

Draft Final Sustainability Appraisal (March 2014)

Part 2 Appendix 6: Landscape and Townscape

APPENDIX 6 – LANDSCAPE AND TOWNSCAPE - DETAILED REVIEW OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES, INFORMATION SOURCES AND EVIDENCE BASE

Detailed Review of Plans and Programmes

INTERNATIONAL		
European Landscape Convention	European Union	2000
NATIONAL		
Securing the Future: delivering UK sustainable development strategy	DEFRA	2005
National Planning Policy Framework	CLG	2012
Better Places to Live by Design: A Companion Guide to PPG3	DETR	2001
Government Vision Statement on the Historic Environment	DCMS	2010
REGIONAL		
Our Environment, Our Future: The regional environment strategy for the East of England	EERA / EEEF	2003
COUNTY / CAMBRIDGE SUBREGION		
Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth	Cambridgeshire Horizons, Local Authorities and others	2007
Cambridgeshire Together Vision 2007 to 2021 Local Area Agreement 2008 - 2011	Cambridgeshire Together Partnership	2007
DISTRICT		
South Cambridgeshire Corporate Plan – Vision, Values and The Three As	South Cambridgeshire District Council	2012
South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2011	South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership	2008

Plan / Programme / Strategy	European Landscape Convention (EC, 2000)	
Level	International	
Web Link	http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/treaties/html/176.htm	
Summary	Created by the Council of Europe, the convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning, and European co-operation on landscape issues. It covers all landscapes, both outstanding and ordinary, that determine the quality of people's living environment.	

Key Objectives
The convention requires a number of general and specific measures, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning; • to integrate landscape into regional and town planning policies
Implications for the Local Plan
Ensure landscape is given appropriate consideration, with protection and where possible enhancement of the landscape.

Plan / Programme / Strategy	Securing the Future: delivering UK sustainable development strategy (DEFRA) (2005)
Level	National
Web Link	http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/03/25/securing-the-future-pb10589/
Summary	
The Strategy for sustainable development aims to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.	
Key Objectives	
This strategy contains 5 key principles of sustainability and 68 indicators. The key principles are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Living within environmental limits 2. Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society 3. Achieving a sustainable economy 4. Using sound science responsibly 5. Promoting good governance. <p>Includes the aim to improve the quality of the built environment.</p>	
Implications for the Local Plan	
Local Plan needs to aim to achieve sustainable development. This includes aiming to improve the quality of the built environment.	

Plan / Programme / Strategy	National Planning Policy Framework (CLG 2012)
Level	National
Web Link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicyframework/
Summary	
The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. Taken together, these policies articulate the Government's vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations.	
Key Objectives	
(para 17) Planning should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings; • take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it; 	

- Conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations;

(para 56) Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making places better for people.

(para 58) Local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics. Planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that developments:

- will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;
- establish a strong sense of place, using streetscapes and buildings to create attractive and comfortable places to live, work and visit;
- optimise the potential of the site to accommodate development, create and sustain an appropriate mix of uses (including incorporation of green and other public space as part of developments) and support local facilities and transport networks;
- respond to local character and history, and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation;
- create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and
- are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping.

(para 67) Poorly placed advertisements can have a negative impact on the appearance of the built and natural environment. Control over outdoor advertisements should be efficient, effective and simple in concept and operation. Only those advertisements which will clearly have an appreciable impact on a building or on their surroundings should be subject to the local planning authority's detailed assessment. Advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking account of cumulative impacts.

(para 79) The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.

(para 81) Once Green Belts have been defined, local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land.

(para 126) Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and distinctiveness; and opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.
Implications for the Local Plan
The Local Plan will need to seek to achieve high quality design. It should seek to protect and enhance historic landscapes and assets, taking account of their significance. It should seek to protect and enhance important landscapes. It will need to consider the Green Belt and its purpose, whilst considering its impact on achieving sustainable development.

Plan / Programme / Strategy	Better Places to Live by Design: A Companion Guide to PPG3 (DETR 2001)
Level	National
Web Link	http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/betterplaces
Summary	
Guide which aims to prompt greater attention to the principles of good design. Its focus is the urban design principles and approaches which underpin successful housing.	
Key Objectives	
<p>The objectives of urban design can be summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character: A place with its own identity Continuity and Enclosure: A place where public and private spaces are clearly distinguished Quality of the Public Realm: A place with attractive and successful outdoor areas Ease of Movement: A place that is easy to get to and move through Legibility: A place that has a clear image and is easy to understand Adaptability: A place that can change easily Diversity: A place with variety and choice 	
Implications for the Local Plan	
Policies should consider urban design, and should consider potential for development proposals to create places.	

Plan / Programme / Strategy	Government Vision Statement on the Historic Environment (DCMS 2010)
Level	National
Web Link	http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx
Summary	
Sets out the government's vision for the historic environment in that it is an asset of enormous cultural, social, economic and environmental value.	
Key Objectives	
<p>Strategic aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all heritage assets are afforded an appropriate and effective level of protection, while allowing, where appropriate, for well managed and intelligent change. Seek to promote the role of the historic environment within the Government's response to climate change and as part of its sustainable development agenda. 	
Implications for the Local Plan	
Policies should seek to preserve and enhance the historic environment.	

Plan / Programme / Strategy	Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England (EERA 2003)
Level	Region
Web Link	Not Available
Summary	
To raise awareness of the environment among key regional stakeholders, and to inform and advise other regional strategies to ensure that environmental objectives are integrated with social and economic issues.	
Key Objectives	
Includes a set of 14 strategic aims, and key actions to secure their implementation. SA1: Accommodate Population and Economic Growth whilst Protecting and Enhancing the Environment SA3: Deliver Sustainable Design SA10: Maintain and strengthen landscape and townscape character SA12: Conserve and enhance the historic environment	
Implications for the Local Plan	
Consider how the Local Plan can contribute to the achievement of the strategic aims.	

Plan / Programme / Strategy	Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth (Cambridgeshire Horizons, Local Authorities and others 2007)
Level	Cambridge Sub-Region
Web Link	http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/about_horizons/how_w_e_do_it/quality_charter.aspx
Summary	
Adopted by a range of other Councils and agencies. It aims to inspire innovation and the pursuit of higher standards, to help communication, and support a cooperative approach between stakeholders.	
Key Objectives	
The Charter is organised around the '4 Cs' of Community, Connectivity, Climate and Character. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a sense of community through providing a greater choice of housing along with the active participation of people in the way their neighbourhoods are run. • New developments should be located where people can benefit from high connectivity to jobs and services, and the infrastructure upgraded to match the pace of development. • Climate change should be tackled through imaginative landscaping that treats water as a friend not an enemy, and through innovative approaches to transport, energy and waste. • Places of character should be created, with distinctive neighbourhoods and a first class public realm. 	
Implications for the Local Plan	
The Local Plan will need to consider design, and how to secure high quality developments.	

Plan / Programme / Strategy	Cambridgeshire Together Vision 2007 to 2021 Local Area Agreement 2008 - 2011
Level	County
Web Link	http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/774C1C91-

	75A0-4D6C-8B5D-419380255C7D/0/LAA.pdf
Summary	
<p>Provides a Countywide Sustainable Community Strategy. The purpose of this vision is to set the long-term priorities for Cambridgeshire, which will promote the well-being of local people, the economy and the environment.</p> <p>It identifies Countywide priorities that draw on the five district-based Sustainable Community Strategies, which provide the building blocks. The aim is to bring together the ambitions and aspirations of all Cambridgeshire's communities and the organisations providing services to them.</p>	
Key Objectives	
<p>Attractive and healthy environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protecting and enhancing the environment in open spaces and the countryside for the benefit of people and wildlife <p>Well designed and well managed developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving community safety through well designed and managed developments 	
Implications for the LDF	
<p>Need to consider how the Local Plan can contribute to achievement of the objectives, particularly through opportunities provided by new development.</p>	

Plan / Programme / Strategy	South Cambridgeshire Corporate Plan – Vision, Values and The Three As (South Cambs DC 2012)
Level	District
Web Link	http://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/council-aims-and-objectives
Summary	
<p>Plan establishes the Long Term Vision it is aiming to achieve: South Cambridgeshire will continue to be the best place to live and work in the country. Our district will demonstrate impressive and sustainable economic growth. Our residents will have a superb quality of life in an exceptionally beautiful, rural and green environment. The Council will be recognised as consistently innovative and a high performer with a track record of delivering value for money by focusing on the priorities, needs and aspirations of our residents, parishes and businesses.</p> <p>The Plan establishes three aims, with a range of approaches, and Actions for 2012/13 towards how they will be achieved.</p>	
Key Objectives	
<p>Aim: We will make sure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer outstanding and sustainable quality of life for our residents.</p> <p>Approaches: Keeping our villages attractive and clean Preserving and enhancing the landscape for future generations</p> <p>Actions 2012/13: Work with partners to encourage local environmental enhancements including the Chalk Rivers project. Continue support for community orchards, hedgerows, tree-planting and other conservation and enhancement projects</p>	
Implications for the Local Plan	
<p>Consider objective when developing the Local Plan.</p>	

Plan / Programme / Strategy	South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2011
Level	District
Web Link	http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/partnerships/lsp/South+Cambridgeshire+Strategic+Partnership.htm
Summary	
Outlines the Local Strategic Partnership's long-term vision for a sustainable South Cambridgeshire as well as its three-year objectives and priorities.	
Key Objectives	
A place where the needs of existing and future generations are met and where communities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmentally sensitive; ○ Well-designed and built; 	
Implications for the Local Plan	
The Local Plan will need to consider the objectives of the strategy.	

Information Sources and Evidence Base

The following are the key information sources and evidence base documents used in this Theme:

Document	Author (or prepared for)	Year published
South Cambridgeshire Annual Monitoring Report	South Cambridgeshire District Council	Published Annually
Cambridge Green Belt Study	Landscape Design Associates for South Cambridgeshire District Council	2002
Cambridge Inner Green Belt Boundary Study	Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council	2012
South Cambridgeshire Listed Buildings Supplementary Planning Document	South Cambridgeshire District Council	2009
South Cambridgeshire Landscape in New Developments Supplementary Planning Document	South Cambridgeshire District Council	2010
South Cambridgeshire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document	South Cambridgeshire District Council	2010
Development Affecting Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document	South Cambridgeshire District Council	2010
Arts and Culture Strategy for the Cambridge Sub Region	Cambridgeshire Horizons	2006
Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy	Cambridgeshire Horizons	2011

Evidence Base Document	South Cambridgeshire Annual Monitoring Report
Author (or prepared for)	South Cambridgeshire District Council (published annually)
Web Link	http://www.scamb.gov.uk/content/annual-monitoring-report
Purpose	Report produced annual to monitor implementation of the development plan, and indicators selected to monitor significant effects.
Key Findings	Indicators have been referenced in the assessment of the baseline situation.

Implications for the Local Plan

Indicators have been referenced in the assessment of the baseline situation.

Evidence Base Document	Cambridge Green Belt Study
Author (or prepared for)	Landscape Design Associates for South Cambridgeshire District Council 2002
Web Link	http://www.scamb.gov.uk/content/cambridge-green-belt-study
Purpose	
Prepared to provide evidence for the review of the Green Belt that was undertaken through the Cambridgeshire Structure Plan. Describes and illustrates the factors that contribute to the setting and special character of Cambridge. It then focuses on the qualities to be safeguarded to preserve this setting and special character, before setting out a vision of the city. The vision is a strategy for safeguarding and enhancing the setting and special character of Cambridge while recognising that there is likely to be a need for some urban expansion, through Green Belt releases, in order to contribute to the development targets of RPG6.	
Key Findings	
Defined the special character of the Cambridge Green Belt. Particularly focused on areas east of Cambridge.	
Implications for the Local Plan	
Evidence available support Green Belt policies and consideration of any options regarding changes to the Green Belt.	

Evidence Base Document	Cambridge Inner Green Belt Boundary Study 2012
Author (or prepared for)	Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council
Web Link	https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/sites/www.cambridge.gov.uk/files/documents/inner-green-belt-boundary-study-december-2012.pdf
Purpose	
A joint review of the Inner Green Belt Boundary around Cambridge was undertaken in Autumn 2012 by officers of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. It draws on and reviews the 2002 Inner Green Belt Study prepared by Cambridge City Council. It also builds on and is consistent with the broad appraisal of the Inner Green Belt boundary that the City Council undertook in May 2012 to sit alongside the Issues and Options Report (June 2012)	
Key Findings	
Provides an appraisal of the qualities of the Green Belt around Cambridge.	
Implications for the Local Plan	
Evidence available support Green Belt policies and consideration of any options regarding changes to the Green Belt.	

Evidence Base Document	South Cambridgeshire Listed Buildings Supplementary Planning Document
Author (or prepared for)	South Cambridgeshire District Council 2009

for)	
Web Link	http://www.scams.gov.uk/content/listed-buildings-spd
Purpose	Supports existing Development Control Policies DPD policies regarding listed buildings.
Key Findings	The Listed Buildings SPD provides broad guidance on Listed Buildings with regards to South Cambridgeshire District Council policies, and therefore it covers general approaches, typical works and when Listed Building Consent is likely to be required.
Implications for the Local Plan	Provides evidence regarding listed buildings issues.

Evidence Base Document	South Cambridgeshire Landscape in New Developments Supplementary Planning Document
Author (or prepared for)	South Cambridgeshire District Council 2010
Web Link	http://www.scams.gov.uk/content/landscape-new-developments-spd
Purpose	Supports existing Development Control Policies DPD policies regarding landscaping.
Key Findings	Seeks to ensure consideration is given, wherever possible, to the retention of landscaping features within developments, or to incorporating new planting into new designs. Landscaping is a valuable addition to any development, often helping to create accessible green spaces for wildlife and people.
Implications for the Local Plan	Provides evidence regarding landscape issues.

Evidence Base Document	South Cambridgeshire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document
Author (or prepared for)	South Cambridgeshire District Council 2010
Web Link	http://www.scams.gov.uk/content/district-design-guide-spd
Purpose	Supports existing Development Control Policies DPD policies regarding design quality.
Key Findings	The aim of the SPD is to provide additional guidance on how developments can ensure they are sustainable and achieve a high quality of design in a way that respects the local context.
Implications for the Local Plan	Provides evidence regarding local design issues.

Evidence Base Document	Development Affecting Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document
Author (or prepared for)	South Cambridgeshire District Council 2009
Web Link	http://www.scams.gov.uk/content/development-affecting-

	conservation-areas-spd
Purpose	
Supports existing Development Control Policies DPD policies regarding Conservation Areas, and how national guidance is interpreted in the local context.	
Key Findings	
Provides guidance for new developments and works to existing buildings, as well as demolition of existing structures within conservation areas.	
Implications for the Local Plan	
Provides evidence regarding Conservation Area issues.	

Evidence Base Document	Arts and Culture Strategy for the Cambridge Sub Region
Author (or prepared for)	Cambridgeshire Horizons 2006
Web Link	http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/our_challenge/art_culture_sport/
Purpose	
Cambridgeshire Horizons worked with a range of partners to develop this strategy to ensure that arts and cultural facilities are improved by opportunities created by planned new development. This strategy places art in the public places within the wider context of cultural infrastructure for sustainable communities.	
Key Findings	
Provides a stocktake of existing facilities, explores the needs of major developments, explores funding and implementation opportunities.	
Implications for the Local Plan	
Provides evidence to support development of policies regarding arts and culture.	

Evidence Base Document	Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy
Author (or prepared for)	Cambridgeshire Horizons 2011
Web Link	http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/our_challenge/green_spaces/
Summary	
The Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy is designed to help Cambridgeshire shape and co-ordinate the delivery of Green Infrastructure to provide long-term social, environmental and economic benefits now and in the future. The Green Infrastructure Strategy creates a 'framework' identifying opportunities for Green Infrastructure investment that will deliver long-term landscape scale improvements both within Cambridgeshire and connecting into other landscapes in neighbouring Counties.	
Key Objectives	
The phrase 'Green Infrastructure' includes many aspects of the environment, including country parks, footpaths and bridleways, sports pitches, meadows and woodland. The Strategy looks at how all of these different aspects can be used together across the whole of Cambridgeshire to help to achieve four objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reverse the decline in biodiversity • Mitigate and adapt to climate change • Promote sustainable growth and economic development • Support healthy living and wellbeing. 	

The purpose of the Strategy is to identify a Strategic Network of Green Infrastructure for Cambridgeshire which: Is sensitive to and reinforces the distinctive landscape, historic and other characteristics of Cambridgeshire's settlements and countryside.

Implications for the Local Plan

The Green Infrastructure Strategy draws together evidence on landscape character, and identifies opportunities for landscape enhancement and delivery of Green Infrastructure.