



STAPLEFORD AND GREAT SHELFORD LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

OCTOBER 2019

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1. Introduction

This report was commissioned by the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan (SGSNP) steering group and has been undertaken by Sophie Smith Ltd. The study is undertaken at Parish scale and covers the unbuilt areas within the Neighbourhood Plan Area for both Parishes.

The purpose of the study is to provide an evidence base to assist the formation of Neighbourhood Plan policies and to provide background to assist in planning decision making.

The structure of the report

Section 1.0 sets out the context for the Study. It explains the background to the Study, its aims and objectives and outlines the assessment methodology.

Section 2.0 provides an overview of the Study Area. It describes the physical and historical influences on the landscape and identifies the key forces for change affecting landscape character today. This section also provides an overview of landscape character across the Study Area as a whole in its national and county contexts. The descriptions of individual Landscape Character Areas in Section 3.0 should be read in conjunction with this information to ensure that the contextual relationship with the wider landscape is understood.

Sections 3.0 provides the detailed 'profiles' of Landscape Character Areas

Landscape character profiles include:

- Location of character area
- Photograph
- Key characteristics
- Overall character description
- Visual characteristics
- Historic land use
- Ecological features and designations
- Key planning and land management issues and planning constraints
- Sensitivities to change
- Proposed landscape strategy objectives
- Suggested landscape planning guidelines
- Suggested land management guidelines

Section 4.0 sets out the consultant's recommendations to the commissioning authorities for their consideration and action as appropriate. Recommendations are provided for the application of the Landscape Character Assessment including its use in relation to informing Neighbourhood Planning policies for protecting and enhancing landscape character, and in providing a baseline and framework for monitoring landscape change and informing discussion of planning decisions.

The study acknowledges the changing and uncertain context with respect to infrastructure and other developments in the Cambridge sub region.

Recommendations for further work required to enhance the evidence base on the landscape and settlement character of the Study Area are also included.

Approach and Methodology

The overall approach for undertaking the Landscape Character Assessment is based on guidance published by Natural England “An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment” 2014 and takes into account current best practice. Landscape Character Assessment addresses both the relatively objective process of landscape characterisation, which involves identifying, mapping, classifying and describing ‘landscape character’, and the more subjective process of evaluating landscape character to inform planning and land management decisions.

Desk Study Research

This stage involved desk-based research to identify physical and historical factors that have influenced the shape and use of the landscape. This work drew on a variety of documents and maps that describe the physical geography and cultural history of the Study Area and baseline information provided by Ian Hodge. The desk research also identified the forces for change affecting the character of the landscape within the Study Area.

In summary, the desk work involved:

- A review of existing national and local character assessments relating to the Study Area, including the Countryside Agency’s Character of England, Map/Countryside Character descriptions and National Landscape Typology and Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment 2003.
- Analysis of map overlays of surface geology, landform and drainage, and nature conservation designations, historic maps.
- Analysis of air photos.
- Identification of draft Landscape Character Types and draft Landscape Character Areas.

Field Survey

Field surveys were undertaken between July and October 2018 to allow consideration of seasonal variations. The aim of the surveys was to undertake a visual analysis of how different features and elements combined to create distinctive patterns in the landscape. The surveys were undertaken from key viewpoints within each draft Landscape Character Area by Sophie O’Hara Smith and Bridget Hodge. The checklist included:

- Landform
- Rivers/drainage
- Land cover
- Field pattern and field boundaries
- Communication routes
- Settlement form/pattern
- Building styles
- Scale
- Texture
- Enclosure
- Stimuli
- Sense of tranquillity
- Movement
- View types and composition
- Landmarks

The survey information (including photographs) was used to (i) inform the descriptions of landscape character and (ii) to test and refine the draft Landscape Character Area boundaries.

Characterisation

The characterisation stage involved the combination of the desk study research and field survey analysis to identify and map generic Landscape Character Types and geographically unique Landscape Character Areas for each generic Landscape Character Type. The boundaries were mapped and key characteristics described and the following characterisation information was recorded:

- Key Characteristics
- Overall Character Description
- Visual Characteristics
- Historic Land Use
- Ecological Features

Evaluation

This stage involved making the following judgements about each Landscape Character Area:

- Key Planning and Land Management Issues
- Sensitivities to Change
- Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives
- Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines
- Suggested Land Management Guidelines

Taking into account the condition and sensitivities of the particular Landscape Character Area, one or more of the following strategy objectives was identified:

- **Protect** - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.
- **Enhance** - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.
- **Restore** - seek to reinforce and/or reinstate historic landscape patterns and features that contribute to sense of place and time depth, by repairing distinctive elements that have been lost or degraded.

Consultation

A NP Green Infrastructure workshop and display of work in progress on the Landscape Character Assessment with the draft characterisation was undertaken on November 10th 2018 in Great Shelford.

Topics covered were more wide ranging than just the LCA with consultation including; Countryside Access and Enhancements and Major forces for change with Mass Rapid Transit and Cambridge South. The findings from the workshop and review were incorporated into the document. Details of the display can be found at Appendix 1.

Other consultation included meetings with the Parishes and NP steering group, meetings with Helen Harwood and John Street with regard to village history and a meeting with Collette Paterson and Neil Ruffles with regard to Little Shelford Village Design Guide and discussion with Aecom regarding the updated Village Design Statements.

A meeting was held with Mott McDonald to discuss the Mass Rapid Transit proposals and the workshop findings were shared with the team. There was also liaison David Carford at Cambridgeshire County Council with regard to the implementation of Policy CSF/5 f-m the Southern Fringe enhancements, again the workshop findings were shared and the two parties introduced via email.

2. Context and background studies

The Study Area lies within the **East Anglian Chalk National Character Area (NCA) 87**.

It is characterised by the narrow continuation of the chalk ridge that runs south-west/north-east across southern England from the Chilterns to Breckland. The underlying geology is Upper Cretaceous Chalk, which is covered in a surface deposit of ice and river-deposited material laid down during the last ice age. This creates a visually simple and uninterrupted landscape of smooth, rolling chalkland hills with large regular fields enclosed by low hawthorn hedges, with few trees, straight roads and expansive views to the north.

The vast majority of its landscape is open countryside, under arable production. It is an open landscape but trees on hill tops are visually distinct and characteristic. The smooth, rolling chalkland hills are dissected by the two gentle valleys of the rivers Granta and Rhee, which converge to form the River Cam just south of Cambridge. Historically, sheep rearing and corn production have shaped the area, leading to the creation of botanically rich grasslands, which are now often small and fragmented. Large-scale cereal production dominates the predominantly agricultural landscape, and care must be taken to ensure that the soil quality is maintained to support a viable and sustainable future for farming.

Settlement was limited, but over the last 50 years towns - including the university city of Cambridge and commuter villages have grown rapidly. There is pressure for more development, which is adding to the demand for water and is likely to further reduce the tranquillity of the NCA.

The chalklands are traversed by several ancient trackways, including the major ancient trackway, the Ickniel Way, which extended along the length of the south-west/north-east chalk outcrop.

Key statements of 'environmental opportunity':

- *Maintain sustainable but productive agricultural land use, while expanding and connecting the chalkland assemblage of semi-natural grasslands,*
- *Conserve the regionally important East Anglian chalk groundwater resource,*
- *Conserve and promote the landscape character, geodiversity, historic environment and historical assets of the chalklands. Improve opportunities to enhance people's enjoyment of the area while protecting levels of tranquillity.*
- *Conserve the settlement character and create or enhance sustainable urban drainage systems and green infrastructure within existing and new developments.*

The East of England Landscape Framework 2010

The East of England Landscape Character Framework maps the landscapes of the area at a scale of 1:100000. It provides a broad scale understanding of landscape, whilst local Landscape Character Assessments provide greater detail and understanding of local scale variations in landscape character.

The Cambridge City Council - Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment April 2003

The Cambridge City Council - Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment April 2003 identified landscape elements that were regarded as "Defining Character" for the City of Cambridge. These included:

High Ground as part of the setting for the City:

“The topography of the area is a direct consequence of the geology and one of the important characteristics of Cambridge is the relationship between the City and its rural setting and the notion of a contained town sitting in a bowl of generally low-lying landscape with higher ground to the south east, south and west and low-lying fen and clay lands to the north and east. High ground overlooking the Cambridge bowl has a very limited capacity to accept development without a major negative impact to the City setting. High ground is therefore regarded as Defining Character.”

Views of the City Skyline

Views from the south and west towards the City skyline are particularly evocative, and in a relatively flat landscape, unusual..... parts of this countryside, such as the high ground of the chalk hills to the south-east are regarded as Defining Character of Cambridge.

Separation

Where the separation between the City and the necklace villages is much reduced, the remaining areas represent Defining Character. The minimum distance to ensure the perception of separation should remain sacrosanct.

It also identified Character Types

Chalklands

This area occurs to the south and south east of Cambridge extending from south of Addenbrooke’s eastwards towards Newmarket.

The hills are gently rounded and rolling, reaching 74m above sea level at Wandlebury. The springs that occur at the junction of the chalk and clay, such as at Nine Wells are an important habitat, and the dry valleys of the chalk are important landscape features.

The soil is light in texture and colour and thin. Cereal farming predominates. The fields are large, enclosed by generally very closely maintained low thorn hedges with few hedgerow trees. Shelter belts, often of beech, and hill top copses are an important feature of this landscape, the latter often acting as reference points. The roads tend to be straight and towards Cambridge run across the contours, thus commanding some excellent panoramic views of the City and its environs. Addenbrooke’s Hospital, on the edge of Cambridge, tends to dominate views to the City. Parts of this area have been designated in the past as Area of Best Landscape. The area is rich in archaeological interest. Beyond Cambridge the Roman Road forms an important linear landscape feature. Wandlebury Ring is also of considerable archaeological interest. Wandlebury Country Park, the Roman Road and the Beech Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR) are important recreational resources. There are a few remaining areas of chalk grassland left in this area.

Chalklands are assessed as Defining Character with Characteristic Features listed as:

- views;
- area of open higher rolling landscape near Cambridge;
- chalk grassland habitat including Site of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserve.

Vision

To secure the area from inappropriate development, and at the same time conserve and where possible enhance landscape features and biodiversity to improve amenity while seeking opportunities for access and informal recreation opportunities.

Opportunities

- chalk grassland remnant habitat should be retained and managed appropriately;*
- improve biodiversity on farmed land such as headlands and where appropriate hedgerow management for wildlife;*
- opportunities to work in partnership to protect existing wildlife and where appropriate increase biodiversity;*
- improve access opportunities;*
- enhance access and perception of personal safety in nature reserves;*
- promote nature reserves, walks etc;*
- take Biodiversity Action Plans into account in future development or management plans; and*
- in association with new development, encourage the use of trees and shrubs which are appropriate to the Character Type in visual and cultural terms and which benefit wildlife*

Southern Fringe

This area lies to the south and west of Addenbrooke's Hospital and is generally dominated by the hospital buildings. It is an unexceptional landscape lying between the chalk and the built edge of the City. The fields are large, generally used for cereals, and there are few hedges or hedgerow trees, with the notable exception of the boundary hedge of the field just south of Addenbrooke's Hospital.

This is a transitional landscape between the chalk and claylands and is dominated by flat expanses of arable field and crossed by Definitive and Permissive Rights of Way, upon which cyclists appear to cycle across the horizon. The chalklands begin to rise to the south east. The main London to King's Lynn railway cuts across this area. The views to Addenbrooke's are the first indication of the approach to Cambridge for train passengers.

The Hobson's Brook wildlife corridor and Character Area runs through the centre of this Character Type and the disused railway line also cuts through from Trumpington in a north easterly direction. Nine Wells, the spring source of the Hobson's Conduit lies to the south, just beyond the City boundary. Parts of this area have been designated in the past as Area of Best Landscape.

The Southern Fringe is Defining Character of Cambridge, setting the urban edge within context of a framework of an increasingly elevated hinterland.

Vision

To secure the green finger network and where possible enhance landscape features and biodiversity to improve amenity while seeking opportunities for access and informal recreation opportunities within the context of new development.

Opportunities

- *create a better edge to the City;*
- *ensure that as part of any development proposals the green finger network is safeguarded;*
- *conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the wildlife corridor and the area in general;*
- *maximising the resource of Nine Wells for the future enjoyment of Cambridge people;*
- *take Biodiversity Action Plans into account in future development or management plans; and*
- *in association with new development, encourage the use of trees and shrubs which are appropriate to the Character Type in visual and cultural terms and which, where appropriate, benefit wildlife.*

Green Belt

The Green Belt covers all of the land considered within the Landscape Character Assessment. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) carries a presumption against development within the Green Belt. Rural Exceptions Sites policy can however deliver small affordable housing developments adjacent to the village framework provided they meet all the required criteria.

The Cambridge Inner Green Belt Review 2015 and supplement

The Inner Green Belt review concluded that, there are extensive areas of “Supportive Landscape” surrounding the city to the west, south and east, reflecting the important role played by the landscape in the setting of the city.

Only two areas of land within the Green Belt in the SGSNP Area were deemed able to accommodate development. Land north of Nine Wells which has planning approval and parcel 8.2 part of the land at Shelford Rugby club immediately behind Cambridge Road flanked by existing residential development. See Appendix 2. Cambridge Green Belt Review Figure 2 Assessment Sectors and Sub Areas and Figure 6 Topography and Drainage

Main conclusions

South-east of the city, the rising land of the Gog Magog Hills is a distinctive element of the setting of Cambridge, and is visible in views from within and across the city. The foothills extend to the urban edge in places; elsewhere, flatter land at the foot of the hills is also important as the foreground to the city in views from the elevated land.

East and south of the city, extensive areas of 20th century development have created an impression of urban sprawl. Significant further expansion in these directions could start to threaten Cambridge’s identity as a city dominated by its historic core. The Inner Green Belt land in these areas plays a critical role in preventing further expansion of the city and increasing urban sprawl.

Green corridors into the city have long been accepted as a key component of its character. It is very important that these green corridors are preserved.

Areas of land on all sides of the city form the rural setting of necklace villages or contribute to separation between the villages and Cambridge or between the villages themselves. Areas surrounding the three innermost villages of Grantchester, Teversham and Fen Ditton are of particular importance but areas of the Inner Green Belt also provide separation from other villages such as Great Shelford, Fulbourn, Girton and Histon.

Areas of supportive landscape (south and east area)

An extensive area of landscape south and east of the city, including the Gog Magog Hills, which lie close to the city and provide elevated vantage points for panoramic long distance views across open countryside in the foreground, the city in the middle distance, and the open landscape beyond including the flat Fens to the north and the clay hills to the west.

Two of the key distinctive/memorable features in the landscape setting of the city have been identified as:

- *The elevated views with a countryside foreground and a mixed urban edge (from the Gog Magog Hills to the south east of Cambridge)*
- *The south eastern approach to Cambridge along Babraham Road, a historic route, which passes over the Gog Magog Hills. The first view of the city is an elevated panoramic view from the top of the hill near the Haverhill Road junction. The urban gateway is marked by suburban housing and Addenbrooke's Hospital, which is a prominent landmark on the edge of the city.*

Importance of the sectors to Green Belt Purposes

Sector 8 - (Sub area 8.1) [Character Area B1 West Shelford Arable Lowland] Sub Area 8.2 Shelford Rugby Club

The majority of this sector plays a key role in the setting of the south of Cambridge, ensuring that the expansion of the city does not continue unchecked and that the historic core remains large in comparison to the size of the city as a whole. It retains open countryside close to the expanding edge of the city and prevents the sprawl of built development as far as the M11, retaining the distinctive separation between the edge of the city and the M11 in contrast to the relationship with the A14 to the north of Cambridge. A distinctive gateway to the city is being created at Trumpington Meadows and Glebe Farm. Sub area 8.1 is also key in the separation between the edge of Cambridge and the necklace villages of Great Shelford, Hauxton and Little Shelford. However, sub area 8.2 [the rugby club] plays a limited role in the Green Belt due to its enclosed nature and its close relationship with existing built form along Cambridge Road.

Implications of Green Belt release for development

It is unlikely that any development within sub area 8.1 [Character Area B1 West Shelford Arable Lowland] could be accommodated without substantial harm to Green Belt purposes. Any form of development within this sub area would reduce the distinctive separation between the edge of the city and the M11 and would affect the well designed and distinctive gateway to the city that is being created at Glebe Farm/Trumpington Meadows. It would also significantly encroach on the separation between Cambridge and the necklace villages of Great Shelford, Hauxton and Little Shelford. No Green Belt release should be contemplated in sub area 8.1.

Sub area 8.2 currently makes minimal contribution to the performance of Green Belt purposes, and development within it could be undertaken without harm to the Green Belt, provided the following parameters are complied with to avoid any increase in urbanising influences on sub area 8.1.

Parameters for Green Belt release:

- *Any new development should be similar in height and grain to the existing ribbon development along Cambridge/Shelford Road. Medium-low density housing is likely to be most appropriate.*
- *New development should be designed to create a robust, permanent edge to the city. The new edge should be planted to enhance the soft green edge already present along Cambridge/ Shelford Road, to help integrate built form and to minimise the urbanising effects of development on the countryside.*
- *Existing vegetation around the adjacent Shelford Rugby Club should, if possible, be retained to help integrate any development into the urban edge.*

Sector 9 - Location: Hobson's Brook Corridor up to the railway.

Importance of the sector to Green Belt Purposes

This sector plays a key role in the approach to Cambridge from the south, along the railway line. It retains open countryside close to the centre of the city and prevents the sprawl of built development, maintaining the separation between the edge of the city and Great Shelford. It also ensures that for at least some of the southern part of the city the historic core remains large in comparison to the size of the city as a whole and in relatively close proximity to the urban edge. It retains a green corridor into the city, through an area currently undergoing large amounts of development. Implications of Green Belt release for development

It is unlikely that any development within this sector could be accommodated without substantial harm to Green Belt purposes. Development would reduce the separation between Cambridge and Great Shelford, as well as affecting a key approach into the city from the south and removing or impinging on a green corridor into the city. It would increase the risk of urban sprawl if development is extended into this sector in the future. No Green Belt release should be contemplated in this sector.

Sector 10 - Shelford Bottom 10.1, Nine Wells 10.2, White Hill 10.3

Implications of Green Belt release for development

Any form of development extending onto the slopes of the Gog Magog Hills would substantially harm one of the key components of the setting of the city. Any development between White Hill and the railway would diminish the rural setting of Great Shelford and reduce the separation between the village and Cambridge. No Green Belt release should be contemplated in these areas, which include the whole of sub area 10.3.

However, limited development in the northern and eastern parts of the sector could be undertaken without significant long-term harm to Green Belt purposes, if carefully planned and designed.

Note: Since publication of the report permission has been granted for development north of Nine Wells as suggested.

Land at the northern corner of sub area 10.1 could be released in conjunction with a release in sub area 11.2 to create a new urban gateway on Babraham Road.

However, a substantial buffer should be retained as Green Belt between the new urban gateway and the Park & Ride site (refer to sector 11). The remainder of sub area 10.1 should remain as Green Belt

to prevent additional urban sprawl, encroachment into the countryside and excessive loss of rural land at the foot of the Gog Magog Hills

- *Any new development on land released from Green Belt should be designed to create a robust, permanent edge to the city in this sector. The new urban edge should be planted to create a soft green edge to the city, to help integrate built form and to minimise the urbanising effects of development on the countryside.*
- *Parameters should be set for any large scale buildings on the released land to ensure they are no more prominent in views from elevated land to the south east than the existing buildings at Addenbrooke's (taking account of the fact that new buildings will be in front of the existing buildings as seen in such views).*

Sector 11 - Netherhall Farm north of Worts Causeway and Newbury Farm to south

Small area of land north of the Park and Ride and west of Cherry Hinton Road within Character Area A1

Whilst small areas on the northern and eastern boundaries adjacent to the existing edge of the City are identified as having potential for development, the remainder of sub area 11.2 should remain as Green Belt to prevent additional urban sprawl, encroachment into the countryside and excessive loss of rural land at the foot of the Gog Magog Hills.

Sector 12.2 - land south of Worts Causeway and west of the Beechwoods

No release should be contemplated in sub area 12.2

South Cambridgeshire District Local Plan 2018

Policy NH/2: Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

Development will only be permitted where it respects and retains, or enhances the local character and distinctiveness of the local landscape and of the individual National Character Area in which it is located.

Policy NH/5: Sites of Biodiversity or Geological Importance

1. Proposed development likely to have an adverse effect on land within or adjoining a Site of biodiversity or Geological Importance, as shown on the Policies Map (either individually or in combination with other developments), will not normally be permitted. Exceptions will only be made where the benefits of the development clearly outweigh any adverse impact.

2. In determining any planning application affecting Sites of Biodiversity or Geological Importance the Council will ensure that the intrinsic natural features of particular interest are safeguarded or enhanced having regard to:

a. The international, national or local status and designation of the site;

b. The nature and quality of the site's features, including its rarity value;

c. The extent of any adverse impacts on the notified features;

d. The likely effectiveness of any proposed mitigation with respect to the protection of the features of interest;

e. The need for compensatory measures in order to re-create on or off the site features or habitats that would be lost to development.

3. Where appropriate the Council will ensure the effective management of designated sites through the imposition of planning conditions or Section 106 agreements as appropriate.

Policy NH/6: Green Infrastructure

1. The Council will aim to conserve and enhance green infrastructure within the district. Proposals that cause loss or harm to this network will not be permitted unless the need for and benefits of the development demonstrably and substantially outweigh any adverse impacts on the district's green infrastructure network.

2. The Council will encourage proposals which:

a. Reinforce, link, buffer and create new green infrastructure; and b. Promote, manage and interpret green infrastructure and enhance public enjoyment of it.

3. The Council will support proposals which deliver the strategic green infrastructure network and priorities set out in the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, and which deliver local green infrastructure.

4. All new developments will be required to contribute towards the enhancement of the green infrastructure network within the district. These contributions will include the establishment, enhancement and the on-going management costs.

Policy CSF/5 2f-m Countryside Enhancement Strategy

A Countryside Enhancement Strategy will be prepared for the area bounded by the Cambridge City boundary, Babraham Road, Haverhill Road, and the edge of the built-up area of Great Shelford and Stapleford. The Strategy will comprise:

New copses on suitable knolls, hilltops and scarp tops.

Management and creation of chalk grassland.

Management of existing shelter belts.

New mixed woodland and shelter belts.

Creation of a landscape corridor along Hobson's Brook.

Reinforcement and planting of new hedgerows.

Roadside planting.

New footpaths, cyclepaths and bridleways creating routes through the area and linking to Wandlebury Country Park / The Magog Down.

The Countryside Strategies will include integrated proposals for landscape, biodiversity, recreation and public access improvements, which will be compatible with long-term agricultural production to create enhanced gateways into the City. Provision will be made for maintenance of landscaping and replacement of diseased, dying and dead stock for a period of 10 years, and details of long-term management thereafter.

The southern Fringe Area Action Plan adopted February 2008 forms the basis for the policy.

Policy NH/8: Mitigating the Impact of Development In and Adjoining the Green Belt

- 1. Any development proposals within the Green Belt must be located and designed so that they do not have an adverse effect on the rural character and openness of the Green Belt.*
- 2. Where development is permitted, landscaping conditions, together with a requirement that any planting is adequately maintained, will be attached to any planning permission in order to ensure that the impact on the Green Belt is mitigated.*
- 3. Development on the edges of settlements which are surrounded by the Green Belt must include careful landscaping and design measures of a high quality.*

Policy NH/9: Redevelopment of Previously Developed Sites and Infilling in the Green Belt

- 1. Redevelopment of Previously Developed Sites and Infilling in the Green Belt will be inappropriate development except for:*
 - a. The re-use of buildings provided that the buildings are of permanent and substantial construction, are consistent with Policies E/17 and H/17, provided they preserve the openness of the Green Belt and do not conflict with the purposes of including land in Green Belt;*
 - b. The extension or alteration of a building provided that it does not result in disproportionate additions over and above the size of the original building;*
 - c. The replacement of a building, provided the new building is in the same use, and not materially larger than the one it replaces;*
 - d. Limited infilling, where infilling is defined as the filling of small gaps between existing built development (excluding temporary buildings). Such infilling should have no greater impact upon the openness of the Green Belt and the purpose of including land within it than the existing development. The cumulative impact of infilling proposals will be taken into account;*
 - e. The partial or complete redevelopment of previously developed sites (brownfield land), whether redundant or in continuing use (excluding temporary buildings), which would not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt and the purpose of including land within it than the existing development.*

Policy NH/10: Facilities for Recreation in the Green Belt

Proposals for new buildings to provide appropriate facilities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation will be permitted where they will not (either individually or cumulatively) harm the openness of the Green Belt and the purposes of including land within it.

Policy NH/11: Protected Village Amenity Areas

Protected Village Amenity Areas are identified on the Policies Map where development will not be permitted within or adjacent to these areas if it would have an adverse impact on the character, amenity, tranquillity or function of the village.

Policy NH/12: Local Green Space

Local Green Space identified on the Policies Map will be protected from development that would adversely impact on the character and particular local significance placed on such green areas which make them valued by their local community. Inappropriate development, as defined in the National

Planning Policy Framework, would not be approved except in very special circumstances and in discussion with the local community.

Policy NH/13: Important Countryside Frontage

1. Important Countryside Frontages are defined where land with a strong countryside character either:

a. Penetrates or sweeps into the built-up area providing a significant connection between the street scene and the surrounding rural area; or b. Provides an important rural break between two nearby but detached parts of a development framework.

2. Planning permission for development will be refused if it would compromise these purposes.

Policy SC/1: Allocation for Open Space

The following sites are allocated to meet local need for open space:

1. Extensions to existing recreation grounds:

a. Land east of Bar Lane, Stapleford and west of the access road to Green Hedge Farm - 1.42ha.

2. New Sites:

e. Land south of Granhams Road, Great Shelford - 4.8ha.

Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy June 2011

Green infrastructure is a strategic, multi-functional network of public green spaces and routes, landscapes, biodiversity and heritage. It includes a wide range of elements such as country parks, wildlife habitats, rights of way, bridleways, commons and greens, nature reserves, waterways and bodies of water, and historic landscapes and monuments. The network comprises rural and urban green infrastructure of different sizes and character, and the connections and links between them. It is part of (and contributes to) the wider environment. It includes both land that can be open to the public and areas that are not accessible. A number of Green infrastructure projects are currently being undertaken such as the Gog Magog Countryside Project (including Wandlebury Country Park).

The Strategy notes that:

The rivers provide opportunities for conservation, enhancement and increased public access and enjoyment. The land around watercourses and water bodies provide opportunities to help manage flood risk. This can be an integral and crucially important part of Green Infrastructure.

Many villages feature small fields and paddocks and remnants of early enclosure, which provide a local landscape setting and opportunity for people to experience biodiversity and enjoy open spaces and other benefits. They should be considered to be an important part of local Green Infrastructure.

Areas of calcareous grassland have become fragmented and need to be expanded and linked together in order to produce sustainable blocks of habitat.

The Local Plan states that further projects will continue to come forward, for example a River Cam Corridor Strategy which is being prepared by local stakeholders, including the Council. Local Plan Policy NH/6 promotes the strategy.

South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity SPD adopted July 2009

The biodiversity SPD identifies Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats. There are areas of woodland, meadows and pastures, lowland calcareous grassland, rivers and streams, ponds, scrub and hedgerows within the study area. Map 2 records Wildlife Corridors and Countryside Enhancement Areas (CEA). The Upper River Cam Corridor is shown as a wildlife corridor and also falls within CEA 8 with target habitats noted as wetland habitats, including fen and wet grassland. The whole of the countryside east of the river and the villages is noted as CEA 7 Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford Chalk Grassland. See Appendix 3 South Cambs Biodiversity SPD.

Wildlife Trust Living Landscape Areas

The Wildlife Trusts have established a series of 'Living Landscape Areas' across the UK "where nature conservation work is helping to put wildlife back on the map outside our protected nature reserves and with the help of a wide range of partners and communities." One of these sites is Cambridgeshire Chalk (Gog Magogs)'.

The aim of the scheme is "to protect and enhance important chalk heath and grassland sites and to create an interconnected network of species-rich chalk grassland and other habitats south of Cambridge city. This will provide rich and diverse accessible 'green infrastructure' for the expanding population of Cambridge, within a government Growth Area." A significant proportion of the Neighbourhood Plan area within the Living Landscape area, suggesting that there could be important shared interests between the Wildlife Trust and the Neighbourhood Plan objectives.

Landscape designations and protected sites

The relevant landscape and conservation designations and areas recorded on the priority habitats register within the NP Area are listed below and shown at Appendix 4 Policy and Designations

Gog Magog Golf Course – Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

The Roman Road **SSSI**, **Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)** runs along the edge of the NP Area

Wandlebury – **County Wildlife Site (CWS)**, recorded on the priority habitats inventory, 2 **(SAM)** sites

Magog Down – **SAM**, priority habitats, no other nature conservation designations currently.

River Cam/Granta – **CWS**, with fields along its course priority habitats.

Beechwoods – **Local Nature Reserve (LNR)**, priority habitats.

Nine Wells - **LNR**, priority habitats.

Stapleford pit - **LNR**, priority habitats.

Fox Hill, Clarke's Hill, White Hill, Shelford Clay Pit, Bury Farm woodland, Green Hedge Farm, Rectory Farm pits and other small areas as shown, are recorded on the priority habitats inventory.

South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Strategy notes two action areas within the NP boundary, the Chalk Hills and the Upper Cam. Hobsons Brook and the Roman Road are noted as a wildlife corridor. The Chalk Living Landscapes Area extends to Wandlebury, the Beechwoods, Gogmagog Golf Course Golf Course and into Magog Down.

There are three additional **SAM** sites within the NP area, two at Rectory Farm (Area B1) and one between Hobson's Brook and the railway (Area B2).

Potential major forces for change within the landscape within the study area include:

The mass rapid transit route approved by Greater Cambridge Partnership runs from the Cambridge University Hospitals site via Stapleford, Sawston and Babraham to a new park and ride site. the exact route alignment and park and ride site are yet to be defined at the time of writing.

Countryside Enhancement Area to the south of the Cambridge University Hospitals and Biomedical Campus (referenced in the Local Plan at Policy CSF/5(2f-m) which outlines a strategy for landscape enhancements.

Cambridge South mixed-use planning application area was put forward for inclusion in the local plan but was not included by the Inspector. Its potential to come forward at a later should be acknowledged.

Land west of the Beechwoods has been proposed for development in the past. Additionally, there is a group advocating the creation of 1000 acre wood which may include this piece of land.

See Appendix 1 for details.

3. Stapleford and Great Shelford Landscape Character Types and Areas

Overview of the study area

The complex texture and conservation value of the chalk grassland and woodland on the hills and the river corridor with its bordering meadows and pastures contrasts with wide expanses of the rolling arable hills and flat open lowland arable areas with their extensive views over the countryside.

Notable local character elements are the settled hilltop estates, enclosed farmland pastures, the water meadows and riverside pastures, and the historic country parks.

The countryside surrounding the village centres of Great Shelford and Stapleford provides both a setting for the villages, separates the villages from the city of Cambridge and provides a resource for public recreation and enjoyment. The Neighbourhood Plan area also includes some sites of significant value to wider communities. The country park at Wandlebury is an important area both in terms of its historic significance and as a recreation resource for the people of Cambridge and beyond. There are designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) of national importance as well as Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). And Magog Down represents a valuable recreation and conservation area. There are also a few small areas owned by the Parish Councils. The area also has attractive areas of the countryside, particularly alongside watercourses, that are not accessible to the public. Walking routes from the villages to the Country Parks are limited.

Historic Development

The ancient Icknield way ran as a braided path with southwest /north east across the landscape, later the Roman Road known as Wool Street was established. The two villages grew up around their greens. The early settlement and landuse pattern pre-Inclosure was of meadows, commons, cultivated land and heath – overlaid by rectilinear Inclosure pattern of fields in a variety of sizes

The historic development of the Parishes is described in “A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 8”. Originally published by Victoria County History, London, 1982.

The parish of Great Shelford, c. 5 km. south of Cambridge, lies on the north bank of the river Cam or Granta. It covered 2,258 a. until 1934 when 188 a. in the north of the parish were transferred to Cambridge, and thereafter 838 ha. (2,070 a.). It lies mainly on the Lower Chalk, with isolated areas of Middle Chalk; there are alluvium and valley gravels along the river valley and the valley of a brook running north-west through the centre of the parish. The land slopes gently up from the river to nearly 23 metres in the centre of the parish, and then more steeply in its north and east, on the slopes of the Gog Magog Hills, rising to 45 m. on Whites and Clarkes Hills and c. 55 m. on the north-eastern boundary.

Hobson's brook, fed by springs near the northern edge of the parish known as Nine Wells and by a north-westward flowing brook rising in Great Shelford village, flows northwards to Cambridge, supplying Hobson's Conduit. From 1610 the land through which it flows belonged to the town and University of Cambridge to safeguard the supply. The chalk springs at Nine Wells and c. 40 a. around them were scheduled as a site of scientific interest in 1951. The land along the river and that along Hobson's brook has since the Middle Ages been mostly meadow, the latter finally being built over in the early 20th century.

A number of important routes cross the parish. Wort's Causeway on the north-eastern boundary, part of the Cambridge-Colchester road, was rebuilt in 1709. The Cambridge-Haverhill (Suff.) road runs south-east across the northern corner of the parish from Red Cross. As Babraham Way it was recorded

from the mid 15th century; it was turnpiked in 1765 and disturnpiked in 1876. The Cambridge-Chesterford road, running from Trumpington through Great Shelford village to Sawston, was turnpiked in 1724 and disturnpiked in 1870; and in 1729 the road running south-west from it to Shelford Bridge was brought under the same trust. In 1814 a tollgate was put across the latter road west of the church, and another across Mill Lane. Two roads run north-east from the village to the Haverhill road: Hinton Way was recorded from the early 15th century and Granham's Road, known in the 19th century as Hollow Willow Balk, was perhaps Hornings way recorded in the 14th and 18th centuries.

The parish was also crossed by three railway lines. The Great Eastern's London (Liverpool Street) to Cambridge line, with a station at Great Shelford, east of the village, was opened in 1845. The Royston/Shelford line, joining the Liverpool Street line north of the village, was opened in 1851, and the line from Haverhill, joining the Liverpool Street line in the south-east corner of the parish, was opened in 1865. The Haverhill line was closed in 1967.

The parish of Stapleford, which in 1980 covered 743 ha. (1,835 a.), lies about seven km. south-east of Cambridge. It stretches for some 1¼ km. between the line of the Roman road called Wool street to the north and the river Granta to the south. Its north-western and south-eastern boundaries mostly follow old field and furlong divisions, and are fairly straight. North-west of the village Stapleford once shared with Great Shelford over 42 a. of intercommonable land called the Minglands. At its inclosure in 1812 they were divided, 23½ a. being allotted to landowners of Great Shelford and assigned to that parish. The soil lies upon alluvium and river gravels along the low, flat ground near the river, at c. 25 metres. Further north a chalk down rises steadily from 30 metres to over 70 metres. At its highest points it is partly overlaid with glacial gravels. The Wandlebury hill-fort and Little Trees Hill at Magog Down both stand at 74m AOD above a slope at the south-east edge of the northern hilltop.

See Appendix 5 Great Shelford Inclosure Map and Appendix 6 Stapleford Inclosure map

Landscape Character Area profiles

The area has been divided into Landscape Character Types and Areas and the descriptions are set out as follows:

- Location of character area (map)
- Boundaries of character area (map)
- Photograph
- Key characteristics
- Overall character description
- Visual characteristics, key views and areas of visually important open land
- Historic land use
- Ecological features
- Key planning and land management issues
- Landscape planning constraints
- Sensitivities to change
- Proposed landscape strategy objectives
- Suggested landscape planning guidelines
- Suggested land management guidelines

See Appendix 7 Landscape Character Areas, Appendix 8 Countryside Access and Appendix 9 Key views and Visually Important Areas of Open Land

Stapleford and Great Shelford Landscape Character Types and Areas

A - Arable hills

A1 Great Shelford and Stapleford arable hills

A2 Stapleford arable hills

B - Arable lowland

B1 West Shelford arable lowland

B2 Hobsons Brook and Ninewells arable lowland

B3 Mingle Lane and Hinton Way arable lowland

B4 Bury Farm arable lowland

C Golf courses

C1 Gog Magog Golf Course

D Historic country parks

D1 Wandlebury Historic country park

D2 Gog Magog Down Historic country park

E Settled, hilltop estates

E1 Fox Hill settled hilltop estate

E2 Clarke's Hill settled hilltop estate

E3 White Hill settled hilltop estate

F Enclosed farmland pastures

F1 Green Hedges Farm enclosed farmland pastures

F2 Granham's Farm enclosed farmland pastures farmland pastures

F3 De Freville Farm and Trinity House enclosed farmland pastures

F4 Cambridge Road enclosed farmland pastures

F5 The Grange Fields enclosed farmland pastures

G Sports and recreation fields

G1 Shelford Rugby Club

G2 Great Shelford Recreation Ground

G3 Stapleford Recreation Ground

H Woodlands

H1 The Beechwoods

H2 Nine Wells

I Campsites

I1 Great Shelford Campsite

J Water meadows and riverside pastures

J1 Shelford meadows and riverside pastures

J2 Kings Mill and the Hermitage meadows and riverside pasture

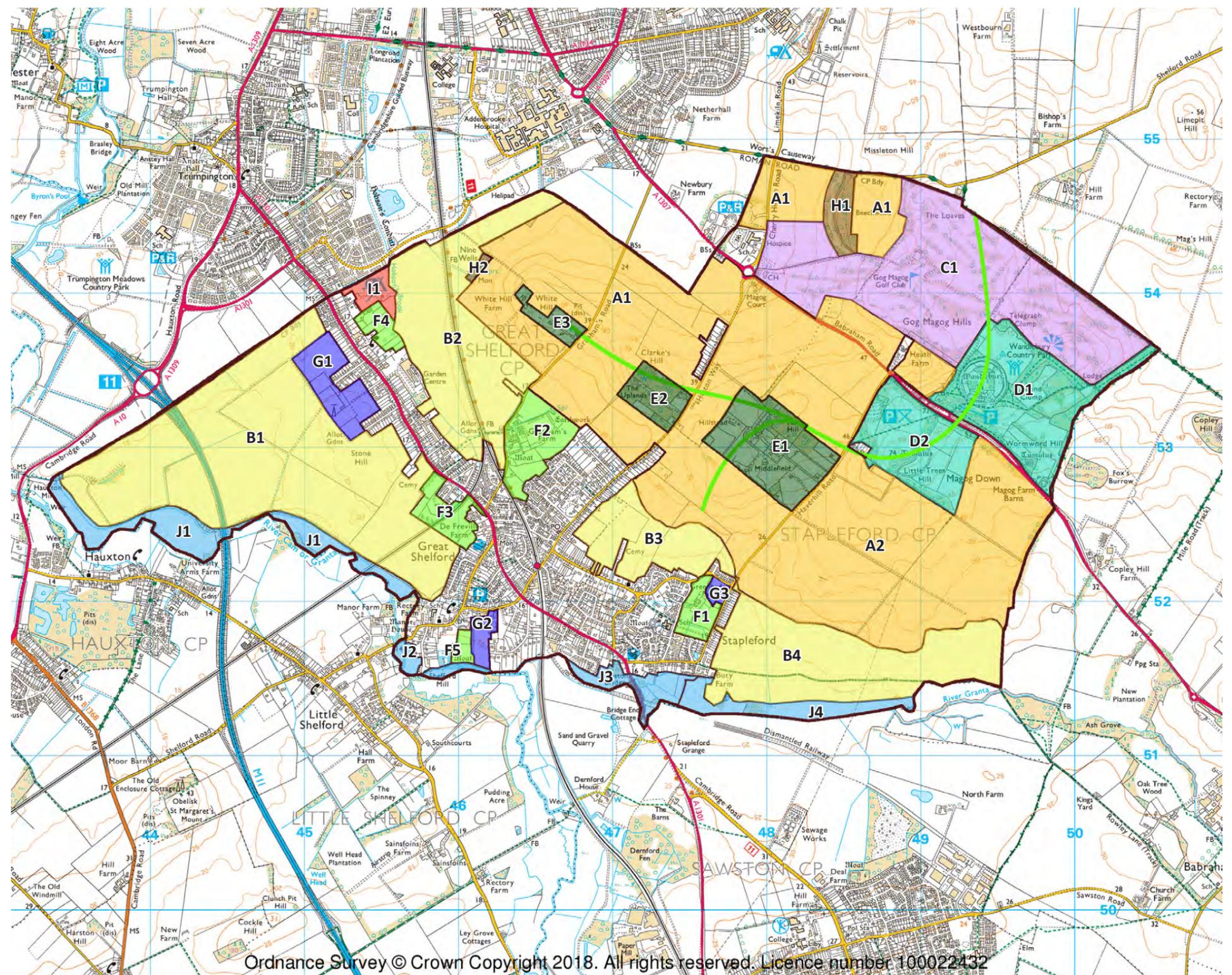
J3 Stapleford Bridge meadows and riverside pastures

J4 Bury Farm meadows and riverside pastures

Stapleford and Great Shelford Landscape Character Assessment

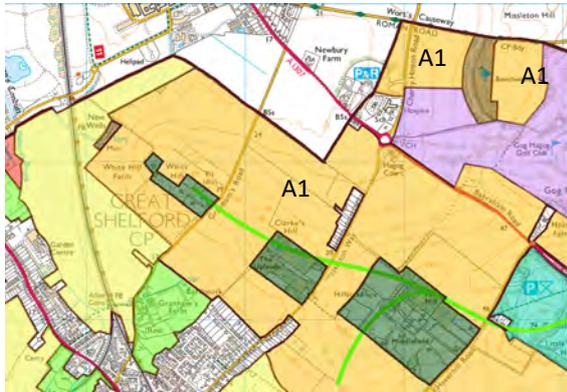
Landscape Character Types and Areas

- A - Arable hills**
 A1 Great Shelford arable hills
 A2 Stapleford arable hills
- B - Arable lowland**
 B1 West Shelford arable lowland
 B2 Hobsons Brook and Ninewells arable lowland
 B3 Mingle Lane and Hinton Way arable lowland
 B4 Bury Farm arable lowland
- C Golf courses**
 C1 Gog Magog Golf Course
- D Historic country parks**
 D1 Wandlebury Historic country park
 D2 Gog Magog Down Historic country park
- E Settled hilltop estates**
 E1 Fox Hill settled hilltop estate
 E2 Clarke's Hill settled hilltop estate
 E3 White Hill settled hilltop estate
- F Enclosed farmland pastures**
 F1 Greenhedge Farm
 F2 Granham's Farm
 F3 De Freville Farm and Trinity House
 F4 Cambridge Road
 F5 The Grange Fields
- G Sports fields**
 G1 Shelford Rugby Club
 G2 Great Shelford Recreation Ground
 G3 Stapleford Recreation Ground
- H Woodlands**
 H1 The Beechwoods
 H2 Nine Wells
- I Campsites**
 I1 Great Shelford Campsite
- J The Granta, Water meadows and riverside pastures**
 J1 Shelford meadows and riverside pastures
 J2 Kings Mill and the Hermitage meadows and riverside pasture
 J3 Stapleford Bridge meadows and riverside pastures
 J4 Bury Farm meadows and riverside pastures



A - Arable Chalkland Hills

A1 Great Shelford and Stapleford Arable Chalkland Hills



Key Characteristics

- Rolling chalkland hills
- Predominantly arable farmland
- Very few hedgerows
- Settled hilltop estates on highest ground are a distinctive feature
- Open with extensive long-distance views
- Views over the City of Cambridge
- Contiguous with A2 Stapleford Arable Chalkland Hills
- Ridgeline defines the visual extent of the setting of Cambridge to the southeast

Overall Character

Open intensively farmed rolling landscape where the good quality soils are generally used for arable crops. This area is, for the most part low in biodiversity and provides only limited access to the open countryside for recreation. Very large fields with a few rectilinear hedgerows as shown on the 1835 Inclosure map. The open landscape is characterised by three distinctive blocks of woodland on the hill tops at White Hill, Fox Hill and Clarke's Hill. These settled hilltop estates are predominantly well enclosed and well wooded and the houses within them are generally hidden from view. The ridgelines separate the area into parcels and restrict views. With the development of the Cambridge University Hospitals Biomedical Campus this character area abuts the southern edge of Cambridge. Whilst the Green Belt extends for many miles south of the City the effective visual setting of the City is a relatively narrow area of countryside defined by the ridgelines with Fox Hill, the Gog Magog Hills on the skyline. The chalkland ridge continues to the north east encircling the City. Two separate fields lie to the north of the Golf Club within the study area adjacent to Worts Causeway either side of the Beechwoods.

Visual Characteristics

There are extensive long views across the open landscape from high points on Granham's Road and Hinton Way as they cross the ridgeline and panoramic views over the City of Cambridge from A1307 Babraham Road. The Cambridge City Landscape Character Assessment 2003 regards the exceptional views especially important to, and characteristic of, Cambridge, both into and out from the City from the chalk hills to the south-east as part of the Defining Character of Cambridge.

Historic Land Use

Pre-Inclosure the area was named as Nine Wells Field to the north and Beans End Field to the south with Church Field south of Hinton Way, suggesting agricultural use. Granhams Road was formerly Hollow Willow Balk Road. North of Babraham Road was The Heath, an area of open heathland since the middle ages. Extensive plantations were laid out in the in the 19th century round the Wandlebury hill fort as Stapleford had little timber.

Ecological Features

This is intensively farmed arable land with little biodiversity, however priority habitats are noted at Nine Wells LNR (former SSSI) on the edge of the area to the north, White Hill, Clarkes Hill and Fox Hill lie within the centre of the area and Wandlebury, Magog Down, Gog Magog Golf Course (SSSI) and the Beechwoods to the east. The Wildlife Trust Living Landscape Gog Magogs Chalk Area begins north of Babraham Road and extends towards Balsham, Six Mile Bottom covering important chalk heath and grassland sites.

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Important Green Belt function noted in the 2015 Inner Green Belt Review.
- Potential for the Mass Rapid transit route to cross the lowland to the west with associated lighting and signalisation at road crossing points resulting in adverse physical and visual impact and urbanisation of the setting of this area. The introduction of linear planting as mitigation along the course of the route could introduce uncharacteristic elements and affect long views. However sensitive landscape mitigation could provide net biodiversity gains, additional public access and recreational areas with an extension to Nine Wells Nature Reserve on adjacent land to the north of the area and footpath links.
- Potential for additional development of CUH and Biomedical Campus.
- Potential for additional development pressures around Worts Causeway area with urban extensions to the City at Newbury Farm and more development at Magog Court bringing the city closer to the chalkland area
- Potential for decline in condition of field boundaries through further agricultural intensification.
- A proposal for a 1000 acre wood has been put forward showing an area of forest as a further extension to the Beechwoods on the field between Cherry Hinton Road and Worts Causeway.
- Fields north of Babraham Road fall within Living Landscapes Gog Magogs Area, and could contribute to objectives to create an interconnected network of species rich grassland and other habitats to provide a diverse accessible Green Infrastructure for the expanding population of Cambridge.
- Part of the Countryside Enhancement Strategy Area to the south of the CUH/Biomedical Campus (referenced in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan at Policy CS/5 -2fm) which outlines a strategy for landscape improvements south of the biomedical campus. Suggested works include:
 - New copses on suitable knolls, hilltops and scarp tops.
 - Management and creation of chalk grassland.
 - Management of existing shelter belts.
 - New mixed woodland and shelter belts.

- Creation of a landscape corridor along Hobson’s Brook.
- Reinforcement and planting of new hedgerows.
- Roadside planting.
- New footpaths, cyclepaths and bridleways creating routes through the area and linking to Wandlebury Country Park / The Magog Down.

Sensitivities to Change

Visually sensitive due to the open nature of the area and the high ground. The encircling high ground is a key feature in the setting of the Cambridge affording views over the City.

The area is recorded as supportive landscape in the Inner Green Belt Review 2015 and important for separation of settlements. The area provides both the setting for the historic City and separation between Cambridge and the villages. The perception of the setting is limited by the ridgeline further development would reduce this and encroach onto rising ground.

The Inner Green Belt Study 2015 concluded that any form of development extending onto the slopes of the Gog Magog Hills would substantially harm one of the key components of the setting of the city. No Green Belt release should be contemplated in these areas. However, limited development in the northern and eastern parts of the sector could be undertaken without significant long-term harm to Green Belt purposes, if carefully planned and designed. No Green Belt release should be contemplated in sub area 12.2, the land south of Worts Causeway and west of the Beechwoods. Since publication of the report permission has been granted for development north of Nine Wells as suggested.

The Cambridge City Landscape Character Assessment 2003 notes *“High ground overlooking the Cambridge bowl has a very limited capacity to accept development without a major negative impact to the City setting. High ground is therefore regarded as Defining Character. Where the separation between the City and the necklace villages is much reduced, the remaining areas represent Defining Character. The minimum distance to ensure the perception of separation should remain sacrosanct.*

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.

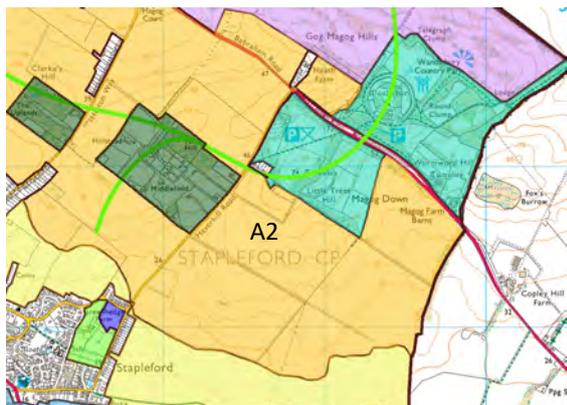
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Conserve key views
- Seek to implement elements from Local Plan Policy CS/5–(2fm) to secure landscape and ecological enhancements and further access to the countryside.
- Conserve the important Green Belt function of this area and key features, the perception of separation, the setting of the city and the characteristic encircling high ground.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Conserve and manage the ecological structure of hedges and ditches within the character area and seek enhancements to hedgerow margins and opportunities for tree planting.

A2 Stapleford arable chalkland hills



Key Characteristics

- Rolling chalkland hills
- Predominantly arable farmland
- Very few hedgerows
- Settled hilltop estates on highest ground are a distinctive feature
- Open with extensive long-distance views
- Little Trees Hill at Magog Down is a distinct feature within the landscape
- Strong sense of countryside

Overall Character

Open intensively farmed rolling landscape where the good quality soils are generally used for arable crops. This area is, for the most part, low in biodiversity and provides only limited access to the open countryside for recreation. Very large fields with a few rectilinear hedgerows remaining as shown on the 1812 Stapleford Inclosure map. The open landscape is characterised by the distinctive woodland of the settled hilltop estate at Fox Hill and the view to the distinctive Little Trees Hill on the skyline at Magog Down. The ridgeline separates the area from Area A1 which has views to Cambridge. This side of the ridgeline the land faces away from the City and affords extensive countryside views eastwards.

Visual Characteristics

An open landscape with extensive views but with limited public access views in this area that are gained from open stretches of road. Views are contained by roadside hedgerows and by the ridgelines. There are far-reaching views looking along Haverhill Road from the high ground over Stapleford and panoramic views across the open landscape looking south eastwards from the lower ground. Looking north up Haverhill road there are views to the distinctive Little Trees Hill on the skyline.

The area north of Haverhill Road and south of Fox Hill is more visually discreet, contained by mature hedgerows along the road. But there are good views over this land from one point on from Gog Magog Way.

Historic Land Use

Recorded as Middlefield and Mill Field pre-Inclosure on the 1812 Stapleford Inclosure map, the land south of Babraham Road had been agricultural before as well as after Inclosure.

Ecological Features

This is intensively farmed arable land with little biodiversity, however, Fox Hill, Magog Down, Stapleford Pit and Wandlebury which lie adjacent to the area are noted on the Priority Habitats Inventory.

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

Potential for the Mass Rapid transit route to cross the hills with associated lighting and signalisation at road crossing points and potential drop off infrastructure resulting in adverse physical and visual impact and urbanisation of the area. The rural approach to Stapleford would be adversely affected. The introduction of linear planting as mitigation along the course of the route could introduce uncharacteristic elements and affect long views.

Potential for decline in condition of field boundaries through further agricultural intensification.

The land north of Haverhill Road is part of the Countryside Enhancement Strategy Area to the south of the Addenbrookes/Biomedical Campus (referenced in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan at Policy CS/5 -2fm) which outlines a strategy for landscape improvements south of the biomedical campus between the village edges and the A1307 as far south as Haverhill Road. suggested works include:

- New copses on suitable knolls, hilltops and scarp tops.
- Management and creation of chalk grassland.
- Management of existing shelter belts.
- New mixed woodland and shelter belts.
- Creation of a landscape corridor along Hobson's Brook.
- Reinforcement and planting of new hedgerows.
- Roadside planting.
- New footpaths, cyclepaths and bridleways creating routes through the area and linking to Wandlebury Country Park / The Magog Down.

Sensitivities to Change

Visually sensitive due to the open nature of the area and the high ground. The lack of a hedgerow along the east of Haverhill Road allows for panoramic countryside views and good views to Little Trees Hill at Magog Down which is a local landmark.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.

Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

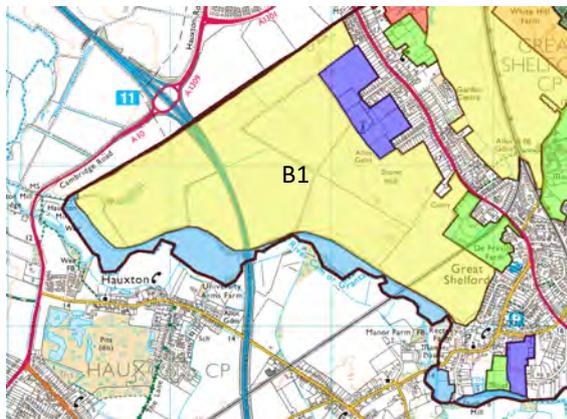
- Conserve key views
- Seek to implement elements from Local Plan Policy CS/5–(2fm) to secure landscape enhancements and further access to the countryside, including the potential for enhanced access from Stapleford to Magog Down.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Conserve and manage the ecological structure of hedges and ditches within the character area and seek enhancements to hedgerow margins.

B - Arable lowland

B1 West Shelford arable lowland



Key Characteristics

- Flat/gently rising open large-scale arable fields with a few mature hedgerows.
- Intensive arable landscape.
- Bounded by the water meadows, willows and copses, along course of the Cam or Granta to south.
- Bisected by the busy, noisy M11 and the railway.
- Permissive tracks alongside the river offer extensive long views
- Strong sense of countryside and tranquillity in most areas away from the M11
- New development at Great Kneighton an urbanising element clearly visible to the north.
- Part of the strategic gap between Cambridge and the villages of Hauxton/Harston

Overall Character

Predominantly open and flat with extensive long views from the permissive tracks across Rectory Farm. The area is bounded by the water meadows, willows and copses, along course of the Cam or Granta to south. With no distinct landscape features along parish boundary to northwest, the boundary to this character area is in reality formed by the A10 and the Addenbrookes Approach Road, the character area continues up to A10 and A1301 beyond the SGSNP area. The east-north-east boundary is contained by hedgerows along the Rugby Ground, Cambridge Road properties and Trinity House/ DeFreville Farm fields. A strong sense of countryside by the river and tranquil away from the M11.

Visual Characteristics

There is limited permissive bridleway and footpath access to the area along track following the river and across to Cambridge Road.

Long views across open arable land from back of Cambridge Road at the allotments on higher ground looking south west and similarly from river track looking across open fields. New Great Kneighton development at Trumpington very visible with continuous urban edge and tall elements. Cambridge Road properties generally have long gardens with boundary planting and trees.

Views to river and meadows more contained with pasture woodland and copses. Area west of M11 more enclosed than east side. New development at Hauxton visible across the river. Tree cover and vegetation important to perception of countryside.

Views into the area are limited but the area has a significant frontage along Cambridge Road which provides a strategic gap in development.

There is also a view from Church Street into the entrance of Rectory Farm signalling the entrance to the area even though it is framed by farm buildings and not a long view over the open land.

Both of these areas are considered as visually important areas of open land.

Historic Land Use

Agriculture, the land is recorded as Hauxton West Field, Church West Field and a narrower strip on the east side alongside the Cambridge Road as Causeway West Field. There are two SAM sites near the river.

There are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the area, both adjacent to the track by the water-meadows with the northern one bisected by the M11. The southern one is recorded as a causewayed enclosure the northern one as an iron age settlement complex.

Ecological Features

Few hedgerows but those that exist are substantial and mature, intensively farmed. Water body and trees around coprolite pit on west side of the M11.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Important Green Belt function.
- Potential for major change/adverse impact on the Green Belt within the area if proposals for Cambridge South development were to come forward between the M11 and Cambridge Road.
- Loss of permissive access to Rectory Farm and River Cam corridor.
- Potential for pollution of ditches and the river Granta from fertiliser and pesticide run-off from surrounding agricultural fields.

Sensitivities to Change

Sensitive key characteristics and landscape elements include the river valley with the pastures, copses and woodland which contribute to the sense of countryside, the enclosing hedgerows and trees which screen surrounding development along Cambridge Road and at Hauxton, and the sense of tranquillity away from the M11. Development at Great Kneighton has an adverse visual impact on the rural character of the area.

The inner Green Belt Review concluded that no Green Belt release should be contemplated in this area. Any form of development within this sub area would reduce the distinctive separation between the edge of the city and the M11 and would also significantly encroach on the separation between Cambridge and the necklace villages of Great Shelford, Hauxton and Little Shelford.

Proposals for large scale development such as Cambridge South would significantly alter the tranquillity and rural nature of the area and affect the village if major road proposals were to adversely affect the strategic gap in development near the cemetery on Cambridge Road.

The Cambridge City Landscape Character Assessment 2003 notes that where the separation between the City and the necklace villages is much reduced, the remaining areas represent Defining Character. The minimum distance to ensure the perception of separation should remain sacrosanct.

Whilst this land lies within the Green Belt there needs to be an awareness of the potential pace and scale of change on the edge of the City and the need to maintain the perception of separation between Trumpington, Great Shelford and Hauxton.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.

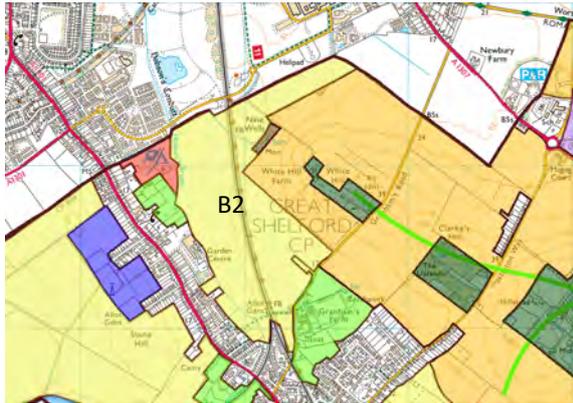
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Seek to introduce a planted bund along the east side of the M11 and planting along the west side.
- Conserve and enhance the landscape setting of development along Cambridge Road.
- Protect and enhance the setting of the riverside pastures.
- Protect key views, the area of visually important open land at Rectory Farm Church Street Gt Shelford and the green frontage to Cambridge Road which forms a strategic gap in development.
- Conserve the important Green Belt function of this area and the perception of separation between Hauxton, Trumpington and Great Shelford
- Seek to secure permissive of definitive public access through Rectory Farm as at present.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance the existing hedgerow pattern and strengthen through planting where appropriate.
- Additional planting along the parish boundary hedgerow line could help to screen development at Trumpington.

B2 Hobsons Brook and Ninewells arable lowland



Key Characteristics

- Flat open arable fields with very few hedgerows.
- Intensive arable landscape.
- Bounded by treelined Hobsons Brook to west.
- Bisected by the Railway with bridge at southern end.
- Cyclepath/footpath alongside the railway affords long views to White Hill and Clarkes Hill
- Strong sense of countryside in most areas.
- Green Belt function strong preserving the historic setting of Cambridge in its characteristic bowl in the landscape with hills behind.
- Sense of tranquillity (apart from the trains).

- Cambridge University Hospitals and Biomedical Campus approach road and bridge dominate visually at the northern end of the cycleway and are visible with Trumpington developments from Granham's Road.

Overall Character

Extensive open flat arable valley land bounded for the most part on the west side by the tree-lined course of Hobson's Brook which runs parallel to Cambridge Road with housing at the southern end. To the east it is contained by long straight hedgerows created shortly after the land was Inclosed in 1835. Beyond this the land rises with the open arable fields becoming the Great Shelford arable chalkland hills topped with the distinctive wooded estates of White Hill and Clarke's Hill on the highest ground. Nine Wells LNR, the source for Hobson's Conduit appears as a block of woodland at the north eastern end. At the south eastern end this area is contained by Granham's Road and Granham's Farm fields with the pre-inclosure field pattern of hedgerows and shelterbelts set around the farm buildings and Granham's House.

This is a transitional landscape between the Chalk and Claylands and is dominated by flat expanses of arable crops.

Visual Characteristics

Predominantly open and flat with extensive long views from the cycle/footpath that bisects the area. Development on Cambridge Road is almost completely hidden by the tree-lined brook. The exception is the southern end where the brook is open and closely cultivated and more recent development at the Hectare and further south Aberley Woods and is not screened by hedgerows or trees.

The visual impact of Cambridge University Hospitals and the Biomedical Campus is currently mostly limited to northern end of the area from the cycleway. However, there are clear views to the larger buildings from Granham's Road and also to residential development opposite at Trumpington. New development has been approved next to Nine Wells which will also have an urbanising impact. Recent development at White Hill is visible. The southern end of the area is more complex with some hedgerows and individual mature trees on the edge of the village and along Granham's Road, providing an attractive approach to the village which is somewhat marred by the lack of screening and tree planting to soften newer developments. The railway bridge is also a dominant feature in the landscape.

Historic Land Use

The 1835 Inclosure Map for Great Shelford shows the pre-Inclosure land names. Most of this land was the Sheep Common, the smaller field at the northern end was Bailies and a strip east of the brook the Crow Land. To the west of the Brook, May pasture is mostly built on now but three fields remain by the railway, the Hectare and Walden Way. At Inclosure the land became one parcel belonging to St John's College crossed by the second public drain, now the course of the footpath. Granham's Road is marked as Hollow Willow Balk.

There is a Scheduled Ancient Monument Site at the foot of White Hill revealed through Aerial photography and thought to be a Roman Villa.

Ecological Features

Nine Wells LNR, the spring source of the Hobson's Conduit with trees and woodland lies at the northern end next to the City boundary.

The Clay Pit, now an area of woodland, scrub and rough land lies in the south of the area.

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area with Hobson's Brook is marked as a wildlife corridor.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Proposed Mass Rapid Transit route scheduled to cross the area with associated lighting and signalisation at road crossing points.
- Part of the Countryside Enhancement Strategy Area to the south of the Cambridge University Hospitals and Biomedical Campus (referenced in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan at Policy CS/5 -2fm).
- Visual impact of the development Cambridge University Hospitals and Biomedical Campus
- Recreational pressure from Cambridge University Hospitals and Biomedical Campus and recent surrounding residential development
- Important Green Belt function.

Sensitivities to Change

The important Green Belt function of this open land was noted in the Inner Green Belt Review 2015. It concluded that this sector plays a key role in the approach to Cambridge from the south, along the railway line. It retains open countryside close to the centre of the city and prevents the sprawl of built development, maintaining the separation between the edge of the city and Great Shelford. It also ensures that for at least some of the southern part of the city the historic core remains large in comparison to the size of the city as a whole and in relatively close proximity to the urban edge. It retains a green corridor into the city, through an area currently undergoing large amounts of development. It is unlikely that any development within this sector could be accommodated without substantial harm to Green Belt purposes. Development would reduce the separation between Cambridge and Great Shelford, as well as affecting a key approach into the city from the south and removing or impinging on a green corridor into the city. It would increase the risk of urban sprawl if development is extended into this sector in the future. Any development between White Hill and the railway would diminish the rural setting of Great Shelford and reduce the separation between the village and Cambridge. No Green Belt release should be contemplated in this sector.

Part of the Countryside Enhancement Strategy Area to the south of the Cambridge University Hospitals and Biomedical Campus (referenced in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan at Policy CS/5 -2fm) which outlines a strategy for landscape improvements to the south, between the village edges and the A1307 as far south as Haverhill Road. This specifically suggests the creation of a landscape corridor along Hobson's Brook. Suggested works include:

- New copses on suitable knolls, hilltops and scarp tops.
- Management and creation of chalk grassland.
- Management of existing shelter belts.
- New mixed woodland and shelter belts.
- Creation of a landscape corridor along Hobson's Brook.
- Reinforcement and planting of new hedgerows.
- Roadside planting.

- New footpaths, cyclepaths and bridleways creating routes through the area and linking to Wandlebury Country Park / The Magog Down.

Cambridge City Council have published a vision for Hobsons Conduit covering the course of the conduit from Nine Wells into Cambridge City Centre.

This area contributes to the rural approach to Shelford along Granham's Road. There is potential for the Mass Rapid transit route to cross this land with associated lighting and signalisation at road crossing points resulting in adverse physical and visual impact and urbanisation of the area.

The wooded corridor along Hobson's Brook is sensitive to land management changes that may reduce the width of the corridor and is important visually in screening development along Cambridge Road and providing a sense of countryside and separation between Cambridge and Great Shelford.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.

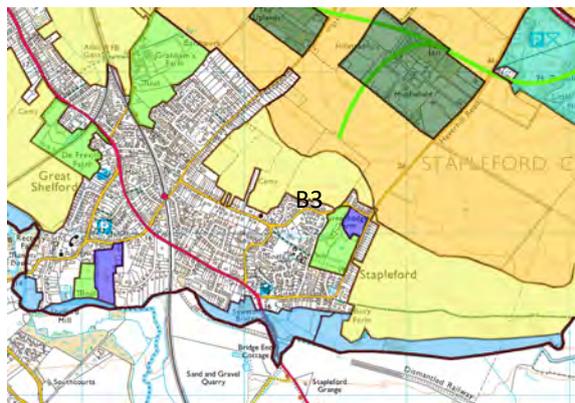
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Protect the important Green Belt function of this area and the perception of separation of settlements and the setting of the city.
- Tree-lined natural margins along Hobson's Brook identified as a wildlife corridor should be retained and enhanced for ecological and visual benefits and are important in preserving the sense of countryside.
- Seek to secure more screen planting south of the Cambridge University Hospitals and Bio-medical campus to soften urban edge as part of Policy CS/5 –(2fm).
- Seek additional recreational land and extension of the nature reserve at Nine Wells to relieve potential recreational pressure from adjacent development and new residential areas with the creation of new public open space with woodland and grassland on land adjacent as part of Policy CS/5 –(2fm).

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance the wooded course of Hobson's Brook as a wildlife corridor and to maintain screening of Cambridge Road development. Additional headlands would increase biodiversity.
- Scope for additional native tree planting along the cycle track.
- New tree planting, hedgerows and park design on the edge of the village near The Hectare should be of appropriate indigenous species.
- Individual mature trees along the southern end of Granham's Road which are reaching the end of their natural life should be replaced as necessary.

B3 Mingle Lane and Hinton Way arable lowland



Key Characteristics

- Flat open arable fields with very few hedgerows.
- Intensive arable landscape.
- Edge of village location
- Stapleford cemetery at the centre

Overall Character

Open arable land at the foot of the chalkland hills. Contiguous with the Stapleford arable chalkland hills area but part of the flat lowland. A small separate area of the arable lowland encircled on three sides by housing and defined by weak hedgerows and the rising ground. This is a sheltered area.

Visual Characteristics

Visually contained on three sides by almost continuous housing on Mingle Lane, Hinton Way and Gog Magog Avenue and defined to the north by weak hedgerows and the rising ground of the chalk hills. This area is not readily visible from the village. From Hinton Way it is screened by the ridgeline and from Haverhill Road the hedgerows screen views into the area. The character of the area is very open and there are long views from one gap in the built frontage on Mingle Lane over the area towards Fox Hill and from a gap on Gog Magog Avenue. There are however, extensive views from the cemetery which sits at the centre of this area in all directions. Given the poor relationship between the village and the countryside these limited public views are considered very important.

Historic Land Use

The lower land to the west was recorded on the Inclosure map of 1812 as the Ming Lands, once part of over 42 a. of inter-commonable land shared with Great Shelford. At its inclosure in 1812 they were divided, 23½ a. being allotted to landowners of Great Shelford and assigned to that parish. The eastern side was part of Church Field cultivated land extending up to meet the Heath in the north. After 1812 the land was divided into a number of rectilinear medium sized agricultural fields.

Ecological Features

Intensively farmed arable land for the most part with little biodiversity. Some hedgerows.

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Potential for loss of the few views into this area.
- Lack of public access and circular walks.
- Potential for adverse visual impacts from Mass Rapid Transit route if implemented as proposed.

Sensitivities to Change

The Mass Rapid Transit route would cross the rising land of the chalkland hills just to the north and be visible in views from the Cemetery, Mingle Lane and Gog Magog Avenue with associated lighting and signalisation at road crossing points and potential drop off infrastructure resulting in adverse physical and visual impact and urbanisation of the area. The introduction of linear planting as mitigation along the course of the route could introduce uncharacteristic elements and affect long views.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.

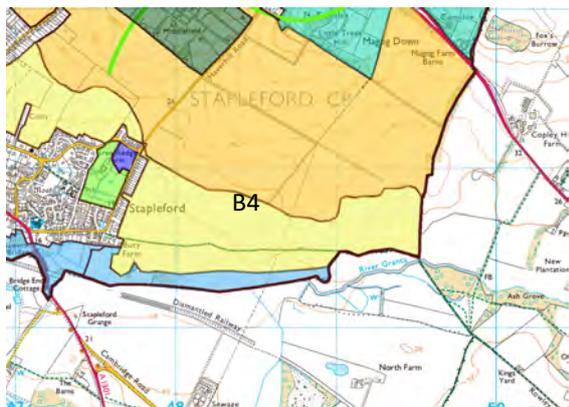
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Preserve the important public views into the countryside.
- Public access to the countryside with potential for a circular route/connection between Hinton Way and Mingle Lane/Gog Magog Drive as part of southern fringe enhancements. (Policy CS/5 -2fm)

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Headlands along field boundaries could enhance the biodiversity of the area together with additional hedgerow planting.
- Explore potential for new permissive and definitive rights of way

B4 Bury Farm arable lowland



Key Characteristics

- Flat open fields with very few hedgerows.
- Intensive arable landscape.
- More distant southerly views contained by vegetation along the river and woodland along the disused railway line
- Bisected by Rowley Lane bridleway
- Strong sense of countryside
- Sense of tranquillity
- Good access to countryside

Overall Character

Open, intensively farmed flat arable fields, part of the Granta valley which continues eastwards, and also merging into the rising chalkland hills to the north. Bordering the river to the south with the smaller riverside pastures and woodland still intact at the west end but further east the former river meadows are now intensively farmed arable. The strip along the river is considered as part water meadows and riverside pastures

Visual Characteristics

Long open views from the bridleway to the east, almost no hedgerows. Long views northwards to the chalk hills, Magog Down and Little Trees Hill. Shorter southerly views contained by vegetation along the river and woodland along the disused railway line beyond. More complex field pattern around Bury Farm and by the river at the west end. Views west to the well-wooded edge of Stapleford. Visually linked to the Chalkland Hills to the north.

Historic Land Use

Cultivated land recorded as Middle Field pre Inclosure on the 1812 map which shows the northern boundary as an old boundary roughly following the contours. The area to the south is shown as The Meadows along the river. It was all granted as one parcel to the Dean and Chapter of Ely so there was no requirement for enclosing hedgerows.

Ecological Features

Intensively farmed arable land with little biodiversity.

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Proposed Mass Rapid Transit route scheduled to cross the area - severance of the bridleway, urbanisation, noise and visual impact
- Very open land potential for hedgerow and tree planting along Rowley Lane Bridleway

Sensitivities to Change

Proposed Mass Rapid Transit route scheduled to cross the area with associated lighting and signalisation at road crossing points and infrastructure associated with a bus stop on Haverhill Road, resulting in adverse physical and visual impact and urbanisation of the area. The introduction of linear planting as mitigation along the course of the route could introduce uncharacteristic elements and affect long views. The infrastructure and associated vehicle movements would have an adverse impact on the sense of tranquillity and sense of countryside in this area. A sensitively planned route with appropriate landscape mitigation could however, lead to biodiversity net gains.

Loss of trees in gardens on the edge of Stapleford would urbanise views towards the village.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect – seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Enhance – seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.

Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

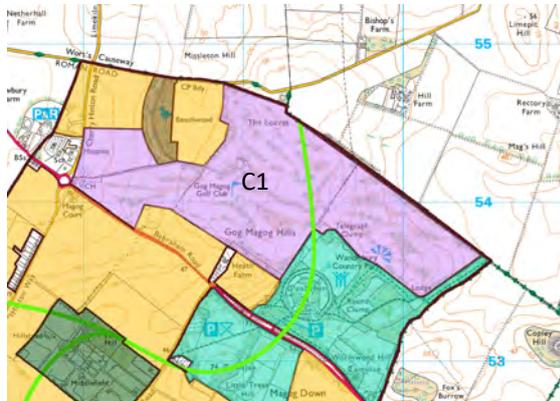
- Preserve the important public views over the countryside.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Consider a managed hedgerow and tree planting along Rowley Lane bridleway but preserve long views.
- Consider introduction of grass margins along headlands.

C Golf courses

C1 Gog Magog Golf Course



Key Characteristics

- Rolling chalkland hill landscape extending from Shelford Bottom to the Wandlebury ridge
- Golf course matrix of chalk grassland, stands of trees and roughs
- SSSI
- Panoramic long-distance views westwards over the City, and north east from the edge of Wandlebury
- Private land with no public access

Overall Character

The Golf course extends for some 88.4 ha across the Gog Magog chalkland hills with a matrix of stands of trees grassland and rough ground from the entrance at Shelford Bottom up and over the ridgeline at Wandlebury. The Golf course is clearly identifiable with a mix of Pines and birch trees in contrast to the surrounding areas of woodland.

Visual Characteristics

There is no public access but the hillside offers panoramic views for players looking west and south-west over farmland and wooded hilltops to the City, Great Shelford and Stapleford. There is also a notable panoramic viewpoint on the edge of the Wandlebury Country Park looking generally north east over the landscape. The old course is naturally more established with more mature trees.

Historic Land Use

Originally part of the heath, a golf course (the Old Course) was constructed by Gonville and Caius and opened in 1901. In 1999 a second 18 hole course (the Wandlebury Course) was completed extending to the east next to Wandlebury Country Park.

Ecological Features

Gog Magog Golf Course SSSI supports grassland communities of the calcareous chalk grassland type. Such grasslands are geographically restricted to scattered areas throughout south, central and eastern England where the influence is not suppressed by overlying drift. Traditionally the chalk grasslands are sheep grazed but a changing economy has led to the loss of many under arable and scrub encroachment. In Cambridgeshire our only remaining examples are restricted largely to the minor irregularities of ancient earthworks and tracks which have allowed the survival of fragments within a

great expanse of agricultural land. The management of this area as a golf course has secured this site of species-rich calcareous grassland on the Gog Magog Hills overlying chalk and chalky loam over glacial drift. The 'roughs' and 'semi-roughs' hold grassland communities characterised by the presence of grasses such as upright brome *Zerna erecta*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*. Many herbs are present including harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, lady's bedstraw *Galium verum* and salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*. Of additional note is the occurrence of the nationally rare moon carrot *Seseli libanotis* and the locally rare perennial flax *Linum anglicum*. Such sites also hold a good invertebrate fauna.

The newer Golf Course area has high conservation value although not designated as part of the SSSI.

The Roman Road SSSI & Scheduled Ancient Monument runs along the north eastern boundary of the Golf course. It supports species-rich calcareous grassland communities. The current status of this SSSI is unfavourable – recovering.

The area is noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Potential for urbanisation and adverse visual impact of any golf related development proposals along Cherry Hinton Road

Sensitivities to Change

High sensitivity to change supporting species rich calcareous grassland.

Sensitive key characteristics include the skyline, and undeveloped albeit highly managed landscape.

The Golf course has extended to include land next to Cherry Hinton Road. The road marks a transition between development at Shelford Bottom with the Hospice Park and Ride site etc and the beginning of the arable chalkland hills and the wider countryside. Driving ranges with lighting and buildings, and extensions to car parks are generally the most common negative features at golf courses in terms of impact on the countryside. Any additional golf development of this type could affect the tranquillity and sense of countryside.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

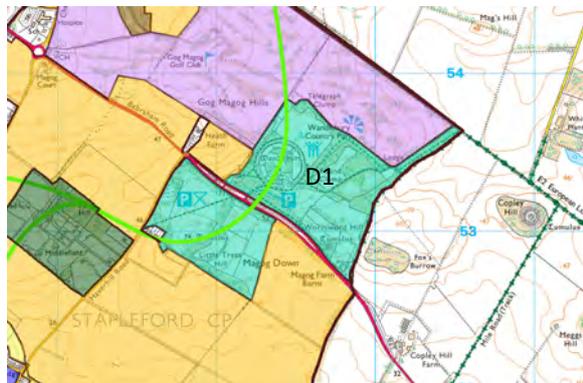
- Resist lighting and structures on land at Shelford Bottom near the Beechwoods.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- The management by the Club has led to a valuable chalkland mosaic landscape which should extend to the newer areas of the course as it matures.
- Seek to introduce access along the boundary to link the Beechwoods to the Roman Road with an of-road link.

D Historic country parks

D1 Wandlebury historic country park



Key Characteristics

- 40ha Country Park
- Historic site with ancient hill fort Scheduled Ancient Monument and stables and gardens of former Gog Magog country house
- Local hilltop landmark with panoramic views rising to 74m AOD
- Matrix of woodland and open grassland
- Part of the chalk ridge a continuation of the Chilterns
- Strong sense of countryside and tranquillity
- Connects to the Roman Road

Overall Character

Wandlebury is the city's original country park set on the high ground of the chalk ridge above Cambridge. With views as far as Ely, the tranquil countryside estate offers more than eight miles of walks through mature woodland and wildflower meadows some grazed by Highland Cattle. A large part of the park is on the remains of a circular historic Iron Age hill fort – a Scheduled Ancient Monument. At the centre the grand stables are all that remains of 18th century Gogmagog House, with the garden walls dividing the centre of the fort into paddocks, former gardens and orchards. There is a strong sense of countryside within the park with a mix of open pastures, the gardens, the ring ditch and woodland offering tranquillity and enclosure in contrast to the open arable surrounding farmland.

Wandlebury connects to the Roman Road which lies on the boundary of the NP area and runs alongside the Golf Course extending to north of Linton. It is designated as a 12.4 hectare linear biological Site of Special Scientific Interest with calcareous grassland, thick hedges and small copses, which provide a valuable habitat for invertebrates. There are grasses such as sheep's-fescue and quaking-grass, while herbs include wild carrot and purple milk-vetch.

Visual Characteristics

The mix of open pastures, woodland and shelterbelts creates a complex landscape with visually enclosed woodland paths, and the sunken ring ditch and some longer views along wooded rides and over enclosed fields. There is a notable panoramic viewpoint on the north east boundary looking out over the golf course to the countryside beyond and towards Ely. The wooded Gogmagog Hills are a local landmark and part of the defining character of the setting of Cambridge.

The Roman Road is mostly an enclosed green lane but there are glimpsed views through the trees over rolling countryside.

Historic Land Use

The Wandlebury hillfort is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It was constructed in the third century B.C. with a timber faced rampart with a ditch 4 metres deep, enclosing 6 ha of land. Traces of habitation, including burials, have been found on the site. After a period of decay the fort was strengthened, perhaps in the 1st century A.D. as a stronghold for the Iceni against the Belgae, with an inner rampart and ditch having a combined height of c. 10 metres. A tumulus also a Scheduled Ancient Monument, survives at Wormwood Hill, formerly Wyrmelawe, 'the dragon's barrow', south-east of the fort.

The high ground in the northern part of Stapleford, comprising a quarter of the parish, had been open heath land since the Middle Ages. By the 1570s the hills were named, as later, after the legendary giant Gogmagog. The scholars of Cambridge were said in the 1620s to have been formerly accustomed to cut, or recut, on the turf the figure of a giant, perhaps when they visited the hills for sports prohibited to them in 1574. The figure, apparently lying within the ramparts, was still visible in the 1720s.

About 1685 James II had had stables built within the ramparts of Wandlebury. In the mid 1720s the stables were leased by the keeper of the king's racehorses. In 1729 Lord Godolphin began to build a large house there, completed by 1735. The inner ramparts were levelled to make its gardens. A new block, including stables and servants' quarters, was built south-west of the house. Lord Godolphin's Arabian horse, the ancestor of most modern British racehorses, was buried, aged 29, under the archway in 1753. The house was demolished c. 1955, when the stables were converted for housing. Extensive plantations were laid out round the hilltop in the mid 19th century.

The Roman Road is also a Scheduled Monument. The date of the road is uncertain, but archaeological excavation has confirmed that it is Roman, and probably constructed later than the first century. It was a local road known as Woles or Wolves Way in the 13th Century then Wool Street or Woolstreet Way or Worstead Street later, connecting Cambridge to the Icknield Way.

Ecological Features

Priority Habitats register

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area.

The Roman Road is a SSSI.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Pressure for additional car parking.
- The potential urbanising impact of the proposed underpass to provide access under the A1307 for cyclists walkers and horse-riders.
- Potential loss of trees/urbanisation for the Linton Greenway
- Seek to improve the road crossing and links to Magog Down through surface changes and signage and speed restrictions investigate potential for a signal-controlled crossing.
- Roman Road SSSI report 2019 100% unfavourable/recovering.

Sensitivities to Change

Sensitive key characteristics include, the peace and quiet, the complex visually enclosed nature of the park.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Restore - seek to reinforce and/or reinstate historic landscape patterns and features that contribute to sense of place and time depth, by repairing distinctive elements that have been lost or degraded.

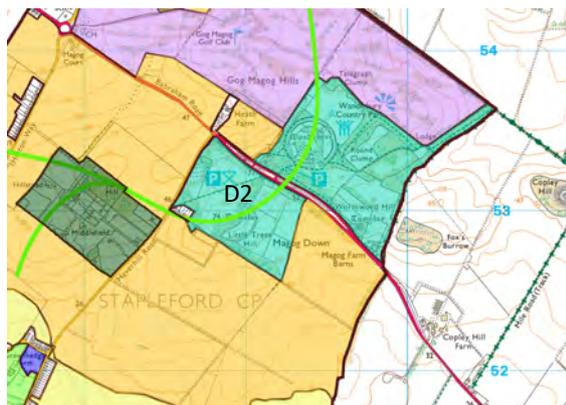
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Seek to promote better access for non-car modes including public transport.
- Seek to minimise the urbanising impact of any proposals for an underpass to connect with Magog Down.
- Investigate possibilities to improve access for horses to the Roman Road.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Wandlebury is owned and managed by Cambridge Past Present and Future.
- The Roman Road is a public right of way maintained by Cambridgeshire County Council.
- Seek to

D2 Magog Down Historic country park



Key Characteristics

- Downland part of the Country Park
- Little Trees Hill local landmark and historic site, with distinctive shape rising to 74m AOD
- Rolling chalk downland landscape with small areas of woodland
- Part of the chalk ridge a continuation of the Chilterns
- Strong sense of countryside and tranquillity
- Panoramic views over the rolling chalkland hills arable farmland to Cambridge and beyond

Overall Character

Magog Down was established in 1989 on previously intensively farmed arable land and consists of rolling open Chalk downland with small areas of native woodland on Little Trees Hill and planted around the perimeters. The woodland was planted in the early 1990s and is maturing. (Note the character area only covers the downland area of Magog Down with the cultivated area being part of the arable hills landscape area.) There is public access to North Down and circular walks round the South Down. The A1307 runs along the northern boundary but is in a slight cutting which reduces the impact. The footpath connection to Wandlebury is severed by the road which discourages access.

Visual Characteristics

The high ground at Little Trees Hill affords panoramic views in all directions over the wider countryside. Little Trees Hill is also a notable local landmark with its distinctive shape visible on the skyline from many places in Stapleford. The wooded Gogmagog Hills are a local landmark and part of the defining character of the setting of Cambridge. Within Magog Down the open rolling grassland and surrounding native woodland create a strong sense of countryside and tranquillity.

Historic Land Use

Up until Inclosure in 1812 the hilltop south of the Haverhill road as far as the parish chalkpit was part of the extensive heathland which covered the Gogmagog Hills. It was probably called the Moor in the 13th century, and traditionally reckoned as 500 acres used for sheep grazing. Lower land was cultivated. After Inclosure the land as one large parcel was granted to the Godolphin estate.

There was a causewayed enclosure dating from the Middle Neolithic (middle stone age) period, 3000 - 2400 BCE, encircling Little Trees Hill. It had the characteristic segmented ditch and is around 265m in diameter. Constructed with internal and external banks with a 4m deep ditch in mostly 10 to 15m

segments. One longer ditch section of 30m has been identified. The site is thought to have been used on a seasonal basis for corralling animals.

During the Bronze Age, 2400 - 1500 BCE, a Bowl Barrow was built on the top of Little Trees Hill. Now designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Such funerary monuments were formed by the piling of soil over the tomb from a surrounding ditch. The almost pure chalk of the site would have ensured the monument was visible from many miles around.

Ecological Features

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area. Magog Down has two meadows sown with wild flowers and grasses native to chalk grassland. Six woods were planted between 1990 and 1992, with 24,000 native British trees. It is seeing the return of ground-nesting birds, like the skylark, and native flowering plants like the cowslip.

It is adjacent to Stapleford Chalk Pit Local Nature Reserve.

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- The potential urbanising impact of the proposed underpass to provide access under the A1307 for cyclists walkers and horse-riders.
- Potential loss of trees/urbanisation for the construction of the Linton Greenway along the A1307

Sensitivities to Change

Sensitive key characteristics include, the peace and quiet away from the A1307, the visually enclosed nature of the interior of the park, key views from the hill-top setting over the surrounding countryside

Intrusion in the views with Mass Rapid Transit at a distance to the south

The busy A1307 runs north of the site any loss of the perimeter tree planting to facilitate the underpass or Linton Greenway could open up the park to the road and infrastructure would affect the ambience of the park.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

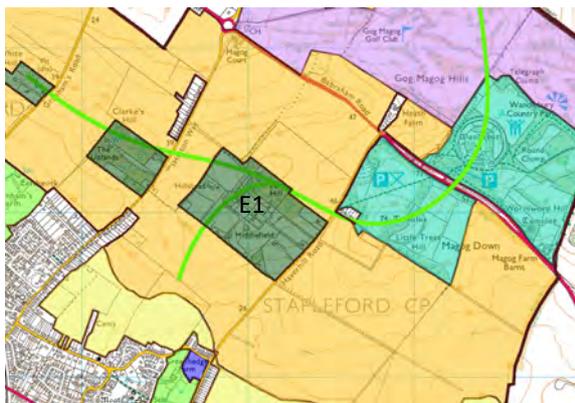
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Investigate possibilities to improve access for horses to cross the A1307 and to link to the proposed Linton Greenway from Stapleford village avoiding the road junction.
- Resist intrusive urbanising elements in the design of the potential underpass with mitigation and additional planting as necessary.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Owned and managed by the Magog Trust. Continue ongoing management.

E Settled, wooded hilltop estates



E1 Fox Hill settled hilltop estate

Key Characteristics

- Dense wooded hilltop
- Rectangular shape/ straight edges
- Some ornamental tree species within the woodland visible on the skyline
- Mix of woodland, gardens and small pastures enclosed by mature hedgerows and shelterbelts
- A few individual houses
- Few views if any to the interior and built development

Overall Character

The settled hilltop estates are a particular unique feature within the Stapleford and Great Shelford arable chalkland hills landscape. The three hilltops following the ridgeline are distinct with their sharply defined rectangular wooded edges in contrast to the wide-open expanse of the rolling arable landscape. From most viewpoints, and from a distance the houses are not visible within the surrounding woodland and mature hedgerows but the inclusion of ornamental tree species in the planting clearly signals their presence in contrast to the native woodland in the locality. They consist of a mix of woodland, gardens and small pastures enclosed by mature hedgerows and shelterbelts. Fox Hill is the largest of these and the most open along the Haverhill Road with views to the properties and fields.

Visual Characteristics

No public access therefore no public viewpoints. Mostly enclosed with views limited to within the gardens and paddocks. Fox Hill properties afford long views to the south and southeast.

A distinct feature within the arable chalkland hills landscape they are considered part of the defining character of the area. The well-screened nature of the housing contributes to the overall sense of countryside.

Historic Land Use

Cultivated land before and after Inclosure in 1812. The rectilinear shape reflects Inclosure hedgerow boundaries.

Ecological Features

Recorded on the Priority habitats register.

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Proposed Mass Rapid Transit route scheduled to cross the hills to the south of this area at a distance. The associated lighting and signalisation at road crossing points and potential drop off infrastructure resulting in adverse physical and visual impact and urbanisation of the area. The infrastructure and associated vehicle movements would have an adverse impact on the sense of tranquillity and sense of countryside in this area.
- Potential for enhancement work as part of the Countryside Enhancement Strategy Area to the south of the Addenbrookes/Biomedical Campus (referenced in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan at Policy CS/5 -2fm) which outlines a strategy for landscape improvements south of the biomedical campus between the village edges and the A1307 as far south as Haverhill Road.

Sensitivities to Change

Sensitive key characteristics and landscape elements are the mature trees on the skyline, sensitive to good woodland management, and the hidden houses, the sense of countryside would be compromised if new development is apparent/visually intrusive. The wooded hills are a recorded on the priority habitat register and sensitive to land management.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.

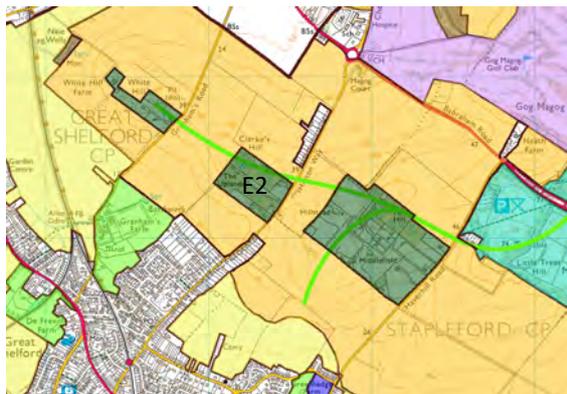
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Ensure built development is minimised to maintain the character of the area and also conserve the priority habitat.
- Conserve and enhance the woodland and surrounding hedgerows
- Seek to minimise the impact of the Mass Rapid Transit route

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance the woodland to create mixed age mixed species woodland with a good mature silhouette on the skyline
- Conserve and enhance the surrounding hedgerows and strengthen and extend where appropriate to ensure mature hedgerow in the long term

E2 Clarke's Hill settled hilltop estate



Key Characteristics

- Dense wooded hilltop
- Rectangular shape/ straight edges
- Some ornamental tree species within the woodland visible on the skyline
- Mix of woodland, gardens and small pastures enclosed by mature hedgerows and shelterbelts
- A few individual houses
- Few views if any to the interior

Overall Character

The settled hilltop estates are a particular unique feature within the Stapleford and Great Shelford arable chalkland hills landscape. The three hilltops following the ridgeline are distinct with their sharply defined rectangular wooded edges in contrast to the wide-open expanse of the rolling arable landscape. From most viewpoints, and from a distance the houses are not visible within the surrounding woodland and mature hedgerows but the inclusion of ornamental tree species in the planting clearly signals their presence in contrast to the native woodland in the locality. They consist of a mix of woodland gardens small pastures enclosed by mature hedgerows and shelterbelts.

Visual Characteristics

No public access therefore no public viewpoints. Mostly enclosed with views limited to within the gardens and paddocks. A distinct feature within the arable chalkland hills landscape they are considered part of the defining character of the area. The well screened nature of the housing contributes to the overall sense of countryside.

Historic Land Use

Cultivated land before and after Inclosure in 1835. The rectilinear shape reflects Inclosure hedgerow boundaries.

Ecological Features

Priority habitat

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Proposed Mass Rapid Transit route scheduled to cross the hills to the south of this area. The associated lighting and signalisation at road crossing points and potential drop off infrastructure resulting in adverse physical and visual impact and urbanisation of the area. The infrastructure and associated vehicle movements would have an adverse impact on the sense of tranquillity and sense of countryside in this area.
- Part of the Countryside Enhancement Strategy Area to the south of the Addenbrookes Biomedical Campus (referenced in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan at Policy CS/5 -2fm) which outlines a strategy for landscape improvements south of the biomedical campus between the village edges and the A1307 as far south as Haverhill Road.

Sensitivities to Change

Sensitive key characteristics and landscape elements are the mature trees on the skyline, sensitive to good woodland management, and the hidden houses, the sense of countryside would be compromised if new development is apparent/visually intrusive. The wooded hills are a recorded on the priority habitat register and sensitive to land management.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.

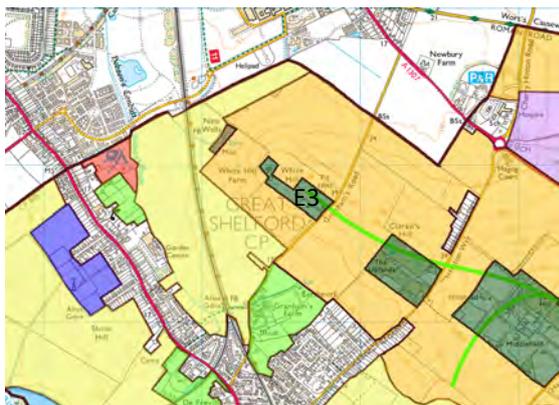
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Ensure built development is minimised to maintain the character of the area and also conserve the priority habitat.
- Conserve and enhance the woodland and surrounding hedgerows
- Seek to minimise the impact of the Mass Rapid Transit route

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance the woodland to create mixed age mixed species woodland with a good mature silhouette on the skyline
- Conserve and enhance the surrounding hedgerows and strengthen and extend where appropriate to ensure mature hedgerow in the long term

E3 White Hill settled hilltop estate



Key Characteristics

- Dense wooded hilltop
- Rectangular shape/ straight edges
- Some ornamental tree species within the woodland visible on the skyline
- Mix of woodland, gardens and small pastures enclosed by mature hedgerows and shelterbelts
- A few individual houses
- Few views if any to the interior

Overall Character

The settled hilltop estates are a characteristic and unique feature within the Stapleford and Great Shelford arable chalkland hills landscape. The three hilltops following the ridgeline are distinct with their sharply defined rectangular wooded edges in contrast to the wide-open expanse of the rolling arable landscape. From most viewpoints, and from a distance the houses are not visible within the surrounding woodland and mature hedgerows but the inclusion of ornamental tree species in the planting clearly signals their presence in contrast to the native woodland in the locality. They consist of a mix of woodland gardens small pastures enclosed by mature hedgerows and shelterbelts.

Visual Characteristics

No public access therefore no public viewpoints. Mostly enclosed with views limited to within the gardens and paddocks. White Hill properties afford long views from the high ground.

A distinct feature within the arable chalkland hills landscape they are considered part of the defining character of the area. The well screened nature of the housing contributes to the overall sense of countryside. New dwelling at White Hill is less well screened and additional planting would contribute to retaining the distinct character of this character type.

Historic Land Use

Cultivated land before and after Inclosure in 1835. The rectilinear shape reflects Inclosure hedgerow boundaries.

Ecological Features

Recorded on the Priority habitats register.

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Part of the Countryside Enhancement Strategy Area to the south of the Addenbrookes/Biomedical Campus (referenced in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan at Policy CS/5 -2fm) which outlines a strategy for landscape improvements south of the biomedical campus between the village edges and the A1307 as far south as Haverhill Road.
- Proposed Mass Rapid Transit route scheduled to cross the hills to the south of this area. The associated lighting and signalisation at road crossing points and potential drop off infrastructure have the potential for adverse physical and visual impact and urbanisation of the area. The infrastructure and associated vehicle movements would have a potentially adverse impact on the sense of tranquillity and sense of countryside in this area.
- Important Green Belt function.

Sensitivities to Change

Sensitive key characteristics and landscape elements are the mature trees on the skyline, sensitive to good woodland management, and the hidden houses, the sense of countryside would be compromised if any development is apparent/visually intrusive. The wooded hills are a recorded on the priority habitat register and sensitive to land management.

The Inner Green belt review 2015 concluded that, any form of development extending onto the slopes of the Gog Magog Hills would substantially harm one of the key components of the setting of the city. No Green Belt release should be contemplated in this area.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.

Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

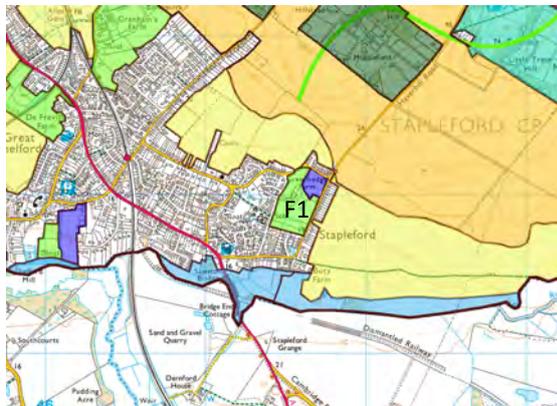
- Ensure built development is minimised to maintain the character of the area and also conserve the priority habitat.
- Conserve and enhance the woodland and surrounding hedgerows.
- Seek to minimise the impact of the Mass Rapid Transit route on the setting of E3.
- Important Green Belt function.
- A key element in views from the DNA cyclepath.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance the woodland to create mixed age mixed species woodland with a good mature silhouette on the skyline.
- Conserve and enhance the surrounding hedgerows and strengthen and extend where appropriate to ensure mature hedgerow in the long term.

F Enclosed farmland pastures

F1 Green Hedges Farm enclosed farmland pastures



Key Characteristics

- Farm landscape
- Set around the farm house and outbuildings
- Complex small-scale historic field pattern
- Old hedgerows
- Pastures
- Mature trees

Overall Character

Area of small-scale pastures set around Green Hedge Farm with the farmhouse and barns at the centre. The home fields are now a mix of pastures and the allotments lie at the southern end of the area.

The area is defined by the old field boundary hedgerows and mature trees both native and ornamental species. Some of the hedgerow boundaries are in poor condition and would benefit from gapping up.

Visual Characteristics

An attractive pastoral landscape with hedgerows and mature trees. This area is considered to be a visually important area of open land at the centre of the village which helps reflect the historic development of Stapleford around the village Green. The mature hedgerows and trees compartmentalise the views.

Historic Land Use

The farm and fields are shown on the 1812 Inclosure map. The land to the south including the site of the allotments was The Green.

Ecological Features

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Potential for loss of mature trees and hedgerows over time and or changes to grassland management, changing the character of the area. The Local Plan Policy SC/1 (1a) has allocated an additional 1.42ha area of open space to be an extension to the recreation ground to meet local need for open space on adjacent land east of Bar Lane and west of the access road to Green Hedge Farm - The land allocated for the extension is part of the larger visually important area of open space around Green Hedge Farm. The rural character of this area with pastureland, hedgerows and trees in front of the farm buildings is a key characteristic of the village. The management of the extension land in the future will be key to retaining this character. Intensive management for sports uses and or structures and floodlighting on this part of the area would adversely affect the rural character.
- Potential for development on this Green Belt land or development that affects the setting of the area on adjacent land.

Sensitivities to Change

Sensitive key characteristics are the pastures, managed hedgerows allowing views, and mature trees.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Restore - seek to reinforce and/or reinstate historic landscape patterns and features that contribute to sense of place and time depth, by repairing distinctive elements that have been lost or degraded.

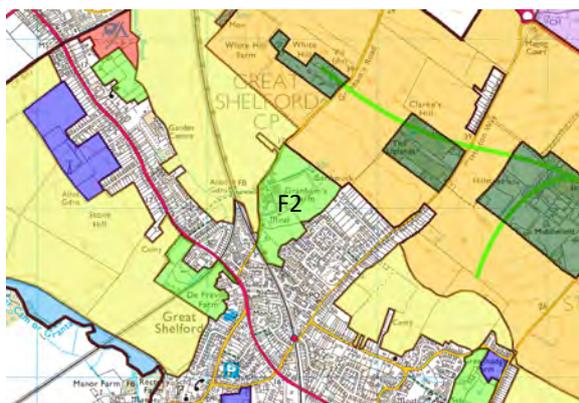
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance visually important open rural land within the village.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance hedgerows and tree cover with active management and new planting as necessary.

F2 Granham's Farm enclosed farmland pastures



Key Characteristics

- Farm landscape
- Farm house and outbuildings
- Complex small/medium scale historic field pattern
- Old hedgerows
- Pastures, fields and former parkland
- Mature trees and plantations
- Historic site of early settlement and earthworks

Overall Character

Area of small and medium scale fields, pastures and former parkland with mature hedgerows and trees set around Granham's Farm with Granham's House and barns at the centre. A complex well treed landscape set between the edge of the village and the open arable chalkland hills.

A watercourse marked as the second public drain on the 1835 Inclosure rises on the northern boundary and flows west to feed into Hobson's Brook – which is noted as the first public drain.

The composition of historic buildings, fields, hedgerows and mature trees provides a rural approach to Great Shelford and is important to the rural setting of the village.

A large new house is less well integrated into the landscape close to the road and away from the village.

Visual Characteristics

An attractive pastoral landscape with historic buildings hedgerows and mature trees. The mature hedgerows and trees compartmentalise the views.

Much of the land is visually enclosed private land but there are views over managed hedgerows from Granham's Road and views to grazing land and parkland trees from Granham's Road and from the cyclepath along the railway to the south. The historic farm buildings enclose views from Granhams Road.

Glimpsed views to the interior fields from Granham's Road.

Open views to meadows/pastureland alongside the railway at the southern end.

Historic Land Use

Farmed land and pasture. There was a settlement around Granham's manor house by the mid 11th century and the earthwork there was already known as Aldwerk in the early 13th century.

Ecological Features

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Proposed Mass Rapid Transit route scheduled to cross Granhams Road just to the north of the area with associated lighting and signalisation at road crossing points and potential drop off infrastructure resulting in adverse physical and visual impact and urbanisation of the area. The infrastructure and associated vehicle movements would have an adverse impact on the sense of tranquillity and sense of countryside in this area and the rural approach to Great Shelford.
- Potential for introduction of new development or conversion/replacement of farm buildings not in character with the existing farm or loss of enclosing farm buildings which would alter the character of the area.
- Potential for the introduction of new boundary fencing, removal/replacement of hedgerows altering the rural and historic character of the area.
- The Local Plan has allocated at Policy SC/1 (2c) the southern fields (4.8 hectares) as a new open space for Great Shelford. The site is only suitable for informal recreation uses due to its archaeological interest, parkland character, and very limited road access. Pedestrian access routes should be improved where possible including the links from Cambridge road and the footpath over the railway to make this space accessible to a wide catchment.

Sensitivities to Change

Sensitive characteristics and landscape elements include the hedgerows mature trees and woodland earthworks and archaeology, the farm buildings.

The Granhams Road frontage is natural well wooded and picturesque with the old farm buildings. It contributes to the rural approach to Great Shelford.

The mature specimen trees along Granhams Road are not being replaced as they die.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.

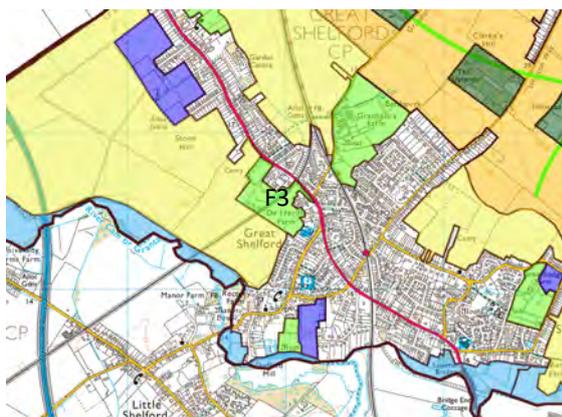
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Ensure that any potential conversion and redevelopment of the farm yard retains the character of the existing buildings and the mature green road frontage.
- Seek to preserve the rural character of the approach to Great Shelford.
- Sensitive design and management for the new area of open space which seeks to improve biodiversity and retain the rural character of the fields. This area is within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area. Management of grassland could emulate the work at Magog Down to create an area of species rich grassland providing accessible local green space for the village.
- Seek to improve local pedestrian and cycle access to the new open space to maximise the catchment. Eg the footpath to Cambridge Road and the footbridge.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance the hedgerow pattern and strengthen through planting where appropriate to local landscape character.
- Woodland management to ensure uneven aged structure to maintain mature trees on the skyline.
- Plant additional trees as necessary along Granham's Road to replace the mature trees lost to old age.

F3 De Freville Farm and Trinity House enclosed farmland pastures



Key Characteristics

- Farm landscape
- Farm house outbuildings and Barns at De Freville Farm
- Complex small-scale historic field pattern
- Old hedgerows
- Pastures
- Mature trees, wooded setting at Trinity House

Overall Character

An attractive pastoral landscape of pastures set around De Freville Farm House and Trinity House bisected by the railway with some significant shelterbelts, mature trees and a small lake.

Visual Characteristics

This landscape character area is with considered to contain two areas of visually important open land affording views over the pastures into the countryside in an otherwise urban part of Great Shelford where countryside connections have been lost.

Firstly, from the railway bridge over the fields by De Freville Farm House including mature trees and views to the southwest. Secondly views over the pasture at Trinity House and the open arable land, a key gap in the developed frontage on Cambridge road looking south west. .

Historic Land Use

Farmland pastures.

Ecological Features

An area of pastures with mature trees there is a lake north of the railway.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Potential loss of mature trees within gardens and fields.

Sensitivities to Change

Sensitive landscape elements are the trees and pastureland.

Both areas are strategic gaps in development and a bridge to the wider countryside setting of the village. Any proposal for a major road access to a new mixed use development such as Cambridge South as previously put forward would severely impact on the physical width of the strategic gap in development on the Cambridge Road, would urbanise the setting of Trinity House pastures and reduce the potential for views and links to the countryside.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.

Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

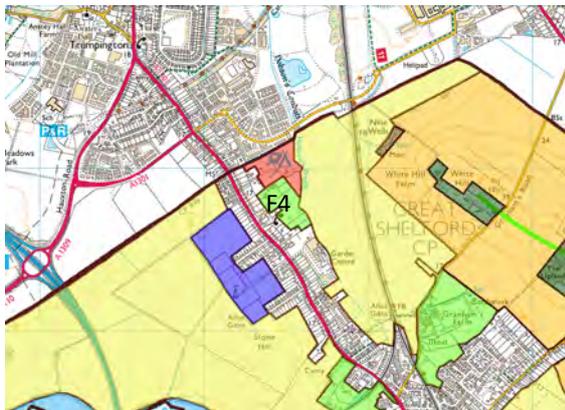
- Conserve and enhance important views and areas of visually important open land which connect the urban area of Great Shelford to the countryside.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance the hedgerow pattern and strengthen through planting where appropriate to local landscape character.
- Woodland management to ensure uneven aged structure to maintain mature trees on the skyline. Favour native species.

F4 Cambridge Road enclosed farmland pastures

Private land -no access



Key Characteristics

- Farm landscape
- Complex small-scale historic field pattern
- Some mature hedgerows
- Pastures
- Mature trees along Hobsons Brook

Overall Character

Remnant small scale pastures by Hobson's Brook surrounded by later development on three sides. A remnant of a former farm land with hedgerows and mature trees.

Visual Characteristics

A visually contained area with no public views enclosed by development along Cambridge Road and mature trees and shrubs along Hobson's brook and other field boundaries.

Historic Land Use

The area was recorded as Cabbage Moor pre-Inclosure on the 1835 map. At Inclosure the land was divided into a series of narrow plots running back from the Cambridge Road to Hobson's Brook.

Ecological Features

Hobson's Brook runs along the eastern boundary, noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being a wildlife corridor.

Some mature trees and hedgerows.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Preservation of hedgerows for the long term
- Potential for infill development where much of the land between Cambridge Road and Hobsons Brook has been developed.
- Important Green Belt function recorded in Inner Green Belt Review 2015

Sensitivities to Change

The wooded corridor along Hobson's Brook is sensitive to further intensification of farming and is important visually in screening development along Cambridge Road and providing a sense of countryside and separation between Cambridge and Great Shelford.

The Inner Green Belt Review 2015 places this area within sector 9.1. and concludes that this sector plays a key role in the approach to Cambridge from the south, along the railway line. It retains open countryside close to the centre of the city and prevents the sprawl of built development, maintaining the separation between the edge of the city and Great Shelford. It also ensures that for at least some of the southern part of the city the historic core remains large in comparison to the size of the city as a whole and in relatively close proximity to the urban edge. It retains a green corridor into the city, through an area currently undergoing large amounts of development. Implications of Green Belt release for development

It is unlikely that any development within this sector could be accommodated without substantial harm to Green Belt purposes. Development would reduce the separation between Cambridge and Great Shelford, as well as affecting a key approach into the city from the south and removing or impinging on a green corridor into the city. It would increase the risk of urban sprawl if development is extended into this sector in the future. No Green Belt release should be contemplated in this sector.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.

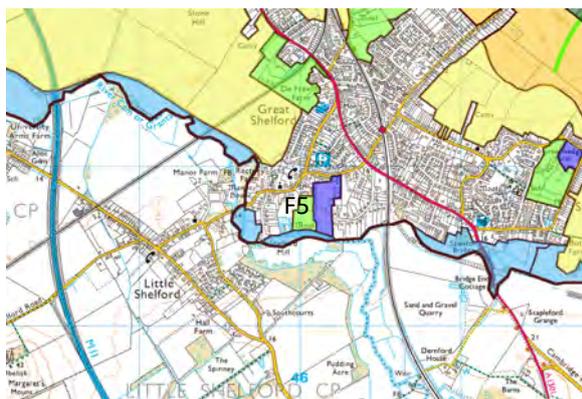
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance Hobsons Brook wildlife corridor and existing hedgerows.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance the hedgerow pattern and strengthen through planting where appropriate to local landscape character.

F5 The Grange Fields enclosed farmland pastures



Key Characteristics

- Pastures
- Mature shelterbelts and woodland
- Extends to the woodland along the River
- River Granta

Overall Character

Pastureland surrounded by mature shelterbelts and woodland along the river.

Visual Characteristics

There is a significant view from Church Street into this area and glimpsed views from the recreation ground. This area is considered to be a visually important area of open land at the historic centre of the village. The fields provide a setting for the Grange with the activity and buildings at the busy recreation ground well screened by the shrubby layer at the base of the shelterbelt. The riverbanks are well wooded and there are no views of the river from the fields.

Historic Land Use

Pastures and wooded riverbanks.

Ecological Features

The river corridor is a County Wildlife Site and is recorded on the Priority Habitats register together with woodland on neighbouring land at the Grange around the old fishponds. It is also noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the river Granta corridor, wetlands habitats,

Countryside Enhancement Area. The area is also within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Threats to the survival tree belt where the trees are over mature, and generally even-aged. Either through natural dieback from old age or as part of plans to amalgamate this area with Great Shelford Recreation Ground.
- Potential for loss of screening of recreation ground activity, lighting and noise, which would impact on the setting of the Grange.

Sensitivities to Change

Sensitive key characteristics include the view from Church Street, the rural character, the river corridor and the mature shelterbelt. Development at Peacocks almost hides this field. Any additional development at the north end would block views from Church Street.

The shelterbelt is over-mature and could benefit from management to ensure an uneven aged structure to maintain the tall trees on the skyline and screening of the recreation ground for the future.

Any change of use to provide access and a potential country park/expansion of the recreation ground sports pitches could lead to sports ground or park management which would affect the character and ecological value of the fields.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Conserve the open fields and rural character
- Consider designation as a \local Green Space.The NPPF states that Local Green Spaces can be designated through neighbourhood plans.

The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is local in character - demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The Grange field is considered to fill all the criteria and could be designated within the SGSNP to provide accessible natural green space for local residents.

Its particular local significance is: Its beauty and tranquillity, the wildlife significance as a priority habitats inventory adjacent to the river which is a county wildlife site and wildlife corridor. It also provides the rural setting for surrounding listed buildings and contains a stand of fine mature trees which contribute visually to the village. It is in the Green Belt and partially in the flood plain.

It is centrally placed at the heart of the historic core of the Great Shelford and is viewed daily from Church Street by children and parents arriving at Great and Little Shelford C of E primary school, visitors to the Church and the Parish Room and those walking to the shops from Little Shelford and many passers-by. There could also be access from the recreation ground linking to areas of the village further north.

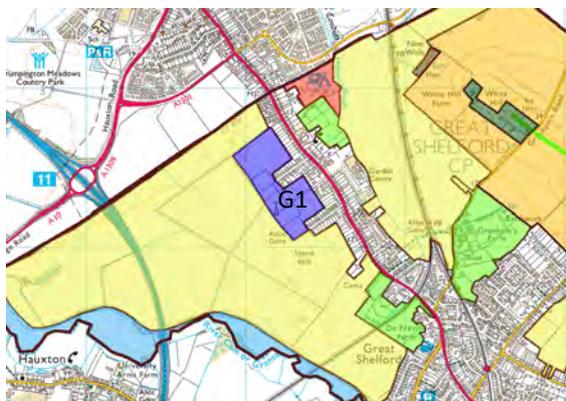
It would not however be suitable for formal sports or structures, and or floodlighting which would have an adverse impact on the tranquillity, biodiversity or visual qualities as part of the historic setting of the Conservation Area.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Manage the shelterbelt to create an uneven aged structure and good shrub edge.
- Reinststate field boundary hedgerows
- Conserve and enhance the hedgerow pattern and strengthen through planting where appropriate to local landscape character.
- Woodland management to ensure uneven aged structure to maintain mature trees on the skyline.

G Sports fields

G1 Shelford Rugby Club



Key Characteristics

- Amenity grassland/sports pitches
- Mature hedgerows
- Allotments

Overall Character

Amenity grassland/pitches. The parcel of land to the south contains allotments and a practice pitch. There are some mature boundary hedgerows.

Visual Characteristics

Open flat elevated land. There are expansive views from the southern corner of the Parish Land beyond Stone Hill Road looking over the fields and the river. The two fields by the entrance behind Cambridge road are flanked by development and visually enclosed. The remainder of the land to the rear and further north is considered to be an extension of area B1 West Shelford arable lowland.

Historic Land Use

Cultivated land pre-Inclosure shown as Causeway West Field on the 1835 map.

Ecological Features

Amenity sports grassland so lacks species diversity but there are some surrounding mature hedgerows.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Potential for public access and good views from Parish-owned land on southern edge.
- Important Green Belt function.

Sensitivities to Change

The Inner Green Belt Review divided this area into two areas with sub area 8.1 covering most of the land apart from the two fields at the entrance which are sub area 8.2. No Green Belt release should be contemplated in sub area 8.1. Any form of development within this sub area would reduce the distinctive separation between the edge of the city and the M11 and would also significantly encroach

on the separation between Cambridge and the necklace villages of Great Shelford, Hauxton and Little Shelford.

It concluded that sub area 8.2 the two fields at the entrance to Shelford Rugby Club currently makes minimal contribution to the performance of Green Belt purposes, and development within it could be undertaken without harm to the Green Belt, provided the following parameters are complied with to avoid any increase in urbanising influences.

- Any new development should be similar in height and grain to the existing ribbon development along Cambridge/Shelford Road. Medium-low density housing is likely to be most appropriate.
- New development should be designed to create a robust, permanent edge to the city. The new edge should be planted to enhance the soft green edge already present along Cambridge/ Shelford Road, to help integrate built form and to minimise the urbanising effects of development on the countryside.
- Existing vegetation around the adjacent Shelford Rugby Club should, if possible, be retained to help integrate any development into the urban edge.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Restore - seek to reinforce and/or reinstate historic landscape patterns and features that contribute to sense of place and time depth, by repairing distinctive elements that have been lost or degraded.

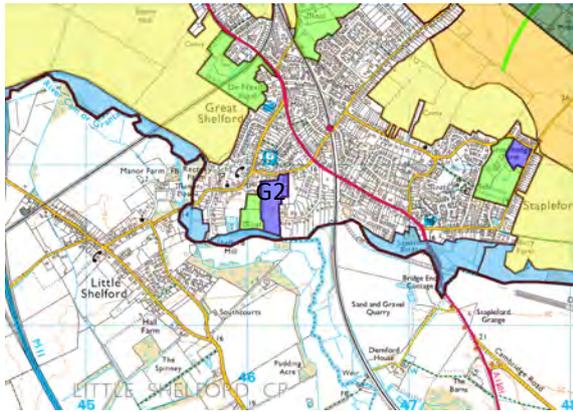
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Minimise additional development within the Green Belt on the west side of the site which may adversely affect the rural setting of the arable lowland
- Any development proposals for the two fields behind Cambridge Road should take account of the Inner Green Belt Review parameters for development.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance hedgerow pattern and reinforce planting on the western boundary.

G2 Great Shelford Recreation Ground



Key Characteristics

- Open flat recreation ground with play and sports pitches
- Green setting with surrounding mature tree belts and a copse
- Naturalistic riverbanks and the only public river access in Great Shelford
- Views to water meadows and countryside beyond from southern end
- Brings rural character to heart of the village
- Built-up narrow entrance through car park

Overall Character

Flat open grassy recreation ground enclosed by mature trees and hedgerows. The majority of the land is intensively managed as sports pitches. There is an Alder copse next to the river

Grassland at the southern end next to the river has been developed as a meadow in recent years with wildflower planting and hay meadow management.

Visual Characteristics

Part of a wider area of visually important open land which contributes to the rural character and setting of the village.

Historic Land Use

Agriculture then recreation ground. There were facilities for river bathing with changing rooms before WW2.

Ecological Features

The river corridor is a County Wildlife Site and is recorded on the Priority Habitats register. It is also noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the river Granta corridor, wetlands habitats, Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- A potential basement car park proposal together with the redevelopment of the hall on a larger footprint, could urbanise the frontage and block views towards the river and the countryside.

Sensitivities to Change

Links to the Grange field could impact on the mature tree belt.

Redevelopment of the hall or car park could block views into the recreation ground.

The mature hedgerows screen surrounding development. Some hedges have been lost near surrounding properties. Maintaining hedgerows around the perimeter contributes to maintaining a tranquil rural character

Rural character at south end by the river could be compromised by largescale play equipment or by extension to sports pitches.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Enhance - seek to improve the integrity of the landscape, and reinforce its character, by introducing new elements where distinctive features or characteristics are absent.

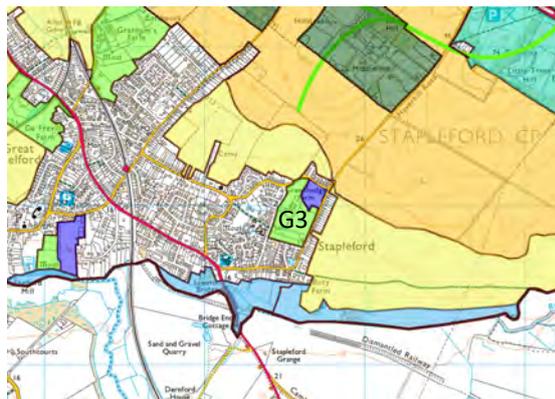
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Conserve views - part of a wider area of visually important open land which contributes to the character of the Conservation Area.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance surrounding tree belts
- Manage the riverbanks and southern end of the recreation ground for net biodiversity gains and informal leisure.

G3 Stapleford Recreation Ground



Key Characteristics

- Open land
- Visually prominent
- Amenity grassland
- Part of wider green area at the centre of the village
- Connections to countryside beyond
- Hedgerow and some mature trees

Overall Character

An open sports and recreation field on the edge of a wider green area. Perceived as part of a wider green area together with a collection of farm fields at the centre of the village. Fringed by mature trees around the boundary

Visual Characteristics

Part of a wider area of visually important open land which contributes to the character of the rural village.

Historic Land Use

Cultivated land with the original village green to the south.

Ecological Features

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- The Local Plan has allocated an additional area of open space to be an extension to the recreation ground on adjacent land on Bar Lane. The land allocated for the extension is part of the larger visually important area of open space around Green Hedge Farm. The rural character of this area with pastureland, hedgerows and trees in front of the farm buildings is a key characteristic of the village. The management of the extension land in the future will be key to retaining this character. Intensive management for sports uses and or structures and floodlighting would adversely affect the rural character of the extension.

Sensitivities to Change

A very simple composition little change is expected.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

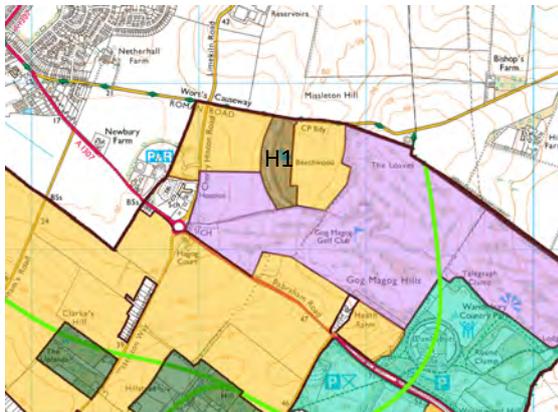
- Preserve as part of a wider area of visually important open land

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Continue with current management, preserve the tree cover around the perimeter. There is potential for allowing some areas of grass around the fringes to be left long and cut annually to improve biodiversity.

H Woodlands

H1 The Beechwoods LNR



Key Characteristics

- Mature beech woodland and younger mixed woodland.

Overall Character

Originally a small wood of majestic beeches on a chalk ridge above Cambridge which was planted in the 1840s. Local people then planted a new plantation of broad-leaved trees in 1992 next to the Beechwoods which doubles the size of the original area to some 9.76 ha. The new woodland is now well grown with a good shrubby understorey. The original beechwoods are mature with typically sparse ground flora. The Beechwoods are a Local Nature Reserve, there is good public access with a variety of paths. There is also good public footpath access from the Biomedical Campus and the edge of Cambridge.

Visual Characteristics

A block of woodland set within the open arable landscape.

Historic Land Use

Woodland since the 1840s this area was part of the heath before Inclosure. The reserve now has an area of mixed woodland planted in 1992 on arable land.

Ecological Features

The Beechwoods is a Local Nature Reserve. Wildlife includes white helleborine orchid, beech trees, fungi, great spotted and green woodpeckers, nuthatch, spotted flycatcher. In good beech-mast crop years large flocks of bramblings gather to eat the beech-mast.

Within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being with the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Managed by Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough Wildlife Trust (BCNP) 7
- NCA notes the hill top beech hangers as a feature of the Chalkland landscape and argues for the regeneration and replanting of existing, predominately small, hill-top beech plantations. Making sure that the resilience of woodland to climate change impact is understood and acted upon; particularly the valued beech woodland which is vulnerable.
- The beech wood was planted as one block and needs to have an uneven aged structure.

Sensitivities to Change

The beech woodland is even aged for the most part and management will need to be directed to diversify the age structure of the woodland to ensure its sustainability as a mature woodland.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

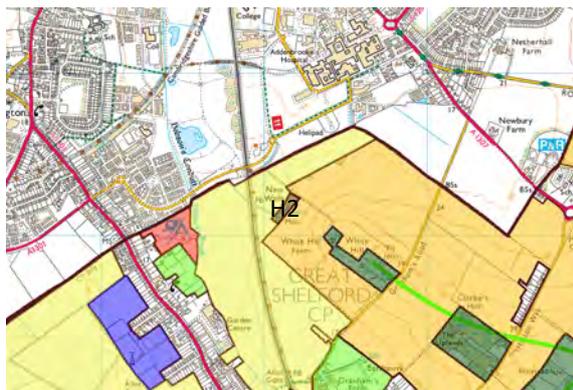
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Continue to protect the woodlands as a LNR
- Maintain informal parking
- Seek to provide additional non-car access with an off road link to the Roman Road.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Managed by Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough Wildlife Trust (BCNP) 7. The beech woodland is even aged for the most part and management will need to be directed to diversify the age structure of the woodland to ensure its sustainability as a mature woodland.

H2 Nine Wells wooded nature reserve



Key Characteristics

- Small wooded area of 1.18 ha with springs
- Historic site
- Monument
- Local Nature Reserve

Overall Character

Woodland and mosaic of more open habitats with springs. There is a monument within the woodland.

Visual Characteristics

Visually enclosed woodland.

Historic Land Use

Nine Wells is a historically important site containing several chalk springs, which form the source of Hobson's Conduit. A watercourse was built from 1610 to 1614 by Thomas Hobson and others to bring fresh water into the city of Cambridge, from springs at Nine Wells. Hobson's Conduit is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The watercourse currently runs over ground until Cambridge University Botanic Garden and Brookside, where it is at its widest. At the corner of Lensfield Road stands a hexagonal monument to Hobson, which once formed part of the market square fountain, and was moved to this location in 1856, after a fire in the Market. The flow of water runs under Lensfield Road, and subsequently runs along both sides of Trumpington Street in broad gutters towards Peterhouse and St Catharine's College, and also St Andrew's Street. The conduit currently ends at Silver Street.

The scheme was first devised in 1574 by Andrew Perne, Master of Peterhouse, who proposed that a stream be diverted from Nine Wells chalk springs through the town and the King's Ditch to improve sanitation. The design was revived by James Montagu, Master of Sidney Sussex College and built at the expense of the University and town. Although Thomas Hobson was just one of those involved in the construction, he endowed a Hobson's Conduit Trust to deal with maintenance of the waterway, which still exists today. There is a monument within the nature reserve to mark the founding of the conduit.

Ecological Features

Nine Wells once contained some rare freshwater invertebrates, and was previously designated as a SSSI, however following the drought of 1976 these were lost. Today the chalk watercourses are being managed by Cambridge City Council with the aim of re-creating the conditions favourable for a possible re-introduction of these rare species.

Noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Potential adverse impacts from increased visitor pressure from new development at the adjacent Cambridge biomedical campus.
- Impacts from construction of adjacent development.
- Important Green Belt function.

Sensitivities to Change

Concerns about damage to habitats from potential extra visitor pressure were recorded along with the grant of planning permission on adjacent land which effectively brings the Bio-medical Campus up to the edge of the reserve.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Restore - seek to reinforce and/or reinstate historic landscape patterns and features that contribute to sense of place and time depth, by repairing distinctive elements that have been lost or degraded.

Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

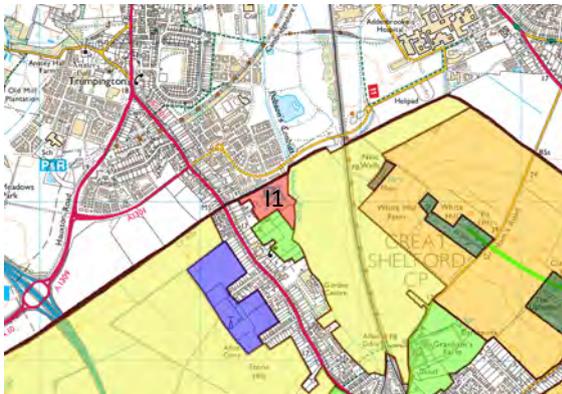
- Seek to ensure development proposals adjacent to designated ecological sites and those identified as priority habitats respect boundaries and provide information and mitigation measures as necessary to reduce access/visitor pressures, the visual impact of new development and seek to preserve and enhance the setting of valuable sites.
- Potential for additional recreational land and or planting of a copse, additional hedgerows etc as part of the Southern Fringe Area Action Plan and POLICY CSF/5 2f-m Countryside Enhancement Strategy.
- Important Green Belt function noted as part of wider sector in the Inner Green belt Review. The parameters for release of land to the north noted that an appropriate buffer of Green Belt land should be retained to protect the ecological interest of Nine Wells Local Nature Reserve.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- LNR managed by Cambridge City Council

I Campsites

I1 Great Shelford Campsite



Key Characteristics

- Flat enclosed fields
- Visually contained
- Borders Hobson's Brook
- Mature hedgerow boundaries
- Manicured lawns

Overall Character

A small discreet visually enclosed area consisting of one large open flat field and a smaller triangular field. The land is surrounded by mature hedgerows which provide a good sense of enclosure. The sense of countryside has been diminished by new tall development on the north side very close to the boundary. Hobsons Brook runs along the eastern boundary.

Visual Characteristics

Visually contained by dense hedgerows and the vegetation along Hobson's Brook. New development to the north is very close to the boundary and impinges visually on the site.

Historic Land Use

Formerly Cabbage Moor

Ecological Features

Hobson's Brook is identified as a wildlife corridor in South Cambs Biodiversity SPD.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Potential for pollution of Hobsons Brook
- Potential for encroachment of activity on the sensitive boundary vegetation.

Sensitivities to Change

Sensitive key elements are the Hobson's Brook corridor and the surrounding hedgerows. This is a visually contained area and overall has a low sensitivity to change away from these features if small in scale.

The Inner Green Belt Review 2015 places this area within sector 9.1. and concludes that this sector plays a key role in the approach to Cambridge from the south, along the railway line. It retains open countryside close to the centre of the city and prevents the sprawl of built development, maintaining the separation between the edge of the city and Great Shelford. It also ensures that for at least some of the southern part of the city the historic core remains large in comparison to the size of the city as a whole and in relatively close proximity to the urban edge. It retains a green corridor into the city, through an area currently undergoing large amounts of development. Implications of Green Belt release for development

It is unlikely that any development within this sector could be accommodated without substantial harm to Green Belt purposes. Development would reduce the separation between Cambridge and Great Shelford, as well as affecting a key approach into the city from the south and removing or impinging on a green corridor into the city. It would increase the risk of urban sprawl if development is extended into this sector in the future. No Green Belt release should be contemplated in this sector.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Restore - seek to reinforce and/or reinstate historic landscape patterns and features that contribute to sense of place and time depth, by repairing distinctive elements that have been lost or degraded.

Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

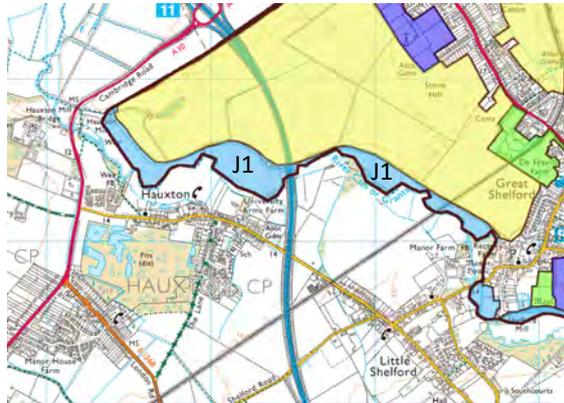
- Protect and enhance the environs of Hobson's Brook and avoid encroachment.
- Protect and enhance the surrounding hedgerows for their habitat value and visual containment.
- Potential to improve biodiversity and habitats along hedgerows and brook.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Conserve and enhance the environs of Hobson's Brook.
- Conserve and enhance the surrounding hedgerows for their habitat value and visual containment. Re-plant or supplement planting as necessary.

J Water meadows and riverside pastures

J1 Shelford meadows and riverside pastures



Key Characteristics

- Water meadows along the banks of the river Cam or Granta
- Rough grazing
- Sinuous river boundary with individual mature willows
- Some woodland along the river and the track
- Raised causeway track along northern boundary
- Tranquil areas away from the M11
- Within the flood plain

Overall Character

A series of water meadows running beside the River Cam or Granta, part of Rectory Farm, Great Shelford. The river has historically been dredged to reduce flooding and the banks are high. The southern (Parish) boundary formed by the sinuous course of the river with many twists and turns running through the flat meadow landscape. In contrast the northern boundary is formed by a ditch and raised causeway which runs through the farm between Great Shelford and Hauxton. The grassland is semi-improved but rough with nettles and ruderal vegetation. It has been grazed by cattle for decades. A notable feature of the landscape are the mature willows along the course of the river. There are also some areas of woodland beside the river and stands of mature trees and individual trees along the causeway. The track through Rectory Farm has afforded permissive access for local villagers for many years and recently as a permissive path. There is no public access to the meadows. There is a strong sense of countryside away from the M11 and the river corridor is noted for its wildlife with otters, water vole and kingfishers amongst other species present.

Visual Characteristics

The meadows are set at a lower level than surrounding arable fields and there are areas of woodland and willows along the river and hedgerows and trees along the causeway track which provide a sense of enclosure. To the north west beyond the track, the open arable land rises towards Cambridge Road forming the skyline. There are long views from the track over the meadows and northwest to high ground and Trumpington. There are views across the river in places to meadows on the south side. For the most, the villages are hidden from view but recent development at Hauxton has reduced surrounding tree cover and impinges visually on the setting of the river.

Historic Land Use

Flood plain and meadowland is recorded as Hollick, Hopham and Homeward meadows on the 1835 Inclosure map.

Ecological Features

The river corridor is a County Wildlife Site and is recorded on the Priority Habitats register. It is also noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Upper river Cam, wetlands habitats, Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Changes to the grassland management regime reducing biodiversity.
- Disturbance from uncontrolled access or visitor numbers especially the river banks.
- Urbanisation of the setting of the meadows with new development visible in surrounding areas and or loss of trees around exiting settlements.

Sensitivities to Change

The willows have traditionally been pollarded on a rotation. Failure to do this may lead to their decline.

The grassland has been grazed with little management and as such contains ruderal vegetation and rough areas contributing to a valuable mosaic of habitats taken together with the areas of woodland hedgerow, the ditch, the river and individual willows.

Whilst the land has been grazed for many years there is no public access to the river and consequently little disturbance for wildlife.

The Inner Green Belt Review 2015 places this character area within sector 8.1 and concludes that this sector plays a key role in the setting of the south of Cambridge, ensuring that the expansion of the city does not continue unchecked and that the historic core remains large in comparison to the size of the city as a whole. It retains open countryside close to the expanding edge of the city and prevents the sprawl of built development as far as the M11, retaining the distinctive separation between the edge of the city and the M11 in contrast to the relationship with the A14 to the north of Cambridge. It is also key in the separation between the edge of Cambridge and the necklace villages of Great Shelford, Hauxton and Little Shelford

It is unlikely that any development within sub area 8.1 [Character Area B1 West Shelford Arable Lowland] could be accommodated without substantial harm to Green Belt purposes. Any form of development within this sub area would reduce the distinctive separation between the edge of the city and the M11. No Green Belt release should be contemplated in sub area 8.1.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Protect the meadows for their intrinsic ecological value as part of the Upper River Cam Corridor wildlife corridor and Countryside Enhancement Area within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD.

- Seek to capitalise on opportunities for access and biodiversity enhancements.
- Seek to link into and extend the wider river corridor enhancements at Hauxton Meadows and Trumpington Meadows.
- Protect the setting of the meadows from visual intrusion from any surrounding development proposals.
- A River Cam or Granta policy could identify the importance of the river corridor for wildlife within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and contain objectives to protect habitats and views, increase net biodiversity, improve public access in line with South Cambs Biodiversity SPD.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Continue with grazing regime with cutting as necessary to prevent nettles overtaking banks in certain areas.
- Pollard the willows on a rotation plant additional willows where there are long stretches without any.
- Protect the river banks
- Balance the desire for wider countryside access with the needs of wildlife on the river.

J2 Kings Mill and the Hermitage meadows and riverside pasture



Key Characteristics

- Water meadows/paddocks along the banks of the river Cam or Granta
- Rough semi-improved grazing
- Sinuous river boundary with individual mature willows
- Some adjacent woodland and mature trees
- Village setting with historic bridges providing locally notable viewpoints
- Strategic countryside gap between Great and Little Shelford
- Within the flood plain

Overall Character

Semi-improved meadows traditionally used as paddocks for horses affording notable views from the road and two bridges out across the fields. Picturesque scene with the noise of the river audible at the southern bridge. Trees at Little Shelford Manor provide a mature woodland backdrop north of the road. The new arm of the river created in 1610 nearest Great Shelford is much straighter than the original course of the river to the southwest. This area is a strategic gap in development between Great and Little Shelford.

The area is an important part of the historic core of Great and Little Shelford.

Visual Characteristics

Long public frontage between the bridges. Open grassland affording long views broken up by mature trees, a tranquil village scene of meadows and the river with some properties nestling in the wooded gardens along Kings Mill Lane in the background.

Identified as a Visually Important Area of Open Land contributing to the defining character of Great Shelford.

Historic Land Use

Meadows. The Hermitage field between the two bridges is effectively part of an island created in 1610 when the new river cut was constructed by the Miller to keep water flowing through Kings Mill as Little Shelford Manor had blocked the river. The Great Shelford Bridge is Grade II listed.

Ecological Features

The river corridor is a County Wildlife Site and is recorded on the Priority Habitats Inventory. It is also noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the Upper River Cam, wetlands habitats, Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Loss of trees that form the setting of the meadows opening up views to development
- Replacement dwellings or garden development impinging on the setting
- Intensive equestrian uses with electric fencing etc or field shelters with non-traditional materials/design
- Alterations or replacement of the historic bridges
- Addition of highways signs or structures/replacement of historic signage

Sensitivities to Change

The meadows have been traditionally managed for low intensity grazing/seasonal grazing with relaxed management of margins and the river banks. More intensive management could reduce the biodiversity.

The river banks are undisturbed and provide a valuable habitat.

The willows have traditionally been pollarded on a rotation. Failure to do this may lead to their decline.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

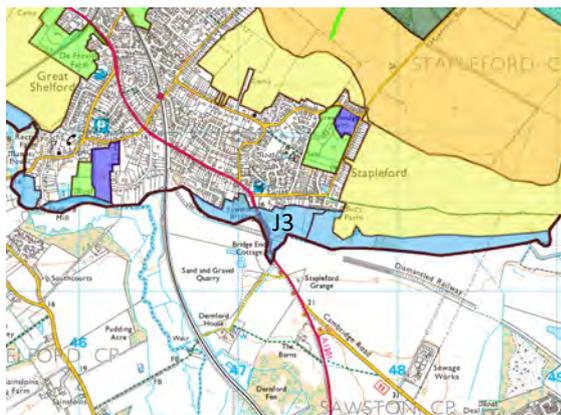
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Identified as a visually important area of open land contributing to the defining character of Great Shelford.
- A River Cam or Granta policy could identify the importance of the river corridor for wildlife within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and contain objectives to protect habitats and views, increase net biodiversity, improve public access in line with South Cambs Biodiversity SPD.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Continue current management, with cutting as necessary to prevent nettles overtaking banks in certain areas.
- Maintain riverbank willows plant additional willows where there are long stretches without any.

J3 Stapleford Bridge meadows and riverside pastures



Key Characteristics

- Water meadows/paddocks along the banks of the river Granta (the smaller tributary feeding into the Cam at Great Shelford).
- Small and medium land parcels mostly open grassland with a variety of uses
- Small river with a series of smaller ditches and watercourses around the fields
- Individual mature willows and bankside vegetation and mature individual trees and adjacent woodland.
- Edge of village setting
- Limited public views to much of the land
- Sense of countryside away from the road.
- Within the flood plain

Overall Character

Small and medium scale meadows/grassland within the floodplain on the edge of the village with some hedgerow boundaries and mature trees. Rough semi-improved grassland in small to medium parcels, with a variety of uses including Clerks Piece open space, garden land, fields and car storage/outbuildings, a firewood area in a field.

The small blocks of mature woodland and mature vegetation and field boundaries dividing the land parcels together with open meadows, natural river banks and some areas less managed ruderal vegetation create a mosaic of habitats. Some uses and management detract from the potential biodiversity of the area.

Visual Characteristics

The A1301 runs through this character area crossing the river and then the old railway line but public views are limited by high brick parapets on the bridges. There are good views into the meadows on the west side of the road from the footpath/cycletrack and Clerks Piece gives access along the riverside. Mature trees and boundary vegetation create a series of enclosed spaces opening out towards the east.

Historic Land Use

Floodplain grassland

Ecological Features

The river corridor is a County Wildlife Site and is recorded on the Priority Habitats register. It is also noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the river Granta corridor, wetlands habitats, Countryside Enhancement Area.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Loss of grassland to other uses
- Changes in management which reduces biodiversity
- Loss of mature trees
- Visual impact from other uses eg car storage and or extensions, driveways, fencing, garden buildings etc
- Potential to open up views into the meadows from the road if there were bridge improvements or with new footpaths using the old railway line corridor under the road or permissive access.

Sensitivities to Change

The open natural nature of the land management retains a continuity, across differing landownerships with relaxed management of margins and the river banks. More intensive management could reduce the biodiversity. The river banks are undisturbed and provide a valuable habitat. The willows have traditionally been pollarded on a rotation. Failure to do this may lead to their decline.

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Restore - seek to reinforce and/or reinstate historic landscape patterns and features that contribute to sense of place and time depth, by repairing distinctive elements that have been lost or degraded.

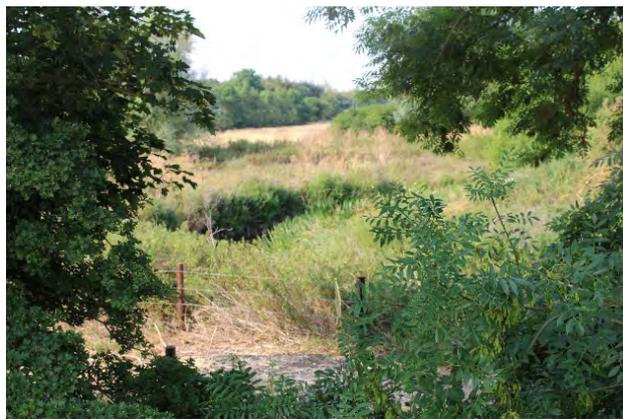
Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- Although views are limited from the road this area is noted as an area of visually important open land which contributes to the rural setting of the village.
- A River Cam or Granta policy could identify the importance of the river corridor for wildlife within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and contain objectives to protect habitats and views, increase net biodiversity, improve public access in line with South Cambs Biodiversity SPD.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Promote the continued use of native species and management for wildlife for open spaces and garden land.

J4 Bury Farm meadows and riverside pastures



Key Characteristics

- Floodplain
- Semi-improved rough grazing land and arable fields adjacent to Bury Farm and along the river Granta
- Intensive arable western fields with narrow natural river margin
- Unmanaged/ungrazed fields adjacent to Bury farm
- No public access

Overall Character

Land in the floodplain north of the river Granta at Bury Farm with some small overgrown meadows near the farm, a couple of blocks of woodland with large open arable fields to the west away from the village where the meadows have been ploughed up for cereals.

A series of smaller watercourses divide the land near the farm and run around the arable land.

Near the farm the old meadows are more enclosed by mature trees and vegetation along the watercourses, with a strong sense of countryside. Unmanaged/ungrazed at the time of survey with rough ruderal vegetation.

To the west the lowland arable plain is open and expansive and the former meadowland is part of the wider arable area set at a lower level with narrow, natural raised banks to the river and surrounding watercourse.

Visual Characteristics

Only glimpses from public viewpoints into the more visually enclosed small meadows near the farm where the fields are divided by watercourses with some woodland and streamside vegetation.

The arable river fields are seen as part of the open arable lowland from the Rowley Lane bridleway and are hard to distinguish from other surrounding fields. There are some taller riverside shrubs but this part of the river is not heavily vegetated. Views are contained by the tree-lined course of the old railway.

Historic Land Use

The land to the west is noted as “The Meadows” north of the river on the 1812 Inclosure map. Apart from a small area of woodland most of this area has now been in intensive arable production for decades.

Ecological Features

The river corridor is a County Wildlife Site and is recorded on the Priority Habitats register. It is also noted within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD as being within the river Grant corridor wetlands habitats, Countryside Enhancement Area and as being on the edge of the Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford, Chalk Grassland Countryside Enhancement Area.

There is some natural vegetation in a narrow corridor along the river and the parallel watercourse but the meadows have been ploughed and are in intensive cereal production.

Key Planning and Land Management Issues

- Proposed Mass Rapid Transit route scheduled to cross the area - new river crossing, disturbance, urbanisation, noise and visual impact.
- Land to the west intensive arable farmland rather than riverside grassland/wetland habitat.
- Potential for management for biodiversity and permissive access around Bury Farm

Sensitivities to Change

Proposed Mass Rapid Transit route scheduled to cross the area with associated lighting and signalisation at road crossing points and potential drop off infrastructure resulting in adverse physical and visual impact and urbanisation of the area. The introduction of linear planting as mitigation along the course of the route could introduce uncharacteristic elements and affect long views. The infrastructure and associated vehicle movements would have an adverse impact on the sense of tranquillity and sense of countryside in this area.

However, there could be an opportunity to return the fields to meadow as part of ecological enhancements along with any infrastructure project together with public access resulting in net biodiversity gains

Proposed Landscape Strategy Objectives

Protect - seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place through effective planning and positive land management measures.

Restore - seek to reinforce and/or reinstate historic landscape patterns and features that contribute to sense of place and time depth, by repairing distinctive elements that have been lost or degraded.

Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

- A NP River Cam or Granta policy could identify the importance of the river corridor for wildlife and contain objectives to protect habitats and views, increase net biodiversity, improve public access in line with South Cambs Biodiversity SPD.

Suggested Land Management Guidelines

- Potential for management for net biodiversity gains both near Bury Farm and on open arable land.

4.0 Recommendations

The NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk notes a decline in tranquillity largely due to the A505, M11 and A11 over the last 50 years and recommends that distinctive elements of the chalk landscape, flowing water and rural scene, should be conserved and managed to improve perceptions of tranquillity, particularly near to settlements.

The Green Belt covers all of the land considered within the Landscape Character Assessment. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) carries a presumption against development within the Green Belt. Rural Exceptions Sites policy can however deliver small affordable housing developments adjacent to the village framework provided they meet all the required criteria. Plans are being prepared by the Parochial Church Charity in Great Shelford for affordable housing on the current allotment site at Mores Meadow together with the provision of open space and replacement allotments on the west side of Hobsons Brook. It is considered that this development, if sensitively brought forward could enhance the wildlife corridor along the brook.

Major forces for change within the countryside were identified as:

- The mass rapid transit route approved by Greater Cambridge Partnership runs from the Cambridge University Hospitals site via Stapleford, Sawston and Babraham to a new park and ride site. The exact route alignment and park and ride site are yet to be defined at the time of writing.
- Countryside Enhancement Area to the south of the Cambridge University Hospitals and Biomedical Campus (referenced in the Local Plan at Policy CSF/5(2f-m) which outlines a strategy for landscape enhancements.
- Cambridge South mixed-use planning application area was put forward for inclusion in the local plan but was not included by the Inspector. Its potential to come forward at a later should be acknowledged.
- Land west of the Beechwoods has been proposed for development in the past. Additionally, there is a group advocating the creation of 1000 acre wood which may include this piece of land. This is considered to be an enhancement to the countryside and it would be expected that liaison would take place with the SGSNP steering group and the Parishes

The SGSNP Neighbourhood Plan could include policies to protect distinctive elements within the landscape and to seek to protect, enhance and restore valuable wildlife habitats identified within South Cambs Biodiversity SPD, the Living Landscapes Area, local nature reserves, County Wildlife Sites and habitats on the Priority Habitats Inventory and to seek to influence the impact of major change on the countryside.

Potential NP landscape policies could include:

SGSNP Policy - The Cam and Granta river corridors

A River Cam and Granta Neighbourhood Plan policy could identify the importance of the river corridors for wildlife Plan and contain objectives to protect habitats and the setting of the rivers and water meadows, increase net biodiversity, and improve public access in line with South Cambs Biodiversity SPD. This would build on the enhancements secured at Trumpington Meadows and Hauxton

Meadows which have provided country parkland, access and wildlife enhancements along the river from Grantchester. This could include reference to riverside enhancements along with the MRT route if it crosses the river within the SGSNP Area.

SGSNP Policy - Key views and areas of visually important open land

Key views that help to define the character of Stapleford and Great Shelford have been identified through fieldwork and public consultation and are shown at Appendix 9. Many of these were already contained within The Great Shelford Village Design Statement. The plan also identifies visually important areas of open land and strategic gaps in development that allow countryside views and contribute to the unique character of the villages. A Neighbourhood Plan policy could identify and seek to protect these views and areas of visually important open land and their settings, which contribute to the character of the area. It should seek to protect tree cover on adjacent sites and to ensure that any development proposals not have an adverse impact on the setting.

Visually important areas of open land and strategic gaps in development.

- 1 De Freville Farm fields
- 2 Trinity Farm fields and the Cemetery field a strategic gap in development
- 3 Rectory Farm
- 4 The Hermitage and Kings Mill meadows
- 5 Shelford Mill grounds
- 6 Shelford Recreation Ground and the Grange Field
- 7 Stapleford Bridge meadows
- 8 Greenhedge Farm and Stapleford Recreation Ground

SGSNP Policy - Mass Rapid Transit route

The Mass Rapid Transit route is (at the time of the report) proposed to cross the SGSNP area running through the landscape to the north of the villages. A NP policy could seek to ensure that if the project is taken forward, the route alignment would seek to minimise any adverse impact on the countryside, views and valuable habitats and that associated landscape mitigation would contribute appropriately to supporting the character of the individual landscape character areas it travels through, building on existing landscape features and respecting the character of the open landscapes. Opportunities should be taken to work together with the County Council administering the Southern Fringe enhancements through CS5-2f-m to include both landscape and access improvements working with local representatives on the green infrastructure proposals. An invitation for a member of the NP Green Infrastructure group to attend the project group meetings was extended at the liaison meeting.

The project should consider the following mitigation:

- An extension to Nine Wells LNR extending to the railway.
- Woodland/shelterbelt planting north of Granham's Farm to screen the route
- Woodland/shelterbelt planting along the hedgerows north of Stapleford Cemetery to screen the route.

- Woodland planting around the proposed stop on Haverhill Road.
- A new area of water meadow on arable land along the river Granta at Stapleford either side of the new MRT river crossing with public access.
- New multi-user grass paths in the fields on south side of Granham's Road and Haverhill Road to connect into the wider access network.
- Improvements to increase the width of the cycle track along the railway for all users.
- Multi-user access alongside the MRT route.

SGSNP Policy - Hobsons Brook Wildlife corridor

Hobsons Brook is identified as a wildlife corridor within the South Cambs Biodiversity SPD. The dense vegetation along the brook screens ribbon development along the Cambridge Road from the open land to the east contributing to the Green Belt separation between Cambridge and Great Shelford and contributing to the green approach to the city from the south. There has been an increase in development density along Cambridge Road with replacement dwellings and new building.

A NP policy could seek to ensure that any development proposals and land-use changes on land adjacent to Hobsons Brook are designed to protect the natural environment and tranquillity of the Brook corridor and are encouraged to make a positive contribution to enhancing biodiversity with appropriate setbacks, native planting and management for biodiversity. Development heights and massing should respect the setting of the wildlife corridor and the open land to the east. Where development is currently visible along this corridor new planting will be encouraged and planting on new open spaces should be of native species to complement the Biodiversity SPD. Policy CS5-2fm Countryside Enhancement Strategy Area advocates the creation of a landscape corridor along Hobson's Brook.

SGSNP Policy – Countryside Enhancements Policy CS5-2fm Countryside Enhancement Strategy Area

Countryside Enhancement Strategy Area to the south of the Addenbrookes/Biomedical Campus (referenced in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan at Policy CS/5 -2fm) outlines a strategy for landscape improvements south of the biomedical campus. Suggested works include:

- New copses on suitable knolls, hilltops and scarp tops.
- Management and creation of chalk grassland.
- Management of existing shelter belts.
- New mixed woodland and shelter belts.
- Creation of a landscape corridor along Hobson's Brook.
- Roadside Planting
- New footpaths cyclepaths and bridleways creating routes through the area and linking to Wandlebury Country Park/Magog Down

The Parish Council will work with the County Council who are administering the funding and local landowners where possible to seek to implement enhancements. Any development proposals within the Countryside Enhancement Strategy Area should seek to introduce enhancements along with development. Enhancements will also be sought in other parts of the NP area as identified through local consultation and field work. Countryside enhancements identified through the SGSNP consultation events were shown and discussed at the workshop. There was general support for seeking to implement the measures identified. See Appendix 1.

SGSNP Policy - Allocation of Open Spaces

The Local Plan has allocated two additional areas of open space within the SGSNP area – an extension to Stapleford Recreation ground on Bar Lane and a new open space within Great Shelford, south of Granham’s Road. The site south of Granham’s Road, Great Shelford is only suitable for informal recreation uses due to its character and parkland setting, and archaeological interest. Road access is also very limited. Pedestrian access routes should be improved where possible including the links from Cambridge road and the footpath over the railway to make this space accessible to a wide catchment.

The land allocated for the extension to Stapleford Recreation Ground at Bar Lane is part of a larger visually important area of open space around Green Hedge Farm. The rural character of this area with pastureland, hedgerows and trees is a key characteristic of the village. The management of this land in the future will be key to retaining this character.

A policy within the SGSNP could make reference to the essential character of these open spaces and seek contributions from local developments coming forward towards native planting and management in opening up access and promoting biodiversity within these two sites.

SGSNP Policy – Trees

The mature trees on the edges of the village within the smaller fields, along hedgerows and in gardens help to create the impression of a wooded setting for the village. Mature forest scale trees for example oak, beech, lime or ash trees within the village contribute to the rural setting and character. These trees are not always replaced when lost and generally this will lead to opening up of views to development and loss of rural character. The replacement of mature forest scale trees lost to old age and encouragement to make space for forest scale trees within new or replacement development proposals could be set out in a NP policy.

Local Green Spaces designation - The Grange Field

The NPPF states that Local Green Spaces can be designated through neighbourhood plans.

The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is local in character - demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The Grange Field is considered to fill all the criteria and could be designated within the SGSNP.

Its particular local significance is: Its beauty and tranquillity, the wildlife significance as a priority habitats inventory adjacent to the river which is a county wildlife site and wildlife corridor. It also provides the rural setting for surrounding listed buildings and contains a stand of fine mature trees which contribute visually to the village. It is in the Green Belt and partially in the flood plain.

It could provide accessible natural green space for local residents.

It is centrally placed at the heart of the historic core of the Great Shelford and is viewed daily from Church Street by children and parents arriving at Great and Little Shelford C of E primary school, visitors to the Church and the Parish Room and those walking to the shops from Little Shelford and many passers-by. There could also be access from the recreation ground linking to areas of the village further north.

It would not be suitable for formal sports or structures which would have an adverse impact on the tranquillity, biodiversity or visual qualities as part of the historic setting of the Conservation Area.

Other potential policies

Countryside Access

Whilst the SGSNP Landscape Character Assessment Area contains attractive countryside with the rolling chalkland Hills and river valleys together with Country parks and Local Nature Reserves, Access to the countryside and links between the wildlife sites are limited for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. There are few circular walks from the villages and many of the current walks enjoyed by local residents are permissive and temporary. Local Plan Policy SF5 (2f-m)

It is envisaged that the NP will include a countryside access policy.

Land at Shelford Rugby Club

The Inner Green Belt Review identified sub area 8.2 (the two fields by the entrance to the Rugby Club) as potentially suitable for development subject to certain parameters. This analysis of the site could be the subject of a policy in the housing section to ensure that, should this area be deemed suitable for development in principle at a later date, the parameters are followed within any application Also the remainder of the Rugby Club site was deemed to be unsuitable for development within the Inner Green Belt Review and the this could also be reflected in the policy.

Local Village character and scale for new residential development

Design codes are being prepared by Aecom for both parishes to guide new development. It is understood these will stress the importance of the townscape context and scale. Great Shelford and Stapleford have their own character and scale and are villages. Any new housing should reflect this. The necklace villages are considered part of the defining character Cambridge City.

APPENDICES

STAPLEFORD AND GREAT SHELFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - BACKGROUND, POLICY AND DESIGNATIONS

The Landscape Character Assessment covers the unbuilt areas within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. The built-up areas are covered by the Village Design Statements which are currently being updated by a consultant team from Aecom. This plan shows conservation designations and priority habitats and major forces for change within the landscape.

The Green Belt covers nearly all of the land considered within the Landscape Character Assessment. The National Planning Policy Framework carries a presumption against development within the Green Belt. Rural Exceptions Sites policy can, however deliver small affordable housing developments adjacent to the village framework provided they meet all the required criteria.

Gog Magog Golf Course – Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Wandlebury – County Wildlife Site (CWS), priority habitats, Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), Tree Preservation Orders's (TPO), (also Roman Road SSSI adjacent and outside the NP Area)

Gog Magog Down – SAM, priority habitats, no other nature conservation designations currently.

River Cam/Granta – CWS, with fields along its course priority habitats.

Beechwoods – Local Nature Reserve (LNR), priority habitats.

Nine Wells - LNR, priority habitats.

Stapleford pit - LNR, priority habitats.

Fox Hill, Clarke's Hill, White Hill, Shelford Clay Pit, Bury Farm wood, Greenhedge Farm, Rectory Farm pits and other small areas as shown, are recorded on the priority habitats inventory

South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Strategy notes two action areas within the NP boundary, the Chalk Hills and the Upper Cam.

The Chalk Living Landscapes Area extends to Wandlebury, the Beechwoods, Gogmagog Golf Course and into Gog Magog Down.

The complex texture and conservation value of the chalk grassland and woodland on the hills and the river corridor with its bordering meadows and pastures contrasts with wide expanses of the rolling arable hills and flat open lowland arable areas with their extensive views over the countryside. Notable local character elements are the settled hilltop estates, the water meadows and riverside pastures, enclosed farmland pastures and the historic country parks.

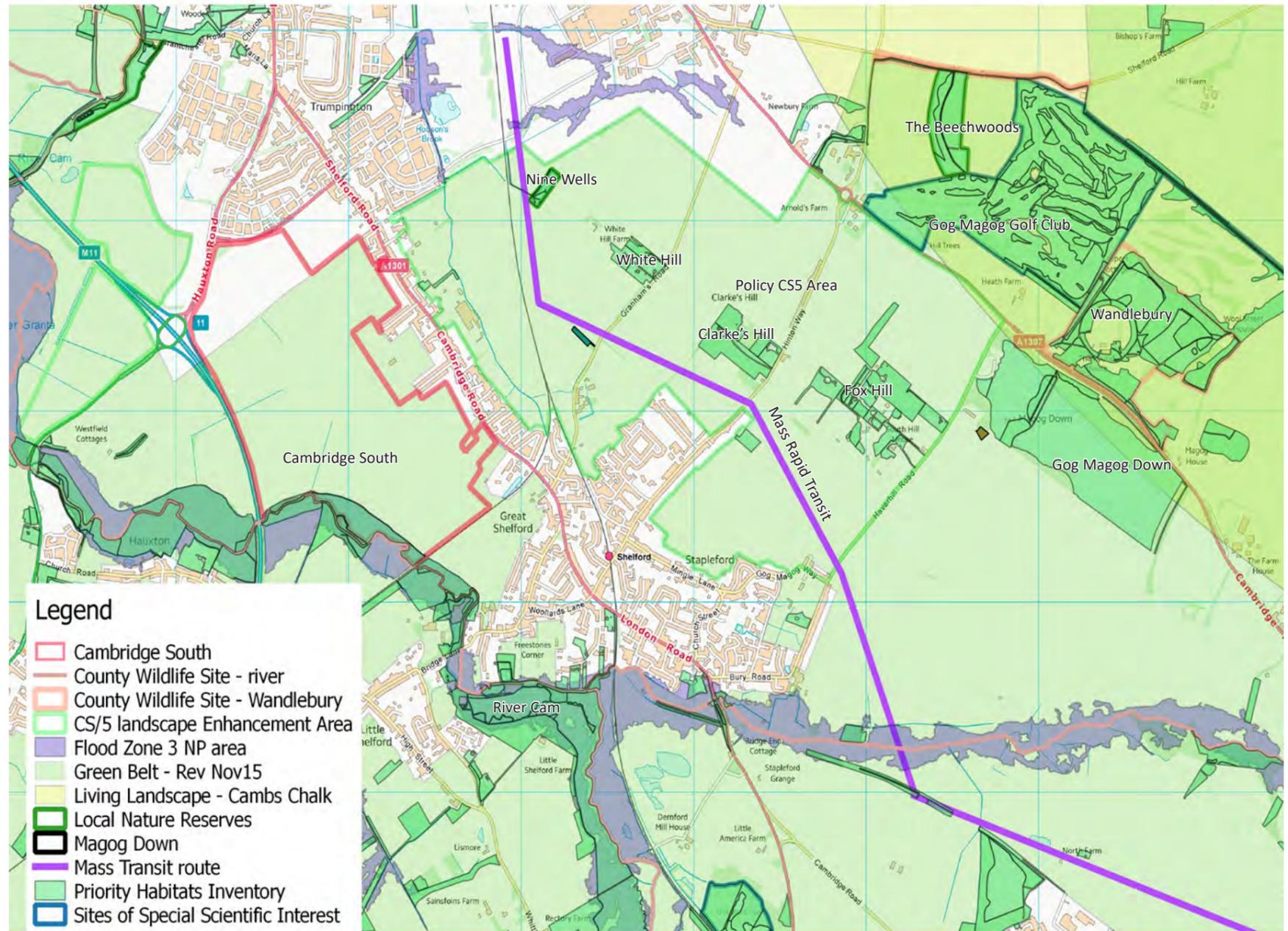
Potential major forces for change in the landscape within the study area include:

The mass rapid transit route approved by Greater Cambridge Partnership (exact route yet to be defined).

Policy CS/5 Countryside Enhancement Area to the south of the Addenbrookes/Biomedical Campus outlines a strategy for landscape enhancements.

Cambridge South mixed-use planning application area was put forward for inclusion in the local plan but not included by the inspector. It's potential to come forward at a later should be acknowledged.

Land west of the Beechwoods has been proposed for development in the past and there is a group advocating the creation of 1000 acre wood which may include this piece of land.



STAPLEFORD AND GREAT SHELFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS



A2 Stapleford arable hills



B1 West Shelford arable lowland



C1 Gog Magog golf course



D1 Gog Magog Down



E3 White Hill looking from B2



F1 Greenhedge Farm pastures



H1 The Beechwoods



J2 Kings Mill and The Hermitage water meadows

The following Landscape Character Areas have been identified through desk studies and field surveys carried out between July and October 2018.

List Landscape Character Types and Areas

A - Arable hills

- A1 Great Shelford arable hills
- A2 Stapleford arable hills

B - Arable lowland

- B1 West Shelford arable lowland
- B2 Hobsons Brook and Ninewells arable lowland
- B3 Shelford Bottom arable lowland
- B4 Mingle Lane and Hinton Way arable lowland
- B5 Bury Farm arable lowland

C Golf courses

- C1 Gog Magog Golf Course

D Historic country parks

- D1 Wandlebury Historic country park
- D2 Gog Magog Down Historic country park

E Settled hilltop estates

- E1 Fox Hill settled hilltop estate
- E2 Clarke's Hill settled hilltop estate
- E3 White Hill settled hilltop estate

F Enclosed farmland pastures

- F1 Greenhedge Farm enclosed farmland pastures
- F2 Granham's Farm enclosed farmland pastures
- F3 De Freville Farm and Trinity House enclosed farmland pastures
- F4 Cambridge Road enclosed farmland pastures
- F5 The Grange Fields enclosed farmland pastures

G Sports fields

- G1 Shelford Rugby Club
- G2 Great Shelford Recreation Ground
- G3 Stapleford Recreation Ground

H Woodlands

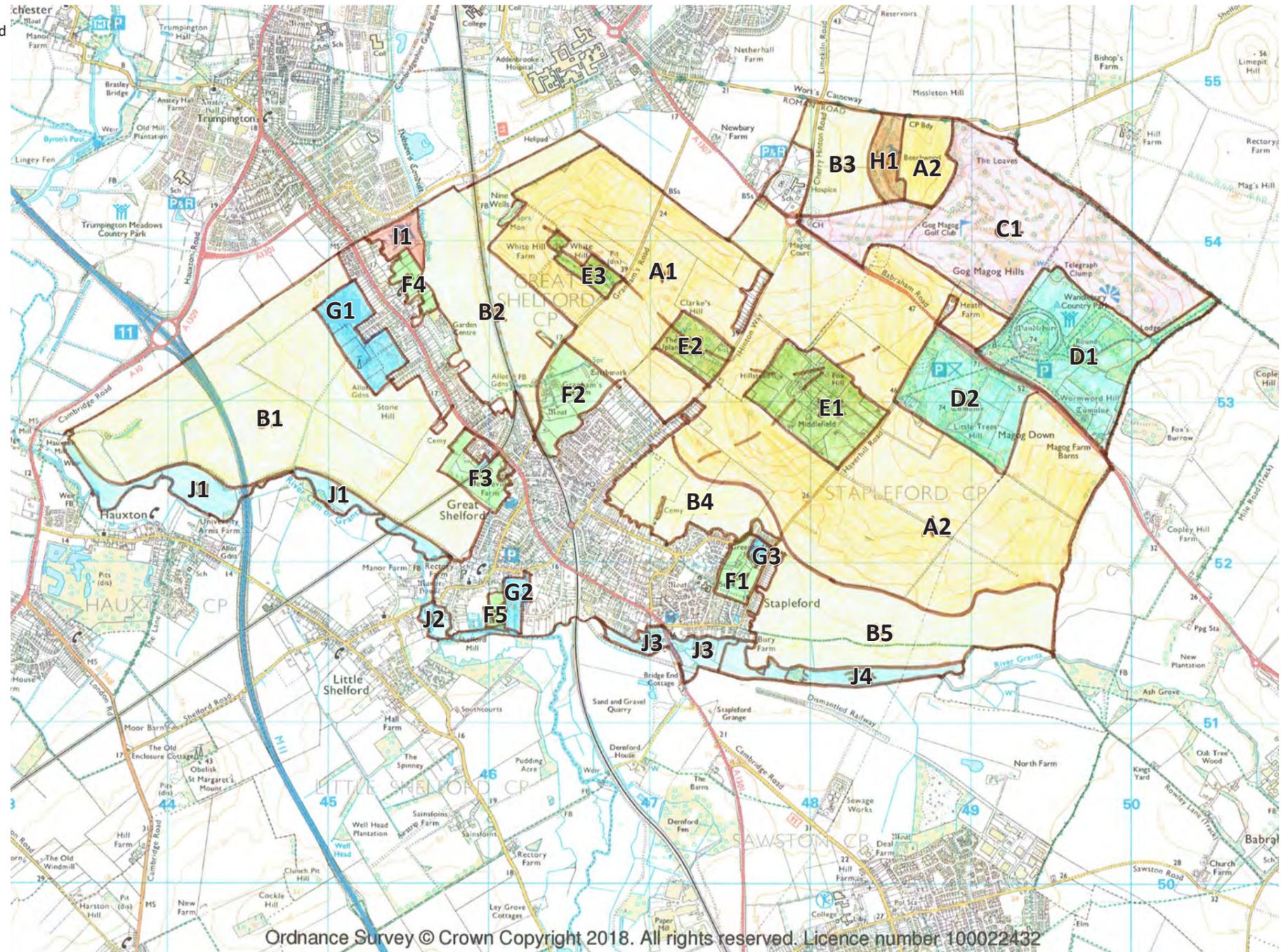
- H1 The Beechwoods

I Campsites

- I1 Great Shelford Campsite

J Water meadows and riverside pastures

- J1 Shelford meadows and riverside pastures
- J2 Kings Mill and the Hermitage meadows and riverside pasture
- J3 Stapleford Bridge meadows and riverside pastures
- J4 Bury Farm meadows and riverside pastures



STAPLEFORD AND GREAT SHELFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



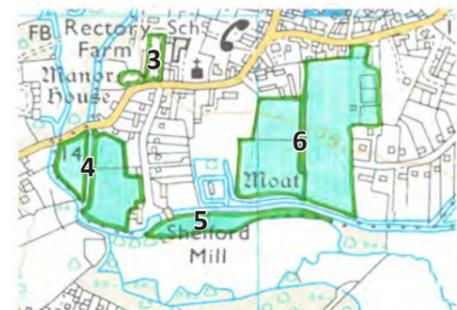
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - VIEWS AND VISUALLY IMPORTANT OPEN LAND

Key views that help to define the character of Stapleford and Great Shelford have been identified. Many of these were already contained within The Great Shelford Village Design Statement. The plan also identifies visually important areas of open land and strategic gaps in development that allow countryside views and contribute to the unique character of the villages.

Visually important areas of open land and strategic gaps in development.



- 1 De Freville Farm fields
- 2 Trinity Farm fields and the Cemetery field a strategic gap in development



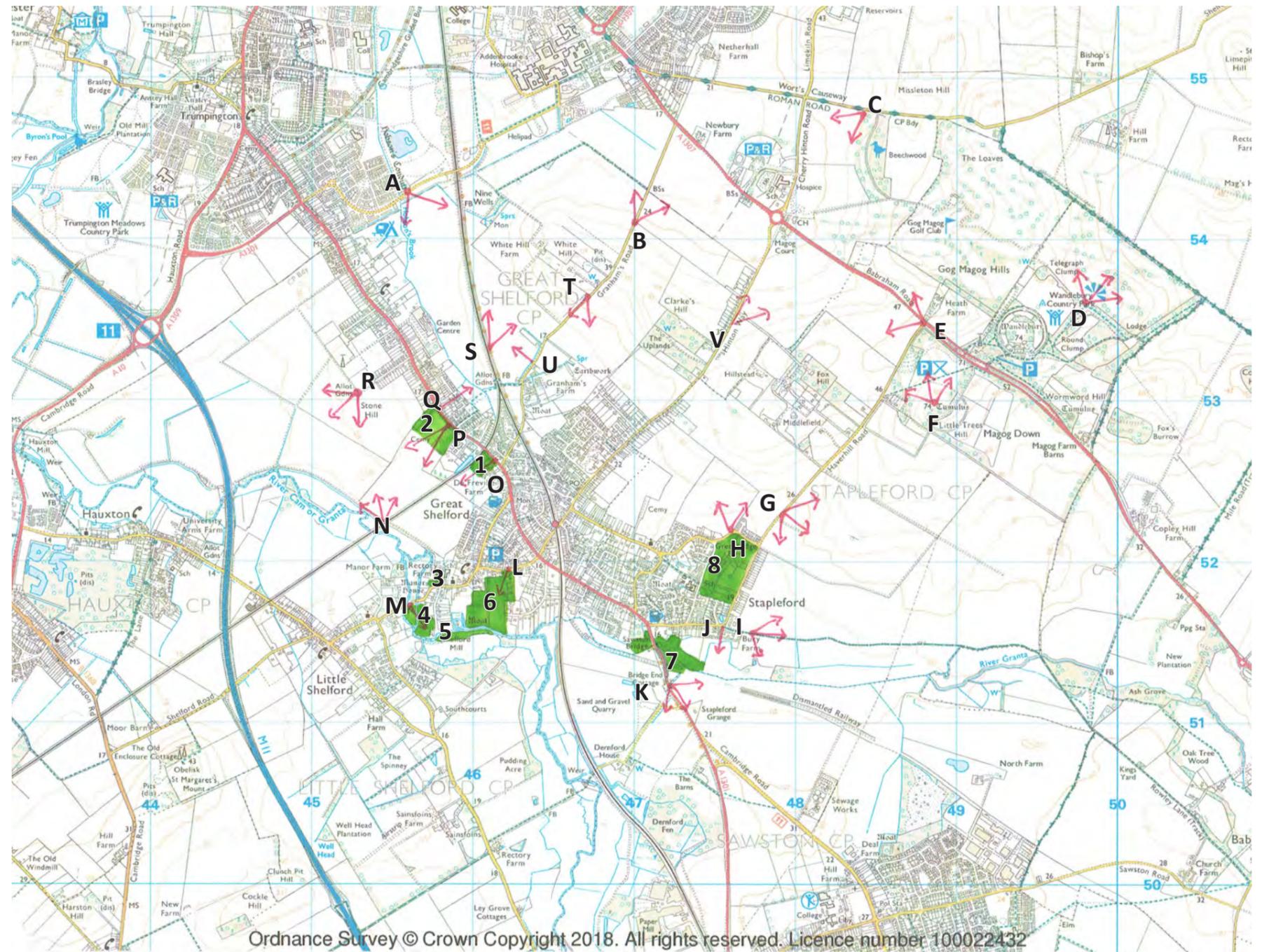
- 3 Rectory Farm
- 4 The Hermitage and Kings Mill meadows
- 5 Shelford Mill grounds
- 6 Shelford Recreation Ground and the Grange Field



- 7 Stapleford Bridge meadows



- 8 Greenhedge Farm and Stapleford Recreation Ground



Key

- Viewpoint
- Visually Important Open Land

STAPLEFORD AND GREAT SHELFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT - COUNTRYSIDE ENHANCEMENTS

COUNTRYSIDE ENHANCEMENT AND Policy CSF/5 2f-m

POLICY CSF/5 2f-m Countryside Enhancement Strategy

A Countryside Enhancement Strategy will be prepared for the area bounded by the Cambridge City boundary, Babraham Road, Haverhill Road, and the edge of the built-up area of Great Shelford and Stapleford. The Strategy will comprise:

New copses on suitable knolls, hilltops and scarp tops.

Management and creation of chalk grassland.

Management of existing shelter belts.

New mixed woodland and shelter belts.

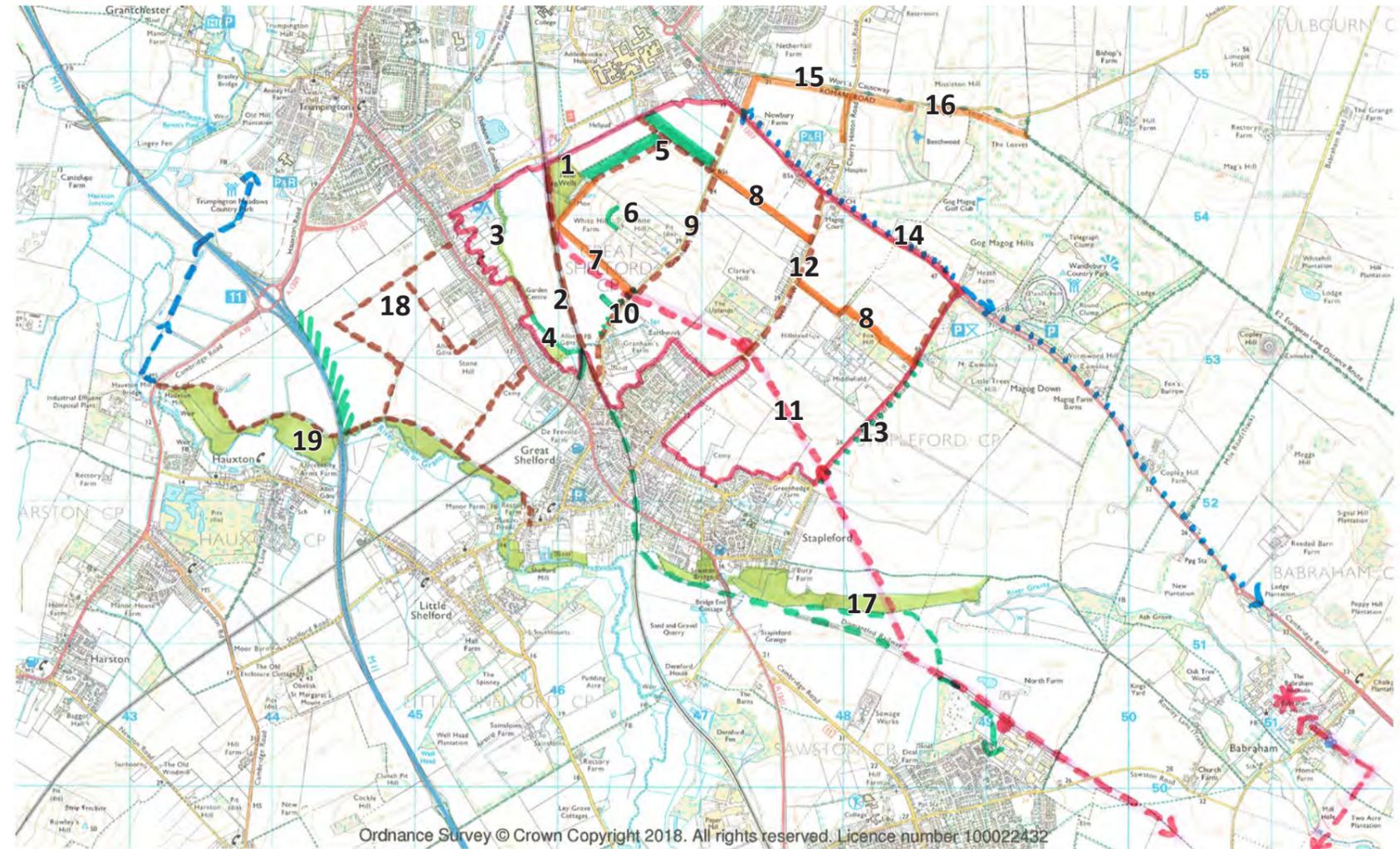
Creation of a landscape corridor along Hobson's Brook.

Reinforcement and planting of new hedgerows.

Roadside planting.

New footpaths, cyclepaths and bridleways creating routes through the area and linking to Wandlebury Country Park / The Magog Down.

The Countryside Strategies will include integrated proposals for landscape, biodiversity, recreation and public access improvements, which will be compatible with long-term agricultural production to create enhanced gateways into the City. Provision will be made for maintenance of landscaping and replacement of diseased, dying and dead stock for a period of 10 years, and details of long-term management thereafter.



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The following enhancements could form part of the strategy:

- 1 Nine Wells Nature Reserve. New public open space as a buffer for Nine Wells and to relieve pressure, as amenity space for local residents and biomedical campus employees. Mosaic of woodland and grassland
- 2 Upgrade helicoidal path to provide better separated access for cyclists, pedestrians and horses.
- 3 Hobsons Brook landscape corridor.
- 4 New hedgerows and hedgerow trees on field boundaries on small fields east of The Hectare and Walden Way and south of the footpath from the railway bridge and along the railway to Davey Close.
- 5 New linear woodland/shelterbelt planting south and east of the existing footpath with a new multiuser track to south and west edge facing the countryside. Link to biomedical campus to the north.
- 6 Additional tree, hedgerow and copse planting at White Hill Farm to supplement existing and screen new development.
- 7 Either a new bridleway or multi-user track alongside Mass rapid transit - away from the railway as alternative route to helicoidal path and to facilitate circular leisure route.
- 8 Bridleway to Gog Magog Down.

- 9 Multi-user track alongside Granhams Road. Retain long open views.
- 10 The Clay Pit – interpretation boards.
- 11 Mass rapid transit multi-user track along the busway.
- 12 Multi-user track along Hinton Way
- 13 Tree planting along SW side of Haverhill Road to complement existing path along the road. Retain open views.
- 14 Route of proposed Linton Greenway.

Other potential countryside enhancements

- 15 Designation of Park and Ride green links as bridleway.
- 16 New green link bridleway to link to the Roman Road
- 17 Riverside pastures – Stapleford Meadows manage for biodiversity and create access to create a circular loop from Bury Farm.
- 18 Multi-user tracks on Rectory Farm
- 19 Shelford Meadows manage for biodiversity and create access on some sections on Rectory Farm

STAPLEFORD AND GREAT SHELFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS

Whilst not typically included in landscape character assessments the Southern Fringe Area Action Plan specifically sets a policy seeking to identify countryside enhancements including access.

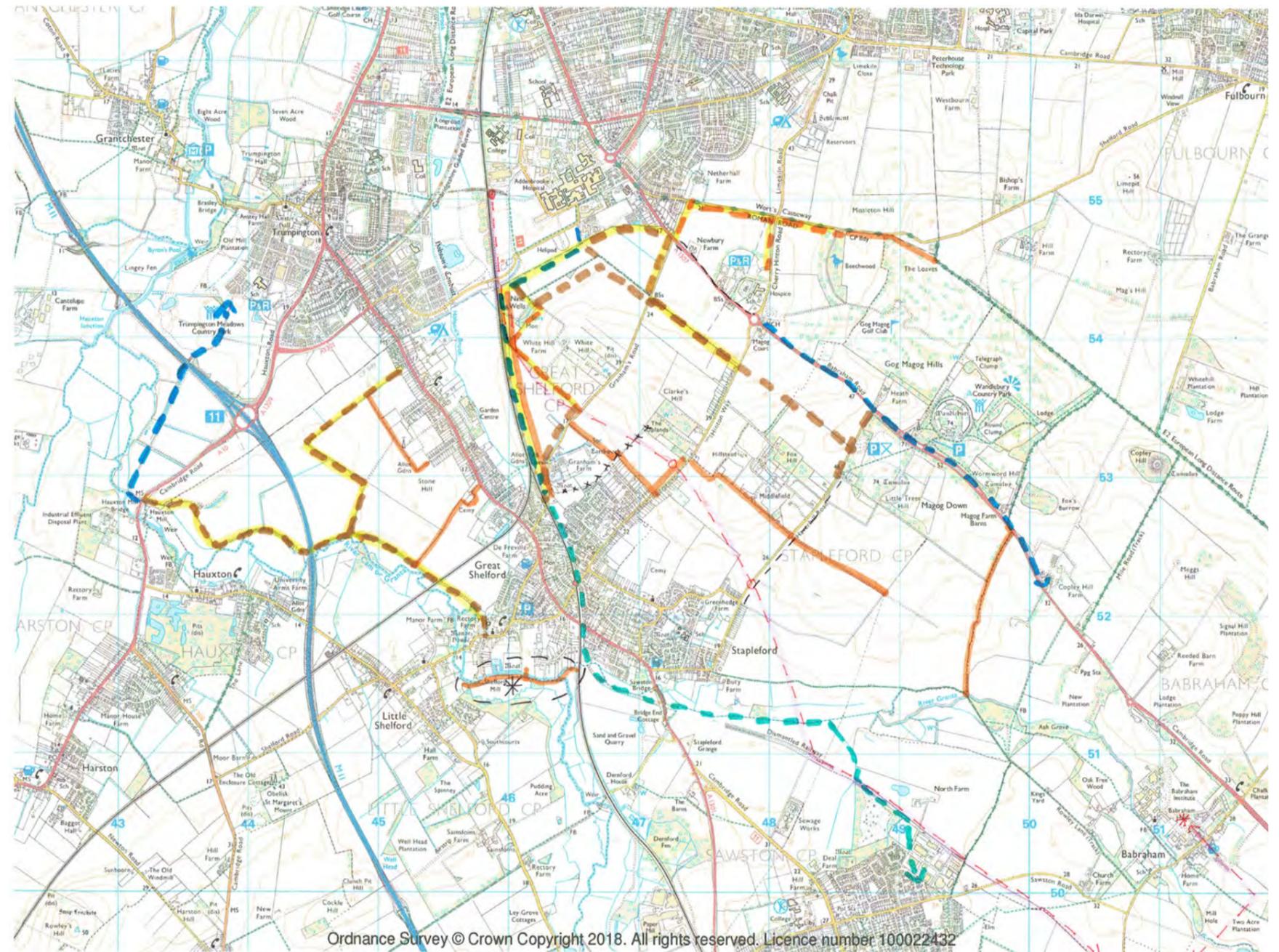
Countryside access is a theme identified within the Neighbourhood Plan objectives.

The plan identifies a potential network of paths of different types for horse riders, walkers, cyclists, with Multi-user tracks footpaths and bridleways.

It should be noted that some of the paths currently enjoyed by the villages are permissive under Environmental Stewardship schemes and time limited. This includes access across Rectory Farm which will expire in July 2019.

Countryside Access Strategy – footpaths, cycleways, bridleways, byways and multi-user tracks

-  Cycle tracks
-  Evidence of historic footpath/track
-  Permissive cycle track upgrade
-  Permissive path make bridleway definitive
-  Permissive path make multi-user definitive
-  New bridleway
-  New multi-user track
-  Shelford Rec to Rec bridge connection project
-  Mass Rapid Transit



STAPLEFORD AND GREAT SHELFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



MASS RAPID TRANSIT AND CAMBRIDGE SOUTH

CAMBRIDGE SOUTH

Cambridge South mixed use development area was put forward for inclusion in the local plan but was not included by the inspector. Its potential to come forward at a later date should be acknowledged.

RAPID TRANSIT

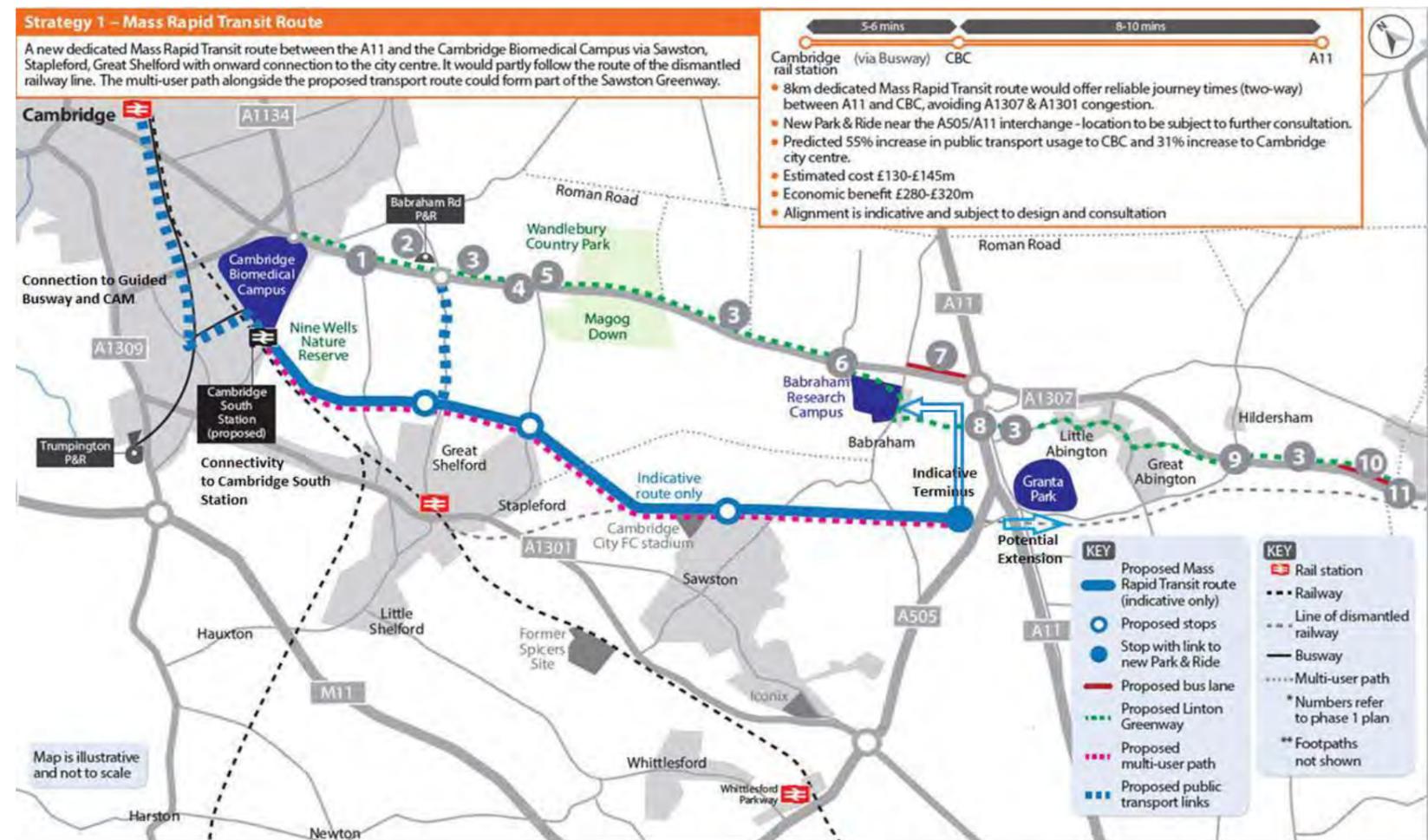
The Cambridge South East Transport Study aims to provide better public transport, walking and cycling options for those who travel in the A1307 and A1301 area, improving journey times and linking communities and employment sites in the area south east of Cambridge.

The three long-term strategies of Phase 2 were discussed at the Executive Board meeting on 11 October 2018. Strategy 1, a new public transport route from the A11 via Sawston and Shelford to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, was agreed as the preferred strategy to be taken forward for further development.

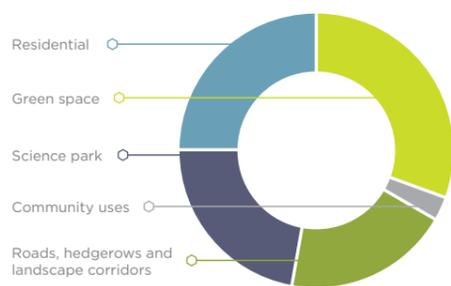
Following public consultation from February to April 2018, the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board approved all 17 Phase 1 schemes, which include road safety, walking, cycling and bus priority measures along the A1307 between Haverhill and Cambridge.

Appendix C - Figures

Figure 1 - Phase 2 - Strategy 1



Land use



Preserving and protecting

Under the proposals 87 ha (52%) of the site will be allocated as green space including a new country park to the south of the site. Existing hedgerows and landscape features will be retained where possible, and a new dedicated structure and bodies of water will create an exceptional natural environment for all to enjoy.

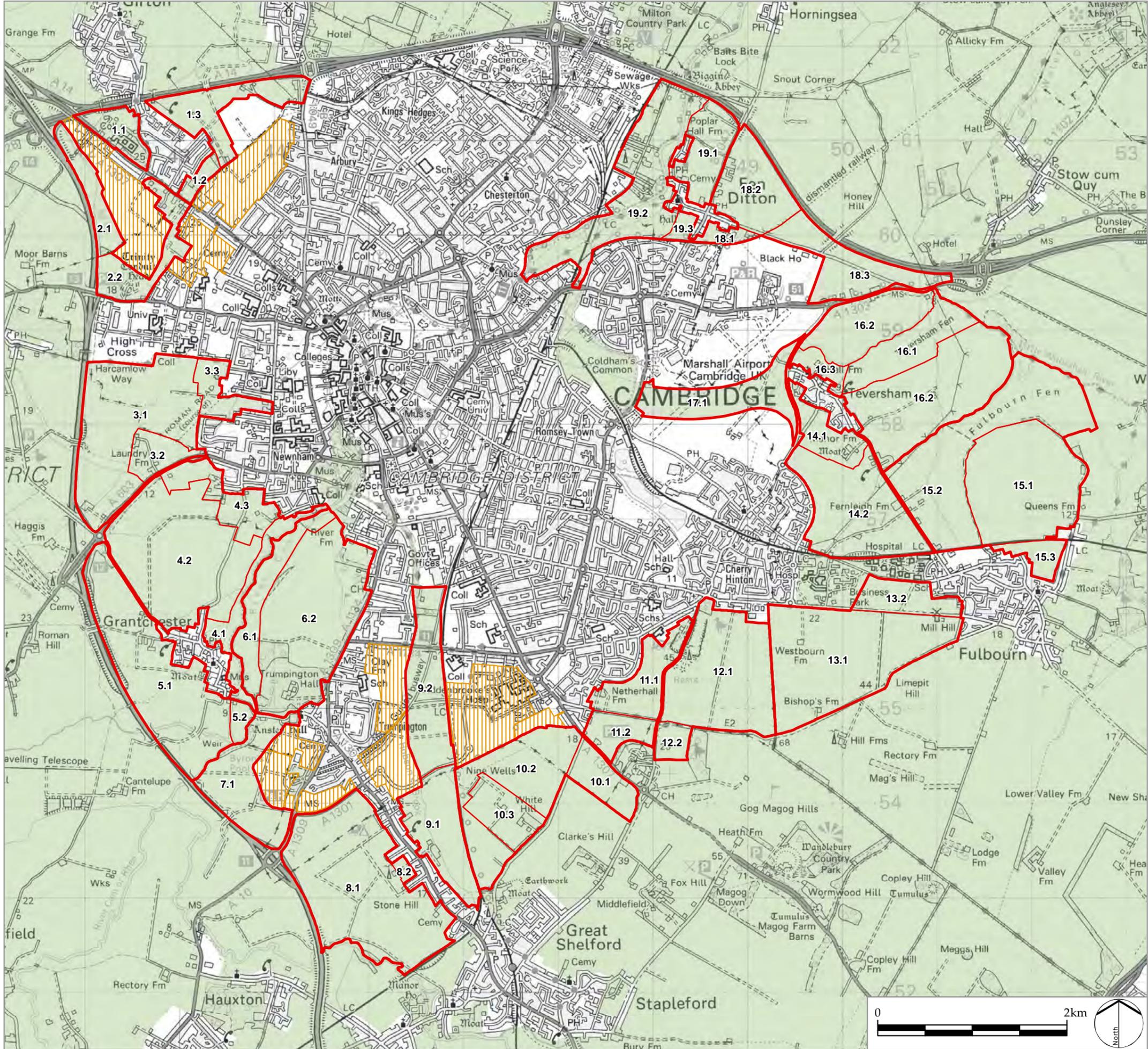
The development area will accommodate a state-of-the-art science park of 85,000 sq. m and a new residential community of up to 1,250 new homes with a range of amenities.

New cycleways and footways will link through the site to the existing local network, and public access will be encouraged along the valley of the river Cam on carefully and sensitively arranged routes.

2009
MRC begins work on new, larger Laboratory of Molecular Biology

2010
Papworth Hospital enters conditional agreement to move into Cambridge

2011
SQW report Cambridge Cluster at 50 published. Forecast cannot predict the impact of disruptive innovation



LEGEND

- Green Belt
- Developments under construction / permitted
- Assessment Sectors
- Assessment Sub Areas

LD A DESIGN

PROJECT TITLE
CAMBRIDGE GREEN BELT STUDY

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 2:
Assessment Sectors and Sub Areas

ISSUED BY	Peterborough	T: 01733 310 471
DATE	November 2015	DRAWN MPa
SCALE @A3	1:40,000	CHECKED RK
STATUS	Final	APPROVED ChC

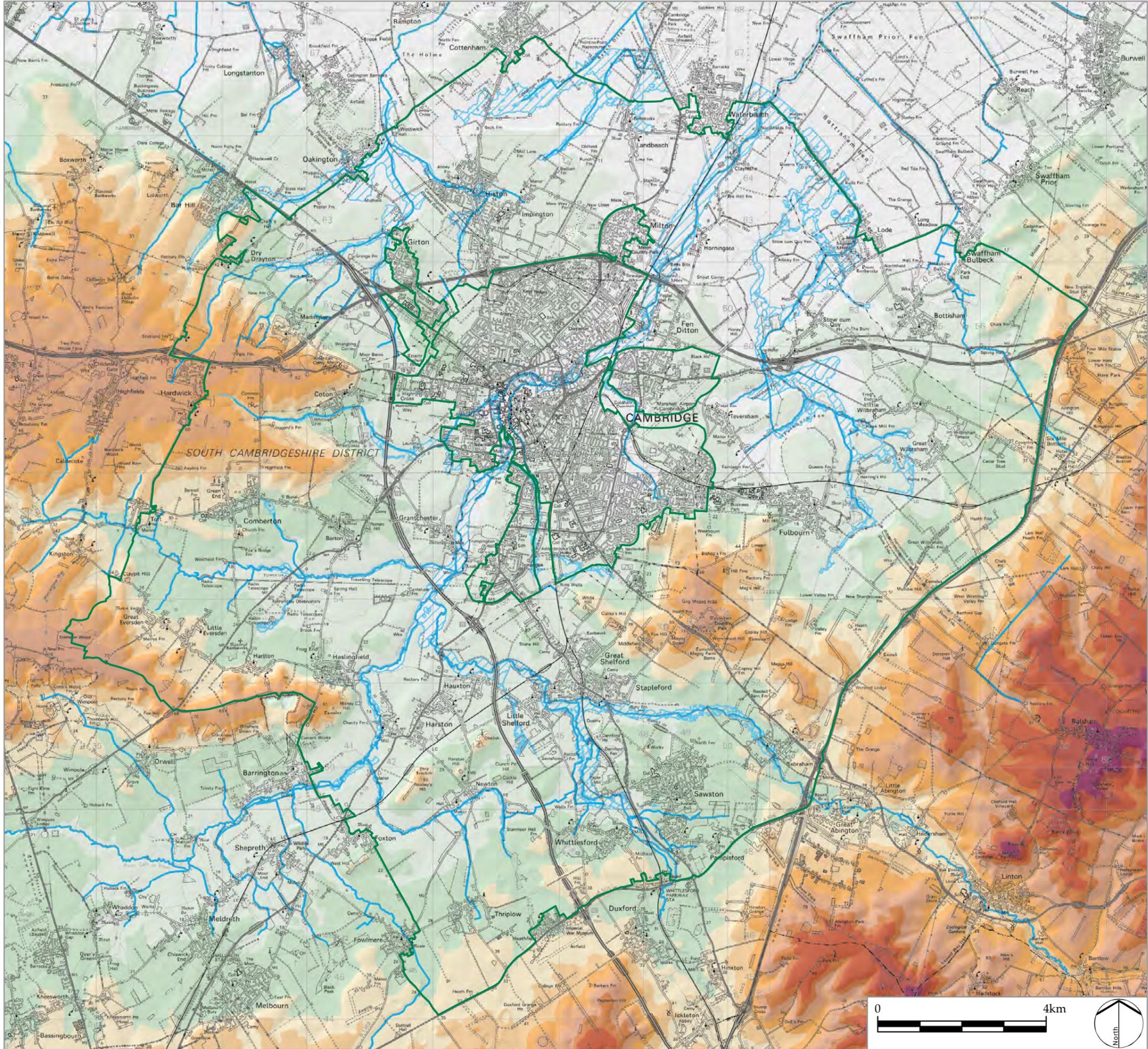
DWG. NO. 4732_002

No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing.
All dimensions are to be checked on site.
Area measurements for indicative purposes only.

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Sources: Ordnance Survey, Cambridge City Council

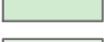




LEGEND

-  Green Belt Boundary (inner and outer edges)
-  Watercourses
-  Floodplain (Environment Agency Flood Zone 3)

Elevation (m AOD)

-  110-120
-  100-110
-  90-100
-  80-90
-  70-80
-  60-70
-  50-60
-  40-50
-  30-40
-  20-30
-  10-20
-  below 10

LDĀDESIGN

PROJECT TITLE
CAMBRIDGE GREEN BELT STUDY

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 6:
Topography and Drainage

ISSUED BY	Peterborough	T: 01733 310 471
DATE	November 2015	DRAWN MPa
SCALE @A3	1:90,000	CHECKED RK
STATUS	Final	APPROVED ChC

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Area measurements for indicative purposes only.

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Sources: Ordnance Survey, Cambridge City Council, Nextmap



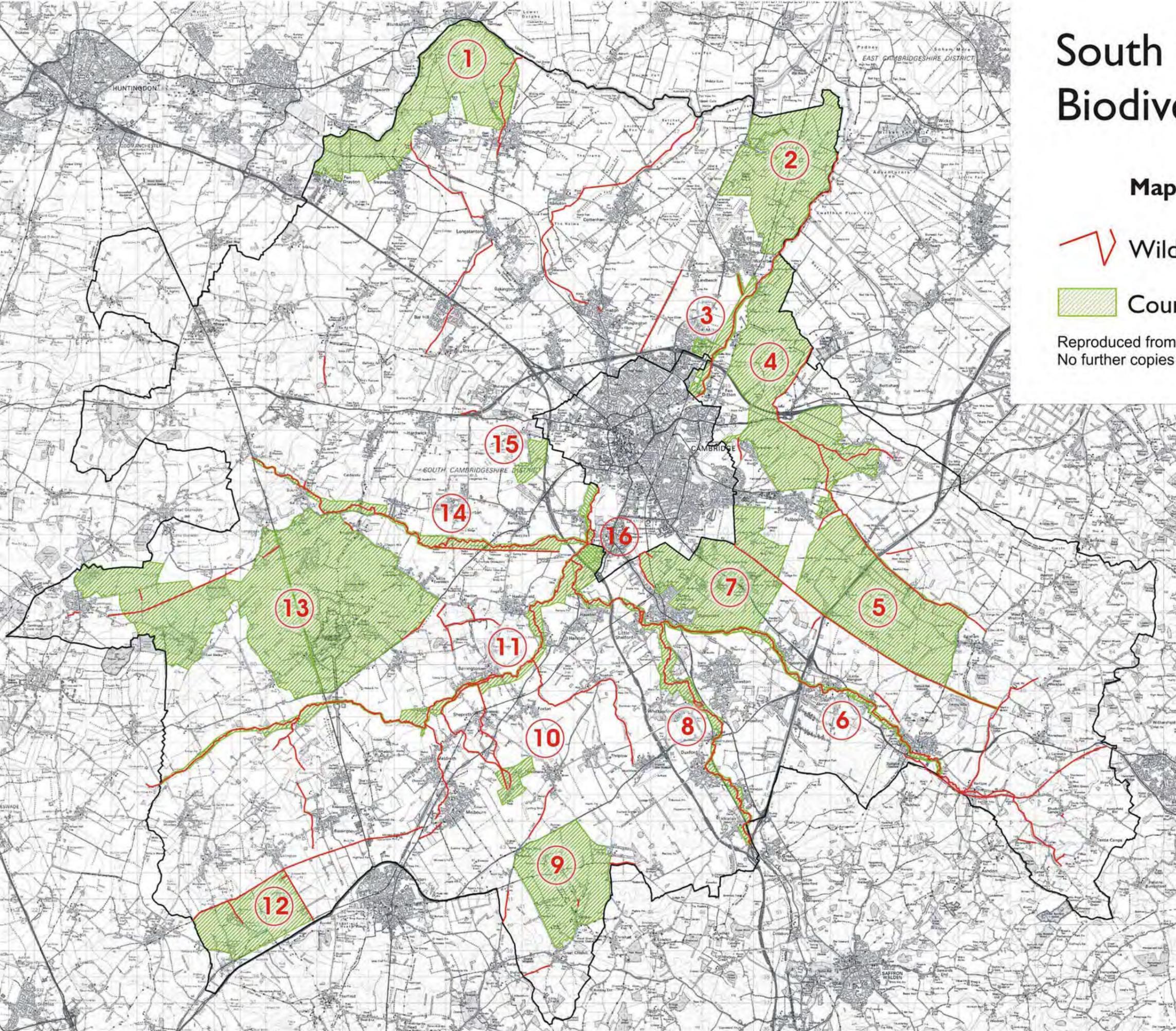
South Cambs Biodiversity SPD

Map 2

 Wildlife Corridors

 Countryside Enhancement Areas

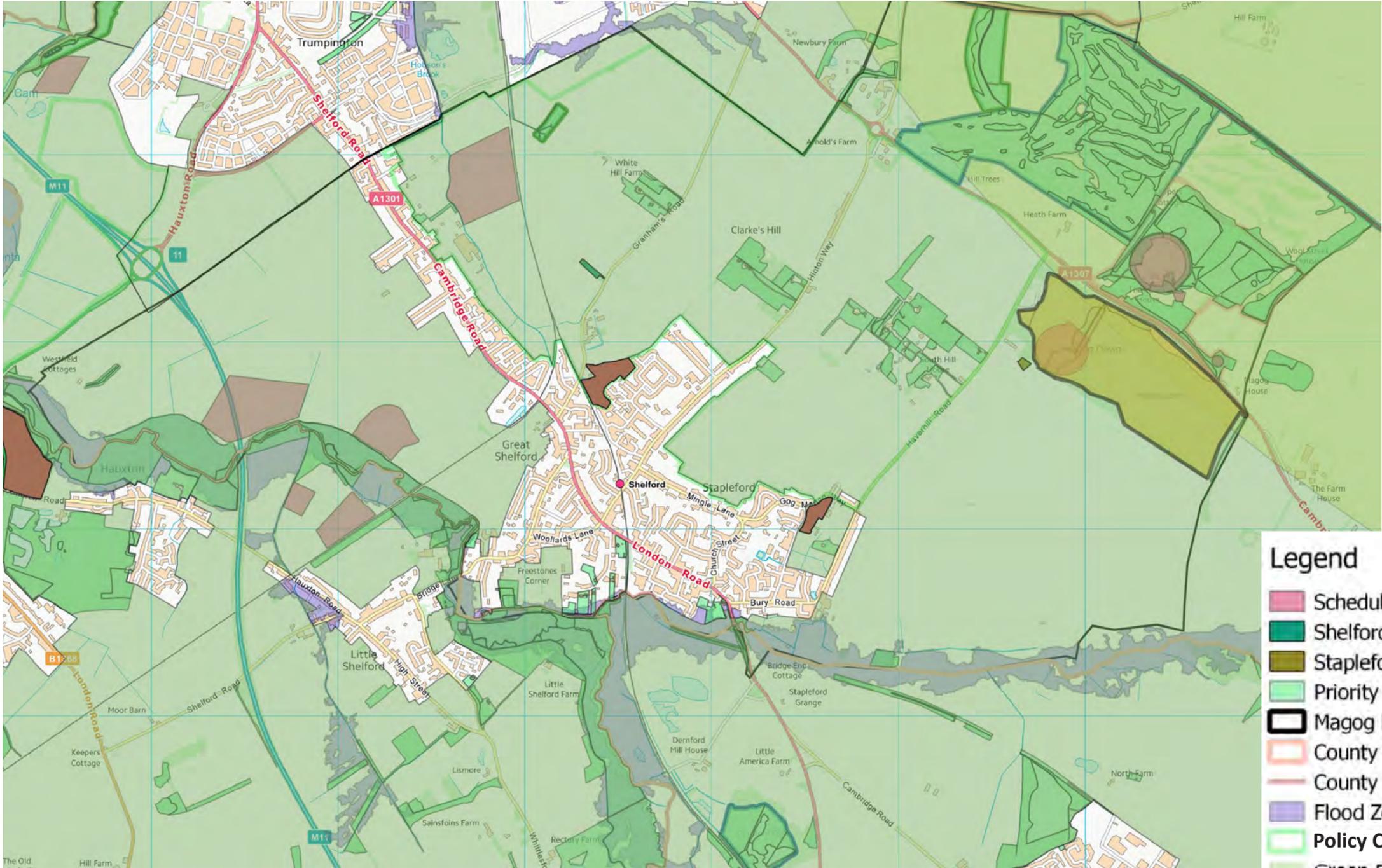
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CEA ref. no.	Location description	Target habitat
1	Fen Drayton to Willingham, River Ouse corridor.	Wetland habitats, inc. fen and wet grassland
2	Denny Abbey, A10 to Lower Cam corridor	Wetland habitats, inc. fen and wet grassland.
3	Milton to Waterbeach, River Cam corridor.	Wetland habitats, inc. fen and wet grassland.
4	Wicken Fen Vision Area to Great Wilbraham.	Wetland habitats, inc. fen and wet Grassland. Dry grassland, inc. chalk and neutral grassland.
5	Fleam Dyke to Roman Road.	Chalk grassland.
6	River Granta corridor.	Wetland habitats, inc. fen and wet grassland.
7	Cherry Hinton to Great Shelford.	Chalk grassland.
8	Upper River Cam corridor	Wetland habitats, inc. fen and wet grassland.
9	Great Chishill to the A505.	Chalk grassland.
10	Fowlmere Nature Reserve area	Wetland habitats, inc. fen and wet grassland. Dry grassland, inc. chalk and neutral grassland.
11	River Rhee corridor.	Wetland habitats, inc. fen and wet grassland.
12	Morden Grange.	Woodland, inc. grassland specific to varying geology.
13	Gamlingay to Wimpole.	Chalk Grassland.
14	River Bourn corridor.	Wetland habitats, inc. Fen and wet grassland
15	Coton Farming and Wildlife Reserve	Farmland habitat, inc. rivers and wet grassland.
16	Grantchester Meadows	Grassland habitat, inc. pollard Willows and river.

Stapleford and Great Shelford Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Policy and Designations



- Legend**
- Scheduled Monuments
 - Shelford Clay Pit
 - Stapleford Pit
 - Priority Habitats
 - Magog Down
 - County Wildlife Sites
 - County Wildlife Sites (linear)
 - Flood Zone 3 NP area
 - Policy CS5 (2f-m)
 - Green Belt - Rev Nov15
 - LL - Cambridgeshire Chalk
 - Local Nature Reserves
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Plan of the Parish of Stapleford, Cambs.

1812.



Reference to some small pieces

NO.	DESCRIPTION	ACRES	R.	P.
OLD INCLOSURES.				
17	Stables of Turnpike Road	0	0	3
18	Stapleford Church & Poor	0	0	1
22	Stapleford Heath	0	0	15
23	Stapleford Meadow	0	0	15
24	Stapleford Poles	0	0	4
25	Stapleford Poles	0	0	33
26	Stapleford Poles	0	0	33
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ALLOTMENTS.				
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89	Stapleford Poles	0	0	0
90	Stapleford Poles	0	0	0

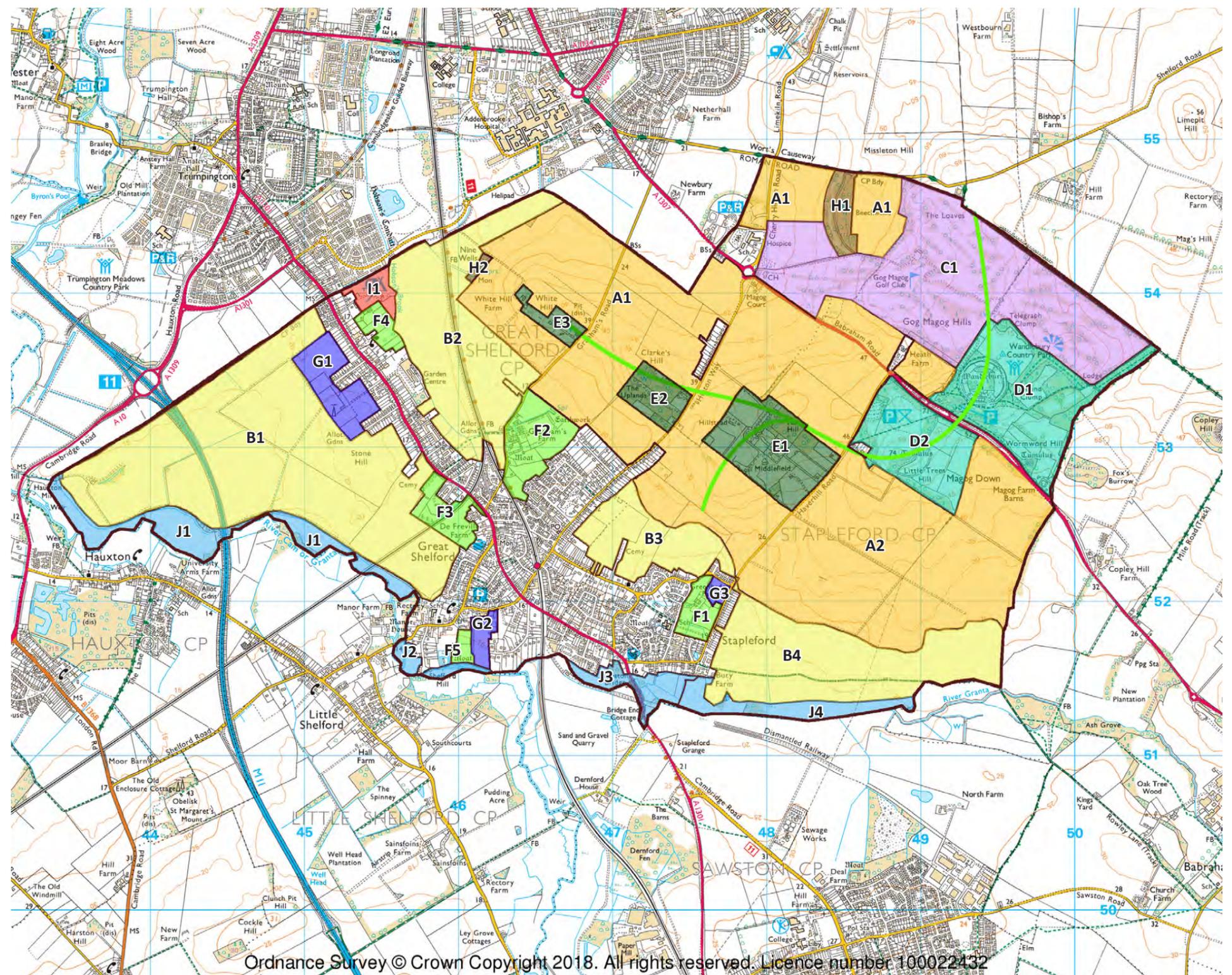
Scale: 6 Chains to Inch.



Stapleford and Great Shelford Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Types and Areas

- A - Arable hills**
 A1 Great Shelford arable hills
 A2 Stapleford arable hills
- B - Arable lowland**
 B1 West Shelford arable lowland
 B2 Hobsons Brook and Ninewells arable lowland
 B3 Mingle Lane and Hinton Way arable lowland
 B4 Bury Farm arable lowland
- C Golf courses**
 C1 Gog Magog Golf Course
- D Historic country parks**
 D1 Wandlebury Historic country park
 D2 Gog Magog Down Historic country park
- E Settled hilltop estates**
 E1 Fox Hill settled hilltop estate
 E2 Clarke's Hill settled hilltop estate
 E3 White Hill settled hilltop estate
- F Enclosed farmland pastures**
 F1 Greenhedge Farm
 F2 Granham's Farm
 F3 De Freville Farm and Trinity House
 F4 Cambridge Road
 F5 The Grange Fields
- G Sports fields**
 G1 Shelford Rugby Club
 G2 Great Shelford Recreation Ground
 G3 Stapleford Recreation Ground
- H Woodlands**
 H1 The Beechwoods
 H2 Nine Wells
- I Campsites**
 I1 Great Shelford Campsite
- J The Granta, Water meadows and riverside pastures**
 J1 Shelford meadows and riverside pastures
 J2 Kings Mill and the Hermitage meadows and riverside pasture
 J3 Stapleford Bridge meadows and riverside pastures
 J4 Bury Farm meadows and riverside pastures

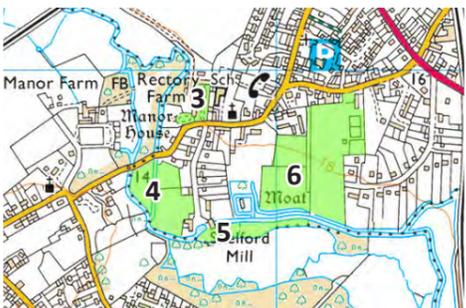


Stapleford and Great Shelford Landscape Character Assessment

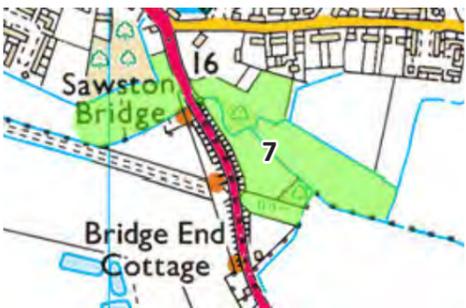
Views and Visually Important Open Land



1 De Freville Farm Fields
2 Trinity Farm Field, the cemetery, and strategic gap in development



3 Rectory Farm
4 The Hermitage and Kings Mill meadows
5 Shelford Mill grounds
6 Shelford Recreation Ground and the Grange Field



7 Stapleford Bridge meadows



8 Greenhedge Farm and Stapleford Recreation Ground



Stapleford and Great Shelford Landscape Character Assessment

Countryside Access

