

Cotswold District Green Infrastructure Strategy December 2023



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Foreword:

(TBC) - Foreword from Councillor Juliet Layton - Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services

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, including legislation and guidance. The Strategy forms part of the evidence base for the update 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 Cotswold District Built Facility Strategy 2021, the Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan and Strategic Assessment Report 2023 cover the strategic approach to sport in the District.

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) 2023 defines Green Infrastructure as:

“A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity.”

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 (TCPA) 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 and the Cotswold Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation to the local, such as a pond or a hedgerow around a garden or a field.

1.2 National updates concerning Green Infrastructure in the past five years

Timeline for the Green Infrastructure Strategy and relevant Legislation and Guidance

- 2015/16 - Desk top research and community engagement work carried out in for the CDC GI, Open Space and Play Space Strategy 2017
- 2017 - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Water Framework Directive.
- 2018 - Building with Nature - National benchmark developed.
- 2018 - The 25 Year Environment Plan
- 2019 - The publication of the National Design Guide.
- 2019/20 - work on the update to the 2017 document commenced.
- 2021 - July NPPF update.
- 2021 - The update to the National Design Guide.
- 2021 - Publication of the Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 2021 - Monday 14 June to Monday 16 August (8 weeks) - Consultation on the Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 2021 - Building with Nature refresh.
- 2021 - The Environment Act.
- Autumn/Winter 2021 - Updates and amendments to the Draft GI Strategy.
- 2021-2024 - The England Tree Strategy and Action Plan.
- 2021-2024 - The Pollinator Strategy.
- 2022 - The Gloucestershire Green Infrastructure Framework updated.
- 2021/22 - GI Draft Strategy Consultation Response Report.
- Friday 4th February 2022 to Sunday 20th March 2022 - Local Plan Partial update 'issues and options' consultation.
- 2022 - Responses to Local Plan Partial Update 'Issues and Options' Consultation, including GI Draft Strategy Consultation Response Report.
- 2023 - Publication of Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework and revised access standards.
- 2023 - September NPPF update.
- 2023 - October/November final updates to the final Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 2023/24 - Local Plan policies redrafting to reflect legislative and national guidance updates.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list.

The Timeline for the Green Infrastructure Strategy and relevant legislation and guidance demonstrates how the importance and guidance for GI has increased and moved at a rapid pace in the last five years.

Each of these updates are being driven to make sure GI is embedded in the development and plan making process process. Understanding what GI assets there are in the first place, how they can be effectively connected, and how good design can assist with creating better places to live, not just for people, but the environment too.

This strategy has closely followed the emergence of new guidance and legislation and has been able to flex and grow through the initial engagement with partners in 2015/16, in 2019 and again through public consultation in 2021.

Guidance changes and updates that are especially pertinent to this strategy are the update to:

- Gloucestershire GI principles A Strategic framework for Green Infrastructure in Gloucestershire (2022),
- The introduction of Natural England’s GI framework and access standards (2023) and;
- the refresh of Building with Nature (2022)
- The 25 year Environment Plan 2018, which introduced the concept of the Nature Recovery Network and Mapping and;
- the passing of the Environment Act in 2021.

The guidance on GI has grown significantly, but what hasn’t changed is the fundamental principles of Green Infrastructure and as such the findings of this strategy.

Gloucestershire County produced its original county GI framework in (2015). However, recently Natural England has developed their own (non-statutory) set of GI principles ‘The Green Infrastructure Framework’, which was published in 2023. The Natural England Framework, correlates very closely with the principles set out in the up-dated 2022 County GI framework.

Natural England GI Framework and Principles

Natural England has developed a set of [GI Principles](#)¹ that underpin the GI Framework. The Principles are intended to provide a baseline for different organisations to develop stronger Green Infrastructure policy and delivery. The principles cover the Why, What and How to do good Green Infrastructure as well as new access standards.



¹ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Principles/GIPrinciples.aspx>

1.3 The Benefits of Green Infrastructure

The benefits below have been taken from the [Strategic Framework for GI in Gloucestershire](#)²

The key environmental and social benefits include:

- Ensuring a more attractive place for people to live, work and visit.
- Improving health and wellbeing including through access to and an appreciation of nature.
- Helping mitigate and adapt to climate change, for example by carbon sequestration, urban cooling and flood alleviation. Improving air and water quality.
- Creating, enhancing and connecting habitats to deliver biodiversity net gains and nature recovery. Providing sustainable and active travel routes.
- Enabling local food production – in allotments, gardens, community orchards and through agriculture.

The key economic benefits include:

- Attracting inward investment by enhancing places for investors and potential residents (as shown in Gfirst LEP's 2019 youth survey).
- Generating employment by attracting new businesses and residents to an area (as identified by Gfirst LEP's Draft Local Industrial Strategy .
- Increased visitor spend – a more attractive county for tourists and visitors
- Saving environmental costs – for instance by diffusing and reducing pollution, helping to manage flood risk plus storing water during droughts.
- Providing health benefits – for example through providing access to high quality green space, better air quality, improved mental health and wellbeing, and also encouraging community cohesion.
- Promoting sustainable and increased local food production.
- Supporting the post-Brexit transitions in agriculture and land management

Green infrastructure provides a wide range of benefits simultaneously and from the same piece of land, often at a lower cost than non-natural solutions to the same problems.

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](#)³.

² <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/post/the-strategic-framework-for-green-infrastructure-is-now-live>

³ <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/forum/infrastructure/green-infrastructure-pledge>

- 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](#)⁴.
- 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 or other suitable framework.
- 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 updated Cotswold Design Code.
- To inform the update to the Local Plan.
- Bring open space and play provision issues ([particularly from the 2017 strategy part 1](#)⁵,²⁶ & [3](#))⁷ under the overall GI banner.
- To align with Natural England's Green Infrastructure Principles.

In preparing the Strategy, a range of evidence, including maps, data and space standards have been taken into account to develop a set of GI possible solutions for the District. 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.

New Green Infrastructure initiatives

There are many GI projects and initiatives underway both locally and nationally, for example the Environmental Land Management Scheme, the development of the county's Nature Recovery Network and strategy, biodiversity net gain, 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 future work; however those initiatives and projects will help to deliver the Strategy priorities. Therefore, it is important that the Strategy is regularly reviewed and updated.

4

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/cotswold-climate-and-ecological-emergencies/#:~:text=Ecological%20emergency&text=pdf%20%2D%201.42%20Mb-,Our%20response%20to%20this%20means%20we%20have%20committed%20to%3A,the%20ecological%20emergencies%20are%20maximised>

⁵<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/tnegerid/5406-green-infrastructure-open-space-and-play-space-strategy-part-1-aug-2017.pdf>

⁶<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/zsplnte2/5406-green-infrastructure-open-space-and-play-space-strategy-part-2-aug-2017.pdf>

⁷<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/mxhjuggq/5406-green-infrastructure-open-space-and-play-space-strategy-part-3-aug-2017.pdf>

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

Who

- Voluntary sector and community groups
- Developers and their agents
- The Council
- Parish and Town Councils,
- Residents and visitors,
- Farmers, landowners and land managers,

How

- e.g putting together environmental projects and grant bids.
- e.g designing new developments in the District.
- e.g determining planning applications; developing its next Local Plan and new strategic initiatives.
- e.g preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans.
- e.g looking for more information about the local environment.
- 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 approximately 90,000 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)
Decarbonising transport is expected to be especially difficult for rural areas. This is due to the dependency on motor vehicles and the lack of secondary options. It has been estimated by Gloucestershire County Council that 65% of all travel to work journeys are completed by car or van. In order to make this sustainable transition, not only should motor transport be decarbonised, but there must also be viable alternatives.
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)
There is one Green Flag holder , Cirencester Town Council holds it for St Michaels Park in Cirencester. In 2023 the park was awarded it for the sixth year in a row. It is an international quality mark for parks and green spaces. The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.
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.
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.
The total number of farmed land in the Cotswold District is 94,923 hectares and is worked by 782 agricultural holdings (DEFRA 2021)
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%. Work began on the missing link (air balloon bypass) in Spring 2023.
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 in the '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 over 180 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

The District was severely affected by the 2007 floods, as well as the recent flooding incident in December 20/ January 21.

By providing GI as a means of improving health and wellbeing naturally it has the benefit of potentially reducing levels of pharmaceuticals received through the sewage system.

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 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.
7 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.
The Cotswold District currently has 13646 Ha, of tree cover, 11% of the total area of the District. To reach the countywide target set in the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy ⁸ (2020) of 20 % tree cover would require an increase of 6,600 ha of tree cover in the district, that is a 50 % increase over the existing tree cover.

⁸ https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/files/ugd/5c4a64_93a71de396fc44b9a5c9dfd9f65fd97c.pdf

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.

To enable development to come forward that might otherwise cause likely significant recreational effects on the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC or the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC, the Council has worked with Natural England and neighbouring Local Authorities to prepare recreation mitigation strategies for these SACs. These set out the types of recreational impact and the mitigation (and its cost) required to address those recreational impacts. They also provide data on the areas from which visitors come to the sites, enabling a Zone of Influence to be defined.

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%
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves	7	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 %

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” NIA⁹s within and/or adjacent to Cotswold District;

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

⁹ <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/nature-improvement-areas>



1.5 Other key strategic Gloucestershire Initiatives

Access and Well-Being

The Adopted Minerals Local Plan (MLP) for Gloucestershire (2018-2032). The MLP is an integral part of the local development plan and provides the local policy framework for protecting, enhancing and expanding Green Infrastructure opportunities through minerals development across the county including Cotswold District. The MLP is also a 'Building with Nature' accredited plan.

The Local Transport Plan 2020-2041 is a living document setting out the transport strategy for Gloucestershire

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/gloucestershires-local-transport-plan-2020-2041/gloucestershire-ltp-2020-2041/>

[The Draft Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy \(2019 - 2030\)](#)¹⁰ 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)

[The Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health strategy](#)¹¹ describes the strategic approach in Gloucestershire to improving air quality and mitigating its impact on health as it relates to nitrogen oxides and particulate 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. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA) for the Cotswold District and County are important evidence papers.

The purpose of the SFRA is:

- Inform the sustainable appraisals so that flood risk is taken into account when considering options in the preparation of strategic land use policies,
- Propose appropriate policy recommendations for the management of flood risk within the Local Development Documents (LDDs),
- Identify the level of detail required for future site-specific Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) that support planning applications.

¹⁰

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

¹¹

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

[District wide information on the SFRA 1 and 2](#)¹² can be found on the Local Plan evidence page under infrastructure

[The Countywide SFRA](#)¹³

Catchment Level Area Projects

Formed in June 2014, the [Evenlode Catchment Partnership](#)¹⁴ covers the catchment of the River Evenlode. The catchment consists of 16 river water bodies including the River Evenlode and the major tributaries the Glyme and Dorn. The River Evenlode rises near Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire and is a headwater tributary of the River Thames, with a catchment area covering approximately 430km².

Wildlife

In 2018 the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership endorsed a strategic framework for GI in Gloucestershire, the framework was updated in 2022. The original framework formed part of the evidence base for the current Cotswold District Local Plan.

THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE [\(2022\)](#)¹⁵ [Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership](#)¹⁶

VISION

Our vision is that Green Infrastructure in Gloucestershire is optimised to deliver sustainable growth, reverse the ecological emergency, provide ecosystems services and improve societal health and wellbeing, whilst increasing Gloucestershire's resilience to climate change through nature-based solutions.

The framework includes 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 framework will also help to deliver on the Lawton principles of Bigger, Better, and More Joined Up Bigger, (Lawton J, 2010, Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network, DEFRA). In addition, to 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."

¹²

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

¹³

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flood-risk-management/flood-planning-information/>

¹⁴ <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b85878200d59479ab0217a9cc6f63c64>

¹⁵ <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/post/the-strategic-framework-for-green-infrastructure-is-now-live>

¹⁶ <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/>



The Nature Recovery Network and Strategy

The aim of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS), which form a key element of the Environment Act 2021, is to drive more coordinated, practical and focussed action to reverse nature's decline. In Gloucestershire the County Council is responsible for preparing the LNRS and the District Councils are "supporting authorities"; however the range of stakeholders involved is much wider than this, also involving the voluntary and community sector, land-owners; statutory agencies etc. The Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership is undertaking much of the groundwork for the LNRS on behalf of the County Council.

In Gloucestershire the Nature Recovery Network mapping has formed the first stage of developing the LNRS (as well as providing the framework for mapping natural capital in Gloucestershire), showing where the most important habitats are located and the best locations to enhance and create new habitats to strengthen the network and its connectivity. The mapping identifies Lowland Calcareous (Limestone) Grassland, lowland Meadows, Floodplain grazing marsh, Woodland Mosaic and rivers as strategic areas for the Cotswolds and can be used to identify and design key GI components within the District.

For further details on the LNRS

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/ecology-and-landscape/a-nature-recovery-strategy-for-gloucestershire/>

The Cotswold District

In addition to the [Climate Change Emergency](#)¹⁷ declared in 2019 and [The Ecological Emergency](#)¹⁸ in 2020 there are a number of documents, which will also contribute towards the mitigation and adaptation of climate change. These include, but are not limited to The Cotswold District Renewable Energy Strategy and Decarbonise Energy Strategy. Once adopted, these strategies will also have a fundamental role to play in securing Green Infrastructure in the District.

¹⁷ <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/cotswold-climate-and-ecological-emergencies/>

¹⁸ <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/cotswold-climate-and-ecological-emergencies/>

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

High quality GI in new development should meet the following standards and guidance:	
High Quality GI Standards and Benchmark See 1.6.1	Building with Nature
Local Design See 1.6.2	The Cotswold Design Code
Accessible Green Space Standards See 1.6.3	Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) (used until December 2022) and 2023 update
The Play Standards See 1.6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Play England and Design Guidance ● A Guide for Creating a Successful Play Spaces ● The Fields in Trust
Parks and Green Spaces See 1.6.5	The Green Flag Award Making Space for Girls
Playing Pitches See 1.5.6	Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy
Allotments See 1.6.7	The National Allotment Society
Woodlands 1.6.8	The Woodland Access Standard

1.6.1 Building with Nature (BwN)

[Building with Nature](https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/about)¹⁹ is a national GI benchmark, developed in 2018 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 and is a useful guide.

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.

¹⁹ <https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/about>

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 likely that it will meet the requirements of the relevant national and local plan policy.

The BwN Standards Refresh (2021)

The BwN Standards have been updated with the help of the BwN Standards Board, which comprised of Green Infrastructure experts and representatives from industry, government, professional bodies, and other key stakeholders across the UK. The original Standards, although refreshed, are still relevant to the GI strategy on which it is based. Building with Nature was used to determine the three crucial elements of GI, Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife.



The CORE Standards should be applied across all three themes – Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife. There are 6 CORE Standards and together they distinguish Green Infrastructure from a more conventional approach to the design and delivery of open and green space. The project should deliver a multifunctional and connected network of Green Infrastructure features, which respond to the climate emergency and local context. The project needs to demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the local environment, creating a distinctive sense of place, and securing effective long-term management and maintenance of green infrastructure features

The Core Standards

Standard 1 - Optimises Multifunctionality and Connectivity

Optimises multifunctionality and connectivity within the boundary of the project and links with existing and planned for Green Infrastructure in the surrounding area.

Explanatory Note: This standard identifies that multifunctionality and connectivity need to be considered for all elements of Green Infrastructure e.g., the delivery of effective active travel routes or ecological enhancements. Opportunities for multifunctionality should be optimised on the project to achieve the maximum potential benefits for people, wildlife, and the wider environment.

Standard 2 - Positively responds to the Climate Emergency

Is designed to be climate resilient by incorporating mitigation and adaptations that respond to the impacts of climate change. The Green Infrastructure is designed to promote low carbon behaviours and contributes to achieving zero carbon development by optimising carbon sequestration and demonstrating low carbon approaches to design, construction, and long-term maintenance.

Explanatory Note: Incorporating high-quality Green Infrastructure is critical if new development is to effectively address the challenges of the climate emergency. The Green Infrastructure itself needs to

be designed to cope with, for example, flood and drought and to be sustainable in the longer term. The project's natural environment, as for the built environment, now also needs to contribute to the project's ambition to be climate positive, by, for example, reducing the carbon footprint through sequestration and the procurement of low carbon materials required for the construction of the Green Infrastructure. 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.

Standard 3 - Maximises Environmental Net Gains

Is designed to actively mitigate any unavoidable harmful environmental impacts of development on soil and air quality and to minimise light and noise pollution. In addition, it delivers environmental net gains, including improving air and water quality and wherever possible includes quiet spaces for people and wildlife.

Explanatory Note: Green infrastructure can be designed not only to help mitigate any unavoidable residual harms to the environment resulting from development, but also to enhance the environment for people and wildlife. For example, Green Infrastructure features can be designed to reduce the negative impacts of noise from road traffic which will aid individual wellbeing, social cohesion, and encourage and support wildlife. Local priorities (see Standard 4) may have been identified for environmental net gain and these will need to be reflected in the project design.

Standard 4 Champions a Context Driven Approach

Positively responds to the local context, including the physical environment, such as landscape and urban character and social, economic, and environmental priorities, including the evidenced needs and strengths of existing and future local communities.

Explanatory Note: For Green Infrastructure to enhance the local area and be effective and sustainable in the long term, it needs to be strongly context driven. In BwN terms, the context includes planning and other strategic policies, for example those relating to landscape or urban character, health and wellbeing, ecological networks, target species and sustainable transport initiatives, as well as priorities identified through community consultation and engagement

Standard 5 - Creates Distinctive Places

Is integral to the project and is designed to reinforce local distinctiveness and/or create a distinctive sense of place.

Explanatory Note: Ensuring that high-quality Green Infrastructure is integral to the project is essential to creating a distinctive sense of place. Distinctiveness of an area should be reinforced through the design of the built environment, but also critically through the design of Green Infrastructure. The quality of the spaces around, and relationship with, the buildings is as important as the building themselves. Where there are few distinctive qualities in an area to work from, new development can play an important role in creating newly distinctive places for future communities

Standard 6 - Secures Effective Place-keeping

Is subject to management arrangements that demonstrate a commitment to effectively implement, establish and maintain features at all stages of the development process. This should include details of funding, governance, maintenance, monitoring, remediation and, where appropriate, community involvement and stewardship.

Explanatory Note: Effective implementation, management, maintenance, and monitoring of Green Infrastructure is critical if we want to secure the functions and benefits it is valued for. To achieve the planned condition and functionality of individual Green Infrastructure features in the long-term, the requirements of implementation, and management and maintenance, must be incorporated into design thinking as early as possible in the development process. How the Green Infrastructure will be implemented and then looked after post-construction should inform the design. In multi-phase developments, the management arrangements are key to ensuring that high-quality Green Infrastructure is effectively implemented through all phases. Some level of detail and commitment around the preferred model, mechanism, and funding arrangement, even at the outline planning stage, is essential to secure effective planning for Green Infrastructure. In BwN terms ‘appropriate community involvement’ would be where there are effectively resourced long-term management arrangements in place which are supported by the community. ‘Community stewardship’ is encouraged but must be effectively designed and resourced as part of a wider commitment to long-term management

Building with Nature - The Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife Standards

In addition to the six core Standards there are standards for Wellbeing, Water and Wildlife.

Wellbeing	<p>The project should deliver Green Infrastructure that meets the needs of local people in an inclusive way and is accessible all year round. It should help to reduce health inequalities, build a sense of community and belonging, and encourage active stewardship.</p> <p>Standard 7: Brings Nature Closer to People Is close to where people live, work, learn, play and/or visit, and is designed to optimise use and enjoyment for everyone across the year, to maximise health and wellbeing outcomes and to promote active living for existing and future communities.</p> <p>Explanatory Note: BwN Standards are all about bringing people closer to nature and making the natural environment a great place to be in. This Standard is about making sure that the Green Infrastructure features are accessible to everyone. In BwN terms, ‘accessible’ means to be able to physically enter the space and/or enjoy it through audio, visual or other senses.</p> <p>Standard 8: Supports Equitable and Inclusive Places Is designed to encourage and enable everyone, including those from vulnerable or excluded groups, to use and enjoy it, to help reduce health inequalities and to build a shared sense of community and belonging.</p> <p>Explanatory Note: In addition to making sure people can easily access the Green Infrastructure within the project, Green Infrastructure features need to be designed to be inclusive. Positive engagement with key stakeholders in the community will help to ensure that Green Infrastructure provision effectively responds to local needs and strengths.</p>
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<p>Water</p>	<p>The project should manage water in ways that minimise risk and impacts associated with flood, drought, improve water quality, and create or enhance features that add benefits for people, wildlife, and the wider environment.</p> <p>Standard 9: Delivers Climate Resilient Water Management</p> <p>Is integral to sustainable drainage using above ground features to manage flood risk, maintain the natural water cycle and improve water quality within the boundary of the project and at a catchment scale. The Green Infrastructure is designed to be drought resistant and wherever possible, includes measures for the retention and reuse of rainwater.</p> <p>Explanatory Note: This standard aims to highlight the opportunities that Green Infrastructure can offer in terms of ground sustainable water management to respond to the challenges of climate change, including flood and drought. Sustainable drainage incorporated into the Green Infrastructure offers opportunities for maintaining and improving water quality. The Green Infrastructure needs to be climate resilient, and wherever possible some surface water should be captured for reuse to help with the sustainable management and long-term maintenance of Green Infrastructure features.</p> <p>Standard 10: Brings Water Closer to People</p> <p>Is designed to integrate water, including areas of standing water, flowing water, seasonal and ephemeral features, to bring additional amenity and wildlife benefits.</p> <p>Explanatory Note: As outlined in Standard 1, sustainable water management which is integrated within the green infrastructure offers opportunities to secure other benefits for people, wildlife, and the wider environment. Preexisting natural and semi-natural water features can also be either reinstated or enhanced, and/or new sustainable drainage features can be created to deliver wildlife habitat, opportunities for play and outdoor recreation and other amenity benefits.</p>
<p>Wildlife</p>	<p>The project should help reverse the long-term decline in biodiversity by being sensitive to the local ecological context and providing space for wildlife to flourish. It should link habitats within the project and out into the wider landscape to help the restoration and creation of wider ecological networks.</p> <p>Standard 11: Delivers Wildlife Enhancement</p> <p>Optimises long term and climate resilient net benefits for nature, by retaining and enhancing existing ecological assets and creating locally relevant new habitats within the boundary of the project. Wildlife measures are secured at all stages of implementation and where applicable, across multiple phases of development.</p> <p>Explanatory Note: This standard emphasises the requirement to follow the Mitigation Hierarchy and create Net Positive benefits for wildlife. The standard reiterates the need to protect any existing ecological assets as a necessary first step in the development process. Protecting existing, and creating new, high-quality Green Infrastructure in development provides a significant opportunity to enhance existing, and create new, habitat for wildlife. In turn, Green Infrastructure can support the conservation status of target species and habitats identified as priorities for the local area. Arrangements that secure effective implementation of these enhancements at all stages and phases of development are essential if desired outcomes for high-quality Green Infrastructure are to be realised. This standard also highlights the importance of a demonstrable commitment to management (both long term and adaptive), maintenance, monitoring and remediation (see Standard 6) to effectively support biodiversity and ecosystem health and resilience, which is critical to reverse the long-term decline in biodiversity and tackle the Ecological Emergency</p>

	<p>Standard 12: Underpins Nature’s Recovery</p> <p>Creates effective links with existing and planned for ecological features and networks beyond the boundary of the project to support the creation and restoration of resilient ecological networks in the wider landscape.</p> <p>Explanatory Note: Appropriately designed Green Infrastructure can create significant opportunities to improve the connectivity of existing and planned for habitats. This standard aims to create effective and resilient ecological enhancements within the boundary of the project, but also to support existing and planned for ecological networks and features beyond the boundary, by creating linkages, corridors and ‘stepping stones’. In addition to creating effective links, this standard supports ecological connectivity through improving the condition and resilience of habitats retained, created, or enhanced, through the project.</p>
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The policies in the adopted 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 update. The update will ensure these policies will align as much as possible with the Building with Nature Standards.

1.6.2 Other Green Infrastructure Standards

The Cotswold Design Code

There are a range of other GI-related standards that have been developed locally, nationally and internationally. The current Local Plan Design Code 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 standards have been used in analysing the data and mapping within this Strategy. The information in this section provides the relevant detail to help developers deliver GI that meets all the required standards.

1.6.3 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 \(ANGSt\)](https://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east_of_england/ourwork/gi/accessiblenaturalgreenspacestandardangst.aspx)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

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

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.	

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](#)²¹. In the guidance, the importance of the Accessible Natural GreenSpace Standards (ANGSt) was applied .

The guidance stated “ 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. These all present a cumulative opportunity approach to access. Fields in Trust further includes standards for quality. In 2020 ANGSt was still the most comprehensive, not only setting standards for access, quantity and quality, but for services as well.”

Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework 2023

In January 2023 Natural England launched a new Green Infrastructure Framework, listed below are the revised standards for access to green space. Natural England’s revised Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) have had their scope broadened, and are now referred to as Accessible Greenspace Standards. The wellbeing maps and information collected from the Town and Parish Councils for Section 6 of the GI Strategy highlights this and provides evidence as to where new accessible green spaces should be allocated.

The Green Infrastructure Headline Standards produced by Natural England states everyone should have access to good quality green and blue spaces close to home for health and wellbeing and contact with nature, to meet the Accessible Greenspace Standards, with an initial focus on access to green and blue spaces within 15 minutes’ walk from home. The criteria is very similar to the previous (ANGSt) standards.

The Accessible Greenspace Standards (2023) define good provision based on different size proximity, capacity and quality criteria, as set out below:

Natural England - Access to Greenspace Close to Home - 2023	
Size of Site	Distance from Home
A doorstep greenspace of at least 0.5ha	within 200 metres
A local natural greenspace of at least 2ha	within 300 metres walk from home.
And a medium sized neighbourhood natural greenspace (10ha)	within 1km AND beyond 15 minutes walk

²¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904439/Improving_access_to_greenspace_2020_review.pdf

A medium/large wider neighbourhood natural greenspace (20ha)	within 2km
A very large district natural green space (100ha)	within 5 km
A very large subregional greenspace (500ha)	10 km

The Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) standard, as referred to until 2023 was applied to open space provision in the District. Once applied the data identifies that there is a shortfall in the provision of Accessible Natural Greenspace at all levels across the district.

The introduction of Natural England’s GI Framework and Accessible Green Space Standards in 2023 does not detract from the fact that the Cotswold District is deficient in Accessible Natural Greenspace.

Natural England (2023) estimates that parks and greenspaces in England deliver an estimated £6.6 billion of health, climate change and environmental benefits every year. The government’s Environmental Improvement Plan, includes a commitment that the public should be able to access green space or water, such as woodlands, wetlands, parks and rivers, within a 15-minute walk from their home.

Natural England’s Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF) provides a structure to analyse where greenspace in urban environments is needed most. It aims to support equitable access to greenspace across the country, with an overarching target for everyone being able to reach good quality greenspace in their local area. The wellbeing maps and information collected from the Town and Parish Councils for Section 6 of the strategy highlights this and provides evidence as to where new accessible green spaces should be allocated.

Other Standards recommended in this strategy

1.6.4 The Play Standards

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.’

‘A Guide for Creating a Successful Play Spaces’.

Building on these standards this Strategy supports the concept of natural play endorsed by Play England Design for Play

<https://www.playengland.org.uk/designforplay>

²²<https://www.playengland.org.uk/designforplay#:~:text=A%20guide%20to%20creating%20successfu,experience%20risk%2C%20challenge%20and%20excitement>.

Learning as well as Playing

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 Fields in Trust

The 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.

1.6.5 Parks and Open Spaces

The Green Flag award

[The Green Flag Award](#) scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Its purpose and aims are to:

- To ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces, irrespective of where they live.
- To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve.
- To establish standards of good management.
- To promote and share good practice amongst the green space sector.
- To recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff and volunteers.

Make Space for Girls Play Guidance

[Make Space for Girls](#)²³

Make Space for Girls was registered as a charity in March 2021. Their mission is to use research, consultation, engagement and education to campaign and drive an approach to the planning, commissioning and development of parks and similar public spaces that recognises the different needs of girls and young women and finds ways to meet those needs.

1.6.6 Playing Pitches

Sport England Guidance

Sport England have developed the playing pitch calculator, which is based on information from the Playing Pitch Strategy in order to create the right amount of playing pitches and the correct typology. The Playing Pitch Strategy methodology for playing fields is not a standard, but based on empirical evidence.

1.6.7 Standards for Allotments

Allotments Standards - The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners

[The National Allotment Society](#)²⁴ 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 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'

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners has produced new guidance for Planners, developers, civil engineers, architects, local authority and/or project managers working on various stages of a new development. [Guide To 21st Century Allotments in New Developments](#)²⁵; 21st Century Allotments in New Developments

Applications for council-run allotments in England soared during the coronavirus pandemic. In August, 2021 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 in the April of that year. This trend has continued, in 2023 it is reported that the steady increase is down to the cost of living crisis, the increased interest in "growing your own" during covid and a better awareness of sustainable growing and eating. An increase in interest in allotments was reported by many of our own Town and Parish Councils in 2021 and several in 2023.

1.6.8 Woodlands

The Woodland Trust - The Woodland Access Standard

²³ <https://makespaceforgirls.co.uk/>

²⁴ <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/>

²⁵ <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/21st-century-allotments-in-new-developments/>

According to the [Woodland Access Standard](#)²⁶ (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 20 ha 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.

[The Town and Country Planning Association \(TCPA\)](#)²⁷ holds the UK's biggest GI knowledge base, this knowledge base is constantly being updated, this is a useful resource base and should also be referred to.

²⁶ <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1721/space-for-people-woodland-access.pdf>

²⁷ <https://tcpa.org.uk/>

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 at both the strategic level (such as county parks) and at the more local or neighbourhood scale (such as allotments, local parks)
- 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.
- To ensure that the District has a sufficient water supply for current and future needs.
- To ensure that the District has sufficient sewage treatment provision for current and future needs.

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 through participating in the preparation and delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

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 update 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 protect, enhance and create green wedges and corridors, for their connectivity value, within existing and new developments.
- To continue to develop the evidence base to support effective GI provision.
- Ensure there is a consistent, early and coordinated approach taken to the management of GI, by for example, developing a stewardship model for the management of GI in new developments.
- To ensure new developments to provide gardens and open spaces, for wellbeing, to enable and encourage biodiversity and connectivity.
- To encourage the development of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces (SANG)

2.2 Possible solutions to address GI issues

To realise the full potential of GI and to deliver maximum benefits across the District will require the input and efforts of a broad range of partners and stakeholders at the national, county, district and local level. The research findings in this strategy form the basis of critical information about the District. These findings provide real GI possibilities and solutions, in doing so they have the ability to deliver on more than one element of GI for the District.

GI Potential in the Cotswold District

Wellbeing
Investigate the potential for the creation of new (and particularly medium to large scale) country or natural parks within the District, including the opportunity to deliver Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces. (SANG)
Work with partners, for example the Highways Authority (through the emerging county cycle Strategy and the Local Transport Plan (2020-2041) ²⁸ to investigate the potential for the creation of new and enhancement of existing GI led strategic cycle and pedestrian routes ²⁹ in the District, with an emphasis on –linking up existing settlements (within and outside the District) and other important destinations, prioritising – Cirencester to Kemble (included in Local Plan) Cirencester - the re-use of the Andoversford to Cirencester dis-used railway where possible or quiet lane network for a new Active Travel Route Kemble to Tetbury (included in Local Plan) Kemble – re-use the dismantled railway between Cirencester and Kemble, and Kemble to Tetbury for active travel Andoversford – re-use the disused railway where possible and/or A40 corridor between Cheltenham and Andoversford for active travel. Reuse the disused railway (where possible) and quiet lane network between Andoversford and Cirencester/Andoversford and Bourton on the Water Bourton- on- the- Water – re-use the disused railway between Bourton on the Water and Kingham for active travel and connectivity to mainline rail services Cirencester to South Cerney , the Cotswold Water Park and out to Swindon Fairford to Lechlade (included in Local Plan) The settlements along the Fosseway Ensuring that as many of these routes as possible are off-road or traffic free Re-using disused railway lines and canals. For example the canal for access from Cirencester to the Water Park. Providing routes that are accessible for all users, including families and disabled people and horse riders. Designs that also increase wildlife habitat connectivity Those routes that can be delivered through new developments
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.

²⁸

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/greener-gloucestershire-climate-dashboard/transport/public-transport/>

²⁹

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/gloucestershire-local-transport-plan-2020-2041/cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans/>

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.
Foster a better understanding of the root causes of sewage into the district waterways.
Work with partners to improve access to the Thames and Severn Canal. This ongoing project continues to restore the canal.
Work with riparian owners and other partners to improve watercourse management.
Work with partners for leaving space for flood water by safeguarding land through the Local Plan and utilising greenspace for flood storage and slowing the flow.
Wildlife
Support and work with key partners to minimise recreational pressures on the Cotswold Beechwoods SACs and North Meadow/Clattinger Farm SAC.
Support the implementation of the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy (2020), in particular the actions for the Cotswold District.
Work with partners to ensure that the nature recovery network mapping and a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Gloucestershire is kept up to date and it is 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 update.
Ensure that the update of the local plan, including new allocations and revised policies (including the revised Cotswold Design Code) fully considers better alignment with GI Standards such as Building with Nature Benchmark updated in 2021 and the Natural England GI Framework published in January 2023; the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Network and forthcoming strategy and other new legislation, policy and guidance if appropriate.

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 update.
Consider how any new cycle or pedestrian routes could be included in the update 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
Review the current evidence base for the designation of Special Landscape Areas and update where necessary.
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 Local Nature Partnership, Duty to Cooperate and other partners to update the Strategic Framework for GI in Gloucestershire, when needed.
Ensure that the Steadings Development delivers on its aspirations to provide high quality GI (that meets the BwN benchmark).
Encourage the appropriate planting of more trees and woodland and rewilding projects to address climate change and ensure 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; update new GI-related initiatives and update the GI strategy, as necessary.
The strategy is part of the Local Plan evidence base and will be subject to periodic updates, which will be delivered as part of extant Forward Planning and Development Management existing resources.

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. Further amendments have been made as a result of findings from the consultation of the Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy in 2021, which are detailed in [section 6](#).

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 Neighbourhood Development Plan process.

Proposed GI for the 17 Principal Settlements

South Cotswold Principal Settlements

Cirencester			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	Provision of additional play space and facilities for children and young people; Improvement of the functionality, amenity, safety, biodiversity, environment and attractiveness of city bank; Improving pedestrian /cycle linkages between Chesterton, the Amphitheatre and the town centre. Cycling infrastructure in Cirencester, including improvements to Tetbury Road and London Road corridors.	SP3. restoration Cotswold Canal and towpath	
Locally prepared GI ideas. Cirencester Town Council did not request any major changes as a result of the GI consultation in 2021.	Improve non-car access to open spaces.	Enhance the Daglingworth stream	Improve school and hospital grounds for wildlife. Improvement of the functionality, amenity, safety, biodiversity, environment and attractiveness of the Nature Reserve next to city bank.

Down Ampney			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	Improvements to footpaths in and around the village, including a pedestrian crossing in the village centre Improvements in links to The Folley and Down Ampney Pitts, and existing pocket parks;		

	Contributions to a new natural open space or pocket park.		
Locally prepared GI ideas. Down Ampney Parish Council did not request for updates, as a result, of the GI consultation that took place in 2021.	Improve enhance new routes to amenity areas and consider activities to increase their use	Improve the Ampney Brook	Survey and improve habitat for swallows, house martins and swifts.

Fairford			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	The route for the multi-use path from Fairford to Lechlade along the former railway to be safeguarded; The provision of land for allotments.	Improvements to the provision of footpath and cycle links between Fairford and the riverside, the Cotswold Water Park and canal route;	
Locally prepared GI ideas. Fairford Town Council requested factual changes to the wellbeing map as a result of the 2021 consultation	Improve access to GI to the south of the town and around Fairford Park	Enhance the river bank for wildlife	Improve habitat for hedgehogs

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.	SP3. restoration Cotswold Canal and towpath	
Locally prepared GI ideas. Kemble Parish Council did not request any changes as a result of the 2021 GI consultation..	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.	SP3. restoration Cotswold Canal and towpath	
Locally prepared GI ideas. Lechlade Town Council updated the opportunities for GI enhancements as a result of the Draft GI Strategy consultation.	Himalayan Balsam is a problem for the wellbeing, water and wildlife of Lechlade. The infestation is affecting the accessibility of riverside walks, destroying the viability of native flora and fauna on riverbanks. Local walking maps are being created. Some maps have been created and are available from Lechlade Library at a minimal cost.	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.	SP3. restoration Cotswold Canal and towpath	
Locally prepared GI ideas. South Cerney did not request any changes, as a result of the 2021 GI consultation..	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. Tetbury Town Council and the Climate Strategy Working Group updated the opportunities for GI enhancements as a result of the Draft GI Strategy.	Extend the railway path towards Cirencester and Kemble and greater focus on the public use of green spaces, including Preston Park and the development of forest schools .	Improve riparian habitats along railway and Avon	supports the significant increase in wildflower verges around Tetbury.

Mid Cotswold Principal Settlements

Andoversford			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	NA	NA	NA
Locally prepared GI ideas. Andoversford did not request any changes, as a result, of the 2021 GI Strategy consultation.	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. Bourton on the Water Parish Council did not request any changes as a result of the Draft GI Strategy consultation, which took place in 2021.	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. Northleach with Eastington Town Council updated the opportunities for GI enhancements as a result of the Draft GI Strategy consultation, which took place in 2021.	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. Stow on the Wold Town Council updated the opportunities for enhancements, as a result, of the 2021 GI consultation. Updates to the maps were also made.	Increase GI in new developments, particularly visual and auditory access.	Make the riverside walk along the Dickler more accessible.	Enhance King George's & QEII Playing Fields for wildlife.

Upper Rissington			
	Wellbeing	Water	Wildlife
GI in the Adopted Local Plan	NA	NA	NA
Locally prepared GI ideas. Upper Rissington Parish Council did not request any changes as a result of the 2021 GI Strategy consultation.	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 The GI enhancements, as listed below have been updated by Blockley Parish Council, as a result of GI consultation, which took place in 2021. Reference should also be made to Blockley Parish Council Draft Climate and Ecological Action Plan, October 2021	Target additional benches and seating in spaces for nature (creating wellbeing opportunities by linking seating to spaces for nature) Supporting the opening-up of allotments to the wider community; the site has been secured for 999 years and presents fantastic opportunities for groups other than plot holders to access this asset. Maintain and update the play infrastructure and seating in parish parks. Enhance opportunities for wildlife within parks and play areas, while protecting the overall character of the area. Creating safe cycle routes between Blockley and surrounding settlements	Enhance existing mill ponds to increase opportunities for wildlife. ensure water courses are protected by retaining vegetation buffers even for small scale development.	Improving quality of habitat along the Brook to connect to habitat to the south of the settlement. Provide for key species in new developments. Hedgerow restoration/extensions. Improve the cemetery for biodiversity. Improve roadside verges and other pockets/strips of land for wildlife, particularly pollinators. Survey for and improve nesting opportunities for birds eg swifts, swallows, house martins, barn owls etc. Improve habitat connectivity for hedgehogs.

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. Chipping Campden Town Council did not request any changes as a result of the 2021 GI Strategy consultation.	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. Mickleton Parish Council updated the opportunities for GI enhancements as a result of the 2021 GI consultation.	Promote safe walking and cycling routes	Encouraging rainwater collection and its domestic use	Re-wilding of verges and small open spaces as well as tree and hedgerow planting on public land with the help of Woodland Trust grants.

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. Moreton in Marsh Town Council updated factual information and prepared a detailed response to the 2021 GI consultation	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. Willersey Parish Council did not request changes, as a result of the 2021 GI consultation.	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

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.

3.1 Policy Background

The potential of GI to help create great places is recognised in local, national and international policy and guidance that relates to specific GI benefits or issues.

At a national level the [NPPF](#) and iterations of it over the last four years³⁰ covers GI. In the latest version 2023, GI is made reference to in a number of different sections, including design and the natural environment, highlighting the multi-functional nature of GI. There is also a specific section on GI in the national [Planning Practice Guidance](#)³¹

Timeline for the Green Infrastructure Strategy and relevant Legislation and Guidance

The timeline, as seen in the Introduction, illustrates the amount of new legislation and guidance that has been produced over the past few years. For this reason a full and comprehensive list of the relevant documents is not included in this Strategy.

3.2 Forthcoming Legislation and Guidance

At the time of finalising this Strategy (November 2023) some of the guidance and secondary legislation related to the Environment Act was still not available. This gives uncertainty on some aspects of the Strategy and its delivery, for example the exact mechanisms for BNG and its reporting requirements.

3.2.1 [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. The current Local Plan is being updated and the evidence base for that update provides useful information and background on GI as well.

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

³⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

³¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

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
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 of Appendix D in the Local Plan include issues that are also of relevance to the design of GI, for example the consideration of setting, inclusive design and boundary treatments etc.) The Design Code will be updated as part of the update to the Local Plan, which is currently underway. Updates to the Local Plan and the evidence base for it should be referred to, once published.

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 and Tetbury Upton 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 on Thames Neighbourhood Plan	Policy D1 Design Principles Conform to the (Local Plan) Cotswold Design Code or its successor document. Includes guidance on GI. Policy G2 Lechlade Cricket Ground		Policy G1 Local Green Spaces
Northleach with Eastington 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
Kemble and Ewen Neighbourhood Plan	Policy KE6: Green Infrastructure	Policy KE6: Green Infrastructure	Policy KE3: Protecting Local Green Spaces. Policy KE4: Protecting other Open Spaces’ Policy KE6: Green Infrastructure KE8: Kemble and Kemble Station Conservation Area.
South Cerney Neighbourhood Plan	Policy SC5: Public Access to Lakes. Policy SC7: Existing Recreational, Open Spaces and Allotments. Policy SC15: Sustainable Travel and Rights of Way.	Policy SC13: Alleviation of Flooding.	Policy SC9: Local Sites of Ecological and Geological Value. Policy SC10: Designation of Local Green Spaces.
Fairford Neighbourhood Plan	Policy FNP 2: Providing a new burial ground. Policy FNP 7: Improving Access to Visitor Attractions Policy FN14: A new Low Carbon Community in Fairford	Policy FNP 4: Managing Flood Risk, Policy FNP 10: River Coln Valued Landscape	Policy FNP 8: Protecting Local Green 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 be designed to be used and enjoyed all year round	Can be designed to create better places for people and wildlife to live	Offer the opportunity to ensure linkages between habitats
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 contribute to the target conservation status of key species
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 include ecological features around and within the built environment
Can add positively to distinctiveness of place	Water management features can add value to the overall design of a place	Can play a role in restoring and sustaining wider ecological networks

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](#)³², particularly at the pre-application stage, has been prepared for (funded by the MHCLG Innovation Fund).

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)

Natural England has also produced a [GI Design Guide](#)³³ 2023. The purpose of the Planning and Design Guide is to provide evidence based practical guidance on how to plan and design good Green Infrastructure. It complements the National Model Design Code and National Design Guide.

³² <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/4sojaskr/green-infrastructure-planning-advice.pdf>

³³ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/DesignGuide.aspx>

Green Infrastructure Checklist for Developers

- **Remember** Green Infrastructure means blue infrastructure as well.
- **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, Natural England's GI Framework and principles 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. A full set of the Landscape Character Assessment maps you can refer to [Ecology and landscape - Gloucestershire County Council](#) 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; onsite Biodiversity Net Gain, 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.
- **Look** at the Natural Capital mapping website and Nature Recovery Network for GI opportunities <https://naturalcapital.gcerdata.com/>
- **Put** long-term mechanisms in place to retain and manage new or enhanced GI.

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 [Glorious Cotswold Grasslands](#) 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](#).³⁴This 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	The Community Wellbeing Team at CDC hosts The Cotswold Community Network (CCN) group made up of Voluntary Organisations, Community Groups, NHS, Foodbanks, Town and Parish Councils, Youth Providers to name just a few. There are currently over 115 members.	X	X	X
Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Environment Agency	Flood Defences 29 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
Cotswolds National Landscape	Glorious Cotswold Grasslands ³⁵	X	X	X
Gloucestershire County Council Highways	Rights of Way and Countryside Access Improvement Plan 2011 - 2026 ³⁶	x	x	x
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	The Cotswold Water Park WILD Project ³⁷ (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 Guidance ³⁸ contains advice to help the County Council implement its	X	X	X

³⁴ <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/gloucestershire-nature-project-map>

³⁵ <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/looking-after/our-grasslands-projects/glorious-cotswolds-grasslands/>

³⁶ https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/pelpfxn1/rowip_2011_to_2026-45038.pdf

³⁷

³⁸ <https://www.thinktravel.info/media/xmuhdhvl/ghbg-v32-may2022.pdf>

	statutory duty to conserve biodiversity (Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006) whilst carrying out its highways functions.			
Cotswold Canals Trust (CCT)	Restoration ³⁹ is well advanced on the western section of the canal. Plans to similarly restore the eastern section to Connect the Water Park to the Thames are being made. The Eastern Visitor Centre located in the Cotswold Water Park , a joint venture between the CCT and the Cotswold Lake Trust opened in May 2023 and has since welcomed over 5500 visitors.	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 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:

³⁹ <https://cotswoldcanals.org/>

- 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](#)⁴⁰ 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](#)⁴¹ 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 update of the Local Plan.

The Council has developed a tool kit to assist in the selection and designation of [Local Green Spaces](#)⁴²

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.

⁴⁰https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

⁴¹<https://cotswold.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=885eb94398bf4819b17bd66d64275e59>

⁴² <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 being collated as part of the Local Plan Review
- 5.5 Engagement with principal settlements in 2018
- 5.6 Feedback from stakeholders 2020 pre draft consultation
- 5.7 Feedback from members of the public and stakeholders from the Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy
- 5.8 International, national and county-level legislation, policy and guidance
- 5.9 Other data from international, national, county and local information sources
- 5.10 Access to Open Spaces Standards analysis.

5.1 GI Mapping

The mapping for the Strategy took place during 2018 and 2019, with additional amends made in 2020 and 2022. The maps, listed below, helped to establish a picture of existing work in the GI field at a County level. These maps include: The Strategic Framework for GI in the County, The Gloucestershire Nature Map, this map forms the basis for the nature recovery network and Gloucestershire Nature Improvement Areas.

The Gloucestershire Nature Map was 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 river areas as strategic areas for the Cotswolds.

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, Local Wildlife Sites, National Forestry Inventory, Priority Habitat, Scientific Sites of Special Interest, Regionally Important Geological Sites

The mapping work for the 17 principal settlements was undertaken in partnership with the parish and town councils in 2017 and 2021 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, 2021 consultation 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
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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](#)⁴³ on which the current local plan was based is extensive and includes –

- Cotswold Water Park Topic Paper 2015.
- Cotswold Water Park Nature Recovery Plan July 2021
- 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 ⁴⁴[Evidence base and monitoring Studies and documents which the local plan was developed from.](#)

5.4 Emerging evidence collated as part of the Local Plan Update

The local plan update has recently completed the Regulation 18 stage and is now working on updating the policies. The update of the effectiveness of current policies highlighted a number of key GI issues. For example the need to ensure that GI is considered within the larger natural capital agenda, the changes in the Environment Act, including biodiversity net gain and the Local Nature

⁴³

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

⁴⁴

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

Recovery Strategy and the GI Framework as well as the new access standards produced by Natural England.

5.5 Engagement with principal settlements in 2018 & 2021

In 2018, 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 and section 6](#).

In 2021 the consultation for the Draft GI Strategy began on Monday 14 June and ended on Monday 16 August 2021. An overview and roundup of the findings are available in the [The Green Infrastructure Consultation Report](#) published in 2022.

The consultation gave individuals, public and private organisations as well as key strategic partners and community representatives an opportunity to provide further feedback. That feedback helped to inform the questions posed at the Regulation 18 stage of the partial update to the Local Plan regarding Green Infrastructure. It also provided further supporting evidence to the findings of the [Reg 18: Consultation Summary Report](#), which will feed into the next stage of the Local Plan.

5.6 Feedback from relevant stakeholders 2018 and 2021

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.

It is important to take a landscape approach. Large (in the region of 10,000 – 50,000 hectares), discrete areas that by taking a landscape-scale approach, will help deliver a step change in nature conservation, where a local partnership has a shared vision for their natural environment. The Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network and the opportunity areas will help to define the boundaries of these Gloucestershire Local Nature Areas.

5.7 Feedback from members of the public and stakeholders from the Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy

In 2021 feedback from relevant stakeholders as well as members of the public was very positive. A number of suggestions were made and factual updates were given, which informed the final version of this strategy. [The Green Infrastructure Consultation Report](#) provides more information.

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

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

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

There is a wealth of GI related data available from the local, for example the work carried out which reviewed the recreational pressures on the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC to the national, such as [the State of Nature Report](#)⁴⁵ and the international, such as the 2019 IPCC report on Climate Change and Land [Special Report on Climate Change and Land — IPCC site](#)⁴⁶

5.10 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](#).

⁴⁵ <https://nbn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/State-of-Nature-2019-UK-full-report.pdf>

⁴⁶ <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 Camden 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

It should be noted that where there isn't a cost for accessing the site there might be a parking charge expected.

Special Areas of Conservation – Cotswold Beechwoods SAC and North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC. These two sites lie close or partially within the District. These accessible natural greenspace, although available, are very vulnerable to recreational disturbance and without additional measures 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.

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. At a County scale, the Gloucestershire strategic framework also emphasises the lack of strategic scale green spaces.

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, the delivery of suitable alternative natural green spaces (SANGs), 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.

2023 update

The research and results of the GI Strategy Consultation in 2021 and the ongoing conversations with key stakeholders and partners have resulted in the identification of several sites, which could potentially be enhanced to deliver additional accessible green space in the District, for example Sherborne Park which is owned by the National Trust. These sites have the potential to benefit the health and wellbeing of people and visitors to the area, but also to aid in nature recovery. By creating the right balance between access to the countryside for people and nature, these green spaces provide an opportunity to address the District's deficit of accessible open spaces, whilst helping to mitigate against the pressures experienced at other sites, including the Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) .

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 publicly 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. Charges for entry will apply in 2024 for some visitors.
Additional Information from Cirencester Town Council		
Other parks	Cirencester Abbey Grounds, Four Acres, Two Acres, The Amphitheatre, St Michael's Field (Green Flag holder since 2017)	
Local Nature Reserve	City Bank Nursery 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		
Cirencester Town Council did not request any major changes as a result of the Draft GI Strategy consultation, which took place in 2021. Cirencester Town Council took part in a consultation workshop. An overview of the comments made can be found here .		
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		
Down Ampney Parish Council did not request for updates, as a result, of the GI consultation that took place in 2021.		
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		
Fairford Town Council requested a few factual changes, as a result, of the Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy consultation, which took place in 2021.		
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		
Kemble Parish Council did not request any changes as a result of the Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy consultation that took place in 2021.		
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, River Coln, River Leach and the lakes around Lechlade.	
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		
Lechlade Town Council updated the opportunities for GI enhancements as a result of the Draft GI Strategy consultation, which took place in 2021. Local walking maps are in the process of being produced for the area. Some maps are available from Lechlade Library at a minimal cost. Lechlade Town Council took part in a consultation workshop. An overview of the comments made can be found here .		
Wellbeing	Himalayan Balsam is a problem for the wellbeing, water and wildlife of Lechlade. The infestation is affecting the accessibility of riverside walks, destroying the viability of native flora and fauna on riverbanks. Local walking maps are being created. Some maps have been created and are available from Lechlade Library at a minimal cost.	
Water	Create new habitats for water voles, otters and newts	
Wildlife	Improve local green space for key species	

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:	Cotswold Water Park, 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. South Cerney Parish Council did not request any changes or updates, as a result, of the 2021 GI consultation.		
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		
Tetbury Town Council and the Climate Strategy Working Group updated the opportunities for GI enhancements as a result of the 2021 GI consultation.		
Wellbeing	Extend the railway path towards Cirencester and Kemble and greater focus on the public use of green spaces, including Preston Park and the development of forest schools.	
Water	Improve riparian habitats along the railway path and improve the opportunity for biodiversity along the River Avon.	
Wildlife	supports a significant increase in wildflower verges around Tetbury.	

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		
Andoversford Parish Council did not request any changes or updates as a result of the 2021 GI consultation.		
Wellbeing	Linking access from school to new housing in the centre of the 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 of 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		
Bourton on the Water Parish Council did not request any changes as a result of the 2021 GI consultation. However, they did take part in a consultation workshop. An overview of the comments made can be found here		
Wellbeing	Improve access – green active travel routes to Greystones, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve.	
Water	Improve the 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 updated by Northleach with Eastington Town Council as a result of the 2021 GI consultation. Northleach Town Council took part in a consultation workshop. An overview of the comments made can be found here		
Wellbeing	Enhance green ring around the town for non-car access	
Water	Improve riparian habitat along the edge of the river.	
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, Spring Gardens Allotments, QEII and King George's Playing Fields,	
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 the 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.		
Stow on the Wold Town Council updated the opportunities for enhancements, as a result, of the 2021 GI consultation. Updates to the maps were also made.		
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	Make the riverside walk from Stow on the Wold along the Dickler more accessible	
Wildlife	Enhance King George's & QEII Playing Fields for wildlife	

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		
Upper Rissington Parish Council did not request any changes, as a result, of the 2021 GI consultation.		
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 have been updated by Blockley Parish Council, as a result of the 2021 GI consultation. Reference should also be made to Blockley Parish Council Draft Climate and Ecological Action Plan, October 2021		
Wellbeing	<p>Target additional benches and seating in spaces for nature (creating wellbeing opportunities by linking seating to spaces for nature)</p> <p>Supporting the opening-up of allotments to the wider community; the site has been secured for 999 years and presents fantastic opportunities for groups other than plot holders to access this asset.</p> <p>Maintain and update the play infrastructure and seating in parish parks.</p> <p>Enhance opportunities for wildlife within parks and play areas, while protecting the overall character of the area.</p> <p>Creating safe cycle routes between Blockley and surrounding settlements</p>	
Water	<p>Enhance existing mill ponds to increase opportunities for wildlife.</p> <p>ensure water courses are protected by retaining vegetation buffers even for small scale development.</p>	
Wildlife	<p>Improving quality of habitat along the Brook to connect to habitat to the south of the settlement.</p> <p>Provide for key species in new developments</p> <p>Hedgerow restoration/extensions.</p> <p>Improve the cemetery for biodiversity.</p> <p>Improve roadside verges and other pockets/strips of land for wildlife, particularly pollinators.</p> <p>Survey for and improve nesting opportunities for birds eg</p>	

	swifts, swallows, house martins, barn owls etc Improve habitat connectivity for hedgehogs
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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		
Chipping Campden Town Council did not request any changes ,as a result, of the 2021 GI consultation.		
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		
Mickleton Parish Council has updated their opportunities for GI enhancements, as a result, of the 2021 GI consultation.		
Wellbeing	Promote safe walking and cycling routes	
Water	Encouraging rainwater collection and its domestic use	
Wildlife	Re-wilding of verges and small open spaces as well as tree and hedgerow planting on public land with the help of Woodland Trust grants.	

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. Moreton in Marsh Town Council updated factual information and prepared a detailed response to the 2021 GI consultation . Moreton in Marsh Town Council also took part in a consultation workshop. An overview of the comments made can be found here		
Wellbeing	Consider creation of a new Country Park to serve the North Cotswolds, e.g. how can any new development coming forward 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 wildlife.	

Willersey

Maps Identifying Key Wellbeing, Water & Wildlife Assets		
Main GI Wellbeing key Assets:	Amenity Green Spaces, Playgrounds, Registered Common land and Allotments Willersey has extensive allotments on land known as Terrify and have been the village allotments for centuries.	
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 Council were happy to accept these suggestions. In response to the 2021 GI consultation the Parish Council highlighted the importance of the local allotments. Willersey PC took part in a consultation workshop. An overview of the comments made can be found here		
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)

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 The Gloucestershire Nature Map represents the core of an ecological network for the future as produced by the Gloucestershire Biodiversity Partnership in 2011. 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.

The Gloucestershire Nature Map, and its SNAs will eventually be replaced by the emerging Nature Recovery Network and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

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 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 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. The Nature Recovery Network is slowly replacing the use of the Gloucestershire Nature Map in informing decisions.

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.

Suitable alternative natural green spaces (SANGs)

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.

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.

Wellbeing- 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 -