

# The GI Opportunity Zones – some things apply to ALL areas

## Generic Value of existing Green Infrastructure across the entire area:

- **Certain ecosystem services** – e.g. CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration, Oxygen production, dust interception (improved air quality), buffering of precipitation runoff – **are provided in all areas** currently – and with potential for greater and more services in the future.

## Threats across the entire area:

- **Threats to the specific zones are listed in the appendices below.**
- **In addition, certain issues pose threats to the nature, extent, connectivity, current and potential future status of the GI right across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes** – including:
  - Potential development / infrastructure development – and associated visitor and management pressure on GI resources
  - Increased traffic and growth pressures risk affecting enjoyment of existing GI – e.g. noise, congestion, pollution, increased emissions).
  - Lack of policy / other requirement to ensure GI is managed into the long term.
  - High land values - for example in locations of potential development, which can lead to:
    - Decline of farming (e.g. through higher insurance costs)
    - Fragmentation of land ownership – and accompanying lack of consistent management – e.g. areas of woodland
    - Piecemeal and speculative land acquisition - across the whole area to a greater or lesser extent. Land may be held for a long period for prospective development – can make things harder for management for conservation; deteriorating quality in that time can lend itself to decisions favouring development.

## Opportunities across the entire area:

- **The NEP's Principles for achieving its 2030 vision of improved GI across Bucks and MK – APPLY TO ALL OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND MILTON KEYNES.** This is why the GI opportunities map is all a shade of green – none is left blank. Areas shaded in lighter green will have locally important GI assets and opportunities some of which will also be important at a higher level, they are however not mapped in their own right at this scale.
- **All Development and Growth areas – provide opportunities for the incorporation of best practice GI and biodiversity** – including sustainable drainage opportunities. The GI opportunities relating directly to development are most closely linked to accessible natural green space. Biodiversity and green space can be incorporated into developments. Elsewhere other areas of biodiversity and habitats should be protected from development and conservation management funded by it. Water/flood management is in many ways a specific issue to be dealt with on a site by site basis. Access and Biodiversity need a strategic approach.
- **Early and strategically-planned creation / expansion of GI in areas of need and opportunity** can lead to biodiversity gains, improve health, wellbeing and the economy and reduce recreational pressures elsewhere (e.g. ecological wetlands such as at Kingsbrook in Aylesbury).
- **It is likely that** purpose-built cycle ways and all types of access routes will be sought between all towns along zones of opportunity – esp medium and large conurbations.
- More information on Ecosystem services is available – for example see the wheel diagram at: ([freshwater watch](#)), or the text from Section 2 (pg 7+) of Wycombe District Council's Canopy Cover Study [Wycombe District Council's Canopy Cover Study](#)