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31 May 2005

To: All Members of the Conservation Advisory Group and to Councillor Mrs JM Healey, Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **CONSERVATION ADVISORY GROUP**, which will be held in **SWANSLEY ROOM** at South Cambridgeshire Hall on **WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE 2005** at **10.00 a.m.**

Yours faithfully  
**GJ HARLOCK**  
Finance and Resources Director

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## AGENDA

## PAGES

### 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. **To authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2005.** 1 - 6

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5. **Development of a "Green Infrastructure Strategy" for the Cambridge Sub-Region** 7 - 12
6. **Gog Magog Countryside Project - implementing the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy** 13 - 18
7. **The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey** 19 - 24
8. **River Shep Partnership Project** 25 - 30
9. **Parish Tree Initiative 2005-06** 31 - 34
10. **Conservation Area Appraisals** 35 - 38
11. **St. Denis Church, East Hatley** 39 - 46

**12. Buildings at Risk - Monitoring report**

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**INFORMATION ITEM**

**13. Date of the next meeting**

To note that the next meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group will be held at South Cambridgeshire Hall on Wednesday ....., starting at 10.00am.

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group held on  
Wednesday, 27 April 2005 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Councillors: Mrs A Elsby Mrs CA Hunt  
RJ Turner Dr JR Williamson

and Councillors Mrs JM Healey (Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder) and Dr JPR Orme (Chairman, Development and Conservation Control Committee).

Councillor Mrs DSK Spink MBE (Leader of the Council) was in attendance, by invitation.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor RF Bryant (Chairman of the Council), Councillor JH Stewart and Councillor NIC Wright (Vice-Chairman, Development and Conservation Control Committee).

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor SJ Agnew declared a personal interest by virtue of his working relationship with the Green Belt Project.

Councillor Dr. J Williamson declared a personal interest as a Member of the Wildlife Trust.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Conservation Advisory Group authorised the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2005.

In connection with Minute no. 8 (Confirmation of English Heritage support to arrest deterioration of the redundant church of St. Denis, East Hatley and proposed action), the Conservation Manager said that the Council would be inviting tenders imminently, and that he envisaged presenting a report to Cabinet in June. It was not yet clear to what extent the grant would meet the costs involved, but the report would focus on the benefits to the District Council of relieving it of an ongoing maintenance requirement, and to the district as a whole of enhancing a local wildlife site. The Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder said that the Council had already identified a budget for this purpose, and the Conservation Manager added that Hatley Parish Council had agreed to contribute financially as well. The only question still outstanding was that of a future use for the building.

**3. CAMBRIDGE GREEN BELT PROJECT - 2005/06**

The Conservation Advisory Group considered a report on the work of the Cambridge Green Belt Project (GBP) and South Cambridgeshire District Council's future commitment and support for the project at a level equivalent to the current level of funding.

Naomi Brookes (GBP Manager) made a presentation to Members.

The Ecology Officer reported that the Council had varied the way in which it maintains

awarded watercourses as a direct result of work carried out by the GBP in connection with water voles.

In response to a question from the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder, the GBP Manager explained that Cambridgeshire County Council had recently re-evaluated the way in which it wanted to continue funding the Project. This amounted to payment for work done as opposed to a flat-rate grant, and much of this work would be in connection with the County Council's own Grounds Maintenance needs. A Member expressed disappointment that the County Council and Cambridge City Council made such small grants compared to that from this Council, but the GBP Manager pointed out that the City Council did fund an equivalent Project in Cambridge.

Members acknowledged the major contribution that the GBP was able to make to the District, and the Chairman remarked that continued financial support from the Council would assist the GBP in securing additional funding from elsewhere, and in raising further funds privately.

Members would welcome the opportunity to visit sites benefiting from work by the GBP, in due course.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder confirms support for the current work of the Cambridge Green Belt Project, the level of grant funding of £11,000 for 2005/06 and, subject to resource availability, the equivalent level of current funding in 2006-07.

#### 4. CONSERVATION AREAS - BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Conservation Advisory Group considered a report on the implications for South Cambridgeshire District Council of the new Best Value Performance Indicators for Conservation Areas (BV PIs) set by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the appropriate level of resource commitment to achieve the new targets.

The Conservation Area and Design Officer referred to the programme for producing Conservation Area Appraisals, which had commenced with villages most affected by Northstowe and would then focus on those villages impacted upon by Cambridge East and the Cambridge Southern Fringe. Later on, the programme would concentrate on Rural Growth Villages, followed by Group Villages, before concluding with Infill Only villages. Appraisals had been published recently for Longstanton, Oakington and Westwick, as had the proposal for Rampton. The next set of appraisals would cover Fen Ditton, Horningsea, Teversham, and Swavesey, the latter likely to be affected by the proposed Guided Bus scheme. South Cambridgeshire currently had 83 Conservation Areas, and to prepare Appraisals for all of them within a five year time frame would require 16 new appraisals to be prepared each year. The Conservation Area and Design Officer commented that there was a balance to be struck between increasing the total number of Appraisals, and updating existing ones. Given available resources, it was considered most sensible for the District Council to concentrate on achieving a year on year improvement in the overall percentage of Conservation Areas with up-to-date appraisals.

The Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder congratulated the Conservation Area and Design Officer for the quality of work achieved in relation to Conservation Area Appraisals, and stressed that quality was far more important than the actual number of appraisals.

The Conservation Area and Design Officer said that, should the Council succeed in obtaining an enhanced Planning Delivery Grant, there might be an opportunity to appoint

consultants with a view to carrying out more Appraisals.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder sets a modest target for year on year improvements in the percentage of Conservation Areas with both up-to-date character appraisals and management proposals, such that the work can be carried out by the existing staff within the Conservation Section, supplemented by additional resources allocated from Planning Delivery Grant in 2006/07, if appropriate and available.

## 5. SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

The Conservation Advisory Group noted a report on progress being made in preparing the South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Strategy.

The Ecology Officer circulated copies of the Internal Draft Consultation document dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

A Member commented that the Strategy would play an essential part in the Council's negotiations with developers.

Members discussed the draft generally, and agreed that the inclusion of cross-references in paragraph 1 (Biodiversity Statements) would enhance the document's ease of use. They congratulated the Ecology Officer for his efforts to date in developing the Council's Biodiversity Strategy.

The Ecology Officer outlined the process to be followed in order to secure adoption of the Strategy as a Supplementary Planning Document under the Local Development Framework.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder support adoption of the presented draft "policy statements" as the fundamental basis for the Biodiversity Strategy to enable the strategy to be progressed towards the consultation stage.

## 6. SOUTH CAMBS. NATURAL HERITAGE AWARDS 2004/05

The Conservation Manager made a PowerPoint presentation of the schemes submitted under the South Cambridgeshire Natural Heritage Awards scheme 2004-05 for consideration and confirmation of awards by Members. He highlighted paragraph 6 of the report included with the agenda, [setting out the various criteria for assessment, which were as follows](#) :

1. Projects that contribute to sustainability by enhancing & protecting biodiversity & landscape quality.
2. Projects that recognise, celebrate and enhance village life.
3. Projects that encourage best practice in the delivery of countryside access and enhancement.
4. Projects that facilitate further partnership initiatives.
5. Projects that help the integration of development into rural landscapes.

Members had undertaken site inspections of the submitted schemes on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2005 and confirmed the following:

### **Hinxton Wetland Project.**

Entrant : Dr. P. Towlson, Welcome Trust.

**Natural Heritage Award - Large scheme** - for the achievement of excellence in biodiversity enhancement and conservation of natural heritage.

**White Ponds, Steeple Morden.**

Entrant : Steeple Morden Parish Council

**Natural Heritage Award - Small scheme** - for the achievement of excellence in biodiversity enhancement and conservation of natural heritage.

**Harston Mill.**

Entrant : The Generics Group

**Highly Commended - Large scheme** - for a high standard of achievement in biodiversity enhancement and conservation of natural heritage.

**Lolworth Meadow.**

Entrant : Mr Horsford.

**Highly Commended - Small scheme** - for a high standard of achievement in biodiversity enhancement and conservation of natural heritage.

**Little Shelford Riverside Walk.**

Entrant : Little Shelford Parish Council

**Commended** - for achievement in biodiversity and conservation of natural heritage.

**Ruddery Pit, Guilden Morden.**

Entrant : Mr J. Dellar.

**Commended** - for achievement in biodiversity and conservation of natural heritage

**Tween Towns Woods.**

Entrant : Guilden Morden and Steeple Morden Parish Councils.

**Commended** - for achievement in biodiversity and conservation of natural heritage

Members discussed arrangements for a formal Awards evening on either 28<sup>th</sup> June or 12<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

**7. SOUTH CAMBS. BUILT HERITAGE AWARD SCHEME - 2005/06**

The Conservation Manager presented a report on the proposed launch of the 2005-06 conservation award scheme, which would focus on achievements in the preservation and enhancement of the built heritage.

He informed Members that the deadline for entries was 19<sup>th</sup> August 2005, and suggested a timetable leading to an awards ceremony.

The Vice-Chairman, referring to paragraph 5 of the report, highlighted the danger of sending out the wrong message. Accordingly, point (c) should mention the importance of preservation as well.

The Conservation Advisory Group supported the launch of the South Cambridgeshire.Built Heritage Awards 2005-06, as described in the report, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder authorise the allocation of appropriate funding to facilitate the promotion, consideration and presentation of the various awards.

**8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Members noted that the next meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group would be held

on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2005, starting at 10.00am.

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**The Meeting ended at 1.05 p.m.**

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**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Conservation Advisory Group,  
Conservation, Sustainability &  
Community Planning Portfolio Holder

**AUTHOR/S:** Conservation Manager

8<sup>th</sup> June 2005

**DEVELOPMENT OF A “GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY” FOR THE  
CAMBRIDGE SUB-REGION**

**Purpose**

1. To seek members support for the proposed development of a, “Green Infrastructure Strategy” for the Cambridgeshire sub-region, identifying potential funding to contribute to its development from the Conservation budget.

**Effect on Corporate Objectives**

2. Quality, Accessible Services	The development of the Green Infrastructure Strategy will enable the Council to focus resources and deliver its objectives for quality of life and biodiversity enhancement, in both the Community Strategy and the Local Development Plan.
Village Life	The proposed strategy will help frame activity for the enhancement of district’s village, not only by creating major countryside access points but also by connecting greenspaces within a network and offering the potential for local people to engage in environmental enhancement.
Sustainability	Implementation of the strategic scale projects will help mitigate climate change and the extensive development
Partnership	The purpose of the strategy is facilitate a wide range of environmental enhancement initiatives and is being developed through a partnership of national and local government and voluntary sector organisations.

**Background**

3. In conjunction with partners, outlined below, it is proposed to draw up a bold and imaginative strategy for the provision of large-scale green infrastructure for the Cambridge sub-region over the next 20-30 years, to complement and support the significant growth in housing provision that is planned over this period.
4. The proposed strategy will build on the ‘*Strategic Open Space Study*’ carried out by W.S.Atkins for Cambridgeshire County Council in March 2004, and should link together and develop the large-scale open space proposals (which are hoped to funded under the Growth Area Delivery Grant II). Some significant projects which would help create substantial countryside access and biodiversity enhancement advantages in South Cambridgeshire are currently being promoted by a variety of agencies in the sub-region.
5. *Policy Context*  
Members will be aware that over the next twenty years the Cambridge sub-region is expected to grow in population by approximately 130,000 people from its current population of 425,000. The impact of this growth on the existing quality of life of the

region will depend on the extent to which the existing infrastructure, including *green infrastructure*, can be enhanced.

6. The South Cambridgeshire area will be affected by the new town of 8,000 homes at Northstowe; a new urban quarter on the east side of Cambridge of up to 12,000 new homes; and two urban fringe developments sites located on the north west and south sides of Cambridge which will deliver approximately 6500 new homes between them. All these major developments will bring opportunities to enhance the adjoining green infrastructure, which could link into a strategic network of green spaces, funded by both development requirements and grant sources. The proposed strategy is expected to identify how this should be carried out.
7. The Structure Plan also includes policies for creating new green infrastructure and enhancing the existing landscape, including : *Policy 7/3 Countryside Enhancement Areas*, which identifies those broad areas where emphasis will be given to the promotion of schemes for quiet recreation and the enhancement of access, landscape and biodiversity.
8. The “Strategic Open Space Study” by WS Atkins, carried out an audit of strategic open space and proposed a standard for the provision of new strategic open space that could be applied to future developments. However, it stopped short of developing this work into an implementation strategy for future provision. The “*Green Infrastructure Strategy*” is also framed by the 50-year biodiversity vision map produced by the Cambridge and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership.
9. *Strategic Open Spaces Forum*.  
During 2004, “*Cambridgeshire Horizons*” (CHs) was established as the local delivery vehicle for the Cambridge Sub-region, to co-ordinate and drive forward the growth strategy for the Cambridge sub-region. The provision of green infrastructure was identified as a key priority for the successful implementation of the growth agenda.
10. A ‘*Strategic Open Spaces Forum*’ has been established by CHs, which includes : all the local authorities; Woodland Trust; Cambridge Preservation Society; Wildlife Trust; Great Fen Project; English Nature; Peterborough City Environmental Trust (PECT); National Trust; Forestry Commission; Environment Agency; Countryside Agency; and the RSPB. The purpose of the group is to jointly develop projects which could be submitted for funding from the Government’s Growth Area Fund (GADG II). Two projects had been successful in receiving grant for 2003-6, and bids totalling £9.5 million are being submitted for implementation during 2006-8.
11. *Definition of green infrastructure*.  
“*Green infrastructure*” is defined as the sub-regional network of protected sites, nature reserves, greenspaces and greenway linkages. It should provide (where possible) multi-functional uses, such as : wildlife habitat; recreational space; cultural experiences; as well as delivering ecological services, such as flood protection and microclimate control. Green Infrastructure should also operate at all spatial scales from urban centres through to open countryside.<sup>1</sup>
12. The proposed “*Green Infrastructure Strategy*” will mainly concentrate on creating a strategic overview of Greenspace within the Cambridge Sub Region but will also inform the work being carried out by SCDC under the Biodiversity Strategy.
13. Well-designed and integrated greenspace will improve : environmental quality; health; well being; and sense of community, and provides opportunity for exercise,

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<sup>1</sup> Biodiversity by Design – A guide for sustainable communities. Town & Country Planning Association. 2004.

sport and informal recreation. The eventual '*Green infrastructure*' of the sub- region should contribute to and enhance the quality of life of both present and future residents and visitors, through:

- a. *Providing a focus and attraction for the increased population proposed within the Cambridge Sub-Region.*
  - b. *Provision of further greenspace and wider access to the countryside.*
  - c. *Protection and enhancement of existing biodiversity and creation of new areas for biodiversity.*
  - d. *Reverse the fragmentation of habitats by restoring their connectivity.*
  - e. *Provide the opportunity to rehabilitate landscapes and habitats damaged by previous development or by existing recreational pressures.*
  - f. *Provide an enhanced environmental backdrop that will assist in attracting business and inward investment to those areas.*
14. The proposed *Green Infrastructure Strategy* would, therefore, be commissioned by Cambridgeshire Horizons, with a funding from the partners to :
- (a) Bring together existing data on sites and map out in detail existing greenspace provision based upon need, current opportunities and shortfall within the Cambridge sub-region.
  - (b) Carry out an analysis at a strategic level around the major development sites looking at existing provision, deficiencies and identification of future possible pressure points over a 20/30-year timescale.
  - (c) Carry out a general analysis on the wider Cambridge sub-region identifying current opportunities and possible future projects across the sub-region.
  - (d) Develop the analysis into a bold and imaginative 20/30-year vision strategy, building upon current (and future) initiatives and includes : biodiversity enhancement; landscaping and rights of way issues.
  - (e) Develop a framework for the longer-term management/running costs of any future assets created.

### **Considerations**

15. The completion of the proposed '*Green Infrastructure Strategy*' will create a framework for targeting both action and resources across the Cambridge Sub-Region to facilitate the development and funding of major green spaces. The Atkins study identified that, despite its rural character the region is already under-provided for in terms development of accessible countryside. It is also clear from other studies that the region does not meet targets for wildlife space and biodiversity.
16. In the light of the development pressures in the region it is evident that significant provision across the region needs to be developed, and an 'implementation' plan consequently developed to direct resources from all sources. Such a strategy will help identify and prioritise key project areas in terms of funding regimes and ensure that that the emerging initiatives are connected and complementary.

17. While the proposed '*Green Infrastructure Strategy*' will focus on the development of a network of strategic scale projects, members will be aware of the village level initiatives that SCDC promote and support in partnership with local communities and Parish Councils. These smaller scale initiatives, which will be identified in the emerging SCDC "*Biodiversity Strategy*", will also contribute to the enhancement of countryside access and biodiversity in the region by helping to complete the district wide pattern of accessible greenspaces and wildlife habitats.
18. The realisation of the objectives of these two implementation strategies will be to address both the overall open-space requirements of the region (including the demands imposed by the new developments) and local enhancement in the existing villages. The smaller scale projects will also ensure that local communities are directly involved in the development and delivery of such open-space and biodiversity projects.

### **Options**

19. The Conservation Advisory Group are requested to consider the above and either :
  - i. Recommend that the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder supports the development of the proposed, "*Green Infrastructure Strategy*" and allocates appropriate resources from the Conservation budget to contribute to the necessary financial package and develop the project, subject to confirmation of matching funding from the project partners.

Or

  - ii. Recommend that the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder declines to support the development of the proposed, "*Green Infrastructure Strategy*" stating the reasons for this option.

### **Financial Implications**

20. Cambridgeshire Horizons have allocated upto £20,000 towards the development of this strategy with smaller sums being agreed in principle by all the other funding partners. A contribution of £5,000 by SCDC would seem appropriate in the light of the indicative contributions by other partners.
21. Funding of £5,000 could be available within the Conservation budget by re-allocating an unexpended previous revenue commitment. This has been confirmed by the Director of Finances. Funding was authorised on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2000, under the budget for *Ecological Support Services*, by the then Conservation Committee, for Survey of water courses. This study was not commenced. It is, therefore, proposed to re-allocate this funding to support the "*Green Infrastructure Strategy*" as this will include such water courses, subject to leverage of other partnership funding and completion during 2005/06.

### **Legal Implications**

22. None specific.

### **Staffing Implications**

23. SCDC is represented on the *Green Infrastructure Strategy Steering Group* by the Conservation Manager and will work with the consultants and partners on projects which impact on South Cambridgeshire and the development of the strategy as local

policy. Members of the Conservation section will work with partners to develop the projects to implement the strategy.

## **Risk Management Implications**

24. The project will be managed by Cambridgeshire Horizons.

## **Consultations**

25. None specific to date. The strategy will be subject to the usual extensive consultation in its draft form. The Conservation Advisory Group and the Portfolio Holder will be consulted on the draft strategy.

## **Conclusions/Summary**

26. It is considered that the development of a green infrastructure strategy for the Cambridge sub-region will have significant advantages for the development of the biodiversity and countryside access of the district.
27. It offers the potential to create a cohesive implementation plan to ensure that emerging initiatives which SCDC would want to promote and support are complementing each other rather than competing for funding resources. These include emerging strategic scale projects at : Wicken Fen extension; Fen Drayton RSPB reserve; the Gog Magog Countryside Park and the the Forest of South Cambridgeshire; as well as similar scale projects to be developed across the district during 2005/06 at the Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey and Wysing Arts.
28. In addition it will enable the potential to enhance the open space provision, required through the development proposals and funded by planning agreements, to be connected to developing network of accessible greenspace.

## **Recommendations**

29. That the Conservation Advisory Group recommend that the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder supports the development of the proposed, "*Green Infrastructure Strategy*" and re-allocates the unexpended revenue commitment for a "Survey of Watercourses", under the budget for *Ecological Support Services*, to support the funding of the project, subject to leverage of other partnership funding and completion during 2005/06.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: Draft Brief for the Green Infrastructure Strategy – Cambridgeshire Horizons. 2005

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**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Conservation Advisory Group. Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder.	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2005
<b>AUTHOR/S:</b>	Conservation Manager	

**GOG MAGOG COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT – IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY.**

**Purpose**

1. To outline a countryside access project which is being developed under the emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy for the sub-region and seek members support for the proposed funding bid under the second round of the Growth Area Delivery Grant (GADG II).

***A presentation will be made on this item by the Chief Executive of the Cambridge Preservation Society.***

**Effect on Corporate Objectives**

2.	Quality, Accessible Services	Provision of enhanced biodiversity and green space is a key council objective, support to deliver increased such space is included as a performance indicator (SP901).
	Village Life	The proposed project will make a substantial contribution to the enhancement of the natural environment and setting of the villages on the southern fringe of the city, as well as creating a strategic greenspace of regional significance.
	Sustainability	The provision of enhanced countryside access and biodiversity will help mitigate the development of the region and contribute to meeting sustainability targets.
	Partnership	The project is an example of a major partnership initiative which will address key council targets.

**Background**

3. *Project Aim.*  
The overall aim is to create a publicly accessible greenspace of over 600 ha on the southern edge of Cambridge. This would form an area of accessible countryside for the southern and eastern half of Cambridge, including the proposed city extensions. It would also be accessible to the rest of Cambridge City and adjacent villages within South Cambridgeshire District (including Great Shelford, Stapleford, Babraham & Fulbourn).
4. The overall project will link and safeguard : 5 Sites of Special Scientific Interest; 3 County Wildlife Sites; and 3 protected road verges, all vitally important for their chalk grassland habitats & species. The main open access area would be within 2 miles of the major southern urban extension to Cambridge and would be directly linked by new access routes.

5. The project would integrate Wandlebury Country Park, the Magog Trust land, and the other high quality conservation sites, to provide a large greenspace resource close to the major eastern and southern expansion of Cambridge and other housing in the vicinity. At present just over 200 ha is managed by the project partners, and the medium to long-term aim would be to acquire over 400 ha of additional land.
6. *The overall project objectives :*
  - (a) The provision of enhanced and sustainable public access linkages (*pedestrian, bridle & cycle routes*) to and around the project area and surrounding Green Belt countryside from Cambridge, the new settlements and the nearby villages.
  - (b) The creation of a high quality strategic greenspace, catering for a significantly increased population.
  - (c) The enhancement of the landscape setting of Cambridge, creating a liveable, accessible, greener and safer Green Belt area as a gateway to both the city and the surrounding villages and countryside.
  - (d) The creation of a significant area of Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat (chalk grassland, beech woodland)
  - (e) Increasing people's understanding of the local environment through interpretation, education and increased skills.
  - (f) Socio-economic gain including the provision of refreshment stops to visitors within the project area, new jobs to manage the new features, and education and other related job opportunities.

7. *Project Phases*

The proposed project can be divided onto discrete phases, with Phase 1 of the overall project deliverable in the 2-year timescale of GADG II funding (2006-08). This first phase would focus on :

- a. Provision of new linear access routes (pedestrian, bridle and cycle routes) and additional greenspace with new open access to and around the project area. The aim is for the creation of broad access corridors/buffer landscapes to provide pleasant routes and to spread visitor pressures on landscape and create routes of value to wildlife. Path infrastructure will be provided, including sensitive and appropriate boundary treatments.
  - b. Habitat creation – significant areas of chalk and other grasslands, woodland, hedges.
  - c. Acquisition and land use change of land within the project area, including initiation of the process of creating high quality habitats.
  - d. Enhanced interpretation facilities for visitors to the project area. Volunteer and teaching events will relate to chalk grassland and related habitats' management and forest school educational principles, based on wide expertise held by the project partners.
8. Further land acquisition and development of greenspaces, habitat creation and the provision of increased access (e.g. improved bus connections, road crossings) and



other more formal visitor facilities (exact requirements depending on the results of wider public consultation) would be delivered over a 10 year period.

### Considerations

9. *Sustainable Communities Plan*  
The project supports the development of publicly accessible greenspaces around developing communities, fundamental to the ODPM's Sustainable Communities Plan, which is the driving force behind the growth of the Cambridge Sub-region. Para 4.12 of the plan notes that, "*providing high quality park and public spaces*" is "*crucial to building sustainable communities and ensuring that places are attractive areas in which to live and work*". This is basis for the projects being developed under the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy, which includes the Gog Magog Countryside project.
10. This strategic importance is further emphasised by Cambridgeshire Horizons (the LDV for the sub-region) which has as it's vision, "*to drive forward sustainable growth in the sub-region in accordance with the approved development and infrastructure plans... to.... provide places for people to live in an environmentally-friendly way*". The provision of green infrastructure is recognised as a key component and this project aims to support this vision.
11. *Principal project partners.*  
The project is being developed by the Cambridge Preservation Society (CPS) and The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough (WT). They will develop the GADG II funding bid, as well as provide project management including : managing tenders for contracts; raising funds; creation of habitats; the management of greenspaces for people and wildlife; involving volunteers and local communities.
12. *SCDC role in the partnership.*  
Members are requested to indicate their provisional support for the project to complete the developing partnership which includes the following organisations :
  - English Nature – likely to support the project, ecological expertise.
  - Cambridge City Council - indicated provisional support & may contribute project funding.
  - Cambridgeshire County Council - indicated provisional support, may contribute project funding; assistance with access improvements; match funding for cycleway.
  - Cambridgeshire Horizons – indicated support for the project; facilitation of strategic greenspace provision through strategy development and a sub-regional approach to s106 planning agreements to fund future land acquisition and management.
13. *Outputs*  
The project is a unique chance to integrate radial and circular routes accessible to the public in the urban fringe area to the south of the City, currently with overall poor access. The outputs for the 2006 to 2008 phase of the project are projected as :
  - (i) Provision of newly accessible recreational land to the public (approx 42 ha)
  - (ii) Enhanced access links (approximately 4.5Km public access- partly combined), including a new cycleway (c1.5km), bridleway (c2km); footpath (c4.5km – new Public Right of Ways) between the project area and Cambridge City (including the new urban extensions).

- (iii) Acquisition of land (c46ha) and land use change on overall approx. 75 hectares of land (including where land acquisition is not achievable).
- (iv) Habitat creation (chalk grassland c25ha, woodland c2ha, hedgerows c2km, c40 no. road/path-side specimen trees).
- (v) Enhanced interpretation facilities and information for visitors to the project area including directional signage and provision of an active volunteer programme.

**Options**

14. The Conservation Advisory Group are requested to consider the above and the presentation and either :
- (a) Recommend that the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio formally confirms the authority's support for the development of the project, to enable the funding bid under GADG II to be completed as part of the development of the *Green Infrastructure Strategy*.
  - (b) In the event that GADG II funding is awarded for the project, recommend that the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio considers appropriate funding, subject to resource availability, for the subsequent development of the project.
- Or
- (c) Decline to recommend that the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio confirm support for the development of the project.

**Financial Implications**

15. None specific as a result of this report. However, members will be asked to consider potential future funding allocations, in the light of the result of the bid to GADG II. The expected Total Project Cost is £1.574 million, of which £1.374 million is being sought from ODPM via GADG II. The following tables outlines these figures, which exclude the value of the land contributed by the project partners.

<i>Partner</i>	2006/07	2007/08	Totals in £	Indicative Costings	2006 to 2008 in £
ODPM	530,000	824,000	1,374,000	Habitat Creation	132,834
Cambridge Preservation Society	30,000	30,000	60,000	Habitat Mgm	30,000
Wildlife Trust	10,000	10,000	20,000	Paths & PRoW	512,340
<i>Others</i> (Local Authorities, Environmental Stewardship HLS, WGS, WREN, Sponsorship from local people and businesses)	35,000	85,000	120,000	Land Acquisition – recreational & habitat	698,963
<b>Totals</b>	<b>605,000</b>	<b>949,000</b>	<b>1,574,000</b>	<b>Land Acquisition – access links</b>	<b>61,863</b>
For details please refer to drawing : GOGS-12B attached				Interpretation	18,000
				Project Mgm (Project Manager and part-time Volunteer Manager and Ranger)	120,000
Key: ~ approximately					<b>1,574,000</b>

**Legal Implications**

16. None specific.

**Staffing Implications**

17. None specific.

**Risk Management Implications**

18. None specific as the project will be managed by the Cambridge Preservation Society.

**Consultations**

19. None specific to date. A wide consultation exercise will be undertaken as the project develops.

**Conclusions/Summary**

20. The proposed GoG Magog GADG II project offers the potential to make a major contribution to the enhancement of countryside access and biodiversity of the district, as well as creating a significant link in the network of open space which will form the sub-region's green infrastructure. The support of the authority, as a part of the project partnership will be essential in order to lever Government funding support and enable the project to be realised.

**Recommendations**

21. That the Conservation Advisory Group are requested to consider the above and :
- (a) Recommend that the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio formally confirms the authority's support for the development of the project, to enable the funding bid under GADG II to be completed as part of the development of the *Green Infrastructure Strategy*.
  - (b) In the event that GADG II funding is awarded for the project, recommend that the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio considers appropriate funding, subject to resource availability, for the subsequent development of the project.

Appendix 1 : Gog Magog Countryside – Context & Proposals Dwg. GOGS – 12B Rev.B

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: GADG II – Expression of interest – May 2005. Cambridge Preservation Society.

**Contact Officer:** Nick Grimshaw – Conservation Manager  
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## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Conservation Advisory Group. Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder. Community Development Portfolio Holder.	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2005
<b>AUTHOR/S:</b>	Conservation Manager	

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**THE FARMLAND MUSEUM AND DENNY ABBEY - PROGRESS ON THE ON-GOING  
DEVELOPMENT SCHEME AND FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR VISITOR FACILITIES  
ENHANCEMENT AS PART OF THE PROJECTED GREEN & CULTURAL  
INFRASTRUCTURE.**

**Purpose**

- To advise members of the progress of the development scheme initiated by the Community Development Portfolio Holder and the then Conservation Portfolio Holder in 2003/04 and seek support for the next stage of the enhancement scheme and the proposed funding bids to external grant bodies.

***The Curator of the Farmland Museum & Denny Abbey will make a presentation on this item.***

**Effect on Corporate Objectives**

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Quality, Accessible Services | By enhancing both physical and intellectual access to the district's heritage the Museum contributes to meeting targets set out in the Council's performance plan 2005/06, specifically : BV170a – museum visits per 1000 pop; BV170b – museum visits in person per 1000 pop; and BV170c – pupils visiting museums/galleries in school groups.  |
| Village Life                 | The museum celebrates and interprets the heritage and village life of South Cambridgeshire, and thereby contributes to meeting the objectives of the Community Strategy and its actions No. 9 (engagement in social, cultural development) and No. 11 (life long learning). Further, the proposed further development of the museum as a 'visitor hub' will include increased countryside access, (as part of the district's green infrastructure) potentially creating new west-east linkage to the River Cam and thereby contributing to implement Community Strategy Action 22 (accessible countryside). |
| Sustainability               | The museum both helps preserve and makes a sustainable use of historic buildings, which are consequently managed and maintained for the benefit of the community.   |

Partnership	The Council's funding support (under the Museums Grant) enables significant partnership funding to be levered by the museum from national heritage bodies and is expected to be included in the emerging <i>Green Infrastructure Strategy</i> to enable further partnerships to be developed to both draw financial support and facilitate countryside access.
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### Background

3. Since 2002, the Farmland Museum has been working with SCDC on developing the Denny Abbey site, to incorporate it better into the museum's story. A development scheme was drawn up in 2003/04 with support and funding from the Community Development and Conservation portfolio holders and English Heritage. This has been continued into 2004/05 with an additional grant from the Conservation Portfolio Holder's budget (*Heritage Initiative Fund*). This has enabled the museum to concentrate on enhancing this joint curatorial role with English Heritage.
4. The development scheme was initiated in recognition of the need to improve the interpretation of the former abbey and unify the two sides of the site, in partnership with : English Heritage; CCC; the Heritage Lottery Fund; and SCDC during 2003/04.
5. The following table outlines the development project's priorities that were recognised as necessary to be addressed.

<b>Priority 1</b> Research, and development of more accessible interpretation material, panels and dressed sets.	<b>Priority 2</b> Erection of dressed sets and launch enhanced site story.	<b>Priority 3</b> Parking and site signage improvements.	<b>Priority 4</b> Development of new visitor entrance and access.	<b>Priority 5</b> Development of living exhibitions of medieval life and farming.
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6. The following table outlines the key priority 1 & 2 components and project costs :

Priority component 1, 2	Funding contributors.	£Cost	Year
(i) New guidebook for the entire site.	English Heritage	£4, 000	2003/04
(ii) Coordinated orientation boards across the site.	English Heritage	£8, 000	2003/04
(iii) New interior and exterior interpretation panels	SCDC ( <i>Conservation - HIF</i> )	£5, 000	
(iv) Time line feature detailing the evolution of the site.	Cambs. County Council	£2, 000	
(v) Set dressing & lighting, focusing on three contrasting periods.	English Heritage (L.M.A)	£8, 000	2004/05
(vi) Interactive displays.	SCDC ( <i>Conservation – HIF</i> )	£10,000	
	Lottery (Awards for All)	£ 5,000	
	EEMLAC	2,000	
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>£44,000</b>	
	<b>SCDC Contribution</b>	<b>£15,000 (34%)</b>	

7. Priorities 1 and 2 outlined above have been achieved.

8. The next stage of the development programme involves working towards and achieving priorities 3, 4 and 5.
9. A feasibility study is being commissioned by the Museum in 2005 to :
  - clarify the components of priorities 3, 4 and 5.
  - explore ideas for the next stages of development, including linkage to the sub-regional Green Infrastructure Strategy.
  - provide a clear strategy for ensuring the longevity of the Museum.

*The brief for the feasibility study will form the basis of the Curator's presentation.*

### **Considerations**

10. The Farmland Museum Trust now looks after Denny Abbey for English Heritage under a local management agreement (although building maintenance costs remain with English Heritage). This has created significant opportunities for the development of the visitor attraction and the agricultural story of the district.
11. It will be evident from the continued growth of the museum since 2002 that the development programme is working. The 2004/05 season has been particularly successful, enhancing the museum's role as a significant tourist attraction. Well over 12,000 people visited the site, of which 2,500 were school children.
12. The museum growth experienced in 2004/05 focused on the school and lifelong learning events, and was particularly impressive in terms of the children's activity days. This shows a steady climb in numbers, attributed to : the improvements in marketing and publicity which have resulted from the development programme; the work of the education outreach worker; and the encouraging results of special events which have been effective in drawing repeat visits.
13. Further work is needed to realise the full visitor potential of the museum site and in particular its potential as a 'visitor hub' to explore the countryside (and thereby a target for the Green Infrastructure Strategy) and its historic relationship with the former abbey. This will include the potential offered by the Growth Area fund.
14. *Museum as Countryside 'gateway'*.  
It is, therefore, proposed as part of the feasibility study to explore the potential to provide a new 'gateway access' from Denny Abbey & The Farmland Museum, into the open fen-edge landscape. This will create an enhanced visitor hub at the museum, which will link key heritage and recreational attractions within the Cam Valley. Such an enhanced physical and intellectual access into the fenland landscape offers the potential to create east-west linkages to the River Cam and via Upware to Wicken Fen.
15. Clearly significant funding would be required but this might be accessible via the growth area fund, if the objectives are accepted as part of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

The key project aims would then be :

- To provide an enhanced visitor hub, including transport facilities and an orientation centre at the Denny Abbey & The Farmland Museum site,
- To establish approximately 1.5 kilometres of new safe off-road, east-west bridleway/cycleway/footpath routes from the A10 to enhance the existing Rights of Way network to : Waterbeach; Upware and Wicken Fen and provide a new focus for strategic countryside access development.

- To further develop publicly accessible linkages and the potential of existing key heritage assets in the Cam valley.
16. It is hoped that the results of the feasibility study will be able to be reported to members before the end of the calendar year.

### **Options**

17. The Conservation Advisory Group are requested to consider the above and the presentation and either :
- (a) Recommend that the portfolio holders for Community Development and Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning continue to support the on-going partnership development programme at the Farmland Museum & Denny Abbey and invite the Curator to present the results of the feasibility study at their respective portfolio holder's meeting by December 2005.
  - (b) Recommend that the portfolio holders for Community Development and Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning support the potential of the museum to be developed as a 'countryside gateway' within the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy.
  - (c) Decline to recommend that the portfolio holders for Community Development and Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning continue to support the on-going partnership development programme at the Farmland Museum & Denny Abbey and suggest alternative methods of securing the future viability of the museum.

### **Financial Implications**

18. None specific as a result of this report.
19. SCDC's annually confirmed "*Museum Grants*" budget contributes to the revenue of the museum and funds the full-time Curator and a part-time museum assistant. Without the revenue grant the museum would not be able to employ professional staff and could not function. The 2005/06 Museum grant allocation for the Farmland Museum & Denny Abbey is enabling the development programme to continue and support the feasibility study, which itself is designed to identify additional sources of revenue to enable the museum to become more self-sufficient.

### **Legal Implications**

20. None specific as a result of this report.

### **Staffing Implications**

21. The Museum Grants budget funds staff posts at the Farmland Museum & Denny Abbey as well as the Folk Museum. The budget is administered on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Community Development by the Conservation Manager.

### **Risk Management Implications**

22. Failure to achieve on-going revenue support for the museum will jeopardise its future, this has been recognised by the portfolio holders since 2002, hence the commencement of the development programme. Having achieved the initial phases



the growth area programme offers significant potential to implement the necessary further stages and move towards a greater level of autonomy.

### **Consultations**

23. None specific. Local members have been consulted on the development programme and the Cabinet have considered the progress report in March when it confirmed the museum's grant for 2005/06. Wide consultation will be undertaken on the results of the feasibility study.

### **Conclusions/Summary**

24. Significant progress has been made on the development of the Farmland Museum & Denny Abbey since 2002, despite the limited funds. The focus to date has been on rationalising the agricultural story that the site tells, linking the former abbey into the collection of farm buildings. As this has already started to increase visitor numbers, the next step is to start to improve facilities to both enhance the visitor experience and increase revenue income.
25. The proposed feasibility study will, therefore, be used as the basis to prioritise funding bids to implement such enhancement, exploring the emerging potential of new funding sources, including the growth area fund. This is considered to offer particular potential due to the strategic location of the museum as a possible 'countryside gateway'. The museum site would then act (very much as the National Trust's site does at Wicken Fen) as a hub to explore and connect existing, incomplete public access networks in the wider Cam valley.
26. Members support is therefore sought to further this proposal.

### **Recommendations**

27. That the Conservation Advisory Group :
- (a) Recommend that the portfolio holders for Community Development and Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning continue to support the on-going partnership, development programme at the Farmland Museum & Denny Abbey and invite the Curator to present the results of the feasibility study at their portfolio holders' meetings by December 2005.
- and*
- (b) Recommend that the portfolio holders for Community Development and Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning support the potential of the museum to be developed as a 'countryside gateway' within the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report : "Initial brief for a feasibility study on the development of The farmland Museum and Denny Abbey, Waterbeach" – The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey – May 2005.

**Contact Officers:** Nick Grimshaw – Conservation Manager, Telephone: (01954) 713180

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**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Conservation Advisory Group. 8<sup>th</sup> June 2005  
 Conservation, Sustainability &  
 Community Planning Portfolio Holder

**AUTHOR/S:** Conservation Manager

**OUTLINE OF PROPOSED DEMONSTRATION, PARTNERSHIP PROJECT FOR HABITAT ENHANCEMENT ON THE RIVER SHEP.**

**Purpose**

- To consider the habitat improvement work undertaken on the River Shep and to outline the scope for future partnership working as a demonstration, countryside access and biodiversity enhancement project.

***A presentation will be made on this item by Rob Mungovan, Ecology Officer.***

**Effect on Corporate Objectives**

2. Quality, Accessible Services	The technical input of the Ecology Officer has enabled a village group to fulfil a number habitat enhancement projects.
Village Life	The community involvement of two village groups and volunteer work parties with the RSPB has brought people together. Engaging people in community activities and enhancement of countryside access are both key actions of the Community Strategy and thereby contributes to the Conservation service delivery and addressing performance indicator SP901.
Sustainability	The sustainable management of the River Shep is a key output of any future habitat enhancement work and will assist in the conservation and protection of landscapes and habitats thereby achieving sustainability targets, again contributing to SP901.
Partnership	Opportunities for habitat enhancement work rely entirely upon partnership working. Development of further projects enables more partners to be invited to participate and will help deliver the implementation of Community Strategy milestone actions (Action no. 22).

**Background**

- The River Shep is a small chalk river that rises in the disused watercress beds within the RSPB's Fowlmere Nature Reserve. Draining a relatively small area of Cambridgeshire, the Shep flows northwards through the village of Shepreth for approximately eleven kilometres to its confluence with the River Rhee. Access to the river can be gained along virtually all of its length from source to finish via a public footpath.
- The River Shep is classified as an Award Watercourse. The Council has a duty to ensure that the watercourse is satisfactorily maintained and does not cause any land drainage problems. The Council also have a commitment towards nature conservation through the local Biodiversity Action Plan process. Since 2001, the Ecology Officer has been able to bring together the different parties involved in the river's management.

5. The Friends of the River Shep (ForShep) group was established by local volunteers in 1999. The ForShep group have enabled local people to influence how the river would be managed and also to input to the conservation of nationally and locally important species.
6. The ForShep group now have a very good relationship with the Council's Land Drainage Manager. His team undertake essential maintenance work, such as the clearance of fallen trees and mechanical desilting, and ForShep undertake hand weed-cutting in the more accessible parts of the river. ForShep also have a River Warden who keeps an eye on the river and reports to the parish council.
7. In the mid 1990s the RSPB became concerned about the condition of the upper reach of the River Shep. Chalk rivers are recognised as a Priority Habitat with their own Habitat Action Plan to guide conservation action. The River Shep was of particular importance as it still provided a habitat for many species of conservation interest including:
  - Otter (*Lutra lutra*)
  - Water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*)
  - White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)
  - Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)
  - Bullhead fish (*Cottus gobio*)
  - Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)
  - Wild brown trout (*Salmo trutta*)
8. The River Shep is affected by many of the problems common to many chalk rivers. Namely these are:
  - Lack of flow
  - Habitat degradation through past land drainage activities
  - Siltation of the riverbed
  - Over-wide channels reducing water velocity
  - Poor tree management leading to blockages or over-shading
9. Prior to undertaking any form of physical habitat enhancement work ForShep's first steps were to collect data about the river. To this end the following surveys were commissioned:
  - River Corridor Survey of the entire river
  - Electric fishing surveys of four discrete areas
  - Topographical survey of the entire river
10. Using the data gained ForShep has implemented three small-scale enhancement projects and one slightly more ambitious project. The first three projects utilised the man power of volunteers and worked with existing features of the river. The objectives were to increase fish spawning habitats, to stabilise banks and to improve access to the river.
11. The fourth project was undertaken in August 2004. It involved the careful placement of approximately ten tonnes of gravel to the river together with bank stabilisation works in order to create two spawning riffles and stable aquatic margins. This project was undertaken on private land and funded by the landowner rather than the group.

12. Many other minor projects have been undertaken on the Fowlmere Nature Reserve using the input of volunteers. All of the projects to date have been directed by the ForShep group, and presented to SCDC's Land Drainage Manager and the Environment Agency for consideration and, where necessary, consent (e.g prior to altering the flow of the river).

### **Considerations**

13. ForShep have demonstrated that a village group can successfully co-ordinate small enhancement projects, at relatively little cost. The undertaking of appropriate surveys beforehand enabled the Environment Agency to evaluate the impact of the proposal (i.e. when seeking Land Drainage Consent).
14. ForShep are now considering the viability of a more ambitious project, in discussion with the RSPB, the Barrington Conservation Trust (BCT), the Environment Agency and SCDC. Two areas of the river have been considered for project work :
- (a) Top of the river (in Fowlmere Nature Reserve) - creation of new riffle.
  - (b) Lower reaches at the Barrington Boot Lane Nature Reserve - options being considered, include bank stabilisation, reprofiling, and channel narrowing in order to improve the river's flow characteristics and accessibility.
15. To assist with the concept development of these projects the Environment Agency has jointly funded the River Restoration Centre to undertake a scoping exercise and produce a report of project ideas that could be presented to the local groups for their consideration as a "next steps" document. The aim is to develop these projects over the summer months, for implementation autumn/winter of 2005.
16. Funding to implement the "next step" projects will be sought by ForShep, with a potential funding package comprising support from : the Environment Agency; SCDC; RSPB; other grant giving bodies, with voluntary labour provided by ForShep and BCT.
17. The Council has assisted ForShep in the past through a grant of £4,000 (which was matched by other sources) to assist with the topographical survey. This data will be used by ForShep and the Environment Agency to justify and direct further project development. In order to facilitate the development of the programme it is now considered appropriate to assist in the actual delivery of habitat enhancement work on the river. The financial implications are outlined below.

### **Options**

18. The Conservation Advisory Group are requested to support the development of habitat enhancement projects for the River Shep as demonstration projects for the district and :
- i) recommend that the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder authorises officers to continue development work with local groups and the Land Drainage Manager in order to progress river enhancement projects in the district.
- Or*
- ii) recommend that the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder agrees to allocate funding support for a demonstration project on the River Shep, subject to budget availability to help lever other partnership funding from the Environment Agency and other suitable bodies,

Or

- iii) recommend that the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder declines to support this initiative and requires detailed submission of costed project plans, prior to consideration of the allocation of any future funding support for a demonstration project on the River Shep.

### **Financial Implications**

19. The overall cost of the demonstration habitat enhancement project is unknown to date. An, in principle, cash limited contribution by SCDC will enable other grant sources to be levered by the voluntary group and it is, therefore, considered appropriate to allocate funds to enable the funding package to be completed within 2005/06.
20. Funding of £5,000 could be available within the Conservation budget by re-allocating an unexpended previous revenue commitment for river work. This has been confirmed by the Director of Finances. Funding was authorised on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2000, under the budget for *Ecological Support Services*, by the then Conservation Committee, for works to repair Wilbraham New Cut. These works were completed without need to use this funding. It is therefore proposed to re-allocate this funding to support the demonstration project at the River Shep, subject to leverage of partnership funding and completion during 2005/06.

### **Legal Implications**

21. The Land Drainage Manager has a duty to maintain the Award Watercourses to prevent flooding. In discharging this duty he is also obliged to consider the nature conservation impact of their works. The sustainable management of the river that balances the legal protection afforded to certain species with the needs of land drainage would be a desired outcome of these possible projects.

### **Staffing Implications**

22. The Ecology Officer already attends the committee meetings of the ForShep group and has produced project designs for river projects in the past. It is not envisaged that the development of further projects will become a hindrance to other work areas.

### **Risk Management Implications**

23. Works to a watercourse that effect the flow need the consent of the Environment Agency under the Land Drainage Act, 1991. Similarly, works to re-profile banks may be subject to planning control.
24. The landowners will ultimately be responsible for the management of their own sites with land drainage works undertaken as necessary.

### **Consultations**

25. The Land Drainage Manager has been kept informed of the general direction of habitat enhancement work upon the river. His support for any activities on the river is crucial. The Environment Agency and RSPB will be further consulted on the development of the project, along with the Parish Council and local member.

### Conclusions/Summary

26. The River Shep represents an important resource within the district both for its biodiversity value and as an area for quiet recreation. Habitat enhancement work could further increase the value of the river within the district and should form the basis of a demonstration for sustainable river management which other community groups may wish to explore.
27. A desire exists amongst the local community to further the scope of habitat enhancement work already undertaken on the river. The further development of projects will require the input of volunteer time and specialist consultants.
28. Through partnership working over this summer it is anticipated that at least two habitat enhancement projects could be delivered by spring 2006. Both of these sites would be publicly accessible.

### Recommendations

29. The Conservation Advisory Group are requested to consider the above options and recommend that the :
  - (i) Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder authorises officers to continue development work on a river enhancement demonstration project with local groups, in order to progress river enhancement projects during 2005/06.
  - (ii) Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder agrees, in principle, to re-allocate funding of £5,000 from the budget for *Ecological Support Services*, (previously authorised by the former Conservation Committee for works to Wilbraham New Cut) to support the proposed demonstration project on the River Shep and confirmation of other partnership funding from the Environment Agency and other suitable bodies,

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

*An Introduction to Habitat Enhancement On The River Shep*, Nature In Cambridgeshire, Rob Mungovan 2004

*Notes of site visit to the River Shep* (draft), River Restoration Centre, May 2005

**Contact Officer:** Rob Mungovan – Ecology Officer. Telephone: (01954) 713402

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**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Conservation Advisory Group. 8<sup>th</sup> June 2005  
 Conservation, Sustainability and  
 Community Planning Portfolio Holder.  
**AUTHOR/S:** Conservation Manager

**PARISH TREE INITIATIVE – PILOT SCHEME 2005/06**

**Purpose**

- To seek Members approval to launch the pilot Parish Tree Initiative 2005/06, to enable this Authority to support Parish Council initiatives to enhance selected sites with tree planting.

**Effect on Corporate Objectives**

2. Quality, Accessible Services	To enhance the Trees and Landscape Service.
Village Life	To contribute to the visual enhancement of the village and surrounds, with particular reference to help delivery of Performance Indicator SP905.
Sustainability	Enabling tree planting with appropriate species, which will make a significant contribution to the Councils sustainability agenda.
Partnership	The Scheme will be in partnership with Parish Councils.

**Background**

- In past years, Parish Councils benefited from the supply of trees as part of the Tree and Hedgerow Partnership, which was co-funded by this Authority and Cambridgeshire County Council.
- The planting of numbers of trees of small stock, often on diversified sites, was difficult to maintain in logistic terms, with the success rate of plantings in many Parishes being low.
- The planting of three semi mature trees adjacent to a play area in the village of Coton in 2003-2004 proved successful. The site was proposed by the Parish Council, and the trees have subsequently been watered and maintained by local residents.
- A tree of similar stock has been planted in Great Abington (March 2005) to replace a storm damaged London Plane. In liason with the Parish Council, local residents are watering the tree.
- At the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> October 2004, the Conservation Advisory Group recommended that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Portfolio Holder authorise the adoption of the Parish Tree Initiative, and that a pilot scheme be implemented in 2005-2006.

### Considerations

8. The criteria for assessment and selection of sites, will normally be as follows :
  - (a) The site being owned by a Parish Council, although consideration will be given to sites in different ownership, where local maintenance is assured.
  - (b) A high profile site, whereby enhancement with tree planting will make a significant visual contribution.
  - (c) Sites that are strategically placed in terms of their visual contribution.
  - (d) Sites that contribute to a designated Conservation Area.
  - (e) Commemorative sites.
  - (f) Emphasis will be given to sites that are open to public access.
  - (g) It is felt appropriate that in order to achieve the greatest visual and community impact, that planting semi mature trees should be the focus of the Scheme. Planting in groups of four to five trees per parish
  - (h) Watering and maintenance to be undertaken by Parish Councils, or local groups liaising with the Parish Council.
9. A concentration of fewer sites in selected parishes utilising larger stock, as opposed to the supply of numerous plants of smaller stock, will make the logistics of the scheme manageable, and will aid the aspect of maintenance and establishment.
10. The Trees and Landscape Officer is currently in contact with four Parish Councils with a view to agreeing sites for next planting season (November 2005 – March 2006). The following will absorb the initial budget, and will, therefore, be the focus of the pilot scheme :
  - (i) *Whittlesford* – The Lawn. Trees and Landscape Officer to meet on site with the Parish Council and the Whittlesford Lawn Trust.
  - (ii) *Great Abington* – After initial consideration by the Parish Council, the Trees and Landscape Officer will meet and discuss on site.
  - (iii) *Little Abington* – After initial consideration by the Parish Council, the Trees and Landscape Officer will meet and discuss on site.
  - (iv) *Coton* – Following the initial success at Coton, local residents with the support of the Parish Council, have requested additional planting in the locality. Trees and Landscape Officer to meet on site to finalise details.

### Options

11. That the Conservation Advisory Group recommends that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder either :
  - (a) Agrees to support the ongoing principles of the Parish Tree Initiative.
  - (b) Disagree with the principles of the Parish Tree Initiative

### Financial Implications

12. A budget of £3,700 is currently available to support the scheme in 2005/06
13. The cost of providing semi-mature stock and planting will be met by this Council, subject to a maintenance agreement with the Parish Council
14. A twelve month replacement guarantee (subject to drought and vandalism considerations), from the date of delivery, is offered by the nursery who specialise in supplying tree stock of this size.

**Legal Implications**

- 15. Non specific

**Staffing Implications**

- 16. The project is being managed by the Trees and Landscape Officer.

**Risk Management Implications**

- 17. Lack of maintenance, and potential for physical damage occurring to trees is a concern. This may be mitigated by the requirement that the Parish Councils or local groups will be required to undertake appropriate watering and maintenance.

**Consultations**

- 18. Parish Councils and local groups.

**Conclusions/Summary**

- 19. The proposed pilot scheme will enhance the character and visual quality of villages and their surrounds, with an emphasis on encouraging local tree planting initiatives of a nature that will provide an immediate visual impact and focus for community celebration.

**Recommendations**

- 20. That the Conservation Advisory Group recommends that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder agrees to formally launch the Parish Tree Initiative during 2005/06 on the basis of the criteria established in this report.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: None

**Contact Officer:** John Hellingsworth – Trees and Landscape Officer  
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**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Conservation Advisory Group  
Conservation, Sustainability &  
Community Planning Portfolio Holder

**AUTHOR/S:** Conservation Manager

8<sup>th</sup> June 2005

**CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS**

**Purpose**

1. To request that members of the Conservation Advisory Group set up a small task/finish sub-group to meet with officers in order to review emerging drafts for new Conservation Area Appraisals over the coming year.

**Effect on Corporate Objectives**

2. Quality, Accessible Services	The Conservation Area Appraisals will be used as local design guides and therefore assist in achieving the Council's aim of improved design standards and the delivery of a high quality planning service. Conservation Area Appraisals are now a Best Value Performance Indicator for all district councils.
Village Life	The Conservation Area Appraisals will have a significant impact on the enhancement of village life by ensuring that new development in historic environments is both appropriate to its context and of demonstrable quality.
Sustainability	The Conservation Area Appraisals will provide a valuable resource in ensuring the delivery of new sustainable development.
Partnership	The Conservation Area Appraisals will be a useful resource for both the District Council and the relevant Parish Councils.

**Background**

3. Last year the Conservation Advisory Group appointed a task/finish sub group comprising the Chairman, Vice-chairman and three other members to meet with David Grech, the Conservation Area and Design Officer and Shona Smith, Conservation Assistant. The purpose was to review the draft appraisals prepared by consultants on behalf of SCDC for the Conservation Areas at Longstanton Oakington and Westwick, together with a draft appraisal for the proposed new Conservation Area at Rampton. The outcome of this process resulted in a number of modifications being requested from the consultants' prior to embarking on public consultation on these new appraisals. There is a need to re-establish this group to look at the Conservation Areas Appraisals that will be prepared over the course of the coming year, particularly in the light of the newly established Best Value Performance Indicator on Conservation Area Appraisals.

**Considerations**

4. In the current year it is proposed to bring forward a further set of new Conservation Area Appraisals. 4 appraisals are currently being prepared by consultants' (Horningsea, Fen Ditton, Swavesey and Teversham) with 4 appraisals being

prepared in house (Duxford Airfield, Little Gransden, Girton and Great Shelford). The structure of these new appraisals will follow that established last year for the first series of appraisals.

5. In order to avoid unnecessary delays in preparing these appraisals for public consultation it is desirable to have a small working party of members who can meet with the officers at mutually agreed times to consider the emerging draft appraisals. The consideration will include examining any recommendations for revising the boundaries of the Conservation Areas as well as the clarity and completeness of the documents.

#### **Options**

6. The Conservation Advisory Group are requested to:
  - a) Establish a small task/finish sub-group to meet with the officers to consider the emerging Conservation Area Appraisals; or
  - b) To require officers to bring all emerging draft appraisals to the full Conservation Advisory Group for consideration at their next appropriate meeting.

#### **Financial Implications**

7. None specific.

#### **Legal Implications**

8. The Conservation Area Appraisals are to be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document in support of the Local Development Framework and the statutory Local Plan.

#### **Staffing Implications**

9. None specific.

#### **Risk Management Implications**

10. Requiring all draft appraisals to be tabled for consideration by the full Conservation Advisory Group may result in delays in their production, resulting in the Council failing to meet the declared targets for new Conservation Area Appraisals in the current year. This might in turn impact on future Planning Delivery Grant allocations to this Council.

#### **Consultations**

11. Following consideration by the sub-group and officers, the revised draft appraisals will be brought to the next appropriate meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group to seek their agreement to undertake a consultation exercise on the draft appraisals. This process will include the local District Council Member(s), the relevant Parish Council, appropriate amenity bodies, department colleagues, as well as members of the public residing within the relevant Conservation Areas.

#### **Conclusions/Summary**

12. Establishing a small task/finish sub-group to meet with officers basis is considered to be the most effective way of progressing the production of appraisals, while at the same time ensuring the emerging drafts are subject to adequate scrutiny.

**Recommendations**

13. The Conservation Advisory Group is requested to establish a small task/finish sub-group to meet with officers, as necessary, to consider emerging drafts for new Conservation Area Appraisals during the course of the year.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: None specific.

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**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Conservation Advisory Group. 8<sup>th</sup> June 2005  
 Conservation, Sustainability &  
 Community Planning Portfolio Holder  
**AUTHOR/S:** Conservation Manager

**ST. DENIS CHURCH, EAST HATLEY. REPORT ON THE TENDERS RECEIVED FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF RE-ROOFING AND GENERAL REPAIR WORKS AND SUPPORT TO LET A CONTRACT.**

**Purpose**

1. To advise the Conservation Advisory Group of the results of the recent tender process and seek support to let a contract.

**Effect on Corporate Objectives**

2. Quality, Accessible Services	The proposed project will secure the future of a 'building at risk', such action is an adopted performance indicator (SP903)
Village Life	The project will : enable the churchyard and County Wildlife Site to be restored to full accessibility; make possible the development of a community facility; make safe a semi-derelict building; lay the grounds to restore an important part of local heritage; thereby enhancing village life.
Sustainability	The restoration and re-use of historic buildings is a key sustainability measure.
Partnership	The scheme will be developed as a partnership project with the Parish Council , SCDC and English Heritage and will facilitate further partnership working with other national heritage bodies to secure an appropriate use for the building.

**Background**

3. Members will be aware of the report to the meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2005, Conservation Advisory Group, where it was agreed that as English Heritage had confirmed grant support of up to £61,000 to support the repair works, tenders would be sought to implement a programme of work to arrest the deterioration of the building.
4. Tenders have now been received and will be presented as Appendix 1 at the meeting. The Conservation Advisory Group's support will then be sought for a recommendation to Cabinet to let the contract and implement these works. In order to secure the grant offer, from English Heritage, the repair works must be completed by June 2006. The contract period would last for up to 20 weeks from June to October 2005.
5. Further background details of the project are included as Appendix 2.

**Considerations**

6. In order to progress the project the English Heritage grant offer has been formally accepted and the design works part of the repair programme and have commenced, funded from the Historic Buildings Preservation Fund.

7. The proposed funding to enable a building contract to be let would also be from the portfolio holder's, "*Historic Buildings Preservation Fund*". This is a capital sum made available to the portfolio holder to facilitate intervention to secure the preservation of historic buildings at risk. To date, at St. Denis, East Hatley, the budget has been utilised to erect the security/safety fencing and structural scaffolding to protect both the building and the public.
8. The generous grant offer from English Heritage, of £61,000, estimated to be 75% of the costs of the works, will enable the fabric of the medieval church to be stabilised and protected. These works to the roof and walls will consequently:
  - (a) Address the health and safety issues;
  - (b) Remove the need for on-going costs for maintenance of the security fencing and scaffolding – approximating to £7,000 per annum.
  - (c) Re-open full access to the churchyard, which is in use as a burial ground.
  - (d) Provide the opportunity to examine options for a viable community use for the building, funded by other external grant or by identifying a new ownership.
9. Prior to letting a contract it will be a condition of the grant offer that a "Maintenance Plan" is agreed, this will largely require regular monitoring of the building and implementation of minor works, such as clearing out of gutters and control of vegetation on the elevations. It is understood that

### **Options**

10. The Conservation Advisory Group are asked to consider the following options :
  - (a) To request that the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder recommends that Cabinet notes the tender report and authorises the letting of a contract to undertake these first phase repair works to St. Denis Church, East Hatley, subject to confirmation of final grant support from English Heritage.
  - (b) To recommend that the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder declines to recommend the letting of a contract, rejecting the grant support from English Heritage and seeks Cabinet advise and approval for an alternative means to resolve the long-term future of this building.

### **Financial Implications**

11. The costs of the necessary repair works will be set out in the tender report to be attached as Appendix 1. The overall costs of the project exceed the portfolio holder's delegation expenditure, although grant support of £61,000 has been secured from English Heritage.
12. The English Heritage grant offer, is both cash and time limited (i.e will not be increased or extended) but is both generous and probably the only immediate source of external finance available to the Council to assist in the first stage of the restoration of the building.
13. English Heritage grant support for these phase 1 works does, however, indicate the importance of this medieval building as an item of the national heritage and could help secure subsequent funding from other bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund.

14. Resolution of the immediate structural problems and removal of the danger presented to the public, will also open the prospect of creating interest amongst other heritage bodies who might be approached to assist with the long-term management of the building. The completion of these works would then not only buy time to consider a community use it would also help re-establish the building as a possible asset.

#### **Legal Implications**

15. SCDC is the owner of the building and has a duty to try to secure its future as a national heritage component. It also has duty of care to users of the adjoining churchyard.

#### **Staffing Implications**

16. None specific. The project will be coordinated by the Conservation Manager and the project architect's Purcell Miller Tritton.

#### **Risk Management Implications**

17. The building is in the ownership of the Council and is at present both a hazard and an on-going drain on resources. The main risk of not proceeding to implement these basic repairs is that the physical danger will increase along with on-going maintenance costs. The implementation of these works will remove the risk, on-going financial drain and the potential criticism of the authority.

#### **Consultations**

18. The Parish Council have supported the action to date and have offered to contribute to the costs of the works (upto £2,000). Members will be aware that the issue has been subject to considerable debate in the authority over a number of years.

#### **Conclusions/Summary**

19. The offer of generous English Heritage grant support to secure the structural stabilisation of the former church will enable subsequent consideration to be given to an appropriate community based use for the building. Members are, therefore, requested to support this action to initiate the return of the building to active use.

#### **Recommendations**

20. The Conservation Advisory Group are requested to consider the Tender Report (to be presented as Appendix 1 at the meeting) and recommend that the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder seeks Cabinet authorisation to let a contract to implement first phase repair works at St. Denis, East Hatley subject to satisfactory tender returns and funded by grant support from English Heritage and funding from the *'Historic Buildings Preservation Fund'*.

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

1. Grant offer letter form English Heritage – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2005
2. Report to Conservation Advisory Group - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2004.
3. Report to the Conservation Advisory Group & Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2005

**Contact Officer:** Nick Grimshaw – Conservation Manager Telephone: (01954) 713180

**St. Denis Church, East Hatley - Tender Report : Appendix 1**

TO BE PRESENTED AT THE MEETING.

## St. Denis Church, East Hatley - Background Material : APPENDIX 2

1. The former parish church of St. Denis, East Hatley is a listed Grade II\* building which dates from the fourteenth century, although it was restored by the notable nineteenth century architect, William Butterfield, who also built the Chancel.
2. The church was made redundant for worship in 1959. The ownership of the former church was conveyed to the Council in 1983 to avoid the demolition of the former church by the Church Commissioners. It was conveyed by the Church Commissioners to South Cambridgeshire District Council "*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. Conditions applied to the conveyance prohibit any demolition or architectural or structural changes without the approval of the Church Commissioners.
3. The churchyard, which is designated as a *County Wildlife Site*, remains open for burials but its present access and use is restricted by the dangerous condition of the building. The churchyard is maintained by the St. Denis Local Nature Reserve Committee who organise working parties to maintain the grass, hedges, etc.
4. By November 2002 the church building had become almost completely overgrown by ivy, which combined with high winds to cause significant damage to the roofs and walls, such that parts of the structure were deemed unsafe.
5. Architects were commissioned in January 2002 and March 2002 to report on the condition of the fabric but were unable to complete the structural assessment due to the extent of the ivy growth.
6. Messrs E. Bowman & Sons Ltd were, therefore, appointed in early 2003 to remove the ivy from the fabric of the Church to enable the building to be surveyed and public safety works to be undertaken.
7. Subsequently, on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2003 Purcell Miller Tritton (Architects) revisited the site to carry out further inspections following the removal of the ivy. Their report is summarised below.
8. *Summary of key points by Purcell Miller Tritton, ARCHITECTS.*
  - Severe damage to part of the external walls discovered. Some of the walls are unstable and are in danger of collapse. Scaffolding was, therefore, 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 security fencing has consequently 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.
9. *Key objectives :*

It is evident that St. Denis East Hatley presents two main issues for the Council :

  - (a) *The need to tackle the immediate public safety issue and re-open access to the churchyard.*
  - (b) *The need to find a viable use for the building, to secure its long-term future as a community asset.*

10. *Objective (a) – Public safety/use of churchyard.*  
A detailed summary of the issues and options raised in the architect's report were considered by the Conservation Advisory Group (CAG) on 28 May 2003. The conclusions of CAG and the Conservation Portfolio Holder were that the architects should be instructed to seek tenders based on a Specification and Schedule of Works to implement "holding repairs" to the building to tackle Objective (a) – Public Safety/Churchyard access, while future long-term uses were investigated.
11. Purcell Miller Tritton Architects were, therefore, instructed to seek tenders based on a specification for repairs which would :
  - (a) make safe the east and west gables and the south porch (west side) by means of stainless steel pins to stitch repair the walls.
  - (b) Strip the loose tiles off the roof (stored in church for later use) and carryout minimal repairs to the roof timbers.
  - (c) Recover roof with a corrugated sheet covering to create a robust roof covering with a lifetime of upto 10 years. (The material proposed by PMT is a brown corrugated material known as 'Onduline' which is very light as it made of bitumen soaked organic fibres).
12. The architect's Tender Report was received on 18 November 2003. The total cost of the contract would have been approximately £50,000. These works would have been entirely funded by SCDC as no grant support was on offer at this time. However, these works were not proceeded with due to serious objections by the Parish Council to the material used for the roofing and concern at ongoing maintenance of the temporary roof covering.
13. A submission was then made to English Heritage in May 2004 to seek grant support for a more extensive programme of repair works, estimated at approx. £85,000 plus fees. Confirmation of grant support was given in January 2005 of upto £61,000 on the basis of a scheme of works which includes re-roofing and wall repairs, although with use of a corrugated iron roof.
14. While the more extensive works programme was deemed appropriate, there were still concerns at the roof material. The additional cost of replacing the roof material with tiles was not considered to be extensive, consequently tenders were sought in April 2005 with undertake the repairs with a comparative prices sought for corrugated roof materials or tiles. The tenders are due to be returned on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2005.
15. *Objective (b) - Securing a long-term future.*  
Significant efforts have been made in recent years by SCDC members, the parish council and the St. Denis Local Nature Reserve management Committee to identify an appropriate use for the building. These have included discussion with the Wildlife Trust for Beds & Cambs. Exploration of future use has stalled while the basic repairs are addressed. The intention is that these discussions will continue once the contract to undertake the basic repairs has been let.
16. It is evident that any permanent use will require further investment to restore and convert the building. The estimates from Purcell, Miller Tritton (architects) to make the building habitable (structurally sound with power, water etc.) are in the region of £100,000. Significant external grant funding will, therefore, be required to be secured from organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. The starting point to approach such funding agencies is to have a viable and robust *Project Plan* founded on a clear vision for the use of the building.

17. It is estimated that it may take some 12 months to prepare such a project plan as it will need to include detailed architectural/business analysis and be subject to wide consultation. The usual time period for consideration of such grant proposals by the Heritage Lottery Fund is around 9 months. Consequently, it is essential that the 'breathing space' to develop a project is created by the implementation of the holding works.
18. To date no work has been undertaken on a project plan. As with all historic buildings the key to securing the long-term future is a viable use. To date a number of options have been considered and discounted at the preliminary stages. However, alternatives will be explored on completion of the immediate holding repairs, as the building will then become a convertible asset, rather than a ruinous drain on resources and public safety hazard.
19. Since 2002 expenditure approximating to £30,000 has been completed. These include the costs of: stripping the ivy; erecting structural scaffold and security fencing; maintenance costs of the scaffold and fencing; structural engineer's reports; architect's reports and tender preparation. These have been funded from the Council's Conservation Portfolio budget for *Historic Building's Preservation*. These were essential preliminary works to enable the way forward to be considered.
20. *Legal Issues.*  
South Cambridgeshire is the owner of the building and therefore responsible for its maintenance and use.
21. Covenants apply to the building restricting its significant alteration or demolition and as it is listed Grade II\* building such consent can only be granted by the Secretary of State. Discussions to date with the Church Commissioners and English Heritage make it clear that such consent would not be granted, particularly in the light of grant support by English Heritage. Consideration would only be given to such a proposal after a public inquiry and evidence that all available alternative uses had been fully explored and found to be impractical or non-viable.
22. *Conclusion*  
It will be clear that any alternative use for the building must have local support and therefore the Parish Council and Local Nature Reserve Management Committee will need to work closely with SCDC to develop a viable project plan for a future use.
23. The target for completion of such a project plan would be need to be Spring 2006 to allow for full consultation, enabling grant submissions to be made during Summer 2006.

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**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Conservation Advisory Group.  
Conservation, Sustainability &  
Community Planning Portfolio Holder

**AUTHOR/S:** Conservation Manager

8<sup>th</sup> June 2005

**HISTORIC BUILDINGS AT RISK (BAR) – MAY 2005 MONITORING REPORT.**

**Purpose**

1. To present the six-monthly monitoring report on the progress of action on addressing historic buildings at risk.

**Effect on Corporate Objectives**

2. Quality, Accessible Services	The monitoring report is a basic tool use in addressing the Council's statutory responsibilities to seek to secure the future of historic buildings. Progress on tackling BAR is a key performance indicator (SP903).
Village Life	Action to secure the future of historic buildings often involves action by the local community and resolving dereliction also contributes to the enhancement of the historic fabric and environment of individual villages.
Sustainability	Restoration of historic buildings, bringing them back into viable new use is fundamental to the achievement of sustainability.
Partnership	The achievement of the restoration of historic buildings is reliant upon the development of effective partnerships between the authority, property owners, the voluntary, public and private sectors.

**Background**

3. The table of results is attached as Appendix 1 below.

**Considerations**

4. Members will be aware that action to address historic buildings at risk is a key performance indicator, SP905. Both the Council's performance and the monitoring table will be reported and published on the internet from June 2005, via the Performance information monitoring and managements system (PIMMS).
5. It will be evident from the table that the number of cases has remained consistent for the last 2 years. This despite the targets for removal of cases from the list being achieved. This is a result of the continuously evolving nature of the task, buildings are added as they become vacated and/or the condition of their fabric deteriorates.
6. The key targets for action will always be the "severe at risk" and "at risk" categories (1-3 on the table), although these often involve the most protracted efforts.

### **Financial Implications**

7. In most cases none, as negotiation with property owners secures the implementation of necessary basic repairs, or more extensive action sufficient to ensure the continued survival of the building. Grant support is usually a last resort.

### **Legal Implications**

8. The authority has a general duty under the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to help secure a viable future for historic buildings. This duty is enforced by various powers to require the implementation of urgent works where necessary or ultimately compulsory purchase.

### **Staffing Implications**

9. The monitoring, reporting and intervention work is routinely undertaken by the Historic Buildings Officers and the Conservation Assistant within the Conservation section.

### **Risk Management Implications**

10. None specific. The ultimate responsibility for the maintenance of historic building is its owner, although the authority has a duty to ensure that appropriate action is taken, by the use of its legal powers.

### **Consultations**

11. Local members and parish councils will be informed if action under the planning act is to be undertaken.

### **Conclusions/Summary**

12. The monitoring report is a basic tool use in addressing the Council's statutory responsibilities to seek to secure the future of historic buildings. Progress on tackling BAR is a key performance indicator (SP903) as it addresses action required by the act and, therefore, will remain a key service objective for the Conservation Section.

### **Recommendations**

13. That the Conservation Advisory Group note the content of the monitoring report, the intention to publish the report on the internet and suggest any additional action to the Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder as considered necessary and appropriate.

### **Appendix 1 – Historic Buildings at Risk – May 2005.**

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report : Appendix 1 – Historic Buildings at Risk – May 2005.

Individual files on properties listed in the monitoring report.

**Contact Officer:** Nick Grimshaw – Conservation Manager  
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## Appendix 1

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AT RISK – May 2005

The risk grade is on a scale of 1 to 5, based on condition and whether vacant or occupied. Grade I denotes buildings of greatest risk.

1. RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Parish	Address	List/Grade	Condition	Comments	Risk Grade	Proposed action
Arrington	143 Ermine Way	Grade II	Newly thatched encased in ply 1995, extension built 1995 Unoccupied	Repairs Notice served. Weatherproofed December 1992. Sold April 1994. Thatched 1995. Work in progress 1998/2005. Owner contacted December 2003 property inspected January 2004 extension built but no doors or windows, no stairs in cottage which requires render repairs. - Letter to owner July 2004. Timetable of work received Sept.2004 with completion proposed March 2005 - work delayed but being regularly monitored.	3	Keep in contact with owner and continue to monitor work in progress.

Parish	Address	List/Grade	Condition	Comments	Risk Grade	Proposed action
Balsham	Town End Farm Fox Road	Grade II	Partially collapsed	Structural engineering advice from English Heritage received 1990. Application for Listed Building Consent to demolish invited 1991. No response from owner since 1991 despite numerous letters expressing concern and requesting action.	1	Visit to ascertain current position

Bartlow	Old Forge Cottage	Grade II	Poor condition – poor quality frame	Thatch removed and re-roofed in paniles 1989. Property inspected July 2004 & May 2005 – owner advised of minimum works required to maintain building in the short term.	4	Continue to monitor
Bassingbourn	Glasshouse Poplar Farmhouse North End	Curtilage Grade II	Poor condition	Survey being undertaken and repair schedule. Proposal to seek separate listing.	.3	Keep in contact with owner to encourage phased refurbishment.
Comberton	40 West Street	Grade II Conservation Area	Render falling off joinery needs repair, thatch requires overhaul	Occupied. Inappropriate materials used for large scale render repairs to front street elevation. Property regularly inspected. Letter to owner December 2003/November 2004 – no response.	4	Contact owner again regarding future plans/proposals
Cottenham	101 High Street	Grade II Conservation Area	Corrugated iron roof, gable wall unstable. No services	Sold 2002. New owner contacted. Application for listed building consent approved and grant offered for reinstatement of longstraw thatch. Letter to owner July 2004 – contacted Sept/Jan 2005. intends to begin work on garage. Thatching grant expires Oct. 2005	2	Contact owner to ascertain timescale of restoration work and monitor works when they begin.

Cottenham	135 High Street	Grade II Conservation Area	Timber framed property exposed to the weather. No guttering	Property undergoing 2 <sup>nd</sup> restoration/repair scheme with Housing Act grant following failure of original work. Progress slow.	4	Environmental Health to monitor works in progress
Dry Drayton	The Old Rectory Old Rectory Drive	Grade II	Property appears unoccupied and deteriorating . Partially boarded up.	Letter to owner August 2004. Architect made contact Nov.2004 – employed to draw up repair schedule. Reports of unauthorised works at the property.	3	Continue to monitor condition and await access opportunity.
Duxford	Shamrock Cottage 6 Moorfield Road	Grade II Conservation Area	Clunch cottage with timber framing in poor condition	Listed Building Consent for repair/restoration and extension approved 2000/2001 – Work in progress 2001/2005. Property visited on a regular basis -, work continues slowly but carefully. Inspected Nov.2004- work in progress. Owner in touch March 2005 to seek advice.	3	Continue to visit to check progress
Elsworth	Old School Brook Street	Conservation Area	Former school unoccupied classroom has severe structural problems	Property discussed with owner 1996 and 1998. Partly re-roofed 1999 using inappropriate materials but has broken windows and disused appearance.	3	Visit to ascertain current position.

Gamlingay	62 Church Street	Grade II Conservation Area	Unoccupied 18thC timber framed and rendered house with plain tiled roof	Appears to have been unoccupied for some years. Property inspected externally.	2	Make contact with owner to ascertain future proposals.
Graveley	Home Farm Cottage	Curtilage Grade II	19 <sup>th</sup> C cottage – boarded up	Appears to have been unoccupied for several years. Owner wished to demolish 2000. Letter to owner Dec 2003 & July 2004 – no response. Letter Nov 2004, owner now in contact proposes to apply for LBC to demolish cottage. No application received.	2	Visit to ascertain current condition.
Great Abington	South Lodge	Grade II	Neglected lodge cottage to Grade II* Abington Hall	Unoccupied for over 10 years. Contact with owners 1998 and 2002. Recent change of ownership. Listed Building Consent approved recently for demolition of modern extensions – work implemented July 2004.	4	Continue to monitor property and ascertain long term plans for future use of the building.
Hardwick	Victoria Farm Cottage Main Street	Grade II Conservation Area	Vacant timber framed & thatched cottage in need of repair/sensitive restoration	Elderly tenant has left. Meeting with owner March 2003 – listed building scheme approved 2004. Letter to owners July 2004/ Jan 2005 latest reply advises work to start shortly.	3	Continue to monitor situation

Hauxton	(New) Mill House	Curtilage of Grade II	Vacant – completely ivy clad & overgrown	Owner proposed demolition as surplus to requirements – application withdrawn following local opposition (1995). Letter to owners Dec 2003 & July 2004 no reply received. Further letter sent Nov. 2004 - agreed to implement clearance work. (See also Hauxton Mill).	1	Make contact with owners to ascertain long term future of building
Hildersham	Walled garden Hildersham Hall	Curtilage II*	Glasshouses/walls in need of repair	Owner applied for planning permission & Listed Building Consent for new dwelling reconstructing glasshouses – Refused July 2001	3	Visit to ascertain current situation
Horningsea	The Thatch Dock Lane	Grade II Conservation Area	Render falling off thatch needs repair. Windows broken	Owner occupied. Discussions with previous local Member about approach required as sensitive situation	3	Visit to ascertain current position
Impington	7 Water Lane	Grade II Conservation Area	Prominently sited washhouse /bakehouse in garden of listed cottage. Corrugated iron roof but generally in poor condition used as store	Owner expressed an interest in repairing 1983. No response to subsequent correspondence. Owner met 2000, budget cost repairs obtained with a view to offering grant. No further action taken. Relatives of owner made contact Nov.2004 – need to discuss future action /obtain estimates.	2	Visit to ascertain current position



Little Gransden	22 Church Street	Grade II	Timber framed house with attached weatherboarded stable	Repairs Notice served 1999/2000. Property sold 2000. Listed Building Consent granted 2001. Work in progress slow but continuing. Roof thatched and lath reinstated Summer 2004	3	Continue to monitor on a regular basis.
Little Shelford	93 High Street	Grade II	Timber framed property with broken windows	Occasionally occupied. Concern expressed to owner 2001/2002, nothing further heard. Letter to owner December 2003, July 2004& Nov.2004 – no response received.	3	Visit to ascertain current situation
Melbourn	59 High Street	Grade II Conservation Area	Clay bat with very hard render. Slate roof no longer weatherproof. Property damp and has structural problem	Owner occupied. Contacted regularly since 1986. Grant offer refused by owner 1995. Listed Building Consent for conversion to 2 cottages approved 1998. Owner reluctant to move. Inspected Summer 2003.	3	Continue to monitor condition of the property
Milton	North Lodge Ely Road	Grade II Conservation Area	Victorian Lodge Cottage to Milton Hall – vandalised. Roof generally weatherproof. Some broken/open windows	Unoccupied for over 9 years. Repair/restoration scheme approved (1994/2002) Property on the market 2005 .	3	Continue to monitor condition .

Orwell	11/13 Lotfield Street	Grade II	Timber framed formerly thatched cottage	Property sold 1998, Listed Building Consent approved. Parish Council concern as progress on work slow. Conservation Committee authorised Repairs Notice January 2001. Roof now re-thatched with grant aid, work in progress 2003/05.	5	Continue to monitor works until property is occupied
Papworth Everard	The Lodge 13 Ermine Street	Grade II curtilage Grade II*	Victorian Lodge Cottage to Papworth Hall currently boarded up	Unoccupied cottage. Owner approached about future plans for the property 2003 a& May 2004 – no detailed response	3	Continue to monitor condition. Contact owner again
Sawston	17 High Street	Curtilage Grade II	Cottage attached to public house function room	No action taken. Owner advised of Council's concern 2000 & July 2004 – contact now made with Brewery use unauthorised.	4	Continue negotiations with brewery.
Waterbeach	11 Station Road	Conservation Area	Victorian House, unkempt and run down condition	Unoccupied for 9 years. Owner approached several times over the years. Planning approval for repairs/extension, garaging lapsed. Letter to owner 2002 – no response.	3	Visit to ascertain current situation
West Wrattling	Lordship Farmhouse 3 Mill Road	Grade II	Timber framed slate & plain tiled roof house in poor condition.	Believed to be occupied	5	Visit to ascertain current condition & contact owner

Willingham	Cottage with shop at 10 High Street	Grade II	Unoccupied cottage late 18thC. Beginning to deteriorate ,has hole in roof.	Property visited April 2003. Owner applied for de-listing July 2003 – unsuccessful Estimates sought from roofing contractors for least cost repair.	4	Continue to monitor condition and contact owner again.
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2. DOVECOTES

Parish	Address	Status	Condition	Comments	Risk Grade	Proposed action
Bourn	Chapmans Farm (Upper Farm) Alms Hill	Curtilage Grade II	Remains of dovecote (3 external walls)	Property sold February 2001. New owner has Listed Building Consent to restore, reinstating roof etc. Letters to owner Dec 2003, July & Nov 2004— scheme to be implemented - intends to apply for grant aid for roofing materials.	1	Contact owner again to ascertain timescale of restoration/rebuilding works

3. MILLS

Parish	Address	Status	Condition	Comments	Risk Grade	Proposed action
Guilpen Morden	Hooks Watermill Potton Road	Grade II	"Museum" quality mill in need of extensive but sympathetic repair. Machinery intact	Re-roofed 1987. Owners contacted regularly. Discussions 2001 about possible development/sale (See also item below). Visited 2004.	3	Continue to monitor condition of property
Guilpen Morden	Hooks Windmill Potton Road	Grade II	Roofless, windowless brick tower without sails. Needs cap and brickwork repairs	In same ownership as Watermill – see notes above. Part of complete mill complex. Listed building consent & planning permission recently approved for residential conversion.	2	Continue to monitor condition of property
Hauxton	Watermill Cambridge Road	Grade II	Unused, damaged by fire but still containing milling machinery. Elevations & roof appear sound. On public footpath so susceptible to vandalism	Successive owners contacted since 1976 regarding future of building. Some repairs carried out following fire. No sympathetic scheme forthcoming for long term use. Visited Summer 2003.. Letter to owners Dec. 2003, July 2004 & Nov 2004. Contact made with company and clearance work to be undertaken.	3	Make contact with owners regarding long-term future & action to remove Elder/Ash & Ivy encroachment

Impington	Windmill Cambridge Road	Grade II*	Timber clad smock mill without sails	Property sold 1999. Work in progress on repairs and external redecoration 2001/02. Plan to reinstate sails in the future.	4	Visit to ascertain current position and request application for listed building consent.
Steeple Morden	Saundersons Windmill	Grade II	Smock mill in very poor condition. Needs structural works and major restoration programme	Urgent works notice served 1995 – some work carried out. Owner in contact 2000 to discuss future of site in association with alternative uses. Planning application for residential development in grounds – refused 2001. Public inquiry 2002 – appeal allowed subject to work to restore the mill. Revised Development scheme submitted for discussion (2004) which should secure restoration of mill via S106.	1	Continue to monitor condition & approach owner regarding long term future of mill
Whaddon	Tunnel Mill Rectory Farm Meldreth Road	Grade II	Repair to brickwork and banks of drain	Owner contacted 1987.	3	Visit to ascertain current position

## 4. AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS AND OTHER OUTBUILDINGS

Parish	Address	Status	Condition	Comments	Risk Grade	Proposed action
Abington Pigotts	Manor Farm Church Lane	Curtilage Grade II* Conservation Area	Small timber framed and weatherboarded barn partially collapsed. Other buildings in poor condition	Owner met 1996/2000/2002. Discussions relating to use as livery yard. Approved 2000	3	Continue to monitor condition of building
Caxton	Granary Church Farm Gransden Road	Grade II	Late 17thC granary on saddle stones. Continues to deteriorate through general lack of maintenance.	Recent change of ownership may facilitate repairs .Listed Building application now received.	2	Keep in contact with owners to encourage repair works.
Elsworth	Barn Brook Street	Conservation Area	Timber barn with slate roof. Appears vacant and in poor deteriorating condition. Important in Conservation Area	No action as owner unknown.	2	Visit to ascertain current condition and identify any necessary urgent works.
Fulbourn	Barn at Golden Gables Sanders Lane	Grade II	Partially collapsed late 17thC 5 bay timber framed and thatched barn	Listed building application for total demolition Refused at DC&C Committee Nov 2004. Temporary scaffolding/protection in place.	1	Continue to monitor condition –

Great Wilbraham	Rookery Farm Barn Frog End	Grade II	17thC timber framed thatched barn in need of repair.	Application for development of land refused consent	3	Approach owner with grant advice.
Little Wilbraham	Rectory Farm Barn Rectory Farm Road	Conservation Area	Clunch barn damaged by vehicle and in need of repair. Prominently sited	Owner contacted 2002 regarding repair, asked about other uses. Application for Conservation Area Consent to demolish received and planning permission for redevelopment – both refused consent in January 2004.	2	Discussions on-going with owner regarding future redevelopment of buildings.
Steeple Morden	Old Farm Barn Brook End	Grade II Conservation Area	Timber framed and weatherboarded barn with corrugated roof. Appears in sound condition.	Owner wished to demolish and re-erect. Approval given 2002 for residential conversion. Work in progress 2004/2005.	4	Continue to monitor whilst work in progress.
Waterbeach	Lock Farm Barn Long Drive	Grade II	Continues to deteriorate through general lack of maintenance	Property sold 2004 new owner met - intend to carry out works when rebuilding house.	3	Keep in touch with owners and continue to monitor condition of building



5. CHURCHES AND CHAPELS

Parish	Address	Status	Condition	Comments	Risk Grade	Proposed action
East Hatley	St Denis Church	Grade II*	13 <sup>th</sup> Century and 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Church now redundant. In need of extensive repair to maintain it as a ruin	<p>Survey carried out after removal of ivy. Architects report on options presented to identify best repair route.</p> <p>Will require substantial investment to repair and re-use.</p> <p>Access issues mean that a community based use is probably most likely to achieve success.</p>	1	<p>Schedule of work prepared and Grant supported to be sought from English Heritage for BAR works (May 04).</p> <p>Seek Cabinet approval to undertake initial repair and stabilisation works June 2005.</p> <p>On completion of initial repairs investigate future scheme for re-use with parish council and other grant giving bodies.</p>
Ickleton	Former Chapel Frogge Street	Conservation Area	19 <sup>th</sup> Century gault brick, slate-roofed building in need of extensive repair	No action taken	3	Visit to ascertain current situation

6. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Parish	Address	Status	Condition	Comments	Risk Grade	Proposed action
Bassingbourn	Bakery 35 High Street	Grade II Conservation Area	Poor condition – retains large baking ovens	Consent for conversion to house approved 1990 & 1995. Owner contacted -further Listed Building Consent submitted August 2004 – approved May 2005	3	Continue to monitor building and ascertain time scale for the implementation of the now approved conversion scheme.
Elsworth	Throssells Yard Brook Street	Conservation Area	Forge, Bakery, Wheelwrights shop in need of repair	Sold 1995, new owner met. Work on restoring 19 <sup>th</sup> Century house proceeding slowly.	3	Visit to ascertain current condition
Fulbourn	The Maltings Ludlow Lane	Grade II Conservation Area	Unused late mediaeval malting building roofed in corrugated iron.  In need of extensive repair but appears to be weathertight.  No on-site parking	Owners contacted regularly since 1994.  1995 unsuccessful attempt to upgrade to II* listing Alternative uses difficult - major changes required & close to properties.  Discussions with interested parties 2001/02.	3	Contact owner again to discuss long term future of this important building –  Attempts to make contact have not been successful to date.  Follow up to discussion of July 2004 – re: potential development as private museum for collection of rural bygones & possible grant aid.

Parish	Address	Status	Condition	Comments	Risk Grade	Proposed action
Linton	Former Malting Building 96 High Street	Grade II Outstanding Conservation Area	Roof severely damaged and flint walls deteriorating. Part occupied	Owner approached regularly. Listed Building Consent and planning permission approved 2002 for rebuilding and conversion to dwelling. Owner - advises scheme to be implemented 2005/06.	2	Continue to monitor current condition
Sawston	Great Eastern Drying Shed Hutchings & Harding Tannery High Street	Grade II*	Unused Chamois skin drying building now in poor condition – timber louvred walls and slate roof no longer weathertight.	Applications for Listed Building Consent to demolish, refused 1990, 1991 & 1992. Upheld on appeal. Discussions with English Heritage and the Industrial Buildings Preservation Trust regarding feasibility study. Parish Council/local members visited March 2004 to explore new initiative. Site contains a number of listed buildings all of which are in some industrial use.	2	Assessment of Feasibility Study undertaken. Further exploration of alternative methods of restoration required to include redevelopment options for site following meeting in March 2004.

Wimpole	Cobbs Wood Estate Yard	Curtilage buildings in estate yard to Wimpole Hall Grade I	Important buildings associated with the running of the estate. Joinery workshops, Gas Plant etc all in need of repair	Phased repair programme begun 1994.	3	Visit to ascertain current condition
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**HISTORIC BUILDINGS AT RISK - SUMMARY 1999-2005**

**1. Residential Property**

<b>Risk Grade</b>	<b>March 1999</b>	<b>February 2000</b>	<b>February 2001</b>	<b>February 2003</b>	<b>September 2003</b>	<b>April 2004</b>	<b>November 2004</b>	<b>May 2005</b>
Severe Risk <b>(Grade 1)</b>	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
At Risk <b>(Grades 2/3)</b>	13	9	9	19	21	19	19	18
Vulnerable <b>(Grades 4/5)</b>	10	8	8	3	5	5	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>28</b>

**2.**

**Dovecotes**

<b>Risk Grade</b>	<b>March 1999</b>	<b>February 2000</b>	<b>February 2001</b>	<b>February 2003</b>	<b>September 2003</b>	<b>April 2004</b>	<b>November 2004</b>	<b>May 2005</b>
Severe Risk	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
At Risk	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Vulnerable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

3. Mills

Risk Grade	March 1999	February 2000	February 2001	February 2003	September 2003	April 2004	November 2004	May 2005
Severe Risk	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
At Risk	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Vulnerable	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

4. Agricultural Buildings & Other Outbuildings

Risk Grade	March 1999	February 2000	February 2001	February 2003	September 2003	April 2004	November 2004	May 2005
Severe Risk	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
At Risk	6	7	5	7	7	6	6	6
Vulnerable	4	3	3	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

5. Churches & Chapels

Risk Grade	March 1999	February 2000	February 2001	February 2003	September 2003	April 2004	November 2004	May 2005
Severe Risk	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
At Risk	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Vulnerable	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

6. Commercial Property Etc

Risk Grade	March 1999	February 2000	February 2001	February 2003	September 03	April 2004	November 2004	May 2005
Severe Risk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
At Risk	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5
Vulnerable	2	2	2	0	1	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

7. **Total Buildings at Risk - 1998 to 2004**

Risk Grade	March 1999	February 2000	February 2001	February 2003	September 03	April 2004	November 2004	May 2005
Severe Risk (Grade 1)	5	4	4	5	5	5	6	6
At Risk (Grades 2/3)	30	27	25	37	38	35	35	34
Vulnerable (Grades 4/5)	20	15	15	6	9	9	11	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>

**Buildings taken off the list (no longer at risk) between December 2004 and May 2005**

- 10 High Street, Cottenham

**Buildings added to list (considered to be at risk) between December 2004- and May 2005**

- NONE