

COMMUNITY NATURE PLAN 2020-22

PROGRESS REPORT

OCTOBER 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December 2020 requested that officers give an update on the progress of the 2020-22 Community Nature Plan (CNP) towards the end of 2021, hence this report.

The Community Nature Plan is produced every two years by the Community Nature Officer in the Wellbeing team and involves consultation with officers from related workstreams. The specific role of the Community Nature Officer is to connect people with nature for their health and wellbeing. Officers from different teams, particularly planning and environmental services, work on policies relating to the natural environment and the mechanics that ensure that nature and greenspace is planned for and made available.

The key purpose of the Community Nature Plan (Appendix 1) is to demonstrate the Council's fulfilment of its statutory biodiversity duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, a duty that has been strengthened by the recent enactment of the Environment Bill to both conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

This statutory duty relates to all Council services but the Community Nature Plan particularly focuses on the following -

- **Theme 1 - Planning and Sustainable Development (Policy and Development Management):** A key function of the Council in terms of the biodiversity duty is its role as a local planning authority. The Council has legal obligations relating to important wildlife sites, habitats and species; and requirements under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) relating to conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- **Theme 2 – Community Value/Natural Capital (Wellbeing, Healthy Placeshaping and Economic Development):**
The importance of the natural environment for community health and wellbeing, specifically access to green space and connection with nature AND the value of the natural environment (natural capital) and the services it delivers (ecosystem services) for people and the local economy
- **Theme 3 – Land and Buildings Management (Landscape Services and Facilities Management):**
The contribution of the management of land and buildings to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment
- **Theme 4 - Climate Action:** The important role of natural carbon management for climate change adaptation and resilience.

This CNP progress report sets out the aims, actions and targets from the 2020-22 CNP (Section 7) and includes progress updates for each target in italics.

THEME 1: PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- The adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) includes strategic policies relating to biodiversity and the natural environment, green infrastructure and conservation target areas that will contribute to, and help ensure, sustainable development
- The adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) Partial Review – Oxford's Unmet Housing Need includes a connected green infrastructure policy. It also has development brief requirements for biodiversity net gain and planning application requirements for Biodiversity Impact Assessments and Biodiversity Improvement and Management Plans
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) February 2019 (updated in July 2021) strengthens the importance and protection of the natural environment in the planning process and includes a requirement for biodiversity net gain. It also recognises the importance of good evidence and data for decision-making
- The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 (OP2050) is progressing and the central plan team is working with the Oxfordshire District local authorities to develop strong policies relating to nature and biodiversity
- Creating ecological network maps is a key principle of the BBOWT guidance 'Homes for people, homes for wildlife' which was endorsed by the Council in July 2018

AIM 1: Planning Policy

- Ensure strong policies relating to nature and biodiversity are included in all relevant Local Plan documents in accordance with relevant legislation, the NPPF, the provisions of the Environment Bill and the emerging OP2050

Actions

- Include and amend policies, proposals and guidance as necessary relating to biodiversity, green infrastructure (GI) conservation target areas (CTAs), the nature recovery network and natural capital in the preparation of the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040
- Support the OP2050 team to develop strong policies relating to nature and biodiversity
- Support the provision of high quality, up to date biodiversity information and evidence required by the Oxfordshire and Cherwell Local Plan process through funding biodiversity partners

Targets/Progress Updates

- Review policies relating to protection and enhancement of biodiversity, green infrastructure and conservation target areas in the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040
 - *A review of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) has commenced involving an appraisal of all policies through engagement with internal officers via a cross-service working group. The Council's 'Community Involvement Paper 2: Developing our Options Consultation' is currently underway (29 September 2021 to 10 November 2021). Section 5.7 'Natural Environment and Biodiversity' asks for views on policies for inclusion in the review of the Local Plan on biodiversity and the natural environment and gives options relating to biodiversity and natural capital*
 - *Work on a CDC Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy has commenced*
- Include policies relating to biodiversity net gain and offsetting, nature recovery network and natural capital as appropriate in the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040
 - *See above - the Council's 'Community Involvement Paper 2: Developing our Options Consultation' is seeking views on policies for inclusion in the review of the Local Plan on biodiversity and the natural environment and gives options relating to biodiversity and natural capital*
- Contribute to OP2050's policy development relating to nature and biodiversity through planning and natural environment workstreams
 - *Relevant CDC officers regularly attend OP2050 meetings as well as Oxfordshire Environmental Group meetings, involving representatives from all Oxfordshire local authorities, to discuss and progress this policy development*
- Continue to fund TVERC to collate, analyse and supply data associated with the Local Plan process, Annual Monitoring Report and constraint GIS layers required for planning projects and site assessments
 - *TVERC is funded on an annual basis in accordance with a provision of data service level agreement. A satisfactory annual review meeting was held in January 2021 to discuss outputs from 2020/21 and requirements for 2021/22*
- Continue to fund TVERC to deliver the District Wildlife Site (DWS) Project through site surveys and in accordance with approved selection criteria
 - *TVERC is funded on an annual basis to deliver the District Wildlife Sites (DWS) Project. DWSs are sites that have significant value for wildlife and support important areas of habitats and species. This value has been confirmed by recent surveys carried out by TVERC and in*

accordance with a robust process involving detailed criteria and a selection panel of ecological specialists. Out of a total of 63 sites, 39 have been considered by the selection panel – 29 approved, two rejected and 8 deferred

AIM 2: Development Management

- Ensure NPPF, Council policies relating to nature and biodiversity are adhered to through the development management process

Actions

- Continue to deliver the requirements of all nature and biodiversity policies in the implementation of the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1)
- Ensure adherence to green infrastructure policy and development brief/planning application requirements in the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) Partial Review
- Support the provision of high quality, up to date biodiversity information and evidence required by the Development Management process through funding biodiversity partners

Targets/Progress Updates

- Screen all planning applications in terms of their impact on important sites, habitats and species in line with relevant legislation and policy
 - *Registration planners use the GIS information provided by TVERC and others to decide whether consultation with the Ecology Officer is required*
- Assess those that impact upon important sites, habitats and species in line with relevant biodiversity legislation and policy
 - *Limited staff capacity is resulting in assessment limitations relating to planning application consultations concerning ecology and increasing response times*
- Require planning applications for all Partial Review sites to include biodiversity impact assessments and biodiversity improvement and management plans
 - *All Partial Review site policies require planning applications to “be supported by a Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) based on the DEFRA biodiversity metric prepared in consultation and agreed with Cherwell District Council”. Also planning applications “shall be supported by a proposed Biodiversity Improvement and Management*

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Plan informed by the findings of the BIA and habitat surveys and to be agreed before development commences”

- Seek a minimum of 10% net gain in biodiversity when considering proposals for development
 - *Ahead of the enactment of the Environment Bill, a minimum of 10% net biodiversity gain was already being sought by the Ecology Officer, when considering proposals for development, in accordance with an Executive resolution in October 2019. The Environment Act now makes it mandatory for housing and development (with a few exemptions) to achieve at least a 10% net gain in value for biodiversity*
- Produce guidance relating to biodiversity impact assessment, net gain and offsetting
 - *CDC guidance has not yet been produced but robust concise guidance on biodiversity net gain is available from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and other related professional bodies. This provides clarity and so will assist the planning process by making sure developers are aware of the requirements and ensure their submissions provide the information needed at an early stage*
- Continue to fund TVERC to collate, analyse and supply data associated with screening and assessment of planning applications
 - *TVERC is funded on an annual basis in accordance with a provision of data service level agreement. A satisfactory annual review meeting was held in January 2021 to discuss outputs from 2020/21 and requirements for 2021/22*

AIM 3: Green and Blue Infrastructure

- Support the establishment and development of green and blue infrastructure networks and ecological connectivity throughout the District

Action

- Support partners and deliver projects that can help protect and enhance green and blue infrastructure

Targets/Progress Updates

- Deliver the Kidlington wayfinding project to encourage walking for wellbeing in the parish through the establishment of signed health routes which link green spaces and natural features
 - *Successful implementation of Kidlington's Zoo Trails in September 2021. Funded by Sport England, and managed through Cherwell's K5 Better Together partnership, the initiative uses a combination of paw*

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print pavement markings, signposts and nature hubs to encourage families to walk around the village on foot

- Work in partnership with Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) to support the provision, retention and viability of high quality, accessible community green space
 - *OPFA is supported on an annual basis in accordance with a funding agreement. During the Covid pandemic it has provided regular advice and guidance relating to the closing, signing and reopening of parks, green spaces and play areas for local Councils and communities. Although restricted in 2020/21 it assisted three Parish Councils with plans for playground refurbishment and two Parish Councils with sports field issues*

- Continue to fund Wild Oxfordshire to facilitate the Conservation Target Area (CTA) Project
 - *Wild Oxfordshire is supported on an annual basis in accordance with a service level agreement. Its 2020/21 progress report outlines the work relating to Conservation Target Areas (CTAs) and in July 2020 a North Cherwell CTA was identified - <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/biodiversity/conservation-target-areas/>
A satisfactory annual review meeting was held in January 2021 to discuss outputs from 2020/21 and requirements for 2021/22*

- Support Wild Oxfordshire to progress the development of the Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Network and Strategy
 - *In 2020/21 an additional contribution was provided to Wild Oxfordshire to co-ordinate a Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire through the Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Group (BAG) to inform the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 - <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/biodiversity/oxfordshires-nature-recovery-network/>*

- Support and participate in the catchment partnership work in the District led by BBOWT
 - *The Cherwell & Ray Catchment Partnership is hosted by BBOWT and acts as a forum for information, advice and evidence sharing across the catchment. The Catchment Plan is about managing the Cherwell and Ray catchments to achieve the Partnership's vision – that the Cherwell and Ray catchment is clean, healthy and full of wildlife, that it is enjoyed, valued, and managed sustainably by all for the long-term. Recently the Partnership has been identifying infrastructure projects relating to water quality improvements and habitat restoration that can*

take advantage of funding opportunities and can be included in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan

THEME 2: COMMUNITY VALUE

- There is a wealth of evidence that the natural environment, its wildlife and green spaces are vital for community and economic health and wellbeing
- Natural Capital means elements of nature that produce **value for people** and underpin human health and wellbeing. Through identification of the wider values of land, the natural capital mapping of Oxfordshire will help inform future investment decisions that are required to maintain and improve natural benefits for all who live and work in the District

AIM 1: Health and Wellbeing

- Support and promote initiatives to encourage involvement in the natural environment and to improve public understanding of, and connection with, nature

Actions

- Support organisations, projects and sites involving important habitats and species and community engagement opportunities
- Support community events through the provision of nature-based activities
- Promote funding opportunities for local wildlife and access projects and provide support for community project development
- Signpost individuals and groups to wildlife engagement opportunities

Targets/Progress Updates

- Continue to fund BBOWT's Wild Banbury and Wild Bicester Projects; Wild Oxfordshire's work with local groups and community sites; RSPB's volunteer/landowner events; Warriner School Farm's programme of visits and outreach for young people; TVERC's work with, and training of, volunteer wildlife recorders; and OPFA's community engagement work
 - *2020/21 reports for the Council's key nature partners are available from the Wellbeing team (email Wellbeing@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)*
Highlights include –
 - *Wild Bicester Project Officer recruited in November 2020 for 18 months and managed by BBOWT but with funding from CDC's Bicester Garden Town, Healthy Placeshaping and the Wellbeing team. Key projects - scything training courses at Langford Community Orchard, creating a wildlife garden with residents of Launton Grange care home*

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- project supported by Bicester Green Gym and exploring how Wild Bicester can support and promote opportunities for social prescribing*
- *Wild Banbury Project Officer recruited in July 2021 for one year and managed by BBOWT but with funding from the CDC Wellbeing team. Volunteers are already working on new sites, with support from Banbury Town Council and the Banbury Ornithological Society. Outreach work with Restore, the mental health charity in Banbury, the Hill, the Grimsbury Network and Bridge Street Community Garden is ongoing*
 - *Wild Oxfordshire - although restricted in 2020/21, meetings were held with Kidlington Parish Council to help improve the biodiversity of sites that they own/manage. Advice was given to Parkhill recreation ground/woodland and a community planting day at Lyne Road Green is planned for 30 October 2021*
 - *RSPB – Over 100 volunteers work on Otmoor and provide a vital service in developing and maintaining this regionally important wetland site. Although restricted in 2020/21, sessions were planned and are now going ahead including curlew monitoring and species identification training*
 - *Warriner School Farm - although restricted in 2020/21, three Brighter Future primary schools were able to attend a six week forest school programme at the Farm*
 - *TVERC – although restricted in 2020/21, TVERC continues to work with and support volunteer recorders who help with habitat surveys of Local Wildlife Sites and District Wildlife Sites as well as site selection*
 - *OPFA - although restricted in 2020/21, OPFA assisted three Parish Councils with plans for playground refurbishment and two Parish Councils with sports field issues as well as providing guidance and advice relating to local facilities and Covid issues*
 - *Muddy Feet Training - a forest school/outdoor learning provider funded by CDC. Produced a primary school nature-based, back to school resource pack in March 2021 to help teachers use their outdoor space more effectively and help children manage anxiety after lockdown. Supports community events (eg Banbury Playday), schools (eg Bardwell in Bicester) and leads on community centre projects (eg the Hill in Banbury)*
- Promote BBOWT's Wild Parishes online resources and webinars which support parish councillors, clerks and volunteers to improve their patch for wildlife and people
 - *Links to BBOWT's Wild Parishes and Wild Oxfordshire's webinars on connect-with- nature webpage - <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/connect-with-nature> RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch was promoted through the Parish bulletin*

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- Support the Cherwell Swift Conservation Project with advice and promotion
 - *Regular communication with Project co-ordinator relating to planning matters and request for mapping. Swift conservation link on connect-with-nature webpage - <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/connect-with-nature>*
- Contribute nature-based activities to community events such as fundays, school projects and local greenspace activities
 - *Community events include Banbury Playday 2021 where CDC and partners created a nature zone; Wild Bicester (funded by CDC) stall at Bicester Superheroes event in Garth Park; Green Road/nature zone at Kidlington Gala Day including Wild Oxfordshire and Muddy Feet, and the Swift Conservation Project*
- Work with Grants Officer, Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association and the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment to assess and deliver local wildlife, green space and access projects
 - *Projects include Elmsbrook Forest School in Bicester, Fritwell playground refurbishment, Deddington Orchard and Bridge Street Community Garden in Banbury*
- Protect, improve and promote urban green spaces in Bicester and Kidlington through Healthy New Town and Healthy Placeshaping initiatives
 - *Initiatives include community garden projects have been developed in two of Kidlington's green spaces and the healthy placeshaping team has secured COMF funding to enable similar projects in Bicester and Banbury through working in partnership with Harvest@Home*
- Produce and promote a public facing document to encourage taking action for wildlife and discovering local green spaces and the District's natural environment
 - *A printed flyer has been produced which was launched by Cllr McHugh at Banbury Playday where CDC and partners created a nature zone.*
 - *Social media messages about connecting with nature have been posted twice a month since April 2021 linking people directly to the Council's 'connect with nature' webpage which has become a hub of information with a monthly theme - <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/connect-with-nature> A press release published in August invited residents to connect with nature and look after wildlife with the help of some easy to use resources ie the flyer and the online hub*
 - *The 'connect with nature' webpage is also promoted through the Activity and Wellbeing Hub, and the Chief Executive's weekly message, which have been important resources during the pandemic - <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/Activity-and-wellbeing-hub>*

- Explore opportunities for local community projects relating to habitats and species eg road verges, hedgehogs, bees
 - *Opportunities include a hedgehog project and/or container food growing project involving Wild Bicester and Bicester Green; and a pollinator/bee project involving Wild Banbury. There are also several parishes working on local community wildlife projects eg Kidlington Parish Council, Biodiverse Bloxham, Deddington Environmental Network*

AIM 2: Natural Capital

- Engage with strategic partnership work relating to valuing the natural environment

Actions

- Support the further development of the Oxfordshire natural capital mapping resource to inform decisions on site allocations and natural capital investment

Targets/Progress Updates

- Participate in strategic and local debate as the natural capital mapping work progresses
 - *Key partners and Oxfordshire local authority representatives have been sharing attendance at meetings and updates relating to natural capital work across the Ox-Cam Arc and in the County*
- Explore using a natural capital approach to strategic site allocation as part of the Cherwell Plan Review 2040
 - *As part of the Local Plan review, work on a CDC Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy has commenced which has involved engaging with staff at the Environmental Change Institute of the University of Oxford who are providing information and guidance relating to taking a natural capital approach, the latest version of the natural capital map for Cherwell District, a Cherwell Natural Capital Assets report and an updated version of the natural capital report for Oxfordshire*

THEME 3: LAND AND BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT

- The Council has responsibilities for maintaining and enhancing land and property for people and wildlife on its own estate and on sites that it manages
- The Council can also influence the management of land and property throughout the District by supporting key partner organisations
- Parish and Town Councils as well as local groups have an important role to play in land management throughout the District

AIM 1: Council Land and Buildings

- Secure improved management of parks, open spaces, buildings and associated external environments for people and wildlife on the Council's estate and sites that it manages

Actions

- Encourage important habitats and species at appropriate Council owned/managed sites
- Deliver biodiversity and access improvements relating to Burnehyll Community Woodland and Banbury Country Park
- Consider opportunities for protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the built environment

Targets/Progress Updates

- Work in partnership with BBOWT to improve Enslow Marsh and Trow Pool Local Wildlife Sites
 - *Trow Pool LWS is owned by the Council and was surveyed in 2019. A follow-up management visit was made in March 2020 but further work has been delayed. This will now be progressed. Enslow Marsh LWS, which is partially leased from the Canal & River Trust by the Council, was surveyed in 2021 and BBOWT will now provide a management brief*
- Liaise with partners to plan biodiversity and access improvements within Burnehyll Community Woodland through regular working group meetings
 - *Quarterly working group meetings are held with partners. Further to the change of use planning consent the masterplan is being finalised, and the biodiversity enhancements and management plan are being prioritised. 1000+ trees are to be planted by the Friends Group in late November 2021*
- Deliver biodiversity and access improvements within Banbury Country Park
 - *The re-submission of the planning application for change of use is being prioritised and a preliminary ecological appraisal was carried out in August 2021 which will inform this application. Additional wildlife habitat has been created by the Environment Agency at a flood storage site in Wildmere Wood (between the industrial estate and the River Cherwell). Wildmere Wood is owned by the Council and is part of Banbury Country Park. Discussion with the Environment Agency about access is ongoing*
- Continue to include biodiversity protection and enhancement measures within Cherwell Build projects
 - *The Cherwell Build team includes swift boxes/bricks in all of its developments (eg the Hill community and sports facility in Banbury and*

is planning on including more biodiversity in future schemes. Most notable is the provision of swift bricks in

- Promote 'Biodiversity in the Built Environment Good Practice Guide: Preservation of existing nesting sites and provision of artificial nesting sites'
 - *This is being promoted via the Connect with Nature webpage under Swift conservation - <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/connect-with-nature>*

AIM 2: Cherwell District Land and Buildings

- Support environmental organisations that manage, or provide advice on the management of, land in the District
- Support local communities and groups to fulfil their biodiversity obligations and to improve management of land and buildings for habitats and species

Actions

- Continue to fund the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) towards its management of the Otmoor Nature Reserve
- Continue to fund the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) towards the Local Wildlife Sites Project and the Wild Banbury and Bicester Projects
- Support conservation projects in the active Conservation Target Areas (CTAs) of the District, particularly the Ray and Cherwell Valleys
- Continue to fund Wild Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) to support local projects that involve land/building management for important habitats and species

Targets/Progress Updates

- RSPB and BBOWT to provide reports to demonstrate delivery in accordance with funding agreements
 - *2020/21 reports from both organisations have demonstrated project delivery in accordance with service level agreements These are available on the connect with nature webpage under Community Nature Plan 2020-22 - <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/connect-with-nature>*
- Any funded projects in the CTAs to provide reports to demonstrate delivery of objectives
 - *No projects funded in CTAs during Community Nature Plan period to date*
- Wild Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) to provide reports to demonstrate delivery of local projects in accordance with funding agreements

- *2020/21 reports from both organisations have demonstrated project delivery in accordance with service level agreements These are available via email from the Wellbeing team (wellbeing@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)*
- Promote BBOWT's Wild Parishes online resources and webinars which support parish councillors, clerks and volunteers to improve their patch for wildlife and people
 - *Links to BBOWT's Wild Parishes and Wild Oxfordshire's webinars on the connect with nature webpage - <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/connect-with-nature>*

THEME 4: CLIMATE ACTION

- The Council's 2020 Climate Action Framework recognises the importance of natural carbon management in its commitment to be net carbon neutral from its operations and activities by 2030
- The creation, protection and sustainable management of habitats which have carbon removal and storage functions play a key role in climate change adaptation and mitigation

AIM: Natural Carbon Management

- Improve natural carbon management through policy and partnerships

Actions

- Include natural carbon management in the review/formulation of policy relating to climate mitigation and adaptation in the preparation of the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040 and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050
- Work in partnership to deliver projects that will provide biodiversity and carbon offsets

Targets/Progress Updates

- Include policies relating to biodiversity net gain and offsetting, nature recovery network and natural capital as appropriate in the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040
 - *A review of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) has commenced involving an appraisal of all policies through engagement with internal officers via a cross-service working group. The Council's 'Community Involvement Paper 2: Developing our Options Consultation' is currently underway (29 September 2021 to 10 November 2021). Section 5.7 'Natural Environment and Biodiversity' asks for views on policies for inclusion in the review of the Local Plan on biodiversity and the natural environment and gives options relating to biodiversity and natural capital*

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- *Work on a CDC Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy has commenced*
- Contribute to OP2050's policy development relating to nature, biodiversity and natural carbon management through planning, natural environment and climate change workstreams
 - *Relevant CDC officers regularly attend OP2050 meetings as well as Oxfordshire Environmental Group meetings, involving representatives from all Oxfordshire local authorities, to discuss and progress this policy development*
- Support key biodiversity partners to protect, manage and enhance habitats which have carbon removal and storage functions
 - *BBOWT through the Oxfordshire Wildlife Site Project and Wild Bicester/Banbury; Wild Oxfordshire through its work relating to Conservation Target Areas, the Nature Recovery Network/Strategy and community sites; the RSPB through its management of the Otmoor Nature Reserve*
- Work with partners to develop an Oxfordshire Tree Strategy
 - *Seed funding was provided by the Healthy Bicester team to create the Oxfordshire Treescape Opportunity Map which was launched in mid-October 2021 - <https://www.oxtrees.uk/> This Map is a robust tool that shows the right places to establish treescapes for the right reasons. Treescapes means trees in all their forms - woodland, hedgerows, agroforestry systems, community orchards, street trees, gardens or public places. The right reason means the establishment of treescapes in areas where farmers and landowners can maximise opportunities to harness their power to address biodiversity loss, capture carbon, reduce flooding and contribute to human wellbeing*
- Work with partners to explore the delivery of biodiversity and carbon offset projects
 - *Following on from the launch of the Oxfordshire Treescape Opportunity Map, Bioregional has been commissioned by the Healthy Bicester team to undertake some analysis to highlight where the best opportunities exist for the Council to maximise the uptake of treescape establishment with landowners and maximise the Council's opportunities for successful funding bids*
 - *Offset projects are also being explored with RSPB Otmoor and through the catchment partnership work led by BBOWT*