

Cam Corridor Strategy

Report of steering group to plenary meeting on 21 June 2013

Patsy Dell (City Council)
Peter Landshoff (CambridgePPF)
Lou Mayer (Environment Agency)

Rob Mungovan (South Cambs)
Pip Noon (Cam Conservancy)
Jean Perraton (Cam Valley Forum)

1 We need to divide the project into manageable pieces, starting with little detail and making several passes over everything. Initially we should focus on

- Key problems relating to the river and riverside land, with suggestions and recommendations for action to solve them
- Key opportunities for improving the river or riverside land.

In the longer term, the Strategy should include these issues:

historic environment	recreation, tourism and river use
development pressures	economic considerations
landscape	quality of life
river flows (high and low)	legal constraints
pollution	restoration potential
wild life	

2 Its aims are to

Provide a vision, aims and objectives, and an action plan, to help unlock funding
Influence management and maintenance
Feed into the local-plan process

For the last of these to be valid, there will need to be formal consultation.

3 It will be convenient to divide the study into 5 parts:

- A. River Cam through the City: Byron's Pool to Baits Bite
- B. River Rhee
- C. Bourn and Bin Brooks
- D. River Granta
- E. Upper River: Saffron Walden to Byron's Pool
- F. Lower Cam: Baits Bite to Pope's Corner

Particular emphasis will need to be given to the City, much less to the Cam above Hauxton.

4 Before we contemplate employing a consultant, we should assemble as much as possible of our own knowledge. Rob Mungovan and Lou Mayer have made a start (attached). Lou's document should be read together with her maps on <http://cambridgeppf.org/river/maps.shtml> We should aim to have a complete document by the end of July, with a view to organising a professionally-convened workshop on a Saturday morning in early October. A list is attached of organisations that might be invited to nominate representatives at the workshop. Other organisations that will need to be consulted include

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Anglian Water | • National Trust |
| • Countryside Restoration Trust | • Parish councils |
| • East Cambs DC | • Residents associations |
| • Uttlesford DC | • Trumpington Farm |
| • English Heritage | |

We should also invite people to contribute photographs.

5 An extract is attached from the Bedford Waterspace Study. While its exact content may not be

appropriate for us, it could be useful to adopt its formatl. (The full document is on https://www.bedford.gov.uk/business/strategies,_plans_and_research/bedford_waterspace_study_2011.aspx) Also attached is a page from a 1973 City Council publication "River Cam: Environment & Conservation". We will need to employ a graphic designer to produce some good maps.

6 In due course, we will need to take account of other work, including the River Granta Options Assessment (excerpt attached) and the Green Infrastructure Strategy,

http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/our_challenge/GIS.aspx

There has also been some discussion of our collaborating with the University's Sustainable Water Stewardship Project, <http://www.cpsl.cam.ac.uk/Business-Platforms/Natural-Capital-Leaders-Platform/Water-Stewardship.aspx>

7 We have been advised that the only consultant with the expertise to cover all our interests listed in (1) above would be Atkins, but they would be expensive and employing them would mean to some extent losing control, so that it would be better to employ consultants only to fill particular gaps in our own expertise, if there are any. We recommend reviewing this after the proposed October workshop.

8 We should consider letting the local media know of our project.

9 At our first meeting various organisations said they would be able to help with funding:

- CambridgePPF can help with a minor grant and effort.

- Environment Agency has £5k for engagement events

- City Council can provide a limited amount of money

- County Council can try to channel some money from existing budgets

- South Cambs can probably provide a small amount of money; if Waterbeach is developed that might yield contributions

- Colleges might provide pump priming for imaginative schemes