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The Occasional Newsletter of the Cam Valley Forum
<http://www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/cam.valley.forum/>

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The **Draft Local Plan 2014 for** (the City of) **Cambridge** sets out some important principles to guide development along the river corridors of the Cam and its tributaries. ‘Policy 7’ states that proposals should:

- a. include an assessment of views of the river and a demonstration that the proposed design of the development has taken account of the assessment in enhancing views to and from the river;
- b. protect and enhance the unique physical, natural and culturally distinctive landscape of the River Cam;
- c. raise, where possible, the quality of the river, adjacent open spaces and the integrity of the built environment in terms of its impact, location, scale, design and form;
- d. propose, where possible, enhancement of the natural resources of the River Cam and offer opportunities for re-naturalisation of the river;
- e. enable, where possible, opportunities for greater public access to the River Cam; and
- f. take account of and support as appropriate the tourism and recreational facilities in the corridor.



One of the Plan’s most exciting proposals is the designation (Policy 15, Fig 3.4 on page 56) of the area between the Cherry Hinton Brook and Coldham’s Lane as an “**Area of Major Change**”. “The redevelopment of this land.....as an **urban country park** would help enhance” the green-blue corridor shown clearly in the oblique air photograph. “Opportunities could include, but are not limited to, walking, bird-watching, cycling, non-motorised cycle BMX tracks, and other leisure-based uses.”

The green area to the right of the nearest lake and below the Coldham’s Business Park consisted of many acres of tree and scrub habitat which had colonised an abandoned 1970s

Tim Ward

landfill site. The Draft Local Plan 2014 map (p. 56) classifies this area both as a “**City Wild Life**” site and as “**Protected Open Space**”.

Nevertheless, earlier this year this tree and scrub was clear-felled by the owners of the land, the Anderson Group, presumably in anticipation of a planning application. The photograph on the left was taken from near the end of Kathleen Elliott Way, looking west. Will this devastation of a ‘protected’ wild green space result in the Business Park being extended?

The Plan is still to be finalised before it goes out to public consultation on 19 July for 10 weeks.

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/draft-local-plan-2014>



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