

Key Issues - Sustainability

Sustainability is forming an ever more important role in the way our towns and cities are planned as the case for reducing our impact on the environment becomes ever stronger.

The University has expressed its desire to see North West Cambridge as an exemplar of sustainable development and the Area Action Plan for North West Cambridge contains a raft of policies relating to sustainability. The University has historically created some of the most advanced buildings in the world. We will aim high – both in terms of design quality and sustainability.



Environmental Standards

All of the buildings on the site will be designed to exceed the latest environmental standards: Housing will initially meet the national Code for Sustainable Homes Level 5 rising to Code Level 6 in 2016. Commercial, academic and public buildings will meet Excellent under the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM).

Climate Change and Energy

Buildings at North West Cambridge will show significant reductions in carbon dioxide generation and energy consumption through efficient building and infrastructure design, as well as renewable technologies.

All homes will emit at least 70% less carbon dioxide than currently required by Building Regulations. Homes constructed after 2016 will be zero carbon. Commercial, academic and other non-residential buildings will show similar levels of carbon dioxide reduction with at least 20% of these savings coming from renewable and low carbon sources.

Water Supply and Conservation

A target has been set to achieve per capita water use of less than 80 litres per day for all dwellings. This requires a reduction in water consumption of nearly half the Cambridge City average of 151 litres per person per day. Meeting this level of water economy will require the use of water efficient devices, together with rainwater and greywater recycling systems.

Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage

The Code for Sustainable Homes encourages the incorporation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), which will be used through the development. These will ensure that rainwater run-off will be kept at current levels or even improved.

Sustainable Waste Management

Facilities to encourage residents to recycle and compost waste will feature strongly in the masterplan. Novel waste facilities on the site will mean that the impact of waste storage and collection is minimised whilst making it easy for residents to use.

Construction Management

Waste will be minimised as far as possible during the construction stages of the development. The design of the buildings may make use of modern methods of construction which employ techniques such as prefabrication to reduce the on-site waste usually associated with traditional construction techniques. Additionally, as part of the Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP), contractors will be required to segregate waste streams in order to reuse and recycle where practicable. Targets for reducing waste and achieving high rates of recycling will be set, monitored and recorded on-site to ensure good progress towards achieving these targets.

Biodiversity and Land Use

Some parts of the site have been found to be of some importance for protected species and other species of conservation concern. It is intended therefore to retain the most valuable nature conservation features. The proposed site landscaping aims to increase overall levels of biodiversity providing new habitats for birds, insects and animals as well as providing recreation space for local inhabitants.



Your concerns	The University's Response
<p>Sustainability standards</p> <p>Q The sustainability goals don't appear to go far enough, it appears that the masterplan is only responding to the minimum targets set by the Government?</p> <p>Why is a phased approach necessary—why are the highest standards not going to be adopted from the outset?</p> <p>Is the scheme sustainable from a transport point of view?</p> <p>How will the University ensure there is a commitment for the actual implementation of standards?</p>	<p>A The University is committed to providing high sustainable standards, creating a sustainable environment, in social and economic and environmental terms. All development will be designed and built to high standards of environmental sustainability and will minimise carbon emissions. A dedicated CHP will be built on site to serve the new development.</p> <p>Housing will initially meet the National Code for Sustainable Homes Level 5 rising to level 6 (zero carbon) in 2016. Commercial, academic and public buildings will target Excellent under the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method.</p> <p>The University is committed to the long term success of the scheme and this includes the implementation of high sustainable standards, throughout the build out of the development.</p> <p>The University has high aspirations for energy and sustainability across the site, which it is balancing against viability and deliverability considerations.</p>