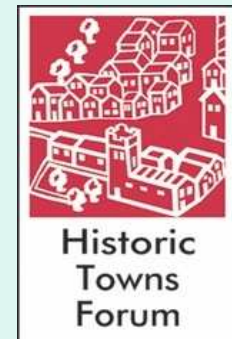


**RSA – East of England Civic Societies
Ipswich, 17th April 2010**

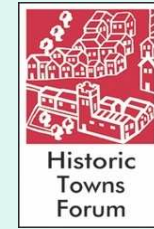
Rivers in Towns:

Making Water Your Friend

***Brian Human
Vice Chair Historic Towns Forum***



The Historic Towns Forum

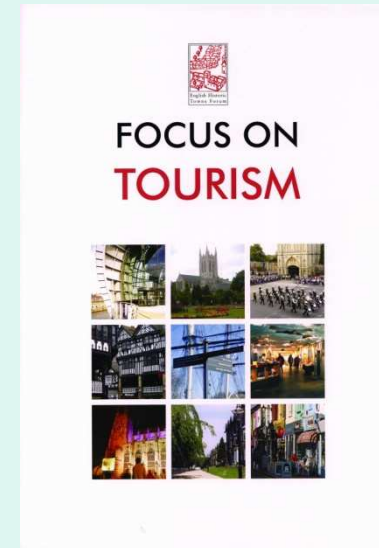


Local authority focused

‘...to promote prosperity and heritage in historic towns and cities’

- Support to practitioners
- Share best practice
- Influencing decision makers
- Events and publications

A multi sector cross cutting approach to the historic environment



TRANSPORT
Historic Core Zones Project Report £16

The Historic Core Zones Project

Signs, lines, humps and bumps – we need them to control traffic, but they often spoil the appearance of our most treasured town centres and historic places.

The Historic Core Zone schemes in Bury St Edmunds, Halifax, Lincoln and Shrewsbury exemplify a better approach to traffic control. Each of the schemes proved successful in its own way and we have learnt a good deal from these.
(Sponsored by Marshalls)

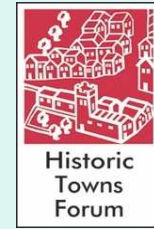
Historic Core Zones Project Review £6

Historic Core Zones Project Review

This review report reflects on the successes and failures of the schemes featured in the original report above and is the result of close working between EHTF and the Department for Transport. The four examples provide a pallet of measures which we believe can be applied to all historic towns where heritage and traffic live side by side.

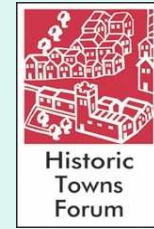
Outline

- **Rivers and sense of place**
- **The challenges of rivers**
- **Integrated policies and action**



River Gt Ouse, Ely

Sense of Place 1



Shaping location, shaping history

- Road/river crossing
- River trade routes
- Water sources
- Power supply
- Or dry land!

Houghton Mill

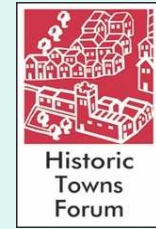


Sense of Place 2

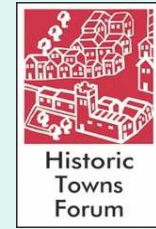
Shaping the environment

- Urban form, layout and landscape
- Settings for buildings
- Corridors for biodiversity

Cambridge



Sense of Place 3



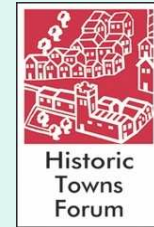
Shaping activity

- **Active** – boating, walking, fishing
- **Passive** – picnics, pubs
- **Living** – house boats
- **Working** – commerce and industry - tourism



River Nene, Wadenhoe

Sense of Place 4



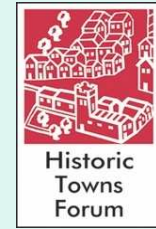
Rivers:

- Shape and make places
- Create local distinctiveness
- Essential part of our most attractive towns – places where people want to live
- A friend to a successful place



Wisbech

Challenges 1



Conservation:

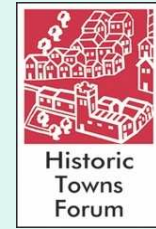
Threats of over use and inappropriate development

- Banks
- Buildings
- Biodiversity
- Overall amenity



Suffolk Yacht Harbour, River Orwell

Challenges 2



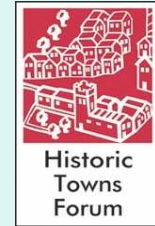
New development:

- Positive introduction or use of water
- Dealing with the impacts
 - Scale
 - Run-off
 - Cut off



Norwich Riverside

Challenges 3



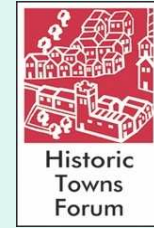
Flood risk

- **Development run off + climate change effects**
 - Drainage functions
- **Locations mean HT's inherently at risk**
- **Mitigation & adaptation**
 - Greater likelihood of flood risk
 - Damage to irreplaceable historic fabric
 - Need for sensitive planning and design

7m sea level rise if Greenland or West Antarctic ice sheet melts



Challenges 4

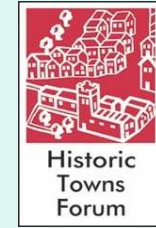


Management

- Who is responsible?
- Environment agency
- Riparian owners
- Local authorities
- Water companies
- Internal Drainage Boards
- Port authorities
- Who is responsible for overall amenity?



Meeting the Challenges



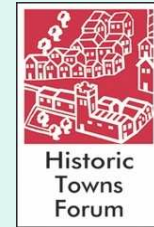
How do you make water your friend?

- **By Integration**



Bedford

Integration 1



**Integrate vision,
strategy, policies, action**

Integration with:

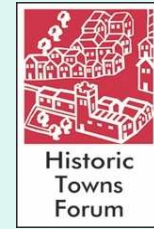
- Land use
- Environment
- Activities
- Other policies



Cambridge

© Sir Cam

Integration 2



***LA have lead role,
embed in:***

- **LA Corporate Strategy**
- **Sustainable Community Strategy**
- **Health Improvement Plan**
- **Economic Development Strategies**

A New Vision for Norwich: The Sustainable Community Strategy

- **The variety of natural habitats in the city is wideriver valleys.....they support a wide variety of wildlife**
- **Develop 'gateways' to Norwich by road, rail, air and water**

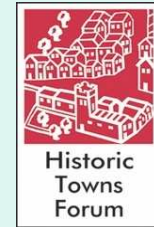
Norwich



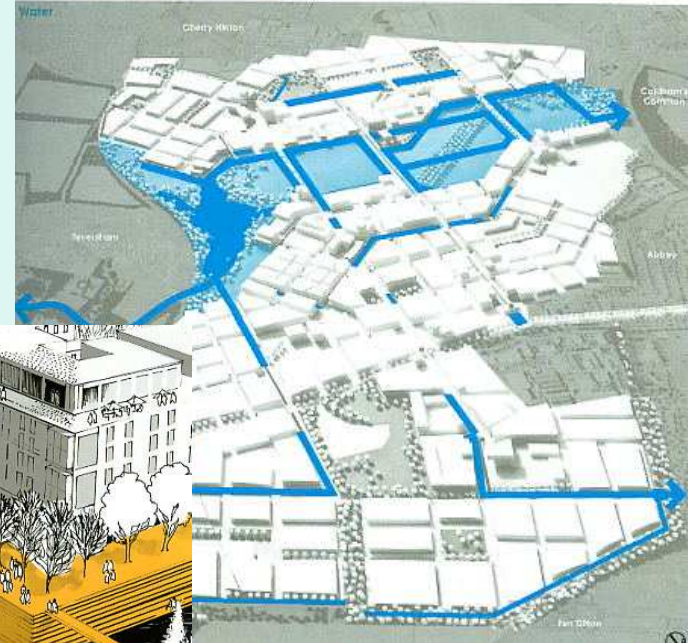
Integration 3

Using the right planning tools

- **LDF**
 - *Core Strategy*
 - *Infrastructure studies*
- **SPDs**
- *Master planning and design briefs*
- *Conservation Area appraisals and action plans*

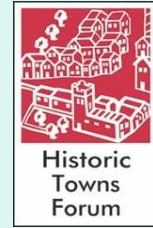


The central open space corridor is designed to store water for recycling throughout the development, but also to act as a recreation and biodiversity resource. In addition it acts as a flood storage area (water meadows) in time of extreme flood events. All existing discharge points will release water at current (largely greenfield) levels, which have been agreed with the Environment Agency



Cambridge East

Integration 4



Into new development

- *Introduce water and use proactively to enhance*
 - Environment
 - Amenity
 - Activity
- **Use of SUDS**

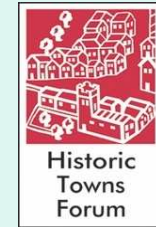


Groningen



Lamb Drove, Cambourne

Conclusions



Rivers

- **Recognise them**
- **Understand them**
- **Value them**
- **Care and plan for them**
- **Celebrate and enjoy them – *like friends***

