

LANDSCAPE

NS/15 – Landscape principles

States intention to develop a formal landscape strategy and defines its principal objectives which will include a high quality environment, connectivity between green areas in the town, and contributing to recreational facilities. The policy also provides for re-using construction topsoil for landscaping and stresses the role of water in the landscape.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	Landscaping of the town is assumed to be accommodated within the planned footprint of the settlement and landscaping of the setting is addressed by policies NS/5 and NS/6.
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	+	++	Part b) of the policy provides for re-use of construction spoil for landscaping (directly positive in using materials and indirectly in reducing fuel consumption to transport soil off-site).
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	?	?	?	No obvious impact although landscaping will contribute to openness of landscape, helping runoff / groundwater absorption.
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	(-)	+	++	Initial disruption during construction but integration of landscape, green corridors, etc., will help to re-establish wildlife in the area.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	+	++	Contribution of green corridors.
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	

3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+	+	+	Intended to break-up pattern of built settlement to provide a more open aspect.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	+	++	+++	Very clearly intended to provide variation in the townscape and ensure open areas and other features.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~	(Will need control on topsoil handling to prevent dust contamination).
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	+	++	As for 1.2.
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	+	+	Water feature will contribute to flood risk alleviation (though this is not strictly evident from policy text).
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	+	+(+)	++	Open landscaped areas intended to contribute to provision of informal recreational areas.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	Impact assumed to be neutral although design will need to avoid creating areas where people feel less safe out in the open.
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+	++	+++	Clearly the primary objective of this policy.
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	+	(+)	++	Contributes to objective in providing ready access to leisure facilities within the community.
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	+	+	+	Implicitly supportive; design component of strategy will need to ensure provision is made for needs of the less mobile.
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	

7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
Summary of assessment: Clearly sustainable, designed to integrate the need for housing and facilities necessary to establish the town, with the need for a good quality environment integrated into and surrounding it.			
Summary of mitigation proposals: Design component of the strategy will need to ensure provision is made for disabled/less mobile. It will also help for the policy or supporting text to clarify the role of water features in flood alleviation.			
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.			

NS/16 – Landscape treatment on the edges of Northstowe

Contains three proposals for a water park on the east side of the settlement; vegetational planting / screening on the southern edge (overlooked by Oakington); and further screening along Station Road, Longstanton, to the north of the settlement.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	Does not address consumption (but see 4.3).
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	(+)	(+)	(+)	Screening proposals are more concerned with visual impact although with contribute to biodiversity assets.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	

3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	~	+	++	The proposed water park aims to reflect the fen-edge character of local market downs, providing distinctiveness and a softer edge to that side of the settlement which will be visible for some distance to the east. The other features are consistent with local vegetational patterns and are more concerned with limiting visual intrusion.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	+	++	Supportive.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~	
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	+	++	Water feature partly integrated with SUDS, and structure is intended to regulate run-off rates while maintaining a surface water feature, hence supportive of this objective.
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	+	+(+)	Water feature is positive; the other two prevent visual intrusion so only support this objective indirectly.
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	+	+	Access to water feature as a leisure facility.
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent,	~	~	~	

appropriate and affordable housing			
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
Summary of assessment: Another sustainable policy which aims to mitigate and soften the visual impact of Northstowe where there is no green separation. The water park on the east side reflects the fact that water is a defining feature of Cambridge and existing Cambridgeshire market towns and open linear water features in villages are quite characteristic of the district. It will provide a landscaping feature for that side of the settlement that does not rely solely on vegetational screening, which is used on the other three sides.			
Summary of mitigation proposals: None.			
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.			

NS/17 – Landscaping within Northstowe

Proposes a system of green corridors that will provide a network of biodiversity. The features will function as landscape components, informal recreational and leisure areas, and corridors to allow wildlife movement into the settlement. The policy also requires sensitive integration of the existing area of Rampton Drift into the town, identifies the need for landscaping within the built environment to be addressed in the Design Guide required in policy NS/2, and the need for high quality landscaping in open spaces.

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	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	

1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	(+)	+	+(+)	Construction will disturb a substantial area of open land which has some biodiversity value. Green corridors will provide a form of mitigation allowing re-establishment of parts of the site. The potential disruption to wildlife will be limited if the green corridors can make use of existing vegetational features which would not be disturbed during construction.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	+	+(+)	++	One of the main objectives of the green corridors.
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+	+(+)	++	Aims to break up the built structure of the settlement.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	+	+(+)	++	As for 3.2.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	?	?	?	Potentially beneficial if the corridors allow air circulation which helps to dispel vehicle emissions from within the settlement.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	+	+(+)	Corridors will incorporate water / drainage features integrated with a broader SUDS for the settlement to manage run-off rates.
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	+	++	Corridors provide recreational areas readily accessible on foot to

				residents.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	?	?	?	Design Guides will need to balance requirement to make the corridors as safe as possible without excessive lighting and other features.
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+	++	+++	Clearly contributes to this objective.
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	+	+	+	Contributes to ready accessibility of leisure facilities.
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	+	+	+	Implicitly supportive since facilities will be readily accessible to all residents.
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	
Summary of assessment: A further sustainable policy complementing NS/15 and NS/16 which provides for green space within the settlement benefiting both residents and wildlife.				

Summary of mitigation proposals: The master plan for the settlement should identify existing vegetational features that can be retained without disturbance to provide habitats for local wildlife during construction. The Design Guide will need to address how to make these areas safe for residents without resorting to lighting and other solutions that would adversely affect their tranquillity and benefit to wildlife. Note also that the current concept diagram does not provide for green corridors at the north and south end of the site – the latter could be connected to the green separation planned between Northstowe and Oakington.

Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.

NS/18 – Linking Northstowe to its surroundings

Outlines two broad landscaping requirements to integrate green space within the settlement with that in the adjacent landscape, and to limit the visual intrusion of access roads.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+	+	+	Linking the green corridor system within the town to the adjoining countryside aims to enable movement of wildlife
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	+	+(+)	++	Green corridors provide ready access to wildlife areas. The benefit would be improved if any public rights of way within the corridors can be extended into the adjacent countryside.
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	

3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+	+(+)	++	Both features will contribute, although open aspect of some land surrounding Longstanton means that road screening measures should not introduce alien features (eg. excessively high tree belts).
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	+	+	+	Supportive.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~	
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	+	+(+)	++	Corridors beneficial if they extend rights of way into the adjacent countryside and encourage walking and other forms of recreation.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+	+(+)	++	Clearly beneficial.
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	+	+	+	Supports provision of recreation / leisure facilities.
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	

7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
Summary of assessment: Complements NS/17 and other landscape policies in integrating features in the settlement with those in the surrounding area.			
Summary of mitigation proposals: We suggest the Council might consider designating areas such as parts of the network of green corridors and their extensions into the surrounding countryside as Countryside Enhancement Areas, identifying them as locations where character and tranquillity are to be preserved as far as possible (and consistent with policy NE/5 in the Core Strategy).			
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.			