

## Cambridgeshire Green infrastructure Strategy Appendix 2 Progress with 2006 Strategy

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### 1 Introduction

This appendix reviews the progress made on 2006 Green Infrastructure Strategy which included a 'Spatial Structure' consisting of Corridors, Sites and Areas. Each of the elements of these original Spatial Structures are reviewed below, with progress on the 2006 initiatives also summarised. Review of the progress made has fed into development of the new Strategic Network.

***Note – the status and comments are subject to further clarification***

The key below will help identify the progress of each project in the following tables.

Key
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Red – No progress or the initiative has been stopped.</li><li>• Amber – Progress is being made with planning and developing the initiative, but action has not yet commenced 'on the ground'.</li><li>• Green – Initiative is delivering Green Infrastructure and is continuing to do so or has been completed.</li></ul>

## 2 Corridors

Corridors were defined in the 2006 strategy as:

*“providing a network of routes combining both existing corridors that can be enhanced and a series of new green corridors”.*

The Corridors were identified to provide linkage of biodiversity clusters or features and also to give enhanced public access and where possible were selected to follow existing Rights of Way. Table 2.1 provides an update on progress with corridor projects.

**Table 2.1 update on corridor projects from 2006 Strategy**

Green Corridor Initiative	Name	Status	Comments on progress (December 2010)
1	Ouse Valley Strategic Green Space Corridor		
2	River Rhee Enhancement Project		A project is currently considering means of delivery (funding and responsible body) with Haslingfield Parish Council and the Environment Agency.
3	River Granta Enhancement Project		No progress
4	River Cam Enhancement Project		River restoration project completed; new farmland in Higher Level Stewardship; Trumpington Meadows country park commenced; Byrons Pool LNR enhancements underway. Project completed October 2009 and subsequently monitoring and promotional work taking place.
5	Old West River – Earith to River Cam		Not a current project for Cambridgeshire County Council Rights of Way & Access Team. Some progression made before funding was discontinued (Housing Growth Fund).
6	Cam Valley – Cambridge to Ely		not progressed
7	River Lark Enhancement		not progressed

	Project		
8	Grafham Water to Abbots Ripton Corridor		not progressed
9	Fen Edge Project		not progressed
10	Guided Bus Route Green Corridor: Cycleway/Bridleway & Sculptural Trail		Although already well used by, Cambridgeshire Guided Busway bridleway still not officially open.
11	North West Cambridgeshire Settlement link		not progressed
12	Northstowe, Cottenham to Old West River, Denny Abbey and Wicken Fen Corridor		Cycle route on Wicken Vision is being constructed Housing Growth Fund funding for Northstowe access project removed.
13	South Peterborough Green Park to Great Fen Link		Natural England has provided funding to Huntingdonshire District Council/Cambridgeshire County Council to improve links.
14	Chatteris to Ely Green Corridor		not progressed
15	Chatteris to Somersham Biodiversity and Access Corridors		Progress with Local Nature Reserve creation at Somersham.
16	Cambridge to St Neots Green Corridor		Housing Growth Fund funding for St Neots access project removed.
17	Wicken to Chippenham and Thetford Forest Corridor		not progressed
18	Soham to River Lark Green Corridor		not progressed
19	Icknield Way Enhancement Corridor		not progressed
20	Barrington, Wimpole Hub and Forest of South Cambridgeshire to Greensand Ridge Corridor		not progressed
21	Cambourne, Wimpole Hub to Chalk Downs and Therfield Heath Corridor		not progressed
22	Land East of St Neots		Housing Growth Fund funding for St Neots access project removed.
23	Cambridge Outer Orbital Green Corridor		Housing Growth Fund funding for Cambridge

			access project removed.
24	Fen Waterways Project		Regional project in 6 phases; phases 5 and 6 are directly relevant to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. To promote these phases, two studies (Bedford Waterspace Strategy and Peterborough Waterspace Strategy) are underway. Also currently developing plans for a River Cam Waterspace Strategy. Phase 1 (Lincolnshire) is complete and phases 2 and 3 (Lincolnshire) are well underway and the Spalding Waterspace Strategy addressing phase 4 is complete. Next steps required were outlined in 2003 Implementation Plan.
25	Waterway Link: Fen Waterway to Great Fen Project		A scoping report for the Great Fen partnership by Royal Haskoning assessed the feasibility of a waterways link to the Great Fen and highlighted areas where structural improvements would be required to secure the link. No further progress to deliver a link.
26	Fleam Dyke		Circular walk developed & promoted and management plan in operation, but no progress on the establishment of buffer habitats
27	Roman Road Route		Circular walk developed and promoted and management plan in operation, but no progress on the establishment of buffer habitats Housing Growth Fund funding for Cambridge access project removed.
28	Devil Dyke Extension project		Devil's Dyke management is continuing, but no progress

			to date on the establishment of habitat buffers.
29	Huntingdon towards Peterborough Cycleway/Bridleway		not progressed
30	Godmanchester to Cambourne Corridor		not progressed
31	Ouse Valley to Cambourne Corridor		not progressed

## Conclusions

In the 2006 Strategy, many of the corridors were not well-defined either in terms of their position on the ground or on their aims and objectives. This made delivering the corridors difficult.

The review has changed the approach through the development of the Strategic Network and the strategic areas.

### 3 Major Green Infrastructure Sites

Major Green Infrastructure Sites were comprised of both new facilities and others that built on existing sites. Often these were located on Green Corridors with larger Sites forming key 'Green Hubs' or 'Landmark Projects'.

**Figure 2.2 update on major Green Infrastructure site projects from 2006 Strategy**

Site/ Initiative	Name	Status	Comments and progress (December 2010)
A	Fen Drayton		Site acquired by RSPB with CLG funding in 2007. Habitat management work advanced, car park and access much improved.
B	Houghton Meadows (Part of Ouse valley, Wet Woodland and Wet Marsh Project)		Discussions with owners started and there may be potential to acquire land for conservation in the near future
C	Needingworth Hanson RSPB Wetland Project		The first four phases have now been created (c.100ha) following mineral extraction and reeds planted.
D	Grafham Water Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland Link		Some hedgerow linkages completed, but little progress in the past couple of years
E	Great Fen Project		Masterplan completed, land in restoration, visitor facilities being investigated
F	Wicken Fen Vision		Since 1999, there have been 8 separate conveyances adding 1,200ac to the land holding at Wicken Fen. This has been reverted to create habitat for fenland biodiversity. Grazed by in hand and farm tenant stock. The Trust has also created the Lodes Way cycle and footpath linking Wicken Fen, Anglesey Abbey and local villages.
G	Gog Magog Countryside Project		East Pit acquired and undergoing restoration by the Wildlife Trust. Cycleway to Wandlebury constructed
H	Ouse Washes Extensions		Being delivered through EA lead Ouse Washes habitat creation project

			EA have acquired a significant area of land adjacent to the Washes for wet grassland creation. Work should start 2011/12. Proposals for wet grassland creation following mineral extraction included in Cambs & Peterborough Minerals and Waste consultation.
J	Bassingbourne Chalk Grassland Improvements		not progressed
K	Wimpole Hub Project		Organic conversion in place. Discussions with British Cycling to develop cycle offer.
L	South Chatteris Country Park/Strategic Open Space		The Local Development Plan is still being prepared and a final site has yet to be identified. An Area of Search close to or within the existing settlement boundary we will be used to identify the preferred location. Delivery by 2031.
M	Ely Country Park		Ely Country Park phase 1 is being delivered, inc. landscape enhancement, recreation facilities and improved access to and across the site. Further works to improve the circulation of users are underway and will be completed in spring 2011. Additional habitat and landscape enhancements are also currently being undertaken to enhance the ecological and aesthetic value of Ely Country Park.
N	Regional Arboretum		not progressed
P	Rowing lake & Enhanced Public Access and Recreation		not progressed
Q	Land East of St Neots		not progressed
R	Barrington Chalk Grassland Improvements		not progressed
S	Northstowe: Landscape Buffer and Country park		HGF funding for Northstowe access project removed.
T	North West of Huntingdon: Strategic Open Space Project		The North West Huntingdon Project is dependant on the development at Northbridge progressing. The developers are

			currently discussing their plans with our planning department but the open space principles have been agreed. It will be a number of years before the development is completed.
U	Coton Countryside Reserve		Phase 1 completed, site open and work continuing
V	Southern Fringe, Monsanto Site		Trumpington Meadows country park creation has commenced
W	Cambridge East		No progress but still included in Cambridge East Area Action Plan.
X	NIAB		Development has commenced.
Y	Southern Fringe/Addenbrooke's		Planning policy documents are in place.

## Conclusions

Many of the major Green Infrastructure Sites identified in the 2006 Strategy have progressed well and have made significant contributions to Green Infrastructure in Cambridgeshire.

The review has revisited these projects in light of the Strategic Network and identified those that will and are delivering the Network and will contribute to the four Strategy objectives. There will also be projects that will operate at a more local level, but which will help deliver the objectives for the Strategy and contribute to the delivery of the Strategic Network.



#### 4 Wider Area Initiatives

Wider Area Initiatives were a means of enhancing local landscape character and biodiversity interest over a large area.

**Figure 2.3 update on wider area initiative projects from 2006 Strategy**

Site/ Initiative	Name	Status	Comments and progress (December 2010)
I	Forest of South Cambridgeshire		Renamed West Cambridgeshire Hundreds. Partnership of 20 landowners delivering environmental enhancements
II	South East Cambridgeshire Claylands		not progressed
III	West Cambridgeshire Claylands		not progressed
IV	South East Cambridgeshire Claylands		not progressed
V	Heath Protection and Restoration Project (West)		not progressed
VI	Heath Protection and Restoration Project (East)		not progressed

#### Conclusions

In the 2006 Strategy, the wide-ranging nature of the Area Initiatives and the lack of clear lead organisations (apart from the Forest of South Cambridgeshire) meant that developing the Initiatives proved difficult.

Strategic Areas and Target Areas have now been developed as part of the Strategic Network of Green Infrastructure. These operate at a landscape scale, similar to the Area Initiatives, but are more focused providing greater clarity in terms of objectives as well as deliverability.