

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.

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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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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.

(a)	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

(b)	Portfolio Component - Conservation areas & design.	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

(c)	Portfolio Component -: Trees and Landscape.	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,

(d)	Portfolio Component – Nature Conservation.	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

(e)	Portfolio Component - Support for Museums.	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

Illustrations

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.

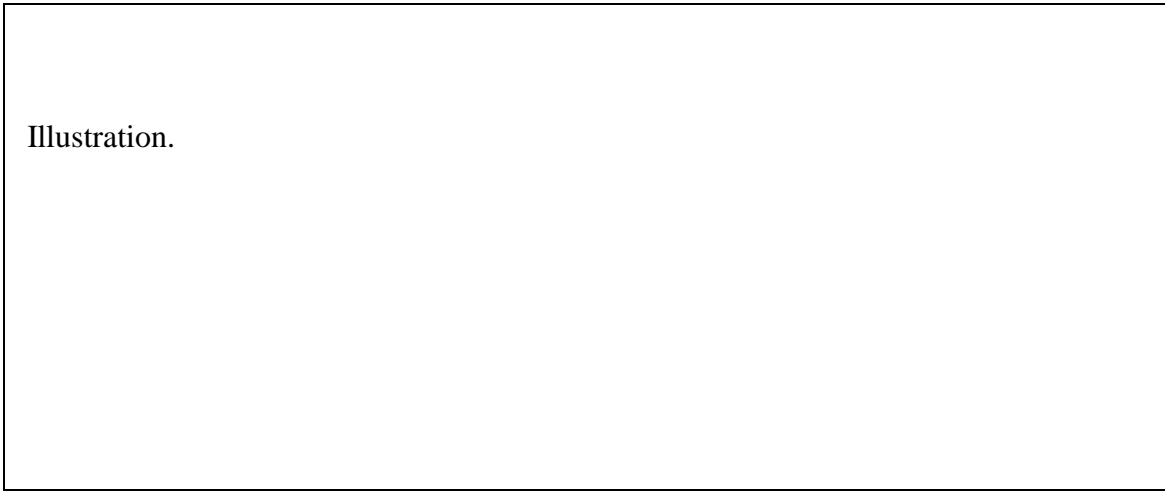
(ii) Parish Paths Partnerships.

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

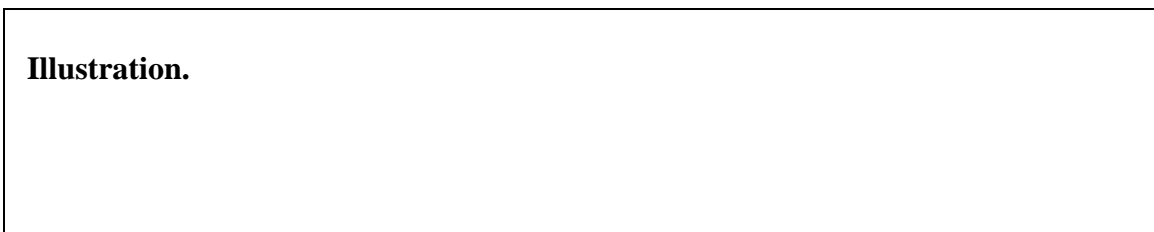
As part of the research for the gazetteer a condition survey will help identify priority targets for the initiative as well as helping implement parish initiatives including those at : Eltisley; Grantchester; Guilden Morden and Balsham.

- (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.**

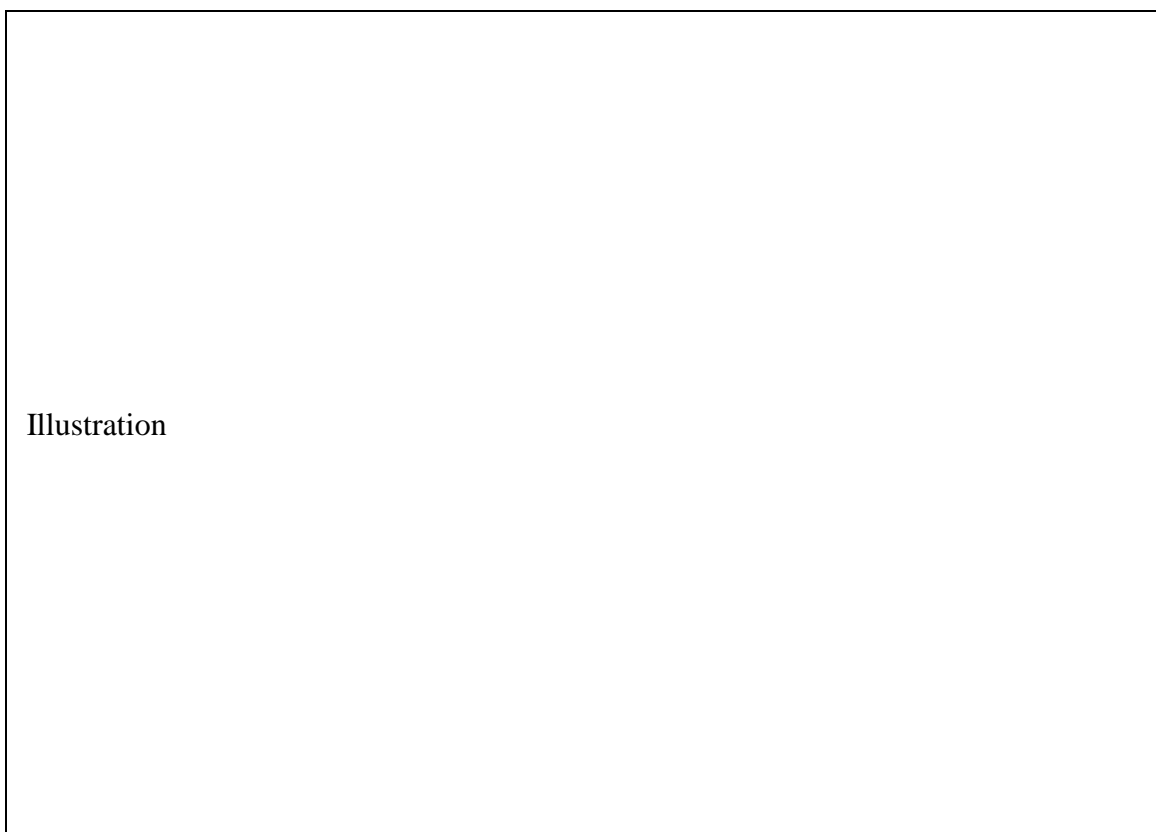
The purpose of the grant programme is to support individual tree planting initiatives, in addition to the Tree and Hedge Pack Partnership. The budget is targeted on sites owned by this Authority, or within private ownership in South Cambridgeshire.

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.

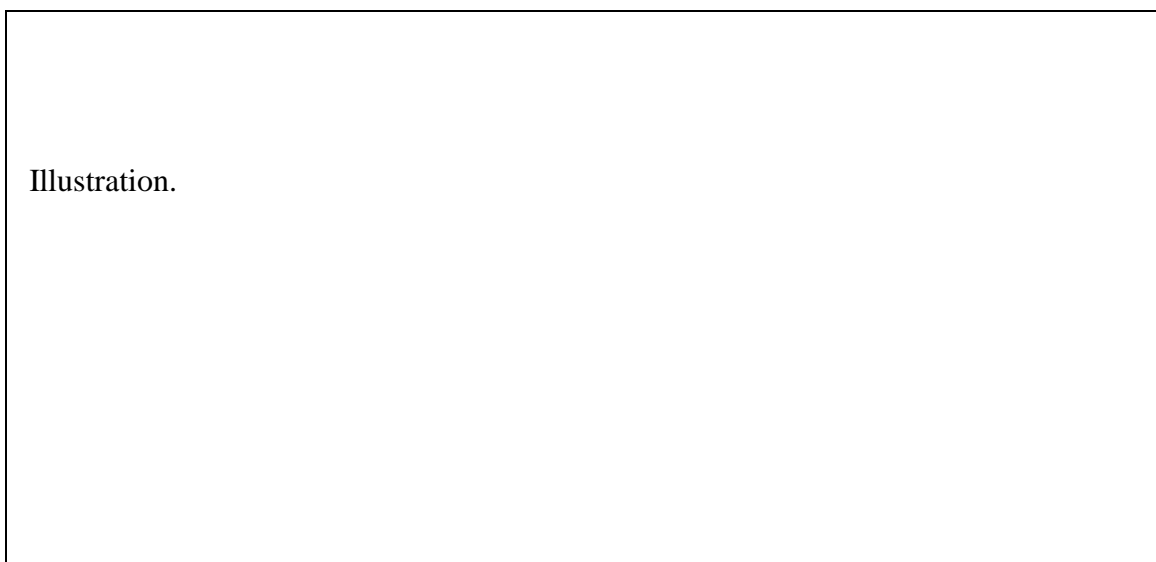
The purpose of the grant programme is to support initiatives that promote appropriate tree surgery works that will benefit trees which contribute to the public realm, both in terms of the aesthetic quality and their longevity, but not purely on the grounds of safety. Tree surgery works are supervised 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.

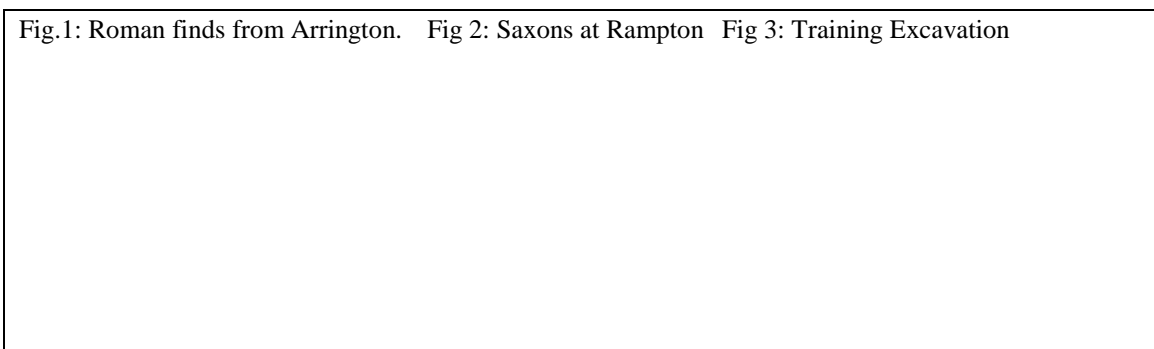
(vii) **Archaeology Grants & the Monument Management Scheme.**

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.

(viii) Wildlife Enhancement Grants.

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 (fisrr 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.