

Cambridge Past, Present & Future

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FAO: Susan Smith

8 February 2012

Dear Susan,

**Ref: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals & Waste Site Specific Proposals DPD
Allocation W1X: Household Recycling Centre -South of Addenbrookes Access Road**

Trumpington Road - CONSULTATION DRAFT - Cambridge Suburbs and Approaches

CambridgePPF welcomes this study and considers enhancement of this road as important. With reference to the above study our internal Heritage Working Group has discussed the appraisal and has the following comments to make (see also comments made as part of the Consultation Draft covering `new Town and Glisson Road Conservation Area):

Chapter 1

- para 2 - **character of road** - as part of old road to London - how far is its width determined due to past usage as drove road to bring cattle etc to market?
- **‘Dominance of mature landscape’** (refrain usage of “landscaping”) is to both sides of the road.
- para 4 - **between Long Road and Brooklands Avenue now fairly gated and with hidden front gardens** which have established in recent decades giving the road a less inviting and pleasant feel and much more gated residential places with high security surveillance i place. This together with the widening of the road following the establishment of the Trumpington Park & Ride and associated designated bus route **and loss of grassed verges resulted in some loss of this approach road’s charm and pleasantness.**

Chapter 2

- para 2.2 - since survey in 2010 lots have changed and the report needs updating in areas (new junctions to Trumpington Meadows and Addenbrookes) etc.

Chapter 3

- para 3.1-3rd para - please note **it has never been the Cambridge Preservation Trust**
- was Cambridge Preservation Society now CambridgePPF (please can the consultants

update their standard template text as this error has come up repeatedly - are comments made actually forwarded to consultants?)

- para 3.2-para 3 - **mile stones** - not only the first but second and third can be seen in this study area and are in good condition. The third has just been replaced in 2011 between M11 and entrance to Park & Ride - it needs to be checked if this one is listed. CambridgePPF recommends listing of this mile stone if not already.
- para 3.2- para 9 (also para 4.6 - paras 2 and 3) - Brooklands Avenue - note this was only linked to Trumpington Road early 20th Century - refer also to Conservation Area Appraisal. Brooklands Lodge was original gated link to Brooklands House and its estate/ parkland. Missing is historical information of Stone Bridge where Vicar's Brook goes under Trumpington Road and old crossing point.
- para 3.2- para 13 - new developments now more advanced and text to be updated.

Chapter 4

- Character Area 3 - strong character are timber fencing and hedges and gated look mostly preventing views to front gardens - a strong change from original character of these villas
- Character Area 4 - 3rd para - it is Brooklands Avenue Area CA
- 4.2 - para 2 - the recent 'improvements' to the road has now a strong highway feel and is domineering. Future improvements need to be made to improve this gateway section of the road and to improve detailing of soft hard and hard landscape features (from traffic islands to verges). Essential to strengthen character description of initial approach as the rural setting of Cambridge needs enhancing and protection i.e. character with arable fields on both sides.
- High density of street columns and lighting within Green Belt is adversely affecting the setting of the approach road and requires ongoing improvements
- para 4.3 - 3rd para - Grantchester Meadows cannot be seen at this section and linkage described is not reality - needs rephrasing (check also with Character Area 3).
- para 4.4 - para 5 - landscaping to edge of petrol station (Shell garage) and road pavement has been unsatisfactory should be improved. Same frontage to Esso Garage currently under restoration following apparent ground contamination as well as taking the opportunity to improve landscape setting of the old village hall.
- para 4.5 - para 3 - several references to Old Mill - actually is Old Mill House
- para 4.5 - para 4 - restaurant Spice Merchant was the old 'Volunteer Pub' and is set back from the main road.
- para 4.6 - para 2 and 3 - the railings are of two different types - Hobson's Conduit/ Brook
- Grade II listed **spear-headed-style** as well as traditional metal railings with '**Hot-Cross Bun finials**' to edge of retained Empty Common Triangle (boundaries with Trumpington Road, Brooklands Avenue and Hobson's Conduit/ Brook). See reference - Cambridge Iron Founders - Ken Alger, Allan Brigham, Julie Wilkinson, Cambridge Archaeology Society 1996
- note: front cover has iron railings along Brookside section of Hobson's Conduit in white!!!
- para 4.6 - para 3 - to note is that the Green Belt crosses the road as well as old green corridor from Empty Common to New Bit.

Generally

- **change to Botanic Garden** (no 's' at end) throughout study
- **references to fig: x** - unclear as none seen; ditto also unclear what is appendix 1?
- **landmark buildings not mapped** and need more description - missing - new buildings as consented development of the Glebe Farm area; other feature buildings (e.g. Royal Cambridge Hotel, pub/ restaurant Wok and Grill) and landscape backdrop (e.g. junction with Brooklands Avenue, Cemetery at junction with Shelford Road)
- **unclear what improvement and enhancements are to be made** should an opportunity arise due to development on private or publicly owned land (particularly areas located outside any designated Conservation Areas)
- SheepFen should read **Sheep's Green**
- a **tree strategy needs to be developed for all character areas** e.g. Character Area 3 as currently dominant in mature Horse Chestnuts etc.; is Beech suitable long-term for Character Area 1 - particularly Copper Beech as at the edge with the countryside and rural

landscape character? Note: Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines: A Manual for Management and Change in the Rural Landscape 1991. Impact of climate change as well as increase of pest and diseases needs to ensure the informal but impressive avenue effect to both sides of the Road (Character area 3) is retained and enhanced. In this area it needs to be noted that all trees grow on private land, not Highway Authority verges and are of large scale. Their future management needs to be clarified.

- **Seating missing** - between Long Road and Brooklands Avenue and opportunities taken to improve Trumpington Road also as an important non-vehicular route. A large enough group walks to work, to shop and/ or for recreation. Seats are essential to ensure the needs of less able (including elderly and disabled) walkers to enjoy their city. During the economic down-turn and increasing costs of fuel more emphasis on sustainable access to the city centre should be ensured. Designs should be integrated which provide seating with arm rests and back rests but prevents anti-social behavior. The city-wide plan and management of street furniture (seats, bins etc) should be revised and the various responsible departments at the City and County Councils should be coordinated to avoid loss of street furniture, ensure adequate design appropriate for a conservation area and City of Cambridge on the whole.
- **signage and bus stops** - some sign poles need integrating into existing bus shelters and there are opportunities to declutter grass verges; **feeder pillars and telecom and other cabinets** - some are grey, some are khaki-green (Old Mill House) some are dark/mid green
- a city-wide guides to all utility and lighting providers as well those installing signage etc may be useful.
- bins - in time some of the old blue bins should be replaced with more appropriate coloured bins such as the standard black "Cambridge bin".
- **Street lighting** - areas need to be updated to include lighting strategy within the Conservation area as well as along the entire road/ study area. Description should also highlight areas where historic or special lighting should be kept. The current PFI-contract should be updated and County and City Council funding allocated accordingly and to phases of improvement works.
- any post boxes/ telephone booths need listing?
- references - add - Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines: A Manual for Management and Change in the Rural Landscape 1991

Mapping generally -

- annotate Hobson's Brook/ Vicar's Brook
- add landmark buildings and landscape features
- add location of all three milestones (and highlight those which are Listed Buildings)
- annotation 'Green Area' is confusing as designated/ protected green spaces are not shown (such as Green Belt, Historic Park & Garden, Protected Open Space, City/ County Wildlife Site etc)
- important views are not highlighted.

South area map

- 'Green Area' - include triangle of young woodland planting to junction of Hauxton Road with new Addenbrookes Road.

CambridgePPF considers that as part of these studies the overall threats and opportunities need to be pooled together to form useful design guidance ensuring the enhancement of one of Cambridge's main access roads.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleague Nigel Bell.

Kind regards



Carolin Göhler
CEO - CambridgePPF

Encl - none

Cc - English Heritage - note listing of 3rd Milestone is essential

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