

South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne
Cambridge
CB3 6EA

t: 08450 450 500
f: 01954 713149
dx: DX 729500 Cambridge 15
minicom: 01480 376743
www.scambs.gov.uk



20 May 2004

To: Chairman – Councillor SJ Agnew
Vice-Chairman – Councillor NN Cathcart
Members of the Conservation Advisory Group – Councillors Mrs MP Course,
Dr JA Heap, Dr JPR Orme, RGR Smith and AW Wyatt MBE
and to Councillor Mrs DSK Spink MBE (Conservation Portfolio Holder)

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **CONSERVATION ADVISORY GROUP**, which will be held in **COMMITTEE ROOM 1** at South Cambridgeshire Hall on **WEDNESDAY, 28 MAY 2003 at 1.30 p.m.**

Yours faithfully
GJ HARLOCK
Finance and Resources Director

AGENDA

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PROCEDURAL ITEMS	
1. Election of Chairman	
2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman	
3. Declarations of Interest Members need only declare an interest in circumstances where there is an item on the agenda that may cause a conflict of interests.	
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting To authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2003 as a correct record.	1 - 6
DECISION ITEMS	
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INFORMATION ITEM

10. Tree Preservation Orders - District-wide Review

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CONSERVATION ADVISORY GROUP

At a meeting of the Committee
held on 25th March 2003 at 2.00pm

PRESENT: Councillor SJ Agnew - Chairman
Councillor NN Cathcart – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: Councillor RF Collinson Councillor RGR Smith
Councillor Dr JA Heap Councillor AW Wyatt
Councillor Dr JPR Orme

Co-opted Member Councillor Mrs MP Course

Councillors RF Bryant, Mrs JM Healey and Mrs DSK Spink (Portfolio Holder for Conservation) attended the meeting by invitation.

Councillor JH Stewart sent his apologies for absence.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In connection with Minute no. 3 (Archaeological Initiatives and the Monument Management Project), Councillor SJ Agnew declared a personal interest as Chairman of The Friends of Roman Road and Fleam Dyke.

In connection with Minute no. 10 (Eversden and Wimpole Woods), Councillor SJ Agnew declared a personal interest as a member of the Cambridge Bat Group.

2. MINUTES

The Group authorised the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2003.

In response to a query from Councillor Dr JPR Orme, Councillor RF Collinson confirmed that the third bullet point (seeking the avoidance of possible duplication) of Minute no. 7 (Proposed Historic Resource and Cultural Centre) had been accurately recorded.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INITIATIVES AND THE MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE – 2002-2003 AND 2003-2004

Stephen Macauley (Project Manager with the Archaeological Field Unit at Cambridgeshire County Council) and Aileen Connor (Archaeological Project Officer with the County Council) made a slide presentation to the Advisory Group, summarising the basis upon which the Monument Management Project (“MMP”) operates.

Members then considered a report highlighting progress being made with the MMP, and seeking ongoing and enhanced financial support for the Project.

Noting the significance, to the MMP as a whole, of archaeology in South Cambridgeshire, Councillor AW Wyatt proposed, and was seconded by Councillor Mrs MP Course, that the initiatives being addressed be identified in the form of a book, which could then be made available to members of the public. During the course of the debate, alternative methods of publicising the

Project's aims were identified as being production of a CD-ROM, and publication of a series of articles in the *South Cambs Magazine*. The Chairman acknowledged these suggestions, and asked that the Group be consulted further before any decision was made to issue specific leaflets which, he noted, tended to have a smaller readership than the magazine.

The Vice-Chairman endorsed the initiatives in principle, but urged caution in guarding against over-management, which might have a detrimental effect on the "atmospheric presence" of particular sites. In response, Mr Macauley explained that management schemes had first to be endorsed by English Heritage.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** to the Portfolio Holder for Conservation:

- (1) that Option (a) contained in paragraph 7 of the Conservation Manager's report be endorsed, and that the allocation be made of £5,000 from the Conservation Portfolio budget to contribute to the Monument Management Programme in 2003/04 and the work programme set out in paragraph 5 of the report;
- (2) that the County Archaeologists be invited to present a progress report on the development of the Monument Management Programme and developing archaeological initiatives early in 2003-04 for consideration and prioritisation by the Conservation Advisory Group;
- (3) that officers explore the possibility of producing a booklet setting out the principle objectives and achievements of the Monument Management Project, in consultation with the Conservation Advisory Group, where appropriate; and
- (4) that officers consider preparing a series of relevant articles for inclusion in future issues of the *South Cambs Magazine*, and explore the feasibility of designing such articles so they can eventually be grouped together by interested readers as a stand-alone guide.

4. **ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRAINING EXCAVATION AT FULBOURN**

Aileen Connor, Archaeological Projects Officer with Cambridgeshire County Council, made a short presentation to Members, highlighting local public interest in archaeology. The excavation in Fulbourn would be carried out during the last two weeks in August 2003 and the first two weeks in September. Members of the public would be able to participate in the excavation for either one, two, three or all four weeks. The County Council expected between 12 and 15 people each week, with a total of about 50 people over the four week period. The public would also be able to visit the site to view progress.

Members then considered a report on the scheme.

It was confirmed that the cost of the initiative would be £150 per person per week. While acknowledging the educational value, Members discussed, at some length, the financial implications. In particular, it was noted that the contribution being sought from South Cambridgeshire District Council amounted to one third of the total cost. Councillor AW Wyatt proposed that a more proportionate figure would be appropriate, and suggested that the District Council contribute no more than £4,000. This was seconded by Councillor NN Cathcart and supported by the Group.

The Portfolio Holder said that any financial contribution from South Cambridgeshire District Council should be used to benefit as many residents as possible from within the District. She undertook to reassess the relative financial contributions being made by all of the partners involved in the project.

Councillor RGR Smith observed that that such an initiative might act as a way of recruiting archaeological staff, whom the County Council had difficulty in attracting by conventional means. Aileen Connor indicated that the use of metal detectors on private land should not necessarily be discouraged, so long as their operators shared information gleaned from their use with the County Council.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** to the Portfolio Holder that this short-term archaeological educational programme be supported as a partnership initiative with the County Council archaeologists, and that the sum equivalent to one third of the total or £4,000 (whichever is less) be allocated from the Heritage Initiative Fund for 2003-04 to support the project.

The Conservation Advisory Group **AGREED** that the County Archaeologists should present a report on the results of the initiative and its implications to the Conservation Advisory Group at its meeting scheduled to take place on 10th September 2003.

5. **HORNINGSEA JUBILEE GARDEN**

The Advisory Group considered a report seeking the financial support of an initiative by Horningsea Parish Council to create a public park. The Conservation Manager highlighted the financial aspects outlined in paragraph 6 of the report.

Councillor SJ Kime (local Member) had sent apologies for not being able to attend this meeting. It was reported that he fully supported the initiative.

The Portfolio Holder endorsed the initiative in principle, but argued that, as an ongoing recreational project, discussion should take place between the Conservation and Community Development departments to determine from which budgets funding should be taken, and in what proportions. It was noted that, in some instances, District Council support was a pre-requisite to funding becoming available from other sources. Nevertheless, Councillor RF Collinson stated that the overall contribution from the Council should not exceed £5,000.

Future maintenance of the garden was a significant issue, and the Conservation Manager assured Members that this would be addressed by means of a Maintenance Plan to be prepared by Horningsea Parish Council.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** that the Portfolio Holder support Horningsea Parish Council's Jubilee Garden initiative in principle, and liaise with the Portfolio Holder for Community Development to determine a corporate capital grant not exceeding £5,000, such grant sum to be allocated proportionately from the Heritage Initiative Fund for 2003-04 and from the appropriate budget within the Community Services section.

6. WATTS' WOOD, COMBERTON

The Advisory Group considered a request from Comberton Parish Council to buy Watts' Wood from the District Council, subject to independent valuation.

Members noted that the Cabinet could agree to sell at less than market value in certain circumstances. The Portfolio Holder pointed out that the Parish Council had maintained the wood for twenty years, and the Council should cite this as justification for disposing of the land for a nominal consideration.

Comberton Parish Council would be liable to meet its own legal fees.

Councillor RF Collinson supported sale for a nominal sum, observing that this would save the Parish Council money, which could then be used to maintain the wood. He reminded the Group that the late Bill Watts had submitted a series of detailed reports to the Council and, should it be possible to retrieve these reports from the Council's archives, they would form interesting reading.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** to the Cabinet that Watts' Wood, Comberton be transferred to Comberton Parish Council for a nominal sum, subject to the Portfolio Holder receiving appropriate advice from the Head of Legal Services and to the Parish Council meeting its own legal expenses and entering into an approved scheme securing its future management of the wood and safeguarding public access to the wood..

(Malcolm Wright, Chairman of Comberton Parish Council, addressed the meeting. Councillor SA Harangozo (local Member) was unable to attend the meeting, but had expressed support for transfer at a nominal value)

7. CONSERVATION AWARD SCHEME

The Advisory Group considered a report on a proposed Conservation Awards Scheme for 2003 encompassing both the natural and built environments, for which Members expressed a strong preference for distinct schemes, rather than an all-embracing joint one.

The Advisory Group discussed the establishment of a sub-Group of Members that could assist the Conservation Manager in formulating details of the scheme.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** to the Portfolio Holder that the Conservation Awards Scheme be held in 2003.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RESOLVED** that a sub-Group be established to determine the classification of entries into the competition and the criteria against which those entries should be considered. such sub-Group to consist of the Conservation Manager and Councillors Mrs MP Course, Dr JA Heap, Dr JPR Orme and AW Wyatt.

8. S/0003/03/O – BABRAHAM JALL MASTERPLAN

The Conservation Manager summarised progress to date in determining a Masterplan relating to development proposals for Babraham Hall.

Councillor RF Collinson regretted the fact that no formal presentation was being given. However, it was noted that members of the Development and Conservation Control Committee would be visiting the site on 31st March

2003, and suggested that those members of the Advisory Group who were not members of the Development and Conservation Control Committee might like to join that visit.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED**

- (1) that the Portfolio Holder inform the Development and Conservation Control Committee that the Advisory Group recognises the efforts made to accommodate previously raised concerns and that it welcomes the principles on which the Master Plan (dated 21 February 2003) is based; and
- (2) that the Portfolio Holder agrees a form of words to be included in the reports presented to the Development and Conservation Control Committee in respect of this matter.

9. DESIGN GUIDE

The Conservation Advisory Group considered a report on the progress being made with the Design Guide Project.

The Conservation Manager circulated a work plan.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RESOLVED**

- (1) to support the Design Guide project on the basis of the revised programme and to appoint Councillor SJ Agnew (with Councillor NN Cathcart as his substitute) to work with the Conservation Portfolio Holder on the Officer Steering Group leading the project; and
- (2) to agree, with the Portfolio Holder, a press release to be issued in April 2003 to promote the Design Guide project as the first stage of the consultation process.

10. DESIGNATION OF EVERS DEN AND WIMPOLE WOODS AS A SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI) AND PROPOSAL TO REDESIGNATE THE WOODS AS A SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

The Advisory Group considered a report on the redesignation of Eversden and Wimpole woods as an amended and extended Site of Special Scientific Interest and proposal to place an additional designation on the woods, that of a Special Area of Conservation. A major issue was the consequences for the barbestelle bat – a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the EC Habitats Directive.

In response to a question from Councillor Dr JA Heap, the Ecology Officer said that the management of SSSIs and SACs was a responsibility of English Nature and the National Trust (the believed landowner), while South Cambridgeshire District Council would simply abide by the designations in terms of their impacts upon the planning systems for the designated sites.

Councillor RF Bryant (local Member) welcomed the proposal in principle, adding that the Parish Council was also supportive. His only reservation was the possibility that designation as an SAC might further restrict public access to the woods. The Ecology Officer admitted that public access might be restricted if, for example, such access were seen to have an adverse impact on the bat population.

Councillor Dr JA Heap argued that Members were unable to make a judgement on this matter until they had been given an opportunity to consider a Management Plan for the woods. The Portfolio Holder added that footpaths through the woods must remain accessible by members of the public.

The Conservation Advisory Group **NOTED** the report and was minded to recommend to the Portfolio Holder Options 2 and 3 contained therein. However, Members took the view that they needed more information, and instructed the Ecology Officer to invite a representative of English Nature to attend the next meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group, at which time a formal recommendation could be made to the Portfolio Holder.

11. PRESERVING AND ENHANCING OUR HERITAGE RESOURCES: A CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The Conservation Advisory Group received a report on, and the proposed contents page of, the Council's Conservation Strategy.

The Chairman announced that the strategy document would be circulated to all members of the Advisory Group prior to the next meeting, when the matter would be discussed fully, and appropriate recommendations would be made.

12. CHURCH OF ST. DENIS, EAST HATLEY

The Conservation Manager gave a verbal update, and undertook to present a formal report to the next meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group.

13. DATES OF MEETINGS

Members received a list of dates for meetings of the Conservation Advisory Group up to, and including, 21st April 2004.

The meeting closed at 5.00pm

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO Conservation Advisory Group, 28th May 2003.
Leader & Conservation Portfolio Holder.

AUTHOR/S: Conservation Manager.

**PRESERVING AND ENHANCING OUR HERITAGE RESOURCES.
A Conservation Strategy for South Cambridgeshire.**

Purpose

1. To consider a draft *Conservation Strategy* and seek support to present it for further consultation and subsequently recommendation to the Cabinet as the Council's statement on the preservation and enhancement of the natural and historic built environment. *The draft document is included as Appendix 1.*

Background

2. Members will be aware of the breadth and richness of the district's built and natural heritage and of the many initiatives that the Council facilitates. However, it is considered that the Council's achievements and programmes in the Conservation field are insufficiently recognised within the wider community and may *appear* to be devalued in the face of new development.
3. It is, therefore, considered that a clear statement of the Council's Conservation Strategy is necessary to clarify the breadth of existing Conservation programmes and stimulate debate on their future direction. The strategy document will also be used to further partnership action to meet the Council's objectives by supporting funding bids to external organisations.

Considerations

4. The strategy has been developed under the framework of the Council's Corporate Strategy to which it makes direct reference.
5. Conservation in the South Cambridgeshire context is a pro-active process which involves managing change and the preservation, enhancement and creation of quality landscapes and settlements; wildlife habitats; and our historic and cultural heritage. The policies and programmes within the Conservation Strategy consequently have the primary purpose of fostering the protection, enhancement, and public enjoyment of this diverse and growing *heritage resource*.
6. The draft strategy emphasises the importance of partnership work with residents, parishes, interest and amenity groups, as well as by strengthening partnerships with national heritage organisations.
7. It is proposed that the final version will be fully illustrated and distributed to the all members, parish councils and relevant natural and built heritage bodies as the Council's statement on the conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic built environment.

Options

8. (a) That the Conservation Advisory Group and Portfolio Holder consider and support the development of the proposed *Conservation Strategy* and authorise its progression through the consultation stage towards publication to promote the Conservation priorities and programmes.
- (b) That the Conservation Advisory Group and Portfolio Holder consider and suggest amendments to the draft Conservation Strategy and authorise further consultation on the basis of these amendments.
- (c) That the Conservation Advisory Group and Portfolio Holder decline to support the development of the proposed Conservation Strategy and advise the Conservation Manager of an alternative to promote the Conservation priorities and programmes.

Financial & Legal Implications .

9. None specific. The document will be published using existing resources. The budget information in the draft strategy is

Sustainability Implications

10. Many of the policies and programmes within draft Conservation Strategy give physical expression to achieving the Council's sustainability objectives.

Consultations

11. All members, parish councils, appropriate local and national amenity groups and organisations as well as targeted residents will be consulted on the draft strategy. The response will be reported to the next Conservation Advisory Group. The strategy could be placed on the Council's website if considered appropriate by members.

Conclusions/Summary

12. Given the importance of effective partnerships to achieve the Council's objectives it is considered that a widely publicised *Conservation Strategy* will be an essential tool to realise the preservation and enhancement of the natural and built heritage. The strategy will direct the work of the Conservation Section and assist the Council in providing an improved service. The views of the Conservation Portfolio Holder and Advisory Group are therefore sought on the draft.

Recommendation

13. That the Conservation Advisory Group and Portfolio Holder support the development of the proposed Conservation Strategy on the basis of the structure identified in Appendix 1 and authorise its development towards publication as the Council's policy statement and programme for 2003/04 on the conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic built environment.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: "Preserving and enhancing our heritage resource. A (1st) Draft Conservation Strategy for South Cambridgeshire". May 2003.

Contact Officer : Nick Grimshaw. Conservation Manager. 01223 – 44 31 80.

Appendix 1:

MANAGING OUR HERITAGE RESOURCE.

A CONSERVATION STRATEGY

FOR SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

1st Draft

Illustration.

Foreword EXAMPLE ONLY

Conservation is essentially the process of helping to protect and enhance our heritage. “Heritage” has a variety of meanings and values for different people. Some highly value works of “built heritage” (such as architecture) others may think in terms of “natural heritage” (such as flora and fauna) and yet others may highly prize their “cultural heritage” (such as art, social customs and local traditions). The word does however, commonly imply something fine, precious and communally valued which, if possible, should be protected and handed onto the next generation. Such elements are generally considered to be local assets.

South Cambridgeshire is remarkable for the richness of its natural, cultural and built heritage assets. The physical legacy of the areas continuity of settlement include numerous nationally important sites and many locally cherished buildings and landscapes. Collectively, this extensive ‘heritage resource’ creates a landscape of great variety and physical attraction which has profound implications for the social and economic well being of the district and hence is the focus of the Council’s conservation programmes.

The intense pace of change in South Cambridgeshire creates significant challenges to ensure that the heritage resource is passed on intact to the next generation. It also provides opportunities to secure improvements which will enhance the quality of the built and natural environment. The Council’s aim is, therefore, to strike a balance by managing change successfully in order to maintain the best and most significant components of the heritage resource, while enabling the historic fabric of the district to guide its continual evolution. This will only be achieved by developing appropriate policy and partnerships to address key issues. This Conservation Strategy is part of that on-going process.

Space for picture

Councillor Mrs Daphne Spink
Leader of South Cambridgeshire Council & Conservation Portfolio Holder.

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- 2.2 Key Conservation objectives.

3.0 Addressing the priorities.

- 3.1 Operational Policy Statement (District wide policies).
- 3.2 Conservation service task priorities.

4.0 Achieving the objectives - Conservation programmes 2003/04 .

4.1 Policy development.

- (i) Design Guide.
- (ii) Local Biodiversity Action Policy.
- (iii) Other Supplementary Planning Guidance.

4.2 Partnership projects.

- (i) Green belt project.
- (ii) Parish Path Partnership
- (iii) Tree/hedge/pond partnership.
- (iv) Biodiversity Group.

4.3 Grant schemes and Capital Initiatives.

- (i) Heritage Initiatives.
- (ii) Historic Building Grants and Conservation Enhancement Schemes.
- (iii) War Memorial Repair and Restoration Grant Scheme.
- (iv) Historic Building Preservation Fund.
- (v) Tree planting grant.
- (vi) Tree surgery grant.
- (vii) Archaeology Grants & Monument Management Scheme.
- (viii) Wildlife Enhancement Grants.
- (ix) Museum Grants

5.0 Useful Contacts & Information.

1.0 Introduction.

1.1 The purpose of the Conservation Strategy.

Conservation is an active process which involves the preservation and enhancement of : quality landscapes and settlements; wildlife habitats; and our historic and cultural heritage. This strategy reaffirms South Cambridgeshire District Council's commitment to the *conservation* of both the natural and historic built environment. The policies and programmes within the strategy consequently have the primary purpose of fostering the protection, continued use, celebration and public enjoyment of the district's diverse, fragile and evolving heritage resource.

At the core of the strategy is the conviction that the Council's conservation objectives can only be achieved by developing joint local initiatives with residents and parishes, as well as by strengthening partnerships with local and national interest and amenity organisations. This Conservation Strategy, therefore, aims to clarify the Council's current conservation programme and stimulate debate on its future direction as well as furthering partnership action by supporting funding bids to external organisations.

1.2 Components of our rich and varied *Heritage Resource*.

South Cambridgeshire's heritage resource includes : 2,600 listed buildings; 106 Scheduled Ancient Monuments; 4,300 archaeological sites and 84 Conservation Areas. In addition, the district contains 11 registered historic parks and gardens as well as substantial numbers of statutorily protected trees, woodlands and local nature reserves.

Insert annotated pictures – LBs / SAMs / Arch/ CAs / Historic Parks / gardens / trees & woodlands / local nature reserve etc .

2.0 Strategic priorities.

2.1 Contribution to meeting corporate priorities.

The importance of conservation of the built and natural heritage in the face of considerable development pressure has long been recognised by South Cambridgeshire District Council. The Council is both an administrator of statutory development and conservation control and a facilitator of environmental enhancement initiatives. The Council's key conservation responsibilities relate to :

- Historic building and conservation area preservation and enhancement.
- Conservation area appraisal, analysis and policy development.
- Architectural and landscape design guidance.
- Tree, hedge, woodland and landscape conservation.
- Nature conservation and bio-diversity enhancement.

The Council has set out its strategic direction in the recently adopted *Corporate Strategy* which focuses priorities from 2003/04 to 2007/08. Conservation of the built and natural environment is fundamental to meeting the Council's overall objectives. In particular it is a practical contributor to the Council's key objectives helping to deliver : *"high quality accessible, cost-effective services"*; *"quality village life"*; *"a sustainable future for South Cambridgeshire"* and a *"better future through partnership"*.

2.2 Key Conservation Objectives.

The key objectives of the Conservation service are developed entirely from the Corporate Strategy agenda, focusing on establish effective partnerships with the public, parishes, voluntary sector and national heritage organisations in order :

- a) *To preserve and enhance the District's extensive heritage of historic buildings and archaeological sites/monuments of national, local, and landscape interest.*
- b) *To secure the highest quality architectural design for private development and public works within the district, particularly new settlements and that which preserves and enhances the character and appearance of Conservation Areas.*
- c) *To preserve and enhance the District's designed and rural landscapes by the protection of important trees, hedges and woodlands.*
- d) *To improve the design quality of both hard and soft landscaping within private development and public works.*
- e) *To protect and enhance the biodiversity of the District in accordance with national and local action plans.*
- f) *To work towards the improvement of the standard of design of new buildings and landscapes across the District.*
- g) *To contribute to the achievement of sustainability by promoting the use of locally sourced and renewable materials and innovative design.*
- h) *To realise the educational potential of the heritage resource by contributing to the development programmes of local museums and helping improve physical and intellectual access to the components of the built and natural environment.*

3.0 Addressing the priorities.

3.1 Operational policy statement

The below policy statements are intended to clarify the Council's commitment to addressing key local heritage resource issues, as a practical expression of achieving many of the fundamental objectives of sustainability. They aim to establish a set of broad operational policies, targeting the delivery of the Conservation service in response to emerging local priorities, including the Community Strategy and the objectives of the Local Strategic Partnership.

(i) Corporate Responsibility.

The Council recognises its corporate responsibility for preservation and enhancement of the built and natural heritage and will ensure that all Directorates and Service Areas emphasise the importance of conservation issues in preparing programmes of work and budgets and seek specialist advice where appropriate.

(ii) Resource Management.

The Council will aim to maximise the resources available for the conservation of the built and natural heritage in the district by making such funds available as its own budgets permit to develop partnerships and financial support from other public and private sector sources.

(iii) Council owned heritage components.

The Council will prioritise the drafting of individual 'conservation plans' for the restoration, enhancement and access to council owned components of the heritage resource and seek partnerships to secure their appropriate management.

(iv) Highway works.

The Council will work with the County Council to draw up a code of practice for highway works within the historic and natural environment, including conservation areas, emphasising the need for quality design and special care carried out by all contractors, statutory undertakers or private developers and owners.

(v) Optimising economic potential of the heritage resource.

The Council will work with strategic partners, parishes, local businesses, property owners and local and national amenity organisations to maximise the sustainable contribution of the components of the heritage resource to the district's economy without compromising the value or integrity of individual components.

(vi) Historic Buildings

The Council will ensure that the statutory list of buildings of special architectural and historic interest is kept up to date and accurate. Listed buildings within the district will be regularly reviewed, to establish priorities for action based on the 'Listed Buildings at Risk' criteria.

(vii) Listed building control

The Council will continue to exercise effective control over works to listed buildings and buildings in conservation areas and will aim to achieve consistency in speed and quality of decision making.

(viii) Conservation Areas.

Conservation Area Appraisals will be drawn up for each Conservation Area so that resources can be targeted effectively, prioritised on the basis of development pressures within the area, its enhancement requirements and potential.

(ix) Design champion.

The Council will encourage the adoption of the highest architectural standards for all new development and will publish a detailed design guidance. This will set the context and standard for the design of major new settlements, quality architectural and landscape design as well the management of the historic landscape.

(x) Archaeology

The Council will continue to support the development of the Sites and Monuments Record at the County Council and seek to ensure that archaeological evidence, both above and below ground is properly identified and recorded and their settings adequately preserved on site.

(xi) Ancient Monuments and sites of archaeological importance.

The Council will work with the county archaeologists to develop the Monument Management Programme for scheduled sites, to secure appropriate management, maintenance, public access and interpretation of key archaeological sites.

(xii) Historic Parks, Gardens and cemeteries.

The Council will encourage a review of the fabric and condition of historic parks, gardens and cemeteries within the district and facilitate the drafting of individual strategies for their sustainable management, maintenance and biodiversity enhancement.

(xiii) Historic landscapes and the open countryside.

The Council will work with landowners, parishes, local residents and amenity organisations to define the character of the district's historic landscapes and open countryside and develop viable proposals for their preservation and biodiversity enhancement. The main objective will be to support the sustainable management and stewardship of the countryside and secure appropriate habitat creation and public access for recreational purposes.

(xiv) Tree, hedge and woodland planting.

The Council will work with landowners, parishes, residents and developers to seek appropriate opportunities to facilitate increased tree and hedgerow coverage as well as woodland creation within the district.

(xv) Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Council will develop a 'local Biodiversity Action Plan' and seek opportunities to broaden the biodiversity of the district and to implement appropriate local actions under the Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

(xvi) Local Nature Reserves

The Council will seek opportunities and partnerships to secure a net gain in wildlife species, habitats and hectares of accessible Local Nature Reserves in the district.

(xvii) Places of worship.

The Council will work with congregations of all religious and church denominations of listed places of worship and buildings within conservation areas, to assist them to secure resources and carry out repairs, alterations and additions to the highest standards.

(xviii) Support for local Museums.

The Council will support the work of those local Museums which are demonstrably used by and reflect the lives and interests of residents of South Cambridgeshire, encouraging both physical and intellectual access improvements where appropriate to directly involve the district's communities.

(xix) Archive material.

The Councils will establish arrangements for the future preservation of its records which have a long-term heritage value and facilitate improved access to appropriate material.

(xx) Conservation objectives in Local Planning Policy.

The Council will continue to establish a firm policy base for conservation of the heritage resource in the proposed Local Development Framework (Local Plan No.3) and will develop detailed supplementary planning guidance to explain these policies in detail.

(xxi) Liaison with external bodies.

The Council will establish good working contacts with public and voluntary sector organisations who may assist in achieving heritage objectives (such as parishes; local government offices; Museum service; English Heritage; English Nature; Forestry Commission; CPRE and the lottery fund distributors) and will seek their support and advice in carrying out the Council's responsibilities for conservation.

(xxii) Promotion of the district's heritage resources.

The Council will promote broad understanding and appropriate intellectual and physical access to the components of the heritage resource, as a means to enhance the quality of life in the parishes. The Council will also seek partnerships to secure appropriate access to individual components, collections and sites for educational and recreational purposes for the benefit of residents, visitors and tourists, in the interests of enhancement of the social and economic life of the district.

(xxiii) Training and Skill development.

The Council will support and encourage appropriate specialist training, where resources permit, for all involved in the conservation of the heritage resource. Clear guidelines will be established on acceptable standards of work in the historic and natural environment and the use of appropriately trained and competent experts recommended for all work on historic buildings and on sites which affect protected species and habitats.

(xxii) Educational Development.

The Council will aim to encourage the use of the heritage resource as an educational resource as a contribution to providing individuals with opportunities to fully develop their aptitudes and abilities.

3.2 Conservation service task priorities.

The below tasks are current priorities being addressed within the Conservation service. It is expected that this work programme will evolve over time to respond to changing pressures on the built and natural environment, refocusing where appropriate to reflect changing corporate priorities.

These Priority tasks will set the framework for the work programme of the Conservation service up to the end of 2004/05.

<i>(a)</i>	Portfolio Component - Historic building conservation.	Corporate strategy derivation
1.	Achieve national top quartile in terms of speed and quality of decision making on Listed Building Consent applications.	Policy Aim : 1, 4
2.	Draft application checklists to improve LBC application process and encourage improved submissions.	Policy Aim : 1, 4
3.	Identify, prioritise and publish supplementary planning guidance notes for applicants.	Policy Aim : 1, 4
4.	Draft general guidance on the implications of : listing; inclusion in Conservation Areas and Scheduling.	Policy Aim : 1, 4,11
5.	Seek appropriate representation on Local Strategic Partnership for heritage and cultural issues.	Policy Aim : 1, 4,11
6.	Review "listed buildings at risk". Draft programme of action on targeted buildings. Initiate projects on key targets.	Policy Aim : 1, 4,11
7.	Establish historic building conservation award scheme.	Policy Aim 1, 4
8.	Improve public access to information and records via information technology developments.	Policy Aim 1, 11.
9.	Respond to impending changes in planning legislation including the potential amalgamation of PPG15 " <i>Planning and the Historic Environment</i> " and PPG16, " <i>Planning & Archaeology</i> "	Policy Aim : 1, 4,11
10.	Ensure that the built heritage is appropriately accommodated in the local plan framework.	Policy Aim : 1, 4,11

<i>(b)</i>	<i>Portfolio Component - Conservation areas & design.</i>	Corporate strategy derivation
1.	Ensure that the built heritage and design are appropriately included as key components in the emerging local plan framework Community Plan and as a focus for the Local Strategic Partnership.	Policy Aim : 1, ,5, 10 11
2.	Publish a district wide <i>Design Guide</i> for new development to help secure general improvement in design quality and the management of the historic landscape.	Policy Aim : 1, 4,5, 6, 9, 10 11
3.	Progress programme of Conservation Area Appraisals.	Policy Aim : 1, 4,10, 11
4.	Draft proposals for potential new conservation areas designations.	Policy Aim : 4, 11
5.	Identify issues and targets for Conservation Area enhancement initiatives.	Policy Aim : 1, 4 5, 10, 11

<i>(c)</i>	<i>Portfolio Component -: Trees and Landscape.</i>	Corporate strategy derivation
1.	Develop digitised computer mapping.	Policy Aim : 1, 4,11
2.	Draft supplementary planning guidance for accommodating trees in development applications.	Policy Aim : 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11
3.	Draft guidance for landscape & tree protection for potential major settlement proposals.	Policy Aim : 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11
4.	Assessment of adoption procedures in relation to public open space and structural landscaping areas.	Policy Aim : 1, 4,
5.	Progress Tree Preservation Order review (40% by end 04/05).	Policy Aim : 1, 4,
6.	Respond to arboricultural, landscape and ecological challenges associated with the location, master planning and control of major new developments.	Policy Aim : 1, 4,

<i>(d)</i>	<i>Portfolio Component – Nature Conservation.</i>	Corporate strategy derivation.
1.	Launch wildlife grant scheme to facilitate biodiversity enhancement.	Policy Aim : 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11
2.	Draft local biodiversity plan and review targets relevant to Council in Countywide Biodiversity Action Plan.	Policy Aim : 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11
3.	Draft supplementary planning guidance for biodiversity.	Policy Aim : 1, 4, 11
4.	Prioritise/prepare project briefs for Local Nature Reserves.	Policy Aim : 1, 4.
5.	Launch trial ‘Village Wildlife Space’ project.	Policy Aim : 1,4, 10,11

<i>(e)</i>	<i>Portfolio Component - Support for Museums.</i>	Corporate policy derivation
1.	Report to executive on museums’ service provision for South Cambridgeshire.	Policy Aim : 1, 11
2.	Support development programmes through partnership with the museums and heritage bodies.	Policy Aim : 1, 10, 11
3.	Work with Museums to develop a programme of events targeted on South Cambs. Residents.	Policy Aim : 1, 5, 11

<i>(f)</i>	<i>Portfolio Component - Archaeology.</i>	Corporate policy derivation
1.	Work with CCC to draft SPG for recording buildings and sites as part of development applications.	Policy Aim : 1, 4, 10, 11
2.	Draft project brief for condition review of Scheduled Ancient Monuments in partnership with English Heritage and CCC.	Policy Aim : 1, 4, 10, 11
3.	Investigate enhancement of access to local Sites & Monuments Record and incorporation into SCDC GIS.	Policy Aim : 1, 4, 10, 11
4.	Work with CCC to identify priority sites for potential community based excavation or investigation.	Policy Aim : 1, 4, 5, 10, 11
5.	Work with CCC to develop the 'Monument Management Programme' to manage and secure access scheduled sites.	Policy Aim : 1, 4, 10, 11

<i>(g)</i>	<i>Portfolio Component - Sites in the care of SCDC.</i>	Corporate policy derivation
1.	Duxford Chapel – Review condition/management. Improve interpretation and access.	Policy Aim : 1, 4, 5, 10, 11
2.	St. Denis Church, East Hatley – Develop strategy for future management and maintenance. Investigate & secure partnership funding (English Heritage, Lottery & Landfill Tax Co. etc)	Policy Aim : 1, 4, 5, 10, 11
3.	Landbeach Tithebarn – Review management and maintenance arrangements and investigate ecological enhancement.	Policy Aim : 1, 4, 5, 10, 11
4.	Managed churchyards – Develop biodiversity of sites and management for wildlife enhancement.	Policy Aim : 1, 4, 10, 11

4.0 Achieving the objectives – Conservation programmes 2003/04 .

4.1 Policy Development

The Conservation section is responsible for the production of detailed, expert guidance on key planning issues, during 2003/04 the following will be key priorities

(i) *Design Guide.*

The Design Guide will be a district wide resource which will establish a vision of the future settlements of South Cambridgeshire and generally elevate the design quality in the district. It will raise awareness of the importance of a well designed environment to achieve an attractive, sustainable and socially stable district. It will include guidance on new buildings, conversion of existing properties and regeneration as well as an integrated approach to built areas, open spaces and the surrounding landscape.

The key purpose of the Design Guide Project is to ensure delivery of sensitively and appropriately designed sustainable developments, which are appropriate to their context and respect the areas built and natural heritage. Fundamental to the approach will be the emphasis on an integrated design process where all elements such as the : siting; streetscape; design of buildings; infrastructure and landscape are considered as a whole rather than in isolation. The guide will be based on a series of development principles based on recognised best practice, contemporary research as well as policy and design standards appropriate to South Cambridgeshire.

Progress to date :

The internal production of individual chapters is underway and considerable work has been undertaken to establish the scope, structure and appropriate contents of the Design Guide. The commissioning of all the chapters is in progress.

Outputs :

The Design Guide will be a fundamental component of the Local Plan Framework (particularly No.3) and thereby a vital planning tool to:

- Achieve sustainable integrated residential and working environments of the highest quality and with a strong sense of identity, ensuring appropriate, materials, scale and layout while encouraging design innovation.
- Encourage a more co-operative approach by all actors involved in the allocation, design and development of residential areas.
- Provide a good practice benchmark to guide prospective developers and assist in the evaluation of development proposals

Targets for 2003/04

The Design Guide is expected to be approved in draft form by the autumn of 2003 and completed, published and adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the end of 2003/04. It is expected to establish the benchmark for future development in the district, bringing design to the top of the planning agenda by creating a consensual approach to achieving architectural quality.

(ii) Local Biodiversity Action Policy

The *South Cambs. Local Biodiversity Action Policy* will develop the proposals established in the “Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Checklist for Land-Use Planners” (Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Partnership – 2001) . The document will be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance and become an integral component of the Local Plan Framework. It will establish a set of specific policies to facilitate the conservation and further enhancement of biodiversity at the parish level and in development proposals. It will give guidance to developers and residents on appropriate development and local action within the countryside and settlements to protect and enhance existing habitats and establish opportunities for a biodiversity rich district.

Progress to date :

The local planning framework has been established to accommodate the new biodiversity guidance. Considerable background work on the actual document has been undertaken and a draft is expected to be prepared for consultation purposes by the summer of 2003.

Outputs :

The SCDC Biodiversity Action Policy will enable the Council to ensure implementation of key requirements of national sustainable development policy. It will also enable the Council to help initiate positive action to achieve targets set out in Local and National Biodiversity Action Plans. The result will be to :

- ensure that there is no damage to existing biodiversity,
- safeguard threatened habitats
- facilitate the creation of new habitats characteristic to the district.

Targets in 2003/04

It is expected that the policy will be completed and adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance as part of the local plan framework by the end of 2003/04.

(iii) Other Supplementary Planning Guidance

In addition to the above it is proposed that Supplementary Planning Guidance will be brought forward by the Conservation team during 2003/04 & 2004/05 (for inclusion in the Local Planning Framework) to advise property owners and developers on :

- The implications of listing of historic buildings
- The controls resulting from inclusion of properties in a Conservation Area.
- The constraints applied by Scheduling of archaeological sites.
- Requirements for accommodating trees in development proposals.
- Landscape & Tree protection during major development.
- Adoption procedures for the long-term management of public open space and structural landscaping.
- The Archaeological Recording of buildings and sites.

4.2 Partnership projects.

These are projects where the Conservation Section provides funding and management direction but relies on a third parties to secure implementation. The following indicates the purpose, achievements and targets of key projects.

Space for illustration.

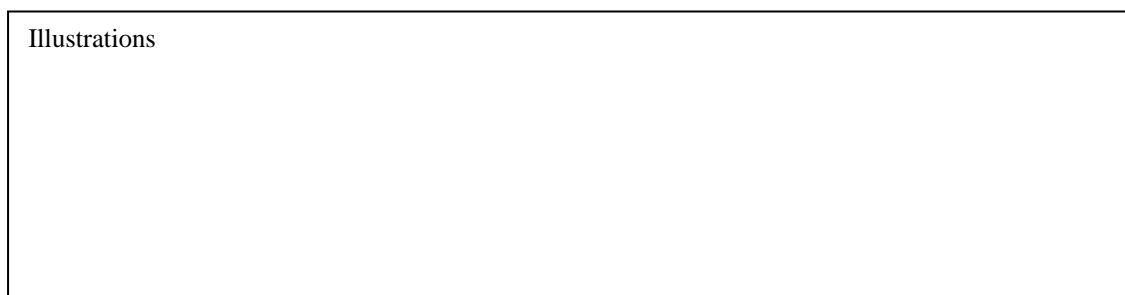
(i) Green Belt Project.

The Green Belt Project (GBP) is a partnership established in 1990 between SCDC, the City and County Council and the Wildlife Trust. The budget facilitates a broad range of practical biodiversity enhancement initiatives around the city edge and Cambridgeshire green belt on behalf of the local authorities. The project is directed under cyclical 3 year action plan, currently under review having recently appointed a new project manager.

Progress to Date :

Previously completed projects have included : promotion of nature conservation through walks and talks; species and habitat surveys; preparation of habitat management plans, as well as practical site work such as willow pollarding. During 2002/03 the GBP's work in South Cambridgeshire included :

- detailed water vole survey of the Wilbraham River System.
- implementation of management of chalk grassland at 11 sites.
- project development works with the *Friends of Roman Rd and Fleam Dyke*.
- organising and managing some 29 volunteer events biodiversity enhancement initiatives organised in at 17 different sites



Outputs :

During its 13 year life the GBP has achieved significant wildlife enhancement in the district and county relating to at least 4 priority local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and 3 priority BAP habitats. It has established strong partnership links with the Cam Valley Forum and been successful in broadening awareness and local action on enhancement biodiversity.

Funding for 2003/04 :

South Cambs. Conservation Portfolio	£ 10, 760
Other public (City & CCC)	£ 26, 000
Private	£ 4, 000
Total projected funding 2003/04	£ 40, 000

Targets for 2003/04 :

The priority project targets for 2003/04 are to complete the development of a new three year Action Plan in consultation with the funding partners and assist in the implementation of the lottery funded habitat enhancement and access promotion on the Roman Road.

(ii) Parish Paths Partnerships.

This partnership programme, administered by the County Council, supports access initiatives in the countryside. The budget is targeted on established *Rights of Way* but has also supported some 35 parishes in improving their local access and environment within the district.

Progress to date :

Previously completed projects in South Cambridgeshire have included :

- Creating access for disabled to River Cam wildlife site in Barrington and improvements of access for less able on all paths in Hildersham.
- Erection of new millennium bridge linking Great and Little Abington.
- Forming the Fen Rivers Way partnership and developing routes.
- Creating a new path link in Barton.
- Publishing a walks book for Dry Drayton



Outputs

To date the project has achieved considerable countryside access and environmental improvements including publishing walks guides and maps. It has also established good partnership working with the parishes by developing local opportunities, problem solving and improving the local environment for the health and enjoyment of the community. While primarily aimed at improving public access, the grant programme also enables community development and involvement and is a good example of Parish, District and County working in an effective partnership.

Funding for 2003/04

South Cambs Conservation Portfolio	£ 16,000
Other public (parish & County)	£ 36,000 plus CCC staff
Private	£ 4, 000 (WREN)
Total projected funding 2003/04	£56, 000 (plus CCC staff)

Targets for 2003/04 :

The priority project targets for 2003/04 are to continue to work in partnership with local communities and landowners to improve maintain and promote public rights of way. Furthermore to enable parish councils to involve their communities in the preservation and enhancement of their local Rights of Way and have some practical involvement in their management and development.

(iii) Tree/hedge/pond Partnership.

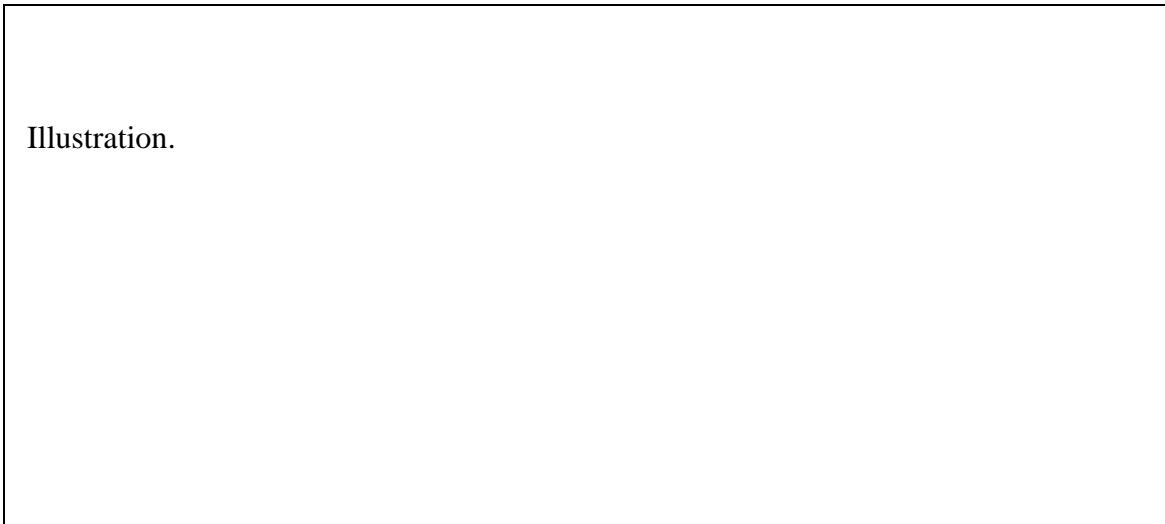
The purpose of the partnership funding programme is to support initiatives which ensure that new tree and hedge planting undertaken in South Cambridgeshire enhances the Districts distinctive landscape areas. The Tree and Hedgerow Pack Scheme provides landowners with on site advice on planting, maintenance and management of trees and hedges, and provides trees and hedging plants, together with planting sundries. The Pond Rescue Project provides advice and grant with respect to appropriate remedial works and maintenance.

The budget is targeted on sites suitable for planting within South Cambridgeshire, and is administered by Cambridgeshire County Council, and subsidised by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Progress to date :

Previously completed projects have included :

- 2000/2001 - 6,550 metres of hedgerow and 2,853 trees planted.
- 2001/2002 – 5,800 metres of hedgerow and 2,425 trees planted
- **2002/2003 – Figs to be included**



Outputs.

To date the project has achieved significant enhancement of the landscape and tree cover of South Cambridgeshire. Particular success has been in the establishment of hedgerows and tree planting in open landscapes, adjacent to roads, railways, sites adjacent to public access, as well as those linking existing copses and hedgerows

Funding for 2003/04

South Cambs. Conservation Portfolio	£12,300
Cambridgeshire County Council	£ 3,500 (est.)
Total projected funding 2003/04	£ 15,800 (est.)

Targets for 2003/04 :

The project will continue to develop the enhancement of the South Cambridgeshire landscape in 2003/04, with more targeted provision of hedgerow and tree planting in appropriate locations.

(iv) Biodiversity Partnership.

The purpose of the partnership funding programme is to support the work of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership and promote wildlife and habitat creation in the district. The partnership includes : Cambridgeshire County Council; all of the district councils, the Environment Agency, English Nature, the Wildlife Trust, Anglian Water and the RSPB. The programme is targeted on the implementing the priorities established in the Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

Progress to date:

The Biodiversity Partnership has successfully promoted and developed a vision for wildlife habitat creation areas in the county and progressed the establishment of a local provenance tree nursery. It is also working towards the development of a Biological Records Centre for the county, to be based in Cambourne. Previously completed projects have included :

- The launch of the 50 year Wildlife Vision Map October 2002
- The production of the widely acclaimed Biodiversity Checklist
- Development of a business plan for a County Biological Records Centre.

Illustrations.

Outputs

To date the partnership has achieved significant enhancement of 20 species identified in the action plans and 25 habitat action plans and has helped establish Cambridgeshire as a progressive county in respect of biodiversity management and wildlife conservation.

Funding for 2003/04:

South Cambs. Conservation Portfolio	£ 5,130
Other public	£ 33,000
HLF grant	£ 42,000
Est. Total projected funding 2003/04	£ 80,130

Targets for 2003/04

During 2003/04 the funding will support the continued development of the partnership as an effective forum for biodiversity action and will produce an audit of outstanding actions and targets appropriate to South Cambridgeshire from the County Action Plan.

4.3 Grant schemes and Capital Initiatives.

These are initiatives that are more directly developed, managed and administered by the Conservation service, usually in partnership with parishes or local residents. The

following outlines the purpose and achievements of the variety of initiatives which address both the natural and historic built environment.

Space for illustrations of partnership projects

(i) **Heritage Initiatives Fund. NB: Funding allocation subject to Cabinet approval.**

The Heritage Initiative Fund is the budget that enables the Conservation Section to help facilitate and develop a variety of community led heritage initiatives in partnership with

parish or local amenity groups. The basic protocol for all *Heritage Initiative Fund* schemes is that the SCDC contribution would support a package of funding, usually up to a third of the overall project cost. The Parish Council or amenity organisation developing the project are expected to find the remaining two thirds of the costs from their own or other sources (such as the lottery etc) and establish a clear and sustainable maintenance programme.

Progress to date :

- (a) Supported creation of new habitat via support for wildlife organisations (e.g the development Wandlebury Wetland Project).
- (b) Supported local townscape enhancement scheme (e.g. Cottenham Pound).
- (c) Established a Willow Pollarding initiative with agricultural organisations.
- (d) Assisted a church amenity group to floodlight Hasingfield Church.
- (e) Developed interest in archaeology via support for an archaeological training dig.
- (f) Helping create and enhance community spaces such as the development of a memorial Jubilee Garden in Horningsea.

Outputs :

The budget has made a significant contribution to the enhancement of both the natural and the historic built environment of the district and helped lever significant funds to help realise the aspirations of a number of community and heritage organisations

Funding for 2003/04 & 2004/05

This is a capital reserve budget so that the sums available for project development in the current financial year are the residue of the original allocation made in 1996/97. The following table is based on the assumption that the SCDC contribution will be a **maximum** of one third of the project costs.

SCDC - Conservation Portfolio	To be agreed at cabinet 5 th June
Other public (parish/county etc) (estimate)	
Lottery or private (estimate)	
Potential HIF funding 2003/04	

Targets for 2003/04

There are a number of potential schemes being developed in partnership with Parish Council's and heritage organisations which would be eligible for *Heritage Initiative Funding* in 2003/04 . These *may* include projects identified below.

- (a) Development of village wildlife space trial initiatives : (Elsworth and Orwell)
- (b) Support for PCC enhancement of Haslingfield Glebe lands.
- (c) Support for parish council village green or pond enhancement schemes (Willingham, Histon, Castle Camps).
- (d) Support andd partnership working with English Heritage and the Farmland Museum for enhanced interpretation of Denny Abbey.
- (e) Development of a Fleam Dyke/Roman Road circular walk.

(ii) **Historic Building Grants and Conservation Area Enhancement Schemes.**

The purpose of the budget is to enable the Council to award discretionary grants for the repair and restoration of historic buildings within South Cambridgeshire. The grants are

usually awarded to offset the additional cost of using traditional materials or employing a higher standard of craftsmanship to secure the continued use of the historic buildings. Grants are often targeted to secure the restoration of those buildings which may be defined as “at risk” of neglect or deterioration. Grants are not made available to assist with normal property maintenance or subsidise development costs.

Progress to date.

The annual budget assists an average of 25 individual eligible properties each year with grant contributions varying from 10% to a maximum of 50%, depending on the type of property and works required. In recent years grants have been awarded to assist with the restoration of historic window details, thatched roofs and the reinstatement of original building materials where these have been lost. Assistance has also been given towards repairs to war memorials, listed churchyard walls, dovecotes, barns, outbuildings and other structures which have no economic value

Outputs.

- (a) Preservation of the district’s historic building stock.
- (b) Enhancement of the character and appearance of Conservation Areas.
- (c) Support for the restoration of parish landmarks.

Funding for 2003/04

Grant contributions are usually a small percentage of the overall restoration project costs (averaging approximately 25%). However, they do stimulate significant investment in the restoration of the district’s historic built fabric, promoting a high standard of work and supporting the use of specialist local craftsmen. The table below assumes that the overall SCDC contribution will stimulate a threefold average investment in the repair of historic building fabric.

South Cambs. Conservation Portfolio	£ 85, 000
Private (estimated matching funding)	£ 255, 000
Total projected investment 2003/04 (estimated fabric repairs cost)	£ 340, 000

Targets for 2003/04 :

During 2003/04 it is expected that demand for historic building grants will be maintained at least at 2002/03 levels. The targets for the year will be defined by the adopted grants policy which sets out criteria for distribution of grant aid and those historic buildings identified as *Listed Buildings at Risk*. The focus will be on securing the restoration of buildings and structures for which other uses have not been sought and which have no obvious economic value, as well as those buildings which may be defined as “at risk” of neglect or deterioration.

(iii) War Memorial Repair & Restoration Grant Scheme.

This initiative was newly established in the last quarter of the 2002/03 financial year to complements a national initiative by The Friends of War Memorials and English

Heritage. Previously grants had been made supported through the Historic Building Grants budget on an ad hoc basis. The establishment of this initiative has helped stimulate and facilitate parish initiatives to repair and enhance war memorials by working alongside the national initiative. It will also result in the publication of research and a gazetteer on the district's war memorials which are of course a depository of community memories.

Progress to date :

This is a new grant schemes which has stimulated considerable local interest and has helped generate community action across the district. Between January and April 2003 a considerable amount of work had been completed to develop projects and parish schemes.. Only one parish war memorial scheme was sufficiently well advanced to receive a formal grant approval in 2002/03. However, there are a number of parish groups who have been generated by the project and their schemes are well advanced. It is expected that up to 10 villages will be assisted with the repair and restoration of the memorials in 2003/04.

Outputs

- (a) Generation of significant community interest and management of local heritage.
- (b) Repair and restoration of important local landmarks across the district.
- (c) Production of a guide and gazetteer to the districts war memorials.

Space for illustration.

Funding for 2003/04

It is expected that the SCDC contribution will attract matching funding so that the Council's grant sum would be roughly a third of the total project costs. The allocation does however, also allow for the design, manufacture and erection of commemorative plaques to record the grant aided restoration by SCDC and the publication of a War Memorials gazetteer covering the district.

South Cambs – Conservation portfolio <i>(incs cost of plaques and gazetter = £8,000).</i>	£18,500
English Heritage <i>(estimate)</i>	£10,500
Friends of War Memorials <i>(estimate)</i>	£ 5,250
Parish/community contribution. <i>(estimate)</i>	£ 5,250
Total projected funding 2003/04	£39,500

Targets for 2003/04

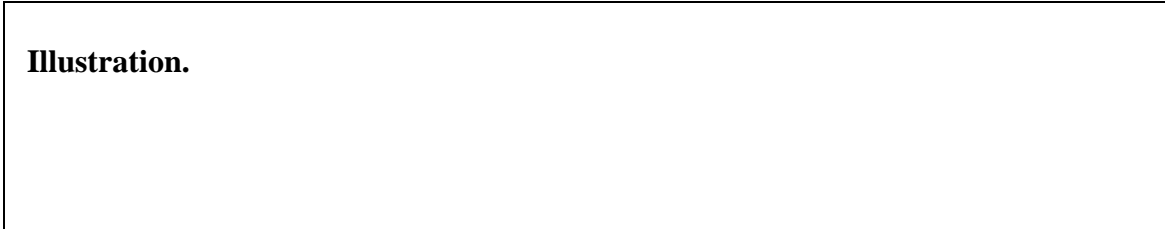
As part of the research for the gazetteer a condition survey will help identify priority targets for the initiative as well as helping implement parish initiatives including those at : Eltisley; Grantchester; Guilden Morden and Balsham.

- (iv) **Historic Building Preservation Fund. . NB: Funding allocation subject to Cabinet approval.**

This budget was established in 1997/98 to support Conservation action to preserve those buildings in urgent need of restoration and repair. These are primarily *listed buildings at risk*, and will be historic buildings that have been allowed to fall into serious disrepair. The budget is an essential component of action to secure the restoration of such buildings. Necessary restoration action in the majority of cases may simply involve identifying and liaising with the property owner, to encourage and advise on repair action at no cost to the authority. In more serious cases enforcement action is required which will include serving a 'Repairs Notice' to carry out works or have then undertaken by the Council and the costs reclaimed from the owner or even Compulsory Purchasing the building. Therefore, the budget enables the Council to retain a credible legal 'stick' and resource urgent action with relatively short notice.

Progress to date :

The budget has also been used to support the development of the 'listed building at risk' works at St. Denis Church, East Hatley. This would be (categorised as a grade 1 listed building at risk). An architects study of the building has now been undertaken which will give options for a range of possible restoration initiatives all of which will require some level of investment by the council.



Outputs :

- Substantial contribution to both securing the historic fabric of the district and support community action to save cherished local landmarks.
- Implementation of repair schemes on council owned properties.

Funding for 2003/04

The *Historic Building Preservation Fund* is a capital reserve budget and is the major budget that enables the Conservation Section to initiate action to secure the future of key listed buildings. Many of these are encouraged by community led initiatives. It has been assumed in the following table that that additional funds may be drawn in to assist with repairs on key projects.

South Cambs – Conservation portfolio	<i>To be agreed by Cabinet 5th June</i>
English Heritage <i>(estimate)</i>	
Parish/community contribution. <i>(estimate)</i>	
Total projected funding 2003/04	

Targets for 2003/04

At present there are approximately 35 in the district that would be considered *listed buildings at risk* against criteria developed by English Heritage. Such buildings are ordered in risk categories 1, 2 or 3 risk, with 1 being the highest, and are the priorities for Conservation action.

- (v) **Tree planting grant.**

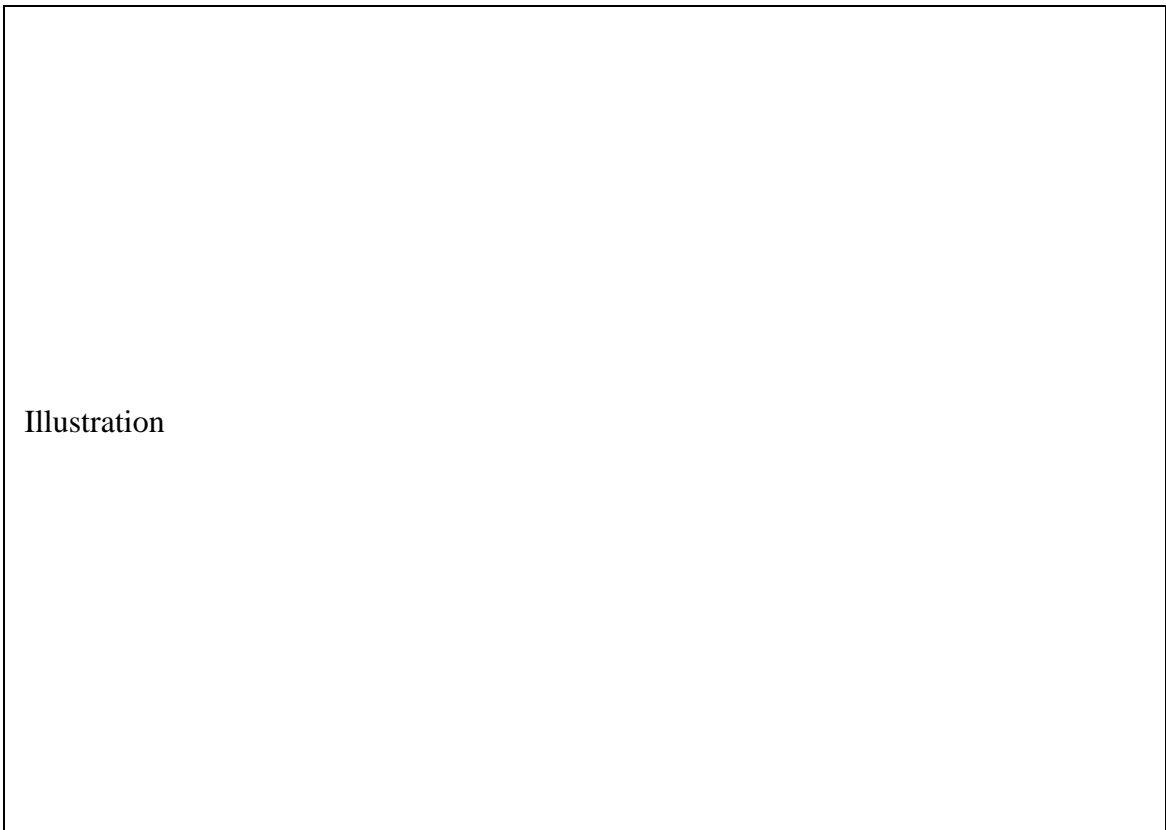
The purpose of the grant programme is to support individual tree planting initiatives, in addition to the Tree and Hedge Pack Partnership. The budget is targeted on sites owned by this Authority, or within private ownership in South Cambridgeshire.

Progress to date :

2002 /2003 – Planting Advanced Nursery Stock trees, on selected sites within the ownership of Shire Homes. (Projected).

Outputs

- Enhancement of amenity areas within residential areas.
- Promotion of tree planting generally, focusing on securing a minimum stock size of Extra Heavy Standard (approx. 5.00m – 6.00m height), to afford immediate visual impact.



Funding for 2003/04 :

It is assumed that the grant budget will stimulate additional, matching public and private investment.

South Cambs. Conservation Portfolio	£ 1,030
Other public	£ 1,030
Private	£ 1,030
Total projected funding 2003/04	£ 3,090

Targets for 2003/04 :

Continued use of the budget to facilitate tree planting of appropriate species and stock size in locations that will contribute to and enhance the quality of the local landscape.

The purpose of the grant programme is to support initiatives that promote appropriate tree surgery works that will benefit trees which contribute to the public realm, both in terms of the aesthetic quality and their longevity, but not purely on the grounds of safety. Tree surgery works are supervised by the Trees & Landscape Officer to secure compliance with the highest implementation standards.

The budget is targeted on specific trees within South Cambridgeshire that are afforded statutory protection (i.e. trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order or situated within a Conservation Area) but other trees of outstanding merit and which make a contribution to the public realm will be considered.

Progress to date :

Previously completed projects have included :

- 2000 – 2001 Tree surgery works to trees at Histon Village Green
- 2001 – 2002 Tree surgery works to trees at Cottenham Village Green
- 2001 – 2002 Tree surgery works to mature Beech at High Street, Great Shelford
- 2002 – 2003 Tree surgery works to Veteran Oak at Parkway, Shudy Camps



Outputs

To encourage appropriate tree surgery works that will result in the enhancement of individual trees .

Funding for 2003/04 :

It is assumed that the budget will lever other public and private matching funding.

South Cambs. Conservation Portfolio	£ 1,030
Other public. <i>(estimate)</i>	£ 1,030
Private <i>(estimate)</i>	£ 1,030
Total projected funding 2003/04	£ 3,090

Targets for 2003/04 :

The grant budget will respond to requests for support as well as targeting specific high profile trees which make a major contribution to the public realm and will continue to secure wider education and promotion of quality tree surgery practice.

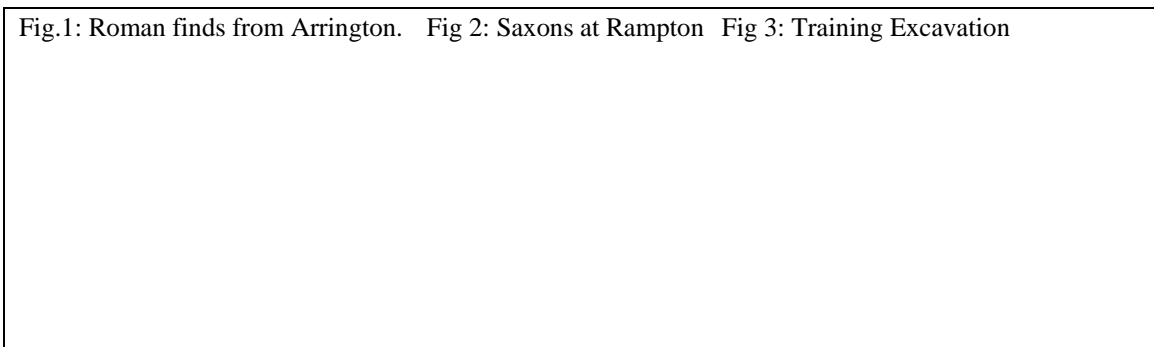
(vii) **Archaeology Grants & the Monument Management Scheme.**

The archaeology grant programme supports initiatives that preserve, enhance or interpret important archaeological sites and monuments. The budget is targeted on the nationally important, *Scheduled Ancient Monuments* (of which there are some 106 across South Cambridgeshire) but will support archaeological investigation into other sites of archaeological importance within the district. (There are 4,566 archaeological sites recorded on the Sites & Monuments Record for the district).

The grant programme is largely focused on supporting the Monument Management Project (MMP) which is a joint initiative with the County Council's Archaeology department and English Heritage.

Progress to date:

- 24 sites now included in the *Monument Management Programme*
- archaeological research, investigations supported on 7 key sites.
- Guided Walks were held at 8 monuments in 2002
- Exploratory works on entering the following sites into the MMP: Cottenham Moat, additional sections of Fleam Dyke and Worsted Street Roman Road.



Outputs .

- Preservation and enhancement of 24 monuments currently in the MMP.
- Establishment of effective management regimes to maintain 24 sites.
- Substantial enhancement of the publicly accessible Sites & Monuments Record.
- Publication of “The Anglo-Saxons in South Cambridgeshire”.

Funding for 2003/04 :

South Cambs. Conservation Portfolio	£5,130
Cambridgeshire County Council	£3, 000 (plus staff costs)
English Heritage	£6, 000
Private (MMP property owners)	£3, 000 (estimate)
Projected Total for 2003/04	£17,130

Targets for 2003/04

1. Development of the *Monument management programme* to include addition of new sites as well as renewals of expiring agreements.
2. Replacement of outdated display boards and develop a project to produce site leaflets for all monuments in MMP for site visitors.
3. Development of partnership projects and events at Milton Country Park.
4. Undertake a training excavation at Fulbourn.

This grant scheme is newly established in its current form and is being formally launched in 2003/04 after a trial period in 2002/03. The purpose of the grant programme is to support initiatives that make a contribution towards enhancing the biodiversity of the district. The grant scheme will support projects developed by either community groups or individual property owners (where there is potential for public access/enjoyment) up to a maximum of 50% of project costs.

Progress to date:

- Support for equipment acquisition by the Green Belt Project.
- Grant aid provided to Friends of the River Shep to enable them to undertake fish, river corridor and level surveys in order to guide habitat enhancement work.
- Grant aid to RSPB Fowlmere to assist with chalk grassland management.
- Supported meadow creation and pond enhancement - Cottenham.
- Grant aid to Guilden Morden Parish Council for the management of Ruddery Pit.
- Grant aid to Orwell Clunch Pit Management Trust.
- Grant provided to assist in the creation of an arable flower meadow, Meldreth.
- Grant aid provided to assist the creation of a trial fritillary meadow, Stapleford.

Illustration

Outputs:

The grant sums may be quite small in some instances but will help realise the actions and targets contained within the *Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan* and the emerging SCDC Local Biodiversity Plan.

Establish of a wide range of contacts with specialist suppliers and professionals in order to facilitate project work

The grant project has generated significant local interest in biodiversity enhancement.

Funding for 2003/04

South Cambs. Conservation Portfolio	£ 10, 250
Other public – Parish (est. matching funding)	£ 8, 000
Private contribution. (minimum matching funding)	£ 2, 250
Total projected funding 2003/04	£ 20, 500

Targets for 2003/04:

- Progress the local biodiversity action plan targets and actions.
- Promotion of the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme across the district to facilitate a range of projects with private and public bodies

This grant scheme is part of the Community Development Portfolio but is managed by the Conservation section because of the direct links with interpretation of local heritage. The grant scheme supports both the revenue costs of the Farmland and Folk Museums and supports the development programmes of all the identified museums. The Council has supported the work of those local museums which are demonstrably used by and reflect the lives and interests of residents of South Cambridgeshire for some years.

Progress to date:

The following table shows the grant sums offered in recent years :

Museum.	£. 99/00	£. 00/01	£. 01/02	£. 02/03
Farmland Museum & Denny Abbey	20, 000	20, 000	25, 000	25, 000
Cambridge & County Folk Museum	22, 600	17, 877	25, 000	30, 500*
Museum of Technology	6, 314	9, 000	Nil	5, 000
Fitzwilliam Museum	13, 520	13, 520	12, 000	Nil
Total	62, 434	60, 400	62, 000	60, 500

* Includes £10,000 contribution toward the museum’s lottery funded building project.

Outputs :

The continuity of support for these important institutions has enabled the museums to improve facilities and enhance the visitor attractions as well as to develop special resources and outreach projects to directly involve South Cambridgeshire’s communities. In particular it has contributed to the successful lottery funded development of the Farmland and Folk museums.



Funding for 2003/04

Museum	2003/04	Notes
Farmland Museum & Denny Abbey	26, 000	
Cambridge & County Folk Museum	31, 000	Inc.s contribution towards the on-going development works.
Fitzwilliam Museum	5, 000	Educational projects.
Total Museum Grants 2003/04	62, 000	

Targets for 2003/04:

- Completion of the current phase of development at the Museum of Technology.
- Development of a interpretation enhancement of the Denny Abbey component of the Farmland Museum (fisrtr phase proposed to be supported by HIF)
- Implementation of the development programme at the Folk Museum.
- Development of educational ‘family packs’ project at the Fitzwilliam Museum.

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO	Conservation Advisory Group	28 th May 2003
	Leader & Conservation Portfolio Holder	
AUTHOR/S:	Ecology Officer.	

DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE BIODIVERSITY POLICIES

Purpose

1. To present for consideration and to seek Member's views upon a first draft of the Local Biodiversity Policy, and to seek authority to further develop and consult upon the proposal.
2. The ultimate purpose of the Local Biodiversity Policy will be to present a strategic and robust approach to biodiversity conservation and enhancement with the district that reflects national and regional planning guidance. The Policy will then be proposed as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Background

3. The draft Local Biodiversity Policy has been prepared in the context of the following national and regional guidance;
 - I) Planning Policy Guidance Note 9 "Nature Conservation", 1994. It states that;

"Statutory and non-statutory sites, together with countryside features which provide wildlife corridors, links or stepping stones from one habitat to another, all help to form a network necessary to ensure maintenance of the current range and diversity of our flora, fauna, geological and land-form features and the survival of importance species. In some areas the maintenance of traditional agricultural practices is important for nature conservation objectives. Sensitive landscaping and planting, the creation, maintenance and management of landscape features important to wildlife, and the skilled adaptation of derelict areas can provide extended habitats."
 - II) PPG 9 also refers to the EC Habitats Directive and the requirement upon Member States to endeavour to encourage the management of landscape features that, because of their linear or continuous structure, or their function as stepping-stones, are essential for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange. River corridors, field boundaries, ponds and small woods are given as examples.
 - III) Regional Planning Guidance 6 provides guidance in general terms to Local Planning Authorities take positive action to :
 - achieve targets set out in Local and National Biodiversity Action Plans.
 - review adopted land-use policies to ensure that they do not damage biodiversity;
 - safeguard threatened habitats and create new habitats that are characteristic of the region;

- promote agri-environment schemes to assist in the maintenance of enhancement of farmland biodiversity.
- IV) In March 2002 the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Structure Plan Review “Planning For Success” (draft deposit plan) was produced, it is known as the Structure Plan. The Structure Plan outlines principles and policies to be carried forward into Local Plans. The Structure Plan contains a number of policies for protecting, enhancing and managing the area’s environmental assets and resources. The policies that relate to biodiversity are covered within the following;
- P7/1 – Sites of Natural and Heritage Interest
 - P7/ 2 – Biodiversity
 - P7/3 – Countryside Enhancement Areas
- V) The Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was launched in April 2000. The BAP consists of 45 species and habitat action plans. The plans detail measures required to conserve, enhance and recreate habitats, and the species that they contain, across Cambridgeshire.

Considerations

- 4 The current SCDC Local Plan includes a number of general policies that can be used to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity. The purpose of the now proposed draft Local Biodiversity Policy is to complement the objectives of the adopted Local Plan and present a wider range of more detailed planning guidance that will ultimately be proposed for adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG).
- 5 The Local Biodiversity Policy will also aim to refine the current content of biodiversity related Local Plan policies and guide applicants in delivering high quality applications.
- 6 The Local Biodiversity Policy if adopted as SPG will be a useful policy tool for Members, officers, residents and developers and will assist the Council as a whole in meeting its duty towards to conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

Options

- 7 I) Members are asked to consider the implications of the range of outline policies as presented in Appendix 1 accompanying this paper.
- II) Member’s views are sought on the appropriate content and level of detail of the policy.
- III) Guidance is sought from Members on which proposed policy areas should be developed in further detail.

Financial Implications

- 8 None specific

Legal Implications

- 9 It is proposed that the final version of the Local Biodiversity will be adopted by Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance and will then become part of the statutory local plan framework.

Staffing Implications

- 10 None specific

Sustainability Implications

- 11 The protection and conservation of the natural environment will contribute towards sustainable development.

Consultations

- 12 This report is the first part of the consultation process. If the Advisory Group are in agreement, consultation will be sought with appropriate local and national bodies.

Conclusions/Summary

- 13 The adoption of detailed local biodiversity policies will be effective in protecting features and habitats of importance for biodiversity.
- 14 The adoption of detailed local biodiversity policies will complement the Structure Plan policies, PPG9 and RPG6.
- 15 The adoption of detailed local biodiversity policies will assist the District Council in progressing its targets within the Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

Recommendations

- 16 It is recommended that:
- I) The Conservation Advisory Group consider the draft report and advise the Conservation Portfolio Holder to authorise the development of detailed biodiversity policies.
 - II) Request that the Ecology Officer reports back on the results of the consultation.

Appendix 1 : DRAFT SCDC Local Biodiversity Policy.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- *Planning Policy Guidance note 9: Nature Conservation*, DoE, 1994
- “Regional Planning Guidance for East Anglia to 2016”, Government Office for the East of England, Nov 2002
- “Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plan”, Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Partnership, April 2000
- Calderdale Unitary Development Plan, adopted April 1997.
- Cambridge City Council supplementary planning guidance notes.

Contact Officer: Rob Mungovan, Ecology Officer, 01223 443402

NB: 1st Consultation Draft

CONTENTS

Foreword

- 1.0 Biodiversity Policy – The Need
- 2.0 Conserving and enhancing biodiversity – The Approach
- 3.0 Planning For Biodiversity - information to accompany planning applications
- 4.0 Biodiversity Checklist
- 5.0 Natural Area Profiles
- 6.0 Local Biodiversity Policies.
- 7.0 Useful contacts and information.

Forward

Biodiversity is a term used to describe the richness of the living environment around us. Species once considered to be common are facing increased stress upon their populations. The rate of species loss has never been higher. International initiatives exist to reduce the rate of species loss. At the national level lists of species and habitats have been produced that require particular measures to halt their decline.

South Cambridgeshire District Council, as a Local Planning Authority, is able to make a significant contribution towards the protection, conservation and enhancement of local biodiversity. This draft Local Biodiversity Policy strives to outline national and regional guidance, and then to propose measures as to how the planning system can be used to influence and control development proposals to produce an ecologically diverse and sustainable local environment.

1.0 Biodiversity Policy – The Need

- 1.1 In recent years awareness has grown of the pressure upon biodiversity and its associated habitats from development. There is a need to safeguard biodiversity interest throughout the countryside and the built environment, and not just at specific sites. Apart from at identifiable sites of biodiversity interest, PPG 9 ‘Nature Conservation’ requires that the value of areas providing corridors or stepping stones for biodiversity between one habitat and another be given proper consideration. Such corridors and stepping-stones may include woods, ponds, rivers, ditches and hedgerows.
- 1.2 In its capacity as the Local Planning Authority the District Council has an obligation to consider how development will affect biodiversity. The conservation and enhancement of an ecologically diverse countryside is a prime consideration of this document. Very little of the English landscape that we see today has not been influenced by Man. However, recent decades have seen an increased rate of change that has resulted in a significant loss of habitats including hedgerows, flower rich meadows, and wetlands. Other habitats such as planted woodlands and grasslands are fragmented and are unlikely to ever receive the transfer of species that occurred in the past, thus their potential to be ecologically rich is limited.
- 1.3 In 1994 “Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan” was published listing habitats and species considered to be threatened nationally. Whilst the national plans provide a framework for action, in order to deliver action on the ground Local Biodiversity Action Plans have been produced.
- 1.4 In 2000 the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plan was launched. This listed a total of 45 plans; with 26 Habitat Action Plans and 19 Species Action Plans. Five broad habitat themes encapsulate all of the species and habitat action plans. The broad themes are:
 - Rivers and Wetlands
 - Trees and Woodlands
 - Farmland
 - Cities, Towns and Village
 - Dry Grasslands.

- 1.5 The recent Regional Planning Guidance for the East of England and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, have emphasised the responsibility that Local Planning Authorities have in achieving the targets as set out in national and local Biodiversity Action Plans. This draft policy document is therefore a contribution to meeting that requirement.

2.0 Conserving and enhancing biodiversity – The Approach

- 2.1 It is a primary objective of this document to protect important habitats from unmitigated adverse impacts arising from new development, and to ensure that species and habitats of biodiversity interest are given due consideration within the planning process.
- 2.2 The following objectives will be considered to underline the approach required to achieving the conservation and enhancement of local biodiversity. Particular attention shall also be paid to species and habitats contained within the Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), and to sites that are designated for their biodiversity interest (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves and County Wildlife Sites).
- 2.3 When undertaking new development all sites, whether infill, greenfield or brownfield, should be considered as part of a wider mosaic of habitats that support wildlife.
- 2.4 Extensive lists of habitats and species can be found in the Cambridgeshire BAP. In brief the following habitats and land-use types should be carefully assessed within development proposals; parks and open spaces, meadows and pastures, wildlife corridors (e.g. railway routes, watercourses, road verges, shelterbelts and hedgerows), wetlands, woodland and individual trees (especially ancient or dead trees). Derelict sites, allotments, buildings and other parts of the built environment may have developed biodiversity interest over time which should also be taken into account.
- 2.5 Development proposals should show how features of value to biodiversity on site have been integrated into the design of the development, and how these relate to the biodiversity of the surrounding area (e.g. wildlife corridors and greenways linking to the open countryside or the enhancement of watercourses in development sites).
- 2.6 Where possible, applicants will be encouraged to enhance existing habitats and create new ones, particularly where they will help to achieve BAP objectives.
- 2.7 Where damage to habitats is likely to occur, a mitigation strategy to minimise the significance of this damage will need to be agreed with the District Council. Where mitigation cannot take place on site, the developer will be expected to enter into a planning agreement to re-create habitats off-site, and/or to make a financial contribution towards the management of nearby sites in order to off-set the impact upon local biodiversity. Monitoring schemes will be required to report upon the success of the habitat creation.
- 2.8 Any demolition or construction work must be carried out at the appropriate time of year to avoid disturbance to species (e.g. roosting bats or breeding birds).
- 2.9 Areas of green space created as a result of development should provide a diversity of landform, such as formal and informal recreation areas where people can experience biodiversity, targeted habitat creation areas, secluded and open spaces.

3.0 Planning For Biodiversity - information to accompany planning applications

- 3.1 When considering development proposals applicants will be encouraged to consider the potential impact upon biodiversity. This may necessitate the undertaking of an ecological assessment appropriate to the size and scale of the development detailing the following information to determine the potential impact of the application;
- Recognition of international, national and local policies relating to the protection of habitats and species found on and adjacent to the proposed development site.
 - An audit of habitats and species listed within the Cambridgeshire BAP found on, and adjacent to, the proposed development site together with information relating to their sensitivity to the development.
 - Submission of adequate survey information on habitats and species undertaken at an appropriate time of year by a competent ecologist.
 - Details of how the proposed development intends to conserve existing habitats and species, and how it will retain and enhance natural features both within and, where appropriate, adjacent to a proposed development site.
 - Details of how the proposed development aims to mitigate against adverse effects on habitats and species.
 - Details of how the development proposes to compensate for habitat loss.
 - Details of proposed long-term management and monitoring schemes, and proposed off-site agreements to protect and enhance the local biodiversity.
- 3.2 Applicants are strongly advised to discuss all the potential environmental issues at the earliest stage possible with the Local Authority.

4.0 The Biodiversity Checklist

- 4.1 The Cambridgeshire County Council published the “Biodiversity Checklist for Land Use Planners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough” in 2001. It is proposed that the SCDC adopts the Checklist in its entirety.
- 4.2 The document should be used as a tool for guiding the level of information supplied with planning applications. Particular attention should be paid to the best practise examples included within the document.
- 4.3 The checklist is intended to assist applicants in the provision of high quality planning applications, which will then lead to the efficient processing of the information by the Planning Authority. The Checklist also provides information on major and minor developments and environmental legislation. The “objectives” of the Checklist will expect to have been met when major developments are being considered.
- 4.4 The main “objectives” of the Checklist are:
- Protect
 - Enhance
 - Mitigate

- Compensate
- Monitor and Enforce

5.0 Natural Area Profiles

- 5.1 The Local Plan no.2, Proposed Modifications, 2002 has policies relating to the use of the Natural Area Concept. A Natural Area profile is not a designation, but an area of the countryside identified by a unique combination of physical attributes such as geology, plant and animal species, land-use and culture. These attributes contribute to an area's sense of place and its distinctive biodiversity. The concept acknowledges that biodiversity does not recognise administrative boundaries.
- 5.2 Applicants should be aware that English Nature is the body that has produced the studies and should be the point of contact for further information.
- 5.3 Natural Area profiles produced incorporating the South Cambridgeshire District are:
The East Anglian Chalk
The East Anglian Plain
The West Anglian Plain
The Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge
The Fens
- 5.4 Within these documents the biodiversity resource is identified in terms of its habitats and species. For example, within the East Anglian Chalk Natural Area unimproved calcareous grassland and spring-fed calcareous flowing and standing water are listed amongst six other habitat types. Species listed include white-clawed crayfish and serotine bat.
- 5.5 The lists of habitats and species contained within each Natural Area profile should be used to identify those biodiversity features of at least local value within specific Natural Areas. Together Natural Area profiles and BAPs provide guidance on the range of habitats and species important for the protection, conservation and enhancement across the South Cambridgeshire District.

6.0 Biodiversity Policies

6.1 Biodiversity Action Plans

Development proposals will be expected to consider their impact upon species and habitats contained within the Cambridgeshire BAP. Developments resulting in a significant impact upon biodiversity will not be granted planning permission by the District Council.

Particular emphasis should be placed on the creation or enhancement of habitats and populations of species identified in the Cambridgeshire and national BAP.

A full set of species and habitat action plans can be found at:

www.camcnty.gov.uk/sub/cntyside/biodiv

6.2 Biodiversity Enhancement

All development will be required, where appropriate, to enhance biodiversity. Conditions or planning obligations will be attached to:-

- (i) Protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity, having regard to the objectives of the Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan;*
- (ii) Protect, restore and manage sites of biodiversity importance and their associated species and habitats;*

6.3 Habitat Creation

The Structure Plan identifies areas of Countryside Enhancement. The “50 Year Wildlife Vision for Cambridgeshire”, produced by the Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Partnership identifies areas for possible habitat creation.

The District Council will encourage the creation of new habitats in line with the Countryside Enhancement Areas proposed in the Structure Plan. Planning condition and planning obligations may be used to assist in the progression of habitat creation. Particular emphasis will be placed upon the creation of habitats where they will link wildlife corridors or isolated features or create buffer zones.

6.4 Protection of Locally Important Sites

Development that is likely to have an adverse affect on Local Nature Reserves, County Wildlife Sites or areas of value to local biodiversity will not be permitted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the proposals that outweigh the need to safeguard the biodiversity value of the site.

Where development is permitted the District Council authority will make use of planning conditions or planning obligations to:

- (a) Minimise disturbance;*
- (b) Protect and enhance the site’s biodiversity value;*
- (c) Contribute towards the objectives of the Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan; and*
- (d) Where damage is unavoidable, provide new or replacement habitats so that the total biodiversity resource remains at or above its current status.*
- (e) Provision is made for the long-term protection and management of such areas;*

- (f) *No link in to a network of habitats is damaged or destroyed.*
- (g) *That particular consideration is given to the value of the site within the local area and how it relates to other sites, features and wildlife corridors.*

6.5 Wildlife Corridors

Within the open countryside, villages and built-up areas landscape features exist that can be considered as important “wildlife corridors”, such features include: hedgerows, tree belts, protected roadside verges, water features and green lanes.

The District Council will seek to retain the integrity and value of wildlife corridors by:-

- (i) *Generally only allowing development that does not preclude the movement of species along the corridor;*
- (ii) *Promoting the environmental enhancement of wildlife corridors and developing wildlife linkages to other habitats of importance to biodiversity;*
- (iii) *Requiring development to include, where appropriate, landscaping schemes based on ecological principles.*

6.6 Development Adjacent to Water

The District Council will seek to ensure that, wherever possible, development on or adjacent to areas of flowing or standing water:-

- (i) *Does not adversely affect important wetlands;*
- (ii) *Is sensitive to existing features of biodiversity value and the potential as wildlife corridors;*

and that:-

- (iii) *Ponds and other bodies of water are safeguarded from adverse development;*
- (iv) *Environmentally sensitive engineering methods are used in connection with water areas;*
- (v) *Effluent discharge is carefully controlled;*
- (vi) *Watercourses are safeguarded from culverting or infilling;*
- (vii) *River banks are suitably landscaped or enhanced;*
- (viii) *Appropriate wetland features are introduced into development schemes;*
- (ix) *The planning and use of water areas/wetlands is accompanied by appropriate management schemes.*

6.7 Rivers and floodplains

Development will not be permitted where it would:

1. *Damage the ecological functioning of a watercourse and its floodplain;*
2. *Damage the appearance and character of a watercourse and its contribution to the Natural Area profile;*
3. *Reduce the flow or quality of a watercourse.*

Floodplains should aim to be continuous to assist the dispersal and movement of species. Engineering schemes, such as weirs and floodwalls that can lead to a change in the hydrological conditions of floodplains will be subject special scrutiny.

6.8 New Gardens in the Green Belt

There will be a general presumption against new gardens for houses in the Green Belt except in special circumstances where a real need can be demonstrated. Any new gardens should be in proportion to the dwelling and be directly adjacent to the dwellings that they serve. The development should meet the following criteria:-

- (i) It would not impede the movement of biodiversity across the Green Belt;*
- (ii) It would not adversely affect species and habitats within the Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), particularly those of the farmland BAP.*
- (iii) That the new garden will include measures to enhance BAP species particularly those dependent upon the built environment.*

6.9 Farmland

The Council's Conservation section administers a Wildlife Enhancement Scheme through which grants may be available to farmers and other owners of arable land. Practical advice is also available in partnership with other advisory bodies such as DEFRA and FWAG. Natural Area profiles highlight the value of farmland and the habitats and species that they contain as important within the district. Continued support to partnerships such as the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership and the Green Belt Project also provides a mechanism to conserve and enhance the arable landscape.

In order to ensure the efficient and effective use of land in the district, the District Council will work closely with the farming community and other landowners to encourage farming practices, which are sensitive to biodiversity.

Proposals for change of use of farmland will be considered against the potential impact upon species contained within the Farmland Habitat Theme of the Cambridgeshire BAP.

6.10 Protection of Hedgerows

The District Council will support and implement measures to achieve the protection, conservation and enhancement of hedgerows and the adoption of sensitive management practices based on sound ecological principles by all landowners.

Development proposals that will result in the removal, or would threaten the future survival, of a hedgerow will only be permitted where the developer has demonstrated that the benefits of the development including any replacement planting or the creation of an alternative wildlife habitat will outweigh the harm caused by the removal of the hedgerow.

6.11 Equestrian activity

Proposals for development involving the keeping and riding of horses for recreation and/or commercial purposes, including the erection of stables, fences, jumps and other equipment will not be permitted where:

- 1. The proposal is of a scale and nature out of keeping with the Natural Area profile for the area;*
- 2. The proposal is located in an area with an inadequate provision of off-road horse-riding routes that will result in an unacceptable amount of pressure upon the carrying capacity of the local environment;*
- 3. There will be an unmitigated adverse effect upon local biodiversity.*

6.12 Barn Owls

Where a development is likely to affect a building that is, or has been used within the last year, by a barn owl the applicant will be expected to demonstrate how the proposal can commence without adversely affecting the species. Particular attention should be given to flight paths and feeding grounds. Where a negative impact cannot be avoided then suitable compensatory habitat must be provided in advance of the proposal commencing.

6.13 Invasive non-native plants

Vigorous or invasive non-native plant species can negatively impact upon biodiversity by out-competing native flora. This can then lead to a negative impact upon fauna by limiting the available feeding and cover areas. Species of particular concern include; Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed, parrot's feather weed, New Zealand pygmy weed, Chinese water fern,

Proposals at development sites containing invasive plant species will not be permitted until suitable measures have been undertaken to control the invasive species.

6.14 Built Environment

All new development should include opportunities to enhance biodiversity. Suitable measures might include species-specific nest boxes, bat boxes or the use of native climbing plants against hard surfaces. Within higher density plots it is increasingly important to incorporate enhancement measures to ensure that new residents can still experience biodiversity.

Consideration should be given the incorporation of measures to facilitate the movement of animals within the built environment, such as fence lifting, greenways or landscaping schemes that make particular use of native species.

6.15 Green Roofs

Green roofs can be beneficial for biodiversity by providing “stepping stones” within development sites, providing feeding areas and contribute to the overall health of the environment.

The provision of green roofs will be encouraged where the opportunities for ecological enhancement of a site area limited.

7.0 Useful contacts and information

(To be completed at a later stage with assistance from Area Planning and Local Plans teams)

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SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO Conservation Advisory Group 28th May 2003
Leader & Conservation Portfolio Holder
AUTHOR/S: Ecology Officer

DESIGNATION OF EVERS DEN AND WIMPOLE WOODS SSSI AND CANDIDATE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION – MEMBER’S UPDATE**Purpose**

1. To update Members about a proposal by English Nature to designate Eversden and Wimpole Woods as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and seek authority to support the designation as a candidate *Special Area of Conservation* (SAC) for the barbestelle bat.

Background

2. A report was presented to the Conservation Advisory Group on the 25th March 2003 where details were provided on the special interest of the woods for the barbestelle bat, and the implications of the cSAC designation.
3. Eversden and Wimpole Woods is being renotified and extended by English Nature as a SSSI under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The barbestelle bat is a species listed upon the ‘Habitats Directive’ (Council Directive 92/43/EEC). The Habitats Regulations provide a means by which Special Areas of Conservation can be designated to protect those sites identified as of special importance for listed species.
4. The Eversden and Wimpole Woods have public access by means of public footpaths. Members were concerned at the possible restrictions upon public access that the proposed designations might have.
5. Wimpole Woods are owned by the National Trust. Footpaths that are not public rights of way should therefore be considered as permissive paths. Eversden Woods are in private ownership.
6. English Nature is responsible for identifying sites that qualify for SAC designation and for undertaking the necessary consultation.

Considerations

7. A supplementary paper is appended to this report. The supplementary paper details the response from English Nature to a number of questions that Members sought further information upon.
8. A formal response may be made to English Nature on the revised SSSI designation up to the 11th June 2003.

Options

9

- I) That members authorise confirmation of support for the proposed designation of the Special Area of Conservation in the response to English Nature's consultation letter, on the understanding that there will be no restrictions to existing rights of access or public enjoyment of the woods.
- II) That members object to the designation stating the reasons for this option.

Financial Implications

- 10 None

Legal Implications

11 (a) *Land management*

Where land is currently managed to sustain the site's special features of wildlife interest, the Habitat Regulations are likely to have little effect upon the management.

(b) *Planning Permission*

New planning applications for developments or land use change that might affect a candidate SAC are subject to statutory consultation under the Habitat Regulations. The Planning Authority should consult English Nature if they are uncertain about the possible effects of a development proposal, and are specifically required to have regard to their advice.

The Planning Department will decide whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with others, is likely to have a significant effect on a site. If so, it will undertake an 'appropriate assessment' of the plan's implications with respect to the site's 'conservation objectives', and will have to consult English Nature.

(c) *Safeguard measures*

English Nature will not consent any operation that may damage special features of a candidate SAC.

Staffing Implications

- 12. The Ecology Officer will have to pay particular attention to applications for development within an eleven kilometre radius of the designation site (the distance that the bats have been recorded flying of an evening to feed). Such applications may be subject to an Appropriate Assessment.

Sustainability Implications

- 13. The designation of a SAC will make a contribution towards the network of European-wide Natura 2000 sites. One of the primary objectives of this network is to sustain the present level of biodiversity on a Europe-wide basis.

Consultations

- 14. English Nature is undertaking the consultation process as it is the lead body.

Conclusions/Summary

- 18 i) The majority of paths within the Wimpole Wood are permissive paths, therefore their management is at the discretion of the National Trust. Eversden Woods is

accessed by public rights of way. The closure or alteration of public footpaths would be subject to the scrutiny by the County Council's Definitive Map Officer via the normal manner. However, the proposed designation will not effect the existing public access.

ii) "Views About Management" is provided by English Nature and is appended as Appendix 2.

iii) A formal management plan will be produced by the National Trust and English Nature on designation of the SAC and is expected to concentrate on woodland management techniques for individual trees identified as important habitats.

iv) The present management regime is unlikely to be significantly changed by the proposed designations.

v) As far as normal use of the woods is concerned, English Nature do not envisage there being any conflict between people and bats.

Recommendation

- 19 It is recommended that the Conservation Advisory Group resolve to advise the Conservation Portfolio Holder to accept options I above and:
- (a) Authorise the Conservation Manager to respond on behalf of SCDC to confirm support for the proposed designation of the Special Area of Conservation on behalf of SCDC in response to English Nature's consultation letter, on the understanding that there will be no restrictions to existing rights of access or public enjoyment of the woods.
 - (b) Instruct the Ecology Officer to draft appropriate planning guidance for use by Members and staff.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: "*Designation of Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI and Candidate Special Area of Conservation*", Rob Mungovan, 25th March 2003
"*Special Areas of Conservation – What they mean to you*", English Nature, 2002
"*Special Areas of Conservation – Questions and answers*", English Nature, 2002
"*Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI – supporting information, a supplement to the notification package*", English Nature, February 2003.
"*Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI – notification under section 28C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)*" English Nature, February 2003.
Planning Policy Guidance note 9: Nature Conservation, DoE, 1994

Papers appended to the report

Designation of Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI and Candidate Special Area of Conservation – summary of questions put to English Nature.

Views About Management (paper copies only), English Nature.

Contact Officer: Rob Mungovan, Ecology Officer, 01223 443402

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SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO Conservation Advisory Group 28th May 2003
Leader & Conservation Portfolio Holder
AUTHOR/S: Ecology Officer

HISTON POND – A REVISED ENHANCEMENT PROPOSALPurpose

1. To update Members on the revised enhancement scheme for Histon Village Green Pond and to seek authority to progress the scheme in the revised form.

Background

2. A report was presented to Members on the 27th November 2002 detailing extensive ecological enhancement proposals to the pond. The total cost of the works (by using specialist contractors) was estimated at £20,000.
3. The need for the scheme originated from a request by the Parish Council who were concerned at the general appearance of the pond and the level of accumulated silt within it. The previously proposed scheme involved the extensive creation of silt reception bays to allow the central part of the pond to be desilted. The dredged silts would then have been used to create marginal habitats. This would have eliminated the need to take the dredged silts off-site whilst the biodiversity value of the pond would be significantly increased. Originally there was also a proposal to re-profile some of the bank areas.
4. A product called nico-span was considered to be appropriate to use. Nico-span is a finely woven synthetic mesh. The mesh is installed vertically with the use posts to create a “wall”. Behind this wall silts can be deposited. On top of the deposited silts marginal plants can be established to create an ecological diverse habitat.
5. The pond is part of an Award Watercourse, as such Members felt that a significant contribution towards the enhancement of the pond should come from the Council’s own Land Drainage section.
6. Reservations were also expressed regarding the Ecology Officer’s choice of materials and techniques.
7. Members resolved that:
 - i) The Ecology Officer be allowed to develop an enhancement scheme for the pond at Histon Green up to tender stage and report the design options and tender costs back to the Conservation Advisory Group; and
 - ii) That, once the cost implications are clear, additional financial contributions be sought from the Land Drainage section of the Environmental Health Department and other external sources.

Considerations

- 8 A range of different methods to retain the dredged silts have been considered together with the Land Drainage Manager. These methods are presented in table 1 of appendix 1.
- 9 The use of nico-span combined with pre-planted coir rolls to create a silt reception bay is still the favoured option. However, where four work areas had previously been identified now only one area will be worked upon. This significantly reduces the cost and the risk element should the materials not perform as expected.
- 10 The cost of the materials is now expected to be no greater than £2000. The materials will be purchased by the Parish Council and installed by the Land Drainage section’s work force. This eliminates the expense of using external contractors. The use of the in-house work force also significantly increases the Land Drainage section’s financial input to the scheme.

Table to show project contribution breakdown

Partners	Project contribution (estimated)
Histon Parish Council	£1000
Conservation Section	£1000
Land Drainage Section	6 man days plus use of desilting machine

- 11 The project will progress in three phases:
 - i) *The construction phase* - Approx 38.5m of nico-span is installed to create silt reception bays extending out to a depth of 1m. The nico-span is tapered in where it nears the footbridge. Additional lines of posts are driven in over a distance of 15m to receive a pre-planted coir rolls at a later date.
 - ii) *The desilting phase* - An area of the pond is desilted at a date convenient to the Land Drainage section. The silts are placed behind the nico-span wall where they will form a marginal bay.
 - iii) *The “greening” phase* - Pre-planted carpets and pre-planted coir rolls are ordered to be grown especially for the situation. The products are delivered on to site at a pre-arranged date (this will ensure that the desilting phase has been completed). The pallets and rolls can be installed by volunteers from the village or the Green Belt Project assisted by the Ecology Officer.
- 12 It is anticipated that the work will commence in October / November after the main period of maintenance work for the Land Drainage section. However, if an opportunity arose to undertake the work before then it would be fully explored with the Land Drainage Manger.
- 13 Given the relatively limited amount of bank to be enhanced it will be necessary to consider the use of wire to prevent ducks from eating and trampling newly planted vegetation.

Options

- 14 I) To support the revised scheme (as detailed in paragraph 9 above) proposed by

the Ecology Officer and to authorise a presentation and further discussion with the Histon Parish Council.

II) To reject the revised scheme outlining reasons.

Financial Implications

15 The revised costs represent a substantial saving on the proposal previously presented to the Advisory Group. However, the quality of the build should be assured through the use of our in-house work force.

16 It is proposed that the Parish Council be grant-aided to 50% through the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme from the 2003/04 budget.

Legal Implications

17 None specific.

Staffing Implications

18 None specific.

Sustainability Implications

19 The use of dredged silts to provide aquatic habitats represents a sustainable use of a material that would otherwise have to be removed from the site.

Consultations

20 This revised proposal has been developed with the Land Drainage Manager.

Conclusions/Summary

21 The revised enhancement scheme represents a significant reduction in expenditure from that previously presented in November.

22 The revised scheme is a scaled-down one, thus limiting the possibility for technical difficulties to occur.

23 The revised scheme will still deliver biodiversity and land drainage benefits to the pond. Once the success of the scheme has been evaluated it may be appropriate to consider undertaking similar works at the pond or at other sites across the district.

Recommendations

24 It is recommended that the Conservation Advisory Group resolve to advise the Conservation Portfolio Holder to accept option I.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

“Proposed Enhancement of the Pond at Histon Green” a report presented to the Conservation Advisory Group, 27th November 2002

Appended items:

Table 1 – Summary of Techniques

Contact Officer: Rob Mungovan, Ecology Officer, 01223 443402

Appendix 1 - Histon Pond Enhancement – summary of techniques

Method	Benefits	Disadvantages	Estimated cost per metre
Spiling (willow weaving)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Can be installed to create a living screening, thus lasting longer than “dead” wood. ·Provides good habitat for small fish and invertebrates. ·Looks attractive and traditional. ·The weaving process can closely fit with any undulations in the bed of the pond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·The gaps formed between the weave are unlikely to adequately hold the fine silts dredged from the pond. ·A screen of fresh willow may obstruct views and may need management. ·May only last 10-15 if kept wet. Parts exposed to air due to water fluctuation will decay relatively quick compared with other methods. ·The weaving of willow is relatively time consuming and requires a very large amount of suitable material to be brought on to site. ·Vertical posts will need to be put in at approx 0.4m gaps in order to hold the spiling. 	£50
Hurdles (woven wooden fences)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Can be installed relatively quickly. ·Hurdles can be bought and transported to the site as required. ·Provides good habitat for small fish and invertebrates. ·Looks attractive and traditional. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·The gaps formed between the weave are unlikely to adequately hold the fine silts dredged from the pond. ·May only last 10-15 if kept wet. Parts exposed to air due to water fluctuation will decay relatively quick compared with other methods. ·Hurdles tend to come in standard sizes that may not “fit” the dimensions of the pond. 	£40
Faggots (bundles of cut hazel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Can be installed relatively quickly. ·Provides good habitat for small fish and invertebrates. Looks attractive and traditional. ·The flexible nature of the bundles may allow them to fit with any undulations in the bed of the pond. ·Faggots can be bought and transported to the site as required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·The gaps formed between the brushwood may not adequately hold the fine silts dredged from the pond. ·May only last 10-15 if kept wet. ·Parts exposed to air due to water fluctuation will decay relatively quick compared with other methods. 	£20
Concrete or stone edging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Very strong and robust. Can be installed by non-specialist contractor. ·Would hold dredged silts if an additional frontage were created. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Provides a degraded habitat from that which is already present. ·Looks unsightly and urban. 	£60

Wooden revetment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Relatively strong and robust. ·Can be installed by non-specialist contractor. ·Would hold dredged silts if an additional frontage were created. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Provides no-change from that which is already present. 	£60
Nico-span	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Very strong and robust as it is specifically designed for the purpose of silt retention. ·Relatively unobtrusive in appearance being black. ·Become partially vegetated in time. ·Relatively easy to install by specialist contractors. ·The flexible nature of the material enables it to be fitted to the varying nature of the pond's bed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·It is a relatively new technique in the area with no suitable examples in the district. 	£12.9

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SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO Conservation Advisory Group, 28th May 2003.
Leader & Conservation Portfolio Holder.
AUTHOR/S: Conservation Manager.

St. Denis Church, East Hatley. Results of the Architects investigations.**Purpose**

1. To present the results of the recent investigation works and seek views on the appropriate options for the long-term future of the former church. (*Copies of the architects report will be available at the meeting*).

Background

2. The former parish church of St. Denis, East Hatley was conveyed by the Church Commissioners to South Cambridgeshire District Council in 1983 'for use as a nature reserve and for the study of natural history...'. The conveyance was for the church building only, accessed by a right of way through the churchyard and with provision to erect a notice board. Conditions applied to the conveyance prohibit any demolition or architectural or structural changes without the approval of the Church Commissioners. The churchyard remains open for burials.
3. The building is a listed Grade II* and dates from the fourteenth century but was restored by the notable nineteenth century architect, William Butterfield, who also built the Chancel.
4. The churchyard is maintained by the St. Denis Local Nature Reserve Committee who organise working parties to maintain the grass, hedges, etc
5. Architects Purcell, Miller Triton, were commissioned to inspect the church in January 2002 and March 2002. Between these two dates, high winds had caused structural damage to the Nave roof and emergency repairs had been instructed. It was however, not possible to make an adequate assessment of the structural condition of the church due to ivy growth on the walls and roofs and dense tree growth surrounding the building.
6. By November 2003 the church building had become almost completely overgrown by ivy which again combined with high winds to cause significant damage to the roofs, such that parts of the structure were deemed unsafe. Architects were therefore appointed to report on the condition of the fabric. The ivy has consequently been stripped and this report summarises the conclusions of the architects, including options available to the Council.

Considerations

7. Messrs E. Bowman & Sons Ltd were appointed on behalf of SCDC to remove the ivy growth from the fabric of the Church this work was completed during the early part of this year. Subsequently, on 11th March 2003 Professor Heyman and Purcell Miller Tritton revisited the site to carry out further inspections following the removal of the ivy. It is their that reports are summarised below.

8. **Summary of key points by Purcell Miller Tritton, ARCHITECTS.**

- Severe damage to part of the external walls has been discovered. Some of the walls are unstable and are in danger of collapse. Scaffolding has been retained to the east end of the church to prevent the wall from collapsing
- The roof tiles are insecure and are liable to fall off during windy weather. The perimeter fencing has been left in place to protect the public from injury by falling roof tiles.
- The removal of the ivy has left voids in the fabric and has affected the integrity of both the roof and the walls leaving many of the tiles loose and much of the flint stone facing in a decayed condition.
- The report includes photographs which illustrate these structural problems and emphasize the need to carry out safety measures.

Much of the content in the previous report prepared by Purcell Miller Tritton on 11th June 2002 still applies and their first two options A and B are unchanged. Their original options C & D are now superseded by options E, F and G outlined below for consideration. (*Hence number A,B, E,F,G*).

9. **Option A : Do Nothing.**

It is clearly possible to leave the building alone and allow nature to take its course (high structures - bellcote, chimney, gables, roofs would eventually collapse) so long as the existing security measures were maintained. This would not however, be a cost free option. It must also be appreciated that as a Grade II* listed building this building will be appear on English Heritage's list of Buildings at Risk Register and remedial action may therefore be encouraged if not required to be undertaken by the Secretary of State.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Immediate cost to the council limited.	Reliant upon 'nature' so impossible to determine a timetable for release of liability. Eventually clearance costs will have to be met.
	The area around the church would need to be securely fenced for an indefinite period to prevent access and protect against the danger of falling masonry and tiles. Maintenance costs of fencing.
	Potential insurance liability for accidents caused to anyone, including children who did manage to gain access to the building.
	Access to recent burials could not be maintained
	The Council would be in breach of its statutory obligation to maintain a listed building in its ownership
	The loss of the architectural work of Butterfield

	(roofs, chancel and interior).
	Repair problems will accelerate and it is likely that the Council would be required to undertake repairs by English Heritage (Sec. State).
Estimated Cost (secure fencing; scaffolding; clearance; landscaping)	£15k (assuming no further health & safety works & excludes insurance costs)

10. **Option B : Demolition**

In order to demolish the church the Council would need the approval of the Secretary of State and the Church Commissioners. It is likely that this course of action would be resisted by these bodies and would require a public inquiry if this option were to be pursued.

Advantages	Disadvantages
No long term maintenance costs	Demolition proposal likely to be resisted by both Sec. State & Church Commissioners and consequently subject to a potentially expensive public inquiry.
	Loss of architecturally and historically important Grade II* building.
	Loss of local landmark.
	Loss of the wildlife habitat (owls/bats use building).
	Temporary disruption to the churchyard.
Estimated cost (inc. clearance etc)	£50,000

11. **OPTION E (REF ADDENDUM REPORT APRIL 03) : Holding repairs**

Now that the ivy has been removed the building structure is very exposed. Strong winds and heavy rainfall will accelerate the deterioration of the fabric if immediate steps are not taken to protect the building. The architect recommends the following :

- timber shoring to be applied to the east and west gable walls
- timber shoring to the south porch.(west side)
- temporary weather proofing should be undertaken to the roof.
- exposed masonry by covering with impervious flexible sheeting (possibly supported on an independent structure).
- Remnant plant growth remaining in the fabric of the building needs to be cut back and killed with an approved proprietary product.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Works will arrest further deterioration.	Temporary life of works and likely ongoing maintenance costs.
Potential to buy some time to seek consensus on restoration and use and possible grant support for restoration.	Grant support not likely to be available for this phase alone.
	Appearance likely to be relatively

	unattractive.
	Need to retain security fencing for public safety.
	Continued temporary disruption to use of churchyard.
Estimated cost	(a) £20,000 (b) £40,000 (if full temporary roof)

12. **OPTION F** (REF ADDENDUM REPORT APRIL 03) : **Make the building safe by completing long-term repairs**

Under this option repairs to the structure would be carried to consolidate the structure and make the fabric wind and weather tight. The security measures could be removed and the churchyard returned to full access. Public access to the interior of the church would still need to be restricted But this option would provide a weatherproof building with safe public access to the churchyard and a greatly improved appearance.

Works recommended by the architects are as follows :

- The roof stripped and retiled using salvaged material and reclaimed tiles to match existing. Roof timbers repaired and members replaced where necessary.
- Rainwater goods installed and drains laid to discharge into soakaways.
- Areas of the flint stone/rubble walls in poor condition rebuilt.
- Inappropriate mortar pointing removed and the entire wall surface re-pointed with lime mortar.
- Damage to the internal wall surfaces consolidated and replastered.
- Doors and windows would be repaired/replaced as appropriate.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Safe weatherproof building.	Cost
Deterioration arrested and restoration of architectural appearance.	Interior remains un-restored and use of the building would not be available until restored.
Danger removed and full access to churchyard restored	Maintenance regime required.
May attract grant funding support (from EH, Landfill Tax etc. etc)	
Building viable to explore new uses (see below)	
Estimated cost.	£80,000 plus Option E(a) = £100,000 (may be reduced to £80,000 if a rapid decision is made and temporary works described in Option E prove unnecessary)

13. **OPTION G:** (REF ADDENDUM REPORT APRIL 03) **Making the building useful**

All the work described in option F would be carried out together with additional works as follows:-

- Reinstatement of the interior floor structure and finish.
- Internal door repairs/replacements.
- Internal walls to be lime washed.
- New electrical and heating installations.
- New foul drainage system.

Fitting out works would need to be carried out to suit the required use of the building including lavatory accommodation.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Building fully restored and available for new use.	Cost.
	New use yet to be identified.
	Maintenance costs and regime.
Estimated costs	£75,000 plus Option F = £175,000

14. **The way forward ?**

It is evident that all options will require some form of investment to resolve the future of this building. Given that deliberate neglect and demolition would not seem to be appropriate options and it may take time to decide on the eventual use of the building, the advice of the consultant architect is to implement Option E (para. 12 above) as a minimum option. This would enable urgent works to be undertaken in the short-term to prevent the building from further deterioration and enable further consultation (including that with potential funding bodies to be undertaken) on the way forward. It will also buy time so that appropriate discussion can be held to try to determine a long term use. This may include a radical departure to allow the building to be converted to something with a economic value.

15. If, however, a rapid decision is made to implement either Option F or G then it will not be necessary to carry out the temporary works thereby saving this expense.

16. Option G is the most expensive alternative and would require an end user/purchaser to be found before implementation. It is the most likely option to attract funding and would need expanding to allow wildlife habitats to continue and a provision for public access and education. However, it is also likely to require a concentrated examination of use options and funding to be sourced.

17. ***Necessary new use.***

As with all historic buildings the key to securing the long-term future is a viable use. It is considered necessary to commence wide discussions to explore the potential options for new uses. Ideally the building should be used for some form of community use or perhaps as a base for wildlife studies and access to the countryside. However, consideration needs to be given to alternatives. These may include converting the building to some form of private or commercial use. To date the options have not been explored.

Financial Implications

16. Initial expenditure of up to £20,650 was authorised by the Conservation Portfolio in November 2002 to enable the ivy to be stripped and the appropriate investigations to be undertaken, with an allowance for undertaking emergency stabilisation works, if necessary. These were considered to be essential preliminary works to enable the potential way forward to be considered.
17. To date works to the cost of £9,941 have been completed, these include the cost of stripping the ivy, supporting scaffold and the architects report. These have been funded from the Council's budget for Historic Building's Preservation Fund.
18. If any of the option outlined above are to be undertaken then additional resources will be required to be made available from this budget. Such funding will have to be approved by Cabinet.

Legal Implications

18. SCDC is the owner of the building and therefore responsible for its maintenance and use.

Staffing Implications

19. None specific.

Sustainability Implications

20. Restoration and reuse of historic buildings is a fundamental component of meeting the objectives of sustainability.

Consultations

21. At the time of writing this report the St. Denis Local Nature Reserve Committee had not considered the reports but they will have received the reports by the date of the Conservation Advisory Group Meeting. Similarly it is expected that the East Hatley Parish Council will have met on Monday 19th May and considered this report. In particular it is hoped that Their views will be presented to the Conservation Advisory Group meeting.

Conclusions/Summary

22. It would appear evident that the immediate action needs to again be one holding repairs to enable full exploration of possible uses and funding sources to be undertaken. This would enable the immediate safety concerns to be removed and allow for an appropriate debate on future uses. It will however, be clear that any alternative funding to create a new community use must have local support and therefore the Parish Council and Local Nature Reserve Management Committee will need to work closely with the Conservation Manager and Portfolio Holder to identify appropriate, viable options.

Recommendations

23. That the Conservation Advisory Group consider the above options and advise the Conservation Portfolio Holder to :
 - (a) Recommend to Cabinet that a specification is drawn up and tenders sought to implement *Option E above : Holding Repairs* to enable the minimal repairs to stabilise the structure and make it safe, arresting further deterioration in the short term.
 - (b) Authorise the Conservation Manager to explore options for additional grant funding to support possible implementation of *Option F : Long term Repairs* with the view to securing the long-term, fabric of the building such that it may be available for a new use.
 - (c) Request that the Conservation Manager to undertake discussions to explore possible future uses and report back to the Conservation Advisory Group on the results.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: Reports by Purcell Miller Tritton dated April 2002 & April 2003.

Contact Officer : Nick Grimshaw - Conservation Manager 01223 44 31 80

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SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO

Conservation Advisory Group

28th May 2003**AUTHOR:**Trees and Landscape Officer

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS – DISTRICT WIDE REVIEWPurpose

1. To inform and update the Conservation Advisory Group about the ongoing Review of Tree Preservation Orders throughout the District.

Background

2. There are currently 463 existing Tree preservation Orders within the District, 25 being Parish Tree Preservation Orders. Many of the Orders, including all the Parish Orders were made several years ago, and are now inaccurate.
3. The subject was discussed by Best Value Panel in May 2000. It was agreed that a pilot survey should be undertaken in order to assess the problems.
4. The Parish of Stapleford was selected (Parish TPO and 11 other TPO's). It was apparent from the survey that as well as formally varying some Orders, many would need to be revoked, updated and re-served.
5. The matter was reported for information to Development and Conservation Control Committee in August 2002, where it received Members support.

Considerations

6. The Review is being conducted on a Parish basis, in each case, officers are having to consider whether or not to:
 - Take no action
 - Vary the existing Order (serve a Variation Order)
 - Revoke the existing Order (serve a Revocation Order)
 - Revoke the existing Order, and replace with a new Order or Orders, including additional tree cover where appropriate.
7. So far the following Parishes have been surveyed:
Stapleford, Great Shelford, Gamlingay, Impington, Histon, Girton, Bassingbourn.
8. At the time of writing this report, 74 Tree Preservation Orders have been surveyed. This has so far resulted in 12 Orders being formally varied, 44 Orders being revoked, and 47 Tree Preservation Orders served as replacement.

9. The Trees and Landscape Officer is currently in discussion with the ICT Planning Liaison Officer, with a view to capturing the data onto the GIS mapping system.

Legal Implications

10. It is considered imperative to have updated and accurate records, in order to satisfy enquiries made in respect to statutory protected trees, by members of the public, contractors and solicitors.
11. When captured on GIS the updated information will be readily available to the Land Charges Section.

Staffing Implications

12. Following the pilot survey, it was recognised that in order to achieve the objective of a comprehensive review, additional time and resources were needed, particularly as in addition to the survey work, and the plan and schedule preparation; in the case of this Review, it was agreed with the Head of Legal Services that the consultation process, and serving of Orders would be undertaken by the Trees and landscape Section.
13. As a consequence, the Trees and Landscape Assistant, who was employed on a part time basis, was granted additional hours and employed on a full time basis. This took effect from September 2001.
14. It is recognised that this is a long-term project, and with the current staffing input, it is estimated that it will be ongoing for a least five years.

Conclusions/Summary

15. It is anticipated that the Review will continue, with a focus on Parishes that have a Parish Tree Preservation Order.

For Information

**Contact Officer: John Hellingsworth
Trees and Landscape Officer
Tel: 01223 443176**