

GENERAL INFORMATION. Oxford is a county town and the administrative center of Oxfordshire in the UK, a significant industrial center, a famous university center and a transport junction (6 railways and 9 highways), located on the river Thames, 80 km north-west of London. In 1969, there were 109.7 thousand inhabitants in Oxford; area of the city approx. 35 square km.

SURROUNDINGS OF THE CITY The city lies on a hilly plain, with the bottoms of the valleys of the river Thames and its tributary Cherwell having an almost flat surface, intersected by a network of rivers and drainage canals and ditches. Hills (height 70-170 m) have rounded peaks and predominantly hollow (less than 10 °) slopes. Soils in the valleys, as a rule, are sandy, in the rest of the region they are sandy loamy, sometimes clayey. The main part of the locality consists of meadows and arable land; woody vegetation is found only in the form of small sections of forest saplings (park type), alongside roads, rivers, canals, and also as hedges along the boundaries of land. The largest water barrier is the river Thames (below the city, available for ships with a draft of 1.2 m, above, 0.9 m); its width is 20-60 m, the depth is 1.6-2 m, the current velocity is 0.8 m / sec. The banks are dominated by low, shallow slopes. The other rivers are up to 20 m wide, up to 1 m deep. The largest canal, Oxford Canal, (accessible for vessels up to 21 m in length and 4.3 m deep) has a width of 13.3 m; it connects the tidal Thames with the Birmingham canal system. Highways are surfaced with asphalt and concrete. Oxford is partially visible from its surrounding heights. From the air, it is identified by its location at the confluence of the rivers of the Thames and Cherwell.

CITY TERRITORY. Oxford does not have a single system of planning. Its western part, located in the valley of the river Thames, is the historical core of the city. Here, the wide straight streets are combined with narrow and curved ones, the building is solid or dense, stone houses, 3-5-storey buildings; many ancient buildings of the Gothic style with numerous towers and spires. In this part of the city there are a number of administrative institutions, including the town hall (object 28), the post office (object 26), and the famous Oxford University (object 39), which unites 16 faculties and 25 autonomous colleges. At the university there are a number of scientific institutes, laboratories, museums, observatories, a botanical garden, a large library, sports grounds, etc. The eastern, newer part of the city is located mainly on the right slope of the valley of the Thames and the hills adjoining the valley. The streets here are predominantly wide, mostly straight. The building in the central part (adjacent to the Cherwell River near the Magdalene Bridge) is dense, the houses are 3-5 storey. In the rest of the territory, as well as on the northern and southern outskirts of the old part of the city, the building is pre-dominantly sparse 1-3-storey houses. In the eastern part of the country are the residential quarters of Oxford. Industrial enterprises are concentrated mainly in the southeastern and western suburbs. The city is well

landscaped, there is a significant number (especially in the eastern part) of parks, gardens, squares.

INDUSTRIAL AND TRANSPORT OBJECTS. The leading industries of the city are machine building (including automobile, aviation and electrical engineering) and Metalworking. The most important military-industrial objects are automobile plants (objects 1, 2) and iron foundry (object 9). The Oxford railway network includes several railway stations and passenger platforms, including the Oxford goods and passenger station (object 35) with well-developed track and storage facilities, a depot and a railway station.

UTILITIES AND MEDICAL AND SANITARY INSTITUTIONS. Oxford receives electricity from a local thermal power station (object 41), which is included in the country's integrated energy system. The city has a gas supply; there are three gas plants operating (objects. 3, 4, 5). There is water supply and sewage. Oxford is provided with all kinds of modern communications. Within the city, transport is by bus. The city has 16 hospitals and a number of other health facilities.