

**Extracts from:**

<https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/DNIP-Scoping-Study-report.pdf>

Produced for the Defra Group OxCam Arc Local Natural Capital Plan team, Natural Cambridgeshire and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

Natural capital investment opportunities

P 36

Being 'first to market' could be advantageous as there will be less competition and therefore greater chances of attracting major investment players, e.g. Anglian Water or Stansted Airport, if suitable investible propositions can be recognised, designed and implemented.

Work with consultants, businesses and investors to identify, develop and run investible propositions Natural Cambridgeshire, through its **Cambridgeshire Natural Environment Policy and Planning Forum**, have already started to talk to local and regional businesses and investors, with support from **Cambridge Ahead**. Although this is only at an early stage, good and encouraging progress has been made. A Doubling Nature Investment Partnership stakeholder (DNIP) workshop (including businesses, investors and landowners) was organised in March 2020, but had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic

p 112

work in the OxCam Arc or Cambridgeshire. Defra Group OxCam Arc Local Natural Capital Plan (LNCP) team – Rebecca Moberly (Delivery Manager), Ceri Lewis (Data and Information Specialist), Luke Newbey (Project Manager) and Steve Arnold (Economist). Overview The team was set up in Spring 2019 with one year of funding from Highways England's Designated Fund, along with some funding from Defra...The team had three main starting points:

- People in the Arc – They were keen to engage with a wide range of stakeholders and not just the 'usual suspects'. Need to communicate to a wide audience, encourage them to appreciate nature and realise that it has a real value, and work with them to co-design and co-deliver the LNCP.
- Evidence – GIS and natural capital mapping. They were keen to get the best quality data they could and use the same data and metrics across the Arc.
- Consultations, engagement and co-design Through regular meetings and workshops, the team have been working closely and collaboratively from the start with a wide range of stakeholders, including Defra, MHCLG, statutory bodies, local authorities, conservation organisations and all LNP's within the OxCam Arc. Specific workshops have been run with stakeholders from the planning and development sectors to understand their needs for project outputs; and with the farming and landowning community.

The workshop with the farming and landowner community took place in January 2020; with the day focused on bringing them up to speed on the project, understanding the challenges and opportunities they face around natural capital...The workshop gave the team a better understanding of the various perspectives of the landowner community around natural capital and how they could potentially make use of it and the LNCP.

P 113

Natural Capital Account The team have used the Natural Capital Baseline, Orval recreation model outputs and water abstraction licences to feed into a Natural Capital accounting tool developed by the Environment Agency to produce a Natural Capital Account for the OxCam Arc.

P 114

Natural Cambridgeshire's Doubling Nature Investment Plan Scoping Study The aim is to produce recommendations and a range of options which could enable Cambridgeshire, and other OxCam Arc counties, to develop an effective natural capital investment plan or similar vehicle. The outputs of this project will provide important findings that the OxCam Arc team will incorporate into their LNCP Investment Toolkit.

P 115

Environmental Opportunity Mapping The LNCP team have been assessing options for mapping opportunities for environmental improvement within the OxCam Arc. Rather than repeating the work that has already been done by local partners and stakeholders, the project has collated the variety of environmental improvement opportunity areas and projects that have been identified across the Arc. Doing this will allow those that have developed this thinking and are basing their decision-making on these maps to consider where there is join-up across different sectors and overlapping priorities. It also helps link the LNCP into existing policy implementation, where these opportunity maps are tied into policy, for example Local Plans.

Cambridge Ahead are supporting work by Cambridge Past Present and Future and the Wildlife Trust to define nature sites and parks in the Greater Cambridge Partnership area as part of the Local Plan. Cambridge Ahead's interest arises because it is concerned to maintain the quality of life of the city and to plan sustainably for the city's continued rapid growth.

Matthew [*Bullock, the Vice Chair of business group Cambridge Ahead*] has raised separate, outside charitable funding for this work. Matthew highlighted key differences between donating and investing:

Donating • Implies a right brain, unrestrained empathy and attraction to beauty • Nature supporters' objectives vary but include biodiversity, public access to nature, zero carbon, flood risk mitigation and air quality.

Investing • This is less emotional and requires a classical left brain, analytical, self-interested approach • Investors' objectives are clear; they put money in and expect to take more money out after a period of time with some level of risk.

There are four main income models we could use:

- **Farming** National Trust at Wimpole are showing that low input farming (which is more environmentally friendly) is only slightly less profitable than high input farming. So maybe there's an opportunity with the new ELMS system to promote and incentivise this, making environmentally friendly farming more profitable and attractive. Need to make environmentally friendly farming more widespread. Getting farmers to increase their biodiversity would make the largest impact on Nature.

- **Forestry** Has potential at scale, as is attractive for carbon sequestration, but broadleaf tree planting produces no income for 30 years and requires substantial patient capital. Small woodland projects are likely to be financially unsustainable • Small nature reserves o Not generating any or much income. Run by charities & NGOs. Reliant upon donations and grants

- Larger, visitor-driven sites, attractions or reserves to Generate income and are profitable

Key component is high numbers of volunteers; needs the altruistic purpose offered by charities

Very popular, currently seeing exceptionally high demand in Cambs

In Cambs, this can work around Cambridge and in the chalk and clay areas

Not profitable enough to pay for land on their own, but contributions from several sites could build up a land acquisition fund. The two main income foci should be environmentally friendly farming and visitor-driven sites.

P 122

[Matthew Bullock] Recommend starting with sustainable nature activities where sites are able to pay their way, through stewardship and/or visitor-driven income. So would initially focus efforts, in Cambridge, on the chalk and clay landscapes – maybe also on orchards? This will need a marketing proposal to draw visitors to the sites attracted by habitat and ‘spirit of place’ and to pay, or spend money, there – so, ideally these sites will be close to conurbation

P 128

Greater Cambridge Local Plan The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service are working on a joint Local Plan for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. Development of the Local Plan will enable the development of a mandatory biodiversity net gain policy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, ensuring that this is a core principle for all future development across the Greater Cambridge area. To inform the Local Plan, the Shared Planning service has commissioned planning consultants to provide evidence informing the creation of an enhanced and expanded green (and blue) infrastructure network in Greater Cambridge to inform local plan policy and seeking to identify interventions to enhance the green infrastructure network within Greater Cambridge...

Ahead of adoption of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire councils are already working to deliver biodiversity net gain through the planning system. In general, seeking 10% BNG on medium and large applications. This includes working to deliver biodiversity net gain within existing allocated sites including, but not limited to, the following:

- Northstowe phases 2&3
- Waterbeach barracks and airfield
- Land North of Cherry Hinton, Newbury Farm and within the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are active members of Natural Cambridgeshire and would be keen to support and influence this important work for our communities.

P 130

there is a growing inequality between the quality and funding of existing parks and emerging green spaces. Many of our more deprived and diverse communities are finding it harder to access good quality parks

130

The Cambridgeshire Future Parks Accelerator (CFPA) project commenced in April 2019 and is funded until May 2021. Its lead partner is Cambridgeshire County Council and others include all six other local authorities, Natural Cambridgeshire, the Nene Park Trust and conservation organisations. Currently, as part of the national Future Parks Accelerator Programme, the CFPA team are working with Vivid Economics (a strategic economics consultancy) to develop a natural capital assessment to value the public open spaces in Cambridgeshire. They are also working with Jon Sheaff & Associates (a multi-disciplinary practice specialising in the design and management of public spaces) to develop a set of typologies for public open spaces and map them. Collectively this work will allow the CFPA team to identify, classify and value the publicly owned, or managed, parks and green spaces within the county.

P 130

Comments on the development of a DNIP To ensure the future funding and development of public green spaces, the CPFA team would be keen to work closely with the proposed DNIP or a similar funding vehicle within Cambridgeshire. They are keen that any future funding or investment models consider the value of publicly owned green spaces as well as natural green spaces such as nature reserves. By including publicly owned green and open spaces, the DNIP would be able to offer multiple benefits to potential investors, for example access to nature, health and wellbeing. These additional benefits could prove attractive to potential public or private sector investors.

P 131

The CPFA consider there to be value in an umbrella vehicle, such as the DNIP, which could attract and manage funding, from the public and private sectors, and allocates it democratically to a wide range of investments, projects and partners, as part of range of measures which could support the ongoing sustainability of public parks and open space.

P 133

Natural Capital East – Andrew Brown, Head of Sustainability, Anglian Water Services Ltd.

Natural Capital East (NCE) are a reasonably new group of business-focussed organisations who want to work together and agree a narrative to take the right decisions, for the environment and business, effectively. It is mostly comprised of national and regional businesses; including Anglian Water, Nestle, National Grid, UK Power Networks, Barratt Developments, Kier, Sainsbury's and Tarmac, but also includes the CPCA, OxCam Arc LNCP team, Highways England, Natural Cambridgeshire/DNIP, EA, New Anglia LEP, Paul Leinster, Water Resources East and National Trust.

Emerging from Anglian Water's environmental baseline and natural capital risk assessment work, they want to create an agreed set of regional metrics, a regional natural capital asset register and baseline. They hope that these will help us create a resilient framework for the future. However, with the recent progress of the Defra Group OxCam Arc LNCP team they might instead use their metrics, mapping and methodologies.

...Currently, being a new group, they have yet to produce any outputs and have no formal structure. In the near future they will be working on their governance, structure and relationship with Water Resources East.

P 136

The recent budget talked about setting up 4 Development Corporations across the Arc to address concerns about the number of LPA's involved. If this happens then collaboration of the 4 DC's could work well within the context of the OxCam arc. Work on the DNIP should take account of these Development Corporation

P 136

National Trust have contributed to the work led by the Wildlife Trust and CPPF which identifies sizeable areas for nature (nature areas) including Wicken Fen. They would like to see mechanisms which can bring delivery of these planned areas to fruition, as working at scale is going to continue to be important for nature. It could also yield greater opportunities for joined up investment linked to water and peat which necessarily needs to be thought of at the drainage unit rather than land parcel scale.

P 138

Focus on water? Working in Cambridgeshire and Arc-wide, you should focus upon water-related issues (flood defence, water quality, etc), as these could lead to higher potential funding levels than net gain. The EA are currently rethinking their future flood strategy for the Great Ouse, and Anglian Water are finalising their AMP7

plans so there are opportunities to design nature-based work programmes that could be co-funded by net gain. Links to minerals sector will also be important. Clearly there are other important resources in the Arc, including chalk grassland, heathland and ancient woodland, but water is the thing that drives this landscape and holds it together – and this is not just flood risk management, but filtration for water supplies too. Water is also a good focus because it is a key to creating an ecological network and achieving effective connectivity. Cambridgeshire's rivers, the Ouse and Nene washes could constitute large amounts of future spending from the EA, water companies, SUDs, IDB's or other bodies.

P 139

**Be aware that, especially in the OxCam arc, funding from net gain is directly related to development, i.e. no development/housing = no section 106 funded net gain. So, in relying upon section 106 net gain funding you are effectively supporting continued growth and development.**

P 141

Wildlife BCN

Their aim is to develop the Nature Recovery Networks and strategies and then focus on achieving funding for them through biodiversity net gain. They have their first project in the planning phase in Greater Cambridge where biodiversity mapping will lead to a pilot Nature Recovery Network. This work is being led by WTBCN and Cambridge Past, Present and Future, with funding from a private donor and additional support from Cambridge Ahead