

9.

A masterplan for Didcot Garden
Town

9.3.7 The Garden Line

Spatial strategy

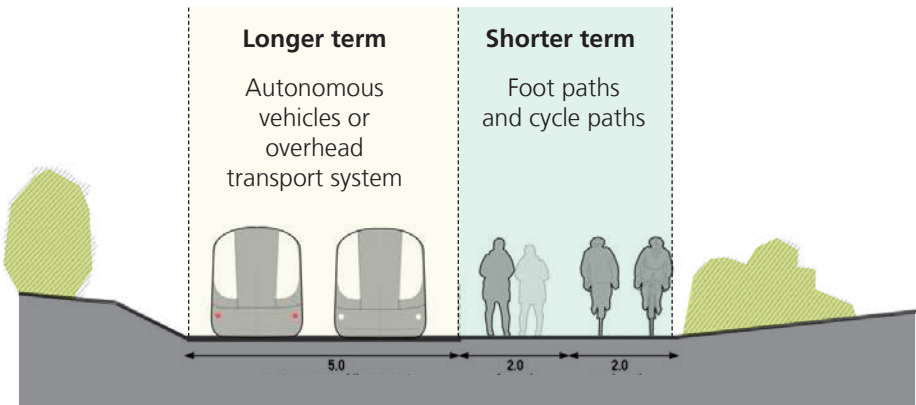


The Garden Line will become a major sustainable connector, offering a convenient and predominantly off-road cycle and pedestrian route connecting Harwell Campus and Culham Science Centre via the centre of Didcot and Didcot Station. The route will be designed to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate future modes of transport.

The Garden Line is a strategic and local walking and cycling route that will link a number of existing but disconnected routes into one continuous north-south green corridor. It is comprised of Moor Ditch to the north of the town centre, which extends to the River Thames, while

to the south, it follows the disused railway line which formerly connected to Southampton, extending past the urban extents of Didcot. Currently, connections between Culham and Harwell campuses are sparse. With targeted infrastructural improvements, these can be improved to create a

seamless connection from Science Vale right into the heart of Didcot. The connection to Culham requires a bridge across the River Thames requiring greater investment. The connection to Harwell Campus would require less investment and would potentially be delivered first. For further information



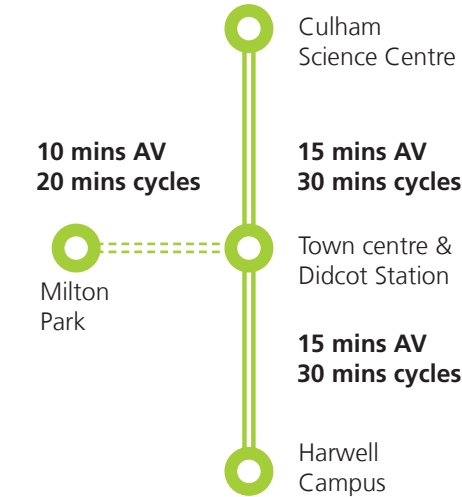
The Garden Line - proposed section



The Garden Line - generous high quality cycle infrastructure in a rural setting



Photo: Gateway Project
Potential for the future integration of autonomous vehicles and overhead transport systems into the Garden Line will be explored further.



Cycling times and potential future connection times for AV (Autonomous Vehicle) network - subject to further study and modelling.

Culham Science Centre



Photo: Culham Science Centre

A fun day out for the family, or sustainable and traffic-free means to access Science Vale and Didcot's natural surroundings.

Appleford Nature Park
(currently landfill)

D-Tech

Didcot Railway Centre



Didcot Gateway South

Didcot town centre,
Orchard Centre & Cornerstone Arts Centre



Driftway Tumps

Didcot Leisure Centre

North East Didcot
Neighbourhood Centre

Ladygrove Park

Didcot Station

Ladygrove East

Rich's Sidings

Mowbray Fields
nature reserve

Dis-used railway line (from
to Southampton)



Harwell Campus

To the North Wessex
Downs AONB





The Garden Line

The image below shows a long term vision of the Garden Line - a green ribbon connecting Didcot town centre and station with Culham Science Centre in the north, and Harwell Campus in the south, whilst also providing access to

Didcot's peripheral natural surroundings. In the short term, the line will be upgraded to include better cycle paths and footpaths connecting a number of key regeneration sites throughout line. In the future the line could include an

extended zone to accommodate driverless pods or overhead transport system, providing another sustainable and inclusive connection serving Science Vale and the wider area.





9.3.8 A strategic framework for Didcot

The proposals for Didcot Garden Town masterplan are underpinned by a framework that informs the structure for the town to 2031 and beyond. It shows how present and future neighbourhoods and key destinations will be connected by a hierarchical and sustainable movement network that supports the spatial vision of a ‘connected’ and ‘super green’ town.

The framework highlights key routes, areas of growth, broad land uses and the strategic landscape network. Its purpose is to work as a benchmark against which individual developments can be assessed to ensure they fulfil the key requirements of the garden town. The framework

proposes a seamless movement network connecting the Didcot’s wider context comprising surrounding villages, employment sites and natural amenity, with local destinations within Didcot. It also proposes a clear distribution of uses highlighting areas of residential growth

nestled within a network of landscaped and green spaces, making the town into an attractive place to live. The key destinations and employment areas which will define Didcot in 2031 and beyond are listed below.

Didcot’s destinations up to 2031 and beyond

Health and recreation

- ① Didcot Leisure Centre
- ② Didcot Football Club
- ③ Didcot Wave
- ④ Boundary Park playing fields
- ⑤ North East Didcot playing fields
- ⑥ Ladygrove East playing fields
- ⑦ Edmonds Park

Nature and landscape

- ⑧ River Thames Path
- ⑨ North Wessex Downs and Ridgeway
- ⑩ Garden Line
- ⑪ Driftway Tumps
- ⑫ Appleford Nature Park (currently landfill)
- ⑬ Milton Nature Reserve
- ⑭ Mowbray Fields Nature Reserve

Heritage

- ⑮ Didcot Railway Centre and museum
- ⑯ Old Didcot
- ⑰ Northbourne

Retail, food and drink

- ⑱ Orchard Centre Phases one and two
- ⑲ Broadway independent retail
- ⑳ Insignia Park retail

Culture

- ㉑ Cornerstone Arts Centre
- ㉒ Rich’s Sidings cultural facility
- ㉓ Didcot Gateway Science Innovation Centre

Community

- ㉔ Didcot town square
- ㉕ Broadway allotment café
- ㉖ Ladygrove community hub

Education

- ㉗ UTC Oxfordshire
- ㉘ Didcot Library

Employment and innovation

- ㉙ D-Tech
- ㉚ Milton Park
- ㉛ Harwell Campus
- ㉜ Culham Science Centre
- ㉝ Enterprise zones
- ㉞ Southmead
- ㉟ Didcot Gateway South
- ㊱ Rich’s Sidings commercial hub

Precedents



Northala Fields, Northolt, Greater London
Photo: Novell Tullett



Haven Point Leisure Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne
Source: www.architecture.com



Energy Hill, Wilhelmsburg, Germany - reuse of a landfill site

