

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COAT OF ARMS

ARMS

- Azure* - The background colour of the shield is Oxford blue.
- two Bendlets wavy Argent* - The silver wavy bands represent the Thames and its main tributaries.
- between in chief a Garb Or
in base an Oak Tree fructed Or* - A gold garb, or wheatsheaf, and a gold oak tree with acorns represent the agriculture and woods which are the other outstanding features of the County.

CREST

- And for the Crest Issuant
from a Mural Crown Gules* - The red crown in the form of an embattled wall is an appropriate heraldic emblem for county councils to bear but otherwise it is sparingly granted.
- a Grassy Mount proper* - the Mound, in its natural green colour, represents the Mound of Oxford Castle. County government has been inextricably connected with the Castle site since the Castle itself was founded in 1071 by Robert d'Oilli in the reign of William the Conqueror. In the grant of arms, the inclusion of the Castle Mound, which dates from that time, is intended to symbolise this very close connection between the Castle and the County.

County government has been transacted on this site for many centuries and it was the place of the ancient Shire Hall and now of the modern County Hall. The County acquired the freehold of the Castle site south of New Road in 1785 and so its historic nature and the County's interest in it can well be understood.

thereon an Oxford Down Ram — proper gorged with a Collar Azure charged with a Barrulet wavy fesswise Argent

This local breed of sheep, in its natural colours, symbolises the connection of the County with the wool trade for many hundreds of years. The ram wears a blue collar with a wavy silver band laid on it to represent the Oxfordshire rivers, as on the shield.

Mantled Azure doubled Argent —

The mantling which flows from beneath the crest and on either side of the helm is in the livery colours, namely, the Oxford blue of the shield, lined with silver. The crest is set upon a helm appropriate to a corporation, that is, one of steel with the visor closed and facing the viewer's left.

SUPPORTERS

On the dexter an Ox guardant Gules gorged with a Collar Azure charged with a Barrulet wavy Argent

— Following the reorganisation of local government in 1974, Oxfordshire was enlarged by the addition of the City of Oxford and an area of north Berkshire. The red ox on the viewer's left and looking towards the viewer is an allusion to Oxford's noted ox crossing a ford.

and on the sinister a Horse Argent gorged with a like Collar

— The white horse on the viewer's right has been adapted from the former Berkshire County Council's coat of arms as most of the area transferred from Berkshire is within the Vale of White Horse.

Like the ram in the crest, both beasts wear a blue collar with a wavy silver band on it to represent the Oxfordshire rivers.

on a Compartment comprising a Grassy Mound furrowed per pale and the lower edge excavated proper

— The supporters rest on a grassy mound which is broken by a central furrow and edged with earth in its natural colour, both as a further allusion to the importance of agriculture in Oxfordshire and to distinguish it from similar mounds in other armorial bearings.

Date

The grant of arms to the County Council by Garter, Clarenceux, and Norroy and Ulster Kings of Arms is dated 25th May, 1976.

County Hall,
Oxford