River Nene Regional Park

The Review of Tangible Projects;
Report completed as part of the Feasibility Study
for the River Nene Regional Park
This Report has been prepared by
Landscape Design Associates in collaboration with
SQW Ltd and Boyer Planning

June 2004

It has been sponsored by the following organisations:

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)

East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA)

Northamptonshire Partnership

Northamptonshire County Council

Countryside Agency - Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF)
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Appointment and Brief

In December 2003, Northamptonshire County Council appointed Landscape Design Associates (LDA) to carry out a Feasibility Study for the River Nene Regional Park (RNRP), Northamptonshire.

The purpose of the Feasibility Study is to identify and assess the key challenges and opportunities provided by the RNRP concept and to make clear recommendations on taking forward this initiative. Specifically, the Feasibility Study will identify an overall vision for the Regional Park, provide advice on its geographical extent and boundary and make recommendations on the long term delivery of the project in terms of governance, funding and planning.

Central to taking forward the initiative in the short term is the identification of ‘Quick Win Projects’ (otherwise known as Tangible Projects) which are to be delivered through funding secured for the Regional Park from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). The purpose of ‘Quick Win’ projects is, as the term suggest, to ‘kick start’ the RNRP initiative by the rapid delivery of ‘on the ground’ projects which address, where possible, the core objectives of the Regional Park concept and raise the profile of the initiative between key partners and local communities. It is intended that these ‘Quick Wins’ will lay the foundations for the longer term delivery of the Vision by the gathering of momentum for the initiative, the strengthening of partnerships and the creation of new ‘links’; all of which aim to promote change through ‘joined up’ action.

This report is a standalone document submitted as an adjunct to both the Feasibility study and ODPM funding submission with the sole purpose of assessing the suitability of Tangible Projects for funding through the Regional Park initiative, both in the light of the emerging Vision and the wider environmental and economic policy context for the Region. The assessment has been undertaken in close partnership with the RNRP Project Team.

1.2 Scope and Structure of the Report

The purpose of this report is to consider the suitability for funding through the Regional Park Initiative of projects that have been put forward as Quick Wins (henceforth termed Tangible Projects).

The report will firstly outline the process through which Tangible Projects were identified and further detailed information gathered. It then provides an overview of the location and nature of the projects put forward for funding with a brief summary of each project proposal. The following section outlines the framework within which the Tangible Projects were reviewed and summarises the findings of this broad assessment.

The final section recommends those projects which are suitable to be put forward as ‘Quick Win’ projects within current ODPM constraints, and those projects which are considered suitable for taking forward as part of the Regional Park initiative in the longer term (subject to bid refinement and demonstrable business case). This would be as and when further funding streams are identified and subject to projects remaining relevant within the context of the emerging Vision for the park.
The review aims to consider tangible projects in a transparent and methodical way in so far as is reasonably possible. It intends to bring a degree of objectivity to the appraisal through the testing of projects against the requirements of the relevant funding organisation (in this case ODPM) and the policy objectives of strategic partners (EMRA), however professional judgement has inevitably been required in some aspects, and this limitation of the review is openly acknowledged.

Figures referred to in the text are included as A3 folded drawings following Page 18 of the report.
2.0 BACKGROUND AND PROJECT SUMMARIES

2.1 Background

An initial list of 28 possible tangible projects was provided to the Consultant Team at the commencement of the Feasibility Study. This list represented those projects that were submitted as bids to ODPM for funding in parallel with the Regional Park initiative in 2003, and to which they subsequently lost out to. Instead the Regional Park initiative was seen by the ODPM as a potential vehicle through which these other projects might be delivered and to this end those organisations responsible for failed bids were approached by the RNRP team and invited to submit projects for consideration during the Feasibility Study.

The survey stage of the Feasibility Study identified further possible tangible projects through the review of existing projects within the Regional Park study area. This included a telephone survey of stakeholders and one to one meetings with local authorities and other statutory agencies. These projects were duly included on the revised list of possible tangible projects.

All organisations known to have possible tangible projects, as identified above, and other statutory and local authority organisations, were requested to complete and submit a questionnaire (a proforma which is included in Appendix A) for projects which they wished to promote. The aim of the questionnaires was to obtain detailed information on each individual project in a consistent format to provide a baseline upon which they could be reviewed.

The questionnaire covered aspects of project description, delivery, planning, land ownership and funding, as well as envisaged social, environmental and economic benefits. It aimed particularly, to gain an understanding of the likely deliverability of the project which is central to ODPM funding requirements (see section 3), and to obtain information required for submissions to the ODPM under Annex A: Green Spaces Project Information Requirements for the Green Spaces Fund.

Due to the restrictions of the project programme the Project Team considered it inappropriate to request the level of detailed bid information which would be required to be submitted under Annex A for all tangible projects. Instead those to be taken forward would be requested to submit further information at that time.

2.2 Questionnaire Results

Approximately 40 requests were sent to over 20 organisations for the completion of Tangible Project Questionnaires. In total 34 completed questionnaires were returned, these are included in full in Appendix B, located on Figure A, and listed below along with details of the organisation promoting the project and a brief summary of the proposal.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location No:</th>
<th>Name of Tangible Project</th>
<th>Promoting Organisation</th>
<th>Summary of Proposal:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Barnwell Country Park Expansion</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>Purchase of land, construction of access bridge and establishment of way marked walking trail and leaflets as part of site expansion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Beckett’s Park</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Proposals for the commissioning of a Feasibility Study and Masterplan for Beckett’s Park which promotes the strategic importance of the site to Northampton and the river valley as a ‘Gateway to Northampton’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Countryside Access for All Project - Brixworth Country Park</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>National Demonstration Project in Countryside Access for All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chester Farm Heritage Centre</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>Scheduled Ancient Monument site to be focus of heritage park, including Visitor Centre for educational and recreational purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ditchford Lakes and Meadows</td>
<td>ENC</td>
<td>On-going management and facilities improvement of Local Nature Reserve for nature conservation and informal recreation. Future aspirations for expansion with Country Park type facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Earls Barton Carr</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>Proposal for an informal recreation and nature conservation site with strengthened green infrastructure links and the potential to develop educational and interpretation facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>East Midlands Sustainable Information Network (EMSIN)</td>
<td>University College Northampton</td>
<td>Internet 'portal' to promote sustainable development information and environmental good practice to small – medium sized businesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) Proposal for Northamptonshire Branch</td>
<td>FWAG</td>
<td>Re-establishment of Officer to promote take up of agri-environment schemes across the county and provide practical advice on conservation based farm management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Lead Organization</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>FOCUS Northamptonshire</td>
<td>NCC/Atkins Partnership</td>
<td>Proposes to develop overarching tourism and recreation partnership for County with an emphasis on promotional literature and Interpretation Signage. Includes enhancement of existing PROWs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Green Infrastructure Research Project</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>Proposal for the development of a shared strategy for green infrastructure within the Regional Park area with particular focus on the green links between Corby, Kettering, Northampton and Wellingborough. The strategy will provide a robust framework for the delivery of green infrastructure in the future, particularly through developer and private sector funding with pilot (demonstrator) projects delivered on the ground within 2 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Healthy Environment, Healthy People – Green Gym</td>
<td>BTCV</td>
<td>Established BTCV programme which seeks to involve people with health needs in a range of environmental and conservation activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Kingfisher Lodge Education Project – Barnwell Country Park</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>Environmental education ‘study room’ and bird hide due to be delivered in June 2004 – Proposal for funding of equipment and development of activity packs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Kingsthorpe Local Nature Reserve Extension</td>
<td>NBC/Wildlife Trust</td>
<td>Proposal for land purchase for extension of existing Local Nature Reserve, and management of site for nature conservation and informal recreation purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Kirby Hall – Great Garden Restoration</td>
<td>English Heritage</td>
<td>Restoration of gardens of Listed Building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Limestone Grassland Recreation Project</td>
<td>The Wildlife Trust</td>
<td>Conservation Officer to oversee management of Wildlife Trust sites for NC and informal recreations (extension of established post). Also develop interpretation for sites and further links with local land holders to promote restoration and re-creation of local limestone grassland habitat. Further rural skills training to established Volunteer Team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Martin Moore Community Woodland</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>Provision of Community Woodland scheme for informal recreation and nature conservation interest in close proximity to urban communities, delivered through public-private partnership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Nene Way and Ise Valley Access Project</td>
<td>NCC/Atkins Partnership</td>
<td>Physical improvement and publicising of long distance recreation route between Badby and Wansford. To also include route along Ise Valley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Nene Conservation [Volunteer and Networking] Centre</td>
<td>BTCV</td>
<td>Proposed volunteer centre (probably within an existing building) for Nene Valley residents to find out about volunteer opportunities in the Regional Park area, and to promote partnership working between organisations (Proposal possibly at Stanwick Lake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Nature Banc</td>
<td>BTCV</td>
<td>Project proposes to promote bio-diversity in the Nene Catchment through practical conservation projects, rural training workshops and publicity initiative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Natural Breaks</td>
<td>BTCV</td>
<td>BTCV’s flagship programme of practical conservation working holidays within prime tourist locations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Nene Valley Forest School</td>
<td>BTCV</td>
<td>Established BTCV initiative for regular learning visits to a woodland site (yet to be identified as the pilot ‘Forest School’) with teachers trained as ‘Forest School Leaders’. Visits would deliver parts of the National Curriculum, and once demonstrated as successful, could be ‘rolled out’ to the rest of the county.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Nene Valley Links</td>
<td>BTCV</td>
<td>Established BTCV project which aims to identify nature conservation projects on the community’s doorstep so that their environment can be improved, along with access to them, through the improvement of PROW. Volunteers then become involved in the delivery of identified action and are given rural training opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Northamptonshire Archaeological Archive</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>Proposed County wide archaeological archive store – Proposed location and nature of build yet to be confirmed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Northampton Upper Nene Valley Country Park – Upton Interpretation Centre</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Interpretation, Education and Visitor ‘eco’ centre as part of the CP to support the Upton Housing Area, with a landmark building, sport changing facilities management by a trust organisation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Northampton Upper Nene Valley Country Park – Phase 1 Pedestrian/Cycleway Bridge over River Canal</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Proposed bridge over the River Nene and Northampton Arm Canal linking the town centre and its communities to the emerging Upper Nene Valley CP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Rockingham Forest Heritage Centre</td>
<td>Forestry Commission</td>
<td>Extension of existing Red Kites@ Rockingham Project. Proposed Heritage Centre within listed farm building which will be the focus for a new café with play area, function as a micro-business conference centre, centre for rural craft retail and demonstration, a environmental education centre/ community involvement base and for the promotion of landscape restoration initiatives and heritage interpretation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Salcey Forest</td>
<td>Forestry Commission (Forest Enterprise, Northants Forest District)</td>
<td>Improvement of existing recreation facilities for range of outdoor activities including cycling and horse riding, restoration of 25 hectares of ancient pasture woodland, woodland bird hide and new wildlife lake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Stanwick Lakes Recreation Project</td>
<td>Rockingham Forest Trust</td>
<td>Phase 1 proposal is part of a much larger recreation and conservation project. Phase 1 includes the opening up of the green route using the former railway line, the design and delivery of the central hub area, the provision of play areas, adventure play trails and outdoor youth facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>SUDS Proposal at Upton</td>
<td>University College Northampton</td>
<td>Monitoring programme to evaluate Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) at the Upton development site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Thrapston Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme</td>
<td>East Northants District Council</td>
<td>Proposal for contribution to the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS) for Thrapston, which involves the carrying out of area-based regeneration on the historic buildings within the Conservation Area (an area of demonstrable economic need). It concentrates on commercial, business and retail premises, and aims to generally promote inward investment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Wollaston Valley</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>Proposal for an informal recreation and nature conservation site with strengthened green infrastructure links and the potential to develop as a core site for delivery of the Regional Park concept with educational and leisure potential.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Wet Grassland Creation – Barnes Meadow</td>
<td>The Wildlife Trust</td>
<td>Historical landscape/habitat re-creation with interpretation and informal recreation facilities at the eastern edge of Northampton and its local communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Yardley Chase SSSI</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>Woodland, parkland and pasture land (former MOD site) proposed to be improved for recreation and nature conservation purposes with the potential for research and educational facilities in the future. Strategically located between Milton Keynes and the South Midlands.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Further tangible projects for which no completed questionnaires were received were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure A Location No:</th>
<th>Name of Tangible Project</th>
<th>Promoting Organisation</th>
<th>Reason for absence of questionnaire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Apethorpe Hall</td>
<td>English Heritage</td>
<td>Currently locked in planning inquiry regarding CPO.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>EU Special Protection Area Project – Nene Valley</td>
<td>RSPB</td>
<td>No questionnaire sent out as no specific project identified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Skew Bridge Business Development</td>
<td>Rushden Parks &amp; Lakes Development Company Ltd</td>
<td>Application approved and to be taken forward through private sector finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Northampton Urban Waterfront Regeneration</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>Alternative funding secured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Victoria Business Park</td>
<td>Not Known</td>
<td>Not Known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Weedon Barracks/Royal Ordnance Depot - Museum</td>
<td>English Heritage</td>
<td>Application approved and to be taken forward through private sector finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Wellingborough Town Park</td>
<td>BCW</td>
<td>Not Known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Wellingborough Water Vole Watch</td>
<td>BCW</td>
<td>Not Known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Whittlewood Forest</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>Not Known</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3 Section Summary

Figure A illustrates that many of the projects put forward for funding fall within the immediate context of the River Nene Valley, and more widely, within the recommended Regional Park Project Area as identified within the Feasibility Study. Two projects fall outside the project area; they are Whittlewood Forest (for which no questionnaire was returned) and Countryside Access for All Project at Brixworth Country Park.

Of the 20 organisations requested to submit questionnaires for tangible projects, 12 responded. The Project Team note the absence of tangible projects submitted from key partners such as the Environment Agency.

In the absence of detailed information, those projects not supported by completed questionnaires, were dropped from the review process (Tangible Projects Numbers 35 – 43).
The summary descriptions for each project illustrate that the large majority of proposals are centred around the theme of environmental improvement generally with differing combinations of informal recreation, habitat restoration/re-creation and heritage promotion (30). Of these 17 proposals have the core objective of recreation (often combined with education and volunteering) 5 of nature conservation, 4 of access improvements and 4 of heritage promotion. Nine projects also have a significant focus on the development of education, community engagement and health promotion within the Region.

The project team commented on the lack of proposals covering aspects of sport and art, and the limitation of proposals for the promotion of health and tourism as core objectives.

Questionnaires which did not focus on environmental improvement and instead looked to more strategic or innovative approaches include those received from University College Northampton (UCN), the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and FOCUS Northampton.

The Green Infrastructure Research Project proposal proposed by Northamptonshire County Council provides both a strategic approach to the coordination and delivery of Green Infrastructure projects, within the Regional Park (and within the context of the Growth Area), and on the ground physical improvements through ‘demonstrator projects’.
3.0 REVIEW FRAMEWORK AND PROJECT ASSESSMENT

Projects with completed questionnaires underwent a review process that aimed to evaluate the general suitability of the project, both in terms of the Regional Park concept (and delivery) and its potential to ‘fit’ with national and Regional policy. The review was not intended to be an exhaustive process rather a quick and simple method of identifying those projects which are in a position to be moved forward quickly through the Tangible Projects ‘ODPM fund’. The review also identified however, those projects which are suitable for development in the medium - longer term (subject to the clarification of a business case) because of their potential to contribute to the Regional Park vision and the East Midlands Regional Strategy.

3.1 ‘Fit’ with Regional Park Vision

Projects were firstly reviewed within the context of the emerging Regional Park Vision. They were assessed as to their potential to contribute to the broad themes that were emerging as central to the Vision (a summary of which is given below). The assessment for each project is included in Appendix C (Column A).

At the time of writing the Vision continues to evolve in response to Steering Group and stakeholder feedback. That said 3 broad themes are emerging as central to the Regional Park Vision. They are:

- Culture and Learning
- Environmental Research and Innovation
- Sport, Recreation and Healthy Living

The overarching aspiration for the Regional Park which runs across these themes is that the initiative should drive environmental improvement and economic regeneration through the theme of connections.

Sitting beneath this, and the 3 broad themes, is the ability of the Regional Park initiative to deliver a high quality environment through the provision of Green Infrastructure.

3.2 ‘Fit’ with the East Midlands Integrated Regional Strategy

The potential of the Regional Park to contribute to the wider East Midlands (and beyond) is also central to the Vision and underpins the success of the initiative to date, and will indeed do so in the future. The Regional significance of the initiative was clearly acknowledged as such within the progress update on the Government’s Sustainable Communities Plan, issued by the ODPM in July 2003, entitled Making it Happen: Thames Gateway and the Growth Areas. Because of this wider agenda for the role of the Regional Park, all projects were subsequently reviewed against the East Midlands Integrated Regional Strategy which is the Sustainability Framework produced by the Regional Assembly.
The overarching aim of the East Midlands Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS), is to make ‘all the pieces of the East Midlands jigsaw fit together and develop in a coherent way’ towards sustainable goals. It is this Regional framework that the Regional Park vision (and subsequently Tangible Projects) should also seek to contribute to. The IRS represents an integrated strategy within which both the East Midlands Development Agency’s (EMDA) Economic Strategy and Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) Regional Planning Guidance are intended to sit.

The strategy seeks to apply both the National Sustainable Development Strategy and provide a Regional context for sub-Regional, local, organisational and individual action. To enable Regional Park projects to contribute to this strategy and therefore the wider delivery of sustainable communities in the Region, and to assist with the strengthening of linkages between Regional and local action and strategies, projects were broadly reviewed against the EMRA Sustainability Checklist which is included for information within Appendix D. Positive contributions to the Social, Environmental and Economic IRS objectives are indicated (negative or neutral scoring are not) within column B for each project within Appendix C.

3.3 ‘Fit’ with key ODPM Green Spaces Fund requirements

This funding source has been made available by the Government within the context of ‘Creating Sustainable Communities Making it Happen: Thames Gateway and the Growth Areas’ strategy, published in July 2003. This strategy set out a Government commitment to create new green space through the provision of £10 million to ‘support local partners to improve on the quality and accessibility of green spaces in and around areas of rapid growth’. This refers to all four growth areas of which the Milton Keynes South Midlands (MKSM) growth area is one.

Of the total monies secured for the Regional Park Feasibility Study £1.5 million has been earmarked for the next stage which will run from 1st April 2004 to 1st April 2006. It is a central requirement of ODPM that any Tangible Project delivered under the ‘banner’ of the Regional Park initiative must be completed in whole or in part within this time frame. Capital based projects are to be favoured over those with revenue cost.

Further requirements of the ODPM are that 1) projects funded under the Regional Park will require ‘on the ground’ results which the department can clearly associate with, and 2) that the main body of funded projects are ‘green infrastructure’ related. This is in the light of the developing emphasis of environmental infrastructure planning through the development of Green Space Strategies under CABESPACE initiatives. The ‘fit’ of project proposals within the context of key ODPM requirements is reviewed within Column C within Appendix C.

3.4 ‘Fit’ with further detailed ODPM requirements

All projects to be put forward for funding through the Regional Park Initiative are to submit further, detailed information as outlined in the ODPM’s ‘Green Spaces Project Information Requirement form (Annex A). Due to time restrictions, and to avoid abortive work for all parties, information required for Annex A, which covered aspects of delivery, funding, need and partnering, was simplified and incorporated within the Project Questionnaires. Those projects identified for taking forward through the ‘Tangible Projects Fund’ would, following the Tangible Projects Review, be requested to provide further details in support of their application. The ODPM would duly appraise all submitted projects within the context of their Green Spaces in the Growth Area Appraisal Framework.
This further ‘layer’ of supporting information relevant to the application was considered during the review of the projects and summarised as ‘positive’ and ‘negative’ aspects of the proposals within Appendix C under Column D. They cover the following:

- Possible constraints to delivery and long term viability such as planning and ownership issues;
- Whether the organisation promoting the project has endeavoured to seek match funding, and if so how much and what are the sources;
- Whether the project has potential additional funding streams;
- Whether the project has the potential to generate income and if the project has associated revenue costs;
- Whether there is demonstrable ‘need’ or a business case in place;
- Whether the project fully addresses the potential to collaboratively work; result in joined up action and particularly link with ‘private’ organisations.

To provide an overview of the projects assessment in the light of the preceding considerations, all proposals were scored. The final column within the Tables at Appendix C gives a score of between 1-3 for the potential social, environmental and economic benefits which may be gained through funding the project, with an overall score (out of a possible 9) given in the far right column (Appendix C within Column E). These final scorings are summarised below for each project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure A Location No:</th>
<th>Tangible Project- Name</th>
<th>Promoting Organisation</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>En</th>
<th>Ec</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Barnwell Country Park Expansion</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Beckett’s Park</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Countryside Access for All Project - Brixworth Country Park</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chester Farm Heritage Centre</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ditchford Lakes and Meadows</td>
<td>ENC</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Earls Barton Carr</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>East Midlands Sustainable Information Network (EMSIN) University College Northampton</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) Proposal for Northamptonshire Branch</td>
<td>FWAG</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Figure A Location No:</td>
<td><strong>Tangible Project- Name</strong></td>
<td><strong>Promoting Organisation</strong></td>
<td><strong>S</strong></td>
<td><strong>En</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ec</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>FOCUS Northamptonshire</td>
<td>NCC/Atkins Partnership</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Green Infrastructure Research Project</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Healthy Environment, Healthy People –Green Gym</td>
<td>BTCV</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Irchester Country Park</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Kingfisher Lodge Education Project – Barnwell Country Park</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>English Heritage Trust</td>
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<td>The Wildlife Trust</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Martin Moore Community Woodland</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Nene Way Access Project</td>
<td>NCC/Atkins Partnership</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Nene Conservation Centre</td>
<td>BTCV</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Nature Banc</td>
<td>BTCV</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Natural Breaks</td>
<td>BTCV</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>BTCV</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Northamptonshire Archaeological Archive</td>
<td>NCC</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Northampton Upper Nene Valley Country Park – Interpretation Centre</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Northampton Upper Nene Valley Country Park – Bridge over River Canal</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**3.5 Section Summary**

The review illustrated the following:

The potential of many of these projects to deliver ‘multiple wins’ - within economic and social agendas as well as environmental benefits.

The potential duplication and overlap of activity and provision without the Region which is apparent by the similarity of proposals without clear need/business cases established. For example, those seen for the provision of visitor centres. This was also true to some extent of green infrastructure proposals, both existing initiatives (such as the Rockingham Forest Green Grid work) and proposed work, such as the Nene Way and Ise Valley Access proposal or the BTCV Links initiative, which lack strategic planning, co-ordination and delivery.

The potential of better partnering and collaborative work within the Region, particularly between nature conservation/voluntary organisations, with larger recreation and access initiatives and local authorities.
4.0 SUMMARY OF PROJECTS PROPOSED TO BE FUNDED

4.1 Review Summary

In the light of key ODPM requirements, specifically that of the need for green infrastructure schemes with on the ground results within two years, 19 of the 34 tangible projects were immediately ‘knocked out’ from being taken forward for ODPM Green Spaces funding within this round (See Appendix C, Column C).

In addition to this, concern amongst the Project Team regarding the lack of business case/need identified for the expansion of existing or the introduction of new facilities at Country Parks and visitor centres within the Region, led to exclusion of these schemes pending further studies (5 projects in total).

1 Barnwell Country Park Expansion
3 Countryside Access for All Project - Brixworth Country Park
12 Irchester Country Park, Northampton
25 Upper Nene Valley Country Park Interpretation Centre
27 Rockingham Forest Heritage Centre

4.2 Short Listed Projects

The remaining short list of 10 green infrastructure based projects, which are considered suitable for taking forward, are summarised below:

5 Ditchford Lakes and Meadows ENC
6 Earls Barton Carr NCC
10 Green Infrastructure Research Project NCC
16 Limestone Grassland Re-creation Project The Wildlife Trust
17 Martin Moore Community Woodland ITF
18 Nene Way and Ise Valley Access Project NCC/Atkins Partnership
28 Salcey Forest Forestry Commission (Forest Enterprise, Northants Forest District)
29 Stanwick Lakes Recreation Project (Phase 1 only) Rockingham Forest Trust
32 Wollaston Valley NCC
33 Wet Grassland Creation – Barnes Meadow The Wildlife Trust
Four further projects are recommended despite not fully meeting ODPM requirements. These projects, and the reason for their inclusion, is summarised below:

4 Chester Farm Heritage Centre. This site has recently been acquired by NCC due to its considerable heritage worth and tourism potential. The specialist heritage of the site is considered to set it apart from other more general recreation and visitor centres.

8 The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) Proposal for Northamptonshire Branch. This is put forward due to both indirect environmental benefits to be gained from the increase of take-up for agri-environment schemes on the ground within the County and also because of the substantial financial ‘spin offs’ to be gained within rural communities across the County by the re-establishment of an officer.

13 Kingfisher Lodge Education Project - A ‘Quick Win’ with very minor funding inputs required

30 SUDS Proposal at Upton - This project is considered an exemplar project in the context of the emerging Vision which wishes to promote innovation and sustainable development as a central objectives of the Regional Park. It is also, of course, highly relevant within the context of the East Midlands growth area because of it’s focus on, and links with, the Upton development site.

The location of all short listed projects are shown on Figure B and shaded in grey within Appendix C).

4.3 Potential Future Projects

Projects considered to have potential to be taken forward in later stages of the Regional Park initiative (Subject to suitability within the emerging Vision, demonstration of need case, securing of further funding and revised bids) comprise:

7 East Midlands Sustainable Information Network (EMSIN) University College Northampton

11 Healthy Environment, Healthy People – Green Gym BTCV

21 Natural Breaks BTCV

30 SUDS Proposal at Upton University College Northampton

4.4 Additional Potential Future ‘Signature’ Projects

The Short List of Projects with potential to be taken forward as a ‘signature project’ in later stages of the Regional Park initiative, (subject to suitability within the emerging Vision, demonstration of need case, securing of further funding and revised bids) comprise:

25 Northampton Upper Nene Valley Country Park – NBC Interpretation Centre
4.5 Conclusion

Following the project reviews, 10 ‘Green Infrastructure’ based Tangible Projects (‘Quick Wins’) have now been identified to be taken forward for submission to the ODPM’s Greenspace Fund.

Four further projects are also considered suitable for promotion as ‘Quick Wins’ despite not meeting ODPM requirements because of other overriding factors.

Seven further projects, for which strong proposals were submitted with considerable potential social, environmental and economic benefits, are identified as desirable for taking forward in the medium-longer term.

Wherever possible organisations and projects are encouraged to ‘double up’ their contribution, in order to help deliver the Regional Park vision and support wider goals and aspirations. This approach will assist in the delivery of Regional and sub-Regional strategies as well as strengthening partnerships at all levels through better co-ordinated, ‘joined up’ action. Such an approach is also crucial to ensuring that the Regional Park serves the rapidly growing population of Northamptonshire, the MKSM Sub-Region and the wider East Midlands area, as well as achieving its potential as a ‘green resource of national significance’.
River Nene Regional Park

Figure A: Location of Tangible Projects

1. Barnwell Country Park Expansion
2. Beckett’s Park
3. Countryside Access for All Project - Brixworth Country Park
4. Chelton Farm Heritage Centre
5. Ditchford Lakes and Meadows
6. Earls Barton Carr
7. East Midlands Sustainable Information Network (Area based)
9. FOCUS Northamptonshire (Area based)
10. Green Infrastructure Research Project (Area based)
11. Healthy Environment, Healthy People (not specifically located yet)
12. Irchester Country Park
13. Kington House Education Project - Barnwell Country Park
14. Kirby Hill
15. Limestone Grassland Recreation Project - Old Sulehay Nature Reserve
16. Martin Moore Community Woodland
17. Northamptonshire Archaeological Archive
18. Nene Valley Forest Centre (not specifically located yet)
19. Nene Valley水量 Access Project (Area based)
20. Nature Bank (Area based)
21. Natural Breaks (not specifically located yet)
22. Northamptonshire Upper Nene Valley Country Park - Bridge over River Canal
23. Rockingham Forest Heritage Centre
24. Salcey Forest
25. Stonewick Lakes Recreation Project
26. SUDS Proposal at Upton
27. Thrapston Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme
28. Whitney Valley
29. Wet Grassland Creation - Barnes Meadow
30. Yardley Chase SSSI
31. Apethorpe Hall
32. EU Special Protection Area Project - Nene Valley (Area based)
33. Shaw Bridge Business Development
34. Northampton Urban Waterfront Regeneration
35. Victoria Business Park
36. Weedon Barracks/Royal Ordnance Depot - Museum
37. Wellingborough Town Park
38. Wellingborough Water Vole Watch (Area based)
39. Whittlewood Forest

NB: All those projects identified as ‘Area Based’ apply to the extent of the recommended Regional Park Project Area. The proposed area of the Regional Park excludes the built up areas of Northampton, Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby (but includes Green Infrastructure corridors; location and extent to be confirmed).
River Nene Regional Park

Figure B: Location of Short Listed Tangible Projects

1. Chester Farm Heritage Centre
2. Ditchford Lakes and Meadows
3. Earls Barton Carr
4. Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group Proposal for Northamptonshire Branch (Area based)
5. Green Infrastructure Research Project (Area based)
6. Kingfisher Lodge Education Project - Barnwell Country Park
7. Limestone Grassland Recreation Project
8. Marton Moore Community Woodland
9. Nene Way and Ise Valley Access Project (Area based)
10. Salway Forest
11. Stanwick Lakes Recreation Project
12. SUDS Proposal at Upton (Area based)
13. Wollaston Valley
14. Wet Grassland Creation - Barnes Meadow

NB: All those projects identified as ‘Area Based’ apply to the extent of the recommended Regional Park Project Area.

The proposed area of the Regional Park excludes the built up areas of Northampton, Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby (but includes Green Infrastructure Corridors; location and extent to be confirmed)
# Appendix A – Tangible Projects – Questionnaire Proforma

## Name of project:

## Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)

## Planning status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is planning permission required</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?

## Land ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who owns the land/buildings?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?

## Funding

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project.

### Project delivery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

Are any partnership links established or proposed?
## Name of Project:

1 - Barnwell Country Park expansion

### Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)

Country Park on the fringe of Oundle established in 1971 from a former Gravel quarry in the Nene Valley. The park currently received around 200,000 visits a year. The park is ideally situated to act as a major gateway and orientation point to the North Northamptonshire section of the Nene Valley.

### Planning status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes – change of use from agriculture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Has permission been granted?</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved? 4 Months from indication of funding being secured.

### Land ownership

Who owns the land/buildings?  
Northamptonshire County Council owns existing park  
Duke of Gloucester owns adjacent arable land identified as possible expansion of park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</th>
<th>Hs indicated willingness to sell the land in person to Parks Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved? Yes

### Funding

See attached map  
Purchase of 23.6 ha agricultural land @ £6175/ha = £145,730  
Purchase of 3.2 ha of non former gravel workings = £7,904  
Construction access footbridge = £25,000  
Establishment of waymarked walking trail and leaflet £6000  
**Total cost** £184,634

Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom? Not for initial land purchase
What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)
Woodland grant scheme for planting and management
Countryside Stewardship for habitat creation and management
Environment Agency funding for riverside habitat creation
Landfill Tax credits for habitat creation

Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

• The project currently receives around 200,000 visits a year this expansion will attract additional visitors.
• Expansion cost effective to develop and manage as it will build upon existing park infrastructure – car park, toilets, visitor facilities, which are already in place at Barnwell Country Park.
• Provide superb new Nene Valley riverside walking.
• Provides potential group camping area.
• No boundary hedge/fence maintenance costs as river forms boundary.
• Will provide a valuable educational resource to enhance the opportunities provided by the Kingfisher Lodge Environmental Study Centre
• Will not be a financial drain on park resources, as has potential to generate more visitor income and environmental management income.
• Enhancement of the tourist resource.

Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

• Provides public access to a significant area of Nene Valley
• Promotes healthy lifestyles by encouraging walking and conservation volunteering.
• Provides a superb area for enhancement and expansion of riverside wildlife habitat.
• Will enhance the landscape of this area of the Nene Valley.

Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years? Yes

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?
Yes

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?
Northamptonshire County Council

Are any partnership links established or proposed
Links with the Wildlife Trust For Northamptonshire and with the Environment Agency.
Name of Project:  
2 - Feasibility Study and Master Plan Beckett Park, River Corridor

Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at):  
To provide a feasibility study and master plan for Becketts park and the River Valley and its links is the town of Northampton, the Brownfield site developments, the Cultural Quature, Historic Landscapes of Delepre. To promote the river valley as a Gateway to Northampton.

Planning status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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Land ownership

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?</td>
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</table>

Funding

<table>
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<tr>
<th>What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?</td>
<td>7000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)</td>
<td>N.B.C Offer time</td>
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</table>

Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

To provide improved landscape to the urban developments along the River Valley. To improve landscape assets to town centre and form part of the cultural quatre and improve economic viability of the River Valley.
**Environmental benefits**

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

Improved landscape of the parklands and mileage to the sustainable urban developments at Upton, and brown field regeneration within Northampton. Integrated links of footpath and cycleways along the river corridor to town centre from adjoining built environment.

**Project delivery**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?</td>
<td>One Master Plan is completed – Development of planning recommendation need to be undertaken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which organisation/company would deliver the project?</td>
<td>Halcrow Group Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are any partnership links established or proposed?</td>
<td>English Partnership, Environment Agency, N.C.C. Northampton Town Centre Partnership</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Name of Project:
3 - Countryside Access for All – Brixworth Country Park

Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)
National demonstration Project in provision of accessible countryside funded with the aid of a £750K grant aid form the Millennium Commission national lottery. Facilities created include visitor centre, café and cycle hire, a 24 bed self catering residential centre for groups, accessible trails, a sensory garden, 7 mile reservoir cycle trail, accessible sailing equipment.

Planning status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?
Na

Land ownership

Who owns the land/buildings?
Northamptonshire County Council

Does the landowner consent to the proposals?
Yes

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to the achieved?
No

Funding

What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?
£1.5 million has been spent on construction project to date

Additional funding required:
Our main aim is to develop multi sensory interpretation accessible to all in the form of external trails and in the existing visitor centre interpreting the park its wildlife, landscape, history and special features such as its sensory garden, solar power, reed bed effluent treatment system, sculpture trail, bird hide and its turf cut labyrinth.

We also wish to improve the interpretation of the countryside recreation and environmental opportunities provided by the surrounding countryside and potential regional park

Total cost £50,000

Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?
Contribution in kind from NCC interpretation officer @ £140/day

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)
As above
### Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

- The project currently receives around 400,000 visits a year.
- The park currently receives 141 school/group visits (3000 people) per year and the provision of improved interpretation would enhance this.
- Improved interpretation of the park and its environment.
- Improved quality of visit
- Will attract more people to the site.
- Multi sensory interpretation is much more accessible than standard text/pictures to people of all abilities and backgrounds.
- Will help the financial sustainability of the project and will enhance the café and cycle hire franchise businesses at the park by attracting more visitors.
- Will act as an orientation point for the discovery of the proposed Regional park

### Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

- Promotion of understanding of the following: -
  - Healthy lifestyles by encouraging walking and cycling and conservation volunteering,
  - Promoting sustainability by interpreting solar panels and reed bed systems,
  - Promoting understanding of wildlife and landscape
  - Encouraging sustainable enjoyment of the countryside

### Project delivery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

Yes

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?
Northamptonshire County Council

Are any partnership links established or proposed?
Yes already established Anglian Water, TOCH charity and the BTCV
Name of Project:
4 - Chester Farm Heritage Centre

Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)
The project is at the negotiations for the purchase of the site and buildings in preparation for its development as a Heritage Park. A feasibility study was carried out in 1996 as part of a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding. A copy of the bid documents is held by the Built and Natural environment service at County Hall.

The Heritage Park concept is based around using the site and buildings to interpret two thousand years of occupation. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument which contains the remains of a complete walled Roman Town, a Deserted Medieval Village (DMV), a medieval riverine landscape, an eighteenth century parkland and evidence of quarrying in the nineteenth century. The house is listed Grade II* and is of regional and national importance and is part of a group of farm buildings, some of which are listed Grade II in their own right.

The farm buildings form three distinct enclosed groups of buildings that can be used to represent the development of agriculture going back from the twentieth century to the nineteenth and eighteenth centuries, each leading from the other. The eighteenth century is also represented by the house and surrounding walled gardens and parkland. Passing through a gate in a wall to the north of this group, a medieval landscape is revealed and can be seen in conjunction with the DMV.

Aerial photos of the site have been used to show significant features of the site and, in particular, the roads and buildings of the Roman Town are visible through crop and parch marks.

Planning status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes - for change of use to Heritage Park</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Has permission been granted?
Yes – although this has now expired and a further application will need to be made

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?
Assuming the purchase of the site proceeds in 2004, Planning Permission should be achieved within 6 months

Land ownership

Who owns the land/buildings? Whitworth Holdings Ltd

Does the landowner consent to the proposals?
Yes – in principle although negotiations are under way over the price

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?
Yes, negotiations for purchase are under way and could be completed by the beginning of the 2004/5 financial year
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?  
For the purchase of the land and buildings between £750,000 and £1 million. In addition to this there will be capital costs to improve access to the site, for car parking, building maintenance and conversion for public use and the costs of interpretative material and public facilities.  
There will also be revenue costs for the management, running and maintenance of the Heritage Park |
| Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?  
Funding from ODPM for up to £1 million is currently being sought |
| What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)  
No agreements or commitments have been made to date but potential partners include: Heritage Lottery Fund, NCC, Borough Council of Wellingborough, private sector funding and voluntary groups such as the Northamptonshire Gardens Trust |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social and economic benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Social benefits include:  
new leisure, educational and recreational facility  
provides an opportunity for volunteering and meeting like-minded people  
an opportunity for developing interests  
opportunity for healthy activities and exercise |
| Economic benefits include:  
capital investment into the area  
opportunities for direct or indirect employment  
increased opportunities for leisure, recreational or tourism based activities  
increased tourism numbers and associated spend in the area |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project  
Protection of this unique combination of a Scheduled Ancient Monument and listed buildings through their use as a Heritage Park. This will provide assurances over the long term future and management of the site and buildings and provide public access that will stimulate interest and foster greater understanding of the need for conservation.  
The management of the site and buildings will allow best practice to be employed and act as an exemplar. It will also allow the site to be managed for the benefit of both the historic and the natural environment in a comprehensive and complementary manner. |
The benefits also extend to the use of the site and buildings for education and research, and be used as a base from which the surrounding landscape can be understood.

### Project delivery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?</th>
<th>Yes – but only in part, but only if funding is available immediately</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

The purchase of the site and buildings, boundaries defined and secured, planning permission secured, stakeholders and potential partners identified, improved access and car parking designed, building and site works identified and designed, interpretation needs identified and designed.

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

Skills are available to develop the Heritage Park concept, in partnership, and to secure the design of the access and parking infrastructure. However, without additional resources to either offset the staff time or to appoint dedicated project management, the Heritage Park could not be established. It is estimated that the project would require £60,000 project management fees over the two year period.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

NCC would probably need to set up a board or Trust, or deliver through a commercial partner.

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

Not present although the previous bid was supported by BCW, Northamptonshire Museums and the Northamptonshire Gardens Trust.
**Name of Project:**

5 - Ditchford Lakes and Meadows

**Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at):**

Site of former mineral workings (circa 1940s/50s) comprising lakes and grassland. Allocated for informal recreation in adopted Local Plan (1996). Development Brief adopted 1997 contained proposals to manage the land for public access, informal recreation and nature conservation purposes. After securing an appropriate management regime the proposal is to declare the land as a Local Nature Reserve. Most of the land is designated as a Country Wildlife Site.

Thus far, a 20-year Management Agreement has been entered into with the Wildlife Trust, a small car park provided, the site fenced to enable grazing animals to be accommodated, footpath creation and way-marking, and the provision of an interpretation panel. A long term problem had been the presence of traveller’s horses and the continued damage to gates and fencing to provide access to them. The horses have now been removed and work is ongoing at present to re-surface the car park, remove rubbish and abandoned vehicles, repair any recent damage and improve the footpath network. A new lease arrangement has been entered into with a local Fishing club with improved arrangements for their access and use of the site. A grazier has also been secured so that the site can begin to be managed appropriately.

A further phase is envisaged that entails securing further land to provide for an improved access and larger car park, nearer to the urban area of Rushden. A visitor centre or education facility is then planned as part of a Country Park type facility.

The site is immediately adjacent to Skew Bridge (permission for business, hotel and waterside recreation development). Pedestrian access to Rushden and Higham Ferrers will be improved as a result of that development and therefore benefit this site.

**Planning status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes (for car park buildings etc as part of next phase)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?</td>
<td>Dependant upon funds being secured for land purchase and upon progress with Skew Bridge scheme.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Land ownership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who owns the land/buildings?</th>
<th>East Northamptonshire Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?</td>
<td>Yes. Access track needs to be purchased from Anglian Water and site of demolished Water Purification Plan from Hardgate Properties of Thetford. Land purchase depends upon funds being secured for the 2005/6 financial year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Funding**

What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?

Previous costs have been £34,000 and current work will be a further £27,200. Costs of purchasing land and providing a building expected to exceed £100,000. Ongoing management costs not yet estimated.

Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?

ENC budget of £27,200 in 2004/5 financial year

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)

The site presently benefits from Countryside Stewardship grant aid.

Others – Aggregate Levy? Landfill Tax?

**Social and economic benefits**

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

Economic – improvement of setting for businesses wishing to locate to Skew Bridge development is expected to attract more prestigious occupiers and support the viability of that site. Ongoing management will provide small scale job opportunities in environment sector. Current improvement works providing employment for local building contractors. Employment of wardens and staffing of visitor/education facility in longer term.

Social – Public Access and interpretation facilities. Learning opportunities enhanced by provision of a built facility – aimed at school children but offering wider interpretation and learning possibilities.

**Environmental benefits**

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

Management of sites of county wildlife importance.
Protection and enhancement of biodiversity – e.g. present wildflowers/grasses, warblers, ducks and otters.
Beneficial use of urban fringe site as part of wider mixed use area (leisure, recreation, employment)

**Project delivery**

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?  
No

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

Stage one already underway and will deliver access, interpretation and management improvements in the short term.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project?</td>
<td>Need funding for visitor facility and land acquisition. Need dedicated specialist to take forward, either in-house or in partnership with other bodies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which organisation/company would deliver the project?</td>
<td>At present would be ENC led, with Wildlife Trust and possible private sector involvement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Are any partnership links established or proposed?                     | Wildlife Trust – management  
Stewardship funding - DEFRA                                                |
### Name of Project:

**6 - Earls Barton Carr**

### Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)

Earls Barton Carr is situated in the Earls Barton Ward but will provide benefits cross county and add a significant environmental asset to the regional park concept. The site sits within a key strategic location in relation to current and future ‘green infrastructure’ network (matrix) within the Northamptonshire and the MKSM Growth Area.

A key environmental site located between Northampton and Wellingborough stretch of the river Nene, the site is also linked to existing and proposed Earl’s Barton mineral extraction site. Is a significant parcel of land, excellent for wildlife, and with the extraction site could form a ‘natural’ core to a larger recreation or biodiversity network area. This would be considered a critical area of land holding within the Nene valley and provide public ownership of land within the RNRP area of scope.

To make this previously inaccessible county rare wet woodland available for publicly accessible for educational and leisure use linked to the RNRP.

To protect and enhance the habitat and species of floras and fauna on the site and provide a strategic link to future restoration sites to support principles of a ‘green grid’. To support the development of the River Nene Regional Park.

### Planning status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved? **N/A**

### Land ownership

Who owns the land/buildings? **Hanson Extraction Company Plc**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</th>
<th>Yes – Talks ongoing</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to the achieved?

**YES**

### Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?</th>
<th><strong>£55k</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom? **£5k NCC**

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)

**ALSF EN/CA funds**
**Social and economic benefits**

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

Important element of local green infrastructure, with educational value and links to local sites. Economic factors will be influenced by this local asset and linkage to Nene Way, local villages and parishes within Nene Valley.

**Environmental benefits**

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

Key BAP target, rare within the local Nene Valley landscape and Northamptonshire.

**Project delivery**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

All elements in place, discussions with landowners ongoing.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project? **NCC**

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

Support from NWT and Nene & Welland Valley Partnership
Name of Project:
7 - University College Northampton, Environmental Science: East Midlands Sustainable Information Network (EMSIN).
Contact Dr. Janet Jackson

Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)
The network will be a portal for knowledge transfer aimed at small and medium size businesses and those employed in the environmental sector. The network aims to provide clearly communicated information on the theme of sustainable development. This portal will focus on issues such as compliance with the EU Water Framework Directive and promoting good practice.

EMSIN will provide basic environmental information and will flag up opportunities for skill development and routes for education and life long learning within the East Midlands.

The network will employ three members of staff who will manage the web-based material, organise the network and run face-to-face meetings across the East Midlands and develop educational materials.

At present a proposal for emda funding has been written for the project. We are currently communicating with selected partners within the educational and business sectors along with local authorities and government agencies. The proposal is to be submitted to emda in March 2004.

Planning status
Is planning permission required | (N/A) | No
Has permission been granted? | (N/A) | No
When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?

Land ownership
Who owns the land/buildings?
The EMSIN network will be based at University College Northampton.

Does the landowner consent to the proposals? | (N/A) | No
Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?
No

Funding
What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?
£426,011 over a three year period

Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?

Funding is being sought from emda.

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)

As the network develops it is envisioned that opportunities for research projects and spin-off enterprises could be funded through public and private funding partnerships and sponsorships.

Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

EMSIN will be freely accessible and provide equal opportunity to access information and to engage in educational activities. The network will provide access to information that will encourage continued life-long learning. EMSIN will be designed to encourage information exchange, promote innovation and new technologies and will provide support to enable skill development.

Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

EMSIN is an initiative that promotes good practice for business that are required to comply with EU directives and regulations designed to improve and protect natural resources. The network will initially address issues of sustainable development within the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The WFD is essentially working toward sustainable water resource management within river catchments. The Directive includes: enhancement and protection of water courses, improvement in water quality of surface and groundwater, recognition of the importance of wetlands and the functions of these habitats in reducing water run-off, impact of pollution and reduction in the risk of flooding homes and businesses. WFD also recognises the need for a strategic plan in environmental management of river basins. Information available on EMSIN will also be applicable to local communities and those who wish to advise on best practice.

Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years? No - ongoing

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?
Yes – the project is expected to commence in 2004.

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

UCN has an excellent track record of delivering projects, educational, business and community support. Funding sources have included HEFCE, DEFRA, ESF and via the landfill tax credit scheme. UCN has quality assurance and control processes in place to minimise the risk to funders, and are committed to
delivering high quality added value projects. Projects are led by steering committees comprising of representatives of all stakeholder groups to ensure relevance and compliance with goals and objectives.

Additional resource may include access to ‘expert’ knowledge and public access facilities within the region to promote the network.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?
UCN and emda.

Are any partnership links established or proposed?
Partnerships have already been established through other projects run at UCN and staff are currently establishing support for this project.

Northamptonshire County Council and Loughborough University have supported the proposal.

Other partners being approach include:
Building Research Establishment (BRE)
Business Link
Chartered Institution of Waste Management
DEFRA
Department of Trade and Industry
English Partnerships
English Nature
Environment Agency
Life Long learning
Learning Skill Council
The House Builders Federation
Technology Transfer Initiative
Waste Resources Action Programme
Other HE and FE Educational Institutions
Name of Project:
8 - FWAG proposal for Northamptonshire Branch

Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)

Currently FWAG do not have a Farm Conservation adviser working in Northamptonshire. We are talking to partners such as Defra’s Rural Development Service and Northamptonshire County Council regarding the options for re-launching the advisory service in the county. We have received considerable support from agencies and farmers in the county and are now looking to the Nene Regional Park as a potential funding mechanism to enable us to employ an adviser.

This project seeks to secure funding in order that a project officer can be appointed for East Northamptonshire working primarily in the Nene Regional Park area delivering farm conservation advice to farmers and landowners. The project officer would be responsible for the following activities:

- To raise farmers and landowners awareness of environmental issues and biodiversity on their holding
- To encourage farmers to adopt best environmental practice on their farm
- To promote habitat creation, enhancement and conservation projects on farm holdings and provide ongoing support and advice to farmers
- To raise farmers and landowner’s awareness of agri-environment schemes and to assist them with quality applications that deliver significant environmental benefits in the region
- To promote concessionary access across farmland where appropriate
- To facilitate educational visits and other learning opportunities for school children and adults on farms

Once in post, it is proposed that the project officer would investigate the potential for setting up a concessionary access scheme on farmland that would provide additional incentives to farmers who are prepared to grant access on their holdings.

Although significant funding is sought from the ODPM in the short term, FWAG is confident from past experience that the post would become self-financing within three years. Furthermore, the post would lever significant funding from other sources such as Defra’s Environmental Stewardship Scheme that would be spent in Northamptonshire on improving the environment of the River Nene corridor.

Planning status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No ✓</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Has permission been granted?

| Yes | No ✓ |

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?

N/a

Land ownership

Who owns the land/buildings?

N/a
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No ✓</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Name of Project:
9 - Focus Northamptonshire

Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)

FOCUS NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Improving and Increasing Countryside Access and Tourism Throughout Rural Northamptonshire

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Focus Northamptonshire aims to develop an overarching tourism and recreation partnership for Northamptonshire with parishes, districts, the county council and other interested bodies. At the centre of the proposal is the requirement to develop a series of walking, heritage and canal leaflets as well as the economic necessity to revitalise the countryside following the foot and mouth crisis and “September 11”. However walks leaflets and interpretation will not be an end result in themselves. They will be the result of an exercise that provides a good quality all year round product that all can access and enjoy.

The main focus of the project will be based upon the audit, planning and development of new routes giving health, recreation and tourism opportunities for all providing new inputs into the local economy. Secondly, enhancements to the existing rights of way network will be made through

- Upgrading routes
- Linking with existing regional routes
- Links with the National Cycle Network
- Creation of circular routes
- Links between towns, villages and local services
- Infrastructure improvements
- Providing and market specific web site.
- Provision of interpretation, publicity and information.

There will be a number of benefits resulting from the scheme including

- Improved opportunities for people from both urban and rural communities to access and enjoy the countryside.
- Improved understanding of the countryside and the removal of barriers between rural and urban communities.
- The provision of the needs of the disabled, disadvantaged and socially excluded.
- Integration and creation of links between different modes of transport and access routes or destinations and where people live or are visiting, for example countryside parks, National Trust properties, rivers, canals, national regional or local trails and short circular walks.
- Integration of recreational transport services with the needs of rural communities to access services (i.e. fill a bus both ways.)
- Provision of marketing platforms for local businesses and enterprises.
- Provision of new opportunities for people to enjoy and access land.
- Provision of effective information to actively promote opportunities to appropriate target audiences.
- Demonstrate that provision based upon demand, following consultation with users works.
- Development of local participation in individual schemes through local “Discovery Days” to provide research and information.
• Provide people with a range of transport choices, which enable them to enjoy the countryside.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Aim

To improve opportunities for visiting, understanding and enjoyment of the Northamptonshire countryside, increasing the economic, social and travel prospects of local communities.

2.2 Objectives

• Increase use of existing transport resources.
• Create a network of routes of regional significance attracting visitors to the area.
• Create a variety of circular routes to cater for different user groups.
• Establish links between villages and the network to maximise local benefits.
• Promote links to existing visitor facilities.
• Undertake appropriate enhancement works to routes to ensure a quality resource by removing barriers and improving accessibility.
• Foster an increased understanding of the Northamptonshire countryside through a programme of interpretation and promotion to all sectors of the population.
• Develop closer working with local communities and increase a sense of local identity.

Planning status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Has permission been granted?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?

N/A

Land ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who owns the land/buildings?</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?

No

Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?</th>
<th>£100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?</th>
<th>NCC and Districts £20k</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)
The first two years of the project were funded by CA “Wider Welcome”
Environment Agency also support some factors of the project. Commercial sponsorship has been successful.

### Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

The project provides improved access to the countryside for all abilities of user including urban fringe links. Providing an improved sustainable transport infra structure for rural areas. The project also highlights rural businesses through interpretation and website [www.focusnorthamptonshire.org.uk](http://www.focusnorthamptonshire.org.uk) Theresby encouraging spend in the rural economy.

### Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project.

The project makes best use of existing resources whilst providing long term, managed improvements to the existing infra structure.

### Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?  Yes X No

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?  N/A

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

External artist, Transport resources, Interpretation Board preparation.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

NCC / ATKINS partnership

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

Yes districts, parishes, commercial links. British Waterways and Forest Enterprise.
**Name of Project:**
10 - Green Infrastructure Research Project (pilot)

**Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)**
A Green space strategy to put in place a robust mechanism to secure developer funding for each of the growth area towns by taking forward a defined green infrastructure strategy for Corby, Kettering, Northampton and Wellingborough, and to use this funding to provide pilot projects for future physical infrastructure on a defined phased basis as identified by the local green space Infrastructure Research project. This will provide both strategic and physical coordination to current and future green space needs within the target area which falls within the RNRP study area.

The project will provide the environmental and economic baseline to secure wider funding for the RNRP growth area towns and define a shared strategy for local green infrastructure, linking urban and rural areas. The project outputs will identify the strategic green network needs linking them on a regional, county and local level. It will identify current and future opportunities and enhance the local delivery of the RNRP, now and for the future. The pilot projects will also be developed within the two year programme to act as demonstrator projects (to be part funded by developers and private sector). This seed project will allow local access to developer's funds, address wider funding pressure, and access and deliver key targets as defined in the RNRP feasibility study findings.

The project will enhance existing green infrastructure strategies/proposals (cycle links, park plans/water front links) and will provide a new, innovative approach to ensure these are viable, deliverable and socially desirable infrastructure needs (RNRP, coordinate POS provision, integration of sports, recreation and environmental diversity, sustainable interpretation strategies, increased access for all, improved quality of life).

The project will integrate private sector (landowners, developers), with LPA,s and local delivery agencies to take forward this approach and delivery of on the ground pilot projects. The overarching vision for the RNRP will guide and enhance the approach adopted (community engagement, education, etc).

**Planning status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes (pilot sites)</th>
<th>No (strategy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?
Within first 10 months of project start (strategy completion)

**Land ownership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who owns the land/buildings?</th>
<th>Public and Private sector Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</td>
<td>Part</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to the achieved?
Limited land purchase expected on pilot site, however partners hold existing land banks.
## Funding

**What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?**

£120,000 (£70,000 – Research, £50,000+ private sector funding - Physical)

**Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?**

Yes - NCC £10,000

(LPAs would also fund additional Physical projects, further to assessment, private developer funding would also be targeted)

**What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)**

ALSF (EH/EN/CA), HLF funding programme for longer term projects, opportunity to enhance research findings with 106 agreements. Project offers significant longer term funding opportunities for both revenue and capital green infrastructure development.

Supports ODPM initial funding support for the RNRP.

## Social and economic benefits

**Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.**

High project outputs in first 10 months would define detailed funding opportunities for the growth areas and RNRP target projects. It would take forward initial bid submissions for HLF and ALSF funding within the RNRP area.

Outputs would also include defining the ability to access 106 funding on an area based approach as apposed to the current disjointed site to site assessment. This would be supported by a shared strategy framework to compliment the growth areas and the RNRP vision.

Green Infrastructure strategy at this level will have additional social and economic benefits, allowing direct access from community and economic sectors in taking forward the outputs from the project. Overall increase on Quality of Life opportunities and sustainability promotion within RNRP.

Enhanced economic process’s (planning) long and short term (quality of Life, Character and public access to well designed quality environments (social).

## Environmental benefits

**Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project**

Will provide national, county and local linkage for strategic approach to green infrastructure of the RNRP. The project study sites will balance urban and rural needs against economic and social pressures to evolve in a sustainable framework.

The project would act as an enabler to identify areas for enhancement, management or new green infrastructure. This would deliver an evolving strategy framework to enhance economic and social pressures for development whilst adopting a sustainable approach to local environmental assets.
In areas of environmental significance, this approach should provide linkage and local consultation for clear mitigation and environmental balance over continued development. This will enhance local quality, biodiversity and evolving land use management.

### Project delivery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No (Physical)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?**

Strategy will be in place within 10 months, physical delivery will be ongoing. Indicator or pilot projects will be taken forward within 10-12 months for delivery within 2 yrs. RNRP (ODPM) funding and act as best practice/demonstration projects within growth area in relation to approach, delivery or outputs.

**Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?**

YES - Part coordinated by RNRP project management team (PM), supported by RNRP partnership/stakeholders (ODPM/GOEM/EMRA/EMDA etc). Main project delivered by consultant basis to ensure speed, delivery and neutral approach to pilot area targets.

PR/Communications and wider stakeholder (general public, private sector etc) will be supported by the RNRP PM.

**Which organisation/company would deliver the project?**

Project Managed by RNRP Project Team (Lead Partner NCC)

**Are any partnership links established or proposed?**

All partnership/stakeholder links in place at County and Regional Level.
**Name of Project:**

11 - BTCV: Nene Valley Green Gym®  
*Project theme: Healthy Environment, Healthy People*

**Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)**

**Background**

The BTCV Green Gym® is a proven approach to creating healthy people and healthy places. The benefits of physical activity are well known, but gyms and sport centres do not appeal to everyone. ‘Working out’ in the open air by doing practical work for the local environment, is a way for people of all ages to keep healthy in body and mind.

The first Green Gym was established in 1997, and there are now over 50 Green Gyms running across the UK. The Green Gym programme has been subject to two independent evaluations by the Oxford Centre for Health Care Research and Development at Oxford Brookes University, looking at the range of health benefits to participants. The research has also shown that Green Gym activity opens up conservation volunteering to a new audience. Over 80% of participants had never previously taken part in any similar activity.

**The Nene Valley Green Gym**

This project would seek to involve people with health needs in a range of environmental and conservation activities, from taster days through to regular programmed conservation tasks. The audience will include people with poor physical health, poor mental health, a lack of motivation to get exercise, and people ‘at risk’ of poor health for whatever reason. Activities would be based on sites throughout the Nene Valley such as allotments, parks and open green spaces.

People from areas of deprivation in both urban and rural districts would be targeted. This will include the major towns of Northampton and Wellingborough, together with the communities of the smaller towns such as Rushden, Irthlingborough and Thrapston; and the residents of outlying villages, who are more likely to be at risk of isolation.

Green Gym taster days would be run to give an initial trial of the activity. This would offer 1-2 hour sessions on a ‘come & try’ basis.

As follow up to the trials, programmed Green Gym sessions would be organised at various locations in the areas chosen. This would enable individuals to take regular, meaningful and enjoyable exercise, in a structured and safe format. Sessions would last for 3-hours and involve a practical environmental task, and warm up and cool down activities.

BTCV undertakes individual self-assessments with participants and provides on-going support to the individual once on the Green Gym project, to ensure they gain the most benefit for their health, fitness and well being. Regular contact is also maintained with health professionals, to encourage referrals and report on project progress.

In addition to the above activities, people will be offered full day tasks and longer residential projects, to extend their volunteering experience and to build on their improved health, confidence and interest in the environment.
**Partnership working**

In order for Green Gyms to achieve their full potential, it is essential that partnerships with health professionals are built and maintained, including GP's and practice nurses, health clinics and hospital departments. Green Gym participants are referred onto the scheme by their health professional or can self refer.

There are currently no Green Gym's operating in Northamptonshire, although a number of local authorities, Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), organisations and potential user groups across the county have expressed an interest, including Northampton PCT and Northampton Healthy Living Centre. BTCV are working to develop relationships with these new partners and agencies, in order to establish opportunities for increasing physical activity and improve the health of Northamptonshire's residents.

**Planning status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>No</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved? **N/A**

**Land ownership**

Who owns the land/buildings?

As a community-focused organisation, that owns no land, BTCV has developed extensive relationships with land owners and site managers. BTCV already has wide spread contacts throughout the Nene Valley.

Activities would be based on a variety sites throughout the Nene Valley such as allotments, parks and open green spaces. These are likely to be owned by NCC or the local borough / district authorities. Other sites might include the grounds of community buildings, places of worship, schools etc.

Potential project sites would be identified in the early stages of the project, through consultation with local communities, partners and landowners. Permission to undertake practical projects would be sought before activities take place.

Does the landowner consent to the proposals? **SEE ABOVE**

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to the achieved? **NO**

**Funding**

What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?

£55k per annum

Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?

None secured
What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)

Future potential funders may include:

- Northampton PCT
- Northamptonshire Heartlands PCT
- NOF: Active Communities Fund
- Landfill Tax Credit Scheme (subject to Entrust approval of work sites)

Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

The natural environment has an important role to play as a means by which individuals and communities can be developed and lives enriched. Involvement in environmental activities provides opportunities to celebrate cultural diversity, improve health and wellbeing and increase aspirations.

Engaging with communities – The Nene Valley Green Gym will enable communities to articulate, raise and achieve their aspirations, through providing skills, knowledge and understanding to increase community involvement in practical activities. For example, through the planning and delivery of a community garden or undertaking training in conservation skills and project management. Individuals will also be involved in the local decision making process. For example through involvement in consultation activities and representing their communities at meetings and events.

A Green Gym will promote and support volunteering and community involvement for all, meeting the needs and concerns of local communities, and take into account the needs of future generations. For example, targeting specific Green Gym taster days to black and minority ethnic groups, day care centres, schools and youth organisations.

Through the involvement of a range of ages and abilities working together, projects strengthen community links and enable the sharing of knowledge, as well as bringing about greater understanding between different cultural, age and ability groups through practical activities.

Providing lifelong learning and educational opportunities – The Nene Valley Green Gym offers adults accessible and inclusive lifelong learning opportunities that will equip them to achieve their full potential, and contribute to their local communities. For example, achieving a practical task through a Green Gym activity may be an individuals first step back into learning; working towards a common goal with a group may by a first step back into community involvement. Green Gym activities can have a significant impact on improving lifestyles and employability.

Where young people are involved they benefit from an alternative learning experience outside of the classroom situation, offering opportunities for self expression, confidence building and developing a sense of ownership and pride in their local environment.

Physical health - The evaluation of Green Gym projects has proven that taking part in regular environmental activities can improve cardiovascular fitness, and therefore reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke. This, together with specific project activities such as food growing on allotments, promotes healthy eating and healthy living with individuals and groups that are considered ‘at risk’ and that traditional health promotion finds difficult to reach.
### Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

**Improving the environment** – The Nene Valley Green Gym will involve communities in developing a more sustainable living environment, through practical conservation, education, and promoting bio-diversity. A variety of sites throughout the Nene Valley will benefit from the increased community involvement in the improvement and management of natural assets of the valley, whilst promoting a raised awareness and a sense of ownership and pride in the local environment.

### Project delivery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?</td>
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</table>

**However, BTCV would be looking to a variety of sources for continuation funding beyond the 2-year life of the project, subject to the success of this initial stage of delivery.**

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

BTCV has been researching and developing the Green Gym concept for many years. The first Green Gym was established in 1997. Following the pilot and early Green Gym projects BTCV has gained significant experience in the specific project management skills required to run these particular projects which deliver a unique combination of health and environmental benefits.

BTCV has developed a detailed quality system which will be used in the establishment of the Nene Valley Green Gym, to ensure that the projects maintain the required level of standards expected for participants and funders. BTCV provides specific Green Gym leader training for staff, volunteers and outside organisations, accredited by the Open College Network, to ensure these quality standards are met, maintained and wherever possible - exceeded.

In securing funding, BTCV would look to fully resource a Green Gym project in the Nene Valley to achieve the desired project outputs and outcomes.

The longer-term aims of any Green Gym project, is to train community members in the delivery of the specific Green Gym activities, and establish small scale community-led Green Gyms. Green Gym community groups are subject to the same high quality standards through the BTCV ‘Group Review’ process, and receive ongoing support through BTCV’s Community Network scheme.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

BTCV - Green Gym® is a registered trademark of BTCV, and offers specialised activities and support to individuals wanting to improve their health and the health of their local environment.

Are any partnership links established or proposed?
This would be a significant new project, involving new activities and bringing together a variety of key strategic partners in cross boundary working, including:

- NCC and the borough / district authorities in the Nene Valley
- Primary Care Trusts
- GP’s, Health Clinic’s and other health professionals
- Northamptonshire Health Scrutiny Partnership
- Land owners and site managers

Existing national Green Gym partners include:

- Department for Health
- Countryside Agency

Existing local partnerships include:

- The Nene and Welland Valley Partnership
- Northamptonshire Environment Network
- Northamptonshire Voluntary Sector Learning Consortium
**Name of Project:**
12 - Irchester Country Park

**Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at):**
Country Park on the fringes of Wellingborough established in 1971 from a former ironstone quarry overlooking the Nene Valley. The park currently received around 300,000 visits a year. The exposed quarry face is a Regionally Important Geological site (RIGS). Many facilities at the park are in need of modernisation. The park is ideally situated to act as a major gateway and orientation point to the Nene Valley.

**Planning status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes for new building</th>
<th>No for rest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Has permission been granted? No

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved? 5 Months from indication of funding being secured.

**Land ownership**

Who owns the land/buildings? Northamptonshire County Council

Does the landowner consent to the proposals? Yes

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to the achieved? No

**Funding**

**Funding required for one or all of the following elements:**
- Development of a new visitor information centre/café and toilets in the form of a log cabin style building incorporating sustainable principals – using sustainability produced timber, using bio fuel and solar power heating, rain water recycling. **Cost £350,000**
- Development of an Ironstone Heritage Trail interpreting the history of the quarrying and the geological significance of the quarry using sculptural features, interpretation, seating, safe access into quarry RIGS site for study groups and a teachers pack. **Cost £18,000**
- E learning package for above **Cost £8000**
- Interpretation of the countryside recreation and environmental opportunities provided by the surrounding countryside and potential regional park. **Cost £ 8000**

Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom? Contribution in kind from NCC interpretation officer @ £140/day.
What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)
- Clear Skies grant for solar and bio fuel
- Possible County Council capital funding contribution towards capital costs

### Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

- The project currently receives around 300,000 visits a year.
- This would provide new business franchise opportunity for the café.
- Visitor numbers likely to increase by 15%
- Currently very limited provision of interpretation explaining the park and its environment.
- Access to schools, groups and colleges to RIGS site
- Interpretation will greatly increase the quality of visit
- Will provide access and interpretation to a regionally important geological site
- Will act as an orientation point for the access and discovery of the proposed Regional park

### Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

- Promotion of understanding of the following: -
  - Healthy lifestyles by encouraging walking and cycling and conservation volunteering,
  - Promoting sustainability by interpreting solar panels and bio fuel systems,
  - Promoting understanding of wildlife and landscape
  - Encouraging sustainable enjoyment of the Nene Valley countryside

### Project delivery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

- Yes

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

- Northamptonshire County Council

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

- Irchester Ironstone Railway museum, BTCV, Irchester Tree Nursery group
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Project :</th>
<th>13 - Kingfisher Lodge Education Project</th>
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</table>
| **Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)** | Creation of a fully accessible environmental education study room at Barnwell Country Park as a base for delivering a range of environmental activity packages for schools and groups. Construction due to start March 22nd and complete June 2004.
At present no funding secured for furniture, equipment and the design of additional activity packages |
| **Planning status** |  |
| Is planning permission required | No |
| Has permission been granted? | na No |
| When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved? |  |
| **Land ownership** |  |
| Who owns the land/buildings? | Northamptonshire County Council |
| Does the landowner consent to the proposals? | Yes |
| Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved? | No |
| **Funding** |  |
| What is the approximate estimated cost of the project? | Construction of building = £73,719 (already secured from Corey environmental, Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund and NCC) |
| Equipment and furniture for which funding needed: - | 10x lightweight folding tables @ £92.15 = £921.50  
40x stacking chairs @ £78.57 = £314.28  
Microscopes, nets, binoculars and equipment = £1000  
Design of 3 additional activity packages 10 days @ £240/day = £2400  
Design of E-learning package = £7000 |
| Total required = £11635 |  |
| Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom? | No |
| What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list) |  |
Only income from visiting groups

### Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

- Delivery of environmental education packages relating to Nene Valley Countryside and with strong recycling messages to a minimum of 60 groups per year (2000) people.
- E learning package available to all schools
- Employment opportunities for part time education Ranger posts to deliver activities

### Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

- Activity packages to contain strong recycling messages and to be run to sustainable principles.

### Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years? Yes

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

Have necessary skills and resources to commission work

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

Northamptonshire County Council

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

Links established with Oundle WATCH group for young naturalists, East Northamptonshire District Council and the Rotary Club for Oundle

Partnerships will be created with the East Midlands Broad Band Consortium (EmbC) and NIAS ICT team and local schools.
### Name of Project:

14 - Kingsthorpe Local Nature Reserve extension

### Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)

The purchase of an area of land north of the existing Martin's Yard business site and south of the Kingsthorpe Local Nature Reserve (see plan attached). It is proposed that the site be acquired, set up and managed as an extension to the nature reserve. Funding would therefore be required to purchase the site, prepare it as a Local Nature Reserve and to contribute to the management of the site.

This will provide additional benefits to Borough residents and visitors because local nature reserves offer both leisure and educational facilities. It will assist in the increased appreciation, education and enjoyment of nature conservation value of such sites. In securing the site for an extended Local Nature Reserve, the Government’s aspirations for biodiversity will be complied with.

### Planning status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>X</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved? Not applicable

### Land ownership

Who owns the land/buildings?

Henry Martin Limited

Does the landowner consent to the proposals? Yes X No

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?

Yes. The owners are intending to submit a planning application for the extension of their business operations and have already submitted a planning statement to support the application. The statement includes the owner’s proposal to offer the site for purchase.

### Funding

What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?

£25,000 – this will include:

- the cost of purchasing the site
- the cost of setting up the site as a Local Nature Reserve. This would include creating an access from the Kingsthorpe LNR (estimate £7,000), access furniture such as field gates, access ramps and fencing (estimate £2,000), interpretation panel/leaflet (estimate £1,600) and the engineering works required to improve the hydrological condition of the site and to remove willow herb where necessary (estimate £1,000 for 4 day digger hire)
- the ongoing management to improve site condition to include mowing and weed control, grazing, access maintenance and survey and monitoring
Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?
No

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)
None

Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

This project is aimed at purchasing the site with a view to extending the Kingsthorpe Local Nature Reserve southwards and managing the site for nature conservation purposes.

In achieving the above, the following benefits will be gained:

- There are currently 5 local nature reserves in the borough, including the Kingsthorpe LNR. Its extension will ensure that additional facilities will be available for members of the public to enjoy
- LNRs are predominantly used for educational purposes in terms of teaching people about the benefits of nature conservation and the value of the nature reserve
- It will secure the protection of species of biological interest including plants and other animals
- It will ensure that the site will be improved and enhanced for nature conservation value whilst maintaining public access and enjoyment of the land

Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

The management of the site as a Local Nature Reserve will protect and enhance the biodiversity and nature conservation value for the benefit of current and future generations. The preservation and enhancement of this site will also ensure that such environmentally related uses will continue in the midst of increasing pressure for more housing and business development

Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?
Yes
No

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?
Not applicable

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need? Yes

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?
Northampton Borough Council and the Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust have had an established working relationship for many years with the primary aim of improving the environment and wildlife diversity and value in the Borough.
### Name of Project:

15 - Kirby Hall – Great Garden Restoration

### Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)

The Great Garden and surrounding landscape at Kirby Hall was partially restored in early 1993 with the layout of a cutwork parterre based on a pattern from Longleat House reflecting a period of 1690’s. This ongoing project aims to complete the restoration that was never finished due to lack of funding. Its key objective is to create a fine example, unique in England, of a restored 1690s parterre garden.

Since its implementation, further research has been undertaken as to the correct species and forms of topiary to be displayed in oak tubs on the Great Garden and species for planting elsewhere on the estate.

To date, renovation of the parterre, tubs, and acquisition of the topiary has taken place mainly during 2003/04.

Further works proposed to the great Garden and surrounding include:

**Provision of Stone urns on the Great Garden**

Permission has very recently been given by the owner of the former Estate Manager’s house to borrow three original carved stone urns for restoration and to enable moulds to be taken. It is then proposed to cast the urns and display in the Great Garden. Research will be needed to determine the correct form of base and socle for each of the urns. The plan allows for four large urns, and a further 16 smaller urns. The security of the urns would also be allowed for in their provision.

**Provision of Statuary**

Four new statues, each of a single life-size figure, are a leading feature in the restoration. Range of options for the provision of statues is ongoing, but historical evidence exists of both site specific, and period correct for the type and form the statues would take. The security of the statues would also be allowed for in their provision.

**Reprofiling of a Garden Mount**

The Mount is on the site of the old Kirby Church. Its stepped pyramidal form identified from archaeological excavations has been lost. It is proposed to reprofile the Mount to its original form as it was in the 1690s.

**Provision of Steps and Niches**

The positions of two sets of steps and niches within the Great Garden have been identified from archaeology. Appropriate stone steps, and niches constructed from archaeological evidence from other gardens of the same period are to be provided. Steps will enable an improved visitor circulation route around the garden. This would also include the provision of a ramped path up to, and the levelling and reinforcing of the existing areas on the surrounding terraces, to enable disabled visitors to access the upper banks to enable an elevated view of the Great Garden.

**Replanting of North Border**

A small border runs along one side of the Great Garden. This contains period correct varieties of top fruit. A low Box hedge surrounds the remaining beds. It is proposed to plant period correct species of plants documented in Sir Christopher Hatton’s correspondence of the time.

**Excavation of Stream Course**

The current stream course is not fully on the line of the 1690’s garden, but was later re-dug to its present course. It is not possible to re-dig the stream to its original course, but it is proposed to excavate the stream.
to an improved profile to improve water flow along its length. Additionally, there is an old sluice along the stream course that requires investigation, and possible reinstatement.

**Tree Planting**

Historically accurate positions of tree avenues from the 1690s have been identified. These would be planted with the correct species as detailed by the archives. In the wider landscape some structural planting to indicate the framework of the Wilderness, with its long axis stretching southwards from the Great Garden.

**Exhibition and Interpretation**

The current gardens exhibition, along with audio tour and guide book would require replacing with up to date information to reflect the current and proposed changes on the site.

### Planning status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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</table>

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?

### Land ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who owns the land/buildings? Kirby Hall is owned by the Winchilsea Estate. English Heritage has full Guardianship over the property and grounds, and is able to undertake all works necessary without consent of the owner.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the landowner consent to the proposals? Yes The Winchilsea Estate are supportive of the development works at Kirby Hall</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved? No

### Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?</th>
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<tr>
<td>£492,000</td>
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</table>

Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?  
EH has spent £35,000 working towards the project during 2002/03 and 2003/04.  
Budgets for 2004/05 have allocated £15,000 in total for Kirby Hall.

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)
It is anticipated that a bid to the Heritage Lottery fund may be made to assist with the project.

It may be possible to obtain additional funding from Catalyst Corby.

Funding may be possible from corporate sponsorship.

### Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

Kirby Hall currently attracts 10-12,000 visitors per annum. It is on the outskirts of Corby and borders the proposed Priors Hall development that is part of the Catalyst Corby Urban Regeneration Project. This proposal could potentially deliver 9,300 homes.

Kirby Hall is already an important site for the delivery of Key Stage education through school visits provided free by English Heritage.

English Heritage is committed to the expansion of its Education portfolio. The audio tours available on site, guide books, EH website and teacher noted would all be updated as part of the project. Additionally, the current Gardens Exhibition would be reconfigured and improved to take account of the changes on the site.

### Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project.

EH has its own environmental policy regarding specification of materials and delivery of services. All materials would be obtained from sustainable sources.

The full implementation of the project will assist present and future generations of visitors to gain a better understanding of the history and its context within the period displayed, Kirby Hall’s importance and role locally, and the importance of its various owners.

Provision of new trees, hedges and plants, along with the improvement of the stream course should provide for enhanced wildlife habitats within the site. The site is also used for Pipistrelle bats, and the Red Kites from nearby Rockingham Forest use Kirby Hall and beyond as part of their haunts.

### Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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</table>

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

EH has a full complement of professionals who would be involved in the aspects of the project relevant to their discipline. We also have a bank of contractors who have the capabilities of delivering the standards of work expected for this project.
<table>
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<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Which organisation/company would deliver the project?</td>
<td>English Heritage would project manage using appropriate skilled contractors employed through our Best Value tendering process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are any partnership links established or proposed?</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Name of Project:

16 - Limestone Grassland Recreation Project

Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)

The Wildlife Trust owns or manages six nature reserves on the oolitic limestone to the west of Peterborough; Collyweston Quarries, Old Sulehay Forest and Quarry, Southorpe Meadow, Southorpe Paddock, Yarwell Dingle and Wansford Pasture, five of which are Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The flora of these sites is generally very diverse, and supports a range of species, which are rare or uncommon within the region, and a number of nationally rare species.

The Wildlife Trust's development plan recognises the unique interest of this limestone area and has identified it as a core area to concentrate the establishment of nature reserves and for co-ordination with the owners of existing Wildlife Sites.

Over the past three years, the Wildlife Trust has added to its land holding in this area and employed a limestone grassland project officer to upgrade access, information and habitat management on these sites. Links have been forged with local communities around the nature reserves, including neighbouring landowners, to explain the importance of conserving these beautiful areas and to encourage sympathetic management of adjacent land.

The first phase of the project will shortly come to a close, but the Trust is keen to build on the momentum generated, providing further opportunities for the large pool of volunteers to get involved in management work and monitoring. A focus of the current project has been restoring former arable land and degraded pasture into species rich limestone grassland, using cutting-edge techniques, such as green hay distribution. Much of this work is still in its infancy and further input is required in order to establish these flower-filled meadows. The Trust would like to employ a new Limestone Grassland Project Officer (the current Officer is leaving at the end of May) to take forward this exciting project.

The second phase of the project will build upon the success of the first three years. Working closely with the Trust's Reserves Manager and Conservation Officer work will continue to upgrade and manage access and habitats present, while continuing to develop links with neighbouring landowners and owners of Wildlife Sites in the area. Interpretation will be produced to encourage members of public from across the region to visit these beautiful sites. The volunteer team will provide support to the Project Officer for managing nature reserves. Volunteers will be provided with internal and external training in a range of skills and techniques, which, where appropriate, improve their employment prospects. Support will be given to the Limestone Grassland Ecology Group, which will monitor these sites and help direct the management undertaken by the Project Officer.

The Conservation Officer will commit time to giving conservation advice to landowners in this area, to make sure remaining pockets of valuable habitat are managed in a way that promotes and conserves their wildlife interest. The Conservation Officer will ensure appropriate action is taken to integrate biodiversity into relevant development occurring in the area. This project aims to enhance the green infrastructure of Northamptonshire, which would otherwise be increasingly pressurised due to the unprecedented development planned for the county.

Planning status

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<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>No</th>
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<td>Yes</td>
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</table>
When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land ownership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who owns the land/buildings?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collyweston: Owned by Easton-on-the-hill Parish Council and Burghley Estates and leased by the Wildlife Trust.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Sulehay: Owned by the Wildlife Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarwell Dingle: Owned by the Wildlife Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?</td>
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<th>Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• DEFRA’s Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund, through English Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Local companies have supported work in this area in the past</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social and economic benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Trust will help lift community spirit and develop social cohesion, by providing opportunities to get involved in improving the local environment, which has a positive impact on quality of life. Visitors from outside the local community will use local services thus helping to sustain the local economy. As green space dwindles elsewhere in the county, more and more people will value this area as a wonderful place to visit. This project will provide one permanent job, whilst improving the employability of people looking for work in the environmental sector, by helping them gain skills and experience, through volunteering and getting involved in the ecology group.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Name of Project:
17 - Martin Moore Community Woodland

Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)
Martin Moore Manufacturing Ltd., The International Tree Foundation (ITF) and Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) have identified a 7.5 ha site (subject to final agreements) in Boughton in which to create a new community woodland. The site currently consists of two agricultural fields surrounded by hedgerows. The area is situated on the Brampton tributary of the River Nene, with a gentle westerly facing slope. The northernmost edge of Northampton is situated to the south of the site and this connects to the surrounding countryside by the busy A5199 which runs past the south-west corner of the site. The Brampton Valley Way, which is popular with walkers and cyclists (part of the National Cycle Route), runs along the western boundary of the site. A strip of land, owned by Quantum, runs in between these two areas. Quantum plan to build a nursing home on this area of land. Boughton Lane is situated along the sites southern boundary and connects via a junction to the busy A5199. The site is enclosed by agricultural land to the north and to the east. A public right of way follows the northern boundary of the site. A pond is also situated to the south east of the north field, which is enclosed by several trees and scrub.

The Built and Natural Environment Service within NCC have created design proposals for the woodland site and is currently carrying out internal consultation with other NCC departments, namely Countryside and Tourism, Property Services and Highways in order to establish a confirmed agreement between the three principle partners.

Planning status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No – Planning permission is not required but consultation is currently being carried out with internal NCC departments and will also have to be carried out with external agencies. Their agreement will be required in order to proceed.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?

Land ownership

Who owns the land/buildings?
Northamptonshire County Council owns the land but it is currently being managed under a tenancy agreement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</th>
<th>Yes – NCC Property Services agree to the creation of new woodland at this site but negotiations may alter the shape and size of the design plan.</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?
If the tenancy agreement has to be broken in order to proceed with establishment of the woodland then the farmer will need to be compensated (£3-400 per acre estimate). Property services are confident that an agreement can be reached through negotiation.

**Funding**

What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?

Creation of surfaced car park (capacity 25) - £30,000  
2 gates with height bars - £8,000  
Hedgerow improvement - £4,000  
Interpretation board - £3,000  
Update of Brampton Valley Way leaflet - £3,000  
Signage - £800  
Seating - £2500  

Total estimated cost: £51,300

Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?

Martin Moore Manufacturing Ltd. have made an upfront donation to ITF of £250 to establish the partnership. ITF will transfer £200 to NCC to go towards the inaugural planting of the woodland, whilst the remaining £50 will be kept by ITF for research and administration costs.

Martin Moore Manufacturing Ltd. will be informed that £12.50 will ‘purchase’ a tree in the woodland. NCC will plant a tree for a specified percentage of this amount which will also cover maintenance costs for a seven year period.

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)

The following funding streams could potentially be used:  
- New opportunities fund – through the local parish council  
- Local Heritage Initiative – links to railway and native woodland

**Social and economic benefits**

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

The land immediately to the south of Boughton Lane has been recommended for housing development in Northampton Borough Council’s Current Local Plan. This woodland therefore has the potential to become an important greenspace as part of any future development.

It is hoped that the area will provide a tranquil woodland walk allowing visitors to get close to wildlife. The site will have several rides, which will enable easy passage to several open areas of grassland. The site will be open access to the public for walking and dog walking. Its location will also provide an ideal stop off point for people using the Brampton Valley Way.

A car park is currently located on the southern side of Boughton Lane. This location is considered to be
unsuitable in terms of safety as users would have to cross Boughton Lane, close to the busy junction with the A5199 in order to gain access to the new woodland.

It is hoped that a community group can be set up to oversee the management of the site once the woodland becomes established after the seven year management regime funded by Martin Moore. The woodland will provide a recreational resource and by involving local people can also bring benefits through responsibility and feeling of ownership.

Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

The aim of the woodland is to create a woodland habitat that can be enjoyed by the local community and to provide an area of high biodiversity to ensure that it fits into the remit of the Northamptonshire County Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

In order to increase biodiversity value within the site, only native species are to be planted and different areas of the site will be set aside for different habitat types such as wildflower grasslands and scrubland. This will ensure that a wide range of diversity will be present within this area. Correct management of the area once it has been established will be essential to maintain a high level of diversity. The woodland will contribute to Northamptonshire’s lowland and mixed woodland BAP target of creating 500ha of new native woodland by 2010.

To reflect the landscape character of the surrounding area the design should enable the woodland to look as natural as possible to imitate natural processes. The shape of the site ensures that the woodland fits into the landscape and links to the Brampton Valley Way corridor. Careful design of the woodland by incorporating margins, rides and glades will ensure that it blends into the surrounding landscape. The glades and rides will create a diverse range of habitat types.

The woodland will contribute to sustainability through direct funding for its design and maintenance through a private company that uses wood in its manufacturing. Its long term management will also be developed so that it incorporates a strong sense of community involvement. A draft management plan has been produced by NCC and will be circulated to other partners and external agencies for comment.

Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years? Yes No – It is not anticipated that enough kitchens will be sold to fill the entire site in 2 years

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

It is anticipated that the following aspects will be implemented:

- A formal agreement between NCC, ITF and Martin Moore Manufacturing Ltd.
- Inaugural planting
- A second planting session (Martin Moore sells approximately 4 kitchens a week therefore, a total of approximately 200 trees will be available for planting each year)
- Completion of the car park
- Completion of interpretation boards
- Installation of gates, seating and signage
Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

ITF are currently administrators for a number of tree planting schemes throughout the UK one of which is the Homeopathy Woodland at Sywell Country Park in Northamptonshire.

NCC has a number of options for planting and maintenance of the new woodland. The Built and Natural Environment Service has current Service Level Agreements with the Wildlife Trust and BTCV who could potentially be contracted to carry out planting and maintenance of the woodland. The Countryside and Tourism Service has a team of rangers who could be used to carry out necessary works. Or alternatively, a private company could be contracted to carry out works. Each of these options will be explored further once agreement has been reached between NCC, ITF and Martin Moore Manufacturing Ltd. regarding the size and detail of the woodland.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

ITF will act as administrators of the scheme after the launch, transmitting accrued funds to NCC twice yearly.

NCC will be responsible for planting and maintenance of trees. The monies transferred to NCC will cover the cost of weeding, watering, staking, or other such maintenance as the trees will require.

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

A strong partnership has already been established between NCC, ITF and Martin Moore Manufacturing Ltd. and a memorandum of understanding will be signed once internal NCC consultation has been completed.

Consultation will be carried out with the necessary service providers and appropriate external organisations such as the Wildlife Trust and Boughton Parish Council.
Name of Project:
18 - Nene Way Access and Ise Valley Project

Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)
This project in its first year of development.

Summary
Created as a long distance path through Northamptonshire and then on to the sea, the impetus for the development of this important project, both as a recreational corridor and inter-urban communications route was never maintained. Fifteen years of under-funding, limited management and a fragmented strategy have elapsed, which now provide the opportunities to look at the benefits and possibilities afresh.

History
During 1988 – 89 a desk-top exercise was carried out to produce the Nene Way by the Countryside section of the County Council. This resulted, broadly, in what we now see on the ground. The route has some 700 pieces of furniture, an unknown (12+) permissive agreements and a minimum of 10 major road crossings and numerous anomalous mapping issues.

Project Aims and Objective
The aims are three fold:
To identify users and zones of use.
To consider and plan appropriate works following consultation
Carry out work to improve the county route, publicise and monitor to provide continuous development.
The objective is provide a core “backbone” route to the 3,000 kms of rights of way network in the county of Northamptonshire and into Peterborough and Cambridgeshire from which can be developed an integrated sustainable transport network.

Planning status

| Is planning permission required | Yes | No | X |
| Has permission been granted? | Yes | No | N/A |
When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved? N/A

Land ownership

Who owns the land/buildings? various

| Does the landowner consent to the proposals? | Yes | No |
Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to the achieved?

Landowner consent is always obtained when works required, however we do have statutory rights to carry out works on the highway.

Funding

What is the approximate estimated cost of the project? £100,000
Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?
£25k internal (or 25%)

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)
Aggregates Levy Funding
Environment Agency
Cycle Fund
Wider Welcome
District Councils

Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.
The intention is to provide adaptable, diverse and multi-functional bridges between town and country along the length of the Nene. This access provides opportunities for health, recreation, sport and education in this long overlooked region of varied countryside and habitats. In so doing the project will support local businesses (pubs, village and farm shops, marinas) and other local businesses along the 77 mile route. It will develop and improve existing facilities and create new opportunities for access including cycling, walking, riding, fishing access and canoe launching.
Leisure day walking trips to the countryside produce an expenditure of £5.15 (1) per trip and tourist trips that include short walks produce an expenditure of £49 (2).

1) UK Visits Survey 1996
2) UK Tourism Survey 2001

Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

The long term management of the route through partnership with active NGO’s and GO’s will provide planning and zoning of the route to provide benefits to wildlife and public alike through improved habitat and traffic management.

Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?  YesX  No

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

Yes

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?
NCC / Atkins partnership
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Are any partnership links established or proposed?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Waterways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Councils</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Name of Project:**

19 - NENE CONSERVATION CENTRE - A Focus for Volunteering and Networking in the Nene Valley

**Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)**

**Project Concept:**

This project envisages a ‘volunteering centre’ for the residents of the Nene Valley to find out more about opportunities that exist for the social, economic and environmental benefit of the valley and how they can get involved. Any such centre need not be a new building, but make use of existing buildings such as a country park visitors centre, or at the new Stanwick Lakes project.

Any central office space would provide a base for all projects working to benefit the Nene Valley, BTCV’s and/or others, providing opportunities to promote better understanding, networking and creative thinking.

Commitment from the agencies and organisations concerned to work together in such a way would be a major step forward in promoting partnership working in the Nene Valley, and across Northamptonshire as a whole.

**Planning status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Possibly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Land ownership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who owns the land/buildings?</th>
<th>Unknown at this stage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</td>
<td>SEE ABOVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to the achieved?</td>
<td>Unlikely</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funding**

| What is the approximate estimated cost of the project? | Unknown – research would be needed in to similar projects. |
| Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom? | None – would be part of a feasibility study |
| What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list) | None |
### Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

The concept of the project is to provide a central point of contact for communities to find out more about how they can get involved in the development and long-term management of the new Regional Park. Building capacity in the local community will be essential to ensure the full engagement and on-going momentum of local people.

The natural environment has an important role to play as a means by which individuals and communities can be developed and lives enriched. Involvement in environmental activities provides opportunities to celebrate cultural diversity, improve health and wellbeing and increase aspirations.

**Engaging with local people and their communities:**

The engagement and involvement of local people in conservation activities offers accessible and inclusive lifelong learning opportunities that will equip them to achieve their full potential, and contribute to their local communities. Practical conservation activities can have a significant impact on improving lifestyles and employability.

Where the young people are involved, they benefit from an alternative learning experience outside of the classroom situation, offering opportunities for self expression, confidence building and developing a sense of ownership and pride in their local environment. It also helps highlight to local communities the benefit and positive contribution that can be made by this often mis-understood group.

Through the involvement of a range of ages and abilities working together, projects strengthen community links and enable the sharing of knowledge, as well as bringing about greater understanding between different cultural, age and ability groups through practical activities.

**Economic benefits:**

The potential social, economic and environmental benefits of ‘engagement’ in the Nene Valley Regional Park are only confined by the imaginations of those working towards the development of the concept.

Innovative projects and news ways of working can be explored by bringing a range of people, backgrounds, skills and experiences together to work towards a common vision and goal – as yet to be decided.

### Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

**Improving the environment** – The Nene Valley Regional Park will provide a valuable ‘green belt’ area, for a mixture of deprived urban communities living cheek by jowl with underused urban fringe farmland, mis-used open spaces and rural Northamptonshire countryside. It is also home to a variety of important bird and mammal populations, and offers considerable opportunities for habitat restoration and creation, whilst encouraging the local communities to view the natural environment as an asset.

Through the involvement of local people and communities in the planning, delivery and management of activities in their local area, the longer-term future and appreciation of the Regional Park will become second nature to its residents and visitors.
## Project delivery

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?</td>
<td>Unlikely</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years? | **A feasibility study**
| Initial networking and partnership building of local agencies and organisations
| Initial capacity building in the local community                          |              |
| Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need? | BTCV are not suggesting they lead on this project idea, but would be open to providing advice and support to the lead agency and local communities. |
| Which organisation/company would deliver the project?                   | A lead organisation or partnership arrangement would need to be established. |
| This is entirely an idea to be investigated and developed at this stage. |              |
| Are any partnership links established or proposed?                      | YES          |
| • The ‘governing body’ of the new Nene Valley Regional Park              |              |
| • Northamptonshire County Council                                       |              |
| • Borough / district authorities in the Nene Valley                     |              |
| • Land owners and site managers                                         |              |
| • Interested agencies and organisations within the Nene Valley Regional Park and its ‘sphere of influence’. |              |
| Existing local partnerships include:                                    |              |
| • The Nene and Welland Valley Partnership                               |              |
| • Northamptonshire Environment Network                                  |              |
**Name of Project:**

20 - BTCV: NATURE BaNC (Biodiversity in the Nene Catchment)

**Project theme:** Communities and Wildlife

**Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)**

**Background**

The Nature BaNC Project builds on BTCV's successful ALSF (Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund - CoAg) project, delivered in the Nene Valley over the past year, and BTCV's SEED (Social, Economic and Environmental Development Programme – NOF) project in Northampton town. BTCV have been working with local communities to identify 'projects on their doorstep' contributing to Northamptonshire's Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Nene Valley is a valuable 'green belt' area, with a mixture of deprived urban communities living cheek by jowl with underused urban fringe farmland, mis-used open spaces and rural Northamptonshire countryside. It is also home to a variety of important bird and mammal populations, and offers considerable opportunities for habitat restoration and creation, whilst encouraging the local communities to view the natural environment as an asset.

**Nature BaNC**

The Nature BaNC Project will involve local people, adults and children, in improving and managing sites in the Nene Valley for both wildlife and people. We will be working on sites identified by partners and the local community such as Pocket Parks, LNR's and other open green spaces, recruiting local volunteers, and giving them the support and training they need to survey, improve and manage sites. The project also will help and support groups to identify and apply for additional funding they need to undertake practical work.

**Promoting bio-diversity in the community**

BTCV is an active partner in the delivery of Biodiversity Action Plan targets in Northamptonshire and across the UK. We are keen to encourage the involvement of a wide range of people and organisations from all sectors – not just environmentalists. For many, the term 'bio-diversity' is yet to be translated into words that are meaningful to them and actions that they can get involved with, this project would seek to address this. Funding would enable us deliver:

- A programme of practical conservation projects contributing directly to Northamptonshire’s Biodiversity Action Plans;
- A series of innovative training workshops, nationally accredited through the Learning and Skills Council, to increase the skills of individuals;
- A high profile publicity campaign of roving displays, newsletters and themed publicity events will ensure the involvement of people of all abilities on projects to improve important sites at the heart of their communities.

**Training**

BTCV has entered into a national partnership with Broxtowe College (Nottingham), establishing The BTCV Institute as a national educational institute with the status of a FE College, funded by the national Learning and Skills Council.
BTCV is currently able to offer structured long and short courses, one-to-one coaching and hands-on learning in over 200 courses. Topics covered are diverse and include practical conservation skills, such as ‘Wetland Management’, ‘Tree Planting’, ‘Wildflower Identification’ and ‘Hedgerow Surveying’; to a range of project planning and administration skills such as ‘Leadership’, ‘Health & Safety’, ‘Involving Your Community’ and ‘Project Promotion’.

New courses can be written at any time to meet the needs of volunteers, promoting the long-term sustainability of projects and groups.

**Planning status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Land ownership**

Who owns the land/buildings?

As a community-focused organisation, that owns no land, BTCV has developed extensive relationships with land owners and site managers. BTCV already has wide spread contacts throughout the Nene Valley.

Activities would be based on a variety sites throughout the Nene Valley such as country parks, pocket parks, LNR’s and open green spaces. These are likely to be owned by NCC or the local borough / district authorities. Other sites might include the grounds of community buildings, places of worship, schools, allotments, village greens etc.

Potential project sites would be identified in the early stages of the project, through consultation with local communities, partners and landowners. Permission to undertake practical projects would be sought before activities take place.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</th>
<th>SEE ABOVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to the achieved?

**NO**

**Funding**

What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?

£45k per annum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?</th>
<th>None secured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)

Potential funders may include:
- The Countryside Agency – Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (future bidding rounds)
- Landfill Tax Credit Scheme (subject to Entrust approval of work sites)

Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

The natural environment has an important role to play as a means by which individuals and communities can be developed and lives enriched. Involvement in environmental activities provides opportunities to celebrate cultural diversity, improve health and wellbeing and increase aspirations.

Engaging with communities – The Nature BaNC project will enable communities to articulate, raise and achieve their aspirations, through providing skills, knowledge and understanding to increase community involvement in practical conservation activities. For example, through the planning of planting schemes in a pocket park or undertaking training in conservation skills and project management. Individuals will also be involved in the local decision making process. For example through involvement in consultation activities and representing their communities at meetings and events.

The Nature BaNC project will promote and support volunteering and community involvement for all, meeting the needs and concerns of local communities, and take into account the needs of future generations. For example, targeting specific activity days to black and minority ethnic groups, day care centres, schools and youth organisations.

Through the involvement of a range of ages and abilities working together, projects strengthen community links and enable the sharing of knowledge, as well as bringing about greater understanding between different cultural, age and ability groups through practical activities.

Providing lifelong learning and educational opportunities – The Nature BaNC project offers adults accessible and inclusive lifelong learning opportunities that will equip them to achieve their full potential, and contribute to their local communities. For example, completing a BTCV Institute training course in a practical task may be an individuals first step back into learning; working towards a common goal with a group may by a first step back into community involvement. Practical conservation activities can have a significant impact on improving lifestyles and employability.

Where young people are involved they benefit from an alternative learning experience outside of the classroom situation, offering opportunities for self expression, confidence building and developing a sense of ownership and pride in their local environment.

Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project
Improving the environment – The Nature BaNC project will involve communities in developing a more sustainable living environment, through practical conservation, education, and promoting bio-diversity. A variety of sites throughout the Nene Valley will benefit from the increased community involvement in the improvement and management of natural assets of the valley, whilst promoting a raised awareness and a sense of ownership and pride in the local environment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project delivery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

However, BTCV would be looking to a variety of sources for continuation funding beyond the 2-year life of the project, subject to the success of this initial stage of delivery and level of need identified by the local communities involved.

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

BTCV has over 40 years experience of delivering both small and large-scale projects, funded through a variety of sources. Over this time BTCV has developed robust and appropriate financial management arrangements, meeting funders requirements including those of central government, European funds, landfill tax credit scheme funds and lottery funding.

BTCV has a ‘Quality Framework’ to provide an overall structure for ensuring good quality activities and services, and a basis for implementing improvements. This covers key areas such as human resources, volunteers, finance, business planning, Health & Safety and public relations. BTCV has also obtained and subsequently retained IiP status.

BTCV has been engaging with individuals and communities to improve the environment of Northamptonshire for over 14 years. We work in partnership with a variety of organisations, agencies and partners to deliver community-led practical conservation projects, training and educational opportunities, and awareness raising activities.

In securing funding, BTCV would look to fully resource the Nature BaNC project in the Nene Valley to achieve the desired project outputs and outcomes.

The longer-term aim of all BTCV community projects is to provide the training and support community members need in order to establish small-scale community-led activities. Groups are encouraged to join BTCV’s Community Network scheme in order to receive additional support including: access to BTCV’s Insurance Scheme; the Chestnut Fund grant scheme; discounts on BTCV’s Tools & Trading products; and on-going project advice and support through local field offices.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

BTCV

Are any partnership links established or proposed?
The Nature BaNC project would bringing together a number of partners in the county, including:

- NCC and the borough / district authorities in the Nene Valley
- Land owners and site managers

Existing local partnerships include:

- The Nene and Welland Valley Partnership
- Northamptonshire Environment Network
- Northamptonshire Voluntary Sector Learning Consortium
**Name of Project:**

**21 - BTCV: NATURAL BREAKS THE NENE WAY**

**Project theme:** Sustainable Tourism in the Nene Valley

**Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)**

**Background**

‘Natural Break’ Conservation Holidays have been described as BTCV’s flagship programme, and take pride of place among BTCV’s major programmes. A conservation holiday offers thousands of people, who would not otherwise be able to access mid week practical conservation tasks, the opportunity to make a practical contribution towards preserving our global natural heritage.

Holiday participants travel from all over the UK and worldwide, to undertake practical conservation working holidays. All holidays are promoted in BTCV’s Conservation Holidays brochure, which is publicised, available internationally and on the internet.

In addition, BTCV will provide expert tuition and pastoral support for all activities, ensuring that activities are completed to the highest standard and that Health and Safety standards are strictly adhered to. Whilst the participants on a Natural Break holiday are volunteering, they pay a small contribution towards their food and accommodation.

**Natural Breaks The Nene Way**

This project builds on the work BTCV is carrying out nationally to increase our capacity to deliver quality controlled and well publicised holidays in prime tourist locations. Natural Breaks in the Nene Valley would contribute towards BTCV’s programme of ‘Towards Sustainability’ holidays, where every effort is made to provide local and organic produce, whilst undertaking practical work on sites of significant wildlife and community value.

The project objectives would include:

- Working with local tourism bodies to promote the mutual benefits of tourism and conservation activities.
- Running a programme of sustainable conservation activity holidays, combining practical activity with quality leisure time in the Nene Valley.
- Marketing Natural Breaks effectively in the local area and in BTCV’s Conservation Holidays programme.
- Engaging visitors in practical, educational and sustainable activities.
- Encourage accommodation providers to consider the impact of their business practices.

**Planning status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Land ownership**

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1901LO/SG/XQ/Tangible Projects - Appendix A/B/March 2004
Who owns the land/buildings?

As a community-focused organisation, that owns no land, BTCV has developed extensive relationships with land owners and site managers. BTCV already has wide spread contacts throughout the Nene Valley.

Activities would be based on a variety sites throughout the Nene Valley such as country parks, pocket parks, LNR’s and open green spaces. These are likely to be owned by NCC or the local borough / district authorities.

Potential project sites would be identified in the early stages of the project, through consultation with local communities, partners and landowners. Permission to undertake practical projects would be sought before activities take place.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</th>
<th>SEE ABOVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funding**

What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?

A Natural Break working holiday would cost approximately £2000 to organise and deliver.

A dedicated Project Officer to co-ordinate a range of Natural Break activities over the course of a year, would cost £45k per annum.

| Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom? |
| None secured |

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)

Contributions are made by volunteers for their food and accommodation.

It is usual for the land owner to make a minimum contribution towards the cost of work being undertaken on the site, at BTCV standard daily rates of £890 for a week-long break, and £375 for a weekend break.

The cost of producing of the national BTCV Conservation Breaks brochure is supported by corporate sponsorship.

**Social and economic benefits**

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.
The natural environment has an important role to play as a means by which individuals and communities can be developed and lives enriched. Involvement in environmental activities provides opportunities to celebrate cultural diversity, improve health and wellbeing and increase aspirations.

**Engaging with communities and volunteers** – The ‘Natural Breaks the Nene Way’ project will enable volunteers and communities to articulate, raise and achieve their aspirations, through providing skills, knowledge and understanding to increase community involvement in practical conservation activities. For example, through the delivery of high quality environmental projects or undertaking training in conservation skills, leadership and project management.

Natural Breaks promote and support volunteering and community involvement for all, meeting the needs and concerns of local communities, and take into account the needs of future generations.

Through the involvement of a range of ages and abilities working together, projects strengthen community links and enable the sharing of knowledge, as well as bringing about greater understanding between different cultural, age and ability groups through practical activities.

**Providing lifelong learning and educational opportunities** – Natural Break projects offer adults accessible and inclusive lifelong learning opportunities that will equip them to achieve their full potential, and contribute to their local communities. For example, completing a BTCV Institute training course in a practical task may be an individuals first step back into learning; working towards a common goal with a group may by a first step back into community involvement. Practical conservation activities can have a significant impact on improving lifestyles and employability.

**Economic benefits** – This project builds on the work BTCV is carrying out nationally to increase our capacity to deliver quality controlled and well publicised holidays in prime tourist locations. The promotion and delivery of BTCV’s ‘Towards Sustainability’ holidays would provide a baseline for any partner / organisation interested in taking the ‘appropriate recreational activities’ in the Nene Valley agenda forward.

### Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

**Improving the environment** – The Natural Breaks The Nene Way project will involve volunteers and communities in developing a more sustainable living environment, through practical conservation, education, and promoting bio-diversity.

A variety of sites throughout the Nene Valley will benefit from the increased volunteer and community involvement in the improvement and management of natural assets of the valley, whilst promoting a raised awareness and a sense of ownership and pride in the local environment.

### Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years? Yes

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

**However, BTCV would be looking to a variety of sources for continuation funding beyond the 2-year**
Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

BTCV has over 40 years experience of delivering both small and large-scale projects, funded through a variety of sources. Over this time BTCV has developed robust and appropriate financial management arrangements, meeting funders requirements including those of central government, European funds, landfill tax credit scheme funds and lottery funding.

BTCV has a ‘Quality Framework’ to provide an overall structure for ensuring good quality activities and services, and a basis for implementing improvements. This covers key areas such as human resources, volunteers, finance, business planning, Health & Safety and public relations. BTCV has also obtained and subsequently retained iIP status.

BTCV has been engaging with individuals and communities to improve the environment of Northamptonshire for over 14 years. We work in partnership with a variety of organisations, agencies and partners to deliver community-led practical conservation projects, training and educational opportunities, and awareness raising activities.

In securing funding, BTCV would look to fully resource the desired number of Natural Break Holidays in the Nene Valley to achieve the desired project outputs and outcomes.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

BTCV

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

The Natural Breaks The Nene Way project would bringing together a number of partners in the county, including:

- NCC and the borough / district authorities in the Nene Valley
- Land owners and site managers
- Tourism bodies and initiatives in the Nene Valley

Existing local partnerships include:

- The Nene and Welland Valley Partnership
- Northamptonshire Environment Network
Name of Project:
22 - BTCV: NENE VALLEY FOREST SCHOOL
Project theme: Forest and Woodland Education

Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)

Background

The concept of Forest Schools is developing nationally, but not yet being actively promoted in Northamptonshire. Forest Schools operate on the principle that children of all ages can benefit from the learning opportunities inherently present in a woodland environment, especially when in is a regular part of their normal school entitlement. Forest Schools is not an annual environmental education visit to a country park, but a commitment by a school to provide weekly or fortnightly sessions in the same area of woodland with their teachers and a Forest School Leader.

BTCV is a national partner in the Forest Education Initiative (FEI) and is currently working locally with the FEI's England Co-ordinator to establish a new Cluster Group of interested partners in the county. Together we have identified an opportunity to secure funding for promotion and delivery of a Forest School in the Nene Valley, before offering to 'roll out' opportunities across the county.

Nene Valley Forest School

This project aims to help develop in young people a greater understanding of trees, woodlands, sustainable forest management and forest products. A Forest School seeks to promote the positive benefits from involving young people in environmental projects; increasing self-esteem, social skills, physical activity, environmental awareness and improved attitudes to learning.

Main project activities include:
- Promotion and establishment of a Forest School in the Nene Valley;
- Creating links between schools and their nearest accessible woodlands, and creating facilities in woodlands for education;
- Training for teachers, non-teaching staff and community volunteers in Forest School principles and Leadership activities;
- Educational visits: to the wide range of forest, timber and woodworking trades and industry; Practical projects, in and out of school, involving young people;
- Case studies about woodland management or wood use and production of materials for educational use by teachers or children.

Our initial consultation with schools have shown they are keen to discover more about the scheme, as activities provide new and innovative methods of delivering the following curriculum areas:
- Citizenship: Debates and presentations.
- PSHE: Team building and community skills; respect for natural environment.
- Science: Life processes & living things.
- Geography: Surveying & mapping; environmental change & sustainable development.
- CDT: Planning, delivery and evaluating projects; use of woodland products.

Planning status

Is planning permission required | No
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Has permission been granted?</strong></th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Land ownership**

Who owns the land/buildings?

As a community-focused organisation, that owns no land, BTCV has developed extensive relationships with land owners and site managers. BTCV already has wide spread contacts throughout the Nene Valley.

The pilot Forest School site would be based in an area of woodland in the Nene Valley, yet to be established, though a number of potential sites have been suggested by the FEI Cluster Group. The Forest School site would need to be readily accessible to the school/s involved, preferably within walking distance.

Potential project sites would be identified in the early stages of the project, through consultation with land owners, partners and local schools. Permission to undertake practical projects would be sought before activities take place.

Does the landowner consent to the proposals? **SEE ABOVE**

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to the achieved? **NO**

**Funding**

What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?

£45k per annum

Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?

None secured

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)

Potential funders may include:
- **LEADER+**
- Landfill Tax Credit Scheme (subject to Entrust approval of work sites)
- BTCV’s National Development team have been approached to investigate the potential of establishing a UK-wide grants scheme, similar to BTCV’s NOF ‘Peoples Places’ scheme. This would provide a source of funding for schools / community groups to train individuals as Forest School Leaders, establish the necessary links with land owners and education services. This is likely to be 2-3 years into the future.

**Social and economic benefits**

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning...
opportunities.

The natural environment has an important role to play as a means by which individuals and communities can be developed and lives enriched. Involvement in environmental activities provides opportunities to celebrate cultural diversity, improve health and wellbeing and increase aspirations.

**Engaging with young people and communities** – The Nene Valley Forest School project will enable young people to articulate, raise and achieve their aspirations, provide skills, knowledge and understanding through involvement in practical conservation activities. For example, through the planning of their outdoor classroom environment (a key stage in the development of a Forest School) young people be involved in the design and decision making process.

The Forest School project will promote and support volunteering and community involvement by young people, highlighting to local communities the benefit and positive contribution that can be made by this often mis-understood group. Through the involvement of a range of ages and abilities working together, projects strengthen community links and enable the sharing of knowledge, as well as bringing about greater understanding between different cultural, age and ability groups through practical activities.

**Providing lifelong learning and educational opportunities** – The Nene Valley Forest School project offers adults accessible and inclusive lifelong learning opportunities that will equip them to achieve their full potential, and contribute to their local communities. For example, completing the Forest School Leadership training course in a practical task may be an individuals first step back into learning. Practical conservation activities can have a significant impact on improving lifestyles and employability.

Where the young people are involved, they benefit from an alternative learning experience outside of the classroom situation, offering opportunities for self expression, confidence building and developing a sense of ownership and pride in their local environment.

**Economic benefits** – The promotion of and raised awareness of woodland management and woodland trades through the Forest Schools programme will provide young people with a new outlook on the woodland environment as a place of industry and work. It may also inspire in some a potential career path option.

**Environmental benefits**

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

**Improving the environment** – The Nene Valley Forest School project will involve young people and communities in developing a more sustainable living environment, through practical conservation, education, and promoting bio-diversity. Although only one specific site will benefit from Forest School activities, the entire Nene Valley would potentially benefit from the involvement of young people in the improvement and management of natural assets of the valley. The project will promote raised woodland & woodland industry awareness, and a sense of ownership and pride in the local environment.

**Project delivery**

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years? Yes

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?
However, BTCV would be looking to a variety of sources for continuation funding beyond the 2-year life of the project, subject to the success of this initial stage of delivery and level of need identified by the schools involved.

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

BTCV has over 40 years experience of delivering both small and large-scale projects, funded through a variety of sources. Over this time BTCV has developed robust and appropriate financial management arrangements, meeting funders requirements including those of central government, European funds, landfill tax credit scheme funds and lottery funding.

BTCV has a ‘Quality Framework’ to provide an overall structure for ensuring good quality activities and services, and a basis for implementing improvements. This covers key areas such as human resources, volunteers, finance, business planning, Health & Safety and public relations. BTCV has also obtained and subsequently retained IiP status.

The Quality Framework includes specific Healthy and Safety issues relating to the involvement of young people in environmental projects, and Codes of Practice in engaging with children and vulnerable adults.

BTCV has been engaging with individuals, communities and schools to improve the environment of Northamptonshire for over 14 years. We work in partnership with a variety of organisations, agencies and partners to deliver community-led practical conservation projects, training and educational opportunities, and awareness raising activities.

In securing funding, BTCV would look to fully resource the Forest School project in the Nene Valley to achieve the desired project outputs and outcomes.

The longer-term aim of all BTCV community projects is to provide the training and support community members need in order to establish small-scale community-led activities. Through providing training and establishing Forest School Leaders within school staff teams or community groups, individual schools will be able to make better use of the woodland environment as a teaching resource, as well as promote the wider social and economic benefits of forests and woodlands to young people.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

BTCV

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

The Forest School project would bringing together a number of partners in the county, including:

- NCC and the borough / district authorities in the Nene Valley
- Education services
- Land owners and site managers

Existing local partnerships include:
• Forest Education Initiative – Northamptonshire Cluster Group
• The Nene and Welland Valley Partnership
• Northamptonshire Environment Network
• Northamptonshire Voluntary Sector Learning Consortium

Existing national partnerships include:

• Forest Education Initiative
Name of Project:
23 - BTCV: NENE VALLEY LINKS

Project theme: Improving and promoting the Footpath Network

Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)

Background

The Nene Valley Links project builds on BTCV’s successful ALSF (Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund – Countryside Agency) project delivered in the Nene Valley over the past year. BTCV have been working ‘hands-on’ with local communities to identify projects on their doorstep to improve the environment on their doorstep and access to it.

The Nene Valley is one of the most important wildlife and recreational assets for Northamptonshire. There are a number of very important wildlife sites already in place with more planned. There is existing access along the river valley – the Nene Valley Way - for people to enjoy a variety of leisure activities including walking, cycling and fishing.

Missing Links - What is missing are the links. Links for the people of the valley to become involved in their own environment; links for the diverse urban populations into the wider river valley; links to healthier and social options for the valley people and links into the valley as an educational and recreational resource.

Nene Links Project

During consultation with local communities as part of BTCV’s ALSF project and drawing upon our own experience of working on behalf of the county Rights of Way Department, issues around public access into the valley have been raised. Local communities are keen to see the footpath network and access routes significantly improved through activities such as: routes being cleared, better sign-posting, installation of stiles, kissing gates, bridges and seating.

Through this project BTCV would seek to:
- Engage with local communities, in particular Parish Path Wardens, to review the path networks and facilities.
- Involve local volunteers in improving footpath network.
- Undertake a series of community walks, health walks and events to promote local communities improved access into the Nene Valley.
- Deliver a range of training opportunities for volunteers and community groups.
- Liaise with NCC over potential major footpath works needed and provide key volunteers for other community planning initiatives.

Training

BTCV has entered into a national partnership with Broxtowe College (Nottingham), establishing The BTCV Institute as a national educational institute with the status of a FE College, funded by the national Learning and Skills Council.

BTCV is currently able to offer structured long and short courses, one-to-one coaching and hands-on learning in over 200 courses. Topics covered include a range of courses relating to improving footpaths and access into the countryside, as well as project administration skills such as ‘Leadership’ and ‘Involving Your Community’.
### Planning status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning status</th>
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<tbody>
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### Land ownership

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As a community-focused organisation, BTCV has developed extensive relationships with land owners and site managers. BTCV already has wide spread contacts throughout the Nene Valley.

Activities would be based on a variety sites throughout the Nene Valley such as the Nene Valley way and its access routes, but also footpaths through country parks, pocket parks, LNR’s and open green spaces. These are likely to be owned by NCC or the local borough / district authorities.

Potential project sites would be identified in the early stages of the project, through consultation with local communities, partners and landowners. Permission to undertake practical projects would be sought before activities take place.

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### Funding

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<td>£45k per annum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?</td>
<td>None secured</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Potential funders may include:

- The Countryside Agency – Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (future bidding rounds)
- Landfill Tax Credit Scheme (subject to Entrust approval of work sites)

### Social and economic benefits

<table>
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opportunities.

The natural environment has an important role to play as a means by which individuals and communities can be developed and lives enriched. Involvement in environmental activities provides opportunities to celebrate cultural diversity, improve health and wellbeing and increase aspirations.

Engaging with communities – The Nene Links project will enable communities to articulate, raise and achieve their aspirations, through providing skills, knowledge and understanding to increase community involvement in practical conservation activities. For example, through the building steps, bridges and boardwalks, or undertaking training in conservation skills and project management. Individuals will also be involved in the local decision making process. For example through involvement in consultation activities, reviewing the existing footpath networks and representing their communities at meetings and events.

The Nene Links project will promote and support volunteering and community involvement for all, meeting the needs and concerns of local communities, and take into account the needs of future generations. For example, targeting specific activity days to black and minority ethnic groups, day care centres, schools and youth organisations.

Through the involvement of a range of ages and abilities working together, projects strengthen community links and enable the sharing of knowledge, as well as bringing about greater understanding between different cultural, age and ability groups through practical activities.

Providing lifelong learning and educational opportunities – The Nene Links project offers adults accessible and inclusive lifelong learning opportunities that will equip them to achieve their full potential, and contribute to their local communities. For example, completing a BTCV Institute training course in a practical task may be an individuals first step back into learning; working towards a common goal with a group may by a first step back into community involvement. Practical conservation activities can have a significant impact on improving lifestyles and employability.

Where young people are involved they benefit from an alternative learning experience outside of the classroom situation, offering opportunities for self expression, confidence building and developing a sense of ownership and pride in their local environment.

Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

Improving the environment – The Nene Links project will involve communities in developing a more sustainable living environment, through practical conservation, education, and promoting appropriate better access to recreational activities in the Nene Valley.

A variety of sites throughout the Nene Valley will benefit from the increased community involvement in the improvement and management of natural assets of the valley, whilst promoting a raised awareness and a sense of ownership and pride in the local environment.

Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years? | Yes
If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

However, BTCV would be looking to a variety of sources for continuation funding beyond the 2-year life of the project, subject to the success of this initial stage of delivery and level of need identified by the local communities involved.

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

BTCV has over 40 years experience of delivering both small and large-scale projects, funded through a variety of sources. Over this time BTCV has developed robust and appropriate financial management arrangements, meeting funders requirements including those of central government, European funds, landfill tax credit scheme funds and lottery funding.

BTCV has a ‘Quality Framework’ to provide an overall structure for ensuring good quality activities and services, and a basis for implementing improvements. This covers key areas such as human resources, volunteers, finance, business planning, Health & Safety and public relations. BTCV has also obtained and subsequently retained IiP status.

BTCV has been engaging with individuals and communities to improve the environment of Northamptonshire for over 14 years. We work in partnership with a variety of organisations, agencies and partners to deliver community-led practical conservation projects, training and educational opportunities, and awareness raising activities.

In securing funding, BTCV would look to fully resource the Nene Links project in the Nene Valley to achieve the desired project outputs and outcomes.

The longer-term aim of all BTCV community projects is to provide the training and support community members need in order to establish small-scale community-led activities. Groups are encouraged to join BTCV’s Community Network scheme in order to receive additional support including: access to BTCV’s Insurance Scheme; the Chestnut Fund grant scheme; discounts on BTCV’s Tools & Trading products; and on-going project advice and support through local field offices.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

BTCV

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

The Nene Links project would bringing together a number of partners in the county, including:

- NCC’s Rights of Way Dept
- Parish Path Wardens
- District and borough authorities, together with Town and Parish Councils
- Land owners and site managers

Existing local partnerships include:

- The Nene and Welland Valley Partnership
- Northamptonshire Environment Network
- Northamptonshire Voluntary Sector Learning Consortium
Other interested parties / initiatives such as:

- Sustrans
- The Ramblers Association
- Walking Your Way to Health Initiative
**Name of Project:**

24 - Northamptonshire Archaeological Archive

**Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)**

As part of the statutory planning process and government guidance in PPGs 15 and 16, the preservation of archaeological material by record results in the need for the physical remains and associated information to be properly curated. In Northamptonshire, there is currently no formal provision for a countywide archive. However, following a study commissioned by the NCA Heritage Group from the Museum of London Archaeological Service, all partners agreed in principle to the establishment of such a facility. This would curate material for authorities which unlike Daventry, Kettering and Northampton, do not have their own museum service or registered archive.

East Northamptonshire Council, which has a commitment to recovering and displaying nationally important archaeological material from the Raunds area, excavated in the 1970s, will lead on the provision of a shared storage facility and the construction of a facility where this material can be publicly displayed. This would meet the requirements of the Museums and Galleries Commission, and English Heritage, in ensuring that before any provision was made to display artefacts, proper provision was made for the curation of all the other archaeological material and records.

In keeping with the agreement in principle, two alternatives are being considered in relation to the site at Stanwick Lakes. One is for a combined visitor facility and store, and the other is for the display element to form part of the wider visitor facility at the Lakes, which would deal with the interpretation of the historic and natural features of the area, and the storage of materials in an existing structure, or the construction of a new facility, off site. These will be subject to a feasibility study currently being developed for commissioning in April 2004.

**Planning status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes – as part of a visitor centre or a free standing archive</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No – Not yet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?

Permission will be sought, and follow in three months, as soon as agreement is reached over the preferred location and funding had been secured.

**Land ownership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who owns the land/buildings?</th>
<th>Potential site is in the ownership of East Northamptonshire Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</td>
<td>Yes – they are leading the project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?

Not if the Stanwick Lakes proposal includes a visitor facility and archive store. If a separate site is required, land and/or buildings purchase will be necessary.
### Funding

What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?
To be determined but estimates have suggested that it could be up to £2.9 million in a single new build facility. The costs are likely to be lower for the re-use of an existing building although this would have to be supplemented by the new build display part of a visitor facility.

Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?
ENC has up to £60K for feasibility study, with the potential for further capital to be assigned.
NCC has, subject to scrutiny and public consultation, £75K over three years for feasibility and design.

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)
Possible sources of funding, no formal approaches have yet been made:

- Heritage Lottery Funding
- ODPM
- Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
- Corby Borough Council
- Daventry District Council
- Kettering Borough Council
- South Northamptonshire Council
- Borough Council of Wellingborough

### Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

Social benefits include:

- new leisure, educational and recreational facility
- provides an opportunity for volunteering and meeting like-minded people
- an opportunity for developing interests
- opportunity for healthy activities and exercise

Economic benefits include:

- capital investment into the area
- opportunities for direct or indirect employment
- increased opportunities for leisure, recreational or tourism-based activities
- increased tourism numbers and associated spend in the area
- adds value to the other visitor attractions that will extend the duration of visits

### Environmental benefits
Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

The scheme is key to resolving a major sustainability issue in making positive and appropriate provision for the storage and curation of archaeological material that is currently, inaccessible to Schools, members of the public, the development industry and academics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project delivery</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which organisation/company would deliver the project?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are any partnership links established or proposed?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Name of Project:
25 - Northampton Upper Nene Valley Country Park – Upton Interpretation Centre

Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)

Phase 1 of the Upper Nene Valley Country Park will be completed in 2004 and the Interpretation Centre is proposed to be provided in conjunction with this phase in 2004/2005. Upton Housing Area to the north is currently being commenced as the first stage in the development of a major sustainable community. The Interpretation Centre will have a number of uses relating to both developments and Section 106 funding has been secured for a number of these elements:

1. **Interpretation, Education and Visitor facilities for the country park** which will develop in further phases to an area of 330 hectares. The main objective of the park is to retain a major area of river valley landscape and manage it in a sustainable and balanced manner with continued agricultural use, habitat and wildlife enhancement, flood plain retention and access for residents and visitors. The centre would provide a major focus point for the interpretation of the landscape, wildlife, archaeology and industrial heritage of the river valley in Northampton and the county. An important emphasis would be on the development of the centre and park as an educational and research for local schools, colleges and lifelong learning.

2. **Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Design and Living** – the innovative and landmark design of the building would fully reflect the emergence of the Upton sustainable community. This emphasis would be continued in interpretation and education in both the building and the park.

3. **Sports Changing Facilities** – for the playing fields to be provided as part of Upton Housing

4. **Community/Event facilities** – for use by the Upton Housing residents and wider use in conjunction with education and tourist promotion/conference and meeting venue

5. **Upton Housing Management** – The Upton Housing Development will be managed by a trust organisation and the building will accommodate both management and meeting facilities

**Planning status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes*</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Has permission been granted?</th>
<th>Yes*</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?
Full planning permission granted 7 January 2004

**Land ownership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who owns the land/buildings?</th>
<th>Currently English Partnerships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</th>
<th>Yes*</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?
An agreement with the current landowner, English Partnerships, to transfer the park and centre site to Northampton Borough Council is nearing completion (mid 2004)
Funding

What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?
£1,200,000

Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?
£700,000 Developer Section 106 funding and NBC capital funding

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)
Grants for sustainable design funding
English Partnerships – possible additional funding

Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

Promoting health and social wellbeing in the emerging sustainable community
Maximising the use and investment in the country park project
Providing leisure, community and cultural opportunities
Improving the environment and encouraging the efficient use of energy and resources
Providing opportunities for education and life long learning
Strengthening the economic base by tourist promotion, employment creation and increasing the economic vitality of the town and county
Promoting health and wellbeing via sports and leisure activities

Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

Promoting a sustainable lifestyle
In sustainable design minimising the use of resources and promoting this approach
Minimising the ongoing maintenance costs of the building
Developing a focus for education about environmental issues
The design is fully sympathetic to its surroundings and river valley landscape

Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?  Yes*  No

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?
NA

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?
Only a shortfall in funding
Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

Northampton Borough Council

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

English Partnerships
Private Sector Developers
UCN
Upton Housing Management Trust
**Name of Project:**

26 - Northampton Upper Nene Valley Country Park – Phase 1 – Pedestrian/Cycleway Bridge over River and Canal

**Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)**

The implementation of the bridge over the River Nene and Northampton Arm Canal is integral to Phase 1 of the Upper Nene Valley Country Park, which will be completed in 2004. The Park will, when complete, retain the green corridor of the River Valley from the town centre to the western boundary of Northampton and will provide a major recreational facility of 330 hectares. Phase 1 consists of 40 hectares. It links existing, and provides additional, footpath cycleway and bridleway routes. The Park will also provide a Visitor/Interpretation Centre, which will be an important focus for tourism and education relating to the Environment, Wildlife and Heritage of the River Valley.

The Bridge in particular will provide access to the Park for communities from the south of the river and canal which currently causes severance to pedestrians and cyclists, as well as providing an important sustainable link between existing and proposed residential, employment and leisure sites.

**Planning status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes*</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?</td>
<td>2 months</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Land ownership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</td>
<td>Yes*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved? | No. The land on the northern bank is due to be transferred to NBC shortly. |

**Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?</th>
<th>£710,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?</td>
<td>£160,000 – Developer contributions and NBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)</td>
<td>Have unsuccessfully applied for EMDA funding but failed due to money needing to be spent by March 2004. There will be additional funding in the future from development sites in the South West District of Northampton.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Social and economic benefits**

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning
opportunities.

Greater access for existing and future communities to community and leisure facilities and employment.
Safer alternative means of travel.
Increased quality of life.
Healthier means of travel promoted.

Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

The bridge will provide a sustainable link to the Park and Interpretation Centre (with their associated benefits) which will enable a larger percentage of the surrounding communities to access the Park without the need for a car as it will provide a direct link to existing footpath and cycleway networks, as well as proposed new routes.

Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years? Yes* No

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

Only a shortfall in finances.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?
Northampton Borough Council

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

English partnerships
Private Sector Developers
Name of Project:

27 - Rockingham Forest Heritage Centre Project

Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)

The Rockingham Forest Heritage Centre Project is an exciting project to breathe new life into the ancient woodlands of Rockingham Forest. The project is an extension of the Red Kites @ Rockingham Project (a joint venture with RSPB and English Nature). The Heritage Centre will be contained within the Grade II listed farm buildings known as ‘Top Lodge’ at Fineshade near Corby. The centre will be heated with a wood fired heating system using wood from local ancient woodland coppices. The centre is adjacent to an existing Caravan Club site, and has existing public access and car park.

The Heritage Centre has 4 inter-related elements, these are:
1. Creation of a new café, with Children’s Play equipment and innovative interpretation built upon the existing Red Kite nest video links; RSPB shop and information centre as a focus for woodland and countryside recreation in Rockingham Forest.
2. Provision of a micro-business conference centre and rural craft retail and demonstration areas;
3. New environmental education centre / community involvement base
4. Restoration of aspects of the historic landscape, along with heritage interpretation – including charcoal making, coppicing and potentially iron smelting.

The centre is proposed as a blend of ecological and archaeological heritage – with direct access for visitors to the heritage through video links, woodland walks etc to that heritage. Coupled with improved access to the countryside for walkers of all abilities (including wheelchair and push chair friendly routes), cyclists (family and mountain bikers) and horse-riders.

The project has been started, with work on Top Lodge House (Grade II listed) initiated. When the restoration of the house is completed, the Forestry Commission office will be relocated into the House, freeing up the courtyard area for the main centre development – funding for this has not been identified. The Red Kites @ Rockingham Project is an existing seasonal project which re-opens to the public at Easter and will run to September.

Planning status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?</td>
<td>Planning Permission granted in 2002/3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Land ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who owns the land/buildings? The Forestry Commission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the landowner consent to the proposals? Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No land purchase necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the approximate estimated cost of the project? £775,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£160,000 allocated in two chunks of £80,000 by the Forestry Commission. The first chunk of £80,000 is being spent currently on restoration of the roof and exterior of Top Lodge House, second chunk will by spent in 2004/5 on the interior of the House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10,000 allocated in 2004/5 from a LEADER + project for new horse-boxing point at the centre.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anticipate making funding bids to EMDA via the Welland SSP for the rural craft retail and micro-business conference centre in summer 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long term financial viability will be under pinned by the commercial operation of the café and shop.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social and economic benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved access to the countryside and the heritage of Rockingham Forest for the local communities, including the urban communities of Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled friendly provision coupled with innovative use of video technology will encourage more use by non-traditional woodland users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental education centre and community involvement base will be the focus for a new woodland volunteer programme for the Forestry Commission’s woods in Rockingham Forest. This will build upon the successful involvement of large numbers of RSPB volunteers in the Red Kites @ Rockingham Project. A joint RSPB / Forestry Commission environmental education programme will be supported from the new centre (this will be an expansion of existing provision to local schools and adult learning groups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The whole ethos of the centre will be informal education of visitors to reconnect them with their countryside and their ancient woods – be it the archaeology, the historic landscape, the industrial legacy or the woodland ecology, including woodland birds and the fabulous Red Kites. Internal interpretation will be more fully supported by external interpretation with charcoal making, restoration of large-scale coppicing to supply wood chip to the wood heat system and for charcoal, iron-smelting demonstrations and restoration of some examples of the ancient wood banks. The rural craft retail will give visitors an opportunity to buy wood and wood related products – charcoal, turmey and hurdles made locally by local craftsmen from local woods. A wood shop will also allow local hobbyists – turners / cabinet makers / sculptors – to buy local wood rather than buy from specialist importers – again re-connecting the community to their landscape.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ECONOMIC

- The centre will employ a minimum of 4 new staff in the shop and café; whilst providing further employment opportunities (and fostering the economic viability of existing workers) for local woodland craftsmen; A minimum of 2 part-time field teaching staff will also be recruited.
- The micro-business centre will provide a high quality, but modest cost training and lecture venue for local business enterprises – individual consultants or other small companies operating from homes or small offices / workshops in the immediate countryside.
- The Centre is also proposed as a new focus for the tourist industry and will be a quality Forestry Commission venue to encourage day visitors to stay for longer periods – this fits with the EMDA and Welland Vales Tourism strategies, and is accordingly supported by East Northamptonshire Council.

The whole project will become the show case for the Forestry Commission’s massive Ancient Woodland Project. England’s largest ever natural habitat restoration scheme which is anchored in Northamptonshire, having been launched by Dr George Peterken at Fineshade Wood, Rockingham Forest in March 2000.

Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

- Restoration of the historic landscape through coppicing and ancient woodland restoration – this meets national and county BAP targets.
- Further support for the Red Kites @ Rockingham Project which is increasingly seen as an important local tourism feature, and a project that has enormous local support;
- Support for local woodland craftsmen whose livelihood’s are under threat due to poor economics and poor marketing – but whose work is essential for the viability of ancient woodland management
- Support for community involvement and community volunteering which will not only re-establish the link between woodlands and the local communities, but allow local people to be trained in woodland management techniques to take out into the wider countryside for implementation elsewhere.

Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years? Yes – if funding made available

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

Yes – we have the skills required through the existing Project Steering Group drawn from Forestry Commission and RSPB staff. An allowance has been made within the project costings to employ a suitable Buildings Surveyor to meet CDM regs.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

The Forestry Commission

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

The Forestry Commission will work in partnership with the RSPB who will have a long-term presence on the site – providing the rural shop, information point and jointly providing the environmental education programme.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Project :</th>
<th>28 - Salcey Forest Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)</strong></td>
<td>The Salcey Forest project is a new initiative to breathe new life into a tired community facility and re-engage this ancient woodland with the surrounding communities, including the urban population of Northampton and Milton Keynes. The project has three elements: 1. New investment in recreation infrastructure (new walking, cycling and horse-riding routes, along with new children's play furniture). This will include specific provision for disabled visitors. 2. Restoration of 25 hectares of ancient pasture woodland; woodland bird hide and new wildlife lake. 3. Ranger service and community outreach work focused on encouraging excluded, pre-dominantly urban based communities to use and value their local ancient woodlands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Planning status</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is planning permission required</td>
<td>Yes – for café</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>Yes – for café</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?</td>
<td>Planning has been granted for the new café. The Forestry Commission does not require planning permission for the remaining works.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land ownership</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who owns the land/buildings? The Forestry Commission (The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</td>
<td>Yes - Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to the achieved?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?</td>
<td>Part 1: Recreation works: £150,000  Part 2: Conservation Works: £50,000  Part 3: Community Outreach: £292,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?</td>
<td>Part 1: FC funding of £15,000 in 2004/5; FC funding of £15,000 in 2005/6  Part 2: FC funding of £5,000 in 2004/5; FC funding of £5,000 in 2005/6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

The project will provide:
- safe off-road family cycling route of 6-miles;
- safe off-road horse-riding route with horse-boxing point;
- all-ability path of just under 1 mile for wheel chairs, push-chairs and the infirm
- children's play equipment to challenge and stimulate which will also be disabled friendly;
- the conservation work will address county and national bio-diversity action plan targets for pasture woodland, and associated species;
- the new lake / pond will assist native wildlife, such as great crested newts and assist with holding water within the forest in case of increasing extremes of summer drought caused by climate change;
- ecological interpretation and associated environmental education learning opportunities;
- archaeological and historic interpretation and associated environmental education learning opportunities;
- the community outreach will assist in re-establishing a link between sectors of the urban population, such as the elderly, ethnic groups, youth groups and low income groups. This project will set up and foster a diverse volunteer groups to provide a vehicle for long-term community involvement after initial funds for community outreach have dried up.

### Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

- the conservation work will address county and national bio-diversity action plan targets for pasture woodland, and associated species as part of the major Ancient Woodland Project;
- the new lake / pond will assist native wildlife, such as great crested newts and assist with holding water within the forest in case of increasing extremes of summer drought caused by climate change; Again this fits with local and national BAP targets.
- ecological interpretation and associated environmental education learning opportunities;
- archaeological and historic interpretation and associated environmental education learning opportunities;

### Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years? | Yes
---|---

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>The project can be implemented in FY 2004/5 and 2005/6</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes. Additional staff resources would be required to support the Community Out-reach work in the form of 2 community rangers employed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which organisation/company would deliver the project?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Forestry Commission (Forest Enterprise, Northants Forest District).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are any partnership links established or proposed?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not specifically. The project links informally with numerous groups and organisations through the existing work of the Forestry Commission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Project :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the main lakes area, the site also includes approximately 6.5 km of disused railway line which the Rockingham Forest Trust intend to develop into a green route for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders.

The whole site will be developed progressively over the next 4-5 years, however it is hoped that Phase 1 of the project can be completed within 2 years, however this is subject to the required additional funding being secured for these areas of work.

**Phase 1 of the project will include:**

- **Opening up the green route using the former railway line**
  This will allow visitors from towns and villages including Thrapston, Ringstead, Denford, and Irthlingborough to access the Stanwick Lakes site without travelling by car. It will also link up a number of existing footpaths and bridleways, as well as providing a new route linking Irthlingborough to Thrapston. The route offers unique views over the Nene Valley, with impressive steel bridges crossing the River Nene in six locations.

- **Design and landscaping of the central hub area**
  The Trust will be commissioning a landscape architect to design the central hub area which will include the entrance roadway, car parking, central picnic areas and lake walks. The layout and landscaping of this area will be crucial to the successful management of the site, and to providing a memorable visitor experience, as this will be the area that visitors are likely to spend most time in. Integral to this layout will also be the positioning of the buildings proposed for the site. The Trust aim to be in the position to move onto site to start this initial infrastructure work in mid-late 2004.

- **Provision of play areas, adventure play trails and outdoor youth facilities**
  The consultation and market research carried out for this project identified a need in the Rushden / Irthlingborough area for activities for young people and this is recognised within the Stanwick Lakes masterplan. Imaginative play areas with water and sand play, toddler trails with musical play and labyrinths and adventure trails with items such as climbing rocks and tyre swings will all be provided within the site. Facilities for teens will be developed in conjunction with local youth groups, but could include items such as assault courses, small camping areas and survival activities.

Now that the masterplan for the site has been agreed, the Trust are seeking planning permission for the main proposals, excluding the visitor centre and marina proposals which will be dealt with in separate applications once further work has been completed. The masterplan has been discussed with the planning authority at length and no complications have been raised.

Following this, it is intended for work on site to begin in summer / late 2004, with the implementation of Phase 1.

**Note**
There is the opportunity to combine the core indoor visitor facilities required for the Stanwick Lakes site, with those required for a heritage centre, another project which has support within the region. Consultation would suggest that this approach would be strongly supported by the local communities.
### Planning status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning status</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is planning permission required</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Has permission been granted?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?** May / June 2004 for the complete masterplan development (excluding buildings and the possible marina development which will be dealt with in separate applications at the appropriate time)

### Land ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land ownership</th>
<th>East Northamptonshire Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who owns the land/buildings?</strong></td>
<td>East Northamptonshire Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to be achieved?**

There is no need to purchase additional land to achieve the project, however there is a separate opportunity to purchase an adjacent area of land - the site of the medieval village of Mallows Cotton, which would add considerable heritage interest to the site.

### Funding

**What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?**

The cost to implement the complete masterplan (not including the visitor building or marina scheme) is likely to be in the region of £1.3 million. However, this can be broken down into some key manageable areas of work, (costings for the work within phase 1 are broken down within the project delivery section of this questionnaire).

**Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?** £1.13 million has been allocated by East Northamptonshire Council for the project, however some expenditure has already been incurred on the planning and development for the site masterplan. The £1.13 million also includes some funding towards the building required for the site, so it is necessary for further funding to be secured for this initial phase of work.

**What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)**

The project has already received initial funding from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund and the Environment Agency, and would hope to receive some further funding in future.

The Trust are confident of securing some funding from sources such as the Hanson Environment Fund and from corporate sponsorship and will be talking to the Heritage Lottery Fund about the project and the visitor centre proposals.

At present there is a shortfall in the funding, however through funding sources such as this and those mentioned above, the Trust are confident that the funding required can be achieved.
Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

Social benefits of phase 1 of the project include:
- Increased access to a large area of the Nene Valley for recreation.
- Improved walking and cycling routes through the countryside particularly benefiting the less agile and parents with young children.
- Provision of indoor and outdoor activities for young people - much needed facilities within this area.
- Extensive opportunities for young people to be involved in outdoor, fun activities, encouraging a more healthy lifestyle which is a key concern in the UK at present.
- Extensive learning opportunities for school groups and special interest groups, as well as the general public.

Longer-term social benefits of the project are likely to include:
- Consultation with the local primary care trust indicates that the site could play a significant part in future health initiatives in the area. In particular, healthy living schemes providing packages of activities and educational sessions to improve diet and lifestyle could be successfully offered at the site, with patients being referred onto the scheme by their GP.
- Use of the visitor building as a community base for all age-groups from toddlers to OAPs.

Economic benefits for the project are likely to include:
- Economic sustainability – car park charges and other income generating schemes will support the long-term maintenance and management of the site.
- Some local employment as the site develops, with job opportunities for site wardens / rangers, as well as for staff within the visitor centre.
- Opportunities for the development of small local businesses and the expansion of existing businesses through franchises and leases for facilities such as the bicycle hire, fishery and café.
- The strengthening of the area as a tourist destination through the provision of additional visitor attractions. The marina in particular, along with the work that the Environment Agency is undertaking to increase the recreational potential of the Nene, has the potential to attract boaters to the area, who could be encouraged to stay and sample the facilities at the Stanwick Lakes site, as well as in the surrounding area. Similarly, the green route to Thrapston could assist in the promotion of the town as a destination for pubs, restaurants and shops.
- The shop within the visitor building will offer the opportunity to showcase local products, linking in with the work of the Northamptonshire Food Group.

Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

The Stanwick Lakes project will protect and enhance an important area of wetland bird habitat within the Nene Valley. Stanwick Lakes is very likely to form part of the proposed Special Protection Area for the Nene Valley, as surveys carried out by the RSPB have shown the site to have internationally important numbers of water birds. If designated, this will be the first SPA within Northamptonshire. Stanwick Lakes offers the opportunity to act as a central visitor base for the SPA, providing the appropriate interpretation and visitor experience, especially for those inexperienced birdwatchers or nature lovers. Local school groups already make organised visits to the site, and this gives the opportunity for young people to learn about this important wildlife habitat on their doorstep.
One of the key objectives for the Stanwick Lakes project is to create a sustainable site, which will pay for itself through income generation schemes, such as the hire of rooms for corporate seminars and conferences. This will create a site with long-term stability that will not be subject to budget cuts or the problem of securing core funding.

Stanwick Lakes offers an excellent opportunity to showcase good environmental practice in both its construction and on-going management. For example, the visitor building can be designed using sustainable building principles, incorporating where possible reclaimed, recycled and locally sourced materials and providing a showcase for the latest water and energy efficient technologies.

**Project delivery**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?</th>
<th>Yes – Phase 1</th>
<th>No – entire site development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

- Development of the green route using the railway line including bridge repairs and surfacing: £399,816
- Design and landscaping of central hub area including car park, entrance roadways, lake walks, picnic areas: £206,314
- Construction of key path networks including dual use (pedestrian / cycle) route around the northern end of the site and the arterial route through the centre of the site: £181,503
- Construction of play areas, play trails and youth facilities: £235,000

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

The Trust have the project management skills necessary to manage the project but intend to source additional specialist skills from architects, landscape architects and engineers. In some cases these skills may be provided by one of the partner organisations, but in others, experts will need to be commissioned to carry out specific areas of work. Additional funding will help to achieve this.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

Rockingham Forest Trust

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

The Trust has been working in partnership with a number of organisations over the development of the project, including East Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire County Council, the RSPB, English Nature, the Environment Agency and Hanson Aggregates.
There are a number of additional groups who will become more involved in specific aspects of the project as the site develops, such as the Heartlands Primary Care Trust, who are keen to use the site for health initiatives and Cultural Community Partnerships, who will be working with the Trust to develop the watersport activities and art interest within the site. The Trust also has links with a number of business partners such as Grant Thornton who are assisting in the development of the long-term business plan for the site.

We will also be developing a Friends of Stanwick Lakes group – for local community members who would like to be more involved in the development and management of the site. Many local residents have already shown an interest in being involved in the group.
**Name of Project:**
30 - University College Northampton, Environmental Science: SUDS Proposal at Upton  
Contact: Dr. Janet Jackson

**Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)**

Staff within the area of Environmental Science at UCN has proposed a monitoring programme to evaluate Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) at the Upton development site. The development site is currently owned by English Partnerships and Northampton Borough Council is developing the Country Park to the south of the development.

The monitoring project aims to apply a multidisciplinary approach by collecting data for water quality, hydrology, sediment transport, ecology, and the responses of residents that move into the new development. Data will be integrated to evaluate efficiency of the SUDS to:

a) reduce the impact of runoff from a new development;

b) increase local biodiversity and water quality;

c) to provide a green and sustainable urban environment for residents.

The development is expected to take 12 years to complete. The monitoring programme is intended to take the short and long-term view.

Currently funding is being sought to finance research assistants, PhD sponsorships and project costs.

**Planning status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Land ownership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who owns the land/buildings?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to the achieved?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£269, 235 over a three year period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)

None

### Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

The monitoring project at Upton will be evaluating the first large-scale development site in England and Wales with integrated SUDS. The results of the monitoring will promote innovation in urban design with a particular emphasis on sustainable development and will assist in the dissemination of good practice to the environmental business sector and developers.

The community studies form an integral part of the monitoring programme, and these studies will seek to assess the liveability of the Upton development, which has been specifically design to appeal to residents, and enables them to consider issues of sustainability when purchasing or renting a property.

SUDS is a relatively new innovative environmental technology, designed to manage surface water from urban developments. Management of water resources will soon be a significant issue for business and the environmental sector as regulations derived from EU Water Framework Directive will require compliance in the near future.

Few projects have been designed and evaluated, particularly in the UK and none have yet been found that take this proposed integrated approach. Monitoring this demonstration site will provide information that will help local communities and developers to become better informed about local environmental issues. This project will also help to inform best practice in using new technologies to assist with aim of sustainable development.

### Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

Evaluation of SUDS as a new environmental technology will assist to evaluate if SUDS can help to:
- improve water quality of surface run-off;
- reduce the impact of new development and associated flood risks;
- improve local biodiversity.

### Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years? No – ongoing

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?

It is expected that this project will commence in 2004

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?
Staff, additional research assistants and project partners will pool expertise and resources.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

UCN will lead the delivery of the project with the help of project partners.

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

A steering group committee already has been formed and partners include: English Partnerships; Environment Agency; Pell Frishmann; English Nature; Quartet Design; The Ponds Conservation Trust; Northampton Borough Council; Oxford Brookes University; The Wildlife Trust; House Builders Federation.
**Name of Project:**
31 - Thrapston Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme

**Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)**
The Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS) is English Heritage's main vehicle for carrying out area-based regeneration of Historic Buildings. Thrapston first participated in the scheme between 1999 and 2000 and has been offered the chance to participate again in 204/5.

HERS concentrates grant resources on commercial, business and retail premises which are important to the local economy and where grant aid for repairs to buildings of historic interest will assist in the promotion of local employment, occupation of underused floor space and will generally promote inward investment. The scheme assists areas in demonstrable economic need.

**Planning status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?

**Land ownership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who owns the land/buildings?</th>
<th>All properties will be under private ownership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the landowner consent to the proposals?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to the achieved?

N/A

**Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the approximate estimated cost of the project?</th>
<th>£100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>East Northants District Council</th>
<th>£20,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Heritage</td>
<td>£15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Owner contributions</td>
<td>£35,000 (approx)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Social and economic benefits**

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.
The HERS scheme is targeted at England’s ‘humble heritage’, the historic buildings that collectively contribute so much to the character of the High Street and which are struggling to survive in the face of competition from out-of-town shopping centres, where assistance with building repairs can revive business confidence and tip the balance in favour of employment and inward investment.

Carrying our repair and renovation works within the Conservation Area can make the area more attractive for visitors and bring in more money to the local economy.

Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

The HERS scheme targets buildings which are either run-down or which have suffered in the past from inappropriate alterations. Bringing these buildings back into use or reversing these changes can help the building contribute to an improved conservation area as well as achieving the sustainability benefits of the re-use/continuing use of old buildings.

Making Thrapston Town Centre a more vital and viable shopping area can also help to reduce the number of car journeys away from Thrapston as people are encouraged to shop in their home town.

Project delivery

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years? Yes No

N/A

Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?

There is an existing project team consisting of Paul Thomas, Senior Conservation Officer (Lead) and Sarah Groves, Conservation Officer set up to deliver the HERS project. The project will be overseen by the Head of Planning Services.

Which organisation/company would deliver the project?

East Northamptonshire District Council

Are any partnership links established or proposed?

There is an established partnership link with English Heritage, which was formed when the project was first delivered in 1999 to 2000. Links will be required with owners of the properties that are to be targeted by the 2004/5 Scheme.
**Name of Project:**

32 - Wollaston Valley Project (RNRP)

**Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)**

Wollaston Valley Project is situated in the Wollaston, Earls Barton and Great Doddington & Wilby Wards but will provide benefits cross county and add a significant environmental asset to the regional park concept. The site sits within a key strategic location in relation to the current and future ‘green infrastructure’ network within the River Nene, Northamptonshire and the MKSM Growth Area.

A significant environmental asset, located between the Northampton and Wellingborough stretch of the River Nene, the site is also linked to existing and proposed mineral extraction sites, as well as access links to Wellingborough (water, road and former rail). It is a locally significant area of land, excellent for wildlife, and is also a former extraction site offering a potential ‘natural’ core to a larger recreation or biodiversity network area (linage to Stanwick lakes, Irchester, Chester Farm, Earls Barton Carr, Salcey Forest etc). This would be considered a critical area of land holding within the Nene Valley and provide public ownership of land within the RNRP area of scope.

The area has existing high levels of publicly accessible foot path networks, and part of the site forms Summer Leys Nature Reserve leased to Northamptonshire County Council. It would make this a prime site for educational and leisure uses linked to the RNRP and enable the development of a diverse range of green spaces. The project area gives opportunity to enhance the access levels, user links to adjacent green space sites, whilst securing a significant area of land that is high in landscape diversity terms. A potential regional asset, the site is also under consideration as a potential SPA.

The site also takes in a site defined as ‘Wollaston Water Park’ and may offer low scale recreation opportunities within a short distance of a major growth area town, yet remains a rural asset.

**Planning status**

| Is planning permission required | Yes | No |
| Has permission been granted? | Yes | No |
| When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved? | N/A |

**Land ownership**

| Who owns the land/buildings? |
| Hanson Extraction Company Plc |

| Does the landowner consent to the proposals? | Yes | No |

| Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to the achieved? |
| Yes – Ongoing discussion with landowner and current land users |

**Funding**

| What is the approximate estimated cost of the project? |
| £250,000 Land purchase and capital works (Land value est £900,000) |
Current landowners in discussions to offset costs as contribution to RNRP and local green infrastructure. Private sector partner at local level £650,000 contribution in kind possible.

Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?

**£40,000 Northamptonshire County Council**

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)

ALSF EN/CA funds
Sports England (recreational funds)
On going assessment of potential funding partners from social, economic and environment sectors and private sector.

**Social and economic benefits**

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

Potential to develop the site for recreational use, and secures a site of social significance at a regional level (SPA designation)

Tourism, Access and Recreational opportunities are good for diverse low key usage.

Potential existing land owner support would secure this core area of the RNRP, its proximity to Wellingborough and surrounding towns and villages makes this a strategic green space asset.

**Environmental benefits**

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

- Improves access for all to leisure, green space, wildlife areas and the countryside – and vice versa to the town.
- Protect, enhance and create habitats – increased ecological value
- River restoration and improvement
- Enhanced landscape quality and liveability
- Preserve and enhance local identity
- Improve conditions and increase trips by walking, cycling and other forms of recreation
- Reduce factors contributing to ill health
- Provides local linkage to major towns and villages
- Potential for parts of the site to have EU designation as SPA
- Secures a key area of green space within the heart of the growth area
- Opportunity to link current and future green space sites

**Project delivery**

Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years? **Yes (Purchase)**  **No**

If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase can be secured with some limited capital structure works within site and promotion, ongoing revenue pressures are still to be addressed, pending formal agreement on land release value.</td>
<td><em>You can add your response here.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which organisation/company would deliver the project?</td>
<td>Project Managed by RNRP Project Team (Lead Partner NCC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust, Wellingborough Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are any partnership links established or proposed?</td>
<td>All partnership/stakeholder links in place at County and Regional Level. Local partners are ‘proposed’ pending land agreement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Name of Project:**

33 - Wet Grassland Creation – Barnes Meadow

**Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)**

Lying on the south-western edge of Northampton town Barnes Meadow Local Nature Reserve is an area of meadows within the flood plain of the River Nene. The area is also thought to have been the site of the 15th century Battle of Northampton fought during the Wars of the Roses and as such is of national significance. The area has been effected through more recent ground works associated with the canalisation of the river, flood protection and road construction and as such will now be very different from what it was in the 1400’s.

The aim of this project will be to re-create a landscape similar to that which would have been present when the battle of Northampton took place. In this way we would hope to allow some detailed interpretation of this historic area as well as providing wet grassland habitat which is now uncommon in the Nene Valley.

In order to carry out the works it will be necessary to first carry out some investigation of the existing condition of the site in terms of topography, current biological interest and potential for archaeological remains. We would also wish to carry out some investigation into how the area may have looked in the 15th century perhaps through paleo-ecological and historical research.

Consultants will then need to be appointed to produce design plans and carry out consultation with interested parties and also to manage any excavation works, which may be necessary.

Once proposals have been agreed and detailed plans produced engineering works can be planned for the following year. These works may involve:

1. Localised ground lowering with spoil disposal either within the old course of the channel or in low bunds to the edge of the excavation. Disposal within the channel can diversify the channel structure and increase its biodiversity value.
2. Relocation of the Nene bund (this effectively separates the river from its flood plain) further back into the field to allow increased ingress of water from the river.
3. In conjunction with point 3 the course of the Hardingstone brook could be altered to allow the creation of a more natural channel which could meander though the field.

With all of these proposals it will be important to ensure that interested parties are involved in the planning process. This will be especially true for the Environment Agency which holds flood defence and navigational responsibility for this area.

An outline of costs required to complete this project is attached, he most significant proportion of these being taken by earth movement and archaeological survey. This represents a cost which will deliver the Heritage aspects in tandem with biodiversity outcomes. This project could be scaled down so long as the Heritage Department is comfortable with any proposals.

**Planning status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is planning permission required</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has permission been granted?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?
**Name of Project:**
34 - Yardley Chase SSSI

**Summary Description of Project (including stage project is currently at)**
Yardley Chase is a major area of woodland, parkland and pasture located between Northampton and Milton Keynes. Access is obtained off the A428, Northampton to Bedford road. It is situated in the Hackleton Ward of Northamptonshire but will provide benefits to the whole of the county and visitors from outside the area, particularly those between the Northampton, Bedford and Milton Keynes growth areas.

This major area of woodland, parkland and pasture as a public open space will be managed for the protection and enhancement of the flora and fauna on this previously inaccessible site. The variety of semi-natural habitat, diversity of associated species and large total area, including part designation as an SSSI, makes Yardley Chase one of the foremost sites for nature conservation in the East Midlands.

The site therefore provides tremendous opportunities for nature conservation and as an educational resource for the benefit of schools and the public in connection with the historic and natural environment. It would greatly extend the opportunities for formal and informal leisure and recreational activities in the county and its environs, and in South Northamptonshire in particular, the only district which does not have its own Country Park.

The strategic location of Yardley Chase provides a major opportunity for its use as a public accessible recreational area that will also enhance the green spaces network in the context of the overall Milton Keynes and South Midlands growth area.

**Planning status**

| Is planning permission required | Yes ✓ | No |
| Has permission been granted? | Yes | No ✓ |

When do you anticipate planning permission will be achieved?
On confirmation that the purchase of the site has been agreed and funding made available

**Land ownership**

| Who owns the land/buildings? | The Ministry of Defence |
| Does the landowner consent to the proposals? | Yes - Negotiations are under way | No |

Do you need to purchase land to implement the project? If so, when is this likely to the achieved?
Yes, negotiations to purchase the land are under way

**Funding**

| What is the approximate estimated cost of the project? | £2.13 million with £30K in-kind support |
Is any funding already available and if so, how much and from whom?
Bid submitted for ODPM support via GOEM

What additional funding streams have been identified? (please list)
No formal approaches made but, potential partners to NCC include the following:

Heritage Lottery Fund
Countryside Agency
Forest Enterprise
The Wildlife Trusts
South Northamptonshire Council

Social and economic benefits

Please summarise the social and economic benefits of the project including any employment and learning opportunities.

Social benefits include:

new leisure, educational and recreational facility
provides an opportunity for volunteering and meeting like-minded people
an opportunity for developing interests
opportunity for healthy activities and exercise

Economic benefits include:

capital investment into the area
opportunities for direct or indirect employment
increased opportunities for leisure, recreational or tourism based activities
increased tourism numbers and associated spend in the area
adds value to the other visitor attractions that will extend the duration of visits
opportunities for employment in enviro-technology investment, farm diversification, composting, carbon sinks, educational, forestry and associated commercial areas

Environmental benefits

Please summarise the environmental/sustainability benefits of the project

The site will be brought into public ownership and made available for public use and the protection and enhancement of the woodland and associated habitats and the benefit of the flora and fauna.

The site would be publicly accessible, thereby helping to satisfy a much needed demand as Northamptonshire has no major areas of public open space, wilderness, moorland or heathland

It would provide the benefits of a country park in South Northamptonshire, the only district in the county lacking this facility

It would provide approximately 800 hectares of greenspace to support the Milton Keynes and South Midlands growth areas
It would significantly increase the area of designated land brought into appropriate management

It would provide an essential component of the green infrastructure required as part of the sustainable communities growth area proposals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project delivery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can the project be implemented in full within the next two years?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If not, which aspects of the proposal could be implemented in the next two years?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have the skills and resources in place to deliver the project? If not, what additional resources do you need?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which organisation/company would deliver the project?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are any partnership links established or proposed?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix C – Review of Tangible Projects
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name and Number*</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Those shaded grey are short listed projects for ODPM Greenspaces funding</td>
<td>'Fit' with emerging Regional Park Vision</td>
<td>'Fit' with IRS Sustainability Checklist (positive contributions only)</td>
<td>'Fit' with key ODPM Greenspaces Fund requirements</td>
<td>'Fit' with further detailed ODPM requirements</td>
<td>Overall Social/Environment /Economic Score and Total Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>EN</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>SP</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No – Why not?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Barnwell Country Park Expansion</td>
<td>Culture and Learning</td>
<td>Sport, Recreation and Healthy Living</td>
<td>SO4 SO6</td>
<td>EN1 EN4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Beckett's Park</td>
<td>Sport, Recreation and Healthy Living</td>
<td></td>
<td>SO4 SO6</td>
<td>EN1 EN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Countryside Access for All Project - Brixworth Country Park (Interpretation)</td>
<td>Culture and Learning</td>
<td>Sport, Recreation and Healthy Living</td>
<td>SO4 SO6</td>
<td>EN1 EN4 EC1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chester Farm Heritage Centre</td>
<td>Culture and Learning</td>
<td>Environmental Research and Innovation</td>
<td>Sport, Recreation and Healthy Living</td>
<td>SO4 SO6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Name and Number*</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>E</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Those shaded grey are short listed projects for ODPM Greenspaces funding</td>
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<td>'Fit' with IRS Sustainability Checklist (positive contributions only)</td>
<td>'Fit' with key ODPM Greenspaces Fund requirements</td>
<td>'Fit' with further detailed ODPM requirements</td>
<td>Overall Social/Environment /Economic Score and Total Score</td>
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<td>S</td>
<td>EN</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>SP</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ditchford Lakes and Meadows</td>
<td>Sport, Recreation and Healthy Living</td>
<td>SO4</td>
<td>EN1</td>
<td>EN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Earls Barton Carr</td>
<td>Sport, Recreation and Healthy Living</td>
<td>SO3</td>
<td>EN1</td>
<td>EN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>East Midlands Sustainable Information Network (EMSIN)</td>
<td>Culture and Learning</td>
<td>SO2</td>
<td>EN1</td>
<td>EN2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Name and Number*</td>
<td>A ‘Fit’ with emerging Regional Park Vision</td>
<td>B ‘Fit’ with IRS Sustainability Checklist (positive contributions only)</td>
<td>C ‘Fit’ with key ODPM Greenspaces Fund requirements</td>
<td>D ‘Fit’ with further detailed ODPM requirements</td>
<td>E Overall Social/Environment/Economic Score and Total Score</td>
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<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td>EN</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>SP</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) Proposal for Northamptonshire Branch</td>
<td>S02 S06</td>
<td>EN1 EN2 EN3 EN4</td>
<td>EC1 EC2 EC4 EC5</td>
<td>SP1 SP3</td>
<td>No – Not a green infrastructure project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. FOCUS Northamptonshire</td>
<td>SO3 SO4 SO6</td>
<td>EN4</td>
<td>EC2 EC3 EC4 EC5</td>
<td>SP2 SP3</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name and Number*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Fit’ with emerging Regional Park Vision</td>
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<td>‘Fit’ with key ODPM Greenspaces Fund requirements</td>
<td>‘Fit’ with further detailed ODPM requirements</td>
<td>Overall Social/Environment/Economic Score and Total Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Those shaded grey are short listed projects for ODPM Greenspaces funding</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No – Why not?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No – Why not?</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Green Infrastructure Research Project</td>
<td>Environmental Research and Innovation</td>
<td>SO3 SO6</td>
<td>EN1 EN2 EN4</td>
<td>SP1 SP2 SP4</td>
<td>Pilot sites in first two years alongside strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Healthy Environment, Healthy People</td>
<td>Sport, Recreation and Healthy Living</td>
<td>SO2 SO3 SO4 SO6</td>
<td>EN1 EN2 EN4</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Name and Number*</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>SO2 SO4 SO6</td>
<td>EN1 EN3 EN4</td>
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<td>Kingfisher Lodge Education Project – Barnwell Country Park</td>
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<td>Culture and Learning</td>
<td>SO2 SO4 SO6</td>
<td>EN2 EN3 EN4</td>
</tr>
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<td>SO3</td>
<td>EN1 EN2 EN4</td>
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<td>EN1EN2</td>
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<td>SO2 SO4 SO6</td>
<td>EN1 EN2 EN4</td>
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<td>SO3 SO4 SO6</td>
<td>EN1 EN2 EN4</td>
<td>EC2</td>
<td>SP1</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Nene Way and Ise Valley Access Project</td>
<td>Sport, Recreation and Healthy Living</td>
<td>SO3 SO6</td>
<td>EN2 EN4</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>SP2 SP3 SP4</td>
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<td>EC</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Nene Conservation Volunteer and Networking Centre</td>
<td>Culture and Learning</td>
<td>SO2 SO4 SO6</td>
<td>EN1</td>
<td>/</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Nature Banc</td>
<td>Sport, Recreation and Healthy Living Culture and Learning</td>
<td>SO2 SO4 SO6</td>
<td>EN1 EN2 EN4</td>
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<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td>Natural Breaks</td>
<td>Sport, Recreation and Healthy Living</td>
<td>SO1 SO4 SO6</td>
<td><strong>EN1 EN2 EN4</strong></td>
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<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td>Nene Valley Forest School</td>
<td>Culture and Learning</td>
<td>SO2 SO4 SO6</td>
<td><strong>EN4</strong></td>
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<td><strong>23</strong></td>
<td>Nene Valley Links</td>
<td>Culture and Learning</td>
<td>SO2 SO3 SO6</td>
<td><strong>EN1 EN4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Northamptonshire Archaeological Archive</td>
<td>Culture and Learning</td>
<td>SO4 SO6</td>
<td>EN1 EN2 EN3 EN4</td>
<td>EC1 EC2</td>
<td>No – Why not?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Culture and Learning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Delivery issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Research and Innovation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Some match funding although details and relationship to Stanwick Lake proposals unclear</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Not self funding</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+ Partnering with Northamptonshire County Association Heritage Group</td>
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<td>25 Northampton Upper Nene Valley Country Park – Interpretation Centre</td>
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<td>SO2 SO3 SO4 SO6</td>
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<td>EC1 EC2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Culture and Learning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Some aspects relate to Green Infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Research and Innovation</td>
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<td>+ No delivery issues envisaged</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>+ Significant match funding in place (through S106 and NBC – 700k)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+ Potential additional funding streams (English Partnerships/sustainable design funding</td>
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<td>- No clear need case</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+ Have established partner 'links' with EP, developers, UCN, Upton Housing management Trust</td>
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<td>+ Proximity to urban and growth areas</td>
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<td>26 Northampton Upper Nene Valley Country Park – Phase 1 – Pedestrian/Cycleway Bridge over River Canal</td>
<td>Sport, Recreation and Healthy Living</td>
<td>SO2 SO3 SO4</td>
<td>EN2 EN4</td>
<td>SP1 SP2</td>
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<td>Infrastructure link, but not 'green'</td>
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<td>+ No delivery issues envisaged</td>
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<td>+ Some match funding in place (through S106)</td>
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<td>+ No self funding required</td>
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<td>+ Have tried to get funding from EMDA</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Rockingham Forest Heritage Centre</td>
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<td>Sport, Recreation and</td>
<td>SO2</td>
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<td>Healthy Living</td>
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<td>Culture and Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Salcey Forest</td>
<td>Salcey Forest</td>
<td>Sport, Recreation and</td>
<td>SO3</td>
<td>SO4</td>
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<td>Healthy Living</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Culture and Learning</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Stanwick Lakes Recreation Project</td>
<td>Stanwick Lakes Recreation Project</td>
<td>Culture and Learning</td>
<td>SO2</td>
<td>SO4</td>
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<td>Sport, Recreation and</td>
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<td>30 SUDS Proposal at Upton</td>
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<td>EN1 EN2 EN3 EN4</td>
<td>EC1 EC2 EC4</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Thrapston Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme</td>
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<td>SO3 SO4</td>
<td>EN1 EN2</td>
<td>EC1 EC4 EC5</td>
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<tr>
<td>32 Wollaston Valley</td>
<td>Sport, Recreation and Healthy Living</td>
<td>SO3 SO4</td>
<td>EN1 EN2 EN4</td>
<td>SP1 SP2 SP4</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>33 Wet Grassland Creation – Barnes Meadow</td>
<td>Culture and Learning</td>
<td>SO4 SO6</td>
<td>EN1 EN2 EN4</td>
<td>SP1 SP3</td>
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<tr>
<td>34 Yardley Chase SSSI</td>
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<td>SO3 SO4 SO6</td>
<td>EN1 EN2</td>
<td>SP3 SP4</td>
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Appendix D – EMRA Sustainability Checklist
The Sustainability Checklist

July 2002
THE EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY CHECKLIST

Introduction

Based on objectives contained within the Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS), this checklist provides a "quick and easy" method of testing whether or not a new or existing proposal, project or activity contributes to sustainable development in the Region.

Why use this checklist?

- It is available to help achieve a better project, which helps to take forward regionally agreed priorities.
- It is quick and easy to perform and doesn’t require external consultants or extra resources.
- It encourages the more widespread consideration of what sustainable development means in practice, in terms of local delivery.
- It allows the likely impact of projects or alternate proposals to be identified and potentially improved at an early stage.
- Existing core activities of an organisation can also be appraised and improved.
- Projects/activities should therefore emerge that take account of the full range of sustainable development issues, across the economic, environmental, social and spatial themes of the IRS.

Whilst this checklist is being promoted as a means to test the sustainability of small, single projects, proposals or activities, more complex plans or strategies may require more in depth appraisal. Complex plans and strategies should be appraised by means of the “Step-by-step Guide to Sustainability Appraisal” available on the East Midlands Regional Assembly web site at www.eastmidlandsassembly.org.uk.

There are many appraisal packages available for use within specific interest areas, such as health or housing. This Checklist is designed to test overall sustainability as measured by the East Midlands Regional Strategy and its Headline Sustainable Development Objectives.
How to use the checklist

The format of the checklist is illustrated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IRS OBJECTIVES &amp; EXAMPLES OF CRITERIA</th>
<th>Does the project contribute to this objective? (Please tick the relevant box)</th>
<th>HOW?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRS SOCIAL THEME OBJECTIVES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| SO1 To ensure that the housing stock meets the HOUSING needs of all parts of the community e.g., does it:  
  • Assist in tackling homelessness  
  • Respond to other priority housing needs  
  • Help improve the quality or upkeep of the current housing stock  
  • Provide housing affordable to all sections of the community               |     |     |             |
| SO2 To ensure that the delivery etc    |     |     |             |

For each of the objectives, first assess whether the project has a positive, negative or neutral effect on taking the objective forward by considering the relevant criteria. Examples of “criteria” are included as a guide as to whether the objective is being fulfilled. They are only examples, not the full picture. Once you have considered them and other possible effects on the objective, tick the relevant box as described below:

- If the project is judged to have a POSITIVE effect on achieving that objective, tick “Yes” box.
- If the project is judged to have a NEGATIVE effect on achieving that objective, tick “No” box.
- If it is felt it would have NO effect at all - tick the “No effect” box.

**HOW** - Use the “HOW” box to briefly explain the thinking behind the appraisal, ie why and how it may help or hinder achieving the objective under consideration. You can consider additional criteria not already listed under the objective. Comments can include additional ways in which the project can assist the achievement of the objective.

**REPEAT** the process for **ALL** of the Objectives.

**Things to remember**

The appraisal of most projects or proposals against this checklist should be relatively quick and easy. The following points are important to remember:
• Do the whole checklist for all parts of the proposals, don’t pick and choose themes.
• Use the “HOW” box to make the appraisal as transparent and open as possible.
• Think not only about direct impacts, but also potential impacts and missed opportunities of the proposal.
• Not all of the criteria will be relevant to the proposal under consideration, but each should be considered briefly as part of the assessment.
• The whole life span of the project must be taken into account – some impacts may be more than local (ie global impact of pollution).
• Redo the checklist at regular intervals through the life of the project or plan to show how it is being refined in order to take sustainability into account.

Once the checklist has been completed, the final page can be used to record a summary of the appraisal findings, including any recommendations for improvements to the sustainability of the project, action plan or proposal under consideration.

All projects or proposals should seek to score positively against as many of the criteria identified under all of the objectives in the checklist. The appraisal methodology will identify opportunities for projects to take forward sustainability objectives and criteria that have been overlooked. Following the appraisal, projects, proposals or activities should be refined to take advantage of such opportunities to improve performance with regard to sustainability.

In addition, all projects or proposals should seek to reflect the following **guiding principle** for development of all strategies and action plans:

**To counter discrimination and disadvantage and promote user and community involvement in policy development and service delivery**

*e.g. does it:*
  • promote best practice through joined-up action
  • support community empowerment and maximise opportunities for excluded individuals and groups to be involved
  • offer fully accessible buildings and services
  • take account of anti-discrimination legislation.

It is anticipated that this will be incorporated into the revised IRS later in the year 2002/ 2003.

*If you require help or advice on sustainability appraisal methodology, please contact Yvette Dearden, Policy Adviser, Sustainable Development (and Chair of the Regional Sustainable Development Advisers Group) on 01664 502563.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>• Provide housing affordable to all sections of the community</td>
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<tr>
<td>SO2 To ensure that the delivery of a wide range of LIFE-LONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES is provided for all parts of the community</td>
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<td>e.g. does it:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Improve access to opportunities to education/ learning and skills and training opportunities for all</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Improve education standards in educational/ training institutions/ providers</td>
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<tr>
<td>SO3 To promote, support and sustain HEALTHY COMMUNITIES and lifestyles</td>
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<tr>
<td>e.g. does it:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Improve access to and quality of affordable facilities and information that promote physical, social and mental health and wellbeing with a focus on individuals and communities that experience the poorest health</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Address the causes of and factors that contribute to poor health e.g. poverty, poor environment, unemployment, lifestyle etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SO4 To maximise the contribution of ARTS, CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT to the quality of life in the East Midlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>e.g. does it:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Provide accessible and affordable sporting and leisure facilities and opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Increase access, enjoyment and participation in arts, local culture and heritage</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Build on local cultural diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>SO5 To ensure commitment and co-ordinated action to SECURE COMMUNITY SAFETY and reduce crime</td>
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<td>e.g. does it:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Help reduce the fear of crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Help reduce the occurrence of crime by maximising security</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRS OBJECTIVES &amp; EXAMPLES OF CRITERIA</td>
<td>Does the project contribute to this objective? (Please tick the relevant box)</td>
<td>HOW?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>SO6 To support the development and growth of SOCIAL CAPITAL* across the communities of the region</td>
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<tr>
<td>*See footnote at end of table e.g. does it:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Improve voluntary and community infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Contribute to building community capacity and facilitating community empowerment</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Encourage responsible behaviour by local people or raises awareness of issues, rights or opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Improve facilities and opportunities for disabled people</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Improve opportunities for volunteering, particularly amongst those groups least likely to participate</td>
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</table>

<p>| IRS ENVIRONMENT THEME OBJECTIVES | | |
|----------------------------------| | |
| EN1 To PROTECT, improve and manage THE RICH DIVERSITY of the natural, cultural and built environmental and archaeological assets of the region. e.g. does it: | | |
| - Conserve and manage local built and cultural heritage | | |
| - Conserve and enhance the historic environment | | |
| - Protect or enhance the Region’s biodiversity | | |
| - Restore the Region’s wildlife habitats | | |
| - Minimise any environmental disbenefits | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IRS OBJECTIVES &amp; EXAMPLES OF CRITERIA</th>
<th>Does the project contribute to this objective? (Please tick the relevant box)</th>
<th>HOW?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EN2 To manage change by ENHANCING and conserving the ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY of the region including high standards of design and to maximise the re-use of previously used land and buildings e.g. does it: • Make a positive contribution to the built environment/ protect and enhance local distinctiveness and diversity • Encourage the use of appropriate high quality materials and design to optimise the benefits of built development, contributing to the “Urban Rennaissance”. • Enhance landscape quality, especially historic landscapes and increases tree cover • Re use a brown field site or vacant building rather than building on a green field site • Assist in programmes to restore derelict land and to decontaminate land and regenerate areas • Minimise noise or light pollution, or in other ways protect dark skies • Minimise damage to the best agricultural land, soils and geology</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
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<td>Does the project contribute to this objective?</td>
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<td>(Please tick the relevant box)</td>
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<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>No effect</td>
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</table>

**EN3 To manage the NATURAL RESOURCES of the region including water, air quality and minerals IN A PRUDENT MANNER and to seek to minimise waste and to encourage re-use and recycling of waste materials.**

*E.g. does it:*

- Reduce energy use through efficiency and design or use renewable sources of energy (or combined heat and power)
- Assist individuals and firms in recycling, reusing or minimising waste
- Minimise resource use including minerals and waste and maximise life span of buildings etc.
- Protect and improve water quality and conserve water resources
- Protect and improve air quality, especially by limiting the emission of greenhouse gases affecting climate change
- Minimise the impact of waste on the environment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IRS OBJECTIVES &amp; EXAMPLES OF CRITERIA</th>
<th>Does the project contribute to this objective? (Please tick the relevant box)</th>
<th>HOW?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| EN4 To involve people, through changes to lifestyles and activities in MINIMISING adverse local, regional and global ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. e.g. does it:  
- Equip people with the skills and knowledge so that they value the environment and contribute to its enhancement.  
- Encourage the use if environmentally friendly methods of travel.  
- Encourage people to reduce the amount of waste they produce, reusing and recycling wherever appropriate.  
- Increase energy efficiency and associated environmental benefits.  
- Enable people to have safe access to the environment. | YES | NO | No effect |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IRS OBJECTIVES &amp; EXAMPLES OF CRITERIA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>IRS ECONOMIC THEME OBJECTIVES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EC1</strong> To bring about EXCELLENCE IN our approach to LEARNING AND SKILLS – giving the region a competitive edge in how we acquire and exploit knowledge, by creating a “learning region” – with individuals and employers who value learning and a learning industry that is proactive and creative – leading, in time, to a workforce that is among the most adaptable, motivated and highly skilled in Europe. e.g. does it: • Provide positive links to local education/ training institutions/ providers • Help to improve education /training/skills standards and opportunities for all • Help meet local skill/ employment needs • Assist local businesses in achieving the implementation of good social/ environmental management and policies</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EC2</strong> To develop a strong CULTURE OF ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION, putting the region at the leading edge in Europe in our exploitation of research, recognised for our spirit of innovation – and creating a climate within which entrepreneurs and world-class businesses can prosper. e.g. does it: • Provide a positive demonstrator effect to local businesses • Assist in the production/ marketing of distinctive local products/ foods • Assist in creating opportunities for using cleaner technologies/ processes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EC3</strong> To use the global INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY revolution to create the capability for everyone in the region – individuals and businesses – to use information and knowledge to maximum benefit. e.g. does it: • Assist in technology and information transfer to local firms/ communities • Maximise the use of ICT</td>
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June 02.doc
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IRS OBJECTIVES &amp; EXAMPLES OF CRITERIA</th>
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<tr>
<td>YES</td>
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<td>No effect</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC4 To create a CLIMATE FOR INVESTMENT in which success breeds success – providing the right conditions in the region for a modern industrial structure on a combination of indigenous growth and inward investment. e.g. does it:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Help local and community based businesses to set up and grow</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Have supply chain links with local companies/ sources of raw materials etc</td>
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<td>• Have positive impacts on local quality of life</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Link local production and local consumption</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Complement existing local businesses</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Increase local capacity for innovation and R &amp; D or access to credit or capital for local business</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC5 To EMPOWER COMMUNITIES to create solutions that meet their needs – ensuring that everyone in the region has the opportunity to benefit from, and contribute to, the region’s enhanced economic competitiveness, thereby supporting a socially inclusive region. e.g. does it:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Give a commitment to use local labour</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Provide accessible secure jobs to local unemployed people and other disadvantaged groups including being accessible in terms of location/transport/child care/skills/fulfilling of local needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Support local community projects/facilities and local capacity building schemes (Community Plans/ LA21)</td>
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<td>• Involve local regeneration partnerships</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Maximise the use of existing local skills.</td>
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<td>IRS OBJECTIVES &amp; EXAMPLES OF CRITERIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRS SPATIAL THEME OBJECTIVES</td>
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<tr>
<td>SP1 To ensure that decisions about the distribution and location of activity are consistent with SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES. e.g. does it</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Minimise journey distances to the facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Assist in ensuring that housing areas are in easy walking distances of schools, community facilities, leisure and public transport</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Protect and enhance valued open space and ensure that new open space areas are accessible to all the community</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of town centres</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ensure that developments do not increase flooding or coastal erosion</td>
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<tr>
<td>SP2 To ENHANCE the region’s INFRASTRUCTURE, including maximising transport choice and exploiting opportunities offered by information technology e.g. does it</td>
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<tr>
<td>• By its location and in other ways encourage the use of public transport</td>
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<td>• Improve conditions and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists</td>
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<td>• Discourage the use of private cars</td>
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<td>• Remain accessible to those without cars</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Assist in freight being moved by rail/water</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Make full use of information technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Make full use of existing infrastructure capacity</td>
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<tr>
<td>SP3 To recognise and RESPECT the DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF different PARTS OF THE REGION and the need for regional policies to take account of these e.g. does it:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Reflect local distinctiveness and cultural diversity, including built, landscape and other cultural and community identity effects</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRS OBJECTIVES &amp; EXAMPLES OF CRITERIA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>YES</td>
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**SP4 To have full regard to the importance of LINKAGES between different parts of the region and WITH ADJACENT REGIONS.**

*e.g. does it:*
- Further the bringing together of the region and sub regions within it
- Complement work and facilities with adjacent regions.

*The Commission on Social Justice defined Social Capital as consisting of “the institutions and relationships of a thriving civil society – from networks of neighbours to extended families, community groups to religious organisations, local business to public services, youth clubs to parent-teacher associations, playgroups to police on the beat. Where you live, who else lives there, and how they live their lives – co-operatively or selfishly, responsibly or destructively can be as important as personal resources in determining life chances.*

Proposal, project or activity details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appraisal undertaken by:</th>
<th>Dept:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>Signed:</td>
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</table>
### SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social theme (Objectives SO1, SO2, SO3, SO4, SO5, SO6 and SO7)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment theme (Objectives EN1, EN2, EN3 AND EN4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic theme (Objectives EC1, EC2, EC3, EC4 and EC5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spatial theme (Objectives SP1, SP2, SP3 and SP4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS:</td>
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