



Neighbourhood Planning Guidance

Neighbourhood Planning: Sources of Evidence and Information

South Cambridgeshire District Council

September 2017

This document includes hyperlinks to a range of websites, and the hyperlinks can be accessed using the published version of this document, which is available to view via: [www.scambs.gov.uk/npguidance](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/npgguidance). Every effort has been made to ensure that these hyperlinks are up-to-date, however as websites change these hyperlinks can become invalid.

Herefordshire Council has kindly given permission for us to provide links to their guidance on neighbourhood planning.

Huntingdonshire District Council has kindly allowed us to take inspiration and wording from their Neighbourhood Planning Guidance.

If you have any queries relating to this document, please contact us via neighbourhood.planning@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713183.

Introduction

Neighbourhood Plans need to be supported by evidence. The evidence should be proportionate and robust, and should support the choices made and approach taken in your Neighbourhood Plan. It should be as up to date as possible. The evidence should be used to explain succinctly the intention and rationale for each policy in your Neighbourhood Plan.

There are two ways of building your evidence base, you can:

- review existing evidence and information already prepared by others; or
- identify and develop new evidence.

This document provides a guide to what evidence and information is already available that you can use to support your Neighbourhood Plan. The list includes key documents, but is not comprehensive list of everything available.

The evidence and information is split into categories:

- a. Socio-Economic Data:** socio-economic data can be used to gain an understanding of the social and economic composition of your local area and therefore the local issues that are affecting your area that may be able to be addressed through your Neighbourhood Plan.
- b. Evidence to Support the Local Plan:** SCDC has a substantial amount of evidence, which was developed to inform the preparation of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, and this evidence can be used to support your Neighbourhood Plan.
- c. Other Projects, Plans and Strategies:** there are also other projects, plans and strategies that include evidence that can be used to support your Neighbourhood Plan.
- d. Statutory Lists and Environmental Designations:** there are statutory lists and environmental designations that highlight what is special in your area and what should be protected or enhanced when planning for development. You should take account of these designations when preparing your Neighbourhood Plan.
- e. Local Plan Allocations and Designations:** the adopted Local Development Framework and emerging Local Plan include allocations and designations that you should take account of when preparing your Neighbourhood Plan.
- f. Existing Plans for the Area:** You may have existing plans or strategies for your local area, such as a Parish Plan or Village Design Statement. The evidence, community views and priorities included in these documents could provide you with a starting point for your Neighbourhood Plan.

Please note this guidance document will be updated once SCDC have had the Inspectors comments on the Local Plan.

A – Socio-Economic Data

Socio-economic data can be used to gain an understanding of the social and economic composition of your local area and therefore the local issues that are affecting your area that may be able to be addressed through your Neighbourhood Plan.

Census 2011

Census statistics provide a detailed snapshot of the population and its characteristics. This data is available for your local authority, ward and parish area via the Neighbourhood Statistics (NeSS) website. [NeSS](#) offers free access to data for your local area and allows you to analyse and compare selected areas using maps and charts, and view or download whole datasets.

[NeSS](#) includes data on:

- **housing**, including accommodation type, household size and composition, housing tenure, number of rooms, and homelessness,
- **population**, including age, ethnicity, and gender,
- **health and care**, including life expectancy, numbers with long term health problems or disability,
- **local economy**, including economic activity, job seekers allowance claimants, and number of local businesses,
- **education, skills and training**, including examination results, ethnicity and gender of pupils, and pupil absence, and
- **income and lifestyles**, including car ownership, and distance travelled to work.

Cambridgeshire Insight

Cambridgeshire Insight is a shared research and knowledge base for the Cambridgeshire area and includes publications and data produced by Cambridgeshire County Council's Research Group. It includes the [Cambridgeshire Atlas | District Report](#) which is an interactive atlas displaying key socio-economic and demographic data at a district level.

The Research Group also produces local population estimates and forecasts, and dwelling estimates and forecasts, for parishes, wards and settlements, which are published on [Cambridgeshire Insight](#). From these estimates and forecasts you can see how your village has grown over time, and what further growth is anticipated.

NOMIS

NOMIS provides free access to the most detailed and up to date labour market statistics from official sources. It includes information for your ward and local authority area on:

- population,
- employment (including number of jobs),
- unemployment (including job seekers allowance counts),
- qualifications,
- earnings,
- benefit claimants, and
- businesses.

[Statistical Digest of Rural England \(Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs\)](#)

The Statistical Digest of Rural Statistics is a collection of statistics on a range of social and economic subject areas. The statistics are split by rural and urban areas, allowing for comparisons between the different rural and urban area classifications. The Digest includes high level statistics which present an overall picture for England.

Although the Digest only includes high level statistics, it may be helpful in allowing you to compare the national situation with your local situation to show how similar or different your area is.

[Rural Living – Statistical Indicators](#) and [Rural Economy – Statistical Indicators](#)

A set of publications containing statistics, data and research relating to:

- living in rural areas, including information on demography, provision of services, broadband speeds, and availability of public transport, and
- the contribution of rural areas to our economy.

[Housing Statistical Information Leaflet](#)

The Housing Statistical Information Leaflet (2016) provides a summary of key housing statistics and information relating to affordable housing including:

- housing register information,
- low cost home ownership information,
- summary of council housing stock, including sheltered housing properties,
- summary of housing association stock, and
- information on new affordable housing developments.

[South Cambridgeshire Annual Monitoring Report \(AMR\)](#)

The South Cambridgeshire AMR includes data to assess the performance of the individual planning policies in the development plan¹ but also to provide a general portrait of the social, economic and environmental conditions in the district and the wider affects of the development plan on the district.

[South Cambridgeshire Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report](#)

Sustainability Appraisal is an integral part of the plan making process for a Local Plan and its overall aim is to help ensure that the Local Plan makes an effective contribution to the pursuit of 'sustainable development'. The Scoping Report is the first stage in the Sustainability Appraisal process and identifies issues of particular importance to the district that should be considered.

¹ Planning policies and proposals that guide the development and use of land in the district are set out in the [Development Plan](#).

B - Evidence to Support the Local Plan

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) has a substantial amount of evidence, which was developed to inform the preparation of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, and this evidence can be used to support your Neighbourhood Plan.

Housing

[South Cambridgeshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment \(SHLAA\)](#)

The South Cambridgeshire SHLAA (2013) is a technical assessment of the potential suitability, availability and achievability of sites for housing development or as a new settlement.

The assessment of each site included in the SHLAA considers a range of issues such as:

- any physical constraints on development (e.g. flood risk, environmental and wildlife designations),
- the potential impact of development of the site on heritage assets, landscape and townscape, and the Green Belt purposes,
- any environmental conditions (e.g. noise or quality issues) that would have an impact on residents of the proposed development,
- capacity of infrastructure and utility services (e.g. transport, electricity, water, sewerage, schools, health facilities),
- availability of the site for development, and
- achievability and viability of the site.

[Cambridge Sub-Region Strategic Housing Market Assessment \(SHMA\)](#)

The Cambridge Sub-Region SHMA (2013) is a technical study undertaken to calculate how many homes will be needed in the Cambridge Sub-Region housing market area between 2011 and 2031. It also considers the needs for different types of housing, including affordable housing.

[Objectively Assessed Need: Further Evidence](#)

The Objectively Assessed Need: Further Evidence (2015) is a technical study undertaken to consider whether the results of the Cambridge Sub-Region SHMA (2013) were compliant with national planning guidance.

[Cambridgeshire, King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Peterborough and West Suffolk Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment \(GTANA\)](#)

The Cambridgeshire, King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Peterborough and West Suffolk GTANA (2016) provides an assessment of current and future need for Gypsy & Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots in the area up to 2036.

Employment and Retail

[South Cambridgeshire Economic Development Strategy](#)

The Economic Development Strategy 2010-2015 provides evidence and information for the district on the local economy and issues being faced, and identifies priorities and actions for the district to achieve economic benefits for residents, businesses and other organisations in the area.

[South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge Employment Land Review \(ELR\)](#)

The South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge ELR (2012) looks at employment land requirements for 2011 to 2031 and reviews the employment policies in the Cambridge area.

[Cambridge Sub-Regional Retail Study](#)

The Cambridge Sub-Regional Retail Study (2008) analyses the performance of existing retail centres and the need for new retail floorspace in the Cambridge area.

Services and Facilities

[South Cambridgeshire Services and Facilities Study](#)

The Services and Facilities Study (2014) collates data on services and facilities for all settlements in South Cambridgeshire, including:

- bus services,
- schools,
- doctors,
- shops, pubs and community buildings, and
- recreation facilities.

[Greater Cambridge Playing Pitch Strategy](#)

The Greater Cambridge Playing Pitch Strategy 2015-2031 assesses the provision of existing facilities for and active participation in football, rugby, hockey and cricket in Greater Cambridge and considers the need and location for both the provision of grass and artificial pitches in future.

The study includes sites assessments for all pitches in Greater Cambridge, and each site assessment lists the sport played, the type of pitch, the quality of pitch, and the team(s) which use the pitch.

It also includes action plans for each sport outlining what actions should be taken and where to ensure sufficient provision is available to 2031. These action plans set out whether the pitch should be protected, how it can be enhanced (e.g. drainage), and what further provision could be provided on site, e.g. outdoor storage or pitch improvements.

[Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Indoor Sports Facility Strategy](#)

The Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Indoor Sports Facility Strategy 2015-2031 assesses the

need for future provision of indoor sports halls, swimming pools, indoor bowls, squash and indoor tennis courts, and outdoor cycling facilities to serve existing and new communities in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

The study includes an action list of where new provision should be provided onsite and how offsite contributions should be used to support new and improved provision.

[South Cambridgeshire Community Facilities Assessment](#)

The Community Facilities Assessment (2009) provides an [audit](#) of the quantity, quality and accessibility of indoor community facilities, including village halls, community halls, church halls, and other publicly accessible facilities, in South Cambridgeshire. The assessment also proposes standards to be considered by the Council when negotiating developer contributions (e.g. s106 agreements) and preparing planning policies for the district relating to the provision of community facilities within new developments.

Heritage, Landscape and Townscape

South Cambridgeshire Village Capacity Study

The Village Capacity Study (1998) investigated the environmental capacity of South Cambridgeshire villages to accommodate development whilst maintaining their individual character and the character of the district.

- [Technical Report](#)
- [Technical Appendix Volume 1 \(Village Capacity Studies\)](#)
- [Technical Appendix Volume 2 \(Sustainability Issues\)](#)

Environment

[Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy](#)

The Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011) is designed to assist in shaping and co-ordinating the delivery of Green Infrastructure in the county, to provide social, environmental and economic benefits.

The strategy demonstrates how Green Infrastructure can be used to help to achieve four objectives:

- to reverse the decline in biodiversity,
- to mitigate and adapt to climate change,
- to promote sustainable growth and economic development, and
- to support healthy living and well-being.

Cambridge Sub Region Water Cycle Strategy

Water Cycle Strategies examine water supply capacity, wastewater infrastructure, surface water drainage, and flood risk management. They are undertaken to ensure that new development can be supplied with water services infrastructure in a sustainable way.

The Cambridge Sub Region Water Cycle Strategy was undertaken in three phases:

- [Scoping Study \(2007\)](#) – this essentially desk based phase of the study assessed the potential impacts on the water cycle and existing water services infrastructure of the proposed level of growth for the Cambridge urban area. The study provides an overview of potential issues and causes of constraint for further investigation.
- [Phase 1 – Outline Strategy for Major Growth Areas in and around Cambridge \(2008\)](#) – this phase of the study provides a more detailed analysis of the potential constraints identified and develops potential mitigation options and infrastructure solutions to enable developments to proceed.
- [Phase 2 – Detailed Strategy for Major Growth Areas in and around Cambridge \(2011\)](#) – this phase of the study provides evidence in support of an aspirational vision for water management, and aims to aspire water neutrality, improve biodiversity by protecting environmental water quality, and protect and enhance the environment through sustainable surface water management.

[South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge Strategic Flood Risk Assessment \(SFRA\)](#)

The South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge SFRA (2010) assesses the flood risk from all types of flooding in the district, taking account the existing climate and predicted changes in the climate.

The assessment provides guidance to the Council on applying the sequential and exception tests required by national planning policy. It also provides guidance to developers, including on the requirements for site specific Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) necessary to accompany planning applications and on the design of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

[Cambridgeshire Surface Water Management Plan](#)

The Cambridgeshire Surface Water Management Plan (2011, updated in 2014) identifies areas vulnerable to flooding, called ‘wet spots’. Once identified, the ‘wet spots’ are prioritised for further investigation, and eventually mitigation where economically viable. Detailed Surface Water Management Plans have been produced for some ‘wet spots’.

Transport

[Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire](#)

The Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (2014) builds on the Local Transport Plan and sets out a strategy to cope with the growth proposed for the area up to 2031. The strategy provides a detailed programme of schemes for the area in the short, medium and long term to address the current problems, and outlines the transport infrastructure and services necessary to support the proposed growth set out in the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans.

C - Other Projects, Plans and Strategies

There are also other projects, plans and strategies that include evidence that can be used to support your Neighbourhood Plan.

Housing

South Cambridgeshire Housing Strategy

The Housing Strategy 2012-2016 sets out the vision and key aims for the Council's housing service, which is responsible for the delivery of affordable housing, assessing housing needs, preventing homelessness, and providing housing advice; as well as understanding the condition of homes in the district and tackling fuel poverty.

Local authorities are required to have a housing strategy which:

- assesses and plans for the current and future housing needs of the local population across all tenures,
- makes best use of the existing housing stock, including ensuring Council owned homes maintain a high decent homes standard,
- plans for and facilitates new supply of housing,
- plans and commissions housing support services which link homes to support and other services that people need to live in them, and
- sets out how the Council will work in partnership to secure effective neighbourhood management.

Village Housing Needs Surveys

Village Housing Needs Surveys have been undertaken by Cambridgeshire ACRE for a number of parishes within South Cambridgeshire. The aim of each survey is to determine the existing and future levels of affordable housing need in the parish.

Each housing needs assessment is informed by primary data (the results of a questionnaire survey sent to every household in the parish) and secondary data (e.g. local house prices and income data, housing register).

Employment and Retail

Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Economic Assessment

The Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Economic Assessment provides a wealth of economic evidence for the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership area and its constituent districts.

The assessment is divided into three sections: People, Business and Place, and is presented in the form of a Data Atlas.

[Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan](#)

The Strategic Economic Plan sets out economic development priorities across the Local Enterprise Partnership area, and identifies infrastructure priorities.

Services and Facilities

[Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\)](#)

A JSNA is a local assessment of the existing and future health, social care and wellbeing needs of the local population to enable service delivery to be planned and provided to meet those needs. The assessment:

- provides an analysis of data to show the health and wellbeing status of local communities,
- defines where inequalities exist,
- provides information on local community views and evidence of the effectiveness of existing provision which will help to shape future plans for services, and
- highlights key findings based on the information and evidence collected.

A variety of [reports](#) have been produced for different topics, such as migrants and refugees, drugs and alcohol, transport and health, vulnerable children and families.

Heritage, Landscape and Townscape

[Conservation Area Appraisals](#)

A Conservation Area Appraisal describes the character and significance of a Conservation Area and gives recommendations for its conservation and enhancement. Many of the villages in South Cambridgeshire have a Conservation Area, however only a small number have a Conservation Area Appraisal.

[National Character Area Profiles](#)

England is divided into distinct natural areas defined by their landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history, and cultural and economic activity. The boundaries of these areas, known as National Character Areas, follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. A profile document is available for each National Character Area.

Transport

[Local Transport Plan](#)

The Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan sets out the transport objectives, policies and strategy for the county. It is made up of a suite of documents:

- [Local Transport Plan](#) (2015)
- [Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire](#) (2014)
- [Long Term Transport Strategy](#) (2015)

Long Term Transport Strategy

The Long Term Transport Strategy (2015) forms part of the Local Transport Plan and contains more detail on the major transport schemes and services that may be needed to support housing growth and the local economy up to 2031.

Market Town Transport Strategies

Cambridgeshire County Council produces area specific transport strategies for all of the market towns in Cambridgeshire that recognise the unique nature of each town. Each strategy aims to provide a five year programme of transport improvements for the town, to contribute towards its prosperity and wellbeing.

Although there are no market towns in South Cambridgeshire, the strategies for market towns just over the boundary may be relevant to some villages.

D - Statutory Lists and Environmental Designations

There are statutory lists and environmental designations that highlight what is special in your area and what should be protected or enhanced when planning for development. You should take account of these designations when preparing your Neighbourhood Plan.

Heritage, Landscape and Townscape

- [Listed Buildings](#) – this dataset owned by SCDC is available to view on our interactive map or can be requested from SCDC. It identifies buildings that are protected by being ‘listed’ as they are judged to be of special architectural or historic interest.
- [Scheduled Monuments](#) – this dataset owned by Historic England is available to download. It identifies land designated as scheduled monuments, which are historic buildings or sites that are protected for their archaeological importance.
- [Conservation Areas](#) – this dataset owned by SCDC is available to view on our interactive map or can be requested from SCDC. It identifies land and buildings that are within Conservation Areas.
- [Registered Parks and Gardens](#) – this dataset owned by Historic England is available to download. It identifies land designated as Registered Parks and Gardens, which are parks and gardens of special historic interest.
- [Buildings at Risk](#) – this dataset owned by Historic England is available to search or view. It identifies buildings, places of worship, monuments, parks and gardens, conservation areas, battlefields and wreck sites that are listed and have been assessed as being at risk.

Environment

- [Sites of Special Scientific Interest \(SSSI\)](#) – this dataset owned by Natural England is available to download. It identifies land designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which are areas protected due to their characteristic, rare and endangered species, habitats and natural features.
- [RAMSAR sites](#) – this dataset owned by Natural England is available to download. It identifies land designated as RAMSAR sites, which are wetland areas of international importance protected under the Ramsar Convention.
- [Agricultural Land Classification](#) – this dataset owned by Natural England is available to download. It classifies agricultural land into five grades, with grade one being the best quality and grade five being the poorest quality.
- [Tree Preservation Orders](#) – this dataset owned by SCDC is available to view on our interactive map or can be requested from SCDC. It identifies trees and woodlands that are legally protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

- [Flood Zones](#) – this dataset owned by the Environment Agency is available to download. It identifies the chance of flooding from rivers and/or the sea, based on four flood risk categories that take into account flood defences and their condition.
- [Ancient Woodlands](#) – this dataset owned by Natural England is available to download. It identifies ancient woodlands, which are woodlands that have existed since 1600AD and therefore have unique features such as relatively undisturbed soils, and communities of plants and animals that depend on the stable conditions ancient woodland provides, some of which are rare and vulnerable.
- [County Wildlife Sites](#) – this dataset is held by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environmental Records Centre and is available from them on request. It identifies County Wildlife Sites within Cambridgeshire, which are sites chosen for their conservation value and include woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, and roadside verges.
- [Local Nature Reserves](#) – this dataset owned by Natural England is available to download. It identifies Local Nature Reserves, which are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally.

Transport

- [Public Rights of Way](#) – this dataset owned by Cambridgeshire County Council is available to view on their interactive map (under Leisure and Culture). It identifies public rights of way, which are restricted byways for walking, cycling or horse-riding that meet specified criteria.
- [Cycle Routes](#) – this dataset compiled by Sustrans is available to view on their interactive map. It identifies designated cycle routes.

E - Local Plan Allocations and Designations

The adopted Local Development Framework and emerging Local Plan include allocations and designations that you should take account of when preparing your Neighbourhood Plan.

Housing

Housing Allocations

Sites for residential development have been allocated to ensure that sufficient land is brought forward to meet the identified need for homes in the district.

Housing allocations are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Adopted Proposals Map](#) (January 2010) and proposed housing allocations are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policies Map](#) (July 2013). You should be aware that in some cases the 'Special Policy Area' notation is used rather than the 'Housing Allocations' notation; however the 'Special Policy Area' notation is also used for other types of proposals. A GIS layer can be requested from SCDC.

Major Development Site

Sites for mixed use development and new settlements have been allocated to ensure that sufficient land is brought forward to meet the identified need for jobs and homes in the district.

Major Development Sites are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Adopted Proposals Map](#) (January 2010) and proposed Major Development Sites are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policies Map](#) (July 2013). A GIS layer can be requested from SCDC.

Employment and Retail

Employment Allocations

Sites for employment uses have been allocated to ensure that sufficient land is brought forward to meet the identified need for jobs in the district.

Employment allocations are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Adopted Proposals Map](#) (January 2010) and proposed employment allocations are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policies Map](#) (July 2013). You should be aware that in some cases the 'Special Policy Area' notation is used rather than the 'Employment Allocations' or 'Employment Commitment' notations; however the 'Special Policy Area' notation is also used for other types of proposals. A GIS layer can be requested from SCDC.

Established Employment Areas

These are defined existing employment sites that are outside of development frameworks and not in the Green Belt. New employment uses outside of development frameworks will not generally be permitted; however appropriate development and redevelopment within Established Employment Areas will be permitted to enable more efficient use of the site or to allow the site to be adapted for

the needs of existing and future occupiers.

Established Employment Areas are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Adopted Proposals Map](#) (January 2010) and proposed Established Employment Areas are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policies Map](#) (July 2013). A GIS layer can be requested from SCDC.

Services and Facilities

Open Space Allocations

Sites for open space and recreation uses have been allocated in areas where a shortage in existing provision has been identified by SCDC in conjunction with the relevant Parish Council.

Open space allocations are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Adopted Proposals Map](#) (January 2010) and proposed open space allocations are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policies Map](#). You should be aware that the 'Special Policy Area' notation is used for open space allocations; however this notation is also used for other types of proposals. A GIS layer can be requested from SCDC.

Heritage, Landscape and Townscape

Development Frameworks

Development frameworks define the built-up area of a village, within which development and redevelopment of land and buildings will be permitted provided that:

- the proposal is of a scale, density and character appropriate to the location;
- the site in its present state does not form an essential part of the local character;
- development would protect and enhance local features of green space, landscape, ecological or historic importance; and
- there is the necessary infrastructure capacity to support development.

Proposals outside of development frameworks should be limited to developments for agriculture, horticulture, forestry, outdoor recreation, and other uses which need to be located in the countryside or are supported by other policies in the Local Development Framework / Local Plan / Neighbourhood Plan.

Development frameworks are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Adopted Proposals Map](#) (January 2010) and proposed development frameworks are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policies Map](#). A GIS layer can be requested from SCDC.

Green Belt

The Green Belt surrounds Cambridge. The aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open and to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns.

The extent of the Green Belt Open is identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Adopted Proposals Map](#) (January 2010) and the proposed extent of the Green Belt is identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policies Map](#) (July 2013). A GIS layer can be requested from SCDC.

Important Countryside Frontages

Important Countryside Frontages (ICFs) are designated where an area of land with a strong countryside character either:

- penetrates into the built-up area of a village providing a significant connection to the surrounding rural area; or
- provides an important rural separation between two nearby but detached parts of a village.

ICFs are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Adopted Proposals Map](#) (January 2010) and proposed ICFs are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policies Map](#) (July 2013). A GIS layer can be requested from SCDC.

Protected Village Amenity Areas

These are sites within development frameworks that have been designated to safeguard areas of undeveloped land within villages that it is important to retain. Some Protected Village Amenity Areas (PVAAs) have important functions for the village such as allotments, recreation grounds and playing fields, whilst others have an important amenity role in providing a setting for buildings or offer tranquil areas. Not all PVAAs have public access.

PVAAs are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Adopted Proposals Map](#) (January 2010) and proposed PVAAs are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policies Map](#) (July 2013). A GIS layer can be requested from SCDC.

Local Green Spaces

Local Green Spaces are a new designation. Local Green Spaces were proposed by Parish Councils and local communities and have been designated where SCDC considers that the following criteria have been met:

- green spaces in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- green areas that are demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- green areas that are local in character and not extensive tracts of land.

Proposed Local Green Spaces are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policies Map](#) (July 2013). A GIS layer can be requested from SCDC.

Infrastructure

Lord's Bridge Restricted Area and Consultation Areas

The Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory at Lord's Bridge must be safeguarded. The observatory contains unique radio and optical telescopes that measure signals that are very weak and therefore highly susceptible to many forms of interference. The University of Cambridge should be consulted about any developments proposed within the Restricted Area or Consultation Areas.

The Lord's Bridge Restricted Area and Consultation Areas are identified on the [South Cambridgeshire Adopted Proposals Map](#) (January 2010) and [South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policies Map](#) (July 2013). A GIS layer can be requested from SCDC.

F - Existing Plans for the Area

You may have existing plans or strategies for your local area, such as a Parish Plan or Village Design Statement. The evidence, community views and priorities included in these documents could provide you with a starting point for your Neighbourhood Plan.