



Local Development Framework
Trees & Development Sites

Supplementary Planning Document

Consultation Draft May 2008

Published by South Cambridgeshire District Council

© May 2008

Gareth Jones, BSc. (Hons), MRTPI – Corporate Manager
(Planning and Sustainable Communities)

**If you would like a copy of this document
in large print or another format please contact
South Cambridgeshire District Council on
08450 450 500 or email ldf@scambs.gov.uk**

CONTENTS

	Page
Chapter 1 Introduction to the Supplementary Planning Document	1
Purpose	1
South Cambridgeshire LDF Policy	2
Chapter 2 The Need to Consider Trees	3
Legal Framework	4
Statutory Legislation	4
Protected Trees	4
Chapter 3 The Development Process	5
The British Standards Institute British Standard 5837: 2005 Trees in Relation to	
Construction - Recommendations	5
Pre Application	5
Planning Application	6
Determination of Planning Applications	6
Implementation of Planning Permission	6
Chapter 4 Survey Requirements	7
Site Survey	7
Tree Survey	7
Tree Constraints Plan	8
Tree Protection Plan	9
Arboricultural Method Statement	9
Arboricultural Implications Assessment	9
Protection of Trees During Construction	9
Direct Damage	10
Indirect Damage	10
Management of Trees During Construction	10
New Planting	11
Street Tree Planting	11
Appendix 1 Local Development Framework Policies Supplemented by the Supplementary Planning Document	
Appendix 2 Contact Details and Further Information	

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

- 1.1. This South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) forms part of the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 1.2. The SPD expands on district-wide policies in the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (DPD), adopted in July 2007, and policies in individual Area Action Plans for major developments that may vary from the district-wide policies. Policies seek to ensure that trees, which are important for their role as both biodiversity and landscape features, are adequately addressed throughout the development process, and the SPD provides additional details on how these policies will be implemented.
- 1.3. The policy builds on national policy in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1: Delivering Sustainable Development, PPS 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, and Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 15: Planning and the Historic Environment. These promote sustainable, well designed, development that ensures biodiversity and landscaping are at the heart to help create green spaces for wildlife and people, to contribute to a high quality natural and built environment, and contribute to a better quality of life.
- 1.4. Trees will not be peripheral to the development as a whole but will be fully integrated into the design. Consideration will be given, wherever possible, to the retention of suitable trees within development, or to incorporating new planting into the design. Trees are a valuable addition to any development, helping to enhance the biodiversity and achieving development of a high quality design in the local landscape or townscape.
- 1.5. The Council is also producing SPD to provide further guidance on landscape and biodiversity issues, and it may be helpful to read these alongside this SPD.

PURPOSE

- 1.6. The objective of this SPD is to assist achievement of the Local Development Framework objectives for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and landscape character, including Development Control Policies DPD objectives NE/b: To protect and enhance the character and appearance of landscapes and natural heritage and NE/c: To protect and enhance biodiversity.
- 1.7. Specific objectives for this document are to:
 - Assist applicants' understanding of the role of trees within the wider environment and how they should be incorporated within development proposals as part of a high quality design;

- Assist applicants gain planning permission quickly by informing them of what information is required to accompany planning applications and why;
- Ensure that development works are undertaken in an appropriate manner to avoid adverse harm to trees, including their roots.

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LDF POLICY

1.8. There are a number of policies within the Development Control Policies DPD and Area Action Plans that relate to trees, these are listed in Appendix 1. The key themes arising from these policies are summarised as follows:

- Conserve and enhance biodiversity and landscape character;
- Undertake full surveys of existing landscape and biodiversity features and conserve the environmental aspects of the site;
- Include high quality landscaping;
- Achieve a net increase in biodiversity;
- Not permit proposals where there will be an unacceptable impact on countryside, landscape character or ecology;
- The major development locations are also required to include early provision of landscaping and biodiversity on site.

CHAPTER 2

THE NEED TO CONSIDER TREES

2.1 South Cambridgeshire comprises over 100 parishes that encircle Cambridge City, comprising predominantly of small rural parishes, which to the North Eastern boundary start to merge with the fenlands. One of the least wooded counties also having suffered extensive loss of Elm due to the Dutch elm disease and more recently Beech, Horse Chestnut and Ash. This is partially due to changes in climate, shift in seasons and seasonal characteristics with diseases exploiting the changes. Much of the mature trees are of Victorian planting within parks and gardens or within the agricultural landscape.

2.2 Trees are important within the built and natural environment: -

Providing visual buffers softening hard landscaping; blending the harsh edges of the built environment, providing scale and a sense of perspective.

Providing 'shelter' against weather, sun, wind, rain; shading buildings in the summer reducing the requirement for air conditioning, insulating buildings from the winter elements with a potential to reduced heating and cooling costs.

Reduce & buffer sound; the canopy of trees can help absorb and dissipate noise creating a more peaceful and tranquil environment in which to live and work.

Filter pollution; trees can reduce the amount of dust particles in the air we breath collecting on the leaves of trees, these are either washed from the leaves by rain or fall to the ground in autumn.

Providing habitats; trees provide a habitat for mammals and invertebrates to exploit, providing a source of food, shelter.

Providing a 'feel good factor'; trees contribute to human life in ways that are often overlooked. Many of the benefits outlined above we take for granted and are not even considered in everyday life. Imagine an environment without trees, without dappled shade, bird song, and bursts of spring colour or autumn hues.

Enhancing a new development; existing trees on a new development will add a sense of maturity to a new building and can enhance property value if incorporated at the design stage. New trees will mature with a development enhancing the built environment as identified above.

2.3 South Cambridgeshire is experiencing extensive development both commercial and domestic from small developments to the establishment of a new town and urban extensions to Cambridge and all they incorporate.

- 2.4 SCDC has a duty to assess and consider the impact of any development on existing trees and ensure that there is provision and scope to retain existing trees and establish new planting to enhance, compliment and improve the existing.

Legal Framework

- 2.5 SCDC is guided by legislation & policy guidance at national, regional & local level relating to trees and development sites.

- 2.6 The Town and Country Act 1990 (section 197) specifically charges the Local Planning Authority with the duty:

‘to ensure whenever it is appropriate that, in granting planning permission for any development, adequate provision is made by the imposition of conditions for the preservation or planting of trees;

‘to make such (tree preservation) orders....as appear to the authority to be necessary in connection with the grant of such planning permission, whether for giving effect to such conditions or otherwise.’

Statutory Legislation

- 2.7 This sets a duty on the local planning authority to ensure when granting planning permission that adequate provision is made for the preservation and planting of trees through planning conditions and the serving of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO).
- 2.8 Section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (amended by Section 86 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) means that consent from the local planning authority must be granted before trees within a Conservation Area can be cut down, lopped, topped, uprooted, wilfully damaged or wilfully destroyed.

Protected Trees

- 2.9 Trees may be protected through Conservation Area designation or a TPO. There may be planning conditions as apart of the decision notice or by the Forestry Act 1967 (as amended). To determine if a tree is afforded any protection the Trees & Landscape department should be contacted see Appendix 2.
- 2.10 SCDC as a local authority has the power to serve Tree Preservation Orders, this may be done either: -
- Prior to development
 - On receiving a planning application
 - During development
 - After development
- 2.11 Sites to be developed may also be important for species protected under wildlife legislation; this is covered in the SCDC Biodiversity SPD.

CHAPTER 3

THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The British Standards Institute British Standard 5837: 2005 Trees in Relation to Construction

- 3.1 A good quality design cannot be achieved if the constraints of a site are not identified and considered. Comprehensive site surveys will allow for key components of a site to be retained and ensure that trees can be incorporated are protected throughout development and therefore longevity and new planting can flourish without causing damage to buildings or a nuisance to occupants.
- 3.2 Where there are existing mature trees on a proposed site for development SCDC will expect the layout to successfully incorporate the trees in a realistic manner; in areas of public use or feature tree rather than a mature tree retained in a small private rear garden. Consideration of the front elevations of buildings onto trees or proposed new planting must also be addressed for the longevity of the enhancements that trees bring to development.
- 3.3 Landscape design is a must consideration in a development for retaining trees and incorporating them into a new landscape. Landscape Architects are advised to consider sections 13 and 14 of BS 5837 2005; dealing with new planting, future requirements and relationship to a development. Site visit are invaluable in assessing the site prior to submission of any landscape scheme, guidance is also provided in the Landscape SPD.
- 3.4 Masterplans at the concept stage should include landscape proposals & arboricultural information presented in a professional manner by a competent arboricultural consultant who clearly provides the data and information required for the officer to make a concise and comprehensive assessment on site.
- 3.5 Information that is not clear and concise will be required to be re-submitted, this will delay a planning application or starting works on site.
- 3.6 SCDC will be guided by BS 5837 2005; this standard provides guidance on the current best practice for the industry. Used in conjunction with other guidance notes on trees and development and current best practice, See Appendix 2.

Pre-application

- 3.7 Consultation with SCDC officers prior to submission of a planning application is encouraged so helpful advice, guidance and an understanding of requirements for all parties is considered.

Contact SCDC to arrange a site visit or informal conversation to discuss proposals, See Appendix 1 for contact details

Planning Application

- 3.8 Production of accurate and interpretable data will enable for a comprehensive and objective comments to be made. Non-submission of this detail can hold up a decision notice being issued.

Details of the information required is giving in Chapter 4

Determination of Planning Applications

- 3.9 In determining any application all required information and data relating to trees must be submitted with the planning application.
- 3.10 In submitting the detail at an early stage in the planning process SCDC can evaluate and balance between tree and landscape losses, gains and requirements of the development. This will provide a basis for the application of appropriate planning conditions.

Implementation of Planning Permission

- 3.11 The consideration of trees, existing and new have often ended up being a secondary thought or emergency response to comply with a planning condition. SCDC aims to encourage developers to think beyond obtaining initial planning permission and to consider all aspects of the development that may impact on trees and landscaping making provision for their integration at an early stage so that their establishment/retention is one of longevity.
- 3.12 Developers have a responsibility to seek professional advice in relation to existing trees, woodlands and other vegetation to ensure a high quality development.

CHAPTER 4

SURVEY REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 Every development site will be different in scale and complexity; the following may be required in part or all. For this reason pre application discussions with the officer will help clarify requirements.

The survey data will facilitate an Arboricultural Implications Assessment of the proposals.

Site Surveys

- 4.2 Site plans; several layers of information are required to make a comprehensive and efficient evaluation of a proposed planning application where trees are apart of the decision making process. These can be put onto the following: -

Land Survey; For determining a planning application where trees are to be considered on site the following must be plotted accurately to scale.

- Location of all trees on site and adjacent to, including any trees which are off site but may influence the site or have landscape value
- Existing structures and features
- Utilities: - Overhead cables
Underground services
- Spot heights of ground level across the site to avoid level changes in the proximity of tree to be retained, this information will allow interpretation of any arboricultural implications of any changes in ground level.

For large or complex sites a hydrological and soil survey may be required to inform an assessment of any changes impacting on trees.

Tree Survey

- 4.3 Any planning application for a development site where trees are present must be submitted with a tree survey as outlined in BS 5837 2005. This should be undertaken by an experienced and competent arboriculturalist, record information on the trees independently of proposals for the site. This also includes any hedges on site and any adjacent trees to the site that may be affected by the proposed development, e.g. trees overhanging the site, shading of the site.
- 4.4 Pre-development tree survey must include:-
- Site plan, clearly marked to scale, with trees accurately plotted (within 1m) including boundary trees, if there is woodland show the woodland edge and crown spread, hedgerows.
 - All trees individually and accurately numbered to correspond with the plan.

- Group numbering may be acceptable where trees are growing together and are not directly affected by the proposed development; group numbering is not acceptable where development is within the crown spread of an individual within the group.
 - A tree survey schedule to be submitted, an example is in Annex D of BS 5837
 - Categorised in accordance with Table 1 in BS 5837 2005, identifying trees for retention & removal, current/potential amenity value.
- 4.5 Any significant groups of small trees & shrubs, which are of merit, should be plotted undertaken in the context of the site e.g. residential, industrial,
- 4.6 Any tree for removal to accommodate development or removal for other reasons e.g. poor structural integrity or disease must be accurately and clearly identified and proposals for replacement planting submitted; this can be apart of a landscaping scheme.
- 4.7 Future growth of the tree, light issues future conflict and shading pattern. These will be specific to each site and type of development but must be considered when developing a site and proposing new trees. SCDC will look at the proposals for longevity of seeing new trees reach maturity to compliment and enhance a development. Not to show willing for the short-term gain of a site.

Tree Constraints Plan (TCP)

- 4.8 Trees on and adjacent to a development site will influence the layout and design both visually and in the construction. The TCP should identify and show above ground and below ground constraints represented by the Root Protection Area (RPA). The RPA should be plotted around each tree to be retained within the development site or is adjacent too and requires protection.
- 4.9 Where a development encroaches into a RPA there may be scope for proposals to mitigate damage. This needs to be discussed and agreed with the Trees Officer to ensure the survival of the tree and proposed structure(s) prior to commencement of the development in accordance with current best practice.
- 4.10 Services must be considered within the constraints plan, both existing and new as installation of trenches, excavation of old services, soakaways, overhead utilities may impact on any trees and vice versa.
- 4.11 Other impacts of trees within a site to be either considered or requested by the officer are the effects of shading and the future growth and development of trees. This information can be included on a scale plan or discussed prior to a planning application being submitted; further information can be found in Appendix 2.
- 4.12 New landscaping is an important part of new development; areas for new planting should also be protected through the development process – similar to that for tree protection. If this is not practical to achieve due to

other site constraints then details of soil amelioration will be requested to ensure the establishment of new planting.

Tree Protection Plan (TPP)

- 4.13 The TPP is a scale drawing produced by an arboriculturalist that shows the final layout; the built structures, infrastructure, trees for retention plotted with their RPA's showing tree protection measures submitted with an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)

Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)

- 4.14 An AMS details how a specific process will be carried out in relation to development on site that has the potential to result in the damage or loss of a tree. This must include a timetable indicating WHEN and HOW works affecting trees are to be undertaken including: -

- Installation of tree protection, type, installation method, distance from tree(s)
- Tree surgery works
- Demolition of existing structures
- Removal of existing hard standing where trees are compromised

Arboricultural Implications Assessment (AIA)

- 4.15 An AIA is a comprehensive study undertaken by a competent arboriculturalist, produced with due consideration to the tree survey, tree constraints plan, topographical survey and in relation to development proposals. This document should include: -

- Root Protection Area
- Installation of root barriers
- Specification for surface changes
- Method of operation for level changes
- Specification for trenching works
- Method of operation for trenching works
- Soil amelioration works

Note: - if there are trees on site which are outside of the development area then they will still require protection however a full survey may not be required – this can be stated in the Design and Access statement.

Protection of Trees During Construction

- 4.16 Trees on development sites can be damaged prior to any construction, demolition and clearance of structures. Prior to any demolition, vegetation removal, materials, machinery or site structures arriving tree protection must be in situ in accordance with BS 5837 2005 or as agreed with the SCDC officer as apart of the decision notice issued.

Direct Damage

- 4.17 Direct damage can be caused from works traffic damaging low hanging branches and ripping them off and removal of bark. This type of damage can lead to a tree being identified for retention having to be removed.

Indirect Damage

- 4.18 **Level Changes;** raising levels within the root area of a tree even by a few centimetres can be detrimental. Compaction can occur; roots can be suffocated preventing exchange of oxygen, carbon dioxide and moisture through the roots to the soil surface. Lowering levels can sever roots destabilising the tree and leaving it open to colonisation by decay organisms, drainage may be modified reducing water availability placing a tree under stress.

Soil Contamination; this can be caused by spillages of oil, fuel, chemicals and the mixing of cement and washing from machinery.

THERE SHOULD BE A DESIGNATED AREA FOR STORAGE OF
PETROCHEMICALS AND OTHER MATERIALS, WASHINGS FROM
EQUIPMENT WHICH CAN CONTAMINATE SOIL

Soil Compaction; Compaction of the soil can occur with only two or three passes of a vehicle over the same area of soil. Once soil is compacted the soil pores are squashed and unable to hold oxygen or infiltration of water. Consideration of the movement of vehicles in around the site needs to take into consideration trees as some sites may require metal track way or boards to allow vehicle movement.

Fires; The heat from the flames of a fire will damage a trees vascular system under the bark even if there is no visible damage. The heat from the base of a fire into the ground can cause damage to the roots of a tree, drying them out leading to their death. This can leave the tree with damaged structural roots along with the loss of the fibrous root system that is used to supply a tree with water and dissolved nutrients. These actions will prevent the tree from functioning effectively, placing it under stress and open to decay organisms.

Management of Trees During Construction

- 4.19 Site supervision by an experienced arboriculturalist in development sites, root-zone and aerial arboricultural works will generally be stipulated for all or some of the operations during the development of a site where trees are the consideration and works have been approved.
- 4.20 At any time during the development phase site visits will be made to ensure that all approved conditions are being complied with, in the event that there is an unexpected situation where a tree is damaged or requires works not agreed contact with the officer is advised to prevent conflict.

New Planting

- 4.21 New planting will have been approved under a proposed and approved landscaping scheme – this may include the replacement for trees removed from site. BS 4043 & 3936 provide details on handling and transplanting tree stock. There is continuing new industry practice and materials to establish trees within the built environment for longevity without becoming a nuisance in their maturity, these need to be considered in planting schemes and their specifications.

For full details see SPD on Landscaping

Street Tree Planting

- 4.22 In certain circumstances it may be appropriate for SCDC to require the provision of street trees to be incorporated into a development. This will include new streets created within developments or where a development fronts or joins a highway. In such circumstances the incorporation of street trees must be considered at the design stage of the development frontage or highway to ensure there is adequate rooting area to avoid future nuisance.

APPENDIX 1

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK POLICIES SUPPLEMENTED BY THE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Development Control Policies Development Plan Document

DP/1 Sustainable Development – in particular parts o and p
DP/2 Design of New Development – in particular parts b, j, k, and l
DP/3 Development Criteria – in particular parts m and o
Natural Environment Objectives – in particular objectives NE/b and NE/c
NE/6 Biodiversity
CH/5 Conservation Areas

Northstowe Area Action Plan

NS/2 Development Principles – in particular part d
The Site and Its Setting Landscape Objectives C2/a - C2/d
NS/4 Green Separation from Longstanton and Oakington
Landscape Objectives – in particular objectives D7/a, D7/c, D7/d, D7/g and D7/h
NS/12 Landscape Principles
NS/13 Landscape Treatment of the Edges of Northstowe
NS/14 Landscaping Within Northstowe
Biodiversity Objectives D8/a – i
NS/16 Existing Biodiversity Features
NS/17 New Biodiversity Features
NS/25 Strategic Landscaping

Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan

CSF/1 The Vision for the Cambridge Southern Fringe
CSF/2 Development and Countryside Improvement Principles – in particular parts 3
and 9
Trumpington West and the Southern Setting of Cambridge Objectives – in particular
C2/a, CS/c and C3/a - d
CSF/5 Countryside Enhancement Strategy
Landscape Objectives – in particular D6/a, D6/c, D6/d, D6/g and D6/h
CSF/12 Landscape Principles
CSF/13 Landscaping within Trumpington West
CSF/14 Linking Trumpington West with its Surroundings
Biodiversity Objectives D7/a – f
CSF/15 Enhancing Biodiversity
Phasing and Implementation Objectives – in particular E1/b

Cambridge East Area Action Plan

Vision and Development Principles Objective B/a
CE/1 The Vision for Cambridge East

CE/2 Development Principles – in particular part 3
The Site and Its Setting Landscape Objectives C3/a - d
Landscape Objectives D7/a - h
CE/13 Landscape Principles
CE/14 Landscaping Within Cambridge East
CE/15 Linking Cambridge East to its Surroundings
Biodiversity Objectives D8/a – i
CE/16 Biodiversity
CE/17 Existing Biodiversity Features
Implementation Objectives – in particular E1/b
CE/30 Early Delivery of Strategic Landscaping
CE/33 Infrastructure Provision – in particular part g

APPENDIX 2

CONTACT DETAILS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Trees and Landscape Officer
South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne
Cambridgeshire
CB23 6EA

Tel: 08450 450 450

Web Site: www.scambs.gov.uk

OTHER RELEVANT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANING DOCUMENTS

Landscape Guidance for Development Sites

Biodiversity

NATIONAL INFORMATION

British Standards

BS 5837 2005 Trees in Relation to Construction recommendations
BS 3998 1989 British Standard Recommendations for Tree Works
BS 3936-1 1992 Nursery Stock Part 1: Specification for Trees & Shrubs
BS 4043 1966 Transplanting Semi Mature Trees
BS 5236 1975 Cultivation and planting of trees in advanced nursery stock category
BS 4428 1989 Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations (excluding hard surfaces)
BS 8206 1992 part 2 Lighting for Buildings

BS 1192 199 Construction drawing practice Part 4 Recommendations for landscape drawings

BS 1377 Methods of test for soils for civil engineering purposes
BS 5930 Code of Practice for site investigations.

Building Research Establishment; Site Layout planning for daylight and sunlight: a guide to good practice: P J Littlefair.

Arboricultural Practice Notes –Tree Advice Trust

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Arboricultural Association

Ampfield House

Ampfield

Nr Romsey

Hants, SO51 9PA

Tel: 01794 22022

Fax: 01794 368978

Web Site: www.trees.org.uk

Arboricultural Advisory & Information Service (Tree Advice Trust)

Forest Research Station

Alice Holt Lodge

Wrecclesham

Farnham, Surrey

Web Site: www.treehelp.info

Institute of Chartered Foresters

7A Colme Street

Edinburge

EE3 6AA

Tel: 0131 225 2705

Web Site: www.charteredforesters.org

Ancient Tree Forum

C/o Woodland Trust

Autumn Park

Dysart Road

Grantham

Lincolnshire

NG32 6LL

Web Site: www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum

Institute of Civil Engineers

One Great George Street

Westminster

London

SW1P 3AA

Tel: +44 (0)20 7222 7722

Web Site: www.ice.org.uk

Building Research Establishment

Bucknalls Lane

Watford

WD25 9XX

Tel: +44(0)1023 66400

Web Site: www.bre.co.uk

British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI)

Landscape House
Stoneleigh Park
National Agricultural Centre
Warwickshire
CV8 2LG
Tel: 0870 770 4971

Web Site: www.bali.co.uk

Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management

ISPAL
The Grotto House
Lower Basildon
Reading
RG8 9NE
Tel: 01491 874800

Web Site: www.ispal.org.uk

Institute of Structural Engineers

11 Upper Belgrave Street
London
SW1X 8BH
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)20 7235 4535

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)

1 Kemble Street
London
WC2B 4AN
Tel: 020 7070 6700

Web Site: www.cabe.org.uk

Landscape Institute

33 Great Portland Street
London
W1W 8QG
Tel: 020 7299 4500

Web Site: www.landscapeinstitute.org

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors

Contact Centre
Surveyor Court
Westwood Way
Coventry
CV4 8JE
Tel: +44 (0)870 333 1600

Web Site: www.rics.org

National Housing Building Council

Buildmark House
Chiltern Avenue
Amersham
HP6 5AP

Tel: 01494 723530

Web Site: www.nhbc.co.uk

Royal Town Planning Institute

41 Botolph Lane
London
EC3R 8DL

Tel: 020 7929 9494

Web Site: www.rtpi.org.uk

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

66, Portland Place
London
W1B 1AD

Tel: +44 207 580 5533

Web Site: www.architecture.com