

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Consultation Statement
25 May 2010

This Consultation Statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulations 16, 17 and 18(4)(b) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

The following is a list of those consulted in connection with the County Wildlife Sites Supplementary Planning Document.

1. The Environment Agency
2. Natural England
3. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
4. The Wildlife Trust
5. South Cambridgeshire District Council
6. Fenland District Council
7. Forest Heath District Council
8. Huntingdon District Council
9. Cambridge City Council
10. Cambridgeshire County Council
11. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre

The consultation period lasted for four weeks, from 10th February to 10th March 2010. A total of five responses were received. A summary of the consultation responses and action taken is listed below.

No.	Respondent's name	Summary of response	Comments on the response	Action
1.1	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre (CPBRC) Philip Ricketts	<p>The CPBRC wanted to make the Council aware that there will be some changes to CWSs in East Cambridgeshire from March 2010. These are –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ely Beet Pits and Roswell Pits and Adjacent Areas CWSs are to be deleted as the areas they cover are now part of Ely Pits and Meadows SSSIs 2) Some of the area covered by River Great Ouse CWS in this location is to be reduced for the same reason. 3) A new CWS 'The Bury Meadow' is to be designated, this is near Witcham. 4) The CPBRC also pointed out that the total area of sites is 1601.52ha – the figure in the Draft CWS SPD (1593.94 ha) is for the area within the East Cambridgeshire boundary (some sites cross the boundary). The CPBRC have also asked the Council to note that river CWS's are not considered to have an area for this analysis and so were not included in the area calculations. From March 2010 the new areas will be 1544.76ha in total and 	<p>Comments noted. The Council will include the changes as of March 2010.</p> <p>In relation to point number 4, the Council were aware that the figure used for the area was the area within the East Cambridgeshire boundary. It was decided to use this figure after correspondence with the Wildlife Trust in December 2009. It also has been pointed out in paragraph 3.1.8 that this area includes the river sites. The figure for the area of CWS within East Cambridgeshire as of March 2010 (1537.18ha) will now be used.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amend paragraph 3.1.8 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1.8. In the period 2006-2009, no new sites have been selected, no sites have been lost to development or no sites have had their boundaries amended. As it stands, the total number of County Wildlife Sites in the East Cambridgeshire District is 81 covering an area of 1593.94 ha. This area excludes the river sites (Great Ouse, Little Ouse, Lark and Cam). - Include new paragraphs 3.1.9 to 3.1.11 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1.9. On the 12th Feb 2009 Ely Pits and Meadows was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The designation of Ely Pits and Meadows SSSI ensures that the nationally important wildlife and geology of the area will be fully recognised and taken into account in the future management and uses of the site. Ely Beet Pits CWS and Roswell Pits and Adjacent Areas CWS have been deleted from the CWS Register as of March

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		1537.18ha within East Cambs. From March 2010 there will be 80 sites.		<p>2010 as the areas they cover are now part of the Ely Pits and Meadows SSSI. Some of the area covered by River Great Ouse CWS has been reduced for the same reason.</p> <p>3.1.10. As of March 2010, a new CWS, 'The Bury Meadow' is to be designated. The site qualifies as it supports more than 0.05 ha of NVC community MG5 (unimproved neutral grassland) and has 8 or more neutral grassland indicator species present in frequent numbers. The site is one of a series of meadows adjacent to the Bury Road ancient drove way between Witcham and Wardy Hill.</p> <p>3.1.11. As it stands the total number of CWS in East Cambridgeshire is 80 covering an area of 1537.18ha. This area excludes the river sites (Great Ouse, Little Ouse, Lark and Cam), they are not considered to have an area for this analysis and so were not included in the area calculations.</p> <p>- Remove reference to Ely Beet Pits CWS and Roswell Pits and Adjacent Areas CWS from the site register</p>

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				<p>table on pages 6 and 7.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove Ely Beet Pits CWS and Roswell Pits and adjacent area maps and citation sheets from the Draft CWS Register - Include 'The Bury Meadow' citation sheet and map in the Draft CWS Register. - Amend figures for total number and area of CWS at the bottom of page 7 as follows: <table border="1" data-bbox="1509 730 2027 839"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1509 730 1890 767">Total number of sites</td> <td data-bbox="1890 730 2027 767">81 80</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1509 767 1890 839">Total Area of sites (ha)</td> <td data-bbox="1890 767 2027 839">1593.94 1537.18</td> </tr> </table>	Total number of sites	81 80	Total Area of sites (ha)	1593.94 1537.18
Total number of sites	81 80							
Total Area of sites (ha)	1593.94 1537.18							
1.2	<p>Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Sian Williams</p>	<p>1) The Wildlife Trust had seen the CPBRC comments and suggest the Council add in the three changes from 2010 that they suggested.</p> <p>2) They suggest some changes to the dates of last survey (in the site register table). Having checked again they suggest changing the dates of Combers Wood and Pickmore Wood to 2008, and Little Chitlings Wood and Pauline's Swamp to 2009. They also suggest removing the last survey date and leaving a blank for the river sites – River Lark, River Great Ouse, River Little Ouse, and River Cam. As stated in the text (section 2.2.2), these weren't</p>	Comments are noted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amend dates in the site register table as suggested - Amend first sentence of paragraph 1.3.2 to read as follows: 'The <i>East Cambridgeshire District County Wildlife Register 2005</i> completed a full re- survey of 74 out of the 78 County Wildlife Sites (CWS) located in the District of East Cambridgeshire,' - Add sentence to the end of paragraph 1.3.2 to read as follows: 'The only sites not surveyed were the four main river sites, The River Lark and associated habitat, the 				

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		<p>surveyed in 2005, and it's a bit difficult to give them a last survey date, since they are large sites and tend to be surveyed in sections.</p> <p>3) The wording of paragraph 1.3.2 should be changed slightly to acknowledge that the river sites were not included in the survey.</p>		<p>Little River Ouse, the River Cam and the River Great Ouse. The criteria for such river sites were in the process of being reviewed.'</p>
1.3	<p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Adam Ireland</p>	<p>The Environment Agency support the Draft County Wildlife Sites SPD in general terms because 'it will help contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity in East Cambridgeshire and to meeting PPS9 and East Cambridgeshire District Council's duties under the NERC Act 2006.'</p> <p>The Environment Agency would like to see the CWS Register reviewed in the future in line with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CWS selection guidelines and hope that the river sites will be included in future reviews.</p> <p>They also point out that the Roswell Pits and Ely Beet Pits County Wildlife Sites are now incorporated within Ely Pits and Meadow SSSI and may be de-selected as County Wildlife Sites at some point in the future.</p>	<p>It is recognised that regular reviews will be useful and the Council receives an annual update of the CWS register from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>It is noted that Roswell Pits and Ely Beet Pits can be deselected.</p>	<p>See response to 1.1 above</p>
1.4	<p>Cambridgeshire County Council</p>	<p>1) Para 1.3.1 of this document explains that PPS 9 requires that local plan policies should be based on up to</p>	<p>1) The Draft CWS Register SPD contains the most up to date information</p>	<p>1) No change required.</p> <p>2) Add text to the end of Paragraph</p>

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	<p>Stewart Patience</p>	<p>date information on the environmental characteristics of their areas. As the original survey information is now 5 years old there is a need for the District Council to clarify whether there is more recent information, which could be used for this purpose including any surveys which may have been undertaken more recently by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>2) It is suggested that there is a need to clarify how the information presented in the SPD is intended to be used by developers and the District Council. 'For example is it the District Councils intention that this information will be used to inform the preparation of planning applications and that it will be considered by Development Control Officers in the determination of relevant applications?'</p> <p>3) In relation to paragraph 1.3.6 it should be made clear that there is not a requirement to consider future revisions to the County Wildlife Site Criteria as part of the planning application process. However this issue would need to be considered when reviewing the County Wildlife Sites Supplementary Planning Document.</p>	<p>available from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Wildlife Trust. The Council receives an annual update from the Wildlife Trust and any changes that have taken place since 2005 have been incorporated.</p> <p>2) Comments are noted.</p> <p>3) No change is necessary. The County Wildlife Sites Selection Criteria will not be used as part of the planning application process but in the selection and review of County Wildlife Sites.</p>	<p>1.3.1 to read as follows: 'The <i>ECDC Draft County Wildlife Sites SPD</i> provides detailed background information, which supports Policy CS6 and Policy EN6 of the East Cambridgeshire District Council Core Strategy DPD, and ensures that these policies are based on up to date information about the environmental characteristics of the area, including relevant biodiversity and geological sources. Development proposals on County Wildlife Sites will be assessed against Policy CS6 and Policy EN6.'</p> <p>3) No change required.</p>

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1.5	Natural England Janet Nuthall	Paragraph 1.3.3 should state "...Nature Conservancy Council (succeeded by English Nature, <u>now Natural England</u>)".	Comments are noted	Amend Paragraph 1.3.3 to incorporate suggested change.