

Cambridgeshire Horizons
 Endurance House
 Vision Park
 Histon
 Cambridge
 CB4 9ZR

www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk
 Tel: 01223 714040




THE NATIONAL TRUST


Forestry Commission
 England


 The Countryside Agency
Landscape Access Recreation


 CAMBRIDGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY


Fenland
 CAMBRIDGESHIRE
 Fenland District Council


ENGLISH NATURE




Huntingdonshire


Cambridgeshire County Council


CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL


South Cambridgeshire District Council

Contents

Section	Page
Foreword	1
1 Introduction	2
2 Environmental Context of the Sub-region	4
3 Methodology of Analysis of Green Infrastructure Data	8
4 Review of Existing Green Infrastructure Provision	10
5 Towards an integrated Green Infrastructure Strategy	14
6 Funding and Implementation	20
7 Next Steps	24
8 Appendices	28

Foreword

The Cambridge Sub-region has an extremely ambitious housing target to meet over the next ten years. The 2003 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan makes provision for an additional 47,500 homes to be built between 1999 and 2016. Many of these homes will be provided in new large-scale developments on the fringes of Cambridge, some of the market towns and at the proposed new town at Northstowe.

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. One of the greatest challenges we face as a consequence is ensuring that quality of life for existing and new communities in the area is improved.

The key to achieving this is to enhance existing infrastructure, including Green Infrastructure, to support the scale of growth proposed.

In early 2005, we established a Quality of Life programme, which sets high standards for housing developments in recognition of the fact that quality is important to delivery. Creating balanced and mixed communities was the subject of the first piece of research, and three sub-regional strategies for green infrastructure, major sports facilities and arts and culture were also commissioned to set out a long term vision for how new facilities will be provided to complement existing provision.

I am delighted that this work has now been completed and hope you will agree with me that the Strategy for Green Infrastructure summarised in this report sets out an exciting and realistic vision for using planned development to enhance and extend our network of large scale green spaces, protected sites, nature reserves and greenway linkages.

I am particularly grateful to all the organisations and agencies who contributed to this strategy and look forward to working with them in the future on taking forward its recommendations.



Sir David Trippier
Chairman
Cambridgeshire Horizons

Origin statement

This document is a summary of a report that has been prepared by consultants The Landscape Partnership for Cambridgeshire Horizons, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, the Countryside Agency, the Forestry Commission, Cambridge Preservation Society and English Nature.

Cambridgeshire Horizons is a company established by the Cambridgeshire Local Authorities to drive forward the delivery of the growth strategy for the Cambridge Sub-region.

A Steering Group drawn from all the above sponsoring bodies as well as Huntingdonshire District Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council oversaw the preparation of the report.

1. Introduction

'All nature has a feeling: woods, fields, brooks
Are life eternal: and in silence they
Speak happiness beyond the reach of books;
There's nothing mortal in them; their decay
Is the green life of change; to pass away
And come again in blooms revived.'
From 'All Nature has feeling' by John Clare (1793–1864)



1.1

The objective of the study is 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 years to complement and support the significant growth in housing provision that is planned over this period. The strategy seeks to both promote a range of new creative initiatives while also embracing and developing the strategic open space proposals currently being promoted by a variety of agencies across the sub-region.

1.2

The Strategy has been put together in two documents; a full Technical Report which is available from Cambridgeshire Horizons and this report which is a summary version concentrating on the background analysis and the key findings.

Background to Growth

1.3

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. This increase in population can be seen as either an opportunity or a threat to the quality of life enjoyed by existing communities – much will depend on the extent to which the existing infrastructure, including Green Infrastructure, can be enhanced to support the scale of growth proposed.

1.4

A number of major new developments are proposed as part of the Cambridge Sub-regional growth strategy in the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003: including a new town of 8,000 homes at Northstowe to the north west of Cambridge, a new urban quarter on the east side of Cambridge that could accommodate up to 12,000 new homes and two urban fringe development sites located to the north west and south of Cambridge, which will deliver approximately 6,500 new homes between them. Significant new developments are also planned on the fringes of the sub-region's market towns, and particularly Huntingdon, St. Neots, and Ely. All these developments will bring opportunities to enhance the adjoining Green Infrastructure, which could link into a strategic network of greenspaces.

1.5

The provision of Green Infrastructure has been identified as a key priority for the successful implementation of the growth agenda, and a Green Infrastructure Forum was established by Cambridgeshire Horizons and Cambridgeshire County Council during 2004, which included representatives from all the local authorities, relevant national and regional agencies and active local amenity/biodiversity societies and organisations, to develop projects which could be submitted for funding from the Government's Growth Area Fund.

1.6

The 'Cambridge Sub-region' is the planning sub-region as defined in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003, i.e. the City of Cambridge and the surrounding ring of market towns that fall within Cambridgeshire: Ely, St. Neots, Huntingdon, St. Ives and Chatteris, and the villages within this ring. It is envisaged that the Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Cambridge Sub-region should knit into the Green Infrastructure strategies being prepared for adjoining sub-regions, for instance the Peterborough Green Grid. As a result, acknowledgement of the strategic greenspaces that fall within those parts of the wider economic sub-region that lie adjacent to but outside of the Cambridge Sub-region e.g. Newmarket Heath and Therfield Heath has been taken into account.

1.7

The Green Infrastructure Strategy is one of three studies commissioned by Cambridgeshire Horizons as part of its Quality of Life Programme. The two other 'sister' strategies are on Arts and Culture and Major Sports Facilities.

Green Infrastructure Background

1.8

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan includes policies for creating new Green Infrastructure and enhancing the existing landscape. In line with the greenspace policies set out in the Structure Plan, Cambridgeshire County Council commissioned an audit of the Strategic Open Space in the County by W.S. Atkins in 2004. A number of other studies, such as the East of England Biodiversity Mapping

Project, the 50-year biodiversity vision map produced by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership and the Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan provide valuable background to the development of the Strategy.

Project Brief

1.9

The project brief set out the requirements of the study as follows:-

- To bring together existing data on Green Infrastructure sites, and map out existing greenspace provision.
- To identify future greenspace needs of the growing population, looking forward at least twenty years.
- To identify opportunities for Green Infrastructure within and adjacent to major development sites, embracing and developing the work being carried out by the local planning authorities through their Local Development Frameworks.
- To carry out a general analysis on the wider Cambridge Sub-region identifying opportunities and future projects building on the W.S. Atkins report of 2004.
- To develop the analysis into a bold and imaginative strategy, which builds upon current and future initiatives and identifies key issues, including those relating to biodiversity, landscape and rights of way.
- To propose an implementation strategy and a framework for the longer-term management and maintenance of any future assets created.

1.10

It is envisaged that the Green Infrastructure Strategy will provide Cambridgeshire Horizons and its partners with the long term vision and structure required to direct the development of individual bids and projects to deliver the component parts of the proposed Green Infrastructure Network over the next 20–30 years. The study identifies general deficiencies and makes specific recommendations to inform Local Development Documents and other relevant local strategies prepared by the Local Authorities.

What is Green Infrastructure?

1.11

This study takes the definition of Green Infrastructure used by the Town and Country Planning Association in their publication Biodiversity by Design which states:-

"Green Infrastructure is defined as the Sub-regional network of protected sites, nature reserves, greenspaces and greenway linkages. Green Infrastructure should provide (where possible) multi-functional uses, i.e., wildlife, recreational and cultural experience, as well as delivering ecological services, such as flood protection and microclimate control. It should also operate at all spatial scales from urban centres through to open countryside"

1.12

Well-designed and integrated Green Infrastructure improves environmental quality, health and well-being, sense of community and provides an opportunity for exercise, sport and informal recreation. In the context of the study area for this report, Green Infrastructure should therefore contribute to and enhance the quality of life of both present and future residents and visitors through:

- Providing a focus and attraction for the increased population proposed within the Cambridge Sub-region and the wider London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough Growth Area
- Providing further greenspace and wider access to the countryside
- Protecting and enhancing existing biodiversity and creating new areas for biodiversity
- Reversing the fragmentation of habitats by restoring the connectivity between them
- Providing the opportunity to rehabilitate landscapes and habitats damaged by previous development, agriculture or by existing recreational pressures
- Providing an enhanced environmental backdrop that will assist in attracting business and inward investment to those areas
- Providing built development that is sustainable in terms of its location, design, materials and whole life costs
- Providing a basis for a sustainable urban ecology.

2. Environmental Context of the Sub-region



Landscape Character

2.1

The Cambridge Sub-region does not include any statutorily designated landscapes, (National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty). However, it contains many distinctive landscapes. The 'Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines' (1991) identified nine character areas, five of which are located in the Cambridge Sub-region as follows:-

- South-east Clay Hills
- Chalklands
- Western Claylands
- Ouse Valley
- Fenlands

2.2

Cambridge is centrally located in the sub-region and at the junction of three main landscape types. To the north east the Fens, to the south east the Chalklands and to the west the Claylands. The type of Green Infrastructure improvements proposed within the Strategy should always build on this variation in local landscape character by enhancing local diversity and distinctiveness e.g. by strengthening the existing patterns of woodlands to the southwest, or by restoring and creating meadows and wet woodland along the Ouse Valley. In the same way new built development should reflect the underlying landscape character. The majority of the proposed development will take place in urban fringe locations and it is important that the character of these often threatened and undervalued landscapes is fully assessed and developed to deliver an enhanced and multi-functional landscape.

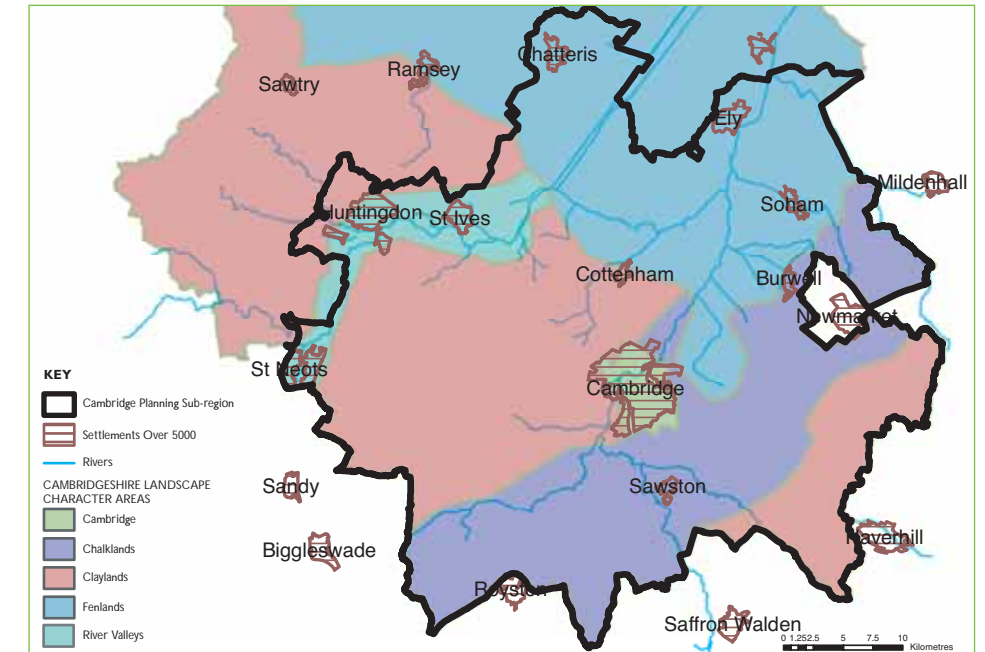
The Water Environment

2.3

The landscape of Cambridgeshire, and in particular the Fens, is significantly influenced by the character of the natural and artificial drainage patterns. In the south of the sub-region there are a number of important chalk fed streams while in the north there are navigable waterways including the River Ouse and parts of the Cam. The Fens also contain distinctive man-made 'Lodes' that provide access by boat e.g. Bulbeck Lode near Wicken Fen and Monk's Lode at Great Fen.

Plan and Landscape character areas

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100023205 2006



2.4

With much of the land within the Fens at or below sea level, water management and flood control are critical issues. The Fens contain extensive areas within the Environment Agency Flood Zones with many of the waterways and drainage channels embanked to protect the surrounding landscape. Locally controlled seasonal flooding takes place e.g. in the Ouse Washes. With the potential of increased run-off from additional development within the Growth Area there is an increasing need to make provision for additional seasonal and potentially permanent flooding. These requirements can create opportunities to enhance the landscape and biodiversity value. The Internal Drainage Boards also have a vital role to play in the management of the multitude of drainage channels and ditches in the area.

Historic Landscape Environment

2.5

The County has a diverse and distinctive built heritage within its cities, towns, villages and historic buildings. The architectural quality of many buildings within Cambridge, both traditional and modern, is of a notable standard at both the national and international level. In locations such as the Cambridge Backs, the interplay between the historic University Colleges' mix of formal and informal open spaces create some of the County's best loved environmental assets.

2.6

The historic setting of Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens provide opportunities to focus visitor-based activity and connections to the wider Green Infrastructure network. Major attractions such as Wimpole Hall, Home Farm and Park, Anglesey Abbey and Gardens and Denny Abbey have the potential to develop further as nodes within the access network and support increased sustainable recreational opportunities. A number of the existing parks and gardens to the west of Cambridge on the claylands and on the chalk landscapes to the south east remain in private ownership.

2.7

There is a variable distribution of Scheduled Ancient Monuments across the County. However, there is a noticeable cluster of sites to the south of Cambridge on the Chalk landscapes, which were historically favoured for early settlement and human activity. The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record records over 10,000 monuments, findspots, historic buildings, parks and garden features within the sub-region. Whilst many of these are hidden from view or require interpretation, they represent a large number of locally important sites and features which enrich the local landscapes and are a major asset in promoting informal recreation and the enjoyment of greenspace, especially in the urban fringe.

Environmental Context of the Sub-region



Image courtesy of Cambridgeshire County Council

Biodiversity

2.8

There are a number of important wildlife habitats within the Cambridge Sub-region. However, one of the main features in biodiversity terms is the extent of fragmentation of this resource. This is in no small measure due to the importance of agriculture in rural areas, and in particular the process of intensification of farming practices over the last 100 years which has reduced the number and network of habitats present. The main exception to this pattern is along the river corridors, most notably the Ouse, which serves as a focus for some of the most significant protected sites.

2.9

Cambridgeshire has the lowest percentage of woodland cover of any rural county in England, with just 3.6% of the land area, compared to 9.5% for neighbouring Hertfordshire. The majority of the woodland present is located on the claylands to the west and south east of the county.

2.10

The key internationally protected sites in the sub-region include the Ouse Washes, Wicken Fen, Eversden and Wimpole Woods and Devils Dyke. There are 138 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Cambridgeshire, which cover some 2.7% of the county, less than half the national average. At a local level there are also a wide range of County Wildlife Sites, and Local Nature Reserves.

2.11

The County Structure Plan promotes 'Countryside Enhancement Areas' combining biodiversity, informal recreation and landscape enhancement. Target habitats are:

- Wetland Habitats
- Acid Grasslands and Heaths
- Woodlands and Hedgerows
- Chalk and Limestone Grassland
- Wet Grassland and Hay Meadows

Access and Informal Recreation

2.12

A well-developed Rights of Way network is essential in providing access to the countryside for local and visiting populations. These should also be well connected to the sites of accessible Green Infrastructure to maximise the sustainable enjoyment of resources for quiet recreation. It is envisaged that wherever possible access corridors also double as biodiversity corridors and vice versa, subject to the sensitivity of the habitat.

2.13

The County Council has developed a number of 'published' strategic routes including: Pathfinder Way, Harcamlow Way, Fen Rivers Way, Hereward Way. Some of these routes extend into adjacent counties following important biodiversity or historical features, e.g. the Icknield Way and the Ouse Valley Way. In addition to these strategic routes there is an extensive network of local rights of way. A number of Sustrans routes which include a number of minor roads as well as bridleways and cycleways, form part of a national network for long-distance cycle connections.

2.14

The sub-region contains a number of sites of accessible land including: National and Local Nature Reserves, Country Parks, Common Land, Access Land, Pocket Parks and accessible woodland. However, the number and coverage in the county is relatively restricted, in part due to the low lying and predominantly arable character of much of the rural area. There are a number of strategic sites adjacent to the sub-region, which provide valuable recreation opportunities including: Thetford Forest, Newmarket Heath, Grafham Water, Thetford Heath and the Ivel Valley.

2.15

Many of the strategic visitor attractions in the sub-region are closely related to the potential of informal and quiet recreation such as the National Trust's properties at Wimpole Hall, Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey. These also provide the scope to act as hubs in the Rights of Way network.

2.16

In response to the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) the County Council has produced The Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The Statement of Action in the plan prioritises the work the County Council proposes to undertake to secure an improved network of local Rights of Way and access opportunities. There are 8 Guiding Principles arising from the Statement of Action most of which are also directly relevant to the development of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Climate Change

2.17

Climate change has the potential to cause many effects on the landscape. Within Cambridgeshire key issues include:

- The impact of rising sea levels on the Fenland landscapes and the scope for additional seasonal/permanent flooding and the release of arable/cropping land to form flood meadows and wet woodland. Adventurer's Fen at Wicken Fen is already designated as a flood alleviation area in case of high water levels in the River Cam and Lodes.
- The impact of reduced rainfall in the context of rising demand from an expanding population. Reduced rainfall will also affect species selection, e.g. on the free draining chalk soils where there is a move away from beech which is showing widespread signs of drought stress.
- The need to create additional shade in the landscape as a result of warmer summers. This would seem to encourage additional woodland creation as part of the recreational resource for the population.

Strategic Built Development

2.18

New settlements/major urban extensions represent a key driver in the development of the Green Infrastructure network opportunities. The main development sites in the sub-region include:

- Northstowe – new town
- Cambridge East (Airport site)
- Land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road (NIAB site)
- Land between Madingley Road and Huntingdon Road (North West Cambridge)
- Northern Fringe of Cambridge (Arbury Park & Chesterton sidings site)
- Southern Fringe of Cambridge – Monsanto site (Cam Valley)
- Southern Fringe of Cambridge – East of Trumpington & Addenbrooke's
- Land North West of Spittals Way & Ermine Street, Great Stukeley, Huntingdon
- Land North of Cambridge Road, St. Neots (East of Railway line)

Strategic Transport Development

2.19

There are a number of proposed key transport schemes within the sub-region including:

- Guided Busway – West. Following the line of the disused railway from north Cambridge to St. Ives and then to Huntingdon.
- Guided Busway – South. To the south of Cambridge following the line of the disused railway from the station to Trumpington.
- A14 Improvements Ellington to Fen Ditton.
- Transport interchange – Chesterton Station. Serving the Science Park and the north of Cambridge.

Policy Context

2.20

There is wide range of strategy documents and policies from the national to local level that provide a framework for the development of the Green Infrastructure Strategy. These are listed in the bibliography found after the Appendices.

Image courtesy of NTPL/Paul Harris



3. Methodology of Analysis of Green Infrastructure Data

3.1

In order to evaluate the data available on the different aspects of Green Infrastructure it was important to decide which aspects were to be included in the analysis process. A wide range of data sets were collated for the analysis from over 40 sources. The following categories of land use were included in the definition of Green Infrastructure in this study:

- Urban Parks and (public) Gardens
- Country Parks
- Natural and semi-natural Greenspaces, (including wetland areas)
- Green Corridors (including watercourses)
- Amenity Greenspaces (publicly accessible)
- Churchyards and Cemeteries

3.2

These categories included: internationally protected sites i.e. RAMSAR's, SPA's, SAC's, nationally protected sites i.e. SSSI's & NNR's, local sites including County Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves, National Inventory of Woodland, including ancient/semi natural woodland and Common Land and Access Land.

3.3

A number of categories of open space were omitted from the definition of Green Infrastructure for the purpose of the calculations and analysis of Green Infrastructure in this study. These groups included: playing fields, golf courses, children's play areas, allotments and private gardens.

Standards

3.4

Various standards were established to analyse the Green Infrastructure data sets. These standards have been derived from the TCPA's 'Biodiversity by design' and English Nature's 'Accessible natural greenspace in towns and cities – a review of appropriate size'. Three types of measurement have been used in the analysis of Green Infrastructure i.e. scale, catchment area and population.

Scale

3.5

Four tiers of scale, based on area of Green Infrastructure site, have been applied in the study as follows:

- A. Sub-regional provision = Sites or habitats over 500ha
- B. City scale provision = Sites or habitats over 100ha
- C. District scale provision = Sites or habitats over 20ha
- D. Neighbourhood scale sites = Sites or habitats over 2ha

3.6

It is recognised that there are many smaller sites and features, such as hedgerows, drainage channels/streams and private gardens. Together these make an important contribution to the overall pattern of Green Infrastructure network. However, due to the limitations of the data available and the primary purpose of this study being strategic, sites under 2ha are not included in the analysis.

Catchment Area

3.7

From each of the above scales of provision an appropriate catchment area has been applied as follows:

- Sites or habitats over 500ha = 10km catchment area
- Sites or habitats over 100ha = 5km catchment area
- Sites or habitats over 20ha = 1.2 & 2km catchment areas
- Sites or habitats over 2ha = 300m catchment area

Population

3.8

To measure the level of provision of Green Infrastructure for both existing and future populations, an area of land in hectares based on population figures per thousand has been used.

Standards of Informal Open Space

3.9

There are currently a range of standards for open space used by Local Authorities and District Councils in their Local Plans. These differing standards have been allowed for in the analysis. As new Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) are prepared the existing standards for Open Space, Green Infrastructure and Strategic Open Space will be subject to ongoing review by each of the District Councils. Revised standards will then be included in the LDFs and applied to future planning applications.

Analysis in GIS

3.10

To map the levels of provision of Green Infrastructure across the Cambridge Sub-region seven different applications of analysis using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) were used. The analysis has identified in spatial terms the deficits at different scales and where future Green Infrastructure could be targeted to provide a more comprehensive cover. However, the findings from the analysis needed to be balanced with and tested against the local landscape character, biodiversity targets and existing and future populations' needs. As a result, it is likely that deficits in areas of relatively low population will have a lower priority and also follow a different form of implementation.

Stakeholder Consultation

3.11

An integral part of the development of the Green Infrastructure Strategy has been the involvement of stakeholders whose input has been invaluable to in the development of the strategy. This process was carried out through the following main steps:

• Steering Group

The Green Infrastructure Steering Group has played a major role in guiding the study including: the development of the brief, advising on the emerging analysis and strategy and review of final report and documents.

• Stakeholder Consultation

A wide range of key stakeholders were contacted both in the data collection process and for more detailed discussions. A number of one to one meetings were held with lead organisations including County and District Councils, Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission, National Trust and the representatives of a number of the major developers with interests in some of the key developments sites in the sub-region.

• Stakeholder Workshop

A stakeholder workshop, attended by over 50 delegates, was held on 21st November 2005 to discuss the interim results from the analysis and to provide input to the emerging Strategy. A series of group workshops were held looking at both the main strategy issues for the sub-region and the local issues at a District scale.

Image courtesy of TLP



4. Review of Existing Green Infrastructure



Image courtesy of FC

4.1

The spatial analysis of Green Infrastructure was carried out at a range of scales including:

- Sub-regional
- City
- District

In addition, existing strategic linear corridors were mapped and overall green infrastructure provision was assessed against current and future populations. Some of the results are illustrated in the following pages.

Sub-regional scale (Sites over 500ha)

4.2

The analysis identifies the influence of sites over 500ha across the sub-region. The existing pattern is that these largest sites are located to the north of the sub-region and include those at Grafham Water, along the River Ouse and Ouse Washes, Wicken Fen and Mildenhall Woods, east of the county boundary. There are surprisingly no existing sites of a sub-regional scale to the south of the County.

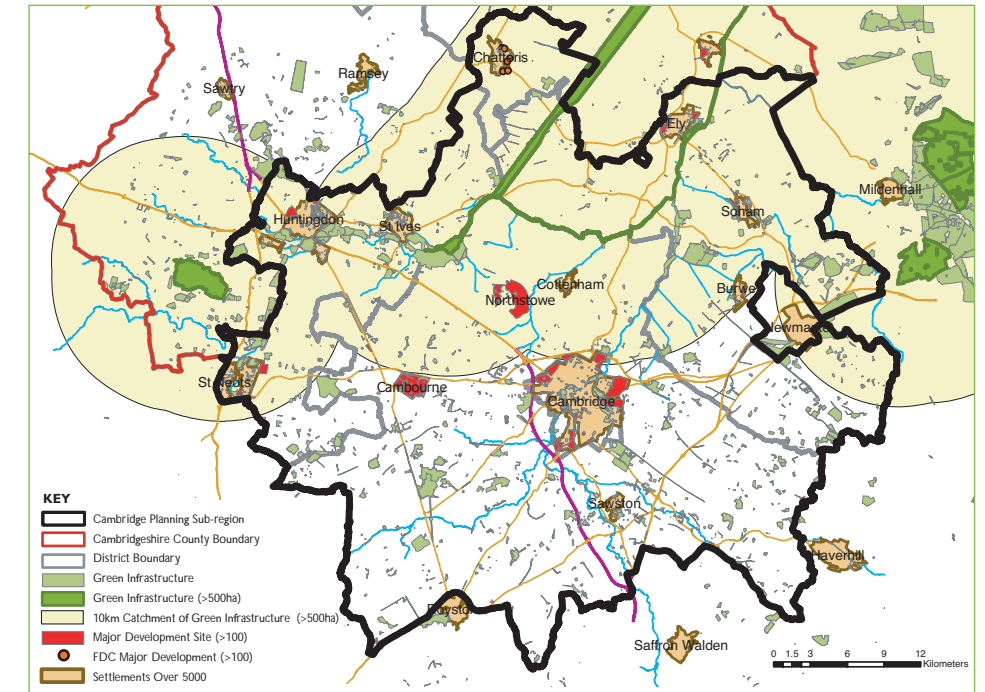
City-scale Open Space (Sites over 100ha)

4.3

The second application, which covers sites over 100ha in size, indicates a wider distribution of sites across the sub-region and in particular the sites to the west and south west of Cambridge and the parts of Newmarket Heath just over the Suffolk border. This application identified gaps to the south east of the sub-region and deficiencies to the north and north west of Cambridge. In particular these are located in the vicinity of the settlements of Cambourne, Bar Hill and the proposed settlement of Northstowe.

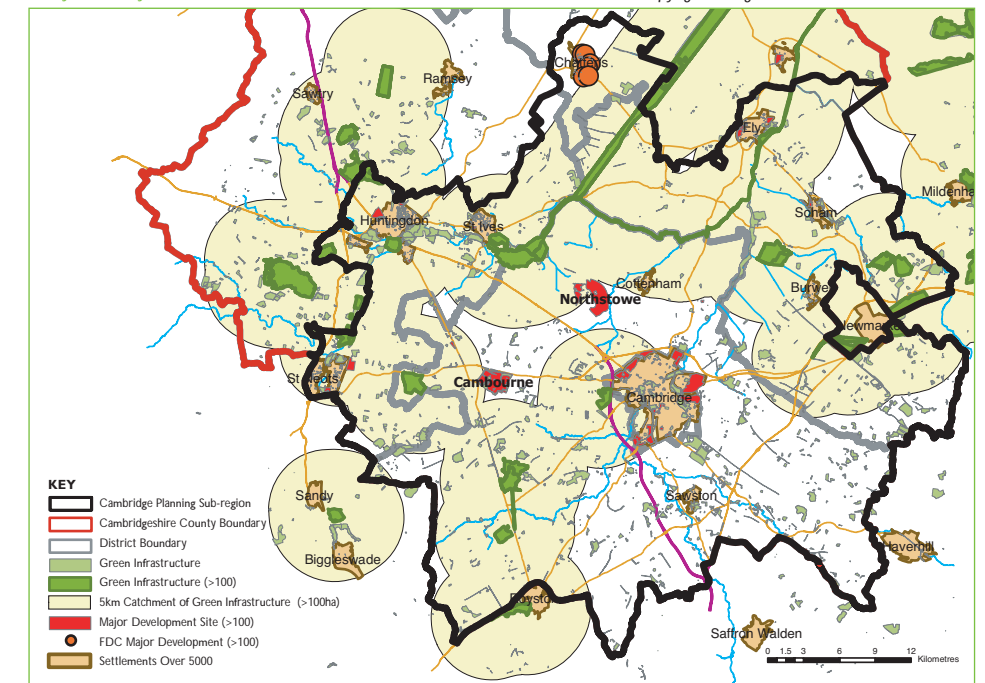
Analysis at Sub-regional scale

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100023205 2006



Analysis at City scale

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100023205 2006

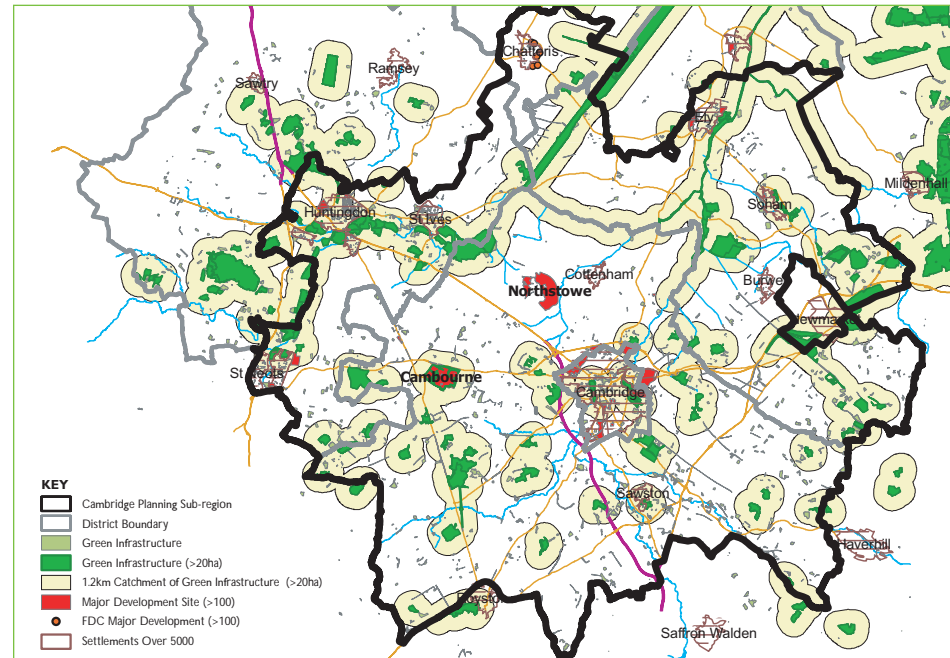


Review of Existing Green Infrastructure

District-scale Provision (Sites over 20ha)

4.4

The district scale application illustrates catchment areas of 1.2 km. At this finer scale there is a wider distribution of Green Infrastructure sites including along some of the river corridors including the Old West River (Ouse) and the Cam. For a number of settlements the Green Infrastructure provision is provided in association with the river corridors e.g. Huntingdonshire District demonstrates a high concentration of sites at this scale along the River Ouse. The application also illustrates deficiencies for areas to the north of Cambridge including, Northstowe, Bar Hill, Cottenham and Burwell. Chatteris is also under-provided, particularly to the north, west and east. There are a number of locations where there are deficits and poor or non-existent connections between sites; however in many of these locations there are no existing larger settlements.



Analysis at District scale

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100023205 2006

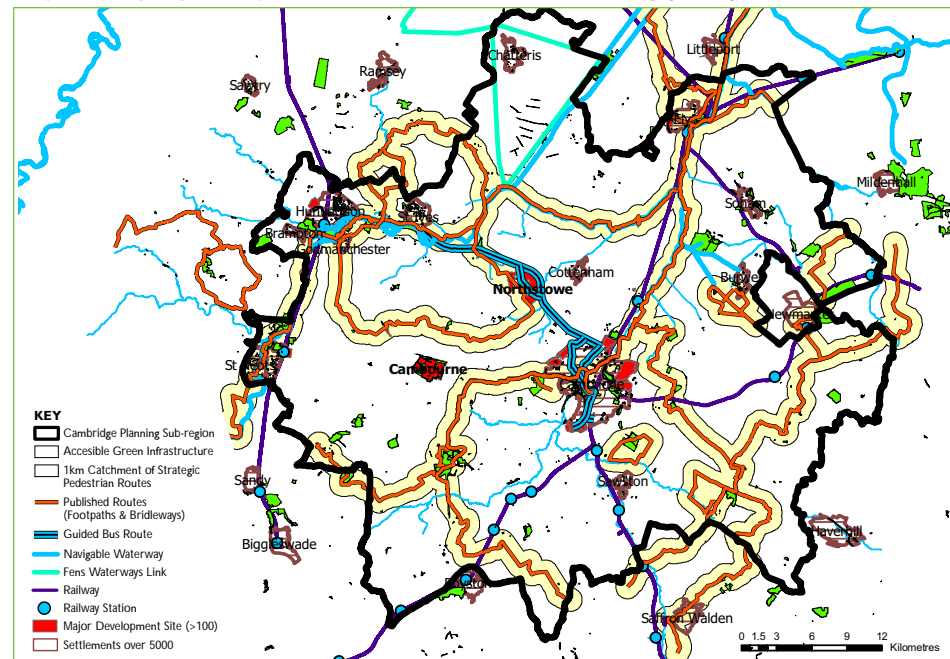
Analysis of Strategic Linear Corridors

4.5

To identify accessibility to the strategic Rights of Way network, published strategic Long Distance Routes and Sustrans Routes were analysed. The location of the existing and new main navigable waterways were also illustrated along with new features including the Guided Busway/Bridleway corridor. In addition, the relationship between the Accessible Green Infrastructure sites and Rights of Way was mapped. For the long distance footpaths a catchment of 1km was applied and for strategic Bridleways and for Sustrans Routes, a 5km catchment was applied. The analysis highlighted a number of issues. Firstly the scope for greater connectivity between some of the long distance published routes. Secondly a number of settlements e.g. Cambourne, Chatteris, Soham and Cottenham in the sub-region, are not connected to any of the Strategic Routes and this should be a priority in the development of the Green Infrastructure Strategy. Thirdly the scope for enhanced connectivity for strategic cycle and bridleways to the south west and south east of Cambridge and finally the generally poor connectivity from the strategic routes to areas of Accessible Green Infrastructure.

Analysis of Strategic Rights of Way

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100023205 2006



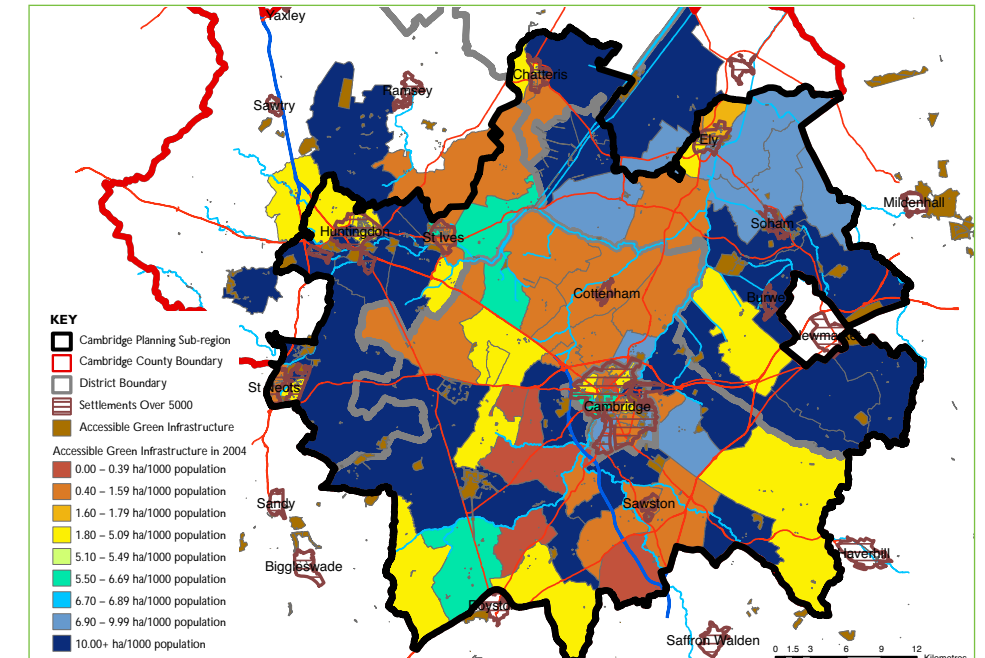
Quantity of Green Infrastructure: Population

4.6

This application was based on the quantity of 'Accessible Green Infrastructure' in ha measured against the population of Wards in 2004 (for the existing situation) and 2021 (for the future provision). The levels of provision were banded to reflect the differing existing standards of open space within each District.

4.7

The 2004 data illustrates that there are wards below the minimum standards of informal open space set out in Local Plans and LDF's. For example within South Cambridgeshire these include locations to the west and south of the District. Cambridge City which has the highest standard of Green Infrastructure (1.8ha of informal open space per 1,000) shows generous provision in some wards to the north east, south west and south of the City, however there is a marked under-provision in some wards to the north and south.



Accessible Green Infrastructure by Ward - 2004

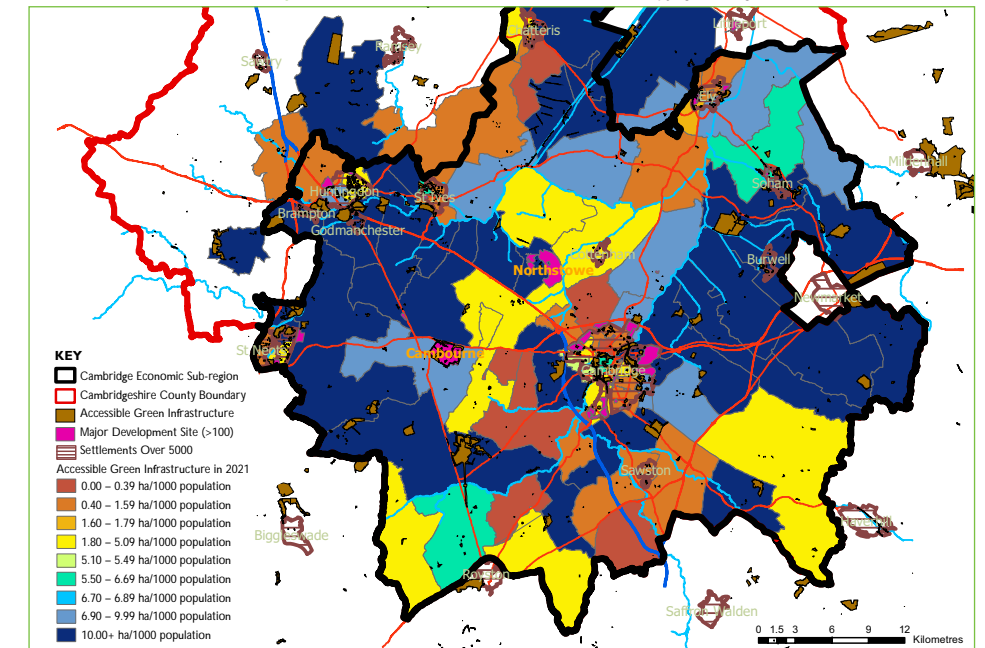
© Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100023205 2006

4.8

In the 2021 situation the new settlements and urban extensions were included in the population figures. Defined major open space initiatives that are either Government funded or within LDF's or Local Plans were included within the quantities of Green Infrastructure. The sub-region analysis highlights new deficiencies e.g. an under-provision to the standard of 0.4ha per 1,000 at Girton and Impington arising from the additional new development, which would suggest the need for additional open space provision. Wards which include the new settlements at Northstowe and East Cambridge have significantly increased provisions as a result of the new Country Parks and open space facilities within the development proposals.

Accessible Green Infrastructure by Ward - 2021

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100023205 2006



5. Towards an Integrated Green Infrastructure Strategy



Vision for the Green Infrastructure Strategy

5.1

The vision for the Green Infrastructure Strategy is summarised as follows:

'To create a comprehensive and sustainable network of green corridors and sites that:

- enhance the diversity of landscape character
- connect and enrich biodiversity habitats and
- extend access and recreation opportunities

for the benefit of the environment as well as current and future communities in the Cambridge Sub-region.'

5.2

The vision for the Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Cambridge Sub-region builds on the principles of sustainable development and acknowledges the wider context of developing Cambridge as a world leader in research and technology. It recognises that economic growth can bring a range of benefits including investment in transport, education, health and high quality housing areas.

5.3

The Strategy is also mindful of the qualities of the University City, the historic market towns and surrounding villages and the wider landscape setting. A robust and improved Green Infrastructure framework will provide an enhanced backdrop that will assist in attracting business and inward investment into the area.

5.4

The overall Strategy is graphically illustrated by the Proposed Strategic Masterplan (separate pull out A2) with individual projects detailed in the Appendices. The strategy is supported by the following objectives and recommendations.

Strategic Objectives

5.5

A number of strategic objectives underpin and inform the direction of the Green Infrastructure Strategy as follows:

Connectivity of habitats.

The provision of improved linkage between existing and proposed Green Infrastructure resources is key to the success of the strategy. This particularly applies to biodiversity corridors and habitats. Existing corridors will be protected and enhanced and act as a focus for further

improvements. A major focus of the Strategy is to identify gaps in the existing connections and to provide suitable linkages to counter the existing fragmented patterns. Connections will include: major new corridors both within and beyond the sub-region, enhanced links between existing habitat clusters and projects at a smaller scale that provide important links.

Multi-functionality.

Wherever possible greenspace in and around settlements should be multi-functional, carefully balancing various uses such as agriculture, access, recreation and biodiversity to the local situation. Application of this principle should involve the creation of additional publicly accessible land through a combination of land acquisition, adoption and access agreements on private land through for example Environmental Stewardship and Forestry Commission English Woodland Grant Schemes. Potentially competing land uses e.g. increased access, farmed land and biodiversity sensitivity will need to be carefully managed to avoid conflicts.

Extended Access.

Enhanced access for all and by sustainable means including foot, cycle, horse and boat to promote a healthier lifestyle is fundamental. The existing countywide network of Rights of Way and strategic routes will form the backbone of the network. New routes should focus as a priority on the areas of planned growth and existing settlement edges, particularly where there is currently restricted public access. The development and expansion of circular routes on both land and waterways should be promoted and explored. Gaps in the network including suitable bridging points should also be included. Existing and new access routes should wherever possible follow and double as biodiversity corridors. However, the demands of access from existing and expanding populations will need to be carefully managed to protect sensitive environments by use of suitable management plans and agreements.

Landscape Enhancement.

The strategy should reflect the distinctive patterns of the Cambridgeshire landscape, both in terms of its natural and its historical and cultural landscapes. Proposals should always promote and enhance the local diversity and distinctiveness of each area and should draw on the guidance of existing and emerging landscape character assessments produced by local authorities to further this objective.

Biodiversity Enhancement.

The strategy should reflect the regional biodiversity resources, patterns and targets and enhance the distinct natural environments in the

County. Existing habitats and species should be protected and buffered and the scope for wider enhancement and development considered. The approach should link with the 50-year Biodiversity Vision and should target species and habitats within the County Biodiversity Action Plan. The Regional Biodiversity Map can inform and direct the specific improvements. There should also be a focus on restoring and rebuilding degraded and damaged landscapes, following the progressive impact of intensive agricultural practices or the more localised impacts of land use change such as mineral and waste sites. In some locations there may be scope to create new landscapes to respond to changing environmental conditions and to accommodate flood management.

Landmark Projects.

To provide a focus for the Green Infrastructure Strategy there is a need to develop and create a number of prominent projects in the sub-region that will provide exciting and measurable evidence that the Strategy is being realised. Some of these will centre on individual sites that can effectively provide important 'green hubs' within the network. Other sites will also combine related features of interest such as major recreational sports facilities, historical cultural sites or centres for sustainable land management practices (such as the use of bio fuels and water management).

Recommendations

5.6

To provide more specific direction to the strategic objectives fourteen recommendations have been established. The recommendations can be grouped into five groups as set out below, but the order does not infer any priority:

R1–R5 are focused on the enhancement of the existing habitats of biodiversity interest, as reflected in the 50 Year Wildlife Vision

R1 Promote all existing river corridors in the sub-region as focal features for biodiversity and access enhancement and creation

R2 Promote the extension and creation of enhanced biodiversity and access linkages between existing ancient and semi natural woodland clusters

R3 Promote the extension and creation of traditional fen habitats including wetland, meadow and wet woodland with seasonal flooding

R4 Identify and promote opportunities to enhance existing habitats and linkages of chalk habitats

Towards an Integrated Green Infrastructure Strategy

R5 Protect acidic heath habitats, encourage restoration and enhance linkages with sites to the west on the Greensand Ridge and to the east to the Breckland

R6 – R7 are concerned with the creation of new corridors of biodiversity to tackle the fragmented pattern

R6 Promote green bridges over major physical barriers to protect and develop biodiversity connectivity

R7 Create new strategic biodiversity and access corridors linking main settlements and green hubs

R8 – R9 focus on providing major greenspaces to serve existing and new populations arising from growth in the sub-region

R8 Create range of new strategic accessible greenspaces around the fringe of Cambridge, Northstowe and the Market Towns in association with planned major developments

R9 Develop existing and create new orbital and strategic recreational routes to the countryside and around the fringes of Cambridge and the Market Towns in association with existing and planned major developments

R10 – R13 concentrate on the enhancement of the recreational access network

R10 Promote enhanced and new waterway links within the Fens to provide improved access by water

R11 Promote biodiversity and landscape enhancements in rural areas particularly along the route of existing Strategic Rights of Way

R12 Promote and improve the network, status and quality of strategic/published routes

R13 Promote the provision of river bridging points in key parts of the Rights of Way network

R14 underlines the importance of providing Landmark Projects as a catalyst for the delivery and public awareness of the Strategy through a variety of exciting projects

R14 Support the creation and development of Landmark Projects to focus the delivery of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and encourage linkage with recreational and historic/cultural sites and projects



Image courtesy of FC

Spatial Structure of the Green Infrastructure Strategy

5.7

The spatial development of the Green Infrastructure Strategy is best understood as comprising three aspects: corridors, sites and areas.

A. Corridors – Green Grid Network

5.8

The first part in the development of the Strategy is the development of an appropriate Green Grid. This seeks to provide a network of routes combining both existing corridors that can be enhanced and a series of new green corridors. In the Cambridge Sub-region the main existing corridors are the rivers and watercourses. The Ouse Valley and Ouse Washes are the most prominent features but the other rivers which in turn filter into a network of ditches and drains and streams, are a key part of the existing network. It is proposed to enhance all the major existing corridors.

The new corridors have been identified to provide linkage of biodiversity clusters or features and also to give enhanced public access. Where possible, these routes have been selected to follow an existing published route or right of way. A range of environmental schemes would be promoted along these routes, resulting in a mosaic of habitats. Corridors will inevitably vary in width dependent on the characteristics of the locality and the opportunities that arise for working with landowners. However, it is envisaged that many of the corridors have the scope to be extensive, exceeding 1km in width. There are some 40 corridors proposed which together will develop a robust green grid and access network. A number of the new corridors pass over relatively open agricultural land connecting disparate habitats and settlements.

B. Sites – Major Green Infrastructure Sites

5.9

Over 20 significant sites are included in the Strategy. A number of these comprise new facilities while others build on existing sites. The majority of the sites are located on corridors and the larger ones form key Green Hubs within the network or provide Landmark Projects. Some of the major sites are important Historic Cultural Centres and include Anglesey Abbey, Denny Abbey, Wimpole Hall and Park, and Wandlebury Country Park. Most of the other sites are related to proposed development sites within the sub-region indicating the provision of new facilities in close proximity to urban expansions and settlements and help provide for shortfalls in the existing network of Green Infrastructure.

C. Wider Area Initiatives

5.10

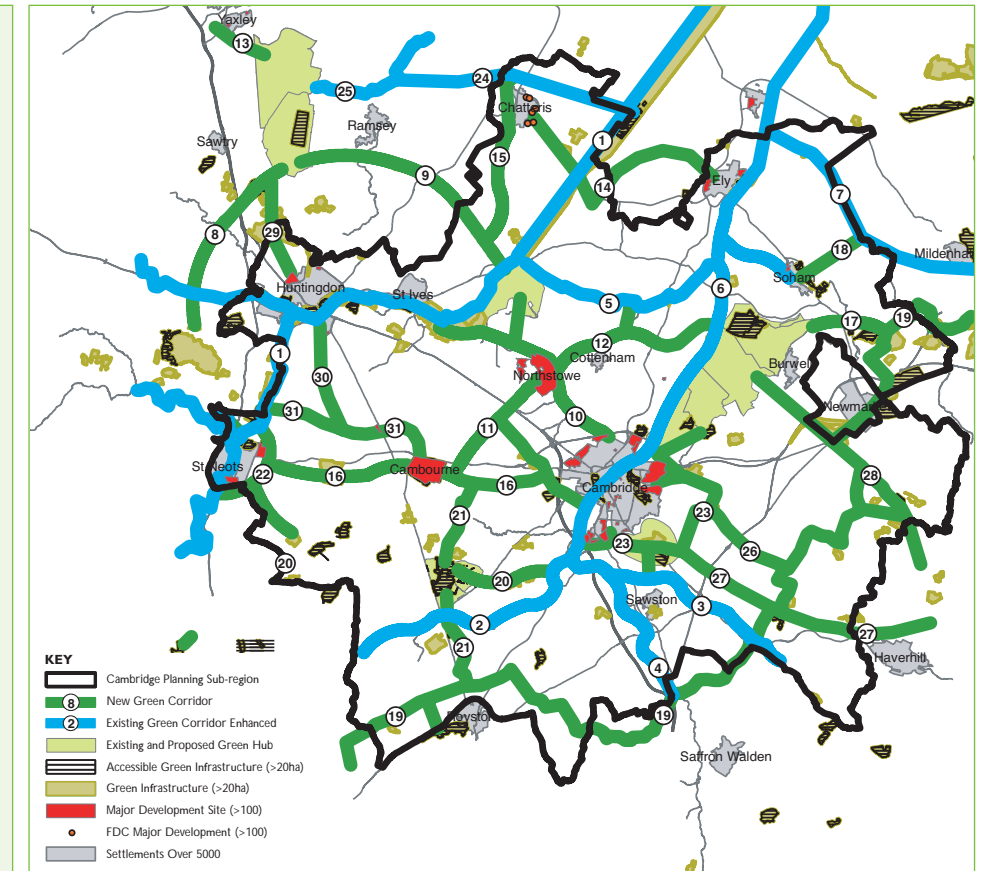
Some initiatives and projects will need to spread over a wider area. These relate mainly to agricultural landscapes where the mechanisms for delivery will focus on partnership liaison with landowners and tenants. The initiatives are designed to enhance the local landscape character and biodiversity interest. There are six area initiatives proposed.

Green Corridor Initiatives

- 1 Ouse Valley Strategic Green Space Corridor
- 2 River Rhee Enhancement Project
- 3 River Granta Enhancement Project
- 4 River Cam Enhancement Project
- 5 Old West River – Earith to River Cam
- 6 Cam Valley – Cambridge to Ely
- 7 River Lark Enhancement Project
- 8 Grafham Water to Abbots Ripton Corridor
- 9 Fen Edge Project
- 10 Guided Bus Route Green Corridor: Cycleway/Bridleway & Sculpture Park
- 11 Northwest Cambridge Settlement Link
- 12 Northstowe, Cottenham to Old West River, Denny Abbey and Wicken Fen
- 13 South Peterborough Green Park to Great Fen Link
- 14 Chatteris to Ely Green Corridor
- 15 Chatteris to Somersham Biodiversity and Access Corridors
- 16 Cambridge to St. Neots Green Corridor

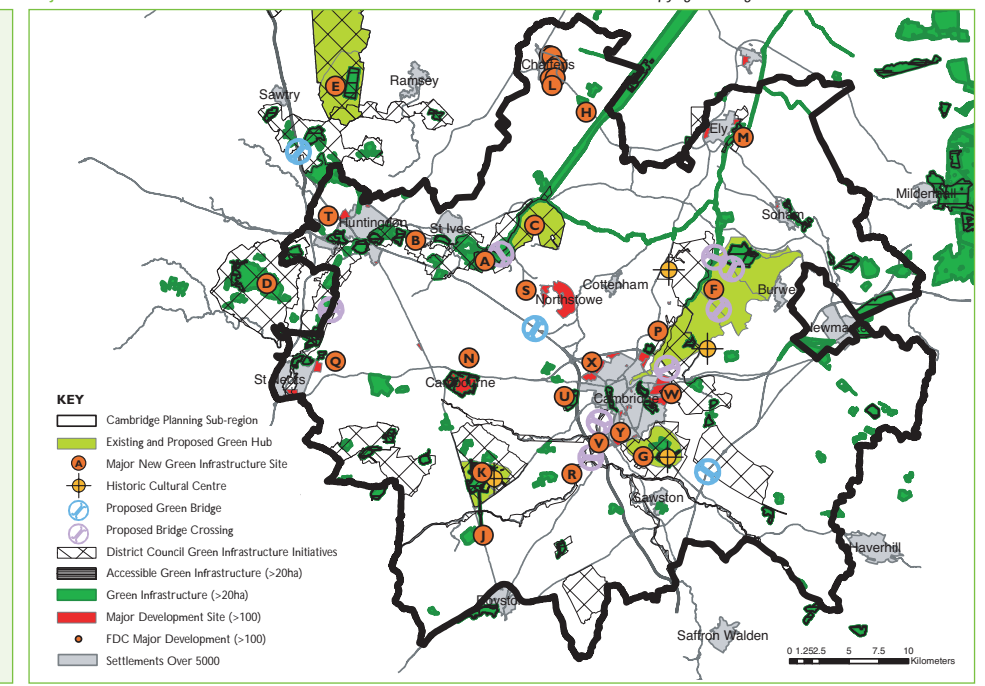
The Green Grid

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100023205 2006



Major Green Infrastructure Sites

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100023205 2006



Towards an Integrated Green Infrastructure Strategy

Scale

5.11

The concept of Green Infrastructure can be understood and applied at different hierarchies or geographical scales. It is proposed that in the context of the Cambridge Sub-region the Strategy should be considered on three levels:

Sub-regional scale

This provides the overarching strategy showing the main strategic links at a macro scale. The Strategy provides for large-scale initiatives and links. Some of these build upon existing projects or arise by necessity from major built development proposals. Other aspects of the strategy allow for more creative and imaginative schemes to take the Green Infrastructure into the next 20 years and beyond. At this scale it is important to identify the main connections that are currently lacking and provide a range of new initiatives both within the sub-region and linking beyond to adjacent counties.

Cambridge City and Market Town scale

Access to Green Infrastructure sites from major settlements is a key part of the Strategy. With the inclusion of a number of major new developments on the fringes of Cambridge and the market towns there is scope to significantly enhance the landscape setting and accessibility of the local population into the adjacent countryside.

Cambridge City

The main features of Strategy for Cambridge City and its fringes include:

- Enhanced River Cam corridor
- East Cambridge – Green Corridor and Country Park with links to Wilbraham Fen
- Southern Cambridge – Hobson's Brook corridor and Cam Corridor
- Country Park to the north west of the city
- Gog Magog Countryside Project with enhanced access to the south and south east of the city
- Development of and enhanced access to Coton Countryside Reserve
- Bridge of Reeds, Anglesey Abbey Visitor Centre and access to the Wicken Fen Vision Project
- Rowing lake at Milton
- New orbital recreational route with diverse radial access linkages to the City.

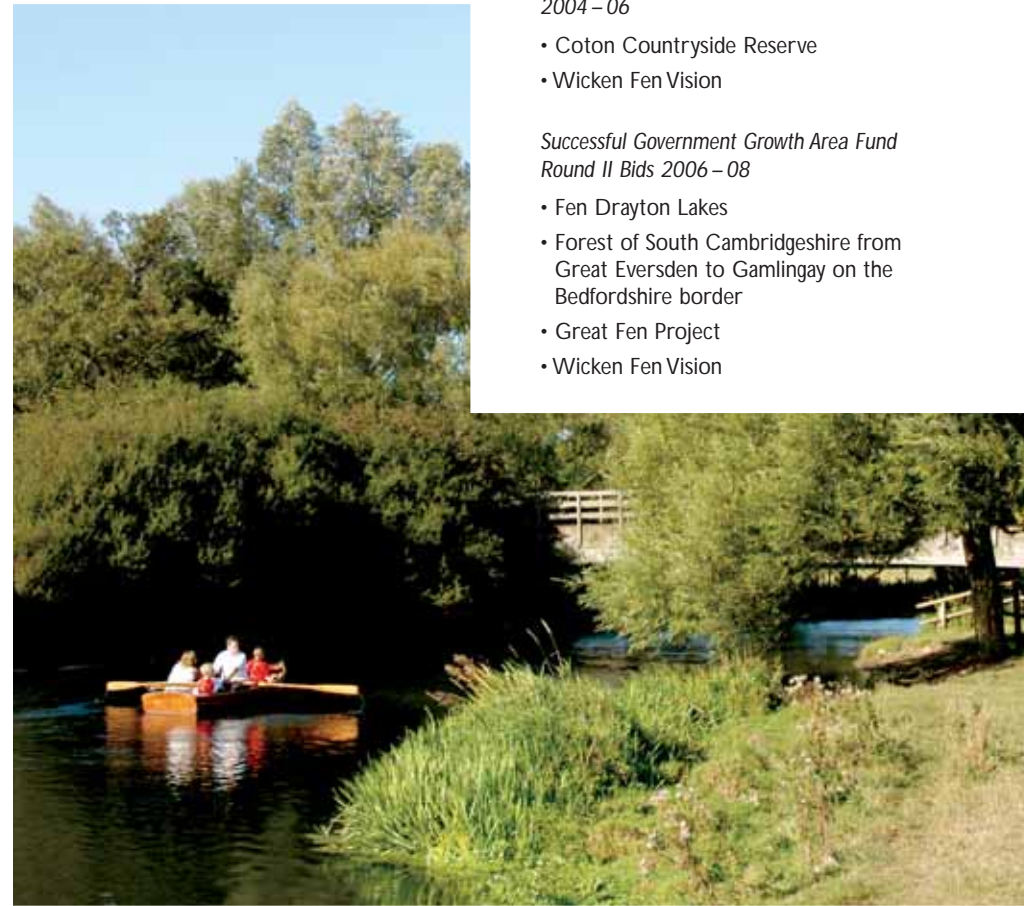
Huntingdon, St. Neots & St. Ives

These three market towns lie adjacent to the River Ouse and its associated habitats where there is scope to secure continued enhancement and access for all settlements. At Huntingdon improved corridors should also be provided to the north to the ancient/semi natural woodland clusters, linking with the proposed development at North Bridge and a further corridor giving access to the south of the town. The St. Neots Town Centre Initiative – Green Corridor Project seeks to develop the River Ouse resource. There is also scope to provide a new corridor of enhancements to the east of the town in an existing open arable landscape linking with the proposed development east of the railway line. St. Ives is located close to the major Green Infrastructure proposals at Fen Drayton, Houghton Meadows and slightly further to Needingworth.

Ely and Chatteris

Ely lies adjacent to the River Ouse, where the main focus is to develop a Country Park with enhanced links to the north and south along the river. An opportunity to develop enhanced access and green corridor to the west towards Chatteris exists along the lines of the old drove roads.

Image courtesy of FC



Chatteris has a shortfall in greenspace and a new Country Park to the south of the town is required. Enhanced linkage to Somersham to the south along the line of the disused railway should be encouraged and the provision of the proposed Fen Waterways link to the west of the town.

Local scale

At this detailed scale the application will be through a wide range of measures. Some projects may relate to associated built developments where Section 106 agreements and planning conditions can deliver improvements. Other schemes will involve grant aid, partnerships, liaison with landowners, trusts, charities, parish councils and other groups from the voluntary sector.

Initiatives and Projects

5.12

The Green Infrastructure Strategy will build upon existing initiatives that have been established in the sub-region. A major part of the Strategy is to bring together these separate projects and principles into a co-ordinated picture. Some of the existing projects have funding secured while others await funding or are in the conceptual stage. The following is a list of the major existing Strategic Green Infrastructure proposals.

Successful Government Growth Area Fund Bids 2004 – 06

- Coton Countryside Reserve
- Wicken Fen Vision

Successful Government Growth Area Fund Round II Bids 2006 – 08

- Fen Drayton Lakes
- Forest of South Cambridgeshire from Great Eversden to Gamlingay on the Bedfordshire border
- Great Fen Project
- Wicken Fen Vision

Other Major Initiatives

- Bridge of Reeds
- Cam Valley Project
- Chalk Grasslands Project, Devils Dyke Project
- Ely Country Park
- Fen Waterways Project
- Gog Magog Countryside Project
- Grafton Water ancient and semi natural woodland linkage
- Great Ouse Waterway and Wetland Project
- Needingworth Wet Fen
- Ouse Valley Wet Woodlands and Wet Meadows, inc. Houghton Meadows
- St. Neots Town Centre Initiative – Green Corridor Project

5.13

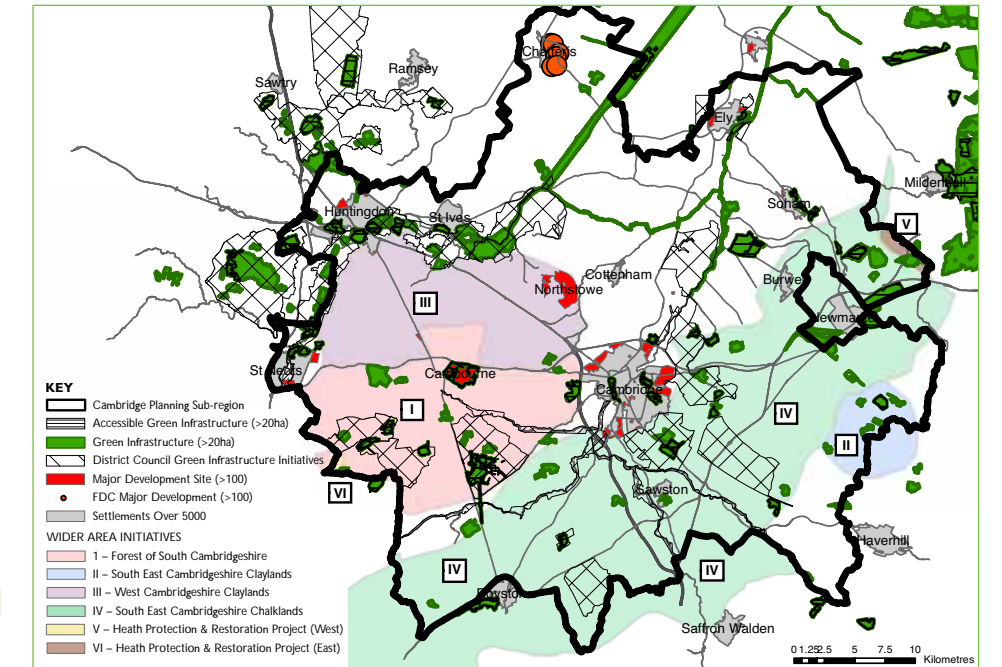
A wide number of new initiatives are included in the Strategy. The process of selecting these projects has combined the results of the deficiency analysis along with an informed consideration of the aspects in the network that are missing or need strengthening. The result of this process means the network is typically organic, responding to the pattern of the landscape rather than being too regular in form. There is scope for further projects to be developed within the proposed framework. All the initiatives are listed in the Appendices under the 14 recommendations (R1–R14) set out above and are illustrated on the Proposed Strategic Masterplan (see A2 pull out). For each initiative or project the following information has been considered:

- Relevant Strategic Objectives (as detailed above)
- Priority – based on the 20 year vision of the Strategy this has been assessed in term of – Highest Priority(***) i.e. Year 1–3 Medium Priority(**) i.e. Year 4–10 Long Term Priority(*) i.e. Year 11–20
- Lead Organisations to promote and develop the projects.

Further details relating to: delivery & funding mechanisms, long term responsibility and budget costings are provide in the Appendices and the main technical report.

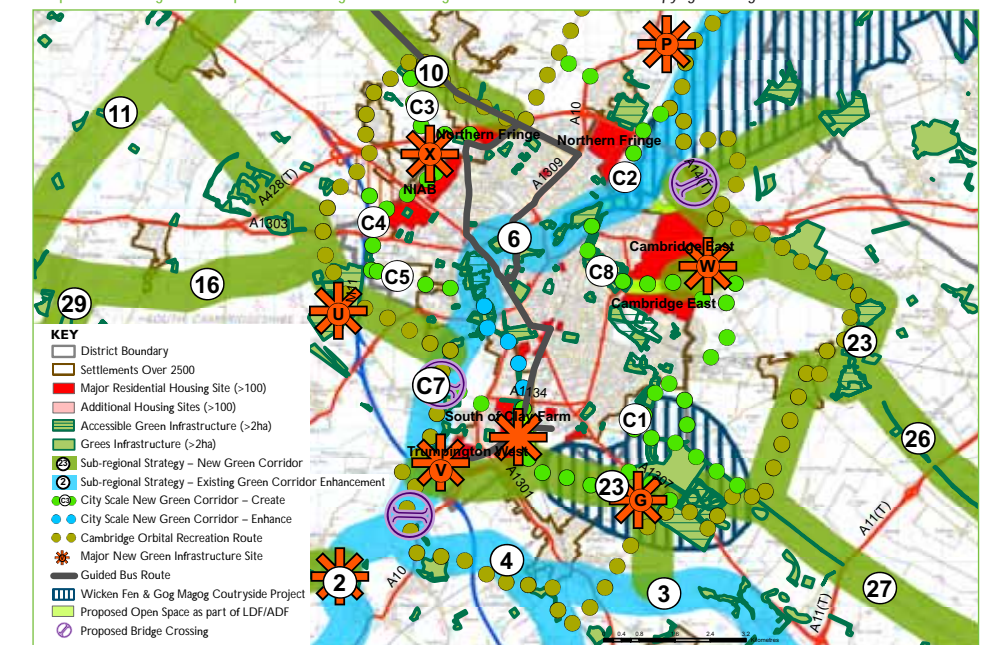
Wider Area Initiatives

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100023205 2006



Proposed Strategic Masterplan: Cambridge and its fringes

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100023205 2006



Major Corridor Initiatives within Cambridge and its fringes

- | | |
|---|---|
| C1 Enhanced Chalklands Access | 2 River Rhee Enhancement Project |
| C2 Northern Fringe/Cam Corridor | 3 River Granta Enhancement Project |
| C3 Northern Fringe Enhanced Access | 4 River Cam Enhancement Project |
| C4 NW of Cambridge – Improved Access to Coton Reserve | 6 Cam Valley – Cambridge to Ely |
| C5 Wimpole Way Green Corridor | 10 Guided Bus Route Green Corridor Cycleway/Bridleway & Sculpture Trail |
| C6 Granchester Link | 11 North West Cambridge Settlement Link |
| C7 Outer Orbital Recreation Route | 16 Cambridge to St. Neots Green Corridor |
| C8 Cambridge East to Coldhams Common & Cam Enhanced Areas | 20 Barrington, Wimpole Hub and Forest of South Cambridgeshire to Greensand Ridge Corridor |
| | 23 Outer Orbital Green Corridor |
| | 26 Fleam Dyke |
| | 27 Roman Road Route |

6. Funding and Implementation



Image courtesy of CPS

6.1

There are a range of ways of implementing and funding Green Infrastructure. A number of the sources are well established e.g. Section 106 Agreements, while others relate to new and evolving Government initiatives. The following provides an overview of the range of current key mechanisms that are relevant to Green Infrastructure provision.

Planning Conditions

6.2

Planning conditions can be used where consistent with planning policy. A residential developer may be required to provide and manage greenspace to serve the proposed population but there must be a clear reason for the requirement of a condition. Guidance on the approach and minimum levels of provision are provided in Local Plans and LDFs.

Section 106 Agreements

6.3

These are used to secure developer-funded initiatives which are closely related to the proposals, e.g. open space requirements and recreation/sports facilities. Funding of new Strategic Open Space from 106 monies should be directly related to Local Authority policies and published standards. It is strongly advised that early discussions between developers are encouraged as the masterplans develop to ensure effective integration with the greenspace strategy, and a clarification of roles and responsibilities associated with future implementation. In order to make adequate provision capital costs for implementation and a commuted sum for maintenance during an establishment period need to be agreed.

Growth Area Fund

6.4

Funded by the Government integrated bids for Green Infrastructure/public access are encouraged. These may involve partnerships between local authorities, government organisations and other delivery agents, such as Forestry Commission/Forest Enterprise, Wildlife Trusts, the Woodland Trust and National Trust. Funding covers capital and revenue expenditure, primarily for a two-year period. There will be a need to generate income for ongoing management. Proposed initiatives involving land

acquisition or capital and revenue associated with land, which may include strategic links between existing sites, may be eligible for Growth Area Funding if continued after March 2008 (GAF3).

Charitable Trusts

6.5

These may be established to manage individual projects or a range of facilities. Trusts may be funded through a variety of sources, e.g. Section 106 agreement monies, bequests or charitable giving. Existing Charitable Trusts are also a source of funding.

Endowments

6.6

Provision of an income generating fund or asset to assist with recurring running costs would facilitate the ongoing maintenance of the Green Infrastructure. This has been achieved with great success with the Peterborough Development Corporation, identifying the rental income from an office building in the City to fund recurring costs at the Nene Country Park.

Planning Gain Supplement

6.7

The Government has consulted on the possibility of introducing a planning gain supplement, as an alternative to Section 106's, for funding strategic development and community facilities. It is likely that many of the Green Infrastructure projects in the Strategy would be eligible for funding through this source if it is introduced as suggested by Government.

Roof Tax

6.8

The Milton Keynes Partnership has pioneered the roof tax approach. A charge for each new dwelling helps to pay for essential infrastructure to support residential development. In Milton Keynes the planned arrangement is that English Partnerships will forward fund the infrastructure contributions and recoup the money from developers as their developments progress. Green Infrastructure is an essential component of sustainable residential development and consequently roof tax should be utilised. However this would need to be clearly set out in the eligible categories by local authorities if this mechanism is applied within the Cambridge Sub-region.

Partnerships

6.9

Partnerships are an essential element of the delivery of multi-functional landscapes. Partnerships between government departments, local authorities, developers, landowners, charities and trusts can facilitate the delivery of Green Infrastructure projects. It is recognised that the majority of the land holdings in the sub-region are owned privately. The potential for Countryside Project Officers to work closely with landowners will be vital in enabling the network of Green Infrastructure to develop.

Agri-environment and Woodland Grants

6.10

These new grants, which are being administered by the Rural Development Service (RDS) of DEFRA (shortly to become Natural England) and the Forestry Commission. They have the potential to enhance the biodiversity, landscape quality and public access of privately owned farmland. This potential would be realised far more effectively if a project officer or team could be assembled and funded by the RDS to target landowners in strategic locations, for example the urban fringe of Cambridge, the five Market Towns and where strategic access links are required over farmland by negotiated and licensed rights of way.

6.11

Landowners and tenant farmers should be encouraged to apply for entry or organic level entry stewardship and higher-level stewardship and/or English Woodland Grant Scheme wherever possible. Landowners should be encouraged to create and manage woodlands through application to the English Woodland Grant Schemes as promoted by the Forestry Commission and/or the Agri-environment Schemes promoted by DEFRA. The appointment of project officers to work with landowners/tenants to bring forward appropriate schemes that relate to the greenspace strategy would be an important part of encouraging take up.

Funding and Implementation



6.12

It should be underlined that the Forestry Commission's, English Woodland Grant Scheme can fund new woodlands planted under Section 106 agreements or under other Conditions of Planning (depending on the usual eligibility entry criteria attached to the scheme).

6.13

Cambridgeshire County Council currently have a Historic Environment Countryside Advisor, who works in partnership with RDS and English Heritage to advise farmers and landowners on the heritage aspects of agri-environment schemes, including Environmental Stewardship ELS/HLS and Woodland Grant Schemes. He also maintains an active Monument Management Programme, to enhance and promote access to and understanding of historic landscape features. This has included work within the Cambridge Sub-region on the Devil's Dyke Project, Fleam Dyke and Mutlow Hill, Worstead Street Roman road, Giants Hill Rampton, Car Dyke Waterbeach, Camps Castle, Bartlow Hills Roman barrows, Fowlmere Moat and many others.

Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund – DEFRA and English Nature

6.14

The Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund is the new name for the Environmental Action Fund (EAF) biodiversity stream and is part of a Europe-wide initiative. This fund will support projects that help achieve the Government's commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010, through delivering the objectives of the England Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan targets. Only voluntary conservation sector organisations are eligible to apply for this fund. Grants will be made for two years (2006/07 and 2007/08) and the value of awards will be between £25,000 and £250,000 per year. Any grant will have to receive matched funding. Monies cannot be used for the purchase of land and only properly constituted charities and Trusts can apply.

The Landfill Tax

6.14

The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme can generate finance for environmental, conservation and public amenity initiatives managed by registered environmental bodies, although these often preclude local authorities. Only projects located within 10 miles of an active landfill site are

eligible and it must be recognised that with the emphasis moving away from landfill, this source of funding is likely to diminish. Discussions with waste operators will identify existing and potential funding opportunities. The delivery of biodiversity conservation for UK species/habitats is one of the criteria identified for funding and this mechanism.

Aggregates Levy

6.15

In April 2002 a levy on aggregate extraction was introduced. Part of the money raised by this levy is being used to finance the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF). The aim of the ALSF is to address the environmental and social costs of aggregate extraction by delivering environmental improvements, minimising the demand for primary aggregates and reducing the local effects of aggregate extraction. English Nature and The Countryside Agency have developed the ALSF Partnership Grant Scheme. They will jointly administer an allocation of around £5.7 million in 2005/2006 and £4 million in 2006/2007, to fund Land and Community-based work. Expressions of interest and applications are now being accepted. Grant awards made by the ALSF Partnership Grants Scheme are normally in the range of 50% – 75% of eligible project costs.

SITA Trust

6.16

Through the Enriching Nature Programme – £13.5 million is available for biodiversity projects in England, between 2006–2008. This provides funding for biodiversity projects around any licensed and registered landfill site in England. This funding programme has been developed by SITA Trust, in consultation with the nine Regional Biodiversity Fora in England. Each Forum, or region, will receive £500,000 per year. Enriching Nature has been designed to support the recovery of species and habitats identified as a priority by both national and regional biodiversity action plans.

Big Lottery Fund

6.17

The Big Lottery Fund is responsible for distributing half of the money that the National Lottery raises for good causes. Their Living Landmarks initiative closed for application on the 6th January 2006. The Greater Cambridge Partnership has put in a bid on behalf of the Bridge of Reeds and Wicken Fen Vision.

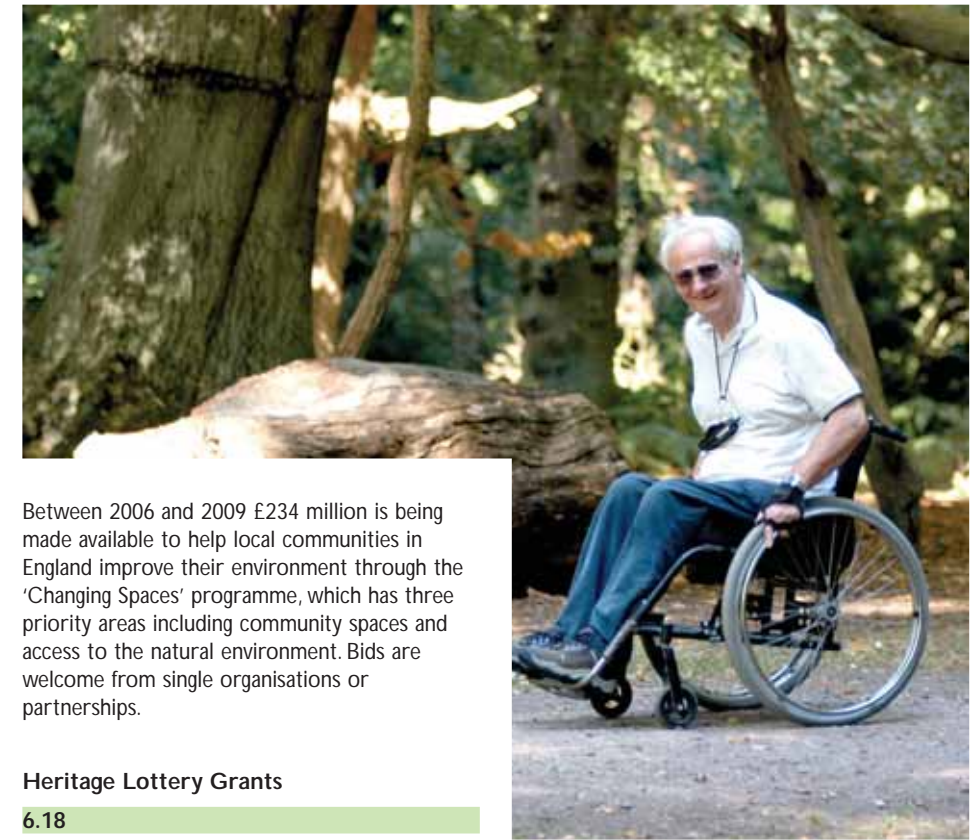


Image courtesy of FC

Between 2006 and 2009 £234 million is being made available to help local communities in England improve their environment through the 'Changing Spaces' programme, which has three priority areas including community spaces and access to the natural environment. Bids are welcome from single organisations or partnerships.

Heritage Lottery Grants

6.18

These are site/topic related (e.g. Public Parks initiative) which usually involves the restoration of existing features. They can be applied for and administered by local government, quasi public organisations and charitable trusts etc.

New Parks for People Programme

6.19

The Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund have announced the launch of the new Parks for People Programme, which will operate in the first instance for approximately three years. Grants ranging from £250,000 to £5 million are available for projects that will improve public parks in the UK, and create new opportunities for communities to learn about and enjoy their local environment. For the purposes of this scheme, the term 'public park' refers to an existing designed urban or rural greenspace, the main purpose of which is for informal recreation and enjoyment. Such parks are usually owned and managed by a local authority, although applications from other not-for-profit organisations that own public parks are welcomed. A number of criteria, including the park meeting the local social, economic and environmental needs, need to be met for funding to be granted. Importantly both capital work and revenue activities will be supported.

Market Led Schemes and Income Generation

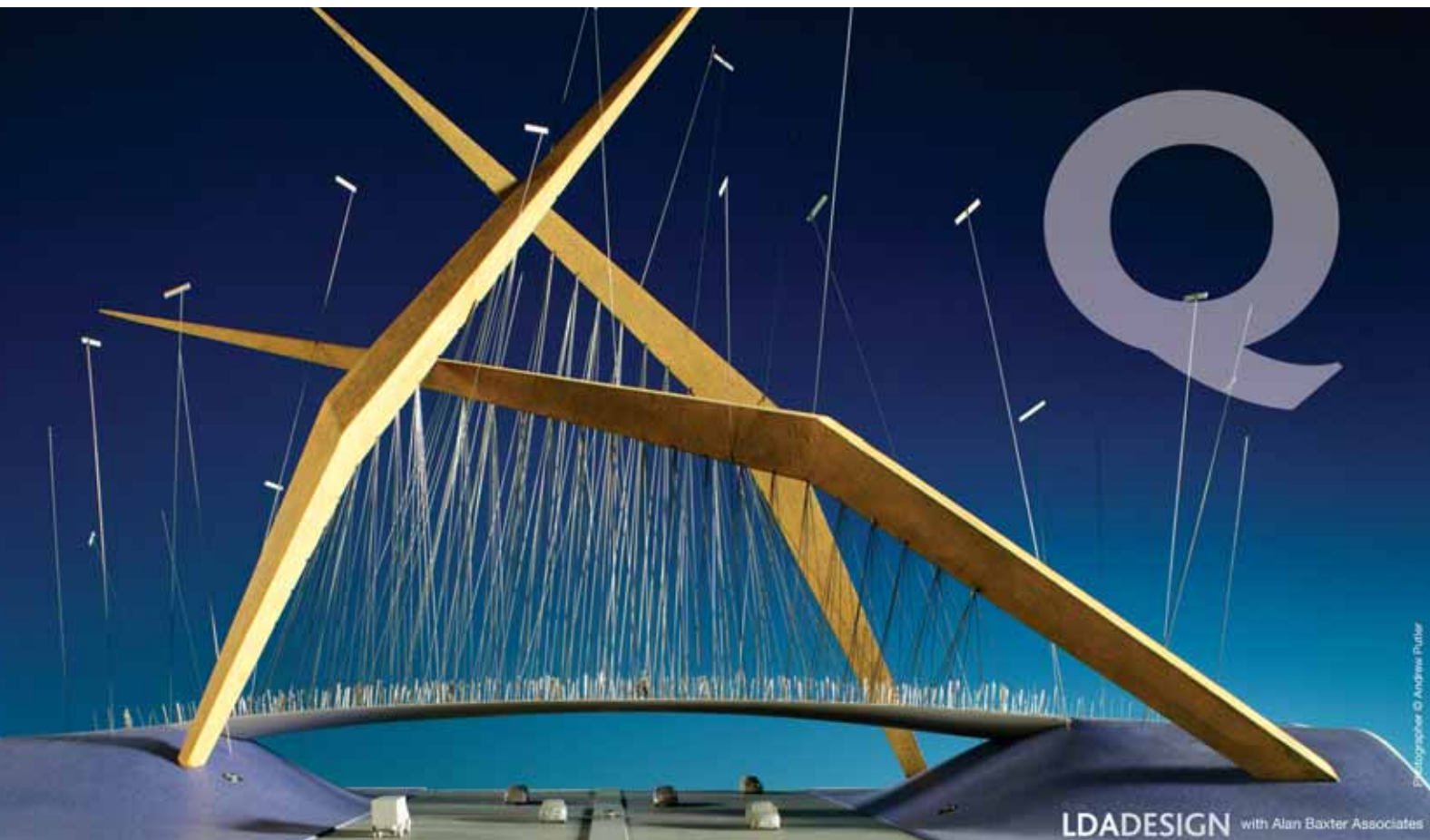
6.20

The evidence so far suggests that the market alone is insufficient to deliver the necessary Green Infrastructure (CJC Consulting 2005). However in areas of market demand this may apply to certain facilities e.g. for the National Trust and other Charities: tea rooms, shops, pay and display car parks. Major landowner sponsors may also relate to specific projects such as a regional Arboretum.

6.21

The use of income generating facilities and tourist facilities such as overnight accommodation in association with new recreational opportunities such as long distance footpaths and cycle routes and eco tourism would have potential for growth in association with an enhanced network of Green Infrastructure. There might also be opportunities for franchising for specific facilities such as camping, boats, cafes, restaurants, boat/cycle hire within selected sites. Special events may also have the potential for income generation; however this would be highly dependent on the nature of the event concerned.

7. Next Steps



Bridge of Reeds
Image courtesy of NTPL/Paul Harris

7.1

To progress the implementation of the Strategy the following key steps have been identified.

Programming and Priorities

7.2

The Strategy suggests three priorities for delivery of the Strategy over the 20 year vision. It should be emphasised that if schemes are not included within the highest priority category that they are no less important in strategic terms. A number of the initiatives, e.g. the wider Fen Edge Project, would deliver a significant part of the overall vision and strategy; however it is likely that it will realistically take longer to build support and funding for this extensive network of corridors from Peterborough to Wicken and the Breckland. The Highest Priority Projects and Initiatives i.e. Year 1-3 have been selected since they are already underway, well advanced or are part of major new developments. These highest priority projects are separately identified in Table A opposite. These should also be read with the Proposed Strategic Masterplan (separate pull out A2).

Table A Summary of highest priority initiatives and projects

See key to abbreviations on page 32.

Initiative/Project	Initiative/Project	Local Authority	Lead Organisation(s) for delivery
Recommendation 1			
<i>Promote all existing river corridors in the sub-region as focal features for biodiversity and access enhancement and creation</i>			
1	St. Neots Town Centre Initiative – Green Corridor Project	HDC	St NTC, HDC
A	Fen Drayton Lakes	SCDC	RSPB
C	Needingworth Wet Fen Phase 1	SCDC	RSPB
2	River Rhee Enhancement Project	SCDC	SCDC, EA
5	Old West River Enhancement Project – Earith to River Cam	SCDC	EA, FC, CCC – ROW
6	Cam Valley Project – Cambridge to Ely	ECDC & SCDC	SCDC, NT, EH
Recommendation 2			
<i>Promote the extension and creation of enhanced biodiversity and access linkages between existing ancient and semi natural woodland clusters</i>			
D	Grafham Water ancient and semi natural woodland linkage	HDC	Great Fen Project (Including CWT, HDC, EA, EN & IDB's)
'I'	Forest of South Cambridgeshire	HDC & SCDC	National Trust and Partners SCDC, ECDC, CCC, EA, IDB, DEFRA, EN, City Council
Recommendation 3			
<i>Promote the extension and creation of traditional fen habitats including wetland, meadow and wet woodland with seasonal flooding</i>			
E	Great Fen Project	HDC	Great Fen Project (Including CWT, HDC, EA, EN & IDB's)
F	Wicken Fen Vision	ECDC & SCDC	National Trust and Partners – SCDC, ECDC, CCC, EA, IDB, DEFRA, EN, City Council
'IV'	Chalk landscapes Enhancement – south east of Cambridge	SCDC	Devil's Dyke Steering Group
Recommendation 7			
<i>Create new strategic biodiversity and access corridors linking main settlements and green hubs</i>			
10	Guided Busway Green Corridor	HDC & SCDC	CCC – Highways, SCDC, CWT, FC
11	North West Cambridge settlements link – Cambourne	SCDC	CCC – Highways, SCDC, FC
12	Northstowe, Cottenham to Denny Abbey and Wicken Fen Corridor	SCDC	SCDC, EH, Farmland Museum
13	South Peterborough Green Park to Great Fen Link	HDC & PCC	PCC, PECT, FC, EN
K	Wimpole Hub – Cobbs Wood Demonstration Farm Wimpole Hall Farm	SCDC	NT
Recommendation 8			
<i>Create range of new strategic accessible greenspaces around the fringe of Cambridge, Northstowe and the Market Towns in association with planned major developments</i>			
G	Gog Magog Countryside Project	SCDC	CPS, CWT, MT, FC
L	South Chatteris Country Park – promote an area of Strategic Open Space	FDC	FDC
M	Develop Ely Country Park on River Cam to serve existing and future populations	ECDC	ECDC, FC
Q,22	Land East of St. Neots – pocket park in association with development and green corridor	HDC	HDC, Developers, FC
S	Northstowe new settlement. Landscape buffers to existing villages, water park by GBR and Country Park	SCDC	SCDC, CCC & Developers, FC
T	Land North West of Huntingdon – promote Strategic Open Space project	HDC	HDC, Developers, FC
U	Coton Countryside Reserve	SCDC	CPS
V	Cambridge Southern Fringe, Monsanto Site – Strategic Open Space on enhanced Cam Corridor and to south west	City C & SCDC	SCDC, City Council, Developers, FC
Y	Cambridge Southern Fringe/Addenbrooke's – Strategic Open Space centred on Hobsons Brook	City C & SCDC	City Council, SCDC & Developers, FC
C2	Northern Fringe of Cambridge enhanced access to land east of Fen Road	City C & SCDC	SCDC, CCC & Developers, FC
C3	Northern Fringe of Cambridge – 'Arbury Camp' – enhanced linkage to west of Histon Road	SCDC	CCC & Developers

Next Steps

Table A Summary of highest priority initiatives and projects

See key to abbreviations on page 32.

Initiative/Project	Initiative/Project	Local Authority	Lead Organisation(s) for delivery
Recommendation 9 <i>Develop existing and create new orbital and strategic recreational routes to the countryside and around the fringes of Cambridge and the Market Towns in association with existing and planned major developments</i>			
10	Create Cycleway, bridleway along route of the Guided Busway	HDC & SCDC	CCC – Highways
Recommendation 11 <i>Promote biodiversity and landscape enhancements in rural areas particularly along the route of existing Strategic Rights of Way</i>			
26	New Strategic access corridor from Wilbraham Fen/Fleam Dyke to Icknield Way	SCDC	CCC, CWT, EN, EH
28	Chalk grassland project to follow on from the Devil's Dyke project	SCDC	CCC, CWT, EN, EH
Recommendation 12 <i>Promote and improve the network, status and quality of strategic/published routes</i>			
	Establish definitive routes in place of permissive sections of Published Routes	All	CCC
	Support the early funding and implementation of the Lost Highways Project	All	CCC
Recommendation 13 <i>Promote the provision of River bridging points in key parts of the Rights of Way network</i>			
As shown	River Cam Crossing at Upware to aid east – west connections from Wicken, to Denny Abbey & west	ECDC & SCDC	NT, SCDC, EA
As shown	Promote additional crossing of River Ouse at Needingworth/ Church End	HDC & SCDC	CCC
Recommendation 14 <i>Support the creation and development of Landmark Projects to focus the delivery of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and encourage linkage with recreational and historic/cultural sites and projects</i>			
F	Promote the Wicken Fen Vision	ECDC & SCDC	NT

Local Authority Involvement

7.3

The sub-region contains five District Local Authorities and the County Council. The support of each authority is vital to the success of the Strategy. As part of the implementation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy it is recommended that each authority carry out a review of the implications of the Strategy. This will include the following stages:

1. Public Consultation

- Each Local Authority should promote the Green Infrastructure Strategy through its LDF Consultation Strategy. The approach of the Strategy and various initiatives and projects proposed in the area should be tested with statutory consultees and the public to establish support for them.

2. Policy development

- In the light of consultation authorities should also review their policies to encourage the implementation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy. This should

ideally include an endorsement of the Strategy itself but may also involve new policies e.g. promoting enhanced access on land adjacent to settlements, establishing new countryside projects and developing biodiversity.

3. Review of standards of open space

- Although each local authority has its own standards for open space provision there is a need to ensure that the existing standards are making an adequate provision for existing and future populations and if not, to assess the increased levels required. PPG17 studies should be able to make a valuable contribution to this assessment.
- Some of the existing standards of open space include 'informal open space' while others do not. A clearer definition of informal open space and its relationship in delivering Green Infrastructure is required. Green Infrastructure is not specifically mentioned in the current policies in terms of measurable provision that can be required from a development. The place for a new standard or policy should be considered.

- Each Local Authority should consider how they are going to promote and/or adopt the County Council's proposed standard of 5.1ha of Strategic Open Space per 1,000 population in their LDF. This will involve clarifying if there is any overlap between the proposed County Council Standard of 5.1ha of Strategic Open Space per 1,000 population and their own current standards of open space.

4. Site specific plans

- Authorities should produce guidelines for developing specific sites as ADF's and to proactively engage with developers to ensure co-ordination of the wider Strategy and the site's potential for Green Infrastructure.

5. Promoting Projects

- Each authority should provide specific support for the individual projects and initiatives that are within their area, (referring to Table A in the main report for the full details). The 30 highest priority schemes to promote over the next 3 years are indicated in the Table above.

- Authorities should consider how they can contribute to projects either through financial assistance, staff resources or preferably both. It is recommended that there should be a target to establish at least one new project in each local authority area within the first three years to ensure a momentum is established in the delivery of the strategy and that this receives direct support from the authority concerned.
- There will be a need to think strategically to ensure cross-region connections are established and for all local authorities to work together and support the implementation of the strategy, even where the facilities lie outside their local areas.

Progressing Project

7.4

A number of the key projects, including those with Government funding and those given the highest priority in Table A, are already well underway in the planning and funding stage. The work on these should continue to progress at the earliest opportunity to promote and realise the Strategy.

7.5

For the remaining projects there should be a review of those considered to be of the highest priority or the most strategic in value. New initiatives and projects should then be taken forward through the following steps:

- Agreeing the lead organisation(s) to promote the project
- Carrying out a more detailed feasibility study in landscape, biodiversity and access terms
- Working up a Business Plan to support funding bids. This will involve details of costs, relevant sources of funding and time scale
- Review of the landowners involved and the scope for joint working/landowners etc.

7.6

Many of the projects and in particular the Area Wide Initiatives, should be supported by Project officers, funded to work with landowners and government agencies to inform, promote and assist in the wider scale landscape improvements.

Funding Recommendations

7.7

A review of the budget estimates for the initiatives and projects, indicates that capital funding in the order of £92 million is required (spread over the 20 year time span of the Strategy), with a further 10% p.a. revenue expenditure based on the number of the projects implemented at any time. To direct the securing of funds from the complex and evolving sources available and on the scale envisaged it is recommended that a 'Green Infrastructure Development Officer' should be appointed. Their brief would be to keep abreast of all the changes in funding opportunities, co-ordinate the bids for the implementation of the strategy and motivate interest across the sub-region. This could particularly involve liaison with the business and developer community including residential, employment, transport and minerals waste organisations to get the best deal for the sub-region.

Landmark Project

7.8

The creation of Landmark projects is vital for providing visible evidence of realisation of the Strategy in the sub-region promoting its progress, achievements and potential to both the local population and wider audiences. One of these projects is The Bridge of Reeds which would provide a bold and prominent statement on the A14 connecting Cambridge City and the adjacent Wicken Fen Vision with links by cycle/foot/bridleway.

Stakeholder Engagement

7.9

The Green Infrastructure Strategy and Vision should be launched to the wider public as part of a Quality of Life Programme for the sub-region and the recommendations and projects promoted.

7.10

There should be a mechanism established to engage a wide range of local community and special interest groups in the implementation of the Strategy to build and maintain recognition of and gain buy-in to the vision and benefits of the Green Infrastructure Networks. This could be achieved through a number of means including:

- Consultation on the main principles and sites within the proposed Strategy

- Developing interest at a parish scale for involvement in e.g. pocket parks and local nature reserves
- Community Tree planting and working party days
- Development of a Cambridge Sub-region greenspaces newsletter, as successfully used by some of the Community Forests. This should be overseen in the first instance by the Open Spaces Forum
- Use of press, TV and for continued promotion radio
- Involvement with local schools and any voluntary organisations

Future Co-ordination

7.11

It is recognised that for the Green Infrastructure Strategy to be successfully implemented there is a need for continued co-ordination and direction. It is recommended that this be delivered under the guidance of the 'Green Infrastructure Forum' under the joint leadership of Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire Horizons. The group should continue to be represented by the local authorities in the sub-region and the main environmental organisations.



8. Appendices

Schedule of Initiatives and Projects

See key to abbreviations on page 32.

Reference On Drawings	Initiative/Project	Strategic Objectives	Priority (1st=*** 2nd= ** 3rd=*)	Lead Organisation(s) for delivery
Recommendation 1 <i>Promote all existing river corridors in the sub-region as focal features for biodiversity and access enhancement and creation</i>				
1	Ouse Valley Strategic Green Space Corridor	C, A, E	**	FC, HDC, CWT, FWAG, EA
1	St. Neots Town Centre Initiative – Green Corridor Project	C, A, E	***	St N TC, HDC
1	Great Ouse Waterway and Wetland Project	C, E,	**	EA, FWAG, FC, EN
A	Fen Drayton Lakes	C, E	***	RSPB
B	Houghton Meadows	E, C, A	**	HDC, CWT, FWAG, FC, NT
C	Needingworth Wet Fen Phase 1	C, E, LP	***	RSPB
C	Needingworth Wet Fen Phase 2	C, E, LP	**	RSPB
2	River Rhee Enhancement Project	C	***	SCDC, EA
3	River Granta Enhancement Project	C	*	SCDC, EA
4	River Cam Enhancement Project	C	*	SCDC, EA
5	Old West River – Earith to River Cam	C, A	***	EA, FC, CCC – ROW
6	Cam Valley Project – Cambridge to Ely	C, E, A, LP	***	SCDC, NT, EH
7	River Lark Enhancement Project	Ca	*	ECDC, FC
Recommendation 2 <i>Promote the extension and creation of enhanced biodiversity and access linkages between existing ancient and semi natural woodland clusters</i>				
D	Grafham Water ancient and semi natural woodland linkage	C, E,	***	FWAG, FC, HDC, CWT
8	Biodiversity and access corridor between woodland clusters at Grafham Water & Abbots Ripton.	C, A	*	FC, HDC, CWT, HA
'I'	Forest of South Cambridgeshire	C, E, A	***	CWT, FC WT
'II'	South East Claylands landscape improvements and woodland planting	C, E	**	FC, BP
'III'	West Cambridge Claylands Project – north of A428. Woodland and hedgerow creation/enhancement	E	**	SCDC, HDC, CCC, FC
Recommendation 3 <i>Promote the extension and creation of traditional fen habitats including wetland, meadow and wet woodland with seasonal flooding</i>				
E	Great Fen Project – extension of Fenland habitats	C, E, A, LP,	***	Great Fen Project (Including CWT, HDC, EA, EN & IDB's)
F	Wicken Fen Vision – enhanced habitat provision and access	C, E, A, M LP	***	National Trust and Partners – SCDC, ECDC, CCC, EA, IDB, DEFRA, EN, City Council
H	Ouse Washes extensions – new wetland habitats	C, E	**	CWT, RSPB
Recommendation 4 <i>Identify and promote opportunities to enhance existing habitats and linkages of chalk habitats</i>				
G	Gog Magog Countryside Project	C, M, A, E,	***	CPS, CWT, MT
J	Chalk grassland improvements around Bassingbourn	C, A	**	CWT
R	Chalk grassland and woodland habitats improvements around Barrington	C, E	**	CCC – Minerals
'IV'	Chalk landscape enhancements to the south east of Cambridge	C, E, M, A	***	Devil's Dyke Steering Group
Recommendation 5 <i>Protect acidic heath habitats, encouraging restoration and enhanced linkages with sites to the west on the Greensand Ridge and to the east to the Breckland</i>				
'V'	Acidic Heath Protection and Restoration Project – West	C, E	**	RSPB, CWT, CCC
'VI'	Acidic Heath Protection and Restoration Project – East	C, E	**	CWT, CCC

Schedule of Initiatives and Projects

See key to abbreviations on page 32.

Reference On Drawings	Initiative/Project	Strategic Objectives	Priority (1st=*** 2nd= ** 3rd=*)	Lead Organisation(s) for delivery
Recommendation 6 <i>Promote green bridges over major physical barriers to protect and develop biodiversity connectivity</i>				
As shown	Green bridge crossings to A14 as part of CHUMMS Route at Bar Hill and south Godmanchester	C, A	**	HA
As shown	Green bridge crossings to A1(M), M11 and A11 (Fleam Dyke)	C, A	*	Highways Agency
Recommendation 7 <i>Create new strategic biodiversity and access corridors linking main settlements and green hubs</i>				
5, 9, 12, 13, 17, 19, E, C, F	'Fen Edge' Project – from Peterborough to the Brecks.	C, A, M	**	Wide variety of partners inc: Great Fen Project, NT, CCC, HDC, SCDC, & ECDC, FC, RSPB
10	Guided Bus Route Green Corridor linking Cambridge, Northstowe & Ouse Valley settlements	C, A	***	CCC – Highways, SCDC, CWT, FC
11	Outer north west Cambridge green corridor linking Cambourne, Bar Hill and Northstowe	C, A	***	CCC – Highways, SCDC, FC
12	Green corridor linking Northstowe, Cottenham, Old West River, Denny Abbey and Wicken Fen	C, A, CC	***	SCDC, EH, Farmland Museum
13	South Peterborough South Parks to Great Fen Link	C, A	***	PCC, PECT, FC, EN
14, H	Chatteris to Ely green corridor using Drove routes	C, A	**	CCC – ROW, FC
15 (a)	Chatteris to Somersham corridors using disused railway line	C, A	**	SCDC, FDC
15 (b)	Chatteris to Somersham link along Fen Waterways corridor	C, A	*	Fen Waterways Project
16	Cambridge to St. Neots Corridor linking Coton and Cambourne and the Ouse Valley.	C, A, M	**	CCC – ROW
17	Wicken to Chippenham Project	C, A	*	ECDC, FC
18	Soham to existing River Lark green corridor	C, A	*	ECDC, FC
19	Icknield Way and chalk grassland enhancement Project	C, A	*	CCC – ROW & Countryside Team
20	Barrington, Wimpole Hub on low hills and to west through Forest of South Cambridgeshire to Greensand Ridge	C, A	**	CCC, FC, NT
21	Cambourne, Wimpole to Therfield Heath, corridor	C, A	*	CCC – ROW, CWT, NT
23	South and East Cambridge Outer Orbital green corridor from the Cam to Wilbraham Fen	C, A	**	CCC – ROW
30	Godmanchester, Yelling to Cambourne corridor	C, A	*	CCC – ROW, HDC, SCDC, FC
31	Ouse Valley, (Paxton Pits), Yelling to Cambourne corridor	C, A	*	CCC – ROW, HDC, SCDC, FC
K	'Wimpole Hub' project with estate as green hub in Forest of South Cambridgeshire	C, A, CC, E	**	NT, FC
K	Cobbs Wood Demonstration Farm – Wimpole Home Farm	LP	***	NT
K	North Wimpole Woods Protected Bat Species Project	E	**	NT, EN, FC

Appendices

Schedule of Initiatives and Projects

See key to abbreviations on page 32.

Reference On Drawings	Initiative/Project	Strategic Objectives	Priority (1st=*** 2nd= ** 3rd=*)	Lead Organisation(s) for delivery
Recommendation 8				
<i>Create a range of new strategic accessible greenspaces around the fringe of Cambridge, Northstowe and the Market Towns in the sub-region in association with planned major developments</i>				
G	Gog Magog Countryside Project – Phase 1 – Green Hub	C, M, A, E, CC	***	CPS, CWT, MT, FC
L	South Chatteris Country Park	M, A	***	FDC
M	Ely Country Park	M, A	***	ECDC, FC
P	Rowing Lake & open space/Country Park in Cam Corridor	LP, A, M	*	SCDC, CCC, SE
Q, 22	East of St. Neots – pocket park & green corridor links to Ouse and east to Forest of South Cambridgeshire	C, M, A	***	HDC, Developers, FC
S	Northstowe including landscape buffers, water park and Country Park	C, M, A, LP	***	SCDC, CCC & Developers, FC
T	North West of Huntingdon Strategic Open Space and access Project	C, M, A	***	HDC, Developers, FC
U	Coton Countryside Reserve	C, M, A, E, LP	***	CPS
V	Southern Fringe, Monsanto Site – Strategic Open Space on enhanced Cam Corridor	C, M, A	***	SCDC, City Council, Developers, FC
W	Cambridge East Development – including Green Corridor, Country Park & Green Separation – links out to Wicken Fen Vision	C, M, A	**	City Council/SCDC & Developers, FC
X	NIAB site – Strategic Open Space to north West of Cambridge with improved links to Girton, Impington, Histon and Cambridge	C, M, A	**	SCDC, City Council, CCC & Developers, FC
Y	Southern Fringe/Addenbrooke's – Strategic Open Space including Hobsons Brook corridor – links to south	C, M, A	***	City Council, SCDC & Developers, FC
C1	South East Cambridge countryside access Project	C, M, A	**	CPS, CWT, MT, FC
C2	Northern Cambridge (Chesterton Sidings) – countryside access Project along Cam Corridor	C, M, A, E	***	SCDC, CCC & Developers, FC
C3	Northern Cambridge (Arbury Camp) – enhanced access linkage to west and Guided Bus Route Corridor	A	***	CCC & Developers
C4	North west Cambridge (Madingley Road – M11) – improved access to Coton Reserve	A	**	SCDC, CCC & Developers
C5	Coton Reserve to Grange Road – Local green corridor and access	A, C	**	SCDC, CCC
C6	Granchester across the Cam to Trumpington – local green corridor and access	A, C	**	SCDC, CCC
C8	Cambridge East to Coldhams Common and Cam – enhanced access link	A, E, C	**	City Council
Recommendation 9				
<i>Develop existing and create new orbital and strategic recreational routes to the countryside and around the fringes of Cambridge and the Market Towns in association with existing and planned major developments</i>				
10	Cycleway/bridleway along Cambridge to Huntingdon Guided Bus Route from	A	***	CCC – Highways
C7	Cambridge Outer Orbital Recreation Route – surfaced access route	A	**	CCC – ROW
Recommendation 10				
<i>Promote the creation of enhanced and new waterway links within the Fens to provide improved access by water</i>				
24	Fen Waterways Project	A	**	FWRS, EA
25	Fen Waterways Project to Great Fen Project improvements from north of Ramsey and links towards Peterborough	A	*	FWRS, EA, Great Fen Project

Schedule of Initiatives and Projects

See key to abbreviations on page 32.

Reference On Drawings	Initiative/Project	Strategic Objectives	Priority (1st=*** 2nd= ** 3rd=*)	Lead Organisation(s) for delivery
Recommendation 11				
<i>Promote biodiversity and landscape enhancements in rural areas particularly along the route of existing Strategic Rights of Way</i>				
26	Fleam Dyke to Icknield Way	C, E	***	CCC, CWT, EN, EH
27, G, 'IV'	Roman Road Route – heritage and biodiversity trail to Haverhill	C, E	**	CCC/Friends of Roman Road and Fleam Dyke/FC
28	Chalk grassland project following on from the Devil's Dyke Project	C, E	***	CCC, CWT, EN, EH
Recommendation 12				
<i>Promote and improve the network, status and quality of strategic/published routes</i>				
/	Promote Strategic and Published Routes	A	**	CCC – ROW
/	Establish definitive routes in place of permissive sections of Published Routes	A	***	CCC
/	Support Lost Highways Project to secure missing gaps in the local ROW network	A	***	CCC
/	Cambridgeshire Circular Route – promoting diverse landscapes and cultural locations.	A	*	CCC – ROW, Sustrans
29	Huntingdon to Peterborough Cycleway – via ancient semi natural woodland, the Great Fen Project and Nene Valley Park	C, A	**	CCC, Sustrans, FC
14, 6, 28	Chatteris to Newmarket cycleway & bridleway via Ely, Wicken Fen and Soham	A	**	CCC, Sustrans
F	Promote Themed Heritage Trails in association with Bridge of Reeds and associated Visitor Centre	A	**	Landscape East, EH CCC – Archaeology
Recommendation 13				
<i>Promote the provision of River bridging points in key parts of the ROW network</i>				
As shown	River Cam Crossing at Upware to aid east –west connections from Wicken, to Denny Abbey	A	***	NT, SCDC, EA
As shown	Additional crossings at Swaffham Bulbeck Lode and Burwell Lode	A	**	NT
As shown	Additional crossing of River Ouse at Needingworth/ Church End	A	***	CCC
As shown	Additional crossing of River Cam/Rhee at Haslingfield	A	**	SCDC, CCC
As shown	Additional crossing of River Cam east of Granchester	A	**	SCDC, CCC
As shown	Additional crossing of River Ouse near Paxton Pits	A	**	HDC, CCC
Recommendation 14				
<i>Support the creation and development of Landmark Projects to focus the delivery of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and encourage linkage with recreational and historic/cultural sites and projects</i>				
10	Sculpture trail as part of the Guided Bus Route Green Corridor	LP	**	Eastern Arts Association
F	Wicken Fen Vision – habitat and landscape restoration with cultural interpretation	LP, E, C, A, CC	***	National Trust
G	Wandlebury Country Park and Gog Magog Countryside Project – green hub for East Anglian Chalk landscape	C, M, A, E, LP, CC	**	CPS/MT/CWT
N	Regional Arboretum – on West Cambridge Claylands	LP	**	SCDC/FC/Private Sponsor
As shown	Bridge of Reeds – iconic landmark over A14	LP	**	National Trust, Landscape East
E, F	Fenland Cultural Centre/s – at Great Fen & /or Wicken	LP, CC	*	Great Fen Project/NT
P	New Rowing Lake facility delivering strategic open along the River Cam corridor	LP, A, M	*	SCDC, CCC, SE

Appendices – Key to Abbreviations

Key – Strategic Objectives

- C Connectivity**
- To protect and enhance existing biodiversity corridors
 - Improve linkages between existing habitat clusters
 - To identify the need for, promote and deliver new biodiversity corridors/extensions to enhance the sub-regional network
- M Multi-functionality**
- To promote enhanced public access to the landscape particularly adjacent to existing and planned settlements
- A Accessibility**
- To promote existing strategic cycleways, bridleways and footpaths
 - To identify new strategic cycleways, bridleways and footpaths
 - Promote additional Strategic bridging points
 - Promote new cycle links to complete circular routes from major settlements
 - Promote navigable waterways
- E Landscape/Biodiversity Enhancement**
- To identify broad area wide initiatives to enhance the existing landscape character and biodiversity potential
- LP Landmark Projects**
- To establish significant individual projects/ sites which act as a public focus for the implementation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy. To include bold imaginative features and elements
- CC Green Infrastructure Historic Cultural Centre**
- To identify and develop sites with public access to cultural facilities linked to the historic landscape features of the green infrastructure network. To include historic sites and the interpretation of past land uses and traditions.

Priority (***)= Yr 1-3, ** = Yr 4-10, *=Yr 11-20)

Lead Organisations

BP	Biodiversity Partnership
CCC	Cambridge County Council (– ROW = Rights of way team)
CPS	Cambridge Preservation Society
CWT	Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust
EA	Environment Agency
EEDA	East of England Development Agency
ECDC	East Cambridgeshire District Council
EN	English Nature
EH	English Heritage
FDC	Fenland District Council
FWRSG	Fens Waterways Regeneration Strategy Group
FC	Forestry Commission
FWAG	Farming Wildlife Advisory Group
HA	Highways Agency
HDC	Huntingdonshire District Council
IDB's	Internal Drainage Boards
IW	In land Waterways
MT	Magog Trust
NT	National Trust
PCC	Peterborough City Council
PECT	Peterborough Environmental City Trust
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
St N TC	St. Neots Town Council
SCDC	South Cambridgeshire District Council
SE	Sport England
WT	Woodland Trust

Bibliography

Benedict and McMahon

Green Infrastructure: Smart Conservation for the 21st Century, 2002

Cambridge City Council

Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment, 2003

Cambridge City Council

Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment Technical Summary, 2003

Cambridge City Council

Redeposit Draft Local Plan, 2004

Cambridge City Council and South

Cambridgeshire District Council

Cambridge East Area Action Plan, 2006

Cambridgeshire County Council

Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines: A Manual for Management and Change in the Rural Landscape, 1991

Cambridgeshire County Council

Cambridgeshire's Biodiversity, 1997

Cambridgeshire County Council

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan, 2003

Cambridgeshire County Council

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Local Plan, 2003

Cambridgeshire County Council

British Geological Survey for Mineral Resources in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 2003

Cambridgeshire County Council

Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan, 2005

Cambridgeshire County Council

Strategic Open Spaces Study, 2004

Cambridgeshire County Council

Population & Socio Economic Data, 2005

Cambridgeshire County Council

50 Year Wildlife Vision

Cambridgeshire County Council

Local Transport Plan

Countryside Agency and Groundwork

The countryside in and around towns: A vision for connecting town and country in pursuit of sustainable development, 2005

ODPM

Sustainable Communities: Building for the future, 2004

DTLR

Green Spaces, Better Places, 2005

East Cambridgeshire District Council

East Cambridgeshire District Local Plan, 2000

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Ely Environmental Capacity Study, 2001

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Issues and Options Paper for the Core Strategy Development Plan Document, 2005

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Issues and Options Paper for the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document, 2005

EERA

The draft East of England Plan, A Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, 2004

EERA and EEDA

A shared vision: The regional economic strategy for the East of England, 2004

EERA and EEEF

Our Environment, Our Future: The regional environment strategy for the East of England, 2003

EERA and the Forestry Commission

Woodland for life: The regional woodland strategy for the East of England, 2003

EERA, ODPM and EEDA

The Regional Social Strategy: A strategy to achieve a fair and inclusive society in the East of England, 2004

East of England Biodiversity Forum/Land

Use Consultants & Terra Consultants

East of England Biodiversity Mapping Project

England Forestry Forum

England Forestry Strategy Review Green Infrastructure 24th November Paper 10/05

English Nature

Reconnecting people and nature: English Nature's approach, 2002

Environment Agency

Position Statement on Local Environmental Quality and Liveability, 2002

Fenland District Council

The Fenland District-Wide Local Plan 1993, supplemented by the Interim Statement of Proposed Changes SPG, 2001

Fenland District Council

The Fenland District-Wide Local Plan 2003, – Play Space Provision SPG, 2003

Forestry Commission

The East of England Inventory of Woodland and Trees, 2001

Forestry Commission

National Inventory of Woodland and Trees – County Report for Cambridgeshire, 2002

Forestry Commission

Woodland for Life in the East of England – The Wood Bank, 2003

GO-East

RPG6 Regional Planning Guidance for East Anglia to 2016, 2000

Huntingdon District Council

Huntingdonshire Local Plan, 1995 as amended by the Local Plan Alteration, 2002

Huntingdonshire District Council

Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment SPG, 2003

Huntingdonshire District Council

Local Development Framework – Core Strategy: Preferred Options Report, 2005

Landscape Design Associates

A Vision for the Setting of Denny Abbey on behalf of RLW Estates Limited, 2002

ODPM

Living Places – Cleaner, Safer Greener, 2002

ODPM

PPG2 Green Belts, 1995

ODPM

PPS7 Sustainable development in rural areas, 2005

ODPM

PPS9 Biodiversity and geological conservation, 2004

ODPM

PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Cambridge Green Belt Study, 2002

South Cambridgeshire District Council

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2004

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Pre-submission public participation Draft Local Development Framework for South Cambridgeshire – Proposals Map, 2005

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Submission Draft Local Development Framework for South Cambridgeshire, 2006

The National Trust

Wicken Fen Vision Expansion Project

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough

St. Neots Green Corridor Final Report, 2004

The Wildlife Trust Ltd and East

Cambridgeshire District Council

Cambridgeshire County Wildlife Sites Register, 2005

Town and Country Planning Association

Biodiversity by Design: A guide for sustainable communities, 2004

Woodland Trust

Spaces for people 2004