

# MID-COLNE SUB-AREA 2

# Mid-Colne character

The landform of the Valley starts to flatten out in the Mid-Colne. It is more influenced by infrastructure including the M25 and M4 as well as the edge of urban areas including Slough. Open waterbodies such as Little Britain Lakes provide havens of tranquillity, and Black and Langley Country Parks provide a popular recreation destination as well as rich woodland, rare lowland and heathland habitats. Farming is also commonplace across this area.



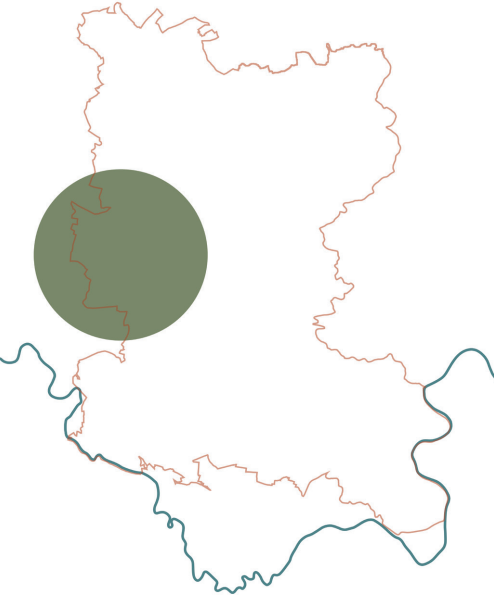
Farming in the Colne Valley



Little Britain Lake - popular with anglers and herons



Iver Environmental Centre



Black Park major visitor hub



M25 / M4 motorways bisect the Mid Colne Valley



Slough Arm of the Grand Union Canal east west corridor for walking and nature

DETAILED STRATEGIES

# Mid-Colne area strategy overview

The strategy for the Mid-Colne area is to restore landscapes which have been impacted/fragmented by infrastructure such as the M25 and M4 and to conserve the value of the special landscape assets such as Black and Langley Parks and Little Britain Lakes, with particular emphasis on buffering and connecting habitats and watercourses, connecting settlements such as Slough with the Grand Union Canal, Black and Langley Parks and linking footpaths and cycle routes where they have been severed by infrastructure. Improvements to east-west connectivity between Denham Country Park and local communities such as Uxbridge and West Drayton and improvements to bus routes to link local destinations such as Langley Station to Black and Langley Parks. North to south connectivity along the valley is a particular problem in the Iver / Colnbrook area where paths are severed or affected by transport infrastructure.

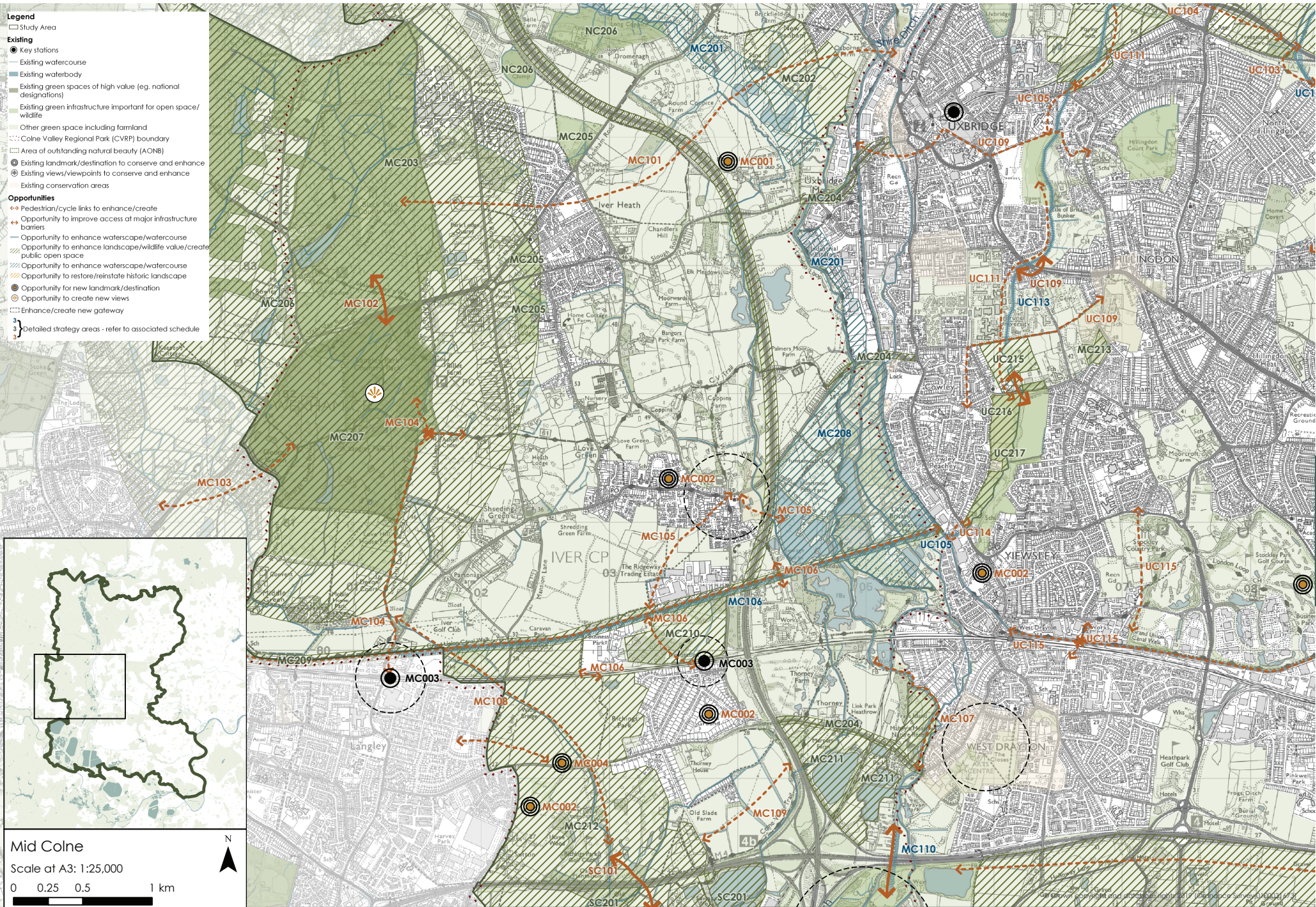
The proximity to Slough and London urban areas and large numbers of residents and visitors makes the landscape a particularly important resource for health and wellbeing. It also provides an opportunity to improve landscape quality in association with potential new urban development. There are opportunities to provide vibrant new landscape focussed destinations such as in the Richings Park area, with a strong foundation based on landscape identity and culture such as parkland, heathland and local fruit growing, orientated towards young people with facilities for leisure and play.

Areas of redevelopment such as mineral extraction sites and Pinewood Studios, provides opportunity for transformative change anchored

in strong local identity. The valuable woodland, parkland and heathland assets of Black and Langley Parks could be extended to increase woodland planting and re-create heathland areas around Iver Heath, with opportunities to enhance links with local cultures such as orchards. Iver Environmental Centre presents an opportunity to diversify community projects e.g. environmental education.

The proximity of large infrastructure to valuable habitats such as the Alderbourne presents an opportunity for enhancing resilience to climate change through natural flood and water management, enhanced wetlands for carbon absorption and connecting woodlands.





# Mid-Colne schedule of opportunities

■ Water / wetland focused opportunities
 ■ Open space / green infrastructure focused opportunities
 ■ Access / connectivity focused opportunities

No.	Title	Description	Link to Principles	Further comments
MC001	Iver Environment Centre	Environmental education centre. Community Diversify community projects e.g. environmental education and acquire surrounding land as required e.g. food growing spaces.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Provide for communities</li> <li>5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change</li> </ol>	Coordination needed on future management and maintenance. Could act as a legacy proposal.
MC002	Edge of settlements food growing and young person recreation	Mark gateways to CVRP via community orchards and recreation facilities on edge of settlements along existing paths towards Colne Valley e.g. Slough, Iver, West Drayton.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Provide for communities</li> <li>5. Be adaptable and resilient to climate change</li> </ol>	Encourages healthy living and use of CVRP as a local gateway green space.
MC003	Iver and Langley stations	CVRP signage and interpretation at both Iver and Langley stations. Use same format posters and signs as other station gateway projects.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity</li> </ol>	Could explore scope for greening station buildings with retrofit integrated GI. Advocacy with TfL
MC004 MC212	Slough/ Richings Park new destination	<p>Opportunity for major new high quality park or recreation destination with a young person and family focus, on the edge of Slough (MC004). Recommend a masterplan for the whole area is prepared. To provide a gateway to the Colne Valley Park from Slough including cycle and pedestrian infrastructure with links to Slough and Grand Union Canal and across M4 on a new bridge (See SC101) to connect with existing proposed paths ultimately linking to the Thames.</p> <p>Opportunity to enhance remnant parkland and orchards at Richings as a basis for a strong new identity/ landmark for the area. Large area is within floodplain therefore opportunity to integrate natural flood management/ SUDS (MC212). Enhance Horton Brook corridor footpath access and biodiversity connectivity.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Provide for communities</li> <li>6. Boost health and wellbeing</li> <li>2. Protect and enhance the natural environment</li> <li>3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity</li> </ol>	This proposal should also be subject to the avoidance of mineral sterilisation. Part of the site is also included within the BMWLP - Policy 4 - Allocation M5. Only part of the allocation currently has planning permission. It should also be noted that the land at Richings Park Golf Course was submitted for consideration for allocation in the BMWLP. Indicating a viable mineral reserve.
MC101	Strategic link from Black Park to Uxbridge	Fill in gaps between existing trails to improve car free access between Black Country Park, River Colne, local communities including Iver north and Iver Environmental Centre. Ensure there is continuous cycle/ pedestrian access over the M25. Potential opportunity to include a film themed trail by Black Park celebrating the park's historic use in film industry and on-site film studios. Opportunity to interpret Mesolithic sites found during quarrying and along Shire Ditch. Link also to history and heritage of Uxbridge town	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Celebrate landscape, character and heritage</li> <li>3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity</li> </ol>	Potential to use New Denham Quarry restoration to provide improved links.
MC102	Black Park / Langley Country Park connection	Create safe A412 crossing between Black and Langley park.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity</li> </ol>	opportunity to interpret Mesolithic sites found during quarrying and along Shire Ditch. Link also to history and heritage of Uxbridge town. Is there wildlife permeability across the Uxbridge road here? Are there any conceivable opportunities for creating safe wildlife passage?

DETAILED STRATEGIES

No.	Title	Description	Link to Principles	Further comments
MC103 MC207	Langley Park	Conserve Langley Country Park as a recreational destination, historic asset and nationally important haven for wildlife. Promote views of Windsor Castle and Coopers Hill. Improve/create continuous pedestrian/cycle path from Slough and George Green, including signage.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celebrate landscape, character and heritage</li> <li>Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity</li> </ol>	Is there wildlife permeability across the Uxbridge road here? Are there any conceivable opportunities for creating safe wildlife passage?
MC104	Colne Valley Trail - Section 2	Provide/improve connections to Black/Langley Park and Langley Station/ Grand Union Canal towpath. Consistent signage and interpretation, improve access barriers surfacing and associated landscaping.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity</li> </ol>	Improves car-free opportunities to access key CVRP assets, both from Slough and London wide.
MC105	Access from Iver to Slough Arm, including Reeds Bridge	Improve access path and associated landscaping from Iver Village to Slough Arm of Grand Union Canal as a gateway link into the CVRP. Reopen Reeds Bridge, provide signage and interpretation, including new crossing beside Colnbrook under the M25 near Iver.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity</li> </ol>	
MC106 MC209	Grand Union Canal Slough Arm	Improve accessibility, biodiversity and vegetation management enhancements along Grand Union Canal Slough Arm including dredging and towpath resurfacing, plus way-marking (MC106). Improve sustainable links between Slough and South Bucks (The Ivers). Landscaping habitat works to maintain/enhance/create buffer giving sense of being in Green Space to users of the canal.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and enhance the natural environment</li> <li>Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity</li> </ol>	Offers gateway into CVRP from surrounding settlements e.g. Slough, Iver, West Drayton.
MC107	Access from West Drayton to Colne Valley Trail	Create footpath/ cycle link along the River Colne to link Bucks Footpath IV21 (near M4) to Frays Island NR, West Drayton and CVT Iver Treatment Works.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity</li> </ol>	Improve access along the River Colne as a continuous off road route and improves local access to key destinations e.g. West Drayton to Little Britain Lakes hub.
MC108	M4 to Black/Langley Park new connection	Connect existing cycle/walking routes to make a continuous route north of M4 to Langley Park and Black Park along tributary.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity</li> </ol>	Link to the potential crossing point over the M4 (SC101)
MC109	Colne Valley Trail reroute from M25/M4	Re-route Colne valley trail away from M25/M4 junction to improve quality and experience of the route from Thorney Park to Old Slade Lane M4 bridge. Incorporate clear signage and wayfinding with clear views at thresholds.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity</li> </ol>	Opportunity to integrate landscape/ noise mitigation and enhancement.
MC110	Area of Colne and Wraysbury River culvert below M4	Improve access and widen culverts under motorway for wildlife and people. Improve /naturalise of PROW to North of M4.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and enhance the natural environment</li> <li>Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity</li> </ol>	Existing condition provides unwelcoming access for people, which if improved would increase access to Harmondsworth from West Drayton. River Colne at Harmondsworth Moor WFD project.
MC201	Riverside biodiversity enhancements	Renaturalise rivers and identify areas with opportunity to create backwaters/ wetlands/ seasonal flooded areas e.g. River Colne and Alder Bourne. Uxbridge Alder glade Nature Reserve enhancement specific to water vole habitat creation. Improve paths where needed e.g. along Fray's River.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and enhance the natural environment</li> <li>Be adaptable and resilient to climate change</li> </ol>	Any scope for a program of mink control along this stretch to complement the water vole habitat creation?

No.	Title	Description	Link to Principles	Further comments
MC202	New Denham Quarry Restoration	Restore and improve landscape quality and condition at quarry restoration phase. Connect to Iver Environmental Centre and Alderbourne biodiversity enhancements. New path to connect existing paths (London Loop and Shakespeare's Way).	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment	Landscaping to be ecologically appropriate.
MC203	Black Park Country Park	Conserve and enhance as important destination within CVRP. Continued management and restoration of heathland, recreational offer and improved cycle/pedestrian links from nearby settlements. Potential to enhance links to Colne Valley Regional Park. Potential to increase educational offer.	1. Celebrate landscape, character and heritage 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment	
MC204	Valley roadside landscape enhancements	Improve poor quality landscape alongside key roads that cross the Colne valley, including: St John's Road, Iver Lane, Thorney Mill Road and Copper Mill Lane (in North Colne). Includes increased maintenance, creation of views through to waterbodies. Improve pedestrian/cycle safety and connectivity and maintain in keeping with rural character. Good examples include Moorhall Road in the upper Colne valley.	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment	
MC205	Management of Iver Heath green spaces	Conserve and maintain existing green spaces in Iver Heath including Hardings Row Nature Reserve, Iver Heath Fields, Iver Mud wharfs. Investigate opportunities for new green space e.g. Gams Field, land around Hardings Row. For biodiversity and to create continuous green network for local communities. Improve pedestrian connections including at busy road crossings, between the network of community green spaces. Putting the Heath back into Iver.	1. Celebrate landscape, character and heritage 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 6. Boost health and wellbeing	Active Friends Group and Residents Association working at Iver Heath Fields with the support of the Council (C&SBDC)
MC206	Habitat creation surrounding Black/Langley Park	Encourage landowners to recreate wood-pasture and heath mosaic habitats around Black Park + connect to Burnham Beaches and Stoke Common. Include recreation trails. Connect to M25 landscaping proposal.	1. Celebrate landscape, character and heritage 2. Protect and enhance the natural environment	Detail of project to be reviewed with ecologist re: locations for habitat creation and community involvement. Potentially delivered in relation to Pinewood Development. Funding sources otherwise to be confirmed.
MC208	Little Britain Lakes Hub	Aspiration to create a unified water based visitor attraction on land surrounding existing Little Britain Lake destination. Includes proposed visitor facilities, habitat management, access and wayfinding/signage. Connect to Slough Arm Canal via signage and path improvements. Potential seasonal flooding for flood mitigation and natural flood management. Subject to ecological impact assessment.	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity	Needs holistic management strategy to bring un-utilised land into sustainable use.
MC210	Land north of Iver Station	Enhance and manage land north of Iver station for a community green space opportunity. Public consultation in 2000 identified desire for nature conservation and tree planting - need to re-consult. Must also improve access from Iver station to Grand Union Canal.	2. Protect and enhance the natural environment 3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity 4. Provide for communities 6. Boost health and wellbeing	Key local destination space.

No.	Title	Description	Link to Principles	Further comments
MC211	Frays Island Mabeys Meadow/ Thorney Park/ Kingfisher Gardens	<p>Biodiversity focused landscape long term management which encourages community ownership, potentially linking to local schools. Ecologically assessed habitat enhancement including control of invasive species at Frays Island, link to Thorney Park and surrounding land. Improved recreation, pedestrian and cycle access and gateways from Thorney and West Drayton settlements.</p> <p>Kingfisher Gardens - community garden next to the Colne, managed by the Richings Park Residents Association.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Celebrate landscape, character and heritage</li> <li>2. Protect and enhance the natural environment</li> <li>3. Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity</li> </ol>	
MC213	Uxbridge Grove	Restore wetlands and pools, enhance access and interpretation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Celebrate landscape, character and heritage</li> <li>2. Protect and enhance the natural environment</li> </ol>	



## COLNE AND CRANE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

We would like to thank all who contributed to the consultation on the strategy

**The full report, detailed list of opportunities and accompanying map can be seen at**  
[www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/whatwedo](http://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/whatwedo)

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