

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Active travel	Refers to modes of travel that involve a level of activity. Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan (COTP) – This plan sets out the transport strategy for Oxford and travel connections between the city and Kidlington, Eynsham, Botley, Cumnor, Kennington and Wheatley
Affordable Housing	<p>Affordable housing – This comprises of Social Rent, Affordable Rented, and intermediate housing (with varying levels of ownership of the home) provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the open market. The high property and rental values in Oxford are so extreme that many of the models for affordable housing do not achieve genuine affordability for people looking to rent or buy in Oxford. The most recent Tenancy Strategy will be used to assess whether proposed forms of affordable housing are genuinely affordable in Oxford. Affordable housing will also comply with one or more of the following definitions:</p> <p>a) Affordable housing for rent: meets all of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the rent is set in accordance with the Government’s rent policy for Social Rent (see separate definition) or Affordable Rent, or is at least 20% below local market rents (including service charges where applicable); ii) the landlord is a registered provider, except where it is included as part of a Build to Rent scheme (in which case the landlord need not be a registered provider except for any social rented element of the scheme. This may also include employer-linked housing); and iii) it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. For Build to Rent schemes affordable housing for rent is expected to be the normal form of affordable housing provision (and, in this context, is known as Affordable Private Rent). <p>b) Starter homes: is as specified in Sections 2 and 3 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any secondary legislation made under these sections. The definition of a starter home should reflect the meaning set out in statute at the time of plan-preparation or decision-making. Income restrictions should be used to limit a household’s eligibility to purchase a starter home to those who have maximum household incomes of £80,000 a year or less (or £90,000 a year or less in Greater London).</p> <p>c) Discounted market sales housing: is that sold at a discount of at least 20% below local market value. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Provisions should be in place to ensure housing remains at a discount for future eligible households.</p> <p>d) Other affordable routes to home ownership: is housing provided for sale that provides a route to ownership for those who could not achieve home ownership through the market. It includes shared ownership, relevant equity loans, other low cost homes for sale (at a price equivalent to at least 20% below local market value) and rent to buy (which includes a period of intermediate rent). Where public</p>

	<p>grant funding is provided there should be provisions for the homes to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for any receipts to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision, or refunded to Government or the relevant authority specified in the funding agreement.</p> <p>Campus sites of the colleges of the University of Oxford and of Oxford Brookes University - These are sites with academic accommodation existing at the time of the adoption of the Local Plan, and where academic institutional use would remain on the site, even with the development of some employer-linked housing.</p>
Affordable workspace	<p>Workspace that overcomes a market failure and is delivered to support certain social, or cultural or economic purposes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sectors that have social value such as charities, voluntary and community organisations or social enterprises; - Sectors that have cultural value such as creative and artists' workspaces, rehearsal and performance space and makerspace; and - Supporting start-up and early-stage businesses or regeneration. <p>Affordable workspaces should be provided using a discounted or "alternative" rent model, and/ or by providing suitable premises to meet end-user requirements (i.e., through the provision of a specific use class).</p>
Affordable workspace strategy	A strategy which sets out the details of the affordable workspace to be delivered on site which will include details of the size, marketing, servicing, management and how the space provided will meet end-user requirements.
Arterial road	The principal routes for the movement of people and goods within the city. Arterial roads in Oxford include Botley Road and Iffley Road among many others
Biodiversity	A collective term for the variety of wildlife and flora that are present in a particular area. More species and greater variety is generally reflective of higher biodiversity, this can be important for ensuring greater resilience to pressures such as climate change and pollution
Biodiversity net gain	Biodiversity net gain is a strategy to develop land and contribute to the recovery of nature. It is a way of making sure the habitat for wildlife is in a better state than it was before development
Built environment	Refers to aspects of our surroundings that are built by humans, that is, distinguished from the natural environment. It includes not only buildings, but the human-made spaces between buildings, such as parks, and the infrastructure
Campus	Accommodation occupied by an educational institution and comprising academic institutional uses including academic (teaching, seminar and lecturing spaces), research (laboratories and special facilities) and/or administrative uses (offices and administrative functions).
Circular Economy	Unlike traditional linear economy whereby materials and products are created, used and then thrown away, a circular economy promotes conservation of energy, reduction in waste and extending the lifetime of products through various means such as sharing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible
Climate Change Adaption	A process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities
Climate Change mitigation	Actions to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system. Entails interventions to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, or to increase their storage within 'sinks' (adapted from IPCC)
Communal Accommodation	A type of residential development providing managed accommodation. These cover 'traditional' university and college student halls, hospital staff accommodation, care homes and hostels
Conservation	An area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of

areas	which it is desirable to preserve or enhance
Construction, Logistics and Community Safety (CLOCS)	A set of requirements for construction vehicles and construction traffic operations designed to eliminate collisions with vulnerable road users and mitigate the negative community and environmental impacts of construction traffic
Contaminated Land	Where substances are causing or could cause: significant harm to people; property or protected species, significant pollution of surface waters (for example lakes and rivers); or groundwater or harm to people as a result of radioactivity.
Critical infrastructure	Facilities, systems, sites, information, people, networks and processes, necessary for a country to function and upon which daily life depends
DEFRA biodiversity metric	The biodiversity metric is a habitat based approach used to assess an area's value to wildlife. The metric uses habitat features to calculate a biodiversity value. Use of the metric is required to demonstrate net gain requirements in line with the Environment Act legislation
Demographic	The measures (such as age, gender and income) of a specific group of people.
Design flood event	A flood event of a 1 in 100 probability, factoring in the maximum estimated water level during the design storm event, with an allowance for climate change set in accordance with national planning guidance (the design flood level). Mitigation measures should respond to this and the suitability of proposals will be assessed in accordance with it.
District centres	District centres comprise groups of shops often containing at least one supermarket or superstore, and a range of non-retail services, such as banks, building societies and restaurants, as well as local public facilities such as a library
Ecological buffer zone	A primarily undeveloped area of land adjacent to the watercourse which is designed to secure benefits for nature and people, whilst also forming a natural buffer to the waterfront.
Ecological network	This is one component of the overall green infrastructure network and where the term is used in the Local Plan, this specifically relates to the collection of spaces in the city which play a particularly vital role in supporting ecology and have been designated for this primary purpose
Ecosystem services	The direct and indirect goods and services that nature contributes to our health and wellbeing, including benefits like food production, water quality, regulation of floods, resilience to soil erosion, as well as more intangible benefits like stress reduction and contributing to our sense of place and character of the city
Embodied Carbon	The carbon dioxide in producing materials, including the energy used to extract and transport raw materials as well as emissions from manufacturing processes. The embodied carbon of a building can include all of the emissions from the construction process and materials used throughout; as well as from deconstructing and disposing of it at the end of its lifetime (adapted from UCL fact sheet)
Employer-linked affordable housing	Housing that is provided on specified sites by key employers in the city for staff carrying out their work. The housing should be rented at levels that are affordable to a cross-section of the key employer's employees, and should be available at Affordable Rent levels in perpetuity.
Employment generating uses	Employment generating uses are referred to in planning terms as employment floorspace or employment land. Employment generating uses include the sectors that make up the following Use Classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use Class EG(i): Office - Use Class EG(ii): Research and Development (R&D)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use Class EG(iii): Light Industrial - Use Class B2: General Industrial - Use Class B8: Warehousing, Storage and Distribution
Existing employment sites not designated as Key Employment Sites	Outside the city and district centres, these sites are usually smaller employment sites which can be less-well located and that do not perform an important economic function, or are unlikely to be able to in the future. Within the city and district centres, centres these are existing employment sites that are less than 2ha.
Existing university or college campus or academic site	An existing university or college campus or academic site is one that exists at the time the Plan is adopted
Flood zones	<p>Areas with different probabilities of flooding as set out in the Planning Practice Guidance: Flood Risk and Coastal Change:</p> <p>Zone 1 (low probability) - Land having a less than 0.1% annual probability of river or sea flooding.</p> <p>Zone 2 (medium probability) - Land having between a 1% and 0.1% annual probability of river flooding; or land having between a 0.5% and 0.1% annual probability of sea flooding.</p> <p>Zone 3a (high probability) - Land having a 1% or greater annual probability of river flooding; or Land having a 0.5% or greater annual probability of sea.</p> <p>Zone 3b (the functional floodplain) - Land where water from rivers or the sea has to flow or be stored in times of flood. This is land that is designed to flood.</p>
Frequent bus service	Every 15/20 mins in both directions.
Green infrastructure	A network of spaces and features including parks, playing fields, woodland, allotments, private gardens, green roofs and walls, street trees. The term also incorporates 'blue infrastructure' such as streams, ponds, canals, and the rivers
Gross Value Added (GVA)	This measures the contribution to an economy of an individual producer, industry, sector or region. It is used in the calculation of gross domestic product (GDP). GDP is commonly estimated using one of three theoretical approaches: production, income or expenditure. When using production or income approaches, the contribution to an economy of a particular industry or sector is measured using GVA
Heritage assessment	May also be referred to as a Heritage Statement or Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). This should set out the significance of a heritage asset or landscape within its wider setting and outline the proposal, assess the impact on significance and set out a mitigation strategy. The local Historic Environment Record should be consulted, and expert assessment will be required. It should have a level of detail appropriate to enable an informed decision to be reached
Heritage assets	A building, monument, site, place, area, or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. Heritage assets are the valued components of the historic environment. They include designated heritage assets and assets identified by Oxford City Council during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process (including local listing)
Historic core	area of the city centre comprising the spires and towers that make up the historic skyline, and in which any additions of height will intrude directly into the view of the skyline.
Housing and Economic Land	A strategic assessment reviewing the supply of potential sites and their capacity to meet future needs for housing, and for economic growth.

Availability Assessment	
Housing Delivery Test	A check run by the Government to check whether the level of housing delivery in each planning authority is meeting the housing requirement set out in the local plan
Housing in Multiple Occupation (HMO)	A house, flat or building will be a house in multiple occupation (HMO) if it meets the definition under the Housing Act 2004 s254 or s257. A HMO is usually a house or flat that is shared by 3 or more people, who are unrelated, form more than 1 household and is their only main residence. There are 2 types of HMO: C4 HMO, and sui generis HMO. A C4 HMO is a small house or flat that is occupied by 3-5 unrelated people who share basic amenities such as the bathroom and/or kitchen. A sui Generis HMO is the same as a normal C4 HMO except that it is a large house or flat occupied by 6 or more unrelated people and can be subject to slightly different planning rules.
Housing Need	Housing need is an unconstrained assessment of the number of homes needed in an area (DLUHC).
Housing target/requirement	The number of homes set out to be delivered in the plan period to 2040, also expressed as an annual requirement. In the case of Oxford this number reflects the capacity rather than the need, as the need is greater than can be met
Inclusive economy	An Inclusive Economy is defined in Oxford's Economic Strategy 2022-32 as "growing prosperity that reduces inequality and is sustainable" (Plymouth Inclusive Growth Group). An Inclusive Economy offers a genuine progressive conceptual frame in which greater consideration is given to social benefits that flow from, and feed into, economic activity. (Centre for Local Economic Strategies)
Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP)	The IDP assesses the potential risks of infrastructure not being delivered in a timely manner to support development
Intermediate housing	Housing at prices and rents above those of Social Rent, but below market or affordable housing prices or rents. These can include shared equity (shared ownership and equity loans), intermediate rent and other low cost homes. The Council will consider the suitability of other forms of intermediate housing, such as low-cost market housing, in light of its genuine affordability to those in housing need. NB: Key worker housing is defined separately from intermediate affordable housing
Key Employment Sites	Key Employment Sites are larger employment sites that make a contribution to the national or local economy or are recognised for the social value that they bring to an area. When located: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - outside the city and district centres, Key Employment Sites are at least 0.25ha - within the city and district centres, Key Employment Sites are very large sites (2ha or more)
Key worker	The broad definition of key worker is someone employed in a frontline role delivering an essential public service where there have been recruitment and retention problems. In Oxford, a key worker is any person who is in paid employment solely within one or more of the following occupations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) NHS: all clinical staff except doctors and dentists; ii) Schools: qualified teachers in any Local Education Authority school or sixth form college, or any state-funded Academy or Free School; qualified nursery nurses in any Oxfordshire County Council nursery school; Universities and colleges: lecturers at further education colleges; lecturers,

	<p>academic research staff and laboratory technicians at Oxford Brookes University or any college or faculty within the University of Oxford;</p> <p>iii) Police & probation: police officers and community support officers; probation service officers (and other operational staff who work directly with offenders); prison officers including operational support;</p> <p>v) Local authorities & Government agencies: those providing a statutory service, including but not limited to social workers; occupational therapists; educational psychologists; speech and language therapists; rehabilitation officers; planning officers; environmental health officers; clinical staff; uniformed fire and rescue staff below principal level Ministry of Defence: servicemen and servicewomen in the Navy, Army or Air Force; clinical staff (with the exception of doctors and dentists); and</p> <p>vi) Unregistered Workforce (Support Workers): In Health roles may include: Assistant Practitioner, Care Assistant, Healthcare Support Worker, Maternity Support Worker, Nursing Assistant, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physiotherapy Assistant, Radiography Assistant, Speech and Language Therapy Assistant, Senior Care Assistant. In Adult Social Care roles may include: Activities worker, Day Care Assistant, Day Care Officer, Domiciliary care worker, Home care worker, Nursing Assistant (in a nursing home or a hospice), Personal Assistants, Reablement Assistant, Residential Care Worker, Senior Home Care Worker, Support Worker.</p>
Listed Building	<p>A building deemed to be of special architectural or historical interest is placed on a statutory list maintained by Historic England. Such buildings cannot be demolished, extended, or altered without special permission from a local planning authority, which typically consults with Historic England before determining an application. The designation regime is set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</p> <p>Listed buildings are classified into three grades:</p> <p>Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest</p> <p>Grade II* buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest</p> <p>Grade II buildings are of special interest warranting every effort to preserve them</p>
Listed building consent	permission required from a local planning authority before making changes that affect the character or appearance of a listed building
Liveable city	Where essential needs can be met locally such as food, open spaces, cultural activities, community needs
Liveable neighbourhoods	A neighbourhood where local residents can reach facilities such as small shops, community facilities, primary school within a 15- 20 minute walk
Local centres	Local centres (classified as Town Centres in the NPPF) include a range of small shops of a local nature, serving a small catchment. Typically, local centres might include, amongst other shops, a small supermarket, a newsagent, a sub-post office and a pharmacy. Other facilities could include a hot-food takeaway and launderette. Small parades of shops of purely neighbourhood significance are not classified as local centres
Local connection (for intermediate housing)	The applicant is currently resident in the local area and has been for a continuous period of at least 12 months, or the applicant is currently employed in Oxford and has been for at least the previous six months, or the applicant has close family members (parents or adult children) who have lived in the area for at least 5 years.
Main Town Centre	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines main town centre uses as

Uses	retail development (including warehouse clubs and factory outlet centres); leisure, entertainment and more intensive sport and recreation uses (including cinemas, restaurants, drive-through restaurants, bars and pubs, nightclubs, casinos, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres and bingo halls); offices; and arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities)
Major development	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines major development as follows: For housing, development where 10 or more homes will be provided, or the site has an area of 0.5 hectares or more. For non-residential development it means additional floorspace of 1,000m ² or more, or a site of 1 hectare or more, or as otherwise provided in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.
Market housing	Housing provided by the private sector with no intervention from public bodies and sold or rented via the private market
Micro-renewables	Small-scale non-commercial renewable energy installations such as a domestic solar panel array
Mobility hubs	An area in which a variety of transport modes and community assets are co-located for seamless interchange. These facilities provide added benefit to communities and combined they make up an easy-to-use transport network
Multi-functional	In the context of green infrastructure, the term multi-functional means the multiple benefits that features and spaces can provide simultaneously, often contributing to better health and wellbeing for people and the natural environment (e.g. supporting mental/physical health; providing space for biodiversity; climate resilience etc). Some types of GI may provide more benefits than others
Native planting	A native plant is one that has evolved naturally in its location without direct human intervention, as opposed to species that have not existed historically in an area but are introduced by human activities
Net zero carbon	A situation where any emissions of carbon dioxide are balanced out by removal elsewhere – equating to no net increase (adapted from IPCC)
Oxford Heritage Assets Register	A register of buildings, structures, features, or places that make a special contribution to the character of Oxford and its neighbourhoods through their locally significant historic, architectural, archaeological or artistic interest
Oxford Living Wage	The Oxford Living Wage is an hourly minimum pay that promotes liveable earnings for all workers and recognises the high cost of living in Oxford. For 2023-24 the rate is £11.35 per hour
Oxford Short Stay Accommodation Study	A study that provides a summary of findings with an analysis of the impact on the development of policies which will influence both the existing stock of short stay accommodation as well as the amount and type of future provision to meet future forecasted demand
Parking Standards for New Developments	A document produced by Oxfordshire County Council used to help determine the level of parking at new developments
Planning Practice Guidance	A web-based resource that brings together national planning practice guidance for England
Principal elevation	In most cases the principal elevation will be that part of the house that fronts (directly or at an angle) the main highway serving the house (the main highway will be the one that sets the postcode for the house concerned). It will usually contain the main architectural features such as main bay windows or a porch serving the main entrance to the house. Usually, but not exclusively, the principal elevation will be what is understood to be the front of the house. Where there are two elevations that may have the character of a principal elevation, for example on a

	corner plot, a view will need to be taken as to which of these forms the principal elevation
Registered Parks and Gardens	Registered Parks and Gardens are designed landscapes, such as parks and gardens, that have been identified as being of special historic interest. Each registered park and garden is listed on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE).
Renewable energy	Energy that uses technologies which generally rely on the elements (e.g. sunlight, wind, rain), biomass, or on generating energy from the earth itself
Residual risk	Residual risk is the risk that remains after efforts to identify and eliminate some or all types of risk have been made
Resilience	Our ability to anticipate, absorb, accommodate, or recover from the effects of a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner. When talking about climate resilience such events could include flash flooding or intense heatwave events
Retro-fitting	In the context of this chapter, retro-fitting describes improvement works to an existing building for the purpose of improving its energy efficiency (such as by making them easier to heat or by replacing fossil fuel systems with renewable energy-based systems), or its resilience to climate change
East West Rail Safeguarding Directions	This refers to the <i>Safeguarding Directions for development affecting the route and associated works for the East West Railway Project</i> which came into force on 19 November 2025. The East West Rail Safeguarding Directions include a requirement to consult the East West Rail Company on any planning application on land covered by the Directions. They also introduce specific requirements which must be followed before planning permission can be granted.
Scheduled Monuments	Archaeological sites and structures that have been recognised as nationally important due to their historical or cultural significance. These can include both above-ground and below-ground features such as standing stones, burial mounds, or the remains of monastic buildings, among others. Monuments are added to the Schedule by the Secretary of State if they are deemed of national importance.
Short stay accommodation	Accommodation providing residential tenancies, typically provided on a daily basis, principally for short stays by visitors. Accommodation will typically be in self-contained space consisting of complete furnished rooms or areas for living/dining and sleeping, with amenities (e.g. television, internet) included in the rent. This accommodation type includes hotels, bed and breakfast (B&B), Aparthotels, short-term lets, and serviced accommodation.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Areas identified by Natural England as being of special interest for their ecological or geological features. Natural England is the government's advisor on the natural environment
Site specific flood risk assessments (FRAs)	A study that determines how a proposed development will manage flood risk from all possible water sources to the site in question
Social Rent	Homes that are let at a level of rent set much lower than those charged on the open market. The rent will be calculated using the formula as defined in the Rent Standard Guidance of April 2015 (updated in May 2016) or its equivalent or replacement guidance (relevant at the time of the application).
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Special Areas of Conservation are areas that have been designated at a European level as important for nature conservation
Standard Method	The Government has set out a Standard Method for identifying housing need. This should be the starting point for assessing housing need and it identifies an overall minimum average annual housing need figure

Student accommodation	Accommodation whose main purpose is to house students in higher education, registered on full-time courses of an academic year or more in Oxford
Sui Generis	A term used to categorise buildings that do not fall within any particular use class for the purposes of planning permission. Such as petrol stations and cinemas
Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs)	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems are a sequence of water management practices and facilities designed to drain surface water and protect against flooding. These include porous roads, high-level road drainage, swales, soakaways, filter trenches, wet and dry attenuation ponds and ditches. SuDS helps mimic natural drainage processes and can provide benefits in terms of sustainability, water quality and amenity
The City Centre Archaeological Area	Area of the city centre where archaeological remains are almost certain to be present
Traffic filters	Cameras that are intended to reduce traffic levels in Oxford by managing the use of certain roads in the city by private cars
Transport assessment	A thorough assessment of the transport implications of development
Transport statement	A 'lighter-touch' evaluation to be used where this would be more proportionate to the potential impact of the development (i.e. in the case of developments with anticipated limited transport impacts)
Whole building approach	In the context of retrofitting, taking a Whole Building Approach means that improvements are informed by an understanding of how the entire building and the different materials that it is comprised of currently performs, considering issues such as air quality, damp management and ventilation. It involves selecting fabric improvements and other upgrades that complement each other to ensure the best results for the long-term sustainability of the building and health of occupants and avoiding problems of maladaptation, whereby improvement projects can have unintended, negative consequences (such as excessive moisture build-up, or inadequate ventilation)
Working drivers	Residents and drivers who are dependent on their vehicle more than 50% of their working day to earn a wage. Where the vehicle is required to undertake multiple journeys in the city (or wider) to deliver the service provided by the business. Examples include NHS community-based staff, carers working for private care companies, delivery drivers, plumbers, electricians and other trades, mobile hairdressers, dog grooming, food bank staff
Zero Emission Zone	An area within Oxford that prevents vehicles that emit Carbon Dioxide for travelling through without an associated charge