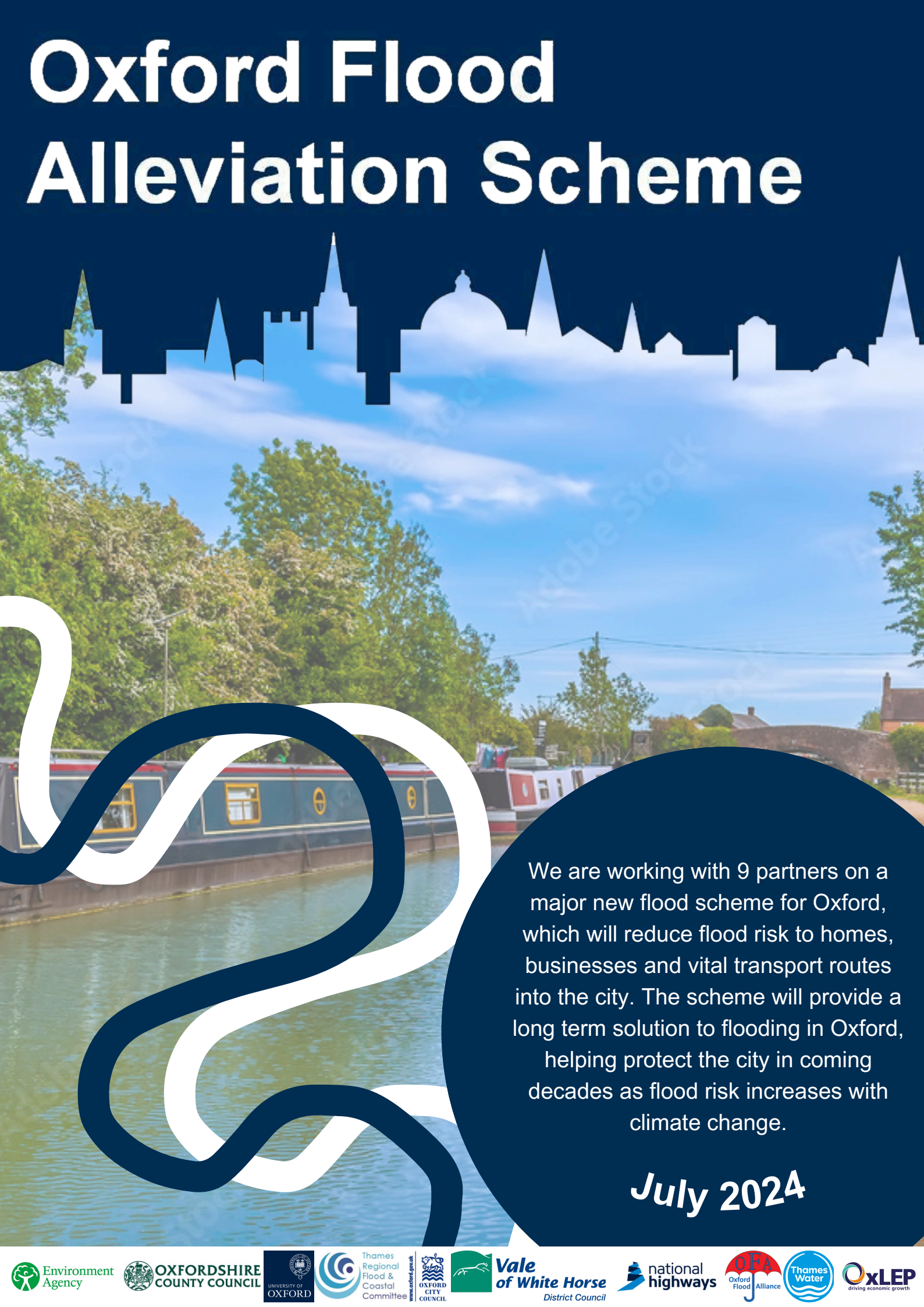


# Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme



We are working with 9 partners on a major new flood scheme for Oxford, which will reduce flood risk to homes, businesses and vital transport routes into the city. The scheme will provide a long term solution to flooding in Oxford, helping protect the city in coming decades as flood risk increases with climate change.

*July 2024*

# Introduction



## Councillors vote for flood scheme

Welcome to the latest edition of the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme newsletter, which marks a major step toward the scheme becoming a reality.

I am delighted to tell you that Oxfordshire County Council's Planning and Regulation Committee has resolved to grant us planning permission for the scheme. This approval is subject to certain conditions, which we describe in more detail below.

I know that this will be welcome news for those of you who have been impacted by flooding and urged us to get the scheme built. Gaining the committee's support brings us much closer to protecting Oxford from the sort of floods that we have seen in recent years and can expect in the future.

You can read more about the committee meeting and their decision in the article on page 3.

Turning to our next steps, we will now work to secure the remaining approvals as quickly as possible. We are also working on our plans for construction and keeping you fully informed ahead of this work commencing.

Please continue to visit our website and social media as the scheme progresses. I look forward to sharing more good news with you in our next update.

Robbie

**Robbie Williams**

**Project Director  
Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme**



# Planning application update

## Planning committee

On Monday 15 July, Oxfordshire County Council's Planning and Regulation Committee met to determine our planning application. This followed the planning officer's recommendation to approve.

The planning officers first presented their findings to the committee. The councillors then heard from objectors, our supporters, and finally the project team.

The committee debated the application before voting that they were resolved to grant planning permission. Their approval is subject to certain requirements that are standard for an application of this size and complexity.

The minutes from the meeting can be found on the [Oxfordshire County Council website](#).

## Referral to the Secretary of State

A requirement of approval is that the application is first referred to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. She will decide if she wishes to make her own determination on the application. This is due to the scheme being located in the green belt, and is standard for applications like ours.

## Section 106 Agreement

A Section 106 Agreement is an agreement between a local authority and an applicant attached to a planning permission. It must be directly relevant to the proposed development and can relate to compensation or mitigation of impacts. In our case, it relates to the management and monitoring required for the habitats being provided.



# Next steps



## Compulsory Purchase Order

The public inquiry closed on 26 January 2024 and the inspector's report has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Defra. They will decide whether to confirm, modify or not confirm the CPO. We anticipate that a decision will be made this summer.



## Biodiversity Net Gain

We are committed to delivering a minimum Biodiversity Net Gain of 10% through a combination of new on and offsite habitats, all within Oxfordshire. We are working with landowners to reach agreements to create and manage these new habitats.





## Second planning application

We intend to submit a second planning application shortly to provide access to South Hinksey rail sidings. The application will seek permission for a temporary access track, allowing us to move excavated material from the construction site to the rail sidings for transport by train.



# Find out more

 Online: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/oxfordscheme/>

 X (Twitter): [twitter.com/oxfordfas](https://twitter.com/oxfordfas)

 Facebook: [facebook.com/oxfordscheme](https://facebook.com/oxfordscheme)

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