

COTSWOLD WATER PARK STRATEGIC REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – TWO YEARS ON PROGRESS UP-DATE AND REVIEW (December 2010)

The Cotswold Water Park (CWP) Strategic Review and Implementation Plan (Masterplan) was approved by the CWP Joint Committee in July 2008 and since that point has acted as the framework for the work progressed by the Joint Committee and other partners within the CWP, in particular the CWP Society.

Much has changed within the CWP and the wider area over the last two years, in terms of policy; attitudes; economic climate; political background etc. It is important to understand these changes and how they have affected the relevance of the Masterplan. There are also issues that have been resolved; projects that have been abandoned or completed; developments that have gained planning permission and so on – thus some of the factual information within the Masterplan has become inaccurate over time. A review of the Masterplan has therefore been undertaken.

This review has shown that the Masterplan is still very relevant and that very limited amendments are required. The amendments are listed in the table below. *These amendments were approved by the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee on 10th December 2010.*

The 2008 Stage III final report and non-technical summary can be found at http://www.waterpark.org/society/cwp_master_plan.html

Page number	Reference (all updates except where noted)	Change	Reason
5	2.3 Summary of Key Issues; 8 th bullet point	Replace <i>Keynes Country Park</i> with <i>The Cotswold Country Park and Beach/Keynes Country Park</i> (update applies whenever the Country Park is mentioned throughout the Plan).	Renamed when Watermark took over management of the site.
5	2.3 Summary of Key Issues; 10 th bullet point	Insert <i>the former</i> before <i>North Wiltshire District Council</i> (update applies whenever the NWDC is mentioned throughout the Plan).	NWDC no longer exists, having been merged into the new Wiltshire Council unitary authority in 2009.

6	2.5 Summary of Options Appraisal, 2 nd bullet	Delete <i>Neutral Grassland, Open Water, and Floodplain grazing</i> ; (sic) and replace with <i>Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh and Lowland Meadow</i> .	Following a revision of habitat categories within the overall South West Nature Map, and a revision of the Strategic Nature Areas within the Park, there are now twelve SNAs in the Park, eleven under the category Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh and one Lowland Meadow. All are entirely within the wider CWP BAP area, and all have at least some land inside the smaller formal Park boundary.
20	4.16	Replace <i>Oaksey Moor Farm Meadow</i> with <i>Blakehill Farm</i> .	The list of major Wiltshire Wildlife Trust reserves relating to a living landscape network should include Blakehill Farm, one of the UK's largest grassland restoration projects. Oaksey Moor Farm Meadow is now part of an enlarged Lower Moor Farm reserve which the Master Plan already mentions here.
20	4.17 (correction)	Replace <i>nine</i> other SSSIs with <i>fourteen</i> other SSSIs	There are fourteen other designated SSSIs within the formal boundary of the Water Park (in addition to North Meadow SAC/NNR and Clattinger Farm SAC, both of which are also SSSIs) – not nine. The wider BAP boundary includes the same suite of sites.
30	4.38 1 st bullet	Delete (bullet refers to growing reed for thatch commercially)	Following publication of the Master Plan further research has been conducted into reed production by CWPS staff. Reed needs to be specially grown to produce a thatch quality product, and the Water Park will never have the large area needed to make this form of specialist cultivation economically viable.

39 - 40	4.78 – 4.83 Planning Policy	<p>Delete entire section and replace with;</p> <p><i>4.78 There is currently no single document purely relating to planning policy guidance across the CWP. Historically a different approach has been taken by different Councils in Structure Plan and Local Plan policies. North Wiltshire's Local Plan contains policies constraining development in the countryside, but Cotswold District Council's Local Plan, in accordance with the Gloucester Structure Plan, has been much more supportive of proposals for the development of former minerals working sites. As such the CWP within Cotswold District has experienced significantly more development, with most of the CWP's holiday homes, leisure and tourism related development built within this section of the area.</i></p> <p><i>4.79 The Planning system in 2010 is in a state of flux, with the old Structure Plans and Local Plans being replaced by Core Strategies and Local Development Frameworks. In the interim many, but not all, of the old Structure Plan and Local Plan policies have been "saved" (i.e. are still valid) pending adoption of new Core Strategies and LDFs.</i></p> <p><i>4.80 As of late 2010 Cotswold District Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) is still in preparation and consultation. The policies of the old Local Plan 2001 – 2011 have mostly been "saved" pending completion of the LDF. These include Policy UT1 which permits a range of development within the Water Park subject to certain criteria.</i></p> <p><i>4.81 In Wiltshire the former North Wiltshire District Council</i></p>	<p>The national and local planning policy context has altered considerably since the production of the Master Plan and therefore this section has been re-written. The major changes are the removal of the reference to an Area Action Plan, as this is no longer considered appropriate and to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), as its future is uncertain.</p>
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and Wiltshire County Council have been replaced by one Unitary Wiltshire Council. The North Wiltshire Local Plan policies have also mostly been saved pending adoption of a new LDF, and include a specific Policy NE8 Nature Conservation Areas In The Cotswold Water Park and other policies to protect species and sites.

4.82 Similarly the two adopted Gloucestershire Minerals and Waste Plans are still valid, with most policies being saved. A new Waste Core Strategy is in preparation with a Minerals Core Strategy to follow. In Wiltshire the new Minerals Core Strategy was adopted in 2009 although site allocations are still being developed.

4.83 The historical situation where development control in the Water Park, particularly for leisure and tourism developments, operated under very different policy regimes is clearly not appropriate in terms of meeting the CWP's aims and objectives into the future. A consensus amongst planning authorities is essential to achieve a consistency of approach that will better enhance the CWP as a recognised entity. The simplest and most cost effective way to achieve consistency would be for the relevant Local Authorities to refer to the Master Plan as a "relevant consideration" in their Local Development Frameworks. The new spatial planning regime makes holistic approaches such as the Master Plan much more relevant and easy to incorporate into LDFs than was the case under the old "land use planning" driven planning framework.

		<p><i>Planning Objectives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure that the Master Plan is officially endorsed by its constituent Local Authorities, to secure a common commitment to the thrust of the Master Plan in LDF policy development as the strategic direction and context for the CWP</i> • <i>Ensure that the Master Plan is recognised as a material consideration in the relevant LDFs when they are finalised. A sustainability appraisal of the Master Plan may be required to achieve this.</i> 	
49 - 50	5.4 Holiday Homes	<p>Delete all bullet points (under construction, decision pending, and other) and replace with;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lower Mill Estate - Planning permission for 575 holiday homes; over 225 units completed and occupied.</i> • <i>Claydon Pike (Coln Park) - outline planning permission for 160 holiday cabins, a Country Park facility, a 120-bed hotel. Construction began in autumn 2007. More than 35 units are now constructed. Work on the development of the country park is underway.</i> • <i>Lake 11 - 50 holiday lodges are currently in the process of being constructed.</i> 	Updated to September 2010, to reflect progress on these developments.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lake 10 - Planning permission for 40 semi-detached holiday homes. A number have been constructed and occupied</i> • <i>Lake 17 – Awaiting planning permission for the construction of 104 holiday lodges, for use by members of the water skiing club only.</i> • <i>Lake 7 - Permission granted for a 66 bed motel.</i> • <i>Lakes 103, 103a, 104 - outline planning permission for Tourism and recreational development comprising 59 pavilions, leisure facility, access, car parking, landscaping and ecological management. Not yet commenced.</i> 	
50	5.6 additional bullet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Stage 1 application to Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership scheme is being developed in 2010 with a proposed submission date at the end of February 2011. If successful a Stage II (Implementation) bid for a three year programme will be submitted in autumn 2012. The bid will focus on four themes: conserving and enhancing biodiversity, increasing community participation in local heritage, increasing access to and learning about the landscape, increasing training in heritage skills for people. The bid is for the 14 mile wetland corridor across the Cotswold Water Park from Kemble in the west to Lechlade in the East. The bid will include a partners from Local Government, statutory agencies, NGOs, and the private sector.</i> 	Update

56	6.1; 2 nd bullet	Delete	There is some uncertainty as to the future of the RSS.
56	6.1; 3 rd Bullet	Delete	Wiltshire Unitary Council is now in operation.
56	5 th bullet, and 1 st bullet of LDF requirement box	Delete	AAP note as above
56	5 th bullet (under "raising the profile")	Delete and replace with; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In the Autumn of 2010 the Cotswold Water Park Society is going through a review and re-structure process in order to strengthen the organisations governance, make it a more accountable and transparent organisation, and to improve the way it works with local communities, businesses and other partners.</i> 	Update
58	final bullet of Boundary Requirement box	Delete - /AAP.	AAP note as above
59	7.2 2 nd bullet	Delete	AAP note as above
60	Implementing the Strategy table, row IS3	Delete – <i>(the recommended approach is through the establishment of an Area Action Plan (AAP))</i> in task box and all of the comment	AAP note as above
78	Cotswold Water Park – Relevant Local Development	Delete this table.	Forward Planning arrangements are currently under review by the Coalition Government and this may impact upon the timetable for LDF consultation and production. For details of the

	Schemes table		timetable for individual LDFs, please see the relevant planning authority's web-site.
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