

### 1. Key Steers

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#### Landscape

We had several steers on landscape to focus on:

- The chalk, the Rhee catchment
- Three landscape areas as they converge, it's what the catchment looks like, a hand
- To narrow the aim as a 'single river' reach area to specific reaches, for example Byron's Pool to the City
- To consider sites that are based on landscape views
- To do more work around the river corridor to the north, from Jesus Green and downstream to engage the communities there and do a Waterspace study – but not as part of any HLF bid – this is pre work that will take time.

In addition, Cambridge Past Present and Future advised a more cautious approach, not to progress any projects but to undertake a strategy first, and progress works on the ground by 2020. Their proposal has been written following the workshop.

#### Heritage

The steer from CCC Archaeology was there was more value to develop further upstream and into the hinterland.

#### Community

There has been little engagement with communities around the riverscape, probably most focused on the Rhee catchment, and Bourne Brook, and this is a key work stream if a bid is to be developed, between January and May 2015. This was evident from discussions within the City that focused on deprived areas. The needs of the deprived communities and their relationship to the river needs to be developed first, before relevant projects can be developed for that area.

#### City Centre Tourism

The view from Cambridge City Council was that the nearest areas to the City Centre would be the priorities for a visitor experience, from the City Centre mills area upstream towards Byron's Pool. This is because of:

- Heritage along the river, including Hobson's Conduit
- Accessibility from the City Centre
- Landscape vista – the meadows and watercourses
- Other sites of interest, such as the Botanic Garden
- Long walk to Trumpington, or punt along the river
- Potential to promote the stretch and through punting companies

#### River corridor and land to the North and East

There is a significant area of deprivation in Kings Hedges, Abbey and Arbury areas, and with impacts on Chesterton. It's the focus of the new development by the County Council as the Waterbeach growth and new station area come in. The community issues are not amplified enough and there is a potential opportunity to use the river to support the community through the river corridor, rather than them being disenfranchised from it. The notion of a waterspace study in that location is supportable, although not as part of an HLF bid, but probably as a predecessor step to engage with communities in that area as well as other stakeholders.

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### **Smaller brooks**

The Wildlife trust and SCDC supported further works on the Bourn Brook and the Rhee, but the Bin Brook site at Coton was probably not to be progressed as set out in the original brief.

The River Rhee has a comprehensive set of projects with community involvement as part of the delivery, using existing friends groups. There is also heritage potential in this area and could form a comprehensive set of projects alongside the river reaches.

Cherry Hinton Brook has a local community group working well but probably not able to commit to develop a project at this time, but would continue with their local programme.

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## **2. Emerging Potential Projects**

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1. **The story of Cambridge and its rivers** – this would be a great community project and help cement the tourism offer, but particularly to engage with the local communities along the river, draw out and amplify the heritage through programmes including 'Capturing Cambridge'. Opportunities for improving awareness of access, celebrate lost heritage and gain real community value.
2. **Meadows from Trumpington to the City**. It's a defined landscape, outside of the main built heritage around the University. There is a blend of biodiversity, habitat, lost or damaged heritage, alongside a living semi-rural/periurban landscape that is grazed and enjoyed by many people in Cambridge. It's a unique feature of Cambridge. The project would include river and channel restoration, tree management, fencing off areas for grazing from the channels, potentially restoration of former monuments and historical buildings or landmarks, interpretation. The timing is linked to the pressure in this area due to increased housing and population growth, and these areas are most likely to see increased local pressure. But it can also provide a tourism opportunity. This still needs an assessment of the community interest and which can be readily set up. Key partners would be the Environment Agency, Cambridge, Cambridge City Council, Wildlife Trust, community and residents associations, Cam Valley Forum.
3. **Hobson's Conduit**. Either with or separately from the Meadows landscape area. This project would improve the condition of the Conduit, manage the flows and siltation, infrastructure and the heritage of the underground runnels and monument. Partners would be Hobson's Conduit Trust, City Council, Addenbrookes, AstraZeneca and Trumpington residents Association, Botanic Gardens and Colleges possibly.
4. **Rhee catchment** – as per brief previously produced, a series of riparian and in river projects with community support and engagement in place, opportunity for education to work with Anglian

Water and Cambridge Water. Opportunity for community development, development of tourism trails and better access. A substantial heritage opportunity here and for community engagement. Potential links to RSPB and developments they are exploring at Fowlmere.

5. **Rhee catchment and with Bourn Brook**, which is an established set of projects to improve the riparian strip and in river habitat. Good community group links.
6. A combination of the above elements into an integrated bid.

Discussions will take place with interested partners at the next Cam Catchment Partnership event on Ecosystem Services to develop the next steps for this programme, including with CPPF on the proposed strategy project.