



Oxford to Cambridge Local Natural Capital Plan

ALGE Conference

3 December 2019



The OxCam LNCP Project

LNCPs are a key commitment of the Government's 25 YEP to **embed NC thinking into growth plans**

LNCPs' are not fully defined yet – We are **developing an approach and products** with users and partners

The growth planned for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc **gives a unique opportunity** to put the 25 YEP into action

Our ambitious programme includes **establishing a baseline** and parameters for environmental protection and enhancement





An LNCP helps to...

Provide an overarching approach to identifying environmental opportunities and risks to deliver net gain

Provide a evidence base- Mapping and evaluating the Arc's natural capital and ecosystem services to provide a consistent natural capital baseline

De-risk growth by enabling environmentally, focused and informed decision making

Support cross boundary and partnership working – common evidence aims and information galvanises to discuss and decide

Support integrated planning - joining up different aspects of the natural environment to consider issues together and deliver wider environmental gains



Current national planning policy

The National Planning Policy framework gives statements on conserving and enhancing biodiversity, stating that planning policies and decisions should;

*'encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking **opportunities to achieve net environmental gains** – such as developments that would enable new habitat creation or improve public access to the countryside'* (118)

*'take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for **the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries**'* (171)



Natural capital and net gain

The social, environmental and economic value of natural capital is **underpinned by biodiversity**

Facilitating join up – natural capital planning supports cross boundary join up of habitats and biodiversity opportunities by providing evidence on natural capital and ecosystem services

Ensure offsite biodiversity gain is optimal – Helping target off-site biodiversity gain alongside other benefits, such as natural flood management, access and air quality amelioration

Preparing for a shift to environmental net gain -

Biodiversity net gain focuses on quality and amount of habitat for wildlife – natural capital approaches also take account of **benefits from, and impacts on, natural capital**



What will we deliver?

What the LNCP will provide

Mapping

Natural Capital Indicator Maps

Showing the current natural capital that exists, where and in what quantity

Natural Capital Baseline Maps

Showing the benefits provided by that natural capital

Ecosystem Services Maps

Showing where opportunities to maximise those benefits, protect or enhance the environment a

Natural Capital Opportunity Maps

Account

Natural Capital Account

Showing the current value of the benefits provided by nat the Arc

Guidance

Investment Toolkit for the OxCam Arc

Helping partners to identify where and how they could invest in the Arc's environment

Natural Capital Tools & Approaches Review

Best practice guidance for creating an LNCP at a landscape scale

Lessons Learnt & Recommendations Report

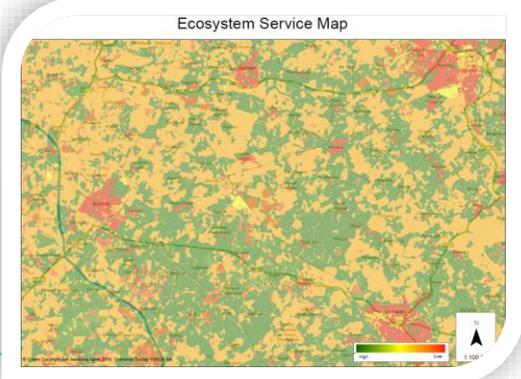
How this and future LNCPs should evolve



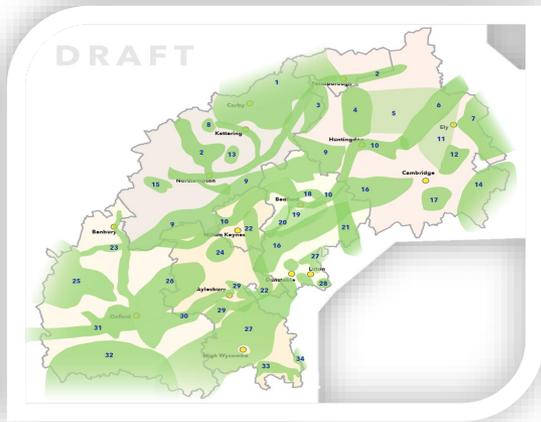
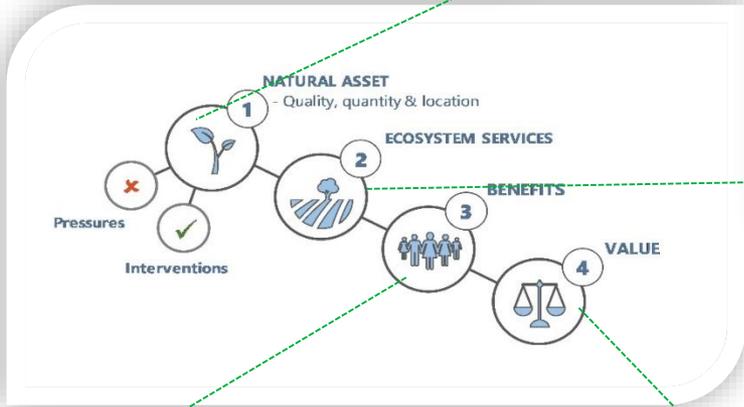
Our packages of work



“We are producing a **Natural Capital Baseline** for the whole of the Arc- this will be a shareable tool that will show the location and extent of Natural capital across the Arc – this is the first step to inform our next key outputs listed below” December 2019



“We will use our baseline to **assess the Arc’s Ecosystem Services** - we are hoping to produce a visual map of where there are relatively high and low levels of these services present.” Early 2020



“We will use our data to **identify natural capital and ecosystem services opportunity areas** that bring the greatest benefits for the Arc. We would like to build on the work already done by the OxCam Arc’s Local Nature Partnership’s to identify their opportunity areas which is shown in the map” Early 2020

“We are developing a **Natural Capital Account** for the Arc- Using the method trialled in the Bristol and Avon pilot which will provide us with a figure for the value of the Ecosystem Services provided by the Natural Capital within the Arc” Early 2020

Opportunity Mapping

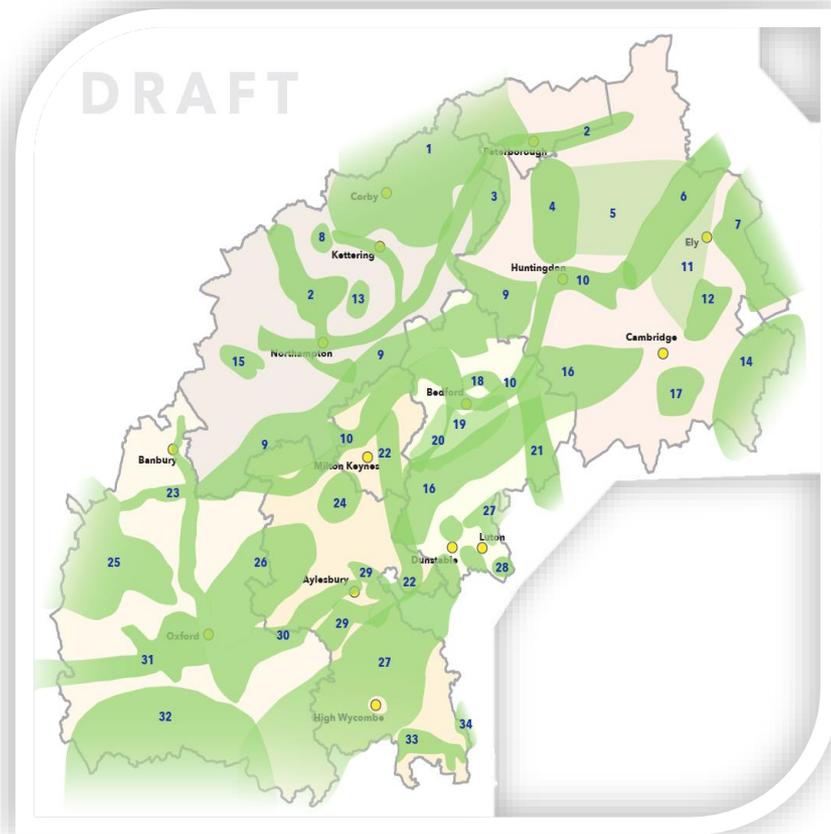


We are **collating existing** environmental improvement opportunity maps together **into a single location**

Highlights **join-up opportunities** across different sectors and **overlapping priorities**

Identifies opportunities to **deliver a range** of Natural Capital benefits, or the **highest provision** of ecosystem services

Supports strategic decision making and opportunities to **connect habitats and benefits**



Example Opportunity map



Why this project matters

We will produce a **consistent natural capital baseline** for the OxCam Arc which will help inform and support strategic and local decision making

The LNCP will **identify opportunities** for enhancing existing environments and providing biodiversity net gain

Value will be given to the Arc's natural capital which will help highlight its importance

We are aiming for the LNCP to help promote an **integrated approach** to the natural environment

