

Chapter 8
A Sustainable
Development
Strategy for Cambridge
and South
Cambridgeshire to 2031



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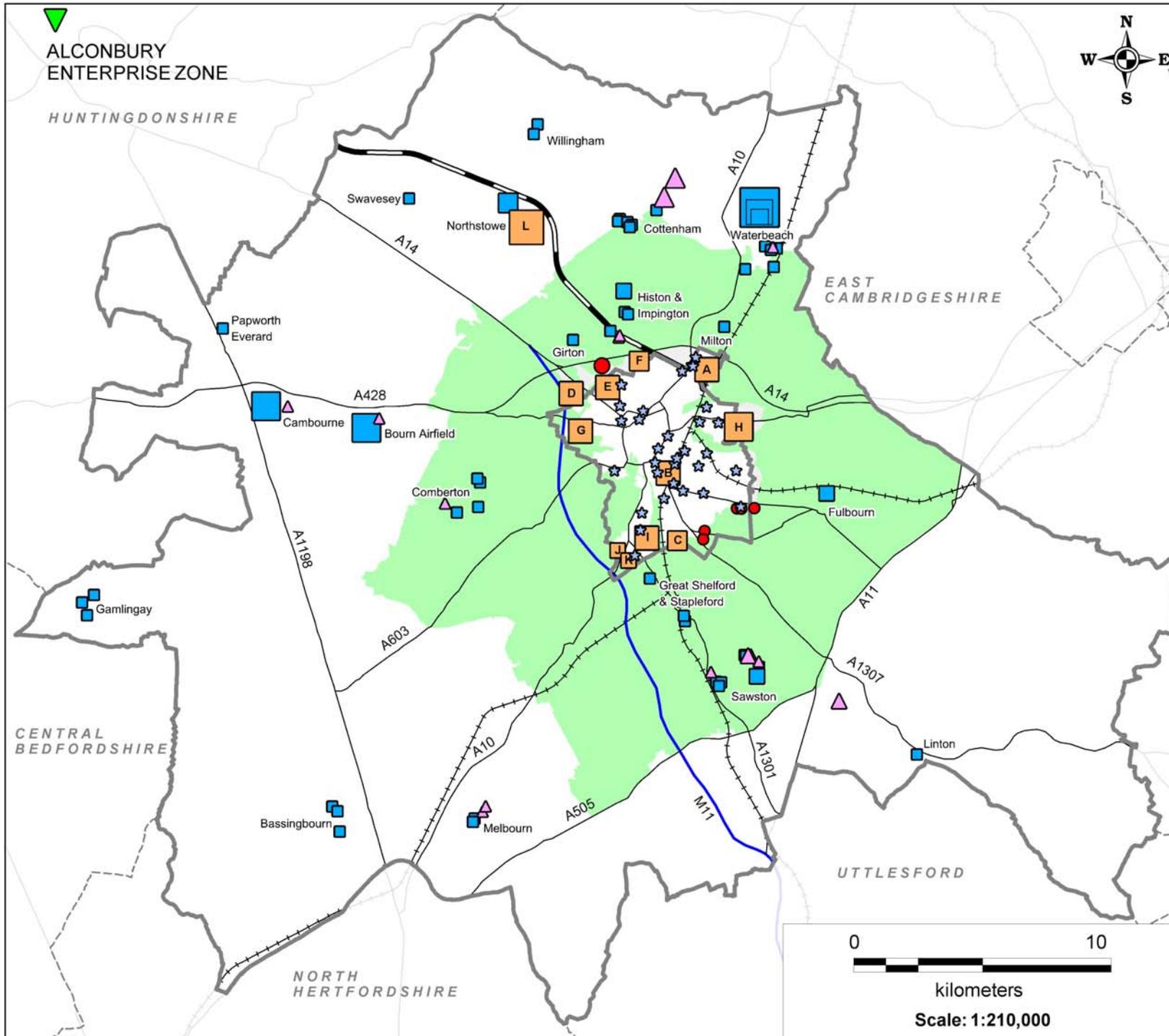
- 8.1. The review of the Green Belt and technical assessment of sites (see Chapters 7 and 9) have identified site options with capacity for only up to 680 dwellings on 4 sites with a further 2 site options for employment use. These are sites that could be developed without significant harm to the purposes for including land in the Green Belt (see Chapter 7). This gives a potential supply of around 12,060 new homes on the edge of Cambridge including current major developments (see para. 6.18).
- 8.2. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) places an emphasis on achieving sustainable development. Looking at the three arms of sustainability, the issue facing the Councils is how best to balance the forecast number of jobs that will be created over the plan period to 2031, for which permissions already exist or land is already allocated, with the new homes that need to be provided to support local needs and the growing economy. Whilst sufficient employment land is already committed for the forecast new jobs, employment studies suggest it is not all in the best locations and that there is an outstanding demand for high quality employment sites in and on the edge of Cambridge. The aim is to locate the homes to support the jobs in places that minimise commuting and congestion and the environmental harm that causes. Congestion also impacts on a successful economy and quality of life for existing and future residents. These factors must be balanced against the need to protect the special qualities of Cambridge as a compact historic city with an attractive setting.
- 8.3. The work in the new Local Plans must consider what a sustainable development strategy looks like today, given the circumstances that currently exist as opposed to those that existed in 2003 when the previous strategy was devised. This could mean that a much higher proportion of new housing will have to be delivered at the lower stages in the sequence with the negative impacts this will have on sustainable development. However, the alternative would be to consider allocating further large sites on the edge of Cambridge where the evidence is clear that there would be very significant harm to the purposes of the Green Belt, although they would have the benefit of being more sustainable in other respects.
- 8.4. The Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire is a key factor in this process. This will also consider what measures and enhancements might be put in place to help mitigate impacts of development, enhance accessibility and promote sustainable modes of transport.

- 8.5. On balance, the Councils have concluded that it is not appropriate at this time to consider large Green Belt releases on the edge of Cambridge that would cause significant harm to the Green Belt, but will work together to seek to maximise the delivery of housing in and on the edge of Cambridge that maintains Green Belt purposes. Notwithstanding this, the Councils acknowledge that this will have implications for the amount of housing that will need to be allocated at the lower stages of the development sequence in order to meet identified housing needs.
- 8.6. Map 1 shows the major sites forming the current development strategy and the site options consulted on by South Cambridgeshire in its summer 2012 Issues and Options consultation. It highlights the site options on the edge of Cambridge forming part of this consultation as set out in Chapter 9. It also shows sites options within Cambridge and additional sites at villages forming part of the Councils' Part 2 consultations alongside this joint consultation document.

Question 1:

Where do you think the appropriate balance lies between protecting land on the edge of Cambridge that is of high significance to Green Belt purposes and delivering development away from Cambridge in new settlements and at better served villages?

Please provide any comments.



Map 1: Towards a Sustainable Development Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire to 2031

Key

General Extent of the Green Belt

Current Development Strategy

Cambridge

- A. Cambridge Northern Fringe East
- B. CB1
- C. Addenbrooke's

Edge of Cambridge

- D. North West Cambridge
- E. NIAB
- F. Orchard Park
- G. West Cambridge
- H. Cambridge East
(no longer deliverable by 2031)
- I. Clay Farm
- J. Trumpington Meadows
- K. Glebe Farm

New Settlement

- L. Northstowe

2012 Consultation

South Cambridgeshire District Council - Site Options (for information)

This Consultation

Green Belt Site Options:

Cambridge Options (Housing, Employment, Mixed Use)

South Cambridgeshire Options (Housing, Employment, Mixed Use)

Guided Busway

Train Line



Scale: 1:210,000

