

D7 Biodiversity

OBJECTIVES

- D7/a To achieve and maintain a thorough understanding of the existing biodiversity including raising public awareness.**
- D7/b To minimise any adverse impact on existing species and habitats.**
- D7/c To make use of existing features of ecological value to contribute to the creation and retention of key habitats within the new development and adjoining countryside.**
- D7/d To maximise the biodiversity value of green spaces within developed areas and the urban area as a whole.**
- D7/e To establish a high degree of connectivity between green areas within the development and the wider countryside.**
- D7/f To provide for the maintenance of habitats.**

POLICY CSF/15 Enhancing Biodiversity

Survey

- 1. Outline planning applications will be accompanied by a comprehensive ecological survey of flora and fauna:
 - a. For development at Addenbrookes, Clay Farm, Showground and the Bell School, this will cover the land bounded by Babraham Road, Haverhill Road, and the edge of the built-up area of Stapleford and Great Shelford.**
 - b. For development at Trumpington West, this will cover the land bounded by the River Cam and Hauxton Road as far south as Hauxton Mill.****

Managing and Enhancing Biodiversity

- 2. All open areas will be managed and landscaped to encourage biodiversity wildlife in locally distinctive habitats. Sensitive habitats will be protected by limiting public access to specified areas.**

- 3. A Biodiversity Management Strategy will demonstrate how biodiversity will be enhanced and how local communities will be involved. A project officer will be funded to implement the strategy through a planning obligation.**

Connecting Green Fingers and the Countryside

- 4. Connections will be provided for Green Fingers within and beyond the urban extensions to the surrounding countryside by enhanced landscaping, planting and the creation of wildlife habitats to provide links to larger scale wildlife habitats further afield including Nine Wells, the Gog Magog Down, Wandlebury, the River Cam corridor, Coton Country Park and Wicken Fen.**

Survey

- D7.1 The Area Action Plan covers a farmland landscape that supports few hedgerows, copses, woodlands, major watercourses or water-bodies. There are a number of villages which border the Area Action Plan. The biodiversity of the area is generally poor, with no designated sites in the Action Plan area. The lack of habitat networks combined with intensive farming will have contributed to the low biodiversity value. However, the area should not be dismissed as a “wildlife desert” as species typical of open farmland including the brown hare, skylark and grey partridge can be found. There is also potential to find rare arable plants along field boundaries.
- D7.2 Hobson’s Brook and the River Cam hugely increase the habitat diversity. The River Cam is a clean flowing river with beds of water crowfoot. Eroding gravel cliffs provide nest sites for kingfisher and sand-martins. A wide range of fish species can be found including the brook lamprey. Hobson’s Brook receives clean cool water from natural chalk springs, which are very rare within the District. The springhead was formerly a Site of Special Scientific Interest for the rare invertebrate fauna associated with the clean water. All watercourses and their network of ditches and associated hedges and trees provide important corridors for biodiversity moving through the Action Plan Area.
- D7.3 Much of the AAP area in South Cambridgeshire has not been surveyed in any detail for its ecological value. In order to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the area it will be essential to undertake full programmes for ecological survey and monitoring before, during and after construction.
- D7.4 This will enable the identification of key areas of value to inform the design process and to develop strategies for:
- Key species, particularly badgers, bats, great crested newts, barn owls, common lizard, grass snake, invertebrates, water vole, brown hare and important fish populations (through consultations with the Environment Agency);

- Key habitats, including arable fields, woodland, individual trees of merit, open water both flowing and standing, mosaics of grassland, hedgerows, together with their associated ditches.

Managing and Enhancing Biodiversity

- D7.5 For areas within any development, including Trumpington West, it will be important to draw up strategies for the creation, retention and management of key habitats important for foraging, shelter and migration for protected species and those of local importance for biodiversity to ensure and encourage their continued presence within the new development.
- D7.6 There are a number of ways in which biodiversity can be maximised within urban areas, such as by incorporating green roofs, erection of bat bricks and boxes, bird nest boxes, insect hibernation boxes, installation of mammal tunnels and other means of crossing points along severed routes. All of the above will need to be designed and installed at appropriate locations to achieve maximum net gains.
- D7.7 Existing trees and hedges within the site are a resource for biodiversity. A Biodiversity and Landscape Management Plan will enhance this resource through replanting and establishment of a diverse scrub and herb-rich understorey planting.
- D7.8 A Biodiversity Management Strategy will be needed to maintain and fund biodiversity. The landownership structure of public open space should be as simple as possible and subject to a single agreed management plan in order to be comprehensive and all embracing. It will be important that any biodiversity management plan receives the full support of the local communities who should be involved in creation and care of habitats. This can be achieved by informing the residents of Trumpington about the biodiversity of the area through community / wildlife groups, on site information boards and local newsletters. The time resource of initial wildlife liaison may necessitate the appointment of a project officer either individually or together with other developments in order to achieve the full benefit of the Biodiversity Management Strategy (see also Phasing and Implementation).

Green Corridors for Biodiversity

- D7.9 The landscape strategy requires that green corridors penetrate into the urban area. For biodiversity it is important that they provide a network within the development to provide wildlife corridors and that they connect to the open countryside.