



**Cambridgeshire**  
Geological Society

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## **Including geodiversity as well as biodiversity considerations in planning**

### **A. References in Planning Documents**

#### **1. Draft Cambridge Biomedical Campus Supplementary Planning Document-Sustainability Appraisal Screening Report (November 2024)**

TEXT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

- *Policy 69: Protection of Sites of Biodiversity and Geodiversity Importance*
- Table 1-2g “The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or protection status.”

“There are a range of internationally designated sites in Cambridgeshire including RAMSAR sites, Special Areas Conservation and Special Protection Areas, as well as national and local designations including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, County Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves. These are protected, conserved and enhanced by adopted planning policies. These plans have been subject to the Habitat Regulations Assessment screening process. The draft CBC SPD *is unlikely to have an impact on these areas.*” [emphasis added].

OUR COMMENTS ON THIS TEXT

- The word **geodiversity** is only used once – in the Policy 69 title above, although biodiversity appears frequently in the body of the text, as do the words “species” and “habitat”. We suggest that more weight should be given to geodiversity, which may be defined as **“the variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, landforms, sediments and soils, together with the natural processes which form and alter them”** and also to **geodiversity conservation** (see [Geoconservation: Principles and practice - NE802](#) ).
- In the list of designated sites in Table 1-2g (shown above), **Local Geological Sites (LGSs)** also deserve mention as they are equivalent to County Wildlife Sites (CWS). LGSs are places identified as having geological value and, therefore, designated by the County Sites Panel. The owners are encouraged to maintain (and hopefully enhance) their geodiversity features and these sites are

now recorded on the county site records (held by CPERC) as being significant for their geological value.

## **2. Policy BG/BG: Biodiversity and geodiversity**

See <https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-proposals/explore-theme/biodiversity-and-green-spaces/policy> , which seems to be linked to ‘Policy 69’ referred to above.

### **OUR COMMENTS ON THE TEXT**

- Again, while geodiversity is mentioned in the title/heading, there is no subsequent reference to it in the body of the text. We make the same suggestion here as we have above.

## **B. Comment concerning the Local Geological Site (LGS) ‘Nine Wells’**

This site is adjacent to of the boundary of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. The Nine Wells LGS was designated because of its unique blend of geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, history and education value. It is also a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) managed by the Cambridge City Council for conservation and public access. It is important historically as its springs are the main source of water for **Hobson’s Conduit** (see <https://www.cambsgeology.org/local-sites/ninewells> for more details, including photos and maps).

We suggest specific reference is made to this LGS and the need to ensure the site itself, its natural water supply, and public accessibility to it are not adversely affected by the further development of the biomedical campus.