

D Suitability

Note: For further information see [section 2.8 of the guidance](#).

D.1 How will your catchment partnership contribute to the aims of the Water Framework Directive and help deliver benefits for the River Basin Management Plan?

Note: For information about your catchment please see the relevant Challenges and Choices consultation document

The Cam Corridor Strategy partnership is still developing. It so far has had three meetings and agreed its objectives. It intends very soon to bring together local stakeholders in a workshop to discuss and identify problems and challenges facing the River Cam and its tributaries. Its longer-term aims are to identify opportunities for protecting and improving the river, streams and riverside areas, and their environmental, social and economic benefits.

This will include:

- creation and enhancement of the chalk and boulder-clay riverside landscape to benefit wildlife and help to regulate water flows further downstream;
- reducing pollution of the river and contributory water courses, including localised pollution in the Cambridge area and more diffuse pollution from agriculture in the rural parts of the catchment area;
- creating wet woodland, floodplains grassland and other wildlife habitats to form buffers between the river and agricultural, recreational and other land;
- addressing river flows, both in flood and drought, and pressures on the aquifers in an area of very rapid growth and climate change issues;
- restoring chalk streams to a more natural profile to benefit flows, and fish and other wildlife;
- enhancing and protecting the natural and built environment, including biodiversity and historic buildings and places; and
- improving the recreational, health and economic value of the River Cam and its tributaries.

D.2 What other outcomes could be achieved through working collaboratively in the catchment

The main aims agreed by the partnership are to

- (i) provide a vision, aims and objectives;
- (ii) formulate an action plan, to help unlock funding;
- (iii) influence management and maintenance; and
- (iv) provide material considerations for the local authority planning committees.

The collaboration will improve the environment of the river and its riverside areas, including the riverside commons within Cambridge and important historical sites. It will preserve and enhance the setting for buildings of historical or architectural value as well as Registered Historic Park and Gardens.

It will identify opportunities for increasing access for people to enjoy the river, and riversides, in ways that protect and enhance wildlife habitats, the landscape or the wider environment. It will seek to ease the problems that currently arise in the congested heritage-rich parts of the river, especially through the world-famous 'Backs' as well as downstream of the city where there are conflicts between rowers, punters, anglers, cyclists, walkers, houseboat owners and wildlife.

D.3 What skills and experience do you have in collaborative work

Cam Valley Forum is a small voluntary group, set up in 2001, with 35 individual members and 12 affiliated river-related organisations (skills include botany and wetland ecology, pollution, agriculture, law, boating, and the history and geography of the River Cam and tributaries). It is a regular consultee in the local planning process. It organises guided walks, workshops etc, to raise awareness of ways in which ordinary people can enhance their local stretch of river, stream or riverside land.

See <http://www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/cam.valley.forum/>

Cambridge Past, Present & Future is a local charity with over 1,700 members working to keep Cambridge and its surroundings special by influencing planning developments, delivering environmental education and managing the green spaces and historic buildings in its care. See www.cambridgeppf.org. It has brought together the organisations listed in D4 below to form the Cam Corridor Strategy Partnership: see <http://www.cambridgeppf.org/river/>

<http://www.cambridgeppf.org/river/>

D.4 Can you demonstrate how any funding provided would lead to longer term funding to ensure the catchment partnership is sustainable?

The Cambridge area has access to a very wide range of relevant expertise. As well as the Cam Valley Forum and Cambridge Past, Present & Future, the organisations that have already agreed to join the partnership include the Cam Conservancy, Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, the Eastern Region Rowing Council, the Environment Agency, South Cambridgeshire District Council, the Wildlife Trust, and Cambridge riverside colleges. We are also engaging with landowners, residents associations, parish councils and water companies, so as to tap local knowledge. We intend working with other partnerships in the wider management catchments area.

In these straitened times the organisations can make only small financial contributions, but given modest pump priming the partnership can put itself in a good position to make applications for significant funding as opportunities arise, for example to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Landfill Communities Fund, and commercial organisations, as well as planning-related money (CIL, Section 106).

D.5 Please provide a statement of endorsement for your hosting role. This should include members of existing or potential new catchment partnerships.

Cam Conservators – Pippa Noon, River Manager:

“The Conservators aspire to producing a vision for the River Cam. The authority’s statutory remit however, is limited to maintaining and improving the navigation. The Conservators cannot achieve this vision in isolation. Factors beyond the navigation itself affect the river environment and its use as a recreational waterway. The authority believes that a ‘waterspace strategy’ is needed for the River Cam. Pressure of use and the impacts of development and changing land use are having tangible impacts upon the Cam Conservancy Area. The Cam Corridor Strategy Partnership will build links between bodies possessing statutory functions, organisations with heritage and environmental interests and local communities at a critical time. The Conservators recognise the value of the approach being taken by the Partnership in its early genesis. The authority is therefore offering to commit funds towards the workshop and in kind officer time.”

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Jean Hunter, Chief Executive:

“I am aware that Rob Mungovan, SCDC Ecology Officer, has been working closely with Cambridge Past Present and Future, the Cam Valley Forum and other local conservation bodies to initiate a strategy to steer the conservation of the River Cam including both its natural and historic environments. I have recently become aware of the opportunity to secure funding through the Catchment Partnership Fund, and I give such a bid my full support.

This project is an exciting opportunity to take forward various river-based initiatives that are planned for the Cam and its tributaries. We have a growing number of local river conservation groups and in view of the importance of community-based conservation projects this Council has a Priority Action, *Work with partners to encourage local environmental enhancements including the Chalk Rivers Project*. Funding through the Catchment Partnership Fund will enable the delivery of a number of emerging projects many of which come from within our communities.

With regard to financial contributions, this Council has a Wildlife Enhancement Scheme which may be able to provide a level of funding once such issues are discussed in greater detail. This would be in addition to the continued support and expertise of our Ecology Officer.”

Cambridgeshire County Council - Alex Plant, Executive Director: Economy, Transport & Environment

“As the strategic administrative authority for Cambridgeshire, the County Council works in close partnership with its district councils, parish councils and other key government and voluntary bodies with responsibility for managing our natural and built environment and assets, including the Environment Agency and Cambridge Past, Present & Future. The Cam Valley area incorporates the City of Cambridge and its hinterland, a nationally important area of strong economic growth as well as historic significance. As such, flood management, strategic planning and development, and management and development of a sustainable highway network are vital elements to effective management and development of the River Cam catchment area.

In our view the Catchment Partnership funding would help obtain the necessary skills and lead to greater partnership working with the necessary organisations across the entire catchment for improving the water environment as a multifunctional asset and delivering Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy objectives. Cambridgeshire County Council is happy to support this application.”

Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire - Martin Baker, Conservation Officer:

"The Wildlife Trust is highly supportive of this application to evolve the existing partnership in the Cam catchment into one that can deliver a catchment based approach to the restoration of the River Cam and its tributaries and floodplains, as high quality habitats for wildlife including fish, attractive environments for people, and healthy rivers with sufficient flow, high quality water and a more natural physical form."