



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING CONSERVATION AREAS & LISTED BUILDINGS: WORKS TO OR AFFECTING THE SETTING OF

Supplementary Planning Documents

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT ADDENDUM

South Cambridgeshire District Council

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CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Outline of the contents and main objectives of the Plan and its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	2
Task A1 – Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives.	3
Task A2 – Collecting Baseline data	10
Task A3 - Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified	12
Task A4 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework	13
Task A5 – Consulting on the Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal.	15
Appendix A – Sustainability Objectives	17

INTRODUCTION

1. South Cambridgeshire District Council, as part of the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework (LDF), is preparing two Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) on: Development Affecting Conservation Areas, and Listed Buildings: Work to or Affecting the Setting of. The SPDs will form part of the statutory development plan, it will support implementation of adopted policies in the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document 2007, and will be used in the determination of planning applications.
2. The Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD will set out the Council's approach to developments affecting conservation areas. The SPD will provide the local context to Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (PPG): Planning and the Historic Environment to ensure that all new developments preserve or enhance the character or appearance of South Cambridgeshire's conservation areas, including those development proposals which are outside the conservation area but would affect its setting, or views into or out of the area.
3. Similarly, the Listed Buildings: Work to or Affecting the Setting of SPD will set out the Council's approach to proposals affecting listed buildings, providing the local context to PPG15 to ensure the historic and special interest of the buildings remain intact and will continue to provide a legacy for future generations.

Sustainability Appraisal

4. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, local planning authorities must undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for each of the Local Development Documents (LDDs) included in an LDF. LDDs include Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). SA involves assessing the degree to which an LDD reflects and promotes the principles of sustainable development. The SA process incorporates the requirements of the EU 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' which requires certain UK plans and programmes – including LDDs – to undergo a formal environmental assessment.
5. SA involves identifying and evaluating a plan's impacts on the community, the environment and the economy – the three dimensions of sustainable development. It also suggests ways of avoiding or reducing negative impacts and can recommend measure to further enhance benefits. The findings of SA should be reflected in the adopted plan to help ensure that it maximises its contribution to future sustainability.

6. Government guidance¹ on undertaking SA for LDDs advocates a five-stage process. Each stage of the process is divided into subsections reflecting the components of the process that require undertaking and reporting.
7. Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal:
 - Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope;
 - Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects;
 - Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report;
 - Stage D: Consulting on draft SPD and Sustainability Appraisal Report;
 - Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the SPD.
8. Stage A involves establishing the framework for undertaking the SA, together with the evidence base that will help to inform the appraisal. The evidence base should paint a picture of the area in question which can be used in evaluating the impacts of the LDD on the sustainable development objectives. The framework and evidence base should be documented in a Scoping Report, which should be subject to consultation with the four SEA Consultation Bodies² and other stakeholders including organisations with an economic and social remit.
9. The Council has undertaken Stage A of the process by producing a Scoping Report³ in January 2006. The Scoping Report is available on the Council's website⁴. The Council's Scoping Report⁵ contains a broad range of baseline information relevant to the production of LDF documents. The Scoping Report provides a broad range of indicators, used as significant effects indicators within the councils Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). These have been used to illustrate the Council's current performance against the sustainability objectives used in assessing the LDF documents.
10. Government guidance on Sustainability Appraisal⁶ states that one scoping report can be produced for several LDDs, provided that it gives sufficient information for each of the LDDs concerned. This can be achieved by preparing the Scoping Report in two parts, the second of which is more specific reporting on individual LDD.
11. This report acts as an addendum to the LDF Scoping Report and reflects a second stage of scoping. The report contains additional scoping information relevant specifically to the SPD, that will form the basis of the assessment in the SA Report.

¹ ODPM (2005). *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* (available at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/sustainabilityappraisal>)

² English Heritage, Natural England, Environment Agency

³ South Cambridgeshire District Council (January, 2006), Local Development Framework: Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report

⁴ <http://scams.jdi-consult.net/ldf/readdoc.php?docid=66>

⁵ South Cambridgeshire District Council (January, 2006), Local Development Framework: Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report (<http://scams.jdi-consult.net/ldf/readdoc.php?docid=66>)

⁶ ODPM (2005). *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* (available at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/sustainabilityappraisal>)

12. It should be noted that the SPD is intended to add detail to assist the implementation of adopted Development Plan Document policies. These policies have already been subject to sustainability appraisal. The main role of this appraisal will therefore be to examine whether the SPD results in any differences in these effects, and add detail where appropriate.

OUTLINE OF THE CONTENTS AND MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

13. The Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD will supplement policies in the adopted Development Control Policies Development Plan Document relating to Conservation Areas. In particular it will supplement Policy CH/5 (Conservation Areas). As such, the scope of the document will be very narrow.
14. The SPD will aim to ensure that all new development proposals within and affecting the setting of conservation areas conserve and/or enhance their appearance.
15. The Listed Buildings; Works to or Affecting the Setting of SPD will supplement policies in the adopted Development Control Policies Development Plan Document relating to Conservation Areas. In particular it will supplement Policies CH/3 (Listed Buildings) and CH/4 (Development Within the Curtilage or Setting of a Listed Building). As such, the scope of the document will be quite narrow.
16. The SPD will aim to ensure that all new development proposals do not undermine the historic and special interest of listed buildings, whether directly or affecting their wider setting.

STAGE A

Task A1 – Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives

17. The ‘Environmental Report’ required under the SEA Directive should include: “the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme...”
18. The LDF Scoping Report includes a review of Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives. However, additional documents, or documents with objectives of particular relevance to this SPD, are listed here:

Detailed Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the SPD	Implications for the SA	Link to SA topics in the Scoping Report
National				
PPG15	<p>There should be effective protection for all aspects of the historic environment.</p> <p>The physical survivals of our past are to be valued and protected for their own sake, as a central part of our cultural heritage and our sense of national identity.</p> <p>Reconcile the need for economic growth with the need to protect the natural and historic environment.</p>	PPG15 states that local plans should set out clearly the planning authority's policies for the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment in their area, and the factors which will be taken into account in assessing the different types of planning application.	Issues are appropriately addressed by the sustainability objectives.	Landscape, townscape and archaeology
PPS1	<p>Planning should facilitate and promote sustainable and inclusive patterns of urban and rural development by protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities.</p> <p>A high level of protection should be given to most valued townscapes and landscapes, wildlife habitats and natural resources.</p>	The SPDs should facilitate sustainable development whilst protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment.	Issues are appropriately addressed by the sustainability objectives.	Landscape, townscape and archaeology
Regional				
East of England Plan (and	Protect and enhance the built and historic	SPDs should also encourage	Issues are appropriately	Landscape, townscape

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the SPD	Implications for the SA	Link to SA topics in the Scoping Report
proposed modifications)	<p>environment and encourage good quality design and use of sustainable construction methods for all new developments.</p> <p>Identify, protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment of the region, its archaeology, historic buildings and areas and historic landscapes, including listed buildings and conservation areas, including domestic, industrial and religious buildings, and their settings, and significant designed landscapes.</p>	good quality design within the historic environment.	addressed by the sustainability objectives.	and archaeology
County				
?				
Local				
South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active, inclusive and safe; • Well-run; • Environmentally sensitive; • Well-designed and built; • Well connected; • Thriving; • Well-served; and • Fair for everyone. 	The SPD needs to be consistent with the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy.	Issues are appropriately addressed by the sustainability objectives.	Landscape, townscape and archaeology
South Cambridgeshire Development Control Policies DPD 2007	To ensure high quality new development that protects and enhances the	The aim of the SPDs is to implement the policies of this document. It	Issues are appropriately addressed by the sustainability	Landscape, townscape and archaeology

Plan	Relevant Plan Objectives	Implications for the SPD	Implications for the SA	Link to SA topics in the Scoping Report
	<p>character of the district and local distinctiveness through careful integration with the existing built form.</p> <p>To protect and enhance Conservation Areas and their settings.</p> <p>To protect Listed Buildings and their settings.</p>	must therefore reflect these objectives.	objectives.	
SCDC Corporate Objectives in 2008	Corporate Objective 3d “Protecting and enhancing the environment and maintaining the cleanliness of our villages”	The SPD helps deliver this objective.	Issues are appropriately addressed by the sustainability objectives.	Landscape, townscape and archaeology
South Cambs Design Guide?				
Conservation Area Appraisals?				

Task A2 – Collecting Baseline data

19. Annex I to the SEA Directive states that the Environmental Report (in this case the ‘Sustainability Report’) should include: “the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme” and “the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected” (Annex 1(b) and (c))
20. The Scoping Report adopted covers all LDF documents, and as such it covers the baseline at ‘fit for purpose’ levels i.e. the baseline information as presented as a broad series of key indicators providing a range of general information to base assessments on. This information though sufficient for LDD’s with a wide scope, should be supplemented by more specific information when used to assess documents more specific in focus.

ADD TEXT ON NOS OF CAs & LBs, LBs AT RISK ETC

Development Affecting Conservation Areas &
Listed Buildings: Works to or Affecting the Setting of SPDs
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Addendum

21. A clear baseline for open space provision has been provided by the South Cambridgeshire Recreation Study 2005. The report provides an audit and assessment of need for outdoor playspace in South Cambridgeshire. It investigates current quantity and quality of provision and how this is meeting local need, and utilises these assessments to create a local standard of provision, as required by Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation. It also investigates the need for a standard for informal open space.
22. There is currently under provision of open space in terms of quantity, quality or accessibility in villages in South Cambridgeshire, compared with the adopted open space standards.
23. With regard to space for formal sport, in the very small villages (with a population of 600 or below; totaling approximately 13,000 people), many have no formal outdoor sport facilities (30 of 44 villages), and in those which do, facilities are predominantly based around village cricket. Medium-sized villages between 600 and 2000 population (32 villages) have relatively large quantitative amounts of outdoor sport provision. This is due to the land required for village cricket, compared with a relatively small population.
24. Quantitative need was very much more apparent in the larger villages in District (i.e. those villages with a population of 2,000 or above – there are 20 such villages, with a total population of over 80,000). These villages accommodate a greater diversity of sporting activities, acting as recreation service centres for surrounding rural areas. These villages have accommodated the majority of population growth in the District in the last decade, and this population growth has outstripped the provision of outdoor sports facilities.
25. There is significant cross-boundary usage of outdoor sport facilities, with Cambridge residents using facilities in South Cambridgeshire and vice versa. This is particularly prevalent in villages on the edge of Cambridge.
26. South Cambridgeshire has a particularly high team generation rate compared to the national average.
27. Children's equipped play areas in most villages do not meet adopted standards in terms of accessibility, quantity and quality. In terms of the current provision of Children's Playspace in the District, in 2005 there were some 68.1 hectares of Formal and Informal Playspace. This gives a figure of 0.52 hectares per 1,000 population, below the adopted standard of 0.8 hectares per 1000. The total provision of Formal Children's Playspace in the District amounts to 11.14 hectares, or approximately 0.09 hectares per 1000 people. It is estimated that under 1/3 of housing within village frameworks lies within the recommended walking distance of any village's equipped children's play area.

Task A3 - Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified

28. The review of relevant policy, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives and the baseline data review allow relevant social, environmental and economic

issues and problems to be identified, that are particularly relevant to the SPD. These will assist the appraisal of the SPD. These are additional to those identified in the Council's LDF Scoping Report.

29. A summary is provided below of additional sustainability issues that have been highlighted through the review process for this report.

Social

30. The key issue of maintaining and enhancing landscape and townscape character is highlighted in the LDF Scoping Report (section 12).

ADD TEXT ON NOS OF CAs & LBs , TRENDS – NOS AT RISK ETC

31. The baseline information indicates that there is currently under provision in terms of quantity, quality or accessibility of open space in the District.
32. Access to local facilities in a predominantly rural district where the establishment and further development of sports clubs and teams should not be restricted by inadequate facilities. South Cambs has a particularly high number of sports clubs using local pitches and high team generation rates compared to the rest of England both of which help develop community cohesion, volunteering and social integration.
33. Easy access to high quality and sufficient outdoor spaces is vital in helping to develop community sustainability, reduce anti social behaviour and reduce potential social isolation of people of all ages and backgrounds within larger new developments.
34. Community facilities provide vital focal points for community activity and infrastructure and social events that contribute towards a sustainable and vibrant community. They encourage volunteering and self sufficiency with people forming interest groups, clubs and societies which bring great social benefit to the community. Concerns exist with regard to the ability of communities to provide and maintain adequate facilities.
35. Outdoor spaces for active recreation help reduce obesity and promote health lifestyles. With smaller gardens and more dense housing, the public open spaces become even more important places for family activity.

Economic

36. South Cambridgeshire is located within a growth area, where significant infrastructure improvements are required to accommodate development. There are therefore competing demands on funding from development.

Environmental

37. If adequate facilities are not provided locally this could encourage car travel. The characteristics of the District make local accessibility to all types of open

space and community facility difficult. A lack of open space in any scale of village can result in over usage of existing sites which could have a negative impact on biodiversity.

Task A4 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

38. The 22 SA objectives prepared through the Council's main Scoping Report are included in Appendix A. The objectives are grouped into the following topic areas.
- Land and water resources
 - Biodiversity
 - Landscape, townscape and archaeology
 - Climate change and pollution
 - Healthy communities
 - Inclusive communities
 - Economic activity
39. These objectives have undergone previous consultation and it is not proposed to change or add any further objectives. They are considered sufficient for testing the SPD.
40. The key objectives relevant to this SPD are considered to be the following:

Landscape, townscape and archaeology	3.1 Avoid damage to areas and sites designated for their historic interest, and protect their settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect or enhance sites, features of areas of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest (including conservation areas, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens and scheduled monuments)?
	3.2 Maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character? • Will it protect and enhance open spaces of amenity and recreational value? • Will it maintain and enhance the character of settlements?
	3.3 Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as places to live? • Will it lead to developments built to a high standard of design and good place making?

Task A5 – Consulting on the Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal.

41. This report acts as an addendum to the LDF Scoping Report, and contains additional information to that previously consulted upon. This information will form a substantial amount of the detail which the sustainability assessments will be based upon and reported in the Sustainability Report. In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive the Council consulted the three statutory environmental consultation bodies on the scope and level of detail to be included in the Sustainability Report, in April 2008.

NEXT STEPS

42. South Cambridgeshire District Council is preparing the Development Affecting Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings: Works to or Affecting the Setting of SPDs.
43. The SPDs will be subject to sustainability appraisal, utilising this scoping report as the background. The sustainability appraisal will accompany the SPD when it is subject to consultation.

APPENDIX A – SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

SA Topic	SA objectives	Decision Making Criteria
Land and Water Resources	1.1 Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it use land that has been previously developed? • Will it use land efficiently? • Will it protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land?
	1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption? • Will it lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?
	1.3 Limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce water consumption? • Will it conserve ground water resources?
Biodiversity	2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect sites designated for nature conservation interest?
	2.2 Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it conserve species, reversing declines, and help to enhance diversity? • Will it reduce habitat fragmentation? • Will it help achieve Biodiversity Action Plan targets?
	2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve access to wildlife, and wild places? • Will it improve access to the wider countryside through the network of public rights of way? • Will it maintain and, where possible, increase the area of high-quality green space in the District? • Will it promote understanding and appreciation of wildlife?

SA Topic	SA objectives	Decision Making Criteria
Landscape, townscape and archaeology	3.1 Avoid damage to areas and sites designated for their historic interest, and protect their settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect or enhance sites, features of areas of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest (including conservation areas, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens and scheduled monuments)?
	3.2 Maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character? • Will it protect and enhance open spaces of amenity and recreational value? • Will it maintain and enhance the character of settlements?
	3.3 Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as places to live? • Will it lead to developments built to a high standard of design and good place making?
Climate change and pollution	4.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases? • Will it improve air quality? • Will it reduce traffic volumes? • Will it support travel by means other than the car? • Will it reduce levels of noise or noise concerns? • Will it reduce or minimise light pollution? • Will it improve water quality including by reducing diffuse and point source water pollution?
	4.2 Minimise waste production and support the recycling of waste products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce household waste? • Will it increase waste recovery and recycling?

SA Topic	SA objectives	Decision Making Criteria
	4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change (including flooding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it minimise risk to people and property from flooding, storm events or subsidence?
Healthy Communities	5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it substantially reduce mortality rates? • Will it encourage healthy lifestyles, including travel choices?
	5.2 Reduce and prevent crime, and reduce the fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce actual levels of crime? • Will it reduce fear of crime?
	5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space?
Inclusive communities	6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve accessibility to key local services and facilities, including health, education and leisure (shops, post offices, pubs etc)? • Will it improve quality and range of key local services and facilities, including health, education and leisure (shops, post offices, pubs etc)? • Will it improve accessibility by means other than the car, and improve the attractiveness of environmentally better modes including public transport, cycling and walking? • Will it support and improve community and public transport?

SA Topic	SA objectives	Decision Making Criteria
	6.2 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve relations between people from different backgrounds or social groups? • Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected? • Will it promote accessibility for all members of society, including the elderly and disabled?
	6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it support the provision of a range of housing types and sizes, including affordable and key worker housing, to meet the identified needs of all sectors of the community? • Will it reduce the number of unfit homes? • Will it meet the needs of the travelling community?
	6.4 Encourage and enable the active involvement of local people in community activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase the ability of people to influence decisions? • Will it encourage engagement with community activities?
Economic Activity	7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it encourage businesses development? • Will it improve accessibility to employment by means other than the car? • Will it improve the range of employment opportunities to provide a satisfying job or occupation for everyone who wants one? • Will it encourage the rural economy and diversification?

SA Topic	SA objectives	Decision Making Criteria
	7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve the level of investment in key community services and infrastructure? • Will it support provision of key communications infrastructure, including broadband? • Will it improve access to education and training, and support provision of skilled employees to the economy?
	7.3 Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness? • Will it support the Cambridge area's position as a world leader in research and technology based industries, higher education and research, particularly through the development and expansion of clusters? • Will it support sustainable tourism? • Will it protect the shopping hierarchy, supporting the vitality and viability of Cambridge, town, district, and local centres?