

# **Draft Final Sustainability Appraisal (March 2014)**

## **Part 2 Appendix 5: Biodiversity**

## APPENDIX 5 – BIODIVERSITY - DETAILED REVIEW OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES, INFORMATION SOURCES AND EVIDENCE BASE

### Detailed Review of Plans and Programmes

<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>		
Convention on Biological Diversity	Rio Earth Summit	1992
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats	The Bern Convention	1979
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat	The Ramsar Convention	1971
EC Council Directive 2009/147/EC, on the Conservation of Wild Birds (replaced 79/409/EEC and amendments)	European Union	2009
EC Council Directive 92/43/EEC, on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. ' The Habitats Directive'	European Union	1992
<b>NATIONAL</b>		
Securing the Future: delivering UK sustainable development strategy	DEFRA	2005
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services	DEFRA	2011
Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended);	UK Government	1981
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	UK Government	2000
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act	UK Government	2006
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations	UK Government	2010
Climate Change Act 2008	UK Government	2008
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	Natural England	2004
White Paper: The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature	DEFRA	2011
National Planning Policy Framework	CLG	2012
Working with the Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy For England	DEFRA	2002
NICE Public Health Guidance 8 - Promoting and creating built or natural environments that encourage and support physical activity	NICE	2008
Conserving Biodiversity – A UK Approach	DEFRA	2007
A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests	DEFRA	2007
50 Year Vision for Wetlands	Environment Agency	2008
<b>REGIONAL</b>		
Woodland for Life: The Regional Woodland Strategy for the East of England	EERA & the Forestry Commission	2003
East of England Plan	EERA	2008
Our Environment, Our Future – Regional Environment Strategy	EERA	2003
East of England Biodiversity Delivery Plan 2008 – 2015	East of England Biodiversity Forum	2008

<b>COUNTY / CAMBRIDGE SUBREGION</b>		
Cambridgeshire Together Vision 2007 to 2021 Local Area Agreement 2008 - 2011	Cambridgeshire Together Partnership	2007
Biodiversity Checklist for land use planners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	Cambridgeshire County Council	2001
Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plans	Cambridgeshire County Council	Various
<b>DISTRICT</b>		
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
South Cambridgeshire District Council Biodiversity Strategy	South Cambridgeshire District Council	2006

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio Earth Summit 1992
<b>Level</b>	International
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.cbd.int/convention/">http://www.cbd.int/convention/</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
Signed at the Rio Earth Summit at 1992, required the development of national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the use of Environmental Impact Assessment of plans and programmes.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Principle objectives to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve Biological Diversity;</li> <li>• Sustainable use of its components;</li> <li>• Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Seek to protect, and enhance biodiversity.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, The Bern Convention 1979
<b>Level</b>	International
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern/default_EN.asp?">http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern/default_EN.asp?</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
Identified a range of species for special protection, and lead to the identification of protected habitats, known now as Natura 2000.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Key objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;</li> <li>• promote co-operation between states;</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitor and control endangered and vulnerable species</li> </ul>
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>
Need to consider the impact of policies and proposals on designated sites.

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, The Ramsar Convention 1971
<b>Level</b>	International
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-1971/main/ramsar/1-31-58-136_4000_0">http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-1971/main/ramsar/1-31-58-136_4000_0</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
The Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance now includes 1,888 sites (known as Ramsar Sites), with 168 sites in the UK.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
To designate wetlands of international importance and promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands To include wetland conservation considerations in land-use planning.	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Will need to protect and enhance Wetlands, and consider impact of proposals on RAMSAR sites.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	EC Council Directive 2009/147/EC, on the Conservation of Wild Birds 2009
<b>Level</b>	International
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
The European Union Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC) was adopted in 1979, with the aiming to protect a list of threatened species, and their habitat.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Take measures to conserve all naturally occurring bird species Classify, manage and protect Special Protection Areas (SPAs), the most suitable territories for species listed on Annex I	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Consider the impact on bird species and their habitats, in particular the impact of proposals on SPA's.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	'The Habitats Directive' EC Council Directive 92/43/EEC, on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora 1992
<b>Level</b>	International
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
The Habitats Directive aims to contribute towards protecting biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a designated Special Area of Conservation should undergo an appropriate assessment of its implications.	

<b>Key Objectives</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements</li> <li>Designate and protect Special Areas of Conservation</li> <li>Planning and development policies should encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna</li> </ul>
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>
Impact of plans on protected sites needs to be considered through Habitats Regulations Assessment.

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Securing the Future: delivering UK sustainable development strategy (DEFRA 2005)
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/03/25/securing-the-future-pb10589/">http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/03/25/securing-the-future-pb10589/</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
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.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
This strategy contains 5 key principles and 68 indicators. The key principles relate to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Living within environmental limits</li> <li>2. Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society</li> <li>3. Achieving a sustainable economy</li> <li>4. Using sound science responsibly</li> <li>5. Promoting good governance.</li> </ol>	
Takes an ecosystems approach, to live within environmental limits.	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Local Plan needs to aim to achieve sustainable development.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA 2011)
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/08/19/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020/">http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/08/19/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020/</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
Provides a comprehensive picture of how England is implementing international and EU commitments. It sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
To halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Seek to protect, and enhance biodiversity.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended);
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1377">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1377</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
Consolidates and amends existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) in Great Britain (Council Directive 79/409/EEC has now been replaced by Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (codified version)).	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Protection for native species and habitats. Protection to SSSIs, Rights of Way etc.	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Consider the impact of proposals and policies on biodiversity.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1378">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1378</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
The Act provides for public access on foot to certain types of land, amends the law relating to public rights of way, increases measures for the management and protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Amended regulations regarding rights of way, and the protection of SSSI.	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Consider the impact of proposals and policies on biodiversity, and the protection and enhancement of rights of way.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
The Act recognises that public authorities have a key role to play in conserving biodiversity through their work in: developing and implementing external and internal policies and strategies; administering the planning system; managing land and buildings; developing infrastructure; engaging with business and the public; promoting the local area; making decisions about procurement; and implementing economic, environmental and social programmes. It is stressed that biodiversity conservation should not be viewed solely as an environmental issue, but a core component of sustainable development.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.	

**Implications for the Local Plan**

Consider the impact of proposals and policies on biodiversity.

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1379">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1379</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
Consolidated all the various amendments made to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 in respect of England and Wales. The 1994 Regulations transposed Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive) into national law.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Provides the process for identifying and protection European designated sites, known as Natura 2000.	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Impact of plans on protected sites needs to be considered through Habitats Regulations Assessment.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Climate Change Act (2008)
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/legislation/cc_act_08/cc_act_08.aspx">http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/legislation/cc_act_08/cc_act_08.aspx</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
The Climate Change Act 2008 makes the UK the first country in the world to have a legally binding long-term framework to cut carbon emissions. It also creates a framework for building the UK's ability to adapt to climate change.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Requires a national adaptation programme which must be put in place and reviewed every five years to address the most pressing climate change risks to England;	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Consider the impact of policies and proposals on the fragmentation of habitats.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1994
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=5155">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=5155</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
Part of the UK's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to develop a national strategy for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources.	

**Key Objectives**

To conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms.

To conserve and where practicable to enhance:

- the overall populations and natural ranges of native species and the quality and range of wildlife habitats and ecosystems;
- internationally important and threatened species, habitats and ecosystems;
- species, habitats and natural and managed ecosystems that are characteristic of local areas;
- the biodiversity of natural and semi-natural habitats where this has been diminished over recent past decades.
- to increase public awareness of, and involvement in, conserving biodiversity.

It establishes a series of action plans and recovery targets for the most threatened species and habitats found in England including identifying the factors contributing to species and habitat decline and prioritising the work necessary to bring about improvements in each case.

**Implications for the Local Plan**

Plans and policies should have regard to the objectives of the UK BAP and the national targets for biodiversity. Plan policies should seek to increase the quality and range of wildlife habitats.

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	White Paper: The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (DEFRA 2011)
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/">http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
Sets out the Governments aims and commitments regarding protection and improvement of the natural environment, growing a green economy, and reconnecting people with nature.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
<p>Protecting and Improving our Natural Environment: We want to improve the quality of our natural environment across England, moving to a net gain in the value of nature. We aim to arrest the decline in habitats and species and the degradation of landscapes. We will protect priority habitats and safeguard vulnerable non-renewable resources for future generations. We will support natural systems to function more effectively in town, in the country and at sea. We will achieve this through joined-up action at local and national level to create an ecological network which is resilient to changing pressures.</p> <p>Growing a Green Economy: Our ambition is for a green and growing economy which not only uses natural capital in a responsible and fair way but contributes to improving it. It will properly value the stocks and flows of natural capital. Growth will be green because it is intrinsically linked to the health of the country's natural resources. The economy will capture the value of nature. It will encourage businesses to use natural capital sustainably, protecting and improving it through their day-to-day operations and the management of their supply chains.</p> <p>Reconnecting people and Nature: Our ambition is to strengthen the connections between people and nature. We want to help more people enjoy the benefits of nature by giving them more freedom to connect with it. Everyone should have fair access to a good-quality natural</p>	

environment. We want to see every child in England given the opportunity to experience and learn about the natural environment. We want to help people take more responsibility for the environment, putting people and local communities in control and making it easier for people to take positive action.

Our 2020 mission is to halt overall biodiversity loss.

The Government will establish a Green Infrastructure Partnership to support the development of green infrastructure in England. This will consider how green infrastructure can be enhanced to strengthen ecological networks and improve communities' health, quality of life and resilience to climate change.

**Implications for the Local Plan**

Consider biodiversity issues across the range of issues and proposals included in the Local Plan.

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	National Planning Policy Framework (CLG 2012)
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicyframework/">http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicyframework/</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>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.</p>	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
<p>The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;</li> <li>• recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;</li> <li>• minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;</li> </ul> <p>Local planning authorities should set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife or geodiversity sites or landscape areas will be judged. Distinctions should be made between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites, so that protection is commensurate with their status and gives appropriate weight to their importance and the contribution that they make to wider ecological networks.</p> <p>Local planning authorities should set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure;</p> <p>To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries;</li> </ul>	

- identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation;
- promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan;
- aim to prevent harm to geological conservation interests; and where Nature Improvement Areas are identified in Local Plans, consider specifying the types of development that may be appropriate in these Areas.

When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying the following principles:

- if significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- proposed development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest likely to have an adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (either individually or in combination with other developments) should not normally be permitted. Where an adverse effect on the site's notified special interest features is likely, an exception should only be made where the benefits of the development, at this site, clearly outweigh both the impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be permitted;
- opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged;
- planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss;
- and the following wildlife sites should be given the same protection as European sites: potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation; listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.
- The presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 14) does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment under the Birds or Habitats Directives is being considered, planned or determined.

#### **Implications for the Local Plan**

Policies and proposals should seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible. Include policies for protection of designated sites appropriate to their status.

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Working with the Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy For England DEFRA 2002
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/03/29/pb7718-biodiversity/">http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/03/29/pb7718-biodiversity/</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
Plan seeks to mainstream biodiversity issues, to ensure the full integration of biodiversity considerations within local and regional policies.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Sets out a series of key action points including working with the planning system, ensuring BAP coverage, habitat and species creation and restoration, encouraging human contact with and understanding of nature, encouraging agriculture that supports biodiversity and maximising the value of water resources for wildlife.	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Consider biodiversity issues across the range of issues and proposals included in the Local Plan.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	NICE Public Health Guidance 8 - Promoting and creating built or natural environments that encourage and support physical activity
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://publications.nice.org.uk/physical-activity-and-the-environment-ph8">http://publications.nice.org.uk/physical-activity-and-the-environment-ph8</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>The guidance offers the first national, evidence-based recommendations on how to improve the physical environment to encourage physical activity. It demonstrates the importance of such improvements and the need to evaluate how they impact on the public's health. Those working in the NHS, local authorities, the wider public, voluntary and community sectors and the private sector should take it into account when carrying out their professional, managerial or voluntary duties.</p> <p>The full guidance can be found here <a href="#">NICE PH008</a></p>	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
<p>To improve the physical environment to encourage physical activity, through land use planning by adopting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations 1, 4, 5 (on land use planning) which are relevant when developing local development frameworks and other local plans, and</li> <li>• Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 which are relevant when developing local transport plans and guidance.</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
<p>Local planning authorities should incorporate into their local development frameworks the following policy recommendations:</p> <p>Recommendation 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure public open spaces and public paths can be reached on foot, by bicycle and using other modes of transport involving physical activity and are maintained to a high standard. They should also be accessible by public transport.</li> </ul>	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Conserving Biodiversity – A UK Approach DEFRA 2007
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/05/24/pb12772-conserving-biodiversity/">http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/05/24/pb12772-conserving-biodiversity/</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
Statement prepared by the UK Biodiversity Standing Committee on behalf of the UK Biodiversity Partnership, to set out the vision and approach to conserving biodiversity within the UK's devolved framework for anyone with a policy interest in biodiversity conservation.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Six priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protecting the best sites for wildlife;</li> <li>• targeting action on priority species and habitats;</li> <li>• embedding proper consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in all relevant sectors of policy and decision-making;</li> <li>• engaging people, and encouraging behaviour change;</li> <li>• developing and interpreting the evidence base;</li> <li>• ensuring that the UK plays a proactive role in influencing the development of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and contributes fully to their domestic delivery;</li> </ul> Also included the UK Biodiversity Indicators to measure progress..	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Local Plans should provide for the protection and conservation of biodiversity and geological interests, identifying sites and applying appropriate policy protection, and using development opportunities to enhance biodiversity.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests DEFRA 2007
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/forestry/20070620-forestry.pdf">http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/forestry/20070620-forestry.pdf</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
This Strategy shows how we can meet the opportunities and challenges of making our trees and woodlands productive, healthy and attractive in the years to come.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide, in England, a resource of trees, woods and forests in places where they can contribute most in terms of environmental, economic and social benefits now and for future generations</li> <li>• contribute to the way in which biodiversity and natural resources adjust to a changing climate</li> <li>• protect and enhance the environmental resources of water, soil, air, biodiversity and landscapes (both woodland and non-woodland), and the cultural and amenity values of trees and woodland</li> <li>• increase the contribution that trees, woods and forests make to the quality of life for those living in, working in or visiting England</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Consider opportunities to protect and enhance woodland habitat.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	50 Year Vision for Wetlands – RSPB 2008
<b>Level</b>	National
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/wetlandvision_tcm9-132957.pdf">http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/wetlandvision_tcm9-132957.pdf</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
A multi-agency vision to enhance and expand wetland habitats in the UK. Includes specific projects in the Great Ouse corridor.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Expand, restore and reconnect wetlands, and consider the impacts of climate change.	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Consider opportunities to protect and enhance wetland habitat.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Woodland for Life: The Regional Woodland Strategy for the East of England - EERA & the Forestry Commission 2003
<b>Level</b>	Regional
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.woodlandforlife.net/PDFs/Woodland_for_Life.pdf">http://www.woodlandforlife.net/PDFs/Woodland_for_Life.pdf</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
Provides a strategy for the enhancement, over 20 years, of the benefits that trees and woodlands bring to the people who live and work in the region. Addresses 6 key themes 1. Quality of life, 2. Spatial Planning, 3. Economic Development, 4. Renewable Energy, 5. Education and Learning, 6. Natural Environment.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
That trees and woodland are widely recognised as bringing high quality sustainable benefits to all who live and work in the East of England.	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Consider opportunities to protect and enhance woodland habitat.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Our Environment, Our Future – Regional Environment Strategy (EERA 2003)
<b>Level</b>	Regional
<b>Web Link</b>	Not available
<b>Summary</b>	
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.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Includes a set of 14 strategic aims, and key actions to secure their implementation. SA11: Enhance biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the social and economic benefits of biodiversity are properly recognised in regional strategies including biodiversity benefits</li> <li>• Ensure strong protection and active management of wildlife sites to sustain or restore their interest</li> <li>• Increase the coverage of locally important habitats, such as County Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves, etc.</li> <li>• Implement Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) to enhance the region's biodiversity</li> <li>• Increase the uptake of agri-environment schemes % area of farms with Countryside or Arable Stewardship or ESA Agreements</li> <li>• Create or restore large-scale habitats, including woodland and wetland, particularly where opportunities arise as a result of climate change</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that sufficient water resources are available to support wetlands, rivers and other water dependent habitats</li> <li>• Provide guidance to planners and developers on maximizing biodiversity benefits in developments</li> </ul>
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>
Consider how the Local Plan can contribute to the achievement of the strategic aims.

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	East of England Biodiversity Delivery Plan 2008 – 2015 (East of England Biodiversity Forum)
<b>Level</b>	Regional
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://eoebiodiversity.org/index.html">http://eoebiodiversity.org/index.html</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
The East of England Biodiversity Forum includes a range of member organisations. It aims to help formulate co-ordinated policies and encourage action plans that reflect national biodiversity policies at every level. To ensure a more robust natural environment, and recovery where it is needed, the Forum has developed a detailed Delivery Plan.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Plan has been designed to enable the East of England to tackle six challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Networking nature'</li> <li>• Realising biodiversity's true value</li> <li>• Ensuring there is water</li> <li>• Responding to a changing coast</li> <li>• Safeguarding the seas</li> <li>• Enhancing the evidence base</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Ensure the Local Plan recognises the value of biodiversity.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Cambridgeshire Together Vision 2007 to 2021 Local Area Agreement 2008 - 2011
<b>Level</b>	County
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/774C1C91-75A0-4D6C-8B5D-419380255C7D/0/LAA.pdf">http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/774C1C91-75A0-4D6C-8B5D-419380255C7D/0/LAA.pdf</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
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.	
The priorities in the five district-based Sustainable Community Strategies have provided 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.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Attractive and healthy environments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Protecting and enhancing the environment in open spaces and the countryside for the benefit of people and wildlife</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications for the LDF</b>	
Need to consider how the Local Plan can contribute to achievement of the objectives, particularly through opportunities provided by new development.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Biodiversity Checklist for land use planners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (2001)
<b>Level</b>	County
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.cpbiodiversity.org.uk/downloads">http://www.cpbiodiversity.org.uk/downloads</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
The Biodiversity Partnership for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough prepared this checklist in consultation with, and for, planners. The checklist will help planners deal with biodiversity issues.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PROTECT current key habitats and species</li> <li>• ENHANCE existing habitats or create new areas</li> <li>• MITIGATE against potentially damaging impacts</li> <li>• COMPENSATE where damage is unavoidable</li> <li>• MONITOR AND ENFORCE to assess the success of enhancement, mitigatory and compensatory measures.</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Ensure decisions on biodiversity are taken in light of up to date and comprehensive information.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plans
<b>Level</b>	County
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.cpbiodiversity.org.uk/">http://www.cpbiodiversity.org.uk/</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
The 45 Habitat and Species Action Plans were first produced in 1999. A complete review of all the BAPS nationally took place in 2007, and local BAPS are now monitored in a nationwide database, the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS).	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Each plan contains objectives regarding an individual habitat or species.	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Local Plan can contribute to the achievement of Local BAP targets.	

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	South Cambridgeshire Corporate Plan – Vision, Values and The Three As (South Cambs DC 2012)
<b>Level</b>	District
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/council-aims-and-objectives">http://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/council-aims-and-objectives</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
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.	
The Plan establishes three aims, with a range of approaches, and Actions for 2012/13 towards how they will be achieved.	

**Key Objectives**

Aim: We will make sure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer outstanding and sustainable quality of life for our residents.

Approaches: Preserving and enhancing the landscape for future generations

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

**Implications for the Local Plan**

Consider Council's corporate objectives when developing the Local Plan.

<b>Plan / Programme / Strategy</b>	South Cambridgeshire District Council Biodiversity Strategy 2006
<b>Level</b>	District
<b>Web Link</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	
The South Cambridgeshire District Council Biodiversity Strategy outlines how the Council will promote biodiversity, conservation and enhancement throughout its daily functions, both regulatory and advisory, in order to produce an ecologically diverse and sustainable local environment for the district.	
<b>Key Objectives</b>	
Objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conserve and further enhance biodiversity, and to contribute towards sustainable development. The objective will be to achieve biodiversity gain</li> <li>To actively seek partnership opportunities in order to progress positive action contained within national, county and the council's Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs)</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policies should seek to conserve and enhance biodiversity, and to contribute towards sustainable development.</li> <li>Consider the impact of proposals on species identified on the South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan, and how development proposals can help achieve targets.</li> <li>Seek to protect and enhance locally designated sites.</li> <li>Secure the provision of appropriate public access to natural green spaces, particularly within or close to the villages.</li> <li>Seek to ensure that the distinctive habitats, natural features and species characteristic of these Natural Areas are respected, retained, enhanced or restored.</li> <li>Seek biodiversity provision in the design of new buildings.</li> </ul>	

## Information Sources and Evidence Base

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

Document	Author (or prepared for)	Year published
South Cambridgeshire Annual Monitoring Report	South Cambridgeshire District Council	Published Annually
Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy	Cambridgeshire Horizons	2011
South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document	South Cambridgeshire District Council	2009

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

<b>Evidence Base Document</b>	Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy
<b>Author (or prepared for)</b>	Cambridgeshire Horizons 2011
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/our_challenge/green_spaces/">http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/our_challenge/green_spaces/</a>
<b>Summary</b>	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.
<b>Key Findings</b>	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"> <li>• Reverse the decline in biodiversity</li> <li>• Mitigate and adapt to climate change</li> <li>• Promote sustainable growth and economic development</li> </ul>

- Support healthy living and wellbeing.

**Implications for the Local Plan**

The plan identifies strategic areas, and projects that can contribute to achieving the objectives, including the enhancement of biodiversity. The Local Plan will provide a mechanism to help deliver Green Infrastructure.

<b>Evidence Base Document</b>	South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document
<b>Author (or prepared for)</b>	South Cambridgeshire District Council 2009
<b>Web link</b>	<a href="http://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/biodiversity-spd">http://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/biodiversity-spd</a>
<b>Summary</b>	
Adopted Policies seek to ensure that biodiversity is adequately protected and enhanced throughout the development process, and this SPD provides additional details on how these policies will be implemented.	
<b>Key Findings</b>	
Assist applicants' understanding of the role of biodiversity within the wider environment and how biodiversity features should be incorporated within development proposals as part of a high quality design. Ensure that development works are undertaken in an appropriate manner to avoid harm to biodiversity.	
<b>Implications for the Local Plan</b>	
Consider the issues addressed by the SPD when reviewing policy.	