

APPENDIX 6

NATURAL AREA PROFILES FOR THE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT

Table 7 - Natural Area Profiles

Natural Area	Characteristic flora and fauna	Parishes
The East Anglian Chalk	<p>Scattered chalk grassland, beechwood plantations on dry hill tops, willow and alder in wetter vallies, scrub of hawthorn and blackthorn with ivy or bramble beneath.</p> <p>Spring-fed fens, mires and marshy ground with reed, sedge and hemp agrimony.</p> <p>Spring-fed flowing water supporting water crowfoots and pondweeds with reed sweet-grass at the margins.</p> <p>Large open arable fields may support rare arable plants such as grass poly or Venus's looking-glass.</p> <p>Brown hare and typical farmland birds, such as linnet, yellow hammer and corn bunting also occur.</p>	<p>Abington Pigotts, Babraham, Balsham, Barrington, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth, Carlton, Duxford, Fen Ditton, Folwmere, Foxton, Fulbourn, Granchester, Gt & Lt Abington, Gt & Lt Chishill, Gt & Lt Shelford, Gt & Lt Wilbraham, Guilden Morden, Harlton, Harston, Haslingfield, Hauxton, Heydon, Hildersham, Hinxton, Horningsea, Ickleton, Linton, Litlington, Melbourn, Meldreth, Newton, Orwell, Pampisford, Sawston, Shepreth, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Stapleford, Steeple Morden, Stow-cum-Quy, Teversham, Thriplow, Weston Colville, West Wratting, West Wickham, Whaddon, Whittlesford.</p>
The East Anglian Plain	<p>Hedges, isolated trees and woods can give a wooded feel and provide habitat for song thrush, bullfinch and corn bunting.</p> <p>Hay meadows with knapweeds and crested dog's-tail grasses.</p> <p>Relict parkland and large hedgerow trees particularly of oak with associated bats, lichens and turtle doves.</p> <p>Arable farming dominates the landuse and provides habitat for skylarks, grey partridge and brown hare.</p>	<p>Balsham, Bartlow, Carlton, Castle Camps, Horseheath, Linton, Shudy Camps, Weston Colville, West Wickham, West Wratting.</p>

Natural Area	Characteristic flora and fauna	Parishes
The Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge	<p>Arable land and agriculturally improved pasture comprise a major proportion of the habitats within the area. Skylark and grey partridge are both still found in the area, as are a number of rare arable plants including broad-leaved spurge, fine-leaved sandwort and toothed medick.</p> <p>Important ancient woodland containing oak, ash and holly occurs. Ground flora may contain bluebell, oxlip and wood sorrel. Fungi and invertebrates are also of note.</p>	Gamlingay.
The Fens	<p>Agriculture is very important in the area due to the high quality soil. This has restricted biodiversity in some parts. However, drains, hedges and field margins provide refuge for species such as barn owl, corn bunting and skylark.</p> <p>Washlands provide temporary areas of flooded grassland that are important for plants such as the marsh foxtail, tufted hair-grass and narrow-leaved water dropwort.</p>	Cottenham, Fen Ditton, Horningsea, Milton, Over, Stow-cum-Quy, Waterbeach, Willingham.



*The Fens Natural Area
looking towards Over.*

Natural Area	Characteristic flora and fauna	Parishes
The West Anglian Plain	<p>Hedgerows, mature trees, ponds, small watercourses, and rough grassland are all typical of the area and support species such as skylark and grey partridge.</p> <p>Flooded gravel and clay pits diversify the semi-natural habitats and provide habitat for various waterfowl and the great crested newt.</p>	<p>Abington Pigotts, Arrington, Bar Hill, Barton, Bourn, Boxworth, Caldecote, Caxton, Childerley, Comberton, Conington, Coton, Cottenham, Croydon, Croxton, Dry Drayton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Fen Ditton, Fen Drayton, Gamlingay, Girton, Granchester, Gransden, Graveley, Gt & Lt Eversden, Guilden Morden, Hardwick, Harlton, Haslingfield, Hatley, Histon, Horningsea, Impington, Kingston, Knapwell, Landbeach, Lolworth, Longstanton, Longstowe, Madingley, Milton, Oakington, Orwell, Over, Papworth Everard, Papworth St Agnes, Rampton, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Steeple Morden, Swavesey, Teversham, Tadlow, Toft, Waterbeach, Westwick, Whaddon, Willingham, Wimpole.</p>



The West Anglian Plain Natural Area contains a number of ancient woodlands such as Hayley Wood.

GLOSSARY

Appropriate Assessment	This is an assessment carried out under Regulation 48 of the Habitats Regulations.
Area Action Plan	A planning document that provides a statutory framework for an area of land-use change.
Biodiversity	The biological diversity of the earth's living resources. Encompasses the total range of variability among ecosystems and organisms from the lowest level to the highest level.
Biodiversity Action Plan	A plan that lists habitats and species considered to be priorities for conservation (either local or national). The action plan will usually contained a series of agreed targets and actions.
Biodiversity Feature	Habitats, structures (natural or Man-made) or landscape features as listed in column 1 of tables 1 and 2.
Brownfield site	Previously developed land that is or was occupied by a permanent structure and is associated with fixed surface infrastructure. The definition covers the curtilage of development. Previously developed land can occur in both rural and urban settings and may contain Priority Habitats. A precise definition can be found in PPS3.
Compensation	Measures taken to make up for the loss of, or permanent damage to, biological resources through the provision of replacement areas. Any replacement area should be similar to or, with appropriate management, have the ability to reproduce the ecological functions and conditions of those biological resources that have been lost or damaged.
Conservation	The act of maintaining species and habitats at their current distribution and abundance levels across an area (such as a parish).
Designated site	Are sites noteworthy for their biodiversity interest. Such sites may be Statutory sites (Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest) or Non-statutory sites (County Wildlife Site, Local Nature Reserve, Village Green Space or Pocket Park).
Diffuse pollution	Pollution arising from a series of points such as agricultural run-off.
Enhancement	A new benefit to biodiversity, unrelated to any negative impact.
Fragmentation	The breaking up of a habitat, ecosystem or land-use type into smaller parcels.

Green Infrastructure	The sub-regional network of protected sites, nature reserves, green spaces, and greenway linkages. The linkages includes river corridors and floodplains, migration routes and features of the landscape which are of importance as wildlife corridors. Additionally, green infrastructure should provide for mulit-functional uses such as wildlife and recreation
Greenfield site	Land which has not been previously developed or which has returned to greenfield status over time.
Habitat	A place in which a particular plant or animal lives. Often used in the wider sense referring to major assemblages of plants and animals found together.
Impact	The way in which an ecological receptor or resource is affected by a project.
Infill development	Development within a village of a gap in an otherwise built-up frontage, or the redevelopment or sub-division of an existing residential curtilage, or the sub-division of an existing dwelling, or the conversion or redevelopment of a non-residential building.
Local Development Framework	Comprises a number of Development Plan Documents that set out policies and proposals for the development and use of land in the district.
Microclimate	Local climatic conditions that may result through semi-natural or Man-made features such as shading and / or wind funnelling due to tall buildings. Microclimates may provide specific conditions such as warmth on an embankment for invertebrates and reptiles.
Mitigation	Measures taken to avoid or reduce negative impacts. Measures may include: locating the development and its working areas and access routes away from areas of high ecological interest, fencing-off sensitive areas during a construction period, or timing works to avoid sensitive periods. An example of a mitigation measure is a reedbed silt trap that is designed to minimise the potential for polluted water to enter into an ecologically important watercourse. See also compensation (which is separate from mitigation).
Net gain	The point at which the quality and quantity of habitats or species improves compared to their original condition, i.e. improvements over and above those required for mitigation and compensation.
Network	An interconnected system of corridors.

Preservation	The act of maintaining a species and/or habitat at their current distribution and abundance level at a particular site. Preservation will often favour (but not to the exclusion of others) one species or habitat.
Priority Habitat	Priority Habitats are those identified within a BAP and / or the NERC Act, Section 41.
Priority Species	Priority Species are those identified within a BAP and/or the NERC Act, Section 41.
Restoration	The re-establishment of a damaged or degraded system or habitat to a close approximation of its pre-degraded condition.
Species	A group of organisms that can interbreed within their group but cannot breed (exchange genetic material) outside of it in order to produce fertile offspring.
Supplementary Planning Document	Informal policy that has been the subject of public participation. It replaces any previous Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG).
Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS)	The control of water, usually rainfall, by means of swales, lagoons, permeable paving, green roofs and sensitively re-engineered channels or reed beds.
Watercourse	Any river, brook, stream, ditch, drain, lode or dyke that conveys water from one location to another.
Wildlife corridor	A site, feature or combination of features within the landscape that form linkages between protected sites, or have been identified as a regularly used route or flight path for a Priority Species.

Where necessary glossary definitions have been collated or adapted from:
 IEEM website www.ieem.net/ecia/glossary.html
 SCDC LDF Development Control Policies DPD
 SCDC Biodiversity Strategy