

Woodland for...

WOODLAND FOR LIFE The Regional Woodland Strategy for the East of England

...greenspace



Case Study 5: Securing greener places

Cambridgeshire Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan

While principally demonstrating spatial planning, this initiative also provides new environmental assets that will contribute to residents' life quality



Achievements

The Cambridgeshire Strategic Green Infrastructure plan triggered a successful £455,000 multi-agency bid to the Government department, Communities and Local Government, to create the Forest of South Cambridgeshire. This venture, adjacent to ancient woodland sites, will deliver 50 hectares of new accessible woodland greenspace and 3.5 kilometres of new paths, thereby providing a gateway for visitors to this area. In the development programme, local people and school children will become directly involved in the creation of the forest.

Background

It is now appreciated that expanding communities require green infrastructure to be established in advance of development. Thus the provision of multi-functional accessible greenspace is now a major national policy. Across the region green infrastructure plans have been put in place in all the key growth locations.

Initiative description

The Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, using sophisticated opportunity mapping techniques, provides a blueprint for connecting habitats and accessible greenspace in part of the Growth Area that stretches from London to Peterborough. The City of Cambridge is set to receive 33,000 new homes.

The project aims to provide:

- A 'green lung' for Cambridge
- A new leisure and recreation resource for residents of the Cambridge sub-region and beyond
- Improved access to the countryside
- A dramatic new landmark at the centre of the East of England

Lesson learned

An excellent example of how local authorities, public agencies and voluntary groups can work together to create an award-winning plan. The Strategy was 'Highly Commended' under the Strategic Landscape Planning section at the prestigious Landscape Industry Awards in 2006.

Future developments

The Green Infrastructure plan will now be incorporated into Local Authority planning documents and will guide partners and landowners in deciding where new green space should be created.

Further information: www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk

www.woodlandforlife.net