

5.0 Biodiversity Strategy Approach

The South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy, policy CS2, proposes a number of objectives to help measure the success in moving towards its vision of a more sustainable approach to development in the district. The Preferred Approach relevant to biodiversity is such:

“To ensure that any new development results in appropriate provision for the protection and enhancement of native biodiversity in order to contribute towards biodiversity gain, whilst having regard to the site’s current biodiversity value. Opportunities for increased access to the countryside and enjoyment of biodiversity should be viewed as integral requirements of new development.”

This Biodiversity Strategy strives to highlight how biodiversity issues are cross-cutting between the departments and functions of the Council, and that in partnership and with effective use of the planning system biodiversity protection and further enhancement can be achieved.

The Core Policy CS/2 of the LDF presents a Strategy Objective as:

“To ensure that any new development results in appropriate provision for the protection and enhancement of native biodiversity in order to contribute towards biodiversity gain, whilst having regard to the site’s current biodiversity value. Opportunities for increased access to the countryside and enjoyment of biodiversity should be viewed as integral requirements of new development.”

5.1 Biodiversity Strategy Aims

Biodiversity Strategy Aim 1:

In undertaking its duties and implementing its daily functions the District Council shall strive to conserve and further enhance biodiversity, and to contribute towards sustainable development. Biodiversity gain should be seen as the ultimate goal.

Biodiversity Strategy Aim 2:

In undertaking its operations the District Council shall endeavour to contribute towards the achievement of National, County and District Biodiversity Action Plan targets.

Biodiversity Strategy Aim 3:

The District Council will adopt the English Nature Open Space Standard as a long-term target in addition to minimum the Public Open Space requirement proposed in the LDF associated with development proposals.

Biodiversity Strategy Aim 4:

The District Council will adopt the “Biodiversity Checklist for Land Use Planners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough” as published by Cambridgeshire County Council, 2001.

Biodiversity Strategy Aim 5:

The District Council will actively seek partnership opportunities in order to progress actions contained within the South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan

Biodiversity Strategy Aim 6:

The District Council will continue to fund the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme at the current funding level in order to 1) facilitate the achievement of BAP targets; 2)

encourage a diverse range of wildlife enhancement projects, with both private and public bodies; 3) promote the scheme across the district.

Biodiversity Strategy Aim 7:

Within the District Council the Ecology Officer will be promoted as the point of contact on environmental issues.

5.2 Local Biodiversity Sites

Within South Cambridgeshire there will be a tiered approach to biodiversity conservation at known sites. The two broad categories shall be known as *Sites of Biodiversity Interest* and *Local Biodiversity Areas*.

In line with PPG9, statutorily protected sites will be taken as material considerations in all development proposals. Policy NE/6 of the LDF details the Council's approach to such sites. Sites that fall within this policy include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and County Wildlife Sites (CWS) and shall be collectively known as *Sites of Biodiversity Importance*. The locations of such sites are shown on the proposals maps of LDF. Full details of the special interest of SAC's and SSSI's can be obtained from English Nature, and from the Wildlife Trust for CWS.

The LDF also contains policies relating to the protection of Natural Areas (policy NE/5) as detailed by English Nature, and for the general conservation of biodiversity (policy NE/4). However, the conservation of biodiversity across the District as a whole is an issue that requires a closer focus at the local level and a certain amount of careful balance in order to afford protection without unnecessarily restricting development. It has become apparent that there is a need to identify areas within the villages that provide for local biodiversity and for people's enjoyment of local biodiversity. Such sites shall be known as *Local Biodiversity Areas*. Policies BS2 (Designation of Local Biodiversity Areas) and BS3 (Protection of Local Biodiversity Areas) are detailed in section 5.4 of this strategy.

(insert picture Lolworth Meadow as a local site)

5.3 Species Protection

Policy NE/7 of the LDF Core Strategy contains the following text:

"Planning permission will not normally be granted for development which would have a significant adverse impact on the population or conservation status of a protected or priority species"

The full text of the policy justification should be referred to for clarification of how the policy should be applied. However, it should be noted that 'protected species' are those species of plants and animals that are afforded legal protection, for example under the European Union Birds Directive and Habitats Directive, or under Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. 'Priority species' are those identified in a Biodiversity Action Plan, such as the UK, County or District Biodiversity Action Plans.

Refer to www.odpm.gov.uk for a full listing. English Nature are the Government's statutory advisor upon issues relating to protected species. Further information can be obtained from the English Nature web site www.english-nature.org.uk. PPG9

states quite clearly that the Protected Species shall be a material consideration to the determination of a planning consent. It is therefore important that the presence of protected species is addressed prior to the determination of a planning application. This may necessitate a range of surveys in advance of the detailed design of scheme. All sites are likely to vary subtly and early discussion with an ecologist is encouraged.

In order to provide guidance upon protected species of particular relevance to South Cambridgeshire and developments two tables are provided within the appendix:

Table 1 – *Typical Smaller Development Proposals and Potential Impacts*

Table 2 – *Protected Species and the Habitats Where They May Occur*

Please be aware that the information provided within the tables may not exhaustive. Site assessments and the input of a professional ecologist should always be sought.

Policy BS3 in section 5.4 also affords protection to species and/or habitats of local importance as identified in the County and District BAPs.

5.4 Local Development Control Policies

Summary table of the policy issues.

Policy reference number	Policy issue
BS1	Protection, enhancement, creation and management of biodiversity habitats
BS2	Designation of Local Biodiversity Areas
BS3	Protection of Local Biodiversity Areas
BS5	Wildlife Corridors
BS6	Mitigation and compensation
BS7	Countryside Enhancement Areas
BS8	Local Nature Reserves and Village Green Spaces.
BS9	Design of the Built Environment
BS10	Garden development and garden extension
BS11	Section 106 priorities
BS12	Farmland
BS13	Equestrian Activity
BS14	Barn Owls
BS15	Non-native invasive plants
BS16	Green Roofs

The Core Strategy of the LDF contains policy CS66 “*Biodiversity – the preferred approach*” which states:

“Development proposal would be required to protect or enhance the biodiversity of its area. Guidance and targets would be set out in a Biodiversity Local Policy (now this Strategy) which will be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document”

Thus it is quite clear that there is a need to develop a suite of refined development control policies to further guide the protection, conservation and further enhancement of biodiversity across the district. The following refined suite of Biodiversity Policies (BS) are proposed:

BS1 - Protection, enhancement, creation and management of biodiversity habitats

It is a primary objective of the development control process to:

- *Secure the protection, management and enhancement of natural landscapes and habitats together with the biodiversity that they contain, and to seek the creation of new wildlife habitats,*
- *Secure the provision of public access to natural greenspaces, particularly within or close to the villages.*
- *Ensure that planning applications contain an adequate amount of information on a site's past and/or present biodiversity status in order to allow the impact of a proposal to be to be appropriately assessed.*

Development should ultimately strive for biodiversity gain and the achievement of sustainable development.

Justification:

The development control process provides many opportunities to conserve existing features that do not in themselves justify indication on the proposals map. There will also be some places where wildlife habitat has developed since any last habitat surveys may have been completed, or where existing interest has simply not been identified before. Such habitats will be protected under this policy.

Where the current level of biodiversity interest upon a site is unknown, or there are reasonable grounds to believe that the site may be used by a priority species, then an applicant shall be expected to undertake a site assessment. The information gained from the assessment should be sufficient enough to allow the development impact to be appropriately assessed. In order to protect and conserve species and habitats it is crucial that their distribution and interaction with the wider environment is understood.

There are also opportunities within many development proposals to create, manage and enhance biodiversity and natural landscapes. Planning applications that capitalise on these opportunities will be encouraged. There is a particular priority for such initiatives within or near to villages where the need for increased access to nature is greatest. Access can be improved by making places more attractive and safer, enhancing, or creating new, accessible wildlife habitats and opening up access to existing habitats. In the few cases where there are habitats or species that are particularly sensitive to trampling or disturbance this sensitivity needs to be taken into account.

The creation and enhancement of habitats adjacent to existing wildlife sites, where the new habitat can complement and provide a buffer for existing habitats, will be sought. Habitat creation and enhancement towards the achievement of targets in the County and District Biodiversity Action Plans will also be sought. There is also considerable scope for the use of green building methods within the landscaping of new developments or on the buildings themselves, with the provision of such features as nest and roost sites, climbing plants on walls and green roofs.

Relevance to policies: LDF: CS2, CS60, CS66; PPS9 key principles ii, iv, v; PPG9 paragraph 24; Structure Plan P7/1, P7/2; RPG6 policy 37, 41, 42,

Relevance to SCBAP issues and targets: BAP gen/1, BAP rs/wet/2, BAP rw/4/gen, BAP rw/8/wv, BAP rw/11/ott, BAP rw/12/ott, BAP tw/ac/1, BAP tw/3/scr, BAP tw/4/orc, BAP gr/2/cg, BAP gr/4/ag, BAP gr/5/mp, BAP fm/1/ap, BAP fm/2/hed, BAP fm/4/bowl, BAP sk/1, BAP sk/2, BAP fm/7/pd, BAP fm/8/pd, BAP urb/1/ben, BAP urb/3/alt, BAP urb/4/osp, BAP urb/6/gcn, BAP urb/8/gcn, BAP urb/9/bat, BAP urb/10/bat, BAP urb/12/hsp, BAP urb/13/sthr, BAP urb/14/sthr,

BS2 - Designation of Local Biodiversity Areas

- ***The Council will designate Local Biodiversity Areas in accordance criteria set out in the text.***
- ***Identified Local Biodiversity Areas shall be shown on the proposals maps, other such areas may occur through the process of site assessment as development proposals occur.***

Justification:

Local Biodiversity Areas shall contribute to the overall conservation of biodiversity at the local level by retaining habitats and features important to the Priority Species (as identified in to the national, county and SC BAPs). Many parishes have relatively small areas that are managed by local people for the benefit of biodiversity. Due to their small size or limited number of species these areas may not fulfil the criteria used to designated Sites of Biodiversity Importance, however they may have an inherent value at the local level. Such sites should be protected from inappropriate development. Local Biodiversity Areas shall also be areas that enable people to experience biodiversity, and thus contribute towards people’s quality of life.

Local Biodiversity Areas shall incorporate the following types of site: Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Village Green Spaces (VGS) and Pocket Parks (PP). Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are formally designated sites under the National Parks and Access Act, 1949. Section 21 of the Act gives local authorities the power to acquire, declare and manage nature reserves. In declaring an LNR a local authority accepts a commitment to manage the land as a nature reserve and to protect it from inappropriate use or development.

The Council is currently promoting its Village Green Space scheme. These are primarily on land owned or managed by the local community or the District Council. The sites have frequently been identified by local people as having particular importance within the parish as areas of open space for people to enjoy biodiversity.

In some parishes Pocket Parks exist. These are often pieces of land similar to the Village Green Spaces but were establish by the County Council in the early 1990’s.

Sites that might initially be considered as Local Biodiversity Areas shall include the following:

Site Type	Site Name	Main Interest	Relevance to South Cambs BAP
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Local Nature Reserve	Beechwoods, Stapleford	Beechwood plantation with ancient woodland indicator species	BAP wd/2
	St Denis church, East Hatley	Disused church with potential as bat roost	BAP ch/1, BAP bat/1
	Nine Wells, Great Shelford	Natural chalk springs	Rivers and Streams are a priority habitat.
	Byron's Pool, Grantchester	Riverside habitat of the Cam	Rivers and Streams are a priority habitat.
	Kingston Nature Reserve (proposed)	Unimproved grassland with good butterfly habitats.	BAP gr/4
Village Green Space	Fardell's Lane, Elsworth	Scrub and meadow habitat with restored pond	BAP wd/3 BAP gr/4
	Town Green Orchard, Orwell	Old orchard with scrub and wet ditches	BAP wd/4 BAP wd/3
	Dovecot Meadow, Foxton	Chalk grassland	BAP gr/2
	Watts Wood, Comberton	Young woodland plantation	BAP wd/3
Pocket Parks	Linton	Riverside meadow, scrub and pond	BAP gr/4 BAP wd/3, BAP pd/1
	Grinell Hill Park, Melbourn	Grassland	BAP gr/2

Relevance to policies: LDF: CS2, CS60, CS66; PPS9 key principles i, ii, iii; PPG9 paragraph 24; Structure Plan P7/2; RPG6 policy 39, 41

Relevance to SCBAP issues and targets: BAP gen/1

BS3 - Protection of Local Biodiversity Areas

The District Council shall adopt the following approach:

- ***Planning permission will not normally be given for proposals that may have an unmitigated or significant adverse effect on a Local Biodiversity Area.***

In determining any planning application affecting a Local Biodiversity Area the District Council will have regard to: -

- **Presence of species and/or habitats of local importance in isolation or combination.**
- **Whether the site has potential to assist in the delivery of the National, County or District Biodiversity Action Plan targets.**
- **Sites which fall short of County Wildlife Site (CWS) designation.**
- **Sites that are currently providing for the quiet enjoyment of biodiversity within semi-nature areas of otherwise built environment. or natural greenspace**

- **Sites that are providing an educational resource.**
- **Sites that are clearly acting as a stepping-stone, wildlife corridor or refuge area within an otherwise built environment.**

Where appropriate the District Council will require the effective management of Local Biodiversity Areas through the imposition of planning conditions or Section 106 Agreements as appropriate.

Justification:

The identified Local Biodiversity Areas are identified upon the proposals map. In combination with statutorily protected sites (and Sites of Biodiversity Importance with the LDF) these sites represent a strategic framework for the conservation of biodiversity. The District Council will give an appropriate level of protection to Local Biodiversity Areas to ensure the continued existence of their main features of interest, and to ensure that the contribution such sites have towards the achievement of Biodiversity Plan targets is not unnecessarily compromised.

Applications for development within or near to a Local Biodiversity Area will be subject to assessment with particular account taken of any direct or indirect effects on the main features giving rise to the designation. Indirect effects can include increased use and disturbance, hydrological changes (for example due to increased hard surfaces or underground development), level of noise, pollution, shading and lighting disturbance. Adverse effects on a site include effects on the species that it supports. This policy also applies to effects on people's opportunity to enjoy and experience nature on a site; development on or adjacent to an important site can have an adverse impact upon people's enjoyment of the site's biodiversity and landscape value, for example through intrusive visual features, restrictions on access or a significant increase in noise. Planning Policy Guidance Note 9 on Nature Conservation, paragraph 27, states that *permission should not be refused... If development can be subject to conditions that will prevent damaging impacts on wildlife habitats or important physical features, or if other material factors are sufficient to override nature conservation considerations.*

Relevance to policies: LDF: CS2, CS60, CS66; PPS9 key principles i, ii, iii; PPG9 paragraph 24; Structure Plan P7/2; RPG6 policy 39, 41

Relevance to SCBAP issues and targets: BAP gen/1

BS4 - Wildlife Corridors

- ***Development proposals will be expected to enhance the nature conservation value of the identified network of wildlife corridors to contribute towards functional green infrastructure***

Justification:

Conservation of the district's biodiversity cannot be achieved solely by the protection of Sites of Biodiversity Importance or Local Biodiversity Areas, but should also take account of the value of certain countryside features within the more rural and built-up parts of the district alike. Rivers, ditches, hedgerows, ponds and woods all provide valuable features within the open countryside. Regulations 37 of the Habitats Regulations draws specific attention to the management of such features in order to sustain biodiversity. Green space adjoining such features together with Sites of Biodiversity Importance may link together sites forming a wider network of habitat, or

green spaces adjacent to such sites may make them more resilient to stresses, such as increased usage by people. Corridors may act as linkage between sites permitting the movement of some animals and plants. This allows some animals to undertake movements between the different habitats that they require for survival. It may also enable species to re-colonise former habitats. Wildlife Corridors are shown on the Proposals Map.

Relevance to policies: LDF: CS2, CS60, CS66; PPS9 key principles ii, iii; PPG9 paragraph 15; Structure Plan P7/2, P7/3; RPG6 policy 37,

Relevance to SCBAP issues and targets: BAP rs/wet/2, BAP rw/2/gen, BAP rw/4/gen, BAP tw/1/cre, BAP fm/2/hed, BAP fm/3/hed, BAP fm/7/pd, BAP fm/8/pd

Proposals map could inc Rhee, Granta and Cam with Shep, Bourn, Mel and Hoffer Bk, disused railways, woodland linkage project, Fleam Dyke, Roman Rd, Ashwell Stret and other green lanes see also GBP field boundaries report,

BS5 - Mitigation and compensation

- ***Where, exceptionally, development that is harmful to a Site of Biodiversity Importance or an important species is permitted, appropriate planning conditions or obligations will be required to compensate for the harm***

Justification

The policies protecting wildlife habitat and species aim to prevent any loss of important biodiversity. Avoidance of adverse impact, or preferably an enhancement, will always be the preferred approach to biodiversity conservation. In exceptional circumstances, where the benefits of a proposal are demonstrated to clearly outweigh the importance of biodiversity conservation, conditions will be imposed and obligations negotiated with the aim of preventing any net loss. Appropriate conditions and obligations will also be used to mitigate or compensate for significant loss of biodiversity through developments not affecting important sites or species.

The compensation sought will preferably replace like with like but, where this is impossible, compensation will be sought that replaces the loss of value with provision of equivalent value, which could include such measures as securing the future of a site, providing long-term beneficial management of a site, or providing public access to it.

In developing such proposals it is important first to have regard to the priority given by Government to the conservation of the best existing habitats. First priority will be given to protecting, maintaining and enhancing existing habitats, especially where this helps to meet targets in the County or district Biodiversity Action Plans. The translocation of wildlife habitats will be used only as a measure of last resort.

Where development is permitted that may affect species protected by policy, measures should facilitate the survival of the species' population, reduce disturbance to a minimum and provide adequate habitat in order to sustain at least the current level of a population.

Relevance to policies: LDF: CS65, CS66; PPS9 key principles vi; PPG9 paragraph 27; Structure Plan P7/1, P7/2;

Relevance to SCBAP issues and targets: BAP rw/4/gen, BAP rw/8/wv, BAP rw/11/ott, BAP rw/12/ott, BAP fm/1/ap, BAP fm/4/bowl, BAP fm/5/skl, skl/2, BAP urb/6/gcn, BAP urb/8/gcn, BAP urb/9/bat, BAP urb/10/bat, BAP urb/12/hsp, BAP urb/13/sthr, BAP urb/14/sthr

BS6 - Countryside Enhancement Areas

- ***To protect the individual quality and character of, and promote access to, Countryside Enhancement Areas.***
- ***Countryside Enhancement Areas shall be viewed as an important component of the delivery of functional green infrastructure.***

Justification:

The Structure Plan has identified a broad approach to countryside enhancement. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership has also produced its “50 Year Vision Map”. The District Council shall endeavour to identify habitat enhancement and creation opportunities that are in line with the aims of these documents. This may require a “bottom-up” approach where close liaison is established with landowners and Parish Councils in order to identify suitable sites.

Countryside Enhancement Areas apart from their habitat value, have the potential to provide accessible open spaces where people can experience the countryside close to home. This has the potential to contribute to people’s quality of life. More frequent visits to nearer sites, involving less difficult journeys can also relieve the pressure upon more established “honey pot sites” such as the Grantchester Meadows or the Wandlebury Rings.

Relevance to policies: LDF: CS66; PPS9 key principles iii,; Structure Plan P7/3; RPG6 policy 42,

Relevance to SCBAP issues and targets: BAP rw/5/gen, BAP rs/wet/2, BAP tw/1/cre, BAP tw/ac/1, BAP tw/3/scr, BAP tw/4/orc, BAP fm/3/hed

BS7 - Local Nature Reserves and Village Green Spaces.

- ***To seek the declaration of designated Local Nature Reserves for public use, and to also to progress the development of the Village Green Space initiative.***

Justification:

The district currently has a relatively low number of designated Local Nature Reserves. Local Nature Reserves can provide areas for the quiet enjoyment of biodiversity by the public within sites where the District Council has a legal interest. The Village Green Space initiative is an approach that empowers local communities to take action themselves. Guidance can be provide in the form of developing management plans and funding may be provided against a costed plan. These site should be viewed as areas Council and the public are able to celebrate the quality of the local natural environment and encourage people to enjoy the benefits of quiet enjoyment of nature.

The Council owns relatively few open spaces in comparison to other authorities. However upon the land that it does control it will strive for management that sustains biodiversity. Habitat management for biodiversity can bring additional benefits to communities through increasing local awareness of environmental issues. The declaration of additional statutory Local Nature Reserves as well as further Village Green Spaces will ensure the long-term commitment to their protection and the provision of valuable community and educational resources.

In order to ensure that future areas are provided that may become Local Biodiversity Areas it is important to set standards for land-use within new development. This will be set by the proposed, "*Public Open Space standard*" within the LDF to provide 0.4 hectares per 1000 people with regard to informal open space. This is defined as:

"Space used by people for informal unstructured recreation such as walking, relaxing or a focal point ranging from formal planted areas and meeting places to wilder, more natural spaces including green linkages."

Clearly the provision of natural open spaces can give benefits for people and biodiversity.

Although South Cambridgeshire is a rural district access to quality areas of open countryside is not always as easy as might be expected. Hence the need to increase the provision of wildlife space and develop a structured approach to district-wide "functional green infrastructure".

English Nature have been promoting a standard for *Open Space Targets* and believe that the provision of LNRs is one such mechanism to achieve delivery of open space. English Nature Research Report 153 (1995), states two minimum targets for open space:

- 1) An urban resident should be able to enter a natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares within 0.5 kilometres of their home.
- 2) Provision should be made for Local Nature Reserves in every urban area at the minimum level of 1 hectare per thousand population.

Relevance to policies: LDF: CS66; PPS9 key principles ii, iv, vii; PPG9 paragraph 18; Structure Plan P7/1, RPG6 policy 39

Relevance to SCBAP issues and targets: BAP gen/1, BAP urb/3/alt, BAP urb/5/osp,

BS8 - Design of the Built Environment

- ***To protect and enhance existing habitats and features of value to biodiversity***
- ***To incorporate new wildlife habitats into landscaping and buildings***

Justification:

Design for biodiversity is a key test of sustainable development and offers many opportunities for innovative design in order to each Biodiversity Action Plan targets.

Relevance to policies: LDF: CS2, CS66; PPS9 key principles iv, vii; Structure Plan P7/2, P1/3;

Relevance to SCBAP issues and targets: BAP rw/4/gen, BAP rw/12/ott, BAP fm/2/hed, BAP fm/4/bowl, BAP fm/6/skl, BAP fm/7/pd, BAP fm/8/pd, BAP urb/1/ben, BAP urb/10/bat, BAP urb/14/sthr

BS9 - Garden development and garden extension

Applications for garden extensions into open countryside or for those seeking to develop garden land shall be subject to an appropriate level of scrutiny. Permission may only be granted where a real need can be demonstrated. Any development should meet the following criteria:

·It would not impede the movement of biodiversity across the local area;

·It would not adversely affect priority species and habitats within the County and District Biodiversity Action Plan;

·That garden extensions will include measures to enhance BAP species particularly those dependent upon the open countryside..

Justification:

The protection of species and their habitat is an important part of sustainable development and the achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan target. Much of this is achieved through other plan policies. However, much of the open space within the built-up areas of villages constitutes domestic gardens and other small open spaces within the developed areas. These sites may support a diverse array of wildlife. It is here, too, that many people enjoy nature. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that development of these areas takes proper account of their biodiversity.

Research (quote British Wildlife Oct 04?) has established the importance of the wildlife habitats in gardens for the maintenance of their biodiversity. Areas with long gardens, large blocks of gardens and backlands, and areas with a good range of habitat support a great variety of wildlife, such as great crested newt or song thrush. Large or long gardens are less disturbed by people and by their gardening and other activities. Small gardens, however well landscaped, support a more limited range of wildlife. Certain back garden blocks and backlands may provide the best habitat within the local area, and it is particularly important that these features are conserved and improved. In evaluating the biodiversity value of these habitats the following will be taken into account:

- Large blocks of land are better. Size is measured by the area of the block, or the length of the individual gardens constituting the block, and with little previous incursion. Large blocks of back gardens and backland enable species requiring a large area of habitat to use an area and are also less disturbed by human activity
- A good range of habitats, provided by such features as woodland, trees, shrubs, dead wood, borders, hedgerows, climbers, long and short grassland and water features supports a better range of species. These provide food, shelter and breeding areas for wildlife. Additionally, some species require more than one habitat element, so that the juxtaposition of different habitats retains extra species
- Gardens with scarcer habitats have special value

Blocks are better where other nearby open spaces link them into a network of open areas. See the Wildlife Corridors policy for the advantages of connectivity.

It is also important to consider the extension of gardens in to the open countryside. This will normally require consent for the change of use. Species and features associated with a farmland landscape may not be replicable within the garden environment. Consideration to this issue shall be given when determining a planning application.

Relevance to policies: LDF: CS2, CS65, CS66; PPS9 key principles v; Structure Plan P7/2; RPG6 policy 37, 41, 42,

Relevance to SCBAP issues and targets: BAP fm/1/ap, BAP urb/6/gcn, BAP urb/9/bat, BAP urb/12/hsp, BAP urb/13/sthr, BAP urb/14/sthr

BS10 - Section 106 priorities

- ***The District Council shall seek to use planning obligations under Section 106 Agreements in order ensure the protection, management and further enhancement of biodiversity and people's accessibility to sites where they can appreciate nature.***
- ***Section 106 Agreements shall be considered as an important tool for deliver of functional green infrastructure.***

Justification:

Planning obligations are an important tool in securing mitigation and compensation for losses of biodiversity caused through development and also for seeking biodiversity enhancements. In seeking biodiversity gains under this policy, priority will be given to actions that assist the other policies referred to within this section, and those help to achieve Biodiversity Action Plan targets. In particular, enhancements in access to Sites of Biodiversity Importance (whilst ensuring that disturbance levels are balanced) will be sought. Planning obligations relating to the creation of new wildlife habitats will usually include a provision for the ongoing management of new sites for normally at least ten years.

Relevance to policies: LDF: CS65, CS66; PPS9 key principles ii; PPG9 paragraph 28; Structure Plan P7/2; RPG6 policy 42,

Relevance to SCBAP issues and targets: BAP gen/1, BAP rs/wet/2, BAP rw/4/gen, BAP rw/8/wv, BAP rw/11/ott, BAP rw/12/ott, BAP tw/ac/1, BAP tw/3/scr, BAP tw/4/orc, BAP gr/2/cg, BAP gr/4/ag, BAP gr/5/mp, BAP fm/1/ap, BAP fm/2/hed, BAP fm/3/hed, BAP fm/4/bowl, BAP fm/5/skl, BAP fm/6/skl, BAP fm/7/pd, BAP urb/3/alt, BAP urb/8/gcn, BAP urb/9/bat, BAP urb/10/bat, BAP urb/12/hsp, BAP urb/13/sthr, BAP urb/14/sthr

BS11 - Farmland

In order to ensure the efficient and effective use of land in the district, the District Council will work closely with the farming community and other landowners to encourage farming practices which are sensitive to biodiversity.

Proposals for change of use of farmland will be considered against the potential impact upon priority species and habitats of the County and District Biodiversity Action Plans.

Justification:

The District of South Cambridgeshire is still a largely rural district with farmland constituting ...xx... of the land usage. The farmland landscape whether it be arable or pastoral is also important for biodiversity. Until recently the rare stone curlew could still be found in the chalk belt in the south east of the district. On the Fen edge nationally important numbers of birds, such as the golden plover may be observed in winter months. Rare arable plants such as the Venus's Looking Glass can be found on field margins. Consequently farmland could be considered as the most extensive biodiversity resource of the district. However, due to the pressures of increasing land-use by modern society and the past needs of intensive cultivation the farmland of the district in places is under severe stress.

The Council's Conservation section administers a Wildlife Enhancement Scheme through which grants may be available to farmers and others owners of arable land. Practical advice is also available in partnership with other advisory bodies such as the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. Natural Area profiles highlight the value of farmland and the habitats and species that they contain as important within the district. Continued support to partnerships such as the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership and the Green Belt Project also provides a mechanism to conserve and enhance the farmland landscape.

Relevance to policies: LDF: CS65, CS66; PPS9 key principles ii, v; PPG9 paragraph 23; Structure Plan P7/1, P7/2; RPG policy 37, 41, 42,

Relevance to SCBAP issues and targets: BAP gen/2, BAP fm/1/ap, BAP fm/3/hed, BAP fm/4/bowl, BAP fm/5/skl, skl/2

BS12 - Equestrian Activity

Proposals for development involving the keeping and riding of horses for recreation and/or commercial purposes, including the erection of stables, fences, jumps and other equipment will not be permitted where:

- The proposal is of a scale and nature out of keeping with the Natural Area profile for the area;***
- The proposal is located in an area with an inadequate provision of off-road horse-riding routes that will result in an unacceptable amount of pressure upon the carrying capacity of the local environment;***
- There will be an unmitigated adverse effect upon local biodiversity.***

Justification:

The increase use of land for equestrian purposes can bring benefits if properly planned and managed sensitively. The use of grassland sites by horses can sustain their botanical interest. However, there is also much potential to damage the interest of grassland sites through over-grazing. This may lead to the proliferation of weed species such as creeping thistle or ragwort.

Relevance to policies: LDF: CS2, CS65, CS66; PPS9 key principles ii, v; Structure Plan P1/2, P7/2;

BS13 - Barn Owls

Where a development is likely to affect a building that is, or has been used within the last year, by a barn owl the applicant will be expected to demonstrate how the proposal can commence without adversely affecting the species. Particular attention should be given to flight paths and feeding grounds. Where a negative impact cannot be avoided then suitable compensatory habitat must be provided in advance of the proposal commencing

Justification

Barn owls have suffered a dramatic decline across the UK as a whole. The RSPB currently lists the Barn Owl upon its Amber List believing the decline to range between 25-49% over the last 25 years. The historical loss within South Cambridgeshire is likely to have been higher than this as the drive for intensive farming continued and barn conversion became desirable. However, recently barn owls have become a noticeable site in parts of the district as a result of sensitive land management and the provision of artificial nest sites. This recovery process should not be adversely effected by development proposals.

Relevance to policies: LDF: CS2, CS66; PPS9 key principles v, vi; Structure Plan P7/2; RPG6 policy 41,

Relevance to SCBAP issues and targets: BAP fm/4/bowl

BS14 - Non-native invasive plants

Proposals at development sites containing non-native invasive plant species will not be permitted until suitable measures have been agreed and/or undertaken to control the invasive species.

Justification:

Vigorous or invasive non-native plant species can negatively impact upon biodiversity by out-competing native flora. This can then lead to a negative impact upon fauna by limiting the available feeding and cover areas. Species of particular concern include; Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed, parrot's feather weed, New Zealand pygmy weed, Chinese water fern.

LDF: CS66 ? *is this policy really justified? Or should the use of conditions be relied upon?*

BS15 - Green Roofs

The provision of green roofs will be encouraged where the opportunities for ecological enhancement of a site area limited.

Justification

Green roofs can provide areas for biodiversity within high density sites or those where habitat provision at ground level is simply not practicable. Green roofs can grow a variety of plant types depending on the roof design and its aspect. Commonly succulent plants of the sedum types are grown, however grass and wildflower roofs are possible. These types of roofs can provide compensation for habitat loss at the ground level. Such roofs are used more extensively in Germany where skylarks have been reported to use the roofs as nest sites.

Green roofs can be beneficial for biodiversity by providing “stepping stones” within development sites, providing feeding areas and contribute to the overall health of the environment.

In addition to providing opportunities for biodiversity green roofs can provide the following benefits: water attenuation by reducing run-off rates, increase thermal insulation and improve air quality by reducing the level of air bourn particulates.

Relevance to policies: LDF: CS2, CS66; CS69; PPS9 key principles vii; Structure Plan P1/3, P7/8,

Relevance to SCBAP issues and targets: BAP fm/6/skl

5.5 Biodiversity and Development Control

Local Planning Authorities have long considered nature conservation issues in their decisions. However, in recent years biodiversity has become an increasingly important element within the decision making process. New Government guidance (draft PPS9) further emphasises the importance of biodiversity.

Biodiversity is no longer being seen as site specific or relating to certain species with specific levels of protection. Biodiversity conservation will require reliable data sources and the ability to use such information to order to identify important habitats and species. Development applications will necessitate site assessments for key species and habitats.

Development proposals should show how features of value to biodiversity on site have been integrated into the design of the development, and how these relate to the biodiversity of the surrounding area (e.g. wildlife corridors and greenways linking to the open countryside or the enhancement of watercourses in development sites.)

(use pic of a Cambourne greenway)

Where possible, applicants will be encouraged to enhance existing habitats and create new ones, particularly where they will help to achieve BAP targets.

(use a pic of Hinxtton Wetland creation)

Where damage to habitats is likely to occur (see appendix, table 1 “*Typical Smaller Development Proposals and Potential Impacts*” as a guide), a mitigation strategy to minimise the significance of this damage will need to be agreed with the District Council. Where mitigation cannot take place on site, the developer will be expected to enter into a planning agreement to re-create habitats off-site, and/or to make a financial contribution towards the management of nearby sites in order to off-set the impact upon local biodiversity. Monitoring schemes will be required to report upon the success of the habitat creation.

(use a pic of protective fencing for trees and gcn)

Any demolition or construction work must be carried out at the appropriate time of year to avoid disturbance to species (see appendix, table 2, “*Protected Species and the Habitats Where They May Occur*” as a guide). The “*Biodiversity Checklist for Land Use Planners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*” produced by Cambridgeshire County Council, 2001, is also able to provide further guidance: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/sub/cntryside/biodiv

Areas of green space created as a result of development should provide a diversity of landform, such as formal and informal recreation areas where people can experience biodiversity. The input of Landscape Architects and Ecologists will enable habitat creation to be targeted to specifically benefit local priority species and habitats, in addition to providing exciting and attractive areas to live and work.

(use a pic of the Cambourne master plan)

5.6 The Biodiversity Checklist and the inclusion of Good Biodiversity Design

The “*Biodiversity Checklist for Land Use Planners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*” produced by Cambridgeshire County Council, 2001. Provides a examples of best-practise approach to developing a range of sites. When undertaking new development all sites, whether infill, greenfield or brownfield, should be considered as having potential to support biodiversity. Ecological information is likely to be requested in order to assist the determination applications. It should be considered that site specific biodiversity features, such as ponds or hedgerows, may play a role in connecting a wider mosaic or corridor of habitats that in turn contribute to the overall support of local biodiversity.

It is proposed that the Council adopts the “*Biodiversity Checklist for Land Use Planners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*” produced by Cambridgeshire County Council, 2001, in its entirety. The document should be used as a tool for guiding the level of information supplied with planning applications. Particular attention should be paid to the best practise examples included within the document. When considering development proposals applicants will be encouraged to consider the potential impact upon biodiversity. This may necessitate the undertaking of an ecological assessment appropriate to the size and scale of the development. The *South Cambs Biodiversity Site Checklist* within the appendix of this strategy should be completed for all major developments.

The *South Cambs Biodiversity Site Checklist* proforma is intended to assist applicants in the provision of high quality planning applications, which will then lead to the efficient processing of the information by the Planning Authority.

The *Biodiversity Checklist for Land Use Planners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*” produced by Cambridgeshire County Council also provides information on major and minor developments and environmental legislation. The “objectives” of the *Biodiversity Checklist for Land Use Planners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough* will expect to have been met when major developments are being considered.

The main “objectives” of the *Biodiversity Checklist for Land Use Planners in*

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are:

- Protect existing species and habitats of importance
- Enhancement of habitats
- Mitigation against disturbance
- Compensation for habitat or species loss
- Monitor and enforce

Applicants are strongly advised to discuss all potential environmental issues at the earliest stage possible with the Planning Authority.

The District Council's *Design Guide* should be referred to for detailed guidance on development proposals and biodiversity, however the following information is normally required to be submitted in order to allow the determination of an application:

- Recognition of local policies relating to the protection of habitats and species found on, and adjacent to, the proposed development site (*i.e. consider the Core Strategy policies of the South Cambs LDF & the Biodiversity Strategy policies contained within this document in section 5.4*).
- An audit of habitats and species listed within the County and/or District Biodiversity Action Plans found on, and adjacent to, the proposed development site together with information relating to their sensitivity to the development (*i.e. will require reference to section 4 of this document together with a possible site investigation*).
- Submission of adequate survey information on habitats and species undertaken at an appropriate time of year by a competent ecologist (*this is likely to require specialist ecological input inline with relevant guidelines or survey methodologies, see www.ieem.org.uk "Guidelines For Ecological Impact Assessment"*)
- Details of how the proposed development intends to conserve existing habitats and species, and how it will retain and enhance natural features both within, and where appropriate, adjacent to a proposed development site (*Landscape Architects and Ecologists will be able to identify biodiversity opportunities at most sites*).
- Details of how the proposed development aims to mitigate against adverse effects on habitats and species (*i.e. damage minimisation*).
- Details of how the development proposes to compensate for habitat loss.
- Details of proposed long-term management and monitoring schemes, and proposed off-site agreements to protect and enhance the local biodiversity (*these may be written into legal agreements and undertaken as an approved plan*).

5.7 Natural Area Profiles

The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (adopted 2004) contains policies relating to

the use of the Natural Area Concept. A Natural Area profile is not a designation, but an area of the countryside identified by a unique combination of physical attributes such as geology, plant and animal species, land-use and culture. These attributes contribute to an area's sense of place and its distinctive biodiversity. The concept acknowledges that biodiversity does not recognise administrative boundaries.

English Nature is the body that has produced the studies and should be the point of contact for further information.

Natural Area profiles for the South Cambridgeshire District are provide in table.... :

Natural Area	Characteristic flora and fauna	Parishes
The East Anglian Chalk	<p>Scattered chalk grassland, Beechwood plantations on dry hill tops, willow and alder in wetter vallies, scrub of hawthorn and blackthorn with ivy or bramble beneath.</p> <p>Spring-fed fens, mires and marshy ground with reed, sedge and hemp agrimony.</p> <p>Spring-fed flowing water supporting watercrowfoots and pondweeds with reed sweet-grass at the margins.</p> <p>Large open arable fields may support rare arable plants such as grass poly or Venus's looking-glass. Brown hare and typical farmland birds.</p>	<p>Orwell, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth, Gt & Lt Wilbraham, Teversham, Stapleford, Sawston, Whittlesford, Duxford, Pampisford, Newton, Foxton, Shepreth, Meldreth, Barrington, Folwmere, Gt & Lt Chishill, Heydon, Haslingfield, Hauxton, Thriplow, Ickleton, Litlington, Steeple & Guilden Morden, Abington Pigotts, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Fulbourn, Gt & Lt Shelford, Babraham, Gt & Lt Abington, Hildersham, Balsham, West Wrating, Weston Colville, Carlton,</p>
The East Anglian Plain	<p>Hay meadows with knapweeds and crested dog's-tail grasses.</p> <p>Relict parkland and large hedgerow trees particularly of oak.</p>	
The West Anglian Plain		
The Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge		
The Fens		

(Insert NA map of district)

Within each Natural Area profile the biodiversity resource is identified in general terms of its habitats and species. For example, within the East Anglian Chalk Natural Area unimproved calcareous grassland and spring-fed calcareous flowing and standing water are listed amongst six other habitat types. Species listed include white-clawed crayfish and serotine bat.

The lists of habitats and species contained within each Natural Area profile should be used as a guide to biodiversity features of at least local value within specific Natural Areas. Together Natural Area profiles and BAPs provide guidance on the range of habitats and species worthy of protection, conservation and further enhancement across the South Cambridgeshire District.

Natural Areas should be conserved and enhanced in order to safeguard the diversity of species and habitats contained within them. Policy NE/5 “Natural Areas” of the LDF Core Strategy seeks the protection of the intrinsic biodiversity of Natural Areas.

6.0 Conserving and enhancing biodiversity – The Approach

It is a primary objective of this strategy to provide clear guidance as to why biodiversity needs to be conserved and further enhanced. The previous sections of this strategy have presented data on the need for biodiversity conservation and have proposed a range of actions and targets to achieve biodiversity gain. Guidance has been provided on the Development Control process and Local Development Control Policies have been presented. However, the influence of the Council is far reaching and exciting opportunities lie within partnership working, assisting biodiversity projects through Wildlife Enhancement Scheme grants, and educating the local Community in awareness of biodiversity issues.

6.1 Partnership Working

(insert pic of GBP working)

Biodiversity is part of everyone's natural heritage and should be conserved for all to enjoy. However, much of the countryside is privately owned. It is therefore crucial that if biodiversity conservation is to be achieved within South Cambridgeshire then partnerships need to be forged.

The District Council already actively supports a number of partnerships specifically with biodiversity conservation in mind, these are:

Partnership Name	Purpose	Targets
Green Belt Project	The Green Belt Project (GBP) is a partnership established in 1990 between SCDC, the City and County Council and the Wildlife Trust. The budget facilitates a broad range of practical biodiversity enhancement initiatives around the city edge and Cambridgeshire green belt on behalf of the local authorities. The project is directed under cyclical 3 year action plan.	Implement three year Action Plan, in consultation with the funding partners. Implementation of the habitat enhancement/access promotion on the Roman Road.
Parish Paths Partnership	This partnership programme, administered by the County Council, supports access initiatives in the countryside. The budget is targeted on established Rights of Way but has also supported some 35 parishes in improving their local access and environment within the district.	To continue to work in partnership with local communities and landowners to improve maintain and promote public rights of way. To enable parish councils to involve their communities in some practical involvement in the management and development of public rights of way.
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership	The purpose of the programme is to support the work of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership and promote wildlife and habitat creation in the district and	Development of the partnership as an effective forum for biodiversity action. Audit of outstanding

	the county. The partnership includes: Cambridgeshire County Council; all of the district councils, the Environment Agency, English Nature, the Wildlife Trust, Anglian Water and the RSPB. The programme is targeted on the implementation of priorities established in the Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan.	actions and targets appropriate to South Cambridgeshire from the County Action Plan.
Heritage Initiatives Fund	The Heritage Initiative Fund enables the Conservation service to help facilitate and develop a variety of community led heritage initiatives in partnership with parish or local amenity groups. The basic protocol for all <i>Heritage Initiative Fund</i> schemes is that the SCDC contribution would support a package of funding, usually up to a third of the overall project cost.	Development of further Village Green Space schemes. Support for WIT's County Wildlife Sites survey programme. Support for the Cam Sustainable Farming Project. Development of a Fleam Dyke & Roman Road site interpretation and future linkage.

In order to meet with Biodiversity Strategy Aim 5 the Council will seek new partnership opportunities and welcomes suitable bodies or individuals to approach the Conservation section of the Council.

6.2 Wildlife Enhancement Scheme

The purpose of the grant programme is to stimulate discrete partnership action and support initiatives that contribute towards enhancing the biodiversity of the district.

The budget is focussed on actions and targets contained within the Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan. The grant scheme will endeavour to assist community groups and individuals alike.

The scheme was successful in its pilot year of 2003/2004 in generating matching funding for projects, from both private and other public sources in the order of five times the allocation. Future direction of grant aid will seek to deliver similar excellent returns.

Successful projects assisted through the scheme include:

- Riverside walk, Little Shelford recreation ground.
- Challis Green pond restoration, Barrington
- Histon Green pond restoration.
- Orchard creation, Chittering.
- Support for Harston Orchard Apple Day.
- Boardwalk replacement, Fowlmere Nature Reserve.
- Creation of Wildlife area, Fulbourn Primary School
- Bradmere pond replanting, Little Shelford

(insert pics of selected schemes)

6.3 Community Awareness

The residents of South Cambridgeshire have shown themselves to be particularly interested in environmental issues. In addition to key work areas, the Ecology Officer responds to a variety of enquiries. Enthusiasm to take action to improve the local environment can often be stagnated by uncertainty on detailed issues. With detailed knowledge on a range of environmental issues, the Ecology Officer can act as the catalyst for achieving action. For example, a wildflower meadow was created at Lolworth on a former allotment site. Advice was needed on a wildlife seed mix, timing of the work and its after care. A member of the parish then implemented the project following guidance provided by the Ecology Officer.

A limited number of general awareness talks are provided each year to local groups and on-the-spot assistance may be offered during enhancement project work. Advice can also be offered to private residents. The “South Cambs” magazine is seen as an excellent vehicle for raising awareness of biodiversity within the district.

Opportunities should be sought for increased levels of inter-departmental working within the Council in order to deliver increased biodiversity gain. For example, the Council’s housing stock could provide a district-wide opportunity to deliver action within the “Urban” theme of the South Cambs BAP, particular house sparrow population maintenance (BAP urb/1/hsp).

A close-working relationship with private individuals and parish councils is considered to be fundamental to the protection and further enhancement of biodiversity across the district. In order to meet with Biodiversity Strategy Aim 7 that proposes that the Ecology Officer be promoted as the point of contact on environmental issues within the Council.

7.0 Useful contacts and information

(Yet to be completed)

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership

English Nature

Environment Agency

Wildlife Trust

“Cambridgeshire’s Red Data Book” – Colston, Gerrard & Parslow, 1997

Biodiversity By Design

PPS 9

Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

Association of Local Government Ecologists

Appendix

The full set of plans can be viewed at www.camcnty.gov.uk/sub/cntryside/biodiv
Tables of Priority Actions, as agreed by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership can also be viewed at the above web site.

Further information on rare or declining species can be obtained from:

Source	Contact	Comment
"Birds of Conservation Concern" – RSPB, 2001	www.rspb.org.uk	40 species are red listed including the grey partridge, house sparrow and bullfinch 121 species are amber listed including the water rail, lapwing and kestrel.
"Cambridgeshire's Red Data Book" Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust, 1997,	01954 713500	list the harvest mouse as declining, the cornflower as endangered and states that grass snakes are less frequently recorded.
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre (BRC)	BRC Manager louise.bacon@wildlifebcnp.org	Provides data on a wide range of biological records.

Table 1 - Typical “smaller” development proposals and potential impacts

Development type	Possible impact	Initial surveys	Possible mitigation
Barn conversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Loss of bat roost ·Loss of barn owl nest site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Bat survey ·Barn owl nest site survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Time works to avoid disturbing hibernation or breeding periods. ·Erection artificial nest sites or create specialist bat roosts.
Listed building alteration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Loss of bat roost or access to bat roosts. ·Loss of bird nesting opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Bat survey to find roost and emergence points. ·Breeding bird survey or search for nest sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Provision of new access points. ·Provision of specialist artificial nest sites for house sparrows, starlings or swallows.
House extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Loss of mature garden shrubs ·Loss of garden pond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Breeding bird survey ·Great crested newt survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Provision of new planting and suitable nest boxes ·Reconsider design to retain pond, or recreation pond in new location
Creation of boathouse on river or lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Loss of water vole habitat ·Disturbance of otters ·Disturbance of kingfisher nest site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Water vole survey ·Otter survey ·Kingfisher nest site survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Retention of natural water frontage. ·Sensitive lighting ·Sensitive screening
Outhouse demolition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Loss of bat roost ·Loss of great crested newt hibernation site ·Loss of potential bird nesting site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Bat survey ·Search for newts around building periphery (inside and out) ·Search for nest sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·No demolition whilst bat using the structure ·Provision of alternative hibernation site. ·Provision of suitable nest boxes
New dwelling on disused plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Loss of scrub habitat ·Loss of deadwood habitat for invertebrates ·Disturbance of badger sett 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Breeding bird survey ·Phase 1 Habitat Survey Invertebrate survey ·Badger survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Provision of suitable nest boxes ·Provision of new native planting Retention or replacement of deadwood habitat

			· Retention of suitable screening and habitat around sett
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Table 2 - Protected Species and the Habitats Where They May Occur

Species	Key Habitats	Optimal Survey Time/Survey Guidelines
Bats (all British species)	Buildings, cellars, bridges, tunnels, caves, mines, culverts and trees.	To enter and survey a known roost requires a licence. Surveys of summer roosts and feeding areas are best April-September.
Great Crested Newt	<p>Ponds and moats, mineral extraction sites, ox-bow lakes for their breeding and aquatic stages of life cycle</p> <p>Rough grassland, brownfield site, scrub, woodland and hedgerows for their terrestrial stages of life cycle</p>	<p>Aquatic habitats best surveyed February –end of June dependent on method used. Terrestrial habitats best surveyed March – October</p> <p>English Nature advocates that the survey methods detailed in the Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines (2001) are utilised.</p> <p>Surveys are recommended when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are historical records for GCNs on site, or in the general area • there is a pond on or near the site (within around 500m), even if only holds water seasonally. • there are refuges (piles of logs or rubble), grassland, scrub, woodland or hedgerows within 500m of a pond. <p>All surveyors should be appropriately licensed.</p>
Otter	All waterbodies within open access to the countryside. Particularly the rivers Cam, Granta, Rhee and Shep, Hoffer, Guilden and Bourn brooks together with associated ponds lakes and woodland.	Search for signs at any time of year (eg. spraints, footprints, potential resting and breeding places). Best results avoid periods of heavy rain or when dense vegetation may hide field signs. Inspection of known resting and breeding sites may disturb otters, thus may require a license.
All wild species of birds (protected by the Section 1 (1) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended))	All terrestrial and aquatic habitats including built structures	Breeding birds: mainly in spring through bird call recognition or observation of nesting habits. For counts of wintering wetland birds, survey October to March.
Birds included on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	All terrestrial and aquatic habitats including built structures (eg. agricultural buildings, barns, bridges or eroding riverbanks depending on whether species concerned is hobby, barn owl,	Breeding birds: mainly in spring through bird call recognition or observation of nesting habits. For counts of wintering wetland birds, survey October to March.

	kingfisher etc.)	
Water Vole	Rivers, streams, ditches, canals and still waterbodies.	Best surveyed when voles are active and holding territories between March and October.
Grass Snake	Waterbodies and wetlands particularly that near to muck heaps.	Throughout the summer, but best results are achieved in April, May, June and September.
Common Lizard	Railways, embankments, derelict land, dry grasslands, hedgerows and woodland edges.	Throughout the summer, but best results are achieved in April, May, June and September.
White-Clawed Crayfish	Rivers, streams and other water bodies.	Survey with appropriate license by trapping or hand searching. Best results often attained in late summer to early autumn when most active.
Plants included on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	All terrestrial and aquatic habitats	Spring to autumn when species are in flower
Badger	Badger setts are increasing in numbers are occurring nearer to dwellings than previously experienced. Setts normally located in woodland, scrub, hedgerows, grass embankments.	Survey may be needed at different times of the year to determine badger activity throughout the year and status of a sett.

SOUTH CAMBS BIODIVERSITY SITE CHECKLIST

(illustrative at present)

Development description:	Applicant/agent name and address
Location:	

HABITATS AND SPECIES CONSIDERED

Trees:	Gt crested newt:
Hedgerows:	Bats:
Ponds:	Water vole:
Grasslands	Otter:
Scrub:	Birds:
Farmland:	Common lizard

WATER INTEREST

Chalk river:	Ditch:
Lowland river:	Dyke / drain:
Canal / lode:	Pond:

PROXIMITY TO LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES

Proximity to designated site:	Habitat linkages
Adjacent land use	

Potential impacts

Additional info: