

The Windrush in Witney Project

The District Council has set up a project called the 'Windrush in Witney', looking at the Windrush Valley as it passes through Witney. We believe that this area provides a very important setting to the town and has great landscape and nature conservation value.

The project provides guidance for the management of the area in order to protect and enhance its special landscape, character, ecological, cultural and recreational value.

Many statutory agencies, local groups/ organisations and landowners have been contacted. A survey of people using the area has taken place. A botanical survey and a landscape assessment have also been undertaken. All this information helped us in the production of a draft management strategy. The strategy has now been endorsed by the Council, following amendments in response to the public consultation and factual updates.

This leaflet summarises the key recommendations of the management strategy.



The Windrush in Witney Management Strategy

The full Management Strategy for the Windrush in Witney can be inspected at the Council Offices, Elmfield along with copies of the background research documents. The Strategy can also be viewed online at www.westoxon.gov.uk

The Strategy contains a series of objectives that address three key issues:

- Nature Conservation
- Landscape
- Public Access

These objectives are set out inside this leaflet, together with examples of what can be done.



If you would like to know more about the project, have any comments to make or wish to help implementing the strategy, please contact:

Planning Services
West Oxfordshire District Council
Elmfield, New Yatt Road
Witney OX28 1PB

Tel: 01993 861000
Email: planning@westoxon.gov.uk



www.westoxon.gov.uk

WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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*Leaflet summarising the Windrush in
Witney Management Strategy*

Management Objectives



Landscape

LO1: Ensure that any new development integrates with the landscape character of the study area.

LO2: Encourage land management practices that are in keeping with the landscape character.

LO3: Ensure that new planting is in character with the landscape type. Eg. District Council will provide guidance on suitable species.

LO4: Encourage the appropriate screening of poor views/features.

LO5: Encourage the management of existing riverside willows and planting new willows where appropriate.

LO6: Encourage management of tree screen and veteran trees along Witan Way. This provides a valuable buffer between the road and the river.

LO7: Encourage protection, awareness and management of historic features. Eg. The area contains pill boxes, fish ponds, drystone walls, park railings and the Old Bathing Place.

LO8: Encourage the removal of inappropriate urban detractors. Eg. Overhead powerlines detract from the rural character of the area.

LO9: Take measures to improve rubbish clearance. Eg. Make use of the District Councils litter collection 'Hit Squad'.

Public Access

PA1: Improve quality of existing public access provision within the study area. Eg. Improve the standard of maintenance along footpaths and repair stiles, bridges and kissing gates.

PA2: Establish a new public footpath route along the valley between Witan Way and the Old Bathing Place.

PA3: Ensure that new public access provision does not conflict with sites of high nature conservation interest.

PA4: Take measures to control recreational motor bike use within the study area.

Nature Conservation

NCO1: Encourage the protection, restoration and enhancement of unimproved neutral grassland, through, for example, the establishment of a conservation grazing project for the study area.

NCO2: Encourage the protection, restoration and enhancement of wetland habitat and the river corridor.

NCO3: Encourage continuing survey work. Eg. Ecological surveys should be undertaken as an integral part of planning applications.

NCO4: Safeguard priority habitats and species in accordance with relevant Biodiversity Action Plans, Habitat Action Plans and Species Action Plans by, for instance, improving the habitats for otters and water voles.

NCO5: Encourage the management of scarp slope scrub (at 'Hills and Mountains').

NCO6: Encourage the restoration of creeping marshwort in accordance with the Local Species Action Plan. Eg. Liaison with English Nature on Langel Common.