

Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Call for Strategic Location Ideas

This ‘call for strategic location ideas’ is to ask your views on which broad locations should be considered within the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

These could be locations for large-scale housing or employment, or infrastructure projects, or for strategic environmental or social designations or protections.

Even if you just have some initial thoughts, please complete this form and let us know what you think. You don’t need to complete every section, just fill in as much as you can.

Please see the [accompanying guidance note](#) to help you complete this form.

How we will use the information you provide...

The information you provide will be used to inform the production of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

With your permission, we may share the information provided with the relevant district or city council for consideration in their future Local Plans or Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessments, particularly if your site is below the size thresholds for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050¹.

Please tick the relevant box	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I am happy for the information on this form to be shared with the relevant district or city council.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am not happy for the information on this form to be shared with the relevant district or city council.

Would you like to receive updates about the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, and news about future consultations on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050?

Please tick the relevant box	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes – I would like to receive Oxfordshire Plan 2050 updates and news about future consultations on the Plan.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No – I do not want to receive Oxfordshire Plan 2050 updates or news about future consultations on the Plan

Personal data provided on this form will be processed, stored and disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2016 and the Data Protection Act 2018 and any other relevant legislation that governs the use of personal data.

¹ See accompanying guidance note

SECTION A – FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS

Questions about you...

Are you completing this form as... (please tick the relevant box)

an Oxfordshire resident	<input type="checkbox"/>	a landowner	<input type="checkbox"/>
a business/organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	a developer	<input type="checkbox"/>
an amenity/community group	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	a planning agent	<input type="checkbox"/>
a registered social landlord	<input type="checkbox"/>	a site promoter	<input type="checkbox"/>
other - please specify:			

Mandatory questions

#Your name:Helen Marshall.....

Organisation (if applicable):CPRE Oxfordshire.....

Who you are representing (if applicable):

#Your email address:

.....campaign@cprexon.org.uk.....

#Your postal address:

.....20 High Street, Watlington, Oxon,

.....

.....Post code: . OX49 5PY.....

Your telephone number

...01491 612079.....

Questions about your proposed strategic-scale location...

Q1. Which broad strategic-scale location in Oxfordshire² do you think may be suitable for considering as options in the Oxfordshire Plan? Please provide a map and an address if possible. You may attach additional supporting information to help us to identify your suggested area.

New Green Belts for Bicester and Didcot (and potentially other 'garden settlements')

CPRE Oxfordshire believes there is a case for consideration of new Green Belt designations at both Bicester and Didcot, and potentially other garden settlements.

The proposed areas would clearly need to be subject of further investigation but as an outline, one could build on existing work already completed by Cherwell District Council and South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils that identifies areas for green buffers around Bicester and Didcot.

See Bicester Green Buffers map - p.231 of Cherwell Submission Local Plan 2006-31
file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Cherwell_Submission_Local_Plan_2006_2031_Part_1.pdf

See section 11.5 Didcot Garden Town Masterplan
http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=784128172&CODE=4A27B0AFD8650BB995CB689561BB2490

We also propose that a similar process should be considered for other settlements that are being brought forward as 'garden towns/villages' as Green Belt is a guiding principle of this concept – in particular the new 'Cotswold Garden Village' at Eynsham.

Q2. What type and size³ of development (or other proposal) do you think could be located at your proposed location (as identified in Q1)?

See Q1 response.

² See guidance note 3

³ See guidance note 1

Q3. Why do you think this is a good location (as identified in Q1) for your suggested use. What do you think are the benefits to the local or Oxfordshire area in terms of social, environmental and economic benefits?

New Bicester and Didcot Green Belts would:

- Help to secure the long-term sustainability of these areas by protecting the identity & setting of these towns, preventing the coalescence of the surrounding settlements and protecting and enhancing the historic landscape and rural character of the area.
- Maintain productive farmland in a working countryside, but also create more opportunities for residents to access countryside on their doorstep, in line with the Healthy towns concept.
- Be consistent with National Planning Policy which states that new Green Belt can be established when '*planning for large-scale development*'. Both Bicester and Didcot have already undergone dramatic expansion, with more currently outlined in Local Plans (Cherwell LP1 – over 10,000 houses in Bicester up to 2031, South Oxfordshire Submission LP – 6,500 houses in Didcot up to 2034). Given further current proposals to double Oxfordshire's housing and population by 2050, it is clear that planning for such large-scale development is already well under way. Didcot's transport infrastructure needs have recently been recognised with a £218m funding grant from Government, based on the significant levels of growth proposed, but to date there has been no investment of any size in the area's green infrastructure.
- Fulfil one of the guiding principles of the 'Garden Town' concept.
- Assist our local authorities in delivering the 'green buffer' concept, which currently has no basis in planning terms.
- Respect the wishes of local residents, who are concerned about the level of damage to the countryside that will be caused by the major development currently being proposed.

For further detail of the importance of such areas we refer you to this document from LDA Design, produced for Cherwell District Council, 2013:

file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/ENV07_Bicester_Green_Buffers_Report.pdf

Adding Green Belts to Didcot, Bicester and possibly other garden settlements would allow for future limited sustainable development but would ensure that unsustainable, ribbon urban sprawl would not destroy the planned ideals as laid out and that the garden town principles of the adjoining countryside were also met.

The requirements for a high quality built environment, with accessible local services supporting the need for good health, social and cultural well-being will be enhanced by the addition of Green Belts.

Green Belts will ensure the area surrounding the garden towns/villages will help to improve biodiversity and minimise pollution by including a green boundary that will also mitigate against climate change. (We note that a number of our local authorities have now formally recognised the existence of a 'climate emergency'.)

We believe there is a strong enough case for both Didcot and Bicester Green Belts to merit further consideration as part of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

We therefore ask the Oxfordshire Growth Board to commission a feasibility study, including public consultation, as part of the Plan process.

Q4. Are there any challenges that might need to be overcome to bring this forward?

The large-scale developments currently being put forward by a number of our local authorities within the Oxford Green Belt may undermine public confidence in the overall value that our elected representatives give to this designation. This would therefore provide an opportunity to show that the public's concerns are being taken seriously and that politicians mean what they say about their overall commitment to the importance of Green Belt.

Q5. Is there any other information about the location that you think we should know to help us to assess the site?

SECTION B – ONLY FOR SUBMISSIONS FROM PLANNING AGENTS, LANDOWNERS, DEVELOPERS

Additionally if you are a landowner, developer, or planning agent promoting a specific site, it would be helpful if you could also provide the following information:

Q6. Site size (ha):

Q7. Developable area (ha):

Q8. Current land use:

Q9. Current planning status and relevant planning history, including if the site has already been submitted to the district’s strategic housing/economic land availability assessment:

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Q10. Have you undertaken any masterplanning or technical studies to date? (please tick the relevant boxes)

	Masterplanning
	Air quality assessment
	Archaeological assessment
	Ecological assessment
	Flood Risk Assessment
	Green Belt assessment

	Heritage assessment
	Landscape/visual assessment
	Transport assessment
	Viability assessment
	Other assessment(s) – please specify:

Q11. Do you or your client(s)... (please tick the relevant box)

	Own all the land within the site boundary
	Own some of the land within the site boundary and have a formal agreement with the other landowner(s)
	Own some of the land within the site boundary and do not yet have a formal agreement with the other landowner(s)
	Do not own any part of the site or hold any legal interest in the site
Additional information relevant to landownership (such as existing tenancies which might affect site deliverability), and please list other land owners (name and address/contact details) if the site is in multiple ownership	

Q12. When is the site likely to be available for development: (please tick the relevant box)

	The site is available now
	Before 2031
	Between 2031 – 2040
	Between 2040 – 2050
	Beyond 2050

Thank you for taking the time to share your ideas with us.

Please send completed forms by email to info@oxfordshireplan.org or by post to Oxfordshire Plan 2050, Speedwell House, Speedwell Street, Oxford, OX1 1NE

Closing date for responses: 12th April 2019