an area of botanical or wildlife interest where access and use by local people is encouraged through designation by the local authority.

Local knowledge refers to the understandings and skills developed by individuals and populations, specific to the places where they live. Local knowledge informs decision-making about fundamental aspects of life, from day-to-day activities to longer-term actions. This knowledge is a key element of

the social and cultural systems which influence observations of, and responses to climate change; it also informs governance decisions. This definition builds on UNESCO (2018).

Local Plan – The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Current core strategies or other planning policies, which under the regulations would be considered to be development plan documents, form part of the Local Plan. The term includes old policies which have been saved under the 2004 Act.

Local Planning Authority (LPA) – is the local authority or council that is empowered by law to exercise statutory town planning functions for a particular area of the United Kingdom.

Local Transport Plan (LTP) – is a five-year integrated transport strategy, prepared by local authorities in partnership with the community, seeking funding to help provide local transport projects. The plan sets out the resources predicted for delivery of the targets identified in the strategy.

Local Wildlife Sites - are areas of land that are especially important for their wildlife. They are some of our most valuable wildlife areas. Local Wildlife Sites are identified and selected locally using scientifically-determined criteria and surveys. They are corridors for wildlife, forming key components of ecological networks. The Wildlife Trusts have worked with local authorities, statutory agencies, landowners and other local partners to establish effective systems for identifying, managing and monitoring Local Wildlife Sites.

M

Mitigation Measures – any works or actions required to be carried out by developers to reduce the impact of the development on the surrounding environment or to address particular environmental effects which would otherwise make that development unacceptable.

Mitigation measures In climate policy - mitigation measures are technologies, processes or practices that contribute to mitigation, for example, renewable energy (RE) technologies, waste minimization processes and public transport commuting practices. See also Mitigation option, and Policies (for climate change mitigation and adaptation).

Modal Shift – a change in the means of transport, for example from use of cars to public transport, particularly applied to all travellers within an area or those travelling to a specific type of facility or destination.

Monitoring – a regular collection and analysis of relevant information in order to assess the outcome and effectiveness of policies and proposals and to identify whether they need to be reviewed or altered.

N

Natural Capital - The elements of nature that directly or indirectly produce value to people, including ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, minerals, the air and oceans, as well as natural processes and functions

Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) - Provides a variety of mechanisms to calculate the total stocks and flows of natural assets, resources and services within a designated area or ecosystem, allowing environmental considerations to be taken into account in making policy and investment decisions. NCA produces formal accounts using methods and reports that are recognisable to those working within finance and management.

Nature Map – the Nature Map for Gloucestershire represents a strategic ecological network for the future. The selected landscape-scale blocks of land called Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs), show where the characteristic habitats that typify the county can be expanded and linked to help wildlife survive in an uncertain future. In simple terms it is an Adaptive Strategy for our wildlife.

Nature Recovery Network. This initiative provides us with the opportunity to draw together all past works in a revised spatial format, looking to identify not merely where our special wildlife and natural habitats currently are, but also the opportunities that exist for enhancing and creating

additional habitat networks and connectivity - whilst also helping to strategically inform development and growth opportunities locally, rather than simply hinder them.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – this sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It provides a framework within which local people and councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.

Neighbourhood Plans (NP) – A plan prepared by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

NERC - The Natural Environment Research Council commissions new research, infrastructure and training to advance environmental science.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) - are areas designated as being at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution. They include about 55% of land in England. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) reviews NVZs every 4 years to account for changes in nitrate concentrations.

O -

P -

Priority Habitat - are a range of semi-natural habitat types that were identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action.

Place Making – capitalises on a local community’s assets, inspiration, and potential, ultimately creating good public spaces that promote people’s health, happiness, and well being. Place making is both a process and a philosophy.

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) – national guidance on planning practice, which compliments the NPPF.

Pocket Parks - are small green areas of public space, mostly seen in urban settings.

Protected Species – any species (of wildlife etc.) which, because of its rarity or threatened status is protected by statutory legislation.

Public Realm – any publicly owned streets, pathways, right of ways, parks, publicly accessible open spaces and any public and civic building and facilities.

Public Rights of Way (PROW) - Public rights of way are open to everyone at any time and give you the right to walk, ride a horse or cycle along certain routes. Some rights of way are open to vehicles.

R

Ramsar Sites – a term adopted following an international conference, held in 1971 in Ramsar in Iran, to identify wetland sites of international importance, especially as waterfowl habitat.

Regionally Important Geological & Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) – commonly referred to by their acronym RIGS are locally designated sites of local, national and regional importance for geodiversity (geology and geomorphology) in the United Kingdom. RIGS may be designated for their value to science, and to geological heritage in general, and may include cultural, educational, historical and aesthetic resources.

Register of Historic Parks & Gardens – a non-statutory list of parks and gardens of special historic interest maintained by English Heritage

Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Energy – Includes energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity. Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment – from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass and deep geothermal heat. Low carbon technologies are those that can help reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels)

Runoff - The flow of water over the surface or through the subsurface, which typically originates from the part of liquid precipitation and/or snow/ice melt that does not evaporate or refreeze, and is not transpired.

S

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are those which have been given greater protection. They have been designated because of a possible threat to the special habitats or species which they

contain and to provide increased protection to a variety of animals, plants and habitats of importance to biodiversity both on a national and international scale.

Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) – ancient structure, usually unoccupied, above or below the ground, which is preserved by order of the Secretary of State.

Section 106 Agreements (s106) – allow a Local Planning Authority to enter into a legally-binding agreement or planning obligation, with a land developer over a related issue (often to fund necessary improvements elsewhere).

Semi-natural & Natural Green Space – this type of open space includes woodlands, urban forestry, scrubland, grasslands (e.g. commons and meadows), wetlands, nature reserves and wastelands with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation and biodiversity within settlements. The approach is to provide easily accessible, natural and semi-natural green space for communities which, as well as its intrinsic value for biodiversity, also provides a range of other ecosystem functions and benefits.

Sequential Test (Flooding) – a test carried out in accordance with the NPPF to demonstrate that certain land is appropriate to develop as has less flood risk, after alternative sites have been ruled out.

Settlement Hierarchy – a settlement hierarchy ranks settlements according to their size, function and their range of services and facilities. When coupled with an understanding of the possible capacity for growth, this enables decisions to be taken about the most appropriate planning strategy for each settlement.

Sink - A reservoir (natural or human, in soil, ocean, and plants) where a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas is stored. UNFCCC Article 1.8 refers to a sink as any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – a site or area designated as being of national importance because of its wildlife plants or flower species and/or unusual or typical geological features. SSSIs are identified by Natural England and have protected status.

Social and Community Infrastructure – local facilities and services for the community including buildings and open spaces.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – are sites of European nature conservation importance designated under the Habitats Regulations.

Special Protection Area (SPA) – are sites designated under the European Commission Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds.

Species Action Plan (SAP) – a framework for conservation of particular species and their habitats.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – a generic term used to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. The European ‘SEA Directive’ (2001/42/EC) requires a formal ‘environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use which have a significant effect on the environment’.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) – provides information about flood risk throughout the area of the local planning authority (LPA), either individually or combined with neighbouring LPAs. The SFRA will consider the effects of climate change on river and coastal flooding, identify the risk from other sources of flooding, and consider appropriate policies for development in or adjacent to flood risk areas. Stroud District has published level 1 and level 2 SFRA’s.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) – an appraisal of the economic, environmental and social effects of a plan from the outset of the preparation process to allow decisions to be made that accord with sustainable development.

Sustainable Development – is development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The NPPF states sustainable development is about positive growth-making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations.

Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) – efficient drainage system which seeks to minimise wastage of water including the use of appropriate ground cover to enable maximum penetration of clean water run-off into the ground and, where appropriate, recycling grey water within the development. Designed to minimise the impact of development on the natural water environment.

Sustainable Transport – are all forms of transport which minimise emissions of carbon dioxide and pollutants. It can refer to public transport, car sharing, walking and cycling as well as technology such as electric and hybrid cars and biodiesel.

Sustainable Transport Modes – Any efficient, safe and accessible means of transport with overall low impact on the environment, including walking and cycling, low and ultra low emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport.

Sustrans - Custodians of the National Cycle Network, a UK-wide network of traffic-free paths for everyone, connecting cities, towns and countryside, loved by the communities they serve.

T

Tree Preservation Order (TPO) – statutory protection for individual trees, groups, areas or woodlands. Any works to preserved trees require the consent of the local planning authority.

U

Urban Design – understanding the relationship between different buildings; between buildings and the streets, squares, parks, waterways and other spaces which make up the public domain; the nature and quality of the public domain itself; the relationship of one part of a village, town or city with another part; and the pattern of movement and activity which is thereby established.

Urban Fringe – the boundary between built up areas and the open countryside.

V

Viability – an objective financial viability test of the ability of a development project to meet its costs including the cost of planning obligations, whilst ensuring an appropriate site value for the landowner and a market risk adjusted return to the developer in delivering that project. Essentially it is the ability to attract investment and business.

W

Water Framework Directive – is a European Directive that aims to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater.

Well-being - A state of existence that fulfils various human needs, including material living conditions and quality of life, as well as the ability to pursue one's goals, to thrive, and feel satisfied with one's life. Ecosystem well-being refers to the ability of ecosystems to maintain their diversity and quality.

Wildlife Corridor – Areas of habitat connecting wildlife populations.

X -

Y -

Z -

Appendices (to be updated following consultation)

Draft Info includes:

Appendix A: Landscape Map – locally designated Nature Improvement Areas

Appendix B: Results of 2017 consultation of the GI, Open Space and Play Space Strategy regarding play

Appendix C: Allotments in the 17 Principle Settlements

Appendix D: Play Area Assessments - Results of 2017 consultation of the GI, Open Space and Play Space Strategy regarding play