



Oxfordshire
Strategic Schools
Partnership Board

LIVING IN OXFORDSHIRE

WE SERIOUSLY RECOMMEND IT

Information for teachers





Make yourself at home

Historic market towns, a bustling city, and picturesque, open landscapes. Oxfordshire is a county where you can settle into your own pace of life.

Stop and smell the flowers along the Ridgeway, or bounce with the crowd at Oxford's O₂ Academy. Oxfordshire suits many different lifestyles, including a busy teacher.

Oxford Vs London

Renting costs 40% less than in the capital and buying costs 43% less on average.

The cost of accommodation also stacks up well against other nearby counties like...

- Buckinghamshire,
- Berkshire and
- Surrey.

And there are many ways we support teachers to rent and buy houses through local and national schemes.

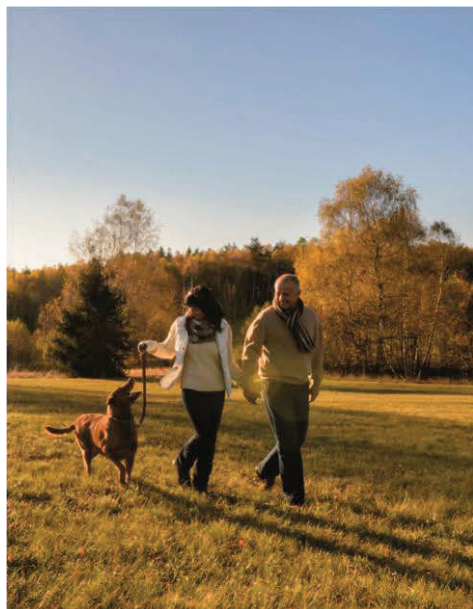
Well connected

Being one of the most rural counties in England doesn't mean residents are isolated. London and Birmingham are an hour away on the train, and there is a 24hr luxury coach, seven days a week, that connects Oxford to the capital.

Whether you choose to live in our county or not, you'll find road links and public transport are good.

A place for pleasure

We'd encourage you to enjoy everything our county has to offer from performances at Didcot's Cornerstone or Oxford's Playhouse, to a leisurely day walking on the



historic Ridgeway or White Horse Hill.

Shop 'til you drop at the Bicester Designer Outlet Village or at the new Westgate in Oxford.

Support the local teams by cheering on Oxford United at the Kassam Stadium or one of the many other sporting clubs across the county.

Above average education

As well as being home to two world famous universities, Oxfordshire has fantastic schools.

In 2016, over 90% of children got a place at their first choice primary school.

The county has GCSE pass rates above the national average, and above average key stage one and two scores.



Oxfordshire Strategic Schools Partnership Board

A joined-up approach to career development

Oxfordshire offers teachers the chance to work in a county where an unparalleled range of educational establishments work together collaboratively. A place where all those with an interest in education come together to ensure young people and those teaching in the classroom and leading schools, get the best Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and career opportunities.

Leading the way

Supported by the Strategic Schools Partnership Board (SSPB), Oxfordshire is leading the way in education and modelling how an effective school-led system can support our profession. The Oxfordshire Teaching Schools Alliance (OTSA) is one of the largest Alliances in the country. It is made up of a large group of schools that collaborate to provide opportunities from pre-ITT and teacher training

through to System Leadership and Headship.

The University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University also contribute a huge amount across the county: offering ITT places, post-graduate Masters courses and an incredibly diverse range of other CPD programmes/events throughout the year.

An evidence-informed profession

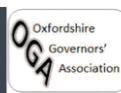
The Oxford Education Deanery promotes teachers' engagement with and the leading of research. And as the Regional Hub for the Chartered College of Teaching, OTSA also promotes and celebrates research in schools as education moves towards being an evidence-informed profession.



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL



OXFORD
CITY COUNCIL





Large enough to have the buzz of a major city, but small enough to feel personal, Oxford defies the city stereotype.

You have a wealth of diversity, history, culture and entertainment on your doorstep, including:

- the redeveloped Westgate Shopping Centre,
- theatres and cinemas,
- the O₂ Academy,
- football from Oxford United,
- the Ashmolean museum, and
- Museum of Natural History.

Although house prices in Oxford are high, residential areas just outside of the city centre, such as Cowley are more affordable.

The city is also commuting distance from towns and villages such as Abingdon, Kidlington, and Didcot





An alternative to Oxford

If you'd rather be based further south, try Abingdon in the Vale of White Horse, the oldest continually occupied town in Britain.

Situated on the river Thames, Abingdon offers plenty of shops, cafes, restaurants, markets, riverside walks and pubs.

The average cost of a two bedroom let is £995* per month and a semi-detached property costs highly £338,206*.

It's easy to reach from Reading, Newbury and Swindon – 45, 30 and 50 minutes away respectively. And regular bus services connect you to Oxford's centre.





An historic railway town

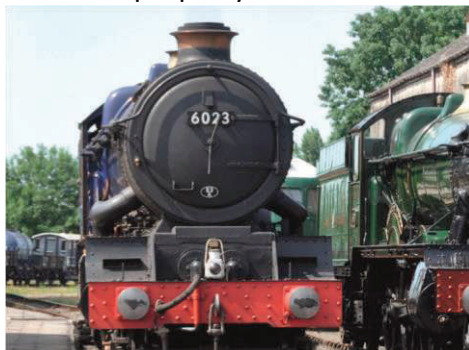
Another eight miles south of Abingdon is the railway town of Didcot. This well-connected town is easily accessible by road and train - just a 14 minutes train ride to Oxford and Reading, and 45 minutes to London.

At its heart sits the Orchard Centre – offering over 30 shops, cafes, a cinema and local markets – and the thriving Cornerstone Arts Centre.

Didcot is also home to Great Western Park, a brand new development with new housing, shops, schools and a college.

And just a stone's throw away you can find beautiful countryside, such as the iconic Wittenham Clumps.

The average semidetached property is £297,658* and rents sit around £936* per month for a two bedroom property.





Home of the Banbury Cake

For those who would prefer the north of the county, Banbury might just be for you. Living in Banbury is being a 20 minute train ride from Oxford, 30 minutes from Coventry and 45 minutes from Birmingham.

According to RightMove, an average semi-detached house in Banbury costs less than half as much as one in Oxford, and the average flat costs £170,000* less.

The average rent for a two bedroom property is £793* per month.

Even at these prices residents are on the edge of the Oxfordshire Cotswolds, where you'll find Bampton – or Downton, as you may know it from ITV's Downton Abbey.



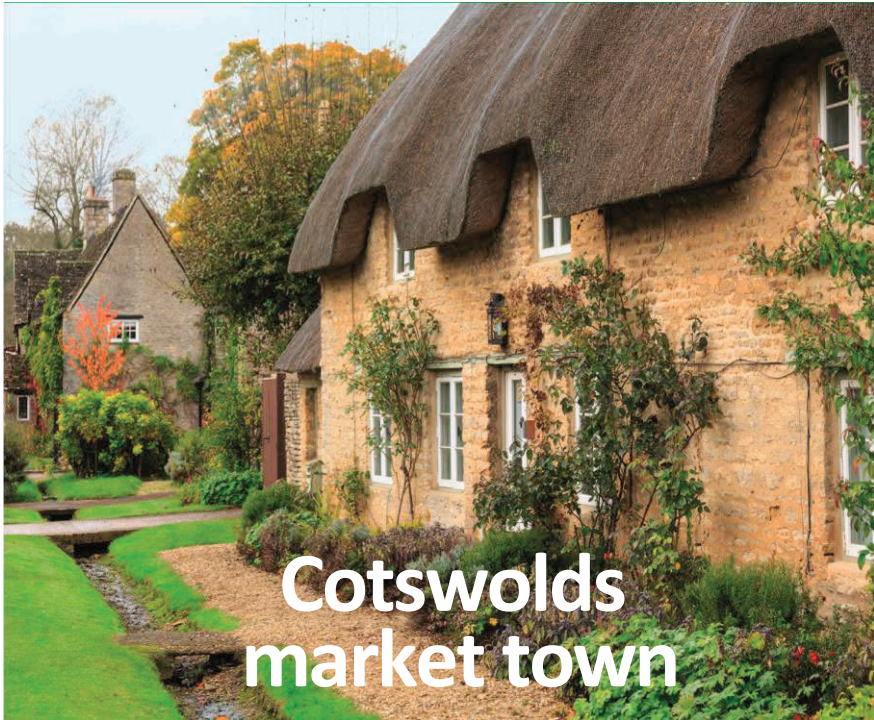


Home to the UK's largest self-build scheme and the world famous Bicester Village designer outlet, Bicester is a thriving, growing town.

New rail links get you to London in 50 minutes and Oxford in 15. Housing prices are very competitive at £297,189* for the average semi-detached house.

With millions of pounds being invested, the town will soon offer a new sports village, new schools, and an even wider choice of shops.





Cotswolds market town

Sitting roughly twelve miles west of Oxford lies the pretty Cotswolds town of Witney.

This market town, the largest in the district of West Oxfordshire, has a thriving community and picturesque church green at its centre.

Its blend of history, culture and shopping make it a great place to both live and work.

And with the chocolate box scenery of the Oxfordshire Cotswolds on your doorstep, you'll never be short of places to visit at weekends.

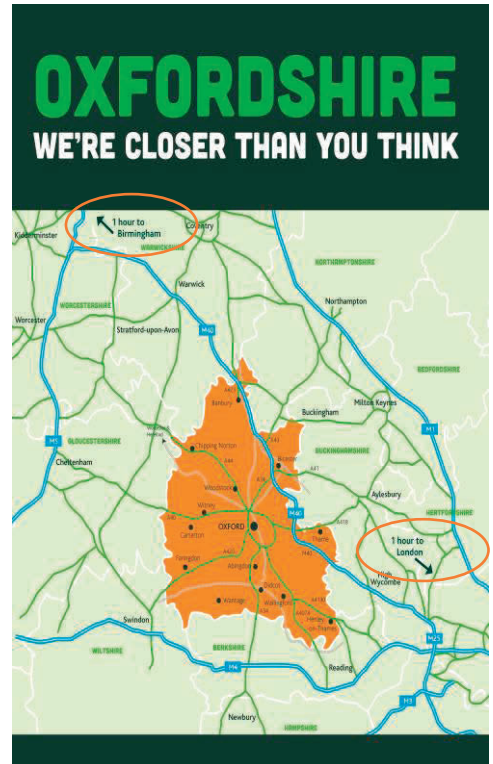
Average house prices sit at around £295,806* for a terrace and £313,824* for a semi-detached.

You don't have to move...

Oxfordshire is well connected by major roads and public transport. It's less than an hour by train from London and Birmingham. There's also a 24hr luxury coach service that connects Oxford to London.

...but we recommend it.

Rich in history and culture, Oxfordshire is a beautiful county at England's heart. From rural villages and lively market towns to the "dreaming spires" of Oxford, there are plenty of wonderful places to make your home. Rents and property prices are 40% cheaper than London, and competitive with our neighbours Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and nearby Surrey. There's also plenty to do: country walks, sports, museums and galleries, restaurants, the theatre – there's something for everyone.



Make us your next career choice

We have a wide range of jobs across Oxfordshire.

Search for jobs here:-

- <https://jobs.otsa.org.uk>
- <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/teaching-and-school-support-vacancies>

* Housing and rental prices taken from Rightmove.co.uk and were correct as of March 2016

Oxfordshire has so much more to offer you:



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Printing costs covered by OTSA