

Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 Examination

Hearing Statement Matter 15:

Conserving and enhancing the environment

Huntingdonshire District Council

July 2018



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Issue

Whether the Local Plan is justified, effective and consistent with national policy in relation to the approach towards conserving and enhancing the environment.

1. Conserving and enhancing the environment

Question 1: Taking each individually, are Policies LP32-LP48 justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

LP32 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- 1.1. The Policy has been justified through a suite of documents:
 - Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011 (INF/07);
 - Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment Supplementary Planning Document 2007 (ENV/02);
 - Settlement Assessments as conducted through the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment 2017 (HELAA) (HOUS/02); and
 - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plans Produced by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership.
- 1.2. Findings from the Biodiversity Action Plans (the implementation of which is coordinated by The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire) highlight the importance of maintaining or improving biodiversity including actions such as maintaining and improving the extent of Fen habitats (Habitat Action Plan: Fens), SSSI and County Wildlife sites, ensuring a net gain in areas of biodiversity and geodiversity.
- 1.3. The policy was informed by the Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment SPD 2007 (ENV/02), which examines local landscape character areas in detail (ENV02: Section 3 – Landscape Character, Pages 14) and identifies key issues, including guidance on the future management and protection of areas. The Assessment also draws upon the Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines and was developed with stakeholder participation in the form of workshops for interest groups and was subject to public consultation from the 15 December 2006 to 9 February 2007.
- 1.4. The policy is justified as it draws upon action plans and strategies such as the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plans as identified above. The policy enables deliverability over the duration of the plan period by requiring applicants to conduct assessments of specific sites based upon up-to-date evidence and guidance e.g. through the use of ecological data held by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre and interaction with the Association of Local Government Ecologists.

- 1.5. The policy recognises national priorities and the aim of moving towards a net gain of biodiversity (CORE/01, para 8.13) in compliance with the NPPG (Natural Environment: Para 007 Reference ID: 8-007-20140306) and paragraph 117 of the NPPF.
- 1.6. The policy sets out criteria based policy against which development on biodiverse or geodiverse sites are judged. Criteria a to c demonstrate distinct hierarchical assessments for sites of international, national and local importance. This is consistent with paragraph 113 and 114 of the NPPF.

LP33 Trees, Woodland, Hedges and Hedgerows

- 1.7. The Policy has been justified through the Tree Strategy for Huntingdonshire Action Plan (2015) which sets out a five-year action plan to protect the district's tree resources and includes the development of a map-based computerised tree management system based on local knowledge. Local Character Assessments were also used to identify locally important hedgerows, mature trees, hedges and woodland.
- 1.8. Further evidence regarding the state of trees, woodland, hedges and hedgerows was identified through the Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment Supplementary Planning Document 2007 (ENV/02) and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plans produced by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership.
- 1.9. Findings from the Biodiversity Action Plans, specifically the Hedgerows Action Plan & Woodlands Action Plan (Appendix 2 and Appendix 3) highlight the importance of maintaining or improving hedgerows and woodland including halting the loss of species rich hedgerows. The Action Plan was developed in consultation with statutory bodies and local interest groups, including the Forestry Commission (Appendix 3, Page 12).
- 1.10. The policy was informed by the Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment SPD 2007 (ENV/02), which identifies the district's landscape characteristics including hedgerows, trees and woodland. Key issues identified include the maintenance of existing hedgerows, trees and woodlands. The SPD also draws upon the Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines and was developed with stakeholder participation in the form of workshops for interest groups and was subject to public consultation from the 15 December 2006 to 9 February 2007.
- 1.11. The policy is effective as it enables deliverability over the duration of the plan period by requiring applicants to conduct up-to-date assessments of sites based upon guidance contained within the Tree Strategy for Huntingdonshire.
- 1.12. The policy requires the assessment of the potential for adverse impacts on trees, woodland, hedges and hedgerows through criteria a and b and seeks to conserve them in compliance with paragraph 118 of the NPPF.

1.13. The policy protects networks of biodiversity through the protection of trees, hedgerows and woodlands. This is consistent with paragraph 113, 114 and 118 of the NPPF.

LP34 Protection of Open Space

1.14. The policy is justified through a the following documents:

- the Huntingdonshire Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2016-21 (INF/08);
- the Huntingdonshire Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Assessment and Audit 2006; and
- the Huntingdonshire Open Space Strategy 2011-16 ,

1.15. The Huntingdonshire Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy, performs an audit of existing provision and future needs in the District including the outdoor grass pitches, courts and greens (INF/08, sections 4.3.3 to 4.3.6). The Strategy was developed in consultation with Sport England, Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health, 'Living Sport' (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough County Sports Partnership), National Governing Bodies of key sports, Parish and Town Councils and site operators.

1.16. The strategy identifies a shortfall in artificial turf pitches within the district in terms of accessibility rather than quantity with no community access to full size facilities in some settlements (such as Ramsey or Sawtry), meaning the loss of such facilities would not meet the current needs of the District.

1.17. The Needs Assessment and Audit identified open space typologies such as parks and gardens, natural and semi natural open space, provision for children and young people, allotments and community gardens. Site assessments were undertaken across the District and a series of consultations were carried out to establish residents' views on open space provision; this highlighted the value that people placed upon open spaces within the District, the overall perception of insufficient facilities for children and young people and deficiencies in allotment provision. This pointed towards the importance of the protection of open spaces within the District.

1.18. The Needs Assessment and Audit also lead to the creation of the Huntingdonshire Open Space Strategy 2011-16 and the soon to be adopted Green Space Play Strategy 2018, which require the monitoring and assessment of open space and have informed the creation of Policy LP34.

1.19. The policy is justified as it draws upon guidance and strategies such as the Huntingdonshire Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2016-21 and the Huntingdonshire Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Assessment and Audit 2006 as identified above. The policy enables deliverability over the duration of the Plan period by requiring applicants to conduct up-to-date assessments of sites based upon guidance contained within Sport England's Assessing needs and opportunities guidance.

1.20. The policy protects against the loss of open space unless an up-to-date assessment clearly shows that the land is surplus to requirements or that the loss is minimised and compensatory

measures are put in place to the benefit of the community. This is consistent with paragraph 74 of the NPPF.

LP35 Rural Buildings

- 1.21. Policy LP35 is in accord with the Strategy for development (Policy LP2) as set out in the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036. Requiring that rural buildings conversion (not dealt with through prior approval) is adequately justified ensures that:
- there is no unnecessary impact upon thriving rural communities;
 - protects the intrinsic character and beauty of the surrounding countryside; and
 - development is concentrated in locations, which have, or have the potential to provide the most comprehensive range of services and facilities consistent with paragraph 55 of the NPPF.
- 1.22. Rural buildings are an intrinsic part of the countryside both in terms of their role in the rural economy for people living and working in the countryside and as part of the character of the landscapes of Huntingdonshire. The Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment SPD (ENV/02) highlights the listing of barns across Huntingdonshire by Historic England and identifies the contribution made to the local landscape character by traditional weatherboarded farm buildings, wartime Nissen huts and more modern brick and sheet metal barns. The SPD recommends careful consideration of the scale, siting and design of new farm buildings, and the conversion of agricultural land to commercial and recreational uses.
- 1.23. The policy was fundamentally revised in 2017 reflecting the changes arising from introduction of the prior approval process. The changes are assessed in the Sustainability Appraisal (CORE/07, pages 689-691 and 856-857) reflecting the enhanced focus of the policy onto reuse or redevelopment of existing buildings. The policy is considered to be effective as it will have a beneficial effect in relation to sustainability objectives relating to reuse of previously developed land, access to employment and supporting the rural economy.
- 1.24. The policy is consistent with national policy as it supports NPPF paragraph 28's aspirations to support the sustainable growth of the rural economy through conversion of existing buildings

LP36 Heritage Assets and their Settings

- 1.25. The policy is justified through a variety of documents:
- Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER),
 - Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment Supplementary Planning Document 2007 (ENV/02)
 - Huntingdonshire Conservation Area Character Statements,
 - Listed buildings and Buildings at Risk Register (Historic England)
- 1.26. The CHER provides up-to-date information regarding scheduled ancient monuments, parks and gardens, chance archaeological finds, excavations, field surveys and crop marks in conformity with paragraph 169 of the NPPF. The Listed Buildings Register and Heritage at Risk

Register have also informed development of the policy. Collectively these sources highlight the extensive scope of heritage assets and areas of archaeological interest and value across the District and the need to protect such assets.

- 1.27. Conservation Area Character Statements and the Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape SPD have also provided both the Council and others with a more detailed understanding of the character and composition of the built environment, with a particular emphasis upon those features that may need to be conserved, enhanced or reflected in new development. Part four of the SPD (ENV/02) identifies planning, conservation and enhancement priorities for each of the District's Market Towns. Key views, landmark buildings and historic gateways are also recognised. Issues such as ensuring that new development reflects the materials and colour palette of specific character areas are also highlighted throughout the chapter (e.g. ENV/02, page 59). These assessments reflect the evidence base priorities established in paragraph 170 of the NPPF.
- 1.28. The policy is justified as it draws upon evidence bases such as the CHER, which is conducted on a County-wide basis and the Listed Buildings Register which is managed by Historic England. The Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape SPD was developed with stakeholder participation in the form of workshops for interest groups and was subject to public consultation from the 15 December 2006 to 9 February 2007.
- 1.29. The policy enables deliverability over the duration of the Plan period by requiring applicants to conduct up-to-date assessments of sites based upon information provided in the Heritage Gateway, CHER, Listed Buildings Register and Heritage at Risk Register. Further advice and guidance will also be provided to applicants by the Councils Conservation Team, Historic England and Cambridgeshire County Council (CORE/01, para 8.41). This information is publicly available as required through paragraph 141 of the NPPF.
- 1.30. The policy is consistent with the requirements of the NPPF. Criteria a to e set out the assessment criteria regarding works to a heritage asset and require:
 - proportionate assessment in relation to the asset's significance (para 128);
 - details of the adverse impacts of including ways to avoid or minimise impact (para 129);
 - a weighted assessment of harm against the public benefits of the proposal (para 134).
- 1.31. Conversion or alteration to heritage assets also considers the benefits that such work could contribute towards securing the long term maintenance and management of an asset, or providing a positive contribution to special character and qualities. Broadly the various elements of the policy support delivery of NPPF paragraphs 126-141.

LP37 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

- 1.32. The formation of Policy LP 37 included a separate consultation in relation to Wind Energy Developments; the consultation ran from 21 November 2016 to 16 January 2017. Details of the consultation and its responses are set out in the Statement of Consultation (CORE/05, pages 89 and 412-413). The Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036: Wind Energy Development consultation document (PREP/03) was produced in response to a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) issued by Greg Clark, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, on 18 June 2015.
- 1.33. PREP/03 provides a justified evidence base by setting out the context of electricity generation in the UK, research and predicted impacts of climate change, the requirements of national planning policy and guidance, and relevant local evidence, such as the Cambridgeshire Renewables Infrastructure Framework (CRIF).
- 1.34. The CRIF assesses and identifies Huntingdonshire as having potential for significant energy generation from wind, photo-voltaic solar energy generation and smaller amounts of energy generation from air source heat pumps, ground source heat pumps, domestic solar water heating, landfill gas, energy from waste and biomass. This has been taken on board through the policy's positive encouragement for renewable and low carbon generation schemes and meets NPPG criteria (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 5-001-20140306) to help increase the use and supply of green energy and the requirements of the technology (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 5-005-20150618).
- 1.35. Other documents which informed PREP/03 include Wind Turbine Development in Huntingdonshire (2005) and Wind Energy Development in Huntingdonshire Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (2014), which assessed Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Turbine Development and the cumulative Landscape and Visual Impacts of Wind Turbine Development.
- 1.36. PREP/03 assessed a range of reasonable alternatives to identify areas suitable for wind energy development as required by the WMS, these included:
- Option 1: Whole district is identified as suitable;
 - Option 2: Great Fen and its landscape and visual setting are not suitable;
 - Option 3: Landscape character areas above prominent/ conspicuous thresholds are not suitable;
 - Option 4: Whole district is not suitable; and
 - Additional Option A: Small turbines are suitable
- 1.37. The options were assessed against their compliance and compatibility with the NPPF and NPPG, taking into account advantages and disadvantages of each option, such as the cumulative impact on important landscape features such as the Great Fen. Compatibility of

options one to four with option A was also assessed and a sustainability appraisal undertaken for each option (PREP/03 – Section 4, Pages 39-65).

- 1.38. The report concluded that there were limited differences between the implementation of option two or three in combination with option A. Option two was more beneficial in terms of meeting sustainability objectives such as, tackling climate change and increasing the proportion of renewable energy and option A was likely to be more beneficial in terms of sustainability objectives such as protecting designated nature conservation sites and protecting landscape and townscape.
- 1.39. A draft policy within PREP/03 was also consulted upon and changes to the policy made following public consultation (CORE/05, page 89), this was further revised at the Local Plan Proposed Submission consultation to support wind energy proposals across the District, which also enables the development of wind turbines on the assets of public bodies in Huntingdonshire (CORE/05, page 103).
- 1.40. In compliance with paragraph 97 of the NPPF, and following assessment against the Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment (ENV/02), the impacts upon the Great Fen area in visual and landscape terms were considered too harmful and therefore an appropriate area was removed from the definition of a suitable development area for wind turbine development. Community led initiatives to prevent development, as identified in Neighbourhood Plans is also supported aligning with the NPPG (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 5-003-20140306).
- 1.41. The policy enables deliverability over the duration of the Plan period by providing wind turbine development guidance notes for applicants and agents, an updated version of which will be available shortly. Best practice guides from the Solar Trade Association and Building Research Establishment are also provided in paragraph 8.57 of the policy to encourage and guide development.

LP38 Air Quality

- 1.42. The policy is justified through evidence found in the 2014 Air Quality Progress Report for Huntingdonshire District Council (ENV/04), The Air Quality Action Plan for the Cambridgeshire Growth Areas 2009 (developed by Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council), the Huntingdonshire Air Quality Annual Status Report 2016 and the district's air quality monitoring and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA).
- 1.43. The Air Quality Action Plan assessed growth in the Cambridge sub-region, the current situation with regard to air pollution in the Districts and the main causes of pollution. The proposed growth included the identification of 5,000 homes at Alconbury Airfield. Actions were identified and assessed for costs and benefits (including risks to delivery) and targeted consultation was undertaken with a broad range of residents and stakeholders. One of the top five measures most likely to show significant benefits to air quality within Huntingdonshire's

AQMA included the implementation of air quality policies in the Local Plan ensuring that new development would not be permitted if it resulted in significant adverse impacts on air quality within AQMAs (page 57). This recommendation justified the formulation of policy LP38.

- 1.44. Evidence from the 2014 Air Quality Progress Report (ENV/04, pages 41-45) assessed the impact of Alconbury Weald (site SEL 1.1 and 1.2), Bearscroft Farm (site HU 19) and Wintringham Park (SEL 2). This highlights the importance of conducting environmental statements and air quality assessments on large scale developments to assess the main potential air quality impacts such as increased NO₂ as a result of increased traffic. This approach has been carried through into policy LP 38 through prescribed criteria a to e and complies with Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 32-005-20140306 of the NPPG.
- 1.45. The Huntingdonshire Air Quality Annual Status Report 2016 and the District's Air quality monitoring and designation of four AQMAs (A14 Hemingford to Fenstanton, Brampton, Huntingdon and St Neots) highlights the current status with regard to Air Quality in the District and the need to prevent unacceptable further risk from pollution in these areas (para 120 of the NPPF), this ensures that proposed development is appropriate for its location. This approach is identified in criterion d of policy LP38.
- 1.46. The policy is justified as it draws upon assessment and actions as identified through the Air Quality Action Plan. The policies allow effective delivery of sustainable sites over the plan period by requiring air quality assessments that are proportionate to the nature and scale of the development proposal (Para 007 Reference ID: 32-007-20140306 of the NPPG).
- 1.47. The policy is consistent with paragraph 124 of the NPPF by taking into account the presence of AQMA as demonstrated in criteria c, d and the final paragraphs of the policy and requests that consideration be given to the implementation of air quality strategies and action plans (criterion b) as identified in Para: 005 Reference ID: 32-005-20140306 of the NPPG.
- 1.48. Recognition that applicants should assess how developments could affect air quality during the construction phase and the potential impact on nearby areas of biodiversity (criteria g and i) in combination with the inclusion of a low emissions strategy (criteria j to m) also meets the core principles of the NPPF and Para: 005 Reference ID: 32-005-20140306 of the NPPG.

LP39 Ground Contamination and Groundwater Pollution

- 1.49. The policy has been informed through advice from the Environment Agency with regard to the location of source protection zones (SPZ) and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (FLO/01 to FLO/08).
- 1.50. FLO/07 and FLO/08 identify surface water and groundwater flood risk mapping and coverage. In Huntingdonshire, due to the nature of some of the landscape setting in the District - which includes Fenland - the potential to cause ground water contamination must be assessed. It is therefore pertinent that ground permeability, groundwater levels and ground quality should be assessed where Sustainable Drainage systems are proposed.

- 1.51. Information received from the Environment Agency identifies some Zone III, one Zone II and three areas classified and Zone one SPZ within the District leading to the identification of safeguards against possible contamination within the policy.
- 1.52. The policy is justified as it takes into account priorities identified in the Environmental Protection Act, Building Regulations, Environmental Permitting Regulations and by the Environment Agency. As set out in the Sustainability Appraisal (CORE/07, page702) the policy will be effective in contributing to achieving sustainability objective 10 to ensure that development is not affected by, or causes, unreasonable impacts from light, noise, air or other forms of pollution.
- 1.53. The policy allows for the effective delivery of sustainable sites over the plan period by requiring up to date assessments. Information sources and guidance such as the Environment Agency's Groundwater Protection Guide, Land Contamination Technical Guides and National guidance on contaminated Land are also identified to assist applicants. This is consistent with paragraph bullet 6 of the NPPF which requires that Local Planning Authorities set out environmental criteria against which planning applications will be assessed to ensure that developments do not increase flood risk, impact on the flow and quantity of surface and groundwater or cause the migration of contamination from the site.
- 1.54. The policy also contributes to EU directives such as the Water Framework Directive (Para: 005 Reference ID: 33-005-20140306 of the NPPG)

LP40 Water Related Development

- 1.55. Policy LP 40 is justified through evidence found in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (FLO/02 to FLO/09), the Anglian River Basement Management Plan (FLO/12 & FLO/13), the Huntingdonshire Water Cycle Study (FLO/11) and, through consultation with the Middle Level Commissioners (who have responsibility for flood defence and water level management along with some conservation duties in much of the northeast of the district). These documents stress the importance of suitable development by identifying areas within the District that are prone to flooding and emphasise the importance of rivers and estuaries.
- 1.56. The River Basement Management Plan identifies that 51% of water bodies within the study area have been affected by physical modifications. These modifications can alter natural flow levels, cause excessive build-up of sediment in surface water bodies and the loss of habitats and recreational uses (FLO/12, page 11). It is therefore considered justified to request justification for water related development, not just to meet the objectives of the River Basement Management Plan, but to ensure that development does not have an adverse effect on the natural environment.
- 1.57. This is consistent with paragraph 109 of the NPPF which requires the planning system to prevent new development from contributing to, or being put at, unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution or instability.

- 1.58. The Middle Level Commissioners are responsible for 120 miles of major watercourses, 100 miles of which are statutory navigations. All of the Middle Level area is dependent on artificial pumped drainage to evacuate excess rainfall. Their objectives are to maintain their watercourses, as well as ensuring that proposed developments do not have any detrimental effect on the flow capacity of the channel. More recently they have also been heavily involved in ensuring that applications do not affect the officially designated conservation sites in and around their boundaries, or inappropriately impact on the conservation interests of their maintained watercourses. The policy takes on board this advice by requiring that the applicant demonstrates that the proposal will not overload the environmental capacity of the watercourse or water body.
- 1.59. The policy does not 'allocate' a specific number of residential moorings or berths, but instead requests that adequate justification is submitted to support the proposal and that proposals do not have a series of potentially detrimental impacts and that they will be sustainability located in terms of access to facilities and not unduly reduce provision of leisure boating facilities. This allows assessment to be undertaken on a site-by-site basis ensuring the conservation and protection of areas of conservation importance in line with section 11 of the NPPF. It also ensures that the assessment of need is based on up to date evidence and reflects current market conditions in conformity with paragraph 158 of the NPPF.
- 1.60. Consultation on this Policy LP 40 (previously named Residential Moorings) was undertaken at various stages of the Local Plan preparation including:
- Stage 2: Strategic Options and Policies;
 - Stage 3: Draft Local Plan to 2036 (CORE/05, page 292);
 - Stage 5: Further Regulation 18 Consultation (CORE/05, page 76); and
 - Stage 6: Further Regulation 18 Consultation (CORE/05, page 103)
- 1.61. Additional supporting text/justification was inserted at Draft Local Plan Consultation stage which places a 20% limit on leisure to residential berths conversions based on the total mooring provision on-site. This is based on recommendations from the Canals and Rivers Trust.
- 1.62. The Housing Act 1985 (as amended by the Housing and Planning Act 2016) includes a duty to consider the needs of people residing in or resorting to the District with respect to sites for the mooring of houseboats. The policy is considered to accord with this by providing a flexible framework in which proposals can be considered.

Question 2: Is the approach set out in Policy LP32 towards the potential effect of development on European sites appropriate and justified? Does the policy deal adequately with recreational pressure from additional housing and the need for mitigation? What is the Council's response to Natural England's concerns?

- 1.63. The policy is informed and justified through the Habitats Regulations Assessment (CORE/08) and the Habitats Regulations Assessment Report Addendum (CORE/09). The HRA assessed any likely significant effect to European sites. As a result of the Assessment, suggested alterations were identified to the policies within the Local Plan; no alterations were proposed for policy LP32.
- 1.64. The approach taken for preparation of the HRA Screening Report is considered to be in accordance with the recent judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union. This is covered in more detail in Matter 1, question 8.
- 1.65. Natural England proposes that the inclusion of suggested mitigation measures to ensure that proposals for residential development provide appropriate and adequate mitigation. In terms of potential mitigation policies LP3, LP4, LP32 and HU10 are all relevant. Policy LP3 highlights a number of strategic scale projects identified in the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011 (INF/07). These include the Great Fen Masterplan (ENV/03) which sets out the approach to transforming over 3,000ha of largely arable land into a wildlife rich publically accessible fenland landscape and an extension to Paxton Pits which will see the nature reserve increase from 78ha to 285ha over the next decade. Policy LP4 addresses the concern over additional measures such as developer funding for provision or management of designated site. CIL payments could be directed towards this should a suitable project be identified. For large scale major developments planning obligations may be secured and criterion c) specifically identifies contributions towards green infrastructure and biodiversity enhancement/ mitigation as a requirement that may be necessary to make a proposal acceptable in planning terms. Mitigation measures will also be determined on a site by site basis and be informed (as indicated in Paragraph 8.14 of the Plan) using the 'Biodiversity Checklist: Developers' and the 'Biodiversity Checklist: Householder' produced by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership, or any relevant successor documents, will need to be followed.
- 1.66. Natural England proposed a wording change to the policy to request that sufficient information is submitted to enable the Council to comply with its duties under the HRA process. The Council considers that this is already addressed in Policy LP 32, as the policy directly specifies that any proposal that is likely to have a direct or indirect impact on an internationally important site will be required to submit an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Habitats Directive.
- 1.67. Natural England have confirmed in their Statement on Matter 1 when responding to Question 1 that they appreciate the approach taken in the HRA to assess the impacts of recreational pressure on European sites. They conclude that based on evidence currently available any uncertainty regarding the effects of recreational pressure on European

designated sites can be addressed through mitigation measures to be delivered through plan policies. The council welcomes this confirmation and has agreed a commitment to Natural England to liaise on the preparation of the HRA methodology when the next Local Plan is prepared to ensure this concern does not arise again.

Question 3: Is the requirement for an air quality assessment for large scale major development justified based on the definition set out?

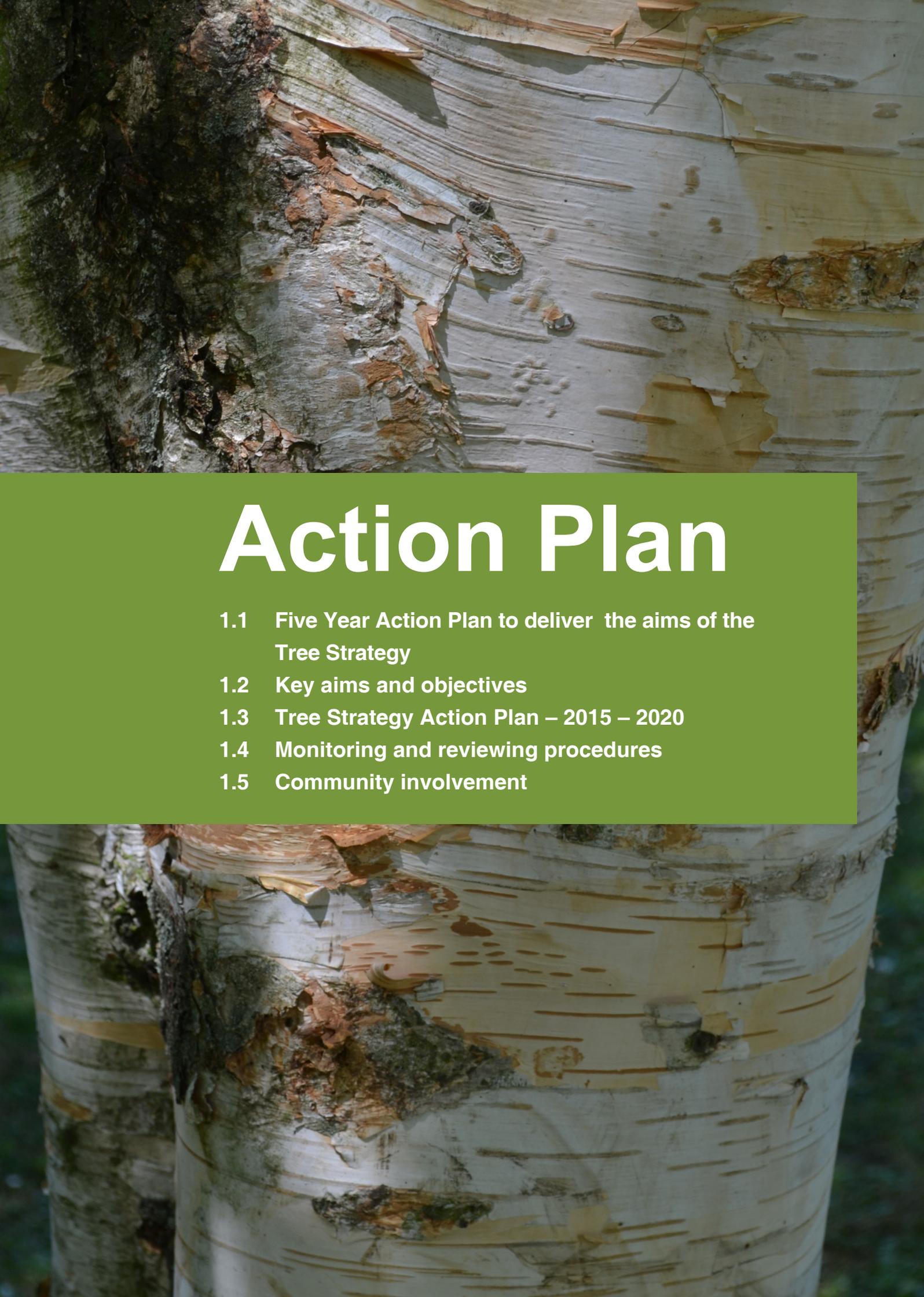
- 1.68. The Council's definition of large scale major development is one where the residential units to be constructed is 200 or more residential units, or on land of 2 hectares or more where the number of units is not defined; all other uses for large scale major development equate 2,500m² or more or 2 hectares or more.
- 1.69. The Council considers that the requirement for an Air Quality Assessment on large scale major development is a proportionate response when considering the potential impact that a site of that size could have on air quality. This is particularly relevant in terms of the potential increase in traffic to and from the development and the cumulative impact that this could have on surrounding infrastructure.
- 1.70. Evidence from the 2014 Air Quality Progress Report (ENV/04, pages 41-45) assessed the impact of Alconbury Weald (site SEL 1.1 and 1.2), Bearscroft Farm (site HU 19) and Wintringham Park (SEL 2) and highlight the importance of conducting environmental statements and air quality assessments on large scale developments to assess the main potential air quality impacts such as increased NO₂ as a result of increased traffic. This approach has been carried through into policy LP 38 through prescribed criteria a to e and complies with Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 32-005-20140306 of the NPPG.
- 1.71. The Council also takes its lead from paragraph 26 of the NPPF which sets a default threshold of 2,500sqm with regard to impact assessments; this approach was taken with large scale major developments.

February 2015

A Tree Strategy for Huntingdonshire | Action Plan







Action Plan

- 1.1 Five Year Action Plan to deliver the aims of the Tree Strategy**
- 1.2 Key aims and objectives**
- 1.3 Tree Strategy Action Plan – 2015 – 2020**
- 1.4 Monitoring and reviewing procedures**
- 1.5 Community involvement**

1.0 Action Plan

1.1 Five Year Action Plan to deliver the aims of the Tree Strategy

The Council is committed to the high quality and proactive management of its tree stock. To achieve this we will use this Action Plan which demonstrates how the Key Aims of the Tree Strategy will be implemented over the next 5 years.

1.2 Key aims and objectives

Three key aims and seven associated objectives have been identified which are central to the Tree Strategy for the District:

Aim 1: To protect the District's tree resource through sustainable management of the tree population.

Objective 1 - Identify and evaluate important trees and woodlands

Objective 2 - Protect vulnerable trees and woodlands of high amenity

Aim 2: To practice and promote good tree care.

Objective 3 – Care for Council owned trees to ensure a sustainable tree population

Objective 4 – Encourage tree owners to care for their trees

Objective 5 – Promote the value of trees and importance of good tree care

Aim 3: To carry out and encourage appropriate tree planting to ensure a healthy balanced tree population.

Objective 6 – Plant and manage young trees on Council land to ensure a balanced tree population

Objective 7 – Encourage tree planting on private land

1.3 Tree Strategy Action Plan – 2015 – 2020

To support the delivery of the overarching vision and mission statement for trees in the District, and the key aims and objectives identified above, a five year action plan has been prepared. Actions have been prioritised as follows:

Priority A - actions to be completed by the end of 2015

Priority B - actions scheduled for completion by the end of 2017

Priority C - actions to be undertaken as resources allow

Ongoing - actions which are currently part of tree management and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future





Key to abbreviations used can be found at the end of this section.

Key Aim 1 - Protect the trees within Huntingdonshire District, through sustainable management

	Action	Resources required (Key staff involvement)	Expected outcomes	Reason	Priority
1.1	Develop the use of a map-based computerised tree management system for all Council tree management	May require additional staff resources and software, but once in place can be maintained by existing staff (AO/IMD/GIS Officer)	Auditable tracking of tree works and inspections; A more effective tree management system	To record inspections, and contribute towards a defensible system which replaces ad hoc system of recording and tracking tree work requests	A
1.2	Establish a computerised record of the Council's tree stocks	Existing – data can be collected as trees are inspected by (ATL)	Gradual ad hoc accumulation of data on trees managed by the Council	Information on Council owned trees needs to be more readily available To allow tracking of inspections and works undertaken	A
1.3	Initiate a prioritised survey of Council owned trees, incorporating amenity valuation based on Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees (CAVAT)	May require additional staff resources (temporary tree surveyor/ consultant) to allow high priority trees on areas of Council land with high public usage to be assessed within a reasonable timescale (ATL/GSO)	A prioritised system of inspections and tree work for trees on Council land with high public usage Some data on trees in lower priority areas	More effective and targeted use of resources for the management of trees Improved tree risk management by identifying hazard trees Use resources effectively	B/C (dependent on availability of resources)
1.4	Identify and evaluate important groups of trees and woodlands	Existing (AO/GIS Officer/P)	Existing data sets collated (ancient woodlands, ancient trees, nature conservation sites, TPO woodlands etc) Additional information to be added as required	Important information on the location and extent of important trees and woodlands easily accessible to AO to guide tree management	A
1.5	Develop a 'favourite trees' campaign to raise profile of notable and ancient trees in Huntingdonshire	Existing resources. Will require some limited funds for publicity - possibly grant available or could be sponsored (AO in partnership with TWC, ATL and ATA)	Raise profile of trees, particularly veteran trees of interest to residents e.g. tree walk guides, notable trees; e.g. Huntingdonshire walks. Fostering local pride and a sense of place	Raise awareness of the importance of trees both environmentally and culturally Supporting regional and national campaigns e.g.; Tree Council campaigns Useful education tool	B
1.6	Undertake mapping exercise of tree cover across the District.	Existing resources. Will require some limited funds to purchase software (AO/GIS Officer/P)	Accurate mapping and understanding of percentage tree cover across the District	Improve understanding of existing tree cover in the District and to monitor changes over time	A

Key Aim 1 - Protect the trees within Huntingdonshire District, through sustainable management

Objective 2 - Protect vulnerable trees and woodlands of high amenity

	Action	Resources required (Key staff involvement)	Expected outcomes	Reason	Priority
2.1	Make new Tree Preservation Orders as appropriate to protect trees under threat	Existing – officer time (AO/P)	To protect important trees particularly of high public amenity when they come under threat To have a transparent system of assessment	To protect prominent amenity trees from being damaged or felled inappropriately Protecting the landscape and the environment of Huntingdonshire	ongoing
2.2	Review Tree Preservation Orders	A gradual review may be undertaken as part of day to day works with existing staff resources. A wholesale review would require additional resources (officer time or through employing a consultant). (P/ AO/Legal)	More appropriate application of TPOs Tree owners not hindered by inappropriate planning restrictions Once initial review complete more effective use of officer time	Some existing orders are over 30 years old and have become inappropriate, whilst many trees that should be protected are not currently covered A review of existing orders would allow resources to be applied more effectively Existing Government guidance is that there should be a program for reviewing existing TPOs	C
2.3	Agree a protocol for investigating potential infringements of Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area regulations	Existing – officer time (P/AO)	To ensure that there is a clear course of action to follow in each case To ensure that evidence is collected in the correct manner and with effective use of existing resources	Effective use of officer time To ensure that where a case is pursued the evidence collected is appropriate for use in court Ensure that, where appropriate, suitable mitigation is undertaken	B
2.4	'Guidance Note 3: Guidance for Trees and Development' to be adopted within the LDF as SPD (Supplementary Planning Document)	Existing resources (AO/P)	Clear guidance to potential developers on the appropriate retention, protection and planting of trees Improved protection and retention of trees to enhance new developments	To ensure that trees on development sites are retained where appropriate, and where trees are removed that suitable mitigation is undertaken	A



Key Aim 2 - Care for the trees within Huntingdonshire District, by practicing and promoting good tree care

Objective 3 - Care for Council owned trees to ensure a sustainable tree population

	Action	Resources required (Key staff involvement)	Expected outcomes	Reason	Priority
3.1	Apply the principals of Guidance Note 2: Guidance for Tree Management to all tree management decisions.	Existing resources (ATL/CS)	A consistent approach to tree management across the District Transparent decisions made in relation to requests for tree works	To ensure that the tree cover in the District is managed sustainably	Ongoing
3.2	Ensure that the work to Council trees complies with the Guidance Note 1: Guidance for works to trees	Existing resources (ATL/CS)	Ensure a high standard of tree work	To ensure a healthy and safe tree population	B
3.3	Review Good Practices Guides at least every 5 years	Existing resources (AO/ATL)	The guides will be up to date and reflect current best practice and standards	To ensure that Council advice reflects best practice	Ongoing
3.4	Implement a Tree Risk Management Strategy as outlined in Guidance Note 4: Tree Risk Management	Existing resources (AO/ATL/IRO)	A more comprehensive and pro-active approach to tree risk management Identify ways in which to reduce the foreseeable risk to an acceptable level and the resources required to achieve this	To fulfil the Council's Duty of Care	A
3.5	Undertake management which promotes biodiversity	Existing resources (ATL/GSO/CS)	Habitat protection and creation Sustainable management of tree population	Contribute to the aims of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Wildlife and Countryside Acts and Natural Environments and Rural Communities Act 2006	Ongoing
3.6	Review recycling options	Existing resources (ATL/GSO/CS)	Maximise the diverse and sustainable reuse of arisings from tree work	Good environmental management	C

Key Aim 2 - Care for the trees within Huntingdonshire District, by practicing and promoting good tree care

Objective 4 – Encourage tree owners to care for their trees

	Action	Resources required (Key staff involvement)	Expected outcomes	Reason	Priority
4.1	<p>Provide information on the Council website in relation to trees</p> <p>This will include access to this Tree Strategy and Good Practice Guides</p>	Existing resources (AO)	<p>Provision of advice and information on good tree care to residents of the District</p> <p>Reduce officer time spent on dealing with requests for general information; time to be diverted to other projects</p>	<p>More effective use of staff resources. General information and advice could be provided more comprehensively and effectively via the website.</p> <p>Residents would have access to information out of office hours</p>	A
4.2	Produce a set of leaflets based on the Good Practice Guides for those people who do not have access to the internet	Funds for the production of leaflets to be identified (AO)	As above	Would ensure that those residents without access to the internet can access information and advice	A
4.3	Use planning powers (Development Control & S106 agreements) to generate management plans for woodland and new planting on private land	Existing resources (AO/P)	<p>Increase woodland under appropriate management</p> <p>Soft landscape and tree planting on new developments managed appropriately</p>	To ensure that the tree planting and management undertaken as part of planning and development process is sustainably managed	Ongoing



Key Aim 2 - Care for the trees within Huntingdonshire District, by practicing and promoting good tree care

Objective 5 - Promote the value of trees and importance of good tree care

	Action	Resources required (Key staff involvement)	Expected outcomes	Reason	Priority
5.1	Provide information on the Council website and in leaflets in relation to management and care of trees	Existing resources (AO) Funds will be required to produce leaflets	Improved provision of advice and information on good tree care to residents of the District	To ensure that the public have access to good practice guidance particularly in relation to tree pruning	A
5.2	Continue to support the Tree Warden network in the District	Tree Council membership and payment of some expenses to wardens for tree warden forum/other training days. Estimated £750 year.(TWC)	Provide local information on trees and bring any threats to trees to the attention of the AO Develop ideas for local projects and organise and encourage tree planting and other practical work Acting as a local community liaison – giving general advice on planting and grants etc	To promote the value and importance of trees on a local level To empower local communities to become involved in managing and planting trees in their local area. Promote good tree care planting and maintenance	Ongoing
5.3	Assist friends of parks in producing self-guided walk leaflets which indicate trees and wildlife of interest	Production of leaflets will incur some costs which may be met out of existing resources	Raise awareness of local trees and the environment Educational resource for schools	To promote the value and importance of trees on a local level	C

Key Aim 3 - Plant more trees within Huntingdonshire District, by promoting and carrying out appropriate tree planting.

Objective 6 – Plant and managed young trees on Council land to ensure a healthy balanced tree population

	Action	Resources required (Key staff involvement)	Expected outcomes	Reason	Priority
6.1	Plant at least 1 replacement tree for each one felled on HDC land	Existing resources plus additional resources from grant funding as part of larger projects to be utilised where possible (ATL/GSO/CS)	At least maintain current tree population on Council land. Although replacement may not always be in the same place, one will be planted in an appropriate alternative location	To maintain a sustainable and balanced population of trees	A
6.2	Manage natural regeneration in Council owned woodlands	Existing resources plus additional resources from grant funding as part of larger projects to be utilised where possible (ATL/GSO/CS)	Maximise the potential for tree replacement using local natural stock rather than introduced trees Improved cost-effectiveness therefore allowing resources to be diverted elsewhere	More natural, sustainable and cost effective method of tree replacement where appropriate	B
6.3	Identify suitable areas for tree planting – including larger scale planting	Existing resources (AO/ATL/GSO)	A more comprehensive and strategic approach to increasing tree cover in the District Will contribute to exceeding the 1 for 1 tree replacement policy Will enable the maximum use of available grant funding	More strategic approach to maintaining a sustainable tree population	B



Key Aim 3 - Plant more trees within Huntingdonshire District, by promoting and carrying out appropriate tree planting.

Objective 7 – Encourage tree planting on private land

	Action	Resources required (Key staff involvement)	Expected outcomes	Reason	Priority
7.1	Provide information on the Council website in relation to tree planting	Existing resources (AO)	Easier access to appropriate information More appropriate tree planting being undertaken	To assist local residents in tree planting by providing useful advice	A
7.2	Pursue replacement planting made as a condition of planning permission, and TPO application. Enforcement powers to be used if necessary	Existing resources (AO/P)	Ensure that where it is appropriate, tree replacement occurs	To maximise the potential for appropriate tree planting on private land Maintain the landscape character	Ongoing
7.3	Encourage tree planting as part of development proposals and new infrastructure (regeneration schemes, etc.)	Existing or grant aided as part of larger scale projects (AO/L/P)	Appropriate tree planting as part of new developments	To ensure opportunities for new tree planting are identified and undertaken to mitigate the loss of trees for development	Ongoing
7.4	Continue to support the Parish Planting Scheme	Existing resources (TWC)	Thousands of new trees planted on private land each year	Raise profile of tree planting To encourage Parish Councils, individual land owners and smaller community groups to plant trees	A

Table abbreviations

AO Arboricultural Officer
ATA Arboricultural Technical Assistant
ATL Arboricultural Team Leader
CCC Cambridgeshire County Council
CS Countryside Services
CWT Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust
GIS GIS Officer
GSO Green Space Officer
HDC Huntingdonshire District Council

IMD Information Management Division
IRO Insurance/Risk Officer
L Luminus Group
P Planning
TWC Tree Warden Co-ordinator
WT Woodland Trust

1.4 Monitoring and reviewing procedures

It will be necessary for monitoring to be carried out in order for the success of the Tree Strategy to be assessed and to assist in identifying areas where new or amended tree policy is necessary. A series of performance indicators have been identified to facilitate this monitoring and are detailed below:

- Number of new trees successfully established each year broken down to identify trees on private land, as a result of TPO application conditions, planning application conditions, Parish Planting Scheme, and for trees on HDC land, Countryside, Green Spaces, and County Council land.
- Number of management plans produced and successfully implemented for woodland sites
- Number of trained Tree Wardens actively taking part in community events
- Number of parks and open space sites in which trees have been inspected and database updated
- Analysis of claims made, number of claims successfully defended and amount spent on insurance claims, broken down into tree and branch failures, and alleged root damage claims.
- Number of trees removed or permitted to be removed by the Council

This Tree Strategy will need to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. It should be a dynamic document which can respond to changes in the District, new legislation and emerging industry best practice. As a minimum it is recommended that the Tree Strategy is reviewed every five years. The review should include:

- A detailed analysis of the monitoring information

- Identification of any obstacles or barriers to implementation and delivery of the policy contained within the strategy
- Recommendations for amendments to the Strategy to respond to findings from the above

1.5 Community involvement

The success of the Tree Strategy will be greatest if it has the support of the District's community and the involvement of the community in its implementation. The following measures are proposed to promote community support and involvement in the Tree Strategy:

- Public consultation on the draft Tree Strategy
- High profile launch of the final Tree Strategy with press and web releases
- Continue to support the District Tree Warden scheme
- Continue existing parish planting scheme



Oak trees near Wooley

HEDGEROWS

LOCAL HABITAT ACTION PLAN FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Final draft/date last reviewed: August 2003

1 CURRENT STATUS

1.1 Context

Cambridgeshire is dominated by intensive arable agriculture confining wildlife mainly to the hedgerows, most of which are not ancient nor species rich. The stock of hedgerows in the county has been considerably reduced by post-war agricultural improvements and much of the remainder is not in a healthy condition. Therefore in Cambridgeshire attention should be directed at all of the hedgerow stock as important habitat in contrast to the national focus on ancient and species rich hedgerow.

1.2 Biological status

The Biological Information Service of the Wildlife Trust has provided a list of key hedgerow sites in Cambs. There are 20 NHI sites (site of Natural History Interest) with principal hedgerow interest and 169 potential wildlife sites listed for hedgerow interest (1979-81 surveys).

Most are on farmland and are distributed around the County (but largely exclude fenland) thereby reflecting the county hedgerow position.

Hedgerows in England

total length, 1993: 329,000km

loss between 1984 & 1990: 21%
especially in East.

Hedgerows in Cambridgeshire

total length, 1990: 8,000km (Cambridgeshire Environment Report, 1990)

loss between 84 & 90:- (2200 km) 30% (Cambridgeshire Environment Report, 1994)

Aerial Surveys carried out in 1969 & 1988 in Cambridgeshire Suggest loss of 33% hedgerow over 19yrs.

1.3 Species

Key National Biodiversity Action Plan fauna in Cambridgeshire which use hedges and their associated banks, are Brown hare, Skylark, Grey partridge, Song thrush, Linnet, Tree sparrow, Great crested newt and Harvest mouse. This is in addition to small mammals and their predators, hedgerow birds, hibernating amphibians and beneficial invertebrates for crop protection as well as "pest" species such as rabbit, pigeon and corvids. Key flora which may utilise hedgerows are Corn cleavers, Fine-leaved fumitory, Grass poly, Narrow-fruited corn salad and Small-flowered catchfly. Hedgerows are not necessarily the central habitat of these species.

As well as providing habitats it must be remembered that hedgerows also form important wildlife corridors i.e. links between habitats.

2 CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING HEDGEROWS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

In the national biodiversity action plan, it is reported that annual national losses amount to 1.7% through outright removal, and 3.5% through neglect.

Cambridgeshire losses are brought about by:-

- 1) Neglect (no cutting or laying) so that hedgerows become lines of trees.
- 2) Over management and inappropriate management eg too frequent or badly timed cutting leading to gaps & species change.
- 3) Senescence, felling and no replacement planting.
- 4) Pesticides and fertiliser around the bases of hedgerows.
- 5) Damage by livestock, especially where stocking rates are high & where 'ranching' is practised.
- 6) Removal for larger scale agriculture & development. Note however that landowners have already removed most of the hedgerows limiting agricultural efficiency; housing development can result in much larger amounts of new hedgerow, greenway and other similar habitat than was in place before development.

The 1994 Cambridgeshire County Council Hedgerow Survey included the monitoring of 60 hedgerow plots. Monitoring between 1994 and 1997 showed that :-

- 1) most hedges are below 2m in height & less than 1.5m in width.
- 2) most hedges are cut in late summer.
- 3) hedges in Cambridgeshire are not being sustainably managed.

3 CURRENT ACTION

The Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Steering Group noted the following guidelines for hedgerow management in a farming landscape in November 1997 (Cambridgeshire's Biodiversity 1997).

- To encourage appropriate management of existing hedgerows.
- To encourage hedgerow trees to be grown as standards.
- To promote the planting of new hedges using native species.

3.1 Legal protection

Hedgerow Regulations 1997 protect from removal some ancient and/or species-rich hedges but do not encourage their management.

3.2 Financial assistance

- The Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) organised for MAFF by Farming & Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA), pays for an agreed programme of hedge management and planting. Uptake in Cambridgeshire has been useful, although many farmers are put off by the lengthy process and the administration required to complete an application as well as the very competitive nature of the current Schemes. Under these conditions the CSS payments are widely regarded as insufficient.
- Between 1998 and 2001 the Arable Stewardship Scheme is being trialled in South Cambridgeshire. This MAFF/ FRCA scheme is primarily aimed at promoting how arable farming methods can be modified to contribute to wildlife welfare. There are however, provisions in this scheme for funding wildlife strips and conservation headlands, both of which could significantly decrease possible problems with pesticides and fertiliser affecting hedgerows. Hedge management options are included, but tend to transfer to CSS.
- Cambridgeshire County Council Huntingdonshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council offer tree and hedgerow packs partially funded by the landowner. In 1997/8 Cambridgeshire Council's Department of Environment and Transport grant aided the planting of 24km of hedgerow throughout the county including Peterborough & Huntingdon. Under the same scheme, the extended Ouse valley project, covering 20 Huntingdon District parishes, funded the planting of 1.8km of hedgerow in the 1997/8 season. Rates of hedgerow planting by County Farms tenants since 1990 average at 2.5km per annum.

4 OBJECTIVES AND LONG TERM TARGETS

4.1 Objectives

- Halt the loss of species rich hedgerows
- Achieve favourable management of species rich hedgerows within the county

- Plant new hedgerows within the county

4.2 5 Year Targets for 2005

- Halt the loss of species rich hedgerows through neglect and removal and aim to halt all loss of hedgerows which are both ancient and species rich by 2005.
- Achieve the favourable management of 25% of hedges by the year 2000 and of 50% by 2005.
- Encourage at least 120Km new hedgerows by 2005.

4.3 10 Year Targets for 2010

- Establish at least 220 km new hedgerows by 2010.

5 PROPOSED ACTION WITH TARGETS

Action for the next three years is detailed in the attached programme.

5.1 Policy and Legislation

- Produce species action plans for short medium & long list species.
- Review current grant schemes with a view to improving hedgerow options, benefits and payments.
- Ensure that development plans contain policies to promote the protection and management of hedges and seek to minimise adverse effects of hedges from planning proposals.

5.2 Site safeguard and management

- Encourage the protection of new and existing hedgerows.
- Implement the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 fully.
- Encourage tenants in good practice in hedgerow management on County Farms land.

5.3 Advisory

- Develop training courses in hedgerow management including management of standard trees and pollards for landowners/occupiers, farm staff and contractors.
- Review and update advice on current management practices for hedgerows in Cambridgeshire.
- Encourage the favourable management of existing hedgerows and the planting of new hedgerows through advisory farm visits.
- Promote good practice in hedgerow management with the use of demonstration hedges and farm visits.

5.4 Future research and monitoring

- Plan the mapping, measurement and periodic review of the hedgerow resource, integrating this work with the activities of the proposed Biological Records Centre.
- Collate all information on important hedgerows in the county.

5.5 Communications and publicity

- Raise awareness among the public of the importance of hedgerows and their associated features for wildlife.
- Target landowners & developers and highlight recent legislation pertaining to hedgerows.

6 LINKS TO OTHER PLANS

There will be links to other Farmland Action Plans.

7 REVIEW OF ACTION PLAN

Arrange monitoring and review of these targets annually and reset targets and responsibilities for the following 3 years.

8 REFERENCES

Countryside Survey DoE 1990 (...undertaken by ITE)

Discovering Cambridgeshire Hedgerows Cambridgeshire County Council 1993 (...booklet containing a re-analysis by ITE of DoE Countryside Survey data relevant to Cambridgeshire).

Cambridgeshire's Hedgerows: Their Future In Your Hands FWAG/Cambridgeshire County Council 1993 (...leaflet targeted at farmers describing appropriate management).

Cambridgeshire's Biodiversity Steering Group (1997). Cambridgeshire's Biodiversity: a framework for action. Cambridgeshire County Council

9 LIST OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS CONSULTED

ADAS
Anglian Water Services Ltd
Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator
Bugle Ecological Services
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge Green Belt Project
Cambridgeshire County Council
Country Landowners Association
East Cambridgeshire District Council
English Nature
Environment Agency
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
Fenland District Council
FRCA
FWAG
Huntingdonshire District Council
Landscape 2000
National Farmers Union
Peterborough City Council
RSPB – East Anglia
South Cambridgeshire District Council
The Wildlife Trust

CAMBRIDGESHIRE LHAP: HEDGEROWS
3-YEAR PROGRAMME: 1999-2001
LAST UPDATED: AUGUST 2003

Target	Action	Responsible	3-5 Years	6-10 Years
1) Halt the loss of species rich hedgerows through neglect and removal by 2005.				
2) Achieve the favourable management of 25% of hedges by the year 2000 and 50% by 2005.				
3) Establish at least 300km of new species-rich hedgerows using tree stock of native provenance by 2010.				
	A) Review current grant schemes with a view to improving hedgerow options, benefits and payments (CCC tree and hedge pack & DEFRA Countryside Stewardship)	CCC DEFRA	Completed 2005	
	B) Ensure that development plans contain to policies to promote the protection and management of hedges and seek to minimise adverse effects of hedges from planning proposals	LA (in conjunction with developers)	Ongoing	
	C) LA tree officers to use TPOs more often to protect important trees within hedgerows. Tree officers to re-convene their regular meetings Completed and include discussion and actions related to implementation of the BAP	LA (Tree Officers)	2005	
	D) Review the Countryside Tree and Hedge Pack so that clear biodiversity gain is a target.	CCC	Completed	
	E) Implement the Hedgerow Regulations	LA's DEFRA	2005	

	1997 fully			
	F) Ensure that hedgerows owned and managed by the public authorities and conservation bodies are in favourable condition	LA's, WiT, WoT, NT, RSPB Local conservation societies	2005	
	G) Encourage tenants in good practice in hedgerow management on Country Farms land. Include hedge protection and management clauses in tenant contracts where not already used	CCC (County Farms)	Ongoing	
	H) Continue the elm recovery project to promote the reestablishment of this locally distinctive tree as a landscape feature and component of local woods	HDC CCC (Countryside Services)	Ongoing	
	I) Promote the protection and management of hedgerows through the PEAPs initiative	CCC (Countryside Services) PCs Las		2010
	J) Encourage the favourable management of existing hedgerows and the planting of new hedgerows through advisory farm visits, farm walks and, demonstration sites	FWAG WiT	Ongoing	
	K) Develop training courses in hedgerow management (include management of standard trees and pollards) for landowners/occupiers, farm staff and contractors. Hold at least 2 training courses per year	FWAG WiT	Ongoing	
	L) Repeat the survey of Landscape Change to provide an assessment of the number of hedgerows present in the county.	CCC (Countryside Services)	2005	
	M) Collate all information on important hedgerows in the county filling in the	BRC (proposed) CCC		2007

	gaps through a series of targeted surveys	(Countryside Services)		
	N) Undertake a targeted survey of the hedgerows in the SE Cambridgeshire priority woodland creation area to assess the proportion that are ancient and/ or speciesrich and to identify opportunities for hedgerow creation. (this is related to the woodland creation action)	CCC (Countryside Services), LA's, WiT		2007
	O) Identify good leaflets on hedgerow management and ensure that all organisations working with the public farmers, landowners have access to these to aid promotion and adoption of best practice	Biodiversity Partnership		2007

Abbreviations

BSG	Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Steering Group
CBAPTG	Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Process Technical Group
EN	English Nature, Local Team
FWAG	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
GBP	Cambridge Green Belt Project
LAs	Local planning authorities
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
WiT	Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs, Northants and Peterborough

Appendix 3: Woodland - Biodiversity Action Plan

WOODLAND

LOCAL HABITAT ACTION PLAN FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH Updated December 2008

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, the associated understory and ground flora contain some of the most important assemblages of animals, birds and plants of any British habitat. These woodlands have great landscape, cultural and historical importance in the county.

Of all the various types of woodland it is Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland that contains some of the most important assemblages of woodland wildlife. Some ASNW were previously coniferised, and some recent or secondary deciduous woodland can be of significant conservation importance e.g. Holme Fen.

1 DEFINITION

Ancient Woodland – Land that has had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 and may be:

Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW) – Ancient Semi-natural Sites that have retained the original native tree and shrub cover that has not been planted, although it may have been managed by coppicing or felling and allowed to regenerate naturally.

Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) – Ancient woodland sites where the original tree cover has been felled and replaced by planting, usually with conifers and during the last century.

This plan covers all lowland mixed deciduous woodland types from ancient, semi-natural to new planting but excluding wet woodland. The following table describes coverage in this plan.

Woodland Type	Coverage in this plan
Ancient, semi-natural	Fully covered
Coniferised ancient woodland site	Fully covered
Ancient, secondary	Fully covered
Mature (older than 50 years) with recognised biodiversity interest	Fully covered
Wet	Covered in separate HAP
Mature with no or unrecognised biodiversity interest.	Not systematically covered
New woodland	Not systematically covered

One woodland type may form a mosaic with other types or with other BAP habitats. Similarly woodland rides and margins may grade into other BAP habitats such as grassland and scrub.

2 CURRENT STATUS

2.1 Context

Woodlands in Britain

Britain is one of the least wooded countries in Europe with 2.743 million hectares of woodland covering 11.38% of the land area. Of this 286,000 ha are ancient semi-natural woodland.

Woodlands in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are one of the least wooded areas of the UK. The total area of woodland of 0.1ha and over is 12,325ha. This represents 3.6% of the county land area. Ancient woodland sites over 2ha cover 2,865ha of which 2006ha support ancient semi-natural woodland.

Broadleaved woodland is the dominant type representing 81.3% of all woodland. 7.6% is Conifer, 10.8% is mixed woodland and open space within woodland is 1.0%.

The main broadleaved species is Ash, which is 27.3% of all broadleaved species. There are a total of 623 woods over 2ha in Cambridgeshire with a mean area of 11.1ha. There are a total of 7,488 woods of 0.1 - < 2.0ha with a mean area of 0.75ha. There are an estimated 2.4 million live trees outside woodland in Cambridgeshire.

Habitat	Area in Cambridgeshire		% of UK total
	(ha)	(%)	
Woodland cover (>2 ha)	6,053	1.97	0.244%
Ancient woodland sites (>2ha)	2,865	0.8	?
ASNW	2,006	0.6	0.70%

Within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough woodland is not evenly spread. Woodland is now rare over much of the Fens although the frequency of trees preserved in peat soils, referred to as ‘bog Oak’, indicates previous extensive woodland cover. There are four major pockets of ancient woodland: to the west of Peterborough, to the north of Huntingdon, between St Neots and west of Cambridge and in the south east of the County. Secondary plantation woodland (mostly beech and Scot’s pine) is a feature of the chalk belt that runs from Newmarket to Royston.

The majority of ancient woods are less than 50 hectares in extent (see table below)

Habitat		2-10 ha	11-50 ha	51-100 ha	>101 ha	Total
AWS	Area (ha)	334	1530	530	471	2865
	Number	49	68	8	3	128
ASNW	Area (ha)	288	1020	278	420	2006
	Number	45	62	6	3	116

2.2 Biological Status

Woodland covered by this HAP within Cambridgeshire can very roughly be divided into two types:

Oak and ash woodland developed on heavy clay soils and mildly chalky boulder clay (mainly National Vegetation Classification W10). Other tree species can include birch, hazel, hawthorn and occasionally hornbeam or holly. The ground flora includes plants such as bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), stinking iris (*Iris foetidissima*), wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and on ancient woodland sites, ancient woodland indicator species such as yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and early purple-orchid (*Orchis mascula*). Good examples of this type of woodland include Aversley Wood, Bedford Purlius and Hildersham Wood SSSIs.

Ash and field maple-dominated woodland with an understorey of hazel have developed over chalky boulder clay, chalk and limestone (mainly NVC W8). Other tree species can include dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*). The ground flora includes plants such as Bluebell, Yellow Archangel and Early Purple Orchid, as well as large amounts of Dog’s Mercury and a rich array of ancient woodland indicator plants and, more rarely, herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*) and lily-of-the-valley (*Colla lily majalis*). The rides also often have species-rich grassland, e.g. Gamlingay Wood and Brampton Wood SSSIs. Good examples of this type of woodland include Castor Hanglands NNR, Carlton Wood, Elsworth Wood, Park Wood, Hayley Wood, Waresley Wood and Langley Wood SSSIs, and it is some of these types of sites which are of national importance for the rare Oxlip (*Primula elatior*). Locally, west of Peterborough this type of woodland can include small-leaved lime and a good example of this is found at Collyweston Great Wood and Easton Hornstocks SSSI.

In addition to a variation in geology, the above two woodland types vary greatly from site to site in regard to age and history of management. Woodlands with abundant hazel were traditionally coppiced and this type of management is favoured by a specialist range of birds and invertebrates, particularly butterflies. In addition, both planting of broadleaves and conifers has modified many existing woodland sites.

Woodlands are formed from a mosaic of habitat niches including saproxylic habitats, streams and ponds, rides and glades. All of these should be taken into account when formulating an appropriate management plan.

2.3 Species

Ancient woodland in particular provides a rich habitat for numerous species, many of which are found principally in these woods. The species found in woodland that have specific Biodiversity Action Plans are listed in section 5.

A significant number of sites have become invaded by elm. The health of this elm is varied but there are many stands which, while having dutch elm disease present, have not succumbed to it. Within a national context this is significant.

2.4 Current factors affecting lowland mixed deciduous woodland in Cambridgeshire

- Under-management and neglect are major causes of loss and decline of woodland biodiversity.
- Overgrazing through expansion of deer populations is leading to change in woodland structure, impoverishment of ground flora and low rates of regeneration, especially in coppice. Over-grazing by rabbits and hares, and damage to trees by squirrels is also a problem in woodlands.
- Invasion by sycamore and other species that are generally not native to mixed deciduous woods, leads to changes in their composition.
- Dutch elm disease has changed the structure and composition of many woods since the early 1970s, and recurrences are still affecting them. Canopies opened by disease may be subject to higher rates of wind throw, and invasion of gaps by elder, which can form climax scrub.
- Direct and indirect losses of woodland through development, and trunk road improvements has destroyed or caused deterioration of many woods, and continues to threaten others.
- Replacement of native trees with planted conifers occurred extensively in the 1960s and 1970s. Some of these woodlands are now being restored to broadleaved trees.
- Modern agricultural practices have led to a significant decrease in the biodiversity within landscapes and ecological isolation of woods. These include, major losses of woodland in the past, removal of hedgerows, isolated trees and small patches of scrub in fields, deep drainage of adjacent arable fields, and cultivation hard up to woodland boundaries.
- Impact of air pollution and other environmental influences originating from distant sources. Locally sourced pollution from agriculture, industry and traffic – nutrient enrichment and chemical run-off or spray drift from adjoining agriculture – can impact on soil conditions and flora.
- Cessation of traditional management practices (particularly coppicing) has caused a reduction in structural and species diversity within many woods, particularly loss of temporary open space.
- Management of woodlands for pheasant rearing and other game species can conflict with the biodiversity value of woodlands. However, without financial assistance that game shooting brings, these woodlands may deteriorate.
- Climate change will result in changes to vegetation composition of woodland.

- Economic factors have caused a decline in woodland management; competition from imported woodland products, poor quality timber and lack of knowledge of local hardwood markets have all contributed.

3 CURRENT ACTION

3.1 Legal status and protection

- The policy for England's ancient and native woodland (Keepers of Time – FC / Defra 2005), has a presumption against clearance of broad-leaved woodland for conversion to other land uses.
- Felling licences from the Forestry Commission (FC) are normally required for tree felling.
- Tree Preservation Orders can be applied to individual trees, or in rare cases, cluster of trees or a woodland by the Local Authority.
- Further protection may be afforded by presence of species designated under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981). This act covers species such as Bats and Dormice. The Habitat Regulations (1994) also protect woodlands and their associated species.
- The Regional Woodland Strategy recognises the importance of semi-natural woodland and contains a number of specific actions, including targeting restoration and expansion activity to specific cluster areas. This information can be downloaded from: www.woodlandforlife.net
- 53% of ASNW in Cambridgeshire (1,061ha) is protected as SSSI or NNR .
- Some woodland receive additional protection through local policies and strategies within development plans. This includes approximately 90 woodland County Wildlife Sites in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- There is a range of national, regional and local planning policies that, along with other legislation, set out requirements for biodiversity conservation. Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9): Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM, 2005) is the key national planning policy document for biodiversity in England. It sets out the key principles that regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should adhere to in order to ensure that biodiversity is fully considered in the development of planning policy and determination of planning applications. The seven policies within the Environment chapter of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England (GO-East, May 2008) set out the requirements for proper consideration to be given to the potential effects of development on the natural, built and historic environment of the East of England. At the local level, the planning policy documents of local planning authorities should take account of BAP and HAP targets and priorities, setting overarching policies for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. (Cambridge City suggests this to be included in every HAP)

3.2 Management, research and guidance

- Wildlife and tree management advice is available locally through the statutory conservation agencies, the Forestry Commission, the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and ADAS, plus the voluntary and commercial sectors (e.g. the Wildlife Trusts, the Woodland Trust and local woodland initiatives). The experience of woodland managers is also developed and promoted by organisations such as the Small Woods Association, the Timber Growers Association, Royal and Royal Scottish Forestry Societies, Institute of Chartered Foresters, the Association of Professional Foresters and the Coppice Association.
- There are a number of significant inventories on woodlands available, including the Forestry Commission's National Inventory of Woodland and Trees (2000, published in 2002), which provides information on the extent, distribution and composition of woodland, and Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory.

- The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre hold relevant information in Ancient Woodland Inventories as well as information from individual surveys of statutory protected sites, as do the county conservation organisations
- Other woodland information is gathered informally through Local Authority and conservation organisation's monitoring.
- Grants for woodland management, including regeneration, planting and some other operations, are available from Forestry Commission (see www.forestry.gov.uk/eastengland) and in some circumstances from other government agencies and local authorities. The Forestry Commission is identifying all PAWS on its estate. Maps and restoration plans have been produced where appropriate.
- The Defra Environmental Stewardship scheme (2005) includes options for management of small farm woodlands.
- Anglian Woodland Project promotes the expansion and/or management of deciduous woods within the Eastern Region.
- Local woodland initiatives hold regular open days and guided walks to offer support and management guidance to private woodland owners. These include events run by Anglian Woodland Project, Small Woods Association, FWAG, FC and the Deer Initiative.
- Natural England provide advice and management of Statutory Woodland Sites such as SSSI and NNRs.
- The Wildlife Trust provides advice to owners of County Wildlife Site woodlands.

3.3 Regional Strategy

'Woodland for Life' is the regional woodland strategy for the East of England, which was developed by a steering group that included Defra, EEDA, EH, FC, NE and GOER.

The strategy provides a number of initiatives for the enhancement of the benefits that trees and woodlands bring to the people who live and work in the region. It also identifies the need for more universal application of the UK Forestry Standard. This standard sets out the criteria and standards for the sustainable management of all forests and woodlands in the UK. It is the centrepiece of a system to guide and monitor forestry and woodland management. It is linked to developing international protocols for sustainable forestry.

The Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Peterborough's Green Grid Strategy both seek to enhance the landscape of trees and woodland by the creation of new woodlands and by enhancing linkages between existing ancient semi-natural woodland clusters.

4 OBJECTIVES AND LONG TERM TARGETS

4.1 Objectives

- Maintain current area of ancient woodland as identified in the Ancient Woodland Inventory (i.e. woods over 2 ha), and other published sources such as County Wildlife Site citations (for woods less than 2 ha).
- Maintain current area of species rich woodland (i.e. that which has a recognised biodiversity value, including ancient secondary woodland e.g. Overhall Grove).
- Achieve appropriate management of all species rich woodland (as defined in previous bullet).
- Create new native woodland, particularly where it links or buffers existing woodland or other habitats of biodiversity value. The planting of new deciduous woodland should be appropriate to the local landscape character, as set out in the Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines, a technical guidance document. Planting should ideally use locally native trees and shrubs and where possible natural regeneration should be promoted.
- Achieve appropriate management of all new woodland so that it delivers against species and habitat biodiversity targets.

4.2 Targets

1. Maintain the current extent of ancient semi-natural woodland, ancient woodland sites and species-rich lowland broadleaved woodland.
2. Achieve favourable condition for all lowland broadleaved woodland within SSSIs, and 50% of County Wildlife Site lowland broadleaved woodland, by 2010.
3. Restore 50% (by area) of coniferised woodland on ancient woodland sites to a locally native broadleaved type, ideally by allowing natural regeneration or if planting, using locally native stock, by 2012, and 100% by 2017.
4. Create 1,200 hectares of lowland broadleaved woodland by 2012 .
5. Assess and monitor our woodland resource

5 ACTIONS

LOWLAND MIXED DECIDUOUS WOODLAND					
Habitat management, restoration & creation					
BAP TARGET	PROGRESS TO 2006	ACTION	LEAD PARTNER/S	PRIORIT Y / DATE	RESOURCES
1. Maintain the current extent of ancient semi-natural, ancient woodland sites and species-rich lowland broadleaved woodland.	Plans published recently all have site protection policies	1.1 Ensure that all landowners and managers of SSSIs & County Wildlife Sites supporting woodland habitats are aware of their importance, through provision of site information.	NE WT LAs, CCC	High On-going	Existing staff resources (A local Wildlife Sites partnership is being formed to address the needs of County Wildlife Sites)
		1.2 Ensure all planning policy documents have strong policies protecting woodland SSSIs and County Wildlife Sites	LAs, CCC	High On-going	Existing staff resources
		1.3 Continue to assess planning applications that may affect wet woodland sites and comment on those that may have an adverse impact	LAs, CCC	Medium On-going	Existing staff resources
		1.4 Where possible promote management of buffer areas around woodland to reduce impact of negative external factors.	LAs, CCC		

<p>2. Achieve favourable condition for all lowland broadleaved woodland within SSSIs, and 50% of County Wildlife Site lowland broadleaved woodland, by 2010.</p>	<p>The Wildlife Trust has secured funding for advisory work through the Rural Enterprise Scheme until March 2009 and both PCC & the County Council have committed staff time.</p>	<p>2.1 Ensure that all landowners and managers are provided with information, advice and support regarding management of their designated sites to enable them to achieve condition.</p> <p>2.2 Support the development of a local Wildlife Sites partnership to ensure monitoring & assessment of County Wildlife Sites and to provide information, advice & support to landowners</p>	<p>NE WT FC LAs, CCC</p> <p>PCC / CCC / WT / other biodiversity partners</p>	<p>High 2007</p>	<p>A local Wildlife Sites partnership is being formed to address the needs of County Wildlife Sites</p> <p>Additional support will be required from all local authorities, including financial backing.</p>
<p>3. Restore 50% of coniferised woodland on ancient woodland sites to a locally native broadleaved base.</p>	<p>The national target for restoration has been agreed but the regional allocation is currently under review so the Cambs target is pending that allocation</p>	<p>3.1 Ensure that all landowners and managers of unmanaged woodland are provided with information, advice and support regarding management of their woodland.</p> <p>3.2 Promote the restoration of PAWS containing conifers back to native deciduous woodland.</p>	<p>NE WT FC LAs, CCC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	

<p>4. Create 1,200ha of lowland broadleaved woodland by 2012.</p>		<p>4.1 Identify a strategy for creating new native woodland in terms of species composition, ground flora introduction, site size and location.</p> <p>4.2 Increase the connectivity of ancient, ancient semi-natural, ancient secondary and species rich woodland where appropriate, e.g. Grafham-Brampton Woodland Link.</p> <p>4.3 Where possible promote establishment of trees and/or shrubs to act as buffer areas around woodland to reduce impact of negative external factors.</p> <p>4.4 Promote new woodland planting where appropriate and according to the principles and practices of the UK Forestry Standard</p> <p>4.5 Promote deciduous woodland creation opportunities through minerals restoration plans</p> <p>4.6 Promote the use of local native tree stock for woodland planting.</p> <p>4.7 Identify sources of local, native tree stock, including an inventory of local suppliers and users of wood produce.</p>	<p>WT, PNNP LAs, CCC</p> <p>NE WT FC FWAG</p> <p>NE WT FC</p> <p>NE WT FC</p> <p>LAs, CCC</p> <p>FWAG, WT, FC, LAs, CCC</p>		
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5. Assess and monitor our woodland resource		5.1 Review the woodland SSSI and County Wildlife Site list to identify if further sites should be designated.	NE, CWS group		
		5.2 Review the inventory of ancient woodland sites in the county and ensure that all species rich sites are likewise recorded.	FC, CPBRC		
		5.3 Review the status of the Elm for the Future programme and collate existing elm records.	CPBRC		

Abbreviations

BSG	Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Steering Group
CCC	Cambridgeshire County Council
CPBRC	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre
CWS	County Wildlife Site
FC	Forestry Commission
FWAG	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
LAs	Local authorities
NE	Natural England, Local Team
PCC	Peterborough City Council
PNNP	Peterborough Natural Network Partnership
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
WT	Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough

The list of all unitary, County and District authorities includes: Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, and Huntingdonshire District Council.

6 LINKS TO OTHER PLANS

This plan has close links to most other Trees and Woodland HAPs as it is often difficult to distinguish where trees stop and woodland begins and where woodland stops and wet woodland begins.

It is also linked to the Villages, Towns and Cities HAPs as woodland is often a feature of urban areas.

There are five woodland species of high biodiversity status which are particularly notable. These are Fly orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*), wild sevice tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*), Black Hairstreak butterfly (*Satyrrium pruni*) and wood ant.

The following are the main BAP species associated with this woodland habitat action plan.

Oxlip - *Primula elatior*
Dormouse - *Muscardinus avellanarius*
Pipistrelle bat - *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
Barbastelle bat – *Barbastella barbastellus*
Black Hairstreak butterfly - *Satyrrium pruni*
Spotted flycatcher - *Muscicapa striata*
Song thrush - *Turdus philomelos*
Bullfinch – *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*
Turtle Dove – *Streptopelia turtur*

There will be more BAP species associated with woodland. For a full list of UKBAP species occurring in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, contact the Biodiversity Partnership Coordinator.

7 REFERENCES

An **Appendix of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough site specific actions** on woodland SSSIs and CWSs is available from the Biodiversity Partnership Coordinator. This complements this Woodland Habitat Action Plan.

Buglife: *Managing priority habitats for Invertebrates*, 2nd edition. For Lowland Beech and Yew Woodlands see:

www.buglife.org.uk/conservation/adviceonmanagingbaphabitats/lowlandbeechandyewwoodland.htm

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough UKBAP species – spreadsheet prepared by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre (from October 2008) available from the Biodiversity Partnership Coordinator

Forestry Commission / Defra (2005) *Keepers of Time – A statement of policy for England's Ancient & Native Woodland*.

Planning Policy Statement 9 Biological and Geological Conservation, available on www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps9

Forestry Facts and Figures 97-98

Cambridgeshire Ancient Woodlands Inventory UK Forestry Standard

Rackham, O (1990) *Hayley Wood: its history and ecology*. Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust Ltd.

Rodwell, JS (1991) *British Plant Communities* Volume 1 Woodlands and Scrub. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

English Nature, Ancient Woodland: Guidance for Local Authorities.

8 LIST OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS CONSULTED

Anglian Water Services Ltd
Arboricultural Association
Beetle specialists
Bird specialists
Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator
Buglife
Butterfly Conservation Society
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge Preservation Society
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre
Cambridgeshire County Council
Countryside Restoration Trust
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Environment Agency
Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
Fenland District Council
Flies specialists
Flowering Plant specialists
Forestry Commission
Froglife
Fungi specialists
Grafham Conservation Group
Huntingdonshire District Council
Huntingdonshire Fauna and Flora Society
Langdyke Trust
Moss specialists
Moth specialists
Natural England
Nene Park Trust
Opportunity Peterborough
Peterborough City Council
RSPB - East Anglia
South Cambridgeshire District Council
The National Trust
The Wildlife Trust
The Woodland Trust