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Project title	Colne and Crane Spatial Vision	Job number
Meeting name and number	Colne Valley Park CIC Annual Forum	File reference
Location	The Great Barn, Harmondsworth	Time and date 4.30pm start 28 September 2018
Purpose of meeting	Introduce the 'Colne and Crane Valley Spatial Vision', followed by a workshop to gather information from stakeholders to kick-start the process.	
Additional Notes	Some groups noted that there was not enough time to complete task one and requested for the 1988 spatial vision plan to be circulated digitally for them to comment further. Please feel free to send any additional information through to Angela Hird at Arup – <a href="mailto:angela.hird@arup.com">angela.hird@arup.com</a>	
Circulation	<i>Those present</i>	

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## Summary Notes of the Workshop by Arup

### **Task One: The 1988 Spatial Plan 30 years on (5mins)**

- **Which of the projects have been completed/ Are any outstanding projects still relevant?**

[See attached map for a summary of all the responses, including responses received post-workshop.]

### **Task Two: Opportunities - Applying the 6 objectives to the Park (15 mins)**

- **Which areas should potential enhancement projects be focussed upon based on the six objectives?**

***Objective 1: To maintain and enhance the landscape, historic environment and waterscape of the park in terms of their scenic and conservation value and their overall amenity***

- Linked green spaces being able to get from one to another (good for wildlife too).
- A continuity of countryside infrastructure throughout the RP. [Requires management].
- There should be an aim to restore and maintain the River Colne and tributaries throughout as they are chalk rivers and one of only 200 in the world. Water voles can be used as an indicator of health; if its good enough for water voles its good enough for other wildlife.

Prepared by                      Angela Hird  
Date of circulation              12th October 2018

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- Effort needs to be made into ensuring that clean water is secured for the Colne Valley; effort needs to be made into getting this message across to the population. Case studies should be used to identify how rivers can be restored when variety is 'wiped out' by pollution.

## Historic Environment

- Heritage sites- Identify and link with landscape
- Preserving the character of the special villages e.g. Harmondsworth, Harefield etc
- Restore historic bridges

## Water Bodies

- Wraysbury Reservoirs and the way they are managed
- Wraysbury lake network – Develop a unified management plan. Linking up and maximising statutory designations.
- Underground works – Impacting on groundwater.
- The Colne Valley is what it is because of the river. That is where the focus of protection and enhancement needs to be.
- River Misbourne - Chalfont St Giles – downstream stopped flowing for last 18 months.
- Access to River Misbourne and restoration of.
- Opportunities for new developments along the corridor to tie into blue infrastructure network and a key need for them to do so. How far can the vision go into setting these principles?
- A key site is Waterloo Wharf – Involvement of Taylor Wimpey and Paul Stimson (Head of Planning Department for Slough).
- Any water – be that water bodies, watercourses, the canal – to be celebrated.
- Rivers – catchments outside (e.g. Watford urbanised area) have a major impact.

***Objective 2: To safeguard the countryside of the Park from inappropriate development. Where development is permissible it will encourage the highest possible standards of design.***

- Land south of the M4 still highly relevant.
- Need to lobby in favour of the Aylesbury Garden Town to reduce housing pressures in South Bucks.
- Areas threatened by HS2 and Heathrow Expansion. Maximum efforts on mitigation.
- Green belt to prevent urban sprawl.
- Ensuring valued assets aren't lost to infrastructure, which affects nature and people but also breaches trust of locals which become attached.
- Fly tipping generally – need to design and manage out.
- Ash corridor and inclusion of in CVRP area.
- A continuity of countryside infrastructure throughout the RP; (ensure management).

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## ***Objective 3: To conserve and enhance biodiversity within the Park through the protection and management of its species, habitats and geological features***

- Enhancements to Harmondsworth Moor, waterside walks, recreation, rivers, wildlife.
- Ruislip Woods-Bughurst Woods: concern because HS2 opportunity to increase woodland or green chain walk
- Identify private land with public access to work with, land managers to improve habitat and access e.g. Thames Water land, Affinity Water land, Bretts Aggregates land, Arthur Jacobs nature reserve – improve access to the river.
- Stockers and Springwell lakes (Rickmansworth lake network) connecting to the mid Colne Lakes creating wildlife corridors.
- Opportunity for wildflower corridors on a huge scale – beneficial for butterflies etc. – potentially start at Denham.
- Any areas lost e.g. Harmondsworth Moor, should be compensated for elsewhere with at least at equal level of quality. No short cuts should be taken in terms of securing quality habitat. Areas set aside as part of mitigation should not later be threatened by future development.
- It needs to be the case that the landscape and wildlife inherited is in a better state than it is now. There are designated sites for nature conservation. Any visionary statement needs an evidence base and that is something we haven't got; keen to get an audit of 'where we are now' and identify the good and bad bits.

## ***Objective 4: To provide opportunities for countryside recreation and ensure that facilities are accessible to all***

- Footpath from Denham Station to Colne Valley park centre.
- Footpaths and cycleways to get more cars off the roads.
- Create continuous access links for bikers and walkers.
- Quarry: Denham roundabout - will be home to Hillingdon Outdoor centre: Integrate with rest of CVRP and improve habitat, aesthetics and access.
- Colne Valley is the first taste of countryside outside west London – a focus was felt to be enhancing the quality and usability of circular walking/ recreational routes e.g. at the River Colne at Cowley, near Uxbridge industrial estate.
- Ramblers group see the lakes as the key opportunity area as people love the experience of the water.
- Effort needs to be placed into making the area accessible to local people; we should make sure that they can access the countryside e.g. no need to go over a bridge.

### Grand Union Canal

- Grand Union canal – conflict of users – need widening.
- Extra Chemical Toilet emptying facility along Grand Union Canal.

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- Grand Union Canal Towpath widening for Anglers and cyclists.
- Three Rivers Canal Towpath - lots of work needed.
- Enhancement and protection of Grand Union Canal. It is one and same as River Colne in places. Under threat of pollution (Bank and Water) from floating boats.
- Grand Union Canal: a key opportunity as multi-use recreation opportunities.

## ***Objective 5: To achieve a vibrant and sustainable rural economy, including farming and forestry, underpinning the value of the countryside***

- Woodland regeneration and management a key issue in many parts of the CV. E.g. lack of woodland management and lack of succession planting and associated potential for future change to landscape character.

## ***Objective 6: To encourage community participation including volunteering and environmental education. To promote the health and social well-being benefits that access to high quality green space brings***

- Explore opportunities for greater publicity/awareness raising/outreach initiatives for projects/programming. Libraries for leafletting as well as online presence.
- It is important to emphasise localism and community engagement. There is need for people to know about the Colne Valley and how they should be educated about the Park/river to encourage 'ownership' of the area.
- A2 (Newlands): Neighbourhood Plan written by local people.

## **Other**

### Management:

- Management, maintenance and revenue are key issues – without sorting these out projects are compromised. So, key to identify funding/governance streams. Set this message out in the vision. (Idea of the vision as a roadmap and to refer to as major development and infrastructure projects come forward.)
- The CVRP really needs to be properly funded and managed. Gerry Unsworth's point regarding planning for the RP and Lord Randall's re. funding.
- It's okay carrying out enhancements but there has to be the funding to manage them in perpetuity.

### Major infrastructure projects:

- Key focus needs to be major infrastructure developments e.g. Heathrow, HS2 and to think about GI design principles.
- Also, consideration of proposed North – South network rail link at Iver (check status).
- Heathrow airport was mentioned - its visitors first impression of the UK/England. In response - further tree planting along all major roads and motorways.

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## Next 50 years:

- Want to still see the park as a unified area on the map.

## Approach to Vision:

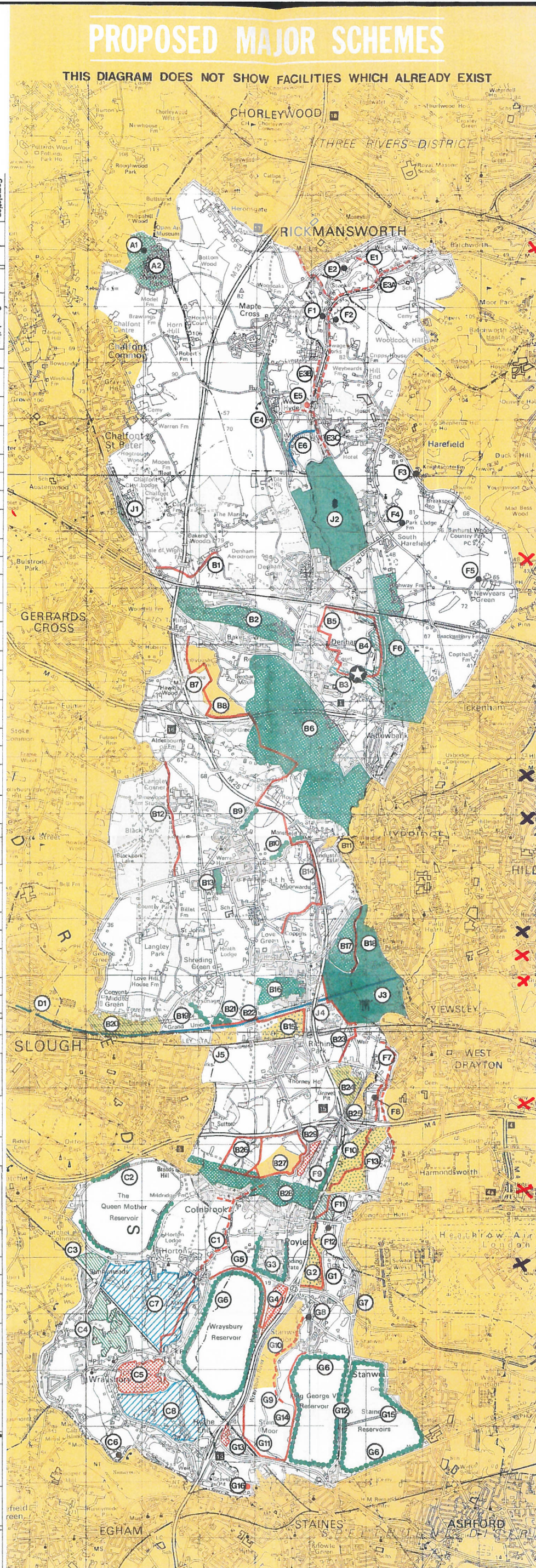
- The move to highlight 'good bits' is a bad one as it implies that the rest of the area is 'not good', so leaving it vulnerable to development, neglect etc. Slough Borough Council has policies that project 'the Colne Valley', and that is enough; areas should not be distinguished; the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead does not even reference the Colne Valley in its local plan.
- It is worrying that a 30 year old vision will have had projects which were never accomplished; does more need to be done to encourage the organisations involved in 'making things happen'; better steps taken now to ensure action.
- Any new developments should have really well-planned landscape and the funding to manage them into a central pot.
- Hillingdon Ramblers Association – suggested that this vision is an opportunity to 're visit' projects and improve on existing ones implemented.

## • **Which area/assets are most valued or special and why?**

- Staines Moor: Wildlife and history value.
- Ancient commons of Spelthorne e.g. short wood and birch green
- Bayhurst Wood ancient woodland
- Fray Farm meadow/Denham Lock Wood SSSI's
- Valleys around Harefield
- BPCP, LPCP, DCP, Little Britain, Rickmansworth Aquadrome.
- Any gravel extracted areas should be restored for wildlife/recreation with funding to manage it.
- Alder glade nature reserve (Frays)
- All areas of water- canals, rivers, lakes – need additional protection.
- Villages – small scale, integrity.
- Groundwater quality, rivers.
- Country Parks – but they get very busy – need more CPs e.g. near Heathrow?
- Langley Park
- Old Orchard – view of Colne Valley.
- Barn at Harmondsworth – one of the Colne Valley's hidden jewels.
- Stockers Lake – for biodiversity.
- Little Britain Lake.

# PROPOSED MAJOR SCHEMES

THIS DIAGRAM DOES NOT SHOW FACILITIES WHICH ALREADY EXIST



- ▲ Lead Agency to initiate and to arrange funding, contract, management and maintenance
- △ Other Agencies to be involved
- J Schemes beginning with J are joint schemes which cross local authority boundaries
- 3 Completion Dates 1993
- 8 1998

## A CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL AND BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL

Completion Date	Statutory Undertaker	Private Enterprise	District Council	County Council	Completion Date
1	▲				-
2	▲				3
J1	▲	△			3

## B SOUTH BUCKS DISTRICT COUNCIL AND BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL

Completion Date	Statutory Undertaker	Private Enterprise	District Council	County Council	Completion Date
1	▲				3
2	▲	△	△	△	8
3	▲				3
4	▲				3
5	▲				3
6	▲				3
7	△	▲			3
8	△	▲			3
9	▲				3
10	▲	△	△	△	3
11	△	▲			3
12	▲				3
13	△				3
14	▲	△	△	△	3
15	▲				3
16	▲	△	△	△	8
17	▲				3
18	▲				3
19	▲	△	△	△	3
20	▲				3
21	▲	▲			3
22	▲	△	△	△	3
23	▲				3
24	▲				3
25	△	▲			3
26	▲	△	△	△	3
27	△	△	▲		3
28	▲	△	△	△	3
29	△	▲			8
J1	▲	△	△	△	3
J2	△	△	△	△	8+
J3	△	△	△	△	8+
J4	▲	△	△	△	3
J5	▲	△	△	△	3

## C ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD AND ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE

Completion Date	Statutory Undertaker	Private Enterprise	District Council	County Council	Completion Date
1	▲	△	△	△	3
2	△				3
3	△	▲			3
4	▲				3
5	▲				3
6	▲				3
7					
8					

Joint options study to be pursued between Berkshire County Council and Private Enterprise on possible future uses.  
*not followed through*

## D BOROUGH OF SLOUGH AND ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE

Completion Date	Statutory Undertaker	Private Enterprise	District Council	County Council	Completion Date
1	▲	△	△	△	8
J4	△	△	△	△	3
J5	△				3

## E THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Completion Date	Statutory Undertaker	Private Enterprise	District Council	County Council	Completion Date
1	▲				3
2	▲	▲			3
3A	▲	△	▲		8
3B	▲	△	▲		8
3C	▲	△	▲		8
4	▲	△	△		3
5	▲	▲	△		3
6	▲	▲	△		8

## F HILLINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Completion Date	Statutory Undertaker	Private Enterprise	Borough Council	County Council	Completion Date
1	▲	△	△		3
2	▲	▲			3
3	▲				3
4	▲				3
5	▲				3
6	▲	△			8+
7	▲	△	△		3
8	▲				3
9	▲	▲	△		3
10	▲	△			3
11	▲	△			3
12	▲				3
13	▲				3
J2	▲	△			8+
J3	▲	△	△		8+
J4	▲	△	△		3

## G SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL AND SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Completion Date	Statutory Undertaker	Private Enterprise	Borough Council	County Council	Completion Date
1	▲	△			3
2	▲	△			3
3	▲	△	△		3
4	▲				3
5	△	▲	△		3
6	▲	▲	△		3
7	▲				3
8	△	▲	△		3
9	▲	△	△		8
10	△	▲			3
11	△	△	△	△	8
12	△	△			3
13	▲	△			3
14	△	▲	△		3
15	△	▲	△		8
16	△	▲	△		3

**KEY**

- ★ Park centre
- Country Park
- Nature Park
- Recreation
- Landscaping
- Tree planting
- Restoration to agriculture/agricultural improvements
- Restoration to recreation
- Restoration to agriculture/recreation
- Picnic sites
- Bridleways
- Towpaths/footpaths
- Canalside improvements
- Nature reserves
- Public open space
- Areas to be subject to joint option studies

Scale 1:50,000

0 1km 1mile

**KEY**

- ✓ DONE
- PARTIALLY DONE
- ✗ DONE, NEEDS RE DOING / PRIORITY
- ✗ NOT DONE

In addition to the schemes shown, minor works would be carried out such as tree planting around the edges of the urban areas and villages. Opportunities and other proposals will no doubt come forward from time to time from both the public and private sectors, and they will be evaluated against the strategy and objectives of this forward sheet. Many minor works would be carried out by the Colne Valley Park Groundwork Trust Ltd. The maps are reproduced with permission of Ordnance Survey and the proposals shown do not prejudice decisions on planning applications.

The Park provides an opportunity to designate a long distance footpath link connecting the proposed Thames Path to the London Country Way. The Park authorities are evaluating the potential for a link primarily using existing routes.