

Part Two: Village/Town Visions

8.36 Swaffham Bulbeck



Description of Swaffham Bulbeck

Swaffham Bulbeck is a small village in a pleasant setting about 8 miles from Cambridge and 6 miles from Newmarket, incorporating the hamlet Commercial End. The village began as a farm of settlers from Swabia, then soon after 1066 it became the estate of Hugh of Bolbec. The village was also considered of great importance as a port for water-borne trade along Swaffham Bulbeck Lode to fenland waterways and flourished as a trading post from the 17th century. This success led to the construction of many of the attractive buildings, which give the village its distinctive character. Swaffham Bulbeck has an elongated shape with an attractive green in the heart of the village and is covered by a Conservation Area. The main features of the village are shown on Map 3.40.

Facilities in the village include a shop and post office, church, public house, primary school, recreation ground with play facilities & Pavilion and fire station (retained duty service). The village has a regular bus service which runs to Newmarket and Cambridge during working hours.

Key statistics

Swaffham Bulbeck	
<i>Population</i> ¹⁴²	840
<i>Dwellings</i> ¹⁴⁴	400
<i>New dwellings built 2001-12(net)</i>	33
<i>Estimated new dwellings 2012-31</i> ¹⁴³	0
<i>Employment</i> ¹⁴⁴	To be confirmed following publication of 2011 Census
<i>Existing public transport services</i>	Regular services to Newmarket and Cambridge (Monday-Saturday) (as at June 2012)

¹⁴² Population and dwellings in Swaffham Bulbeck parish (mid-2010), Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group

¹⁴³ East Cambridgeshire Housing Trajectory 2012. Note, this is likely to be an underestimate as it excludes potential supply from rural exception windfall sites.

¹⁴⁴ To be updated with forthcoming Census results

Part Two: Village/Town Visions

Housing

Swaffham Bulbeck is likely to continue to grow at a slow rate, with new housing being built on suitable 'infill' sites within the village. No new housing allocation sites are proposed on the edge of Swaffham Bulbeck.

A 'development envelope' has been drawn around Swaffham Bulbeck to define the built-up part of the village where infill development may be permitted. The purpose is to prevent sprawl into the open countryside. Development on infill sites will need to be in line with Policy GROWTH 2.

Outside the development envelope, housing will not normally be permitted – unless there are exceptional circumstances, such as essential dwellings for rural workers, or affordable housing. Housing schemes outside the development envelope will be assessed against Policy GROWTH 2 and other Local Plan policies as appropriate.

Employment

There are a number of current businesses in the village many of which are based on the Downing Park Business Park on Station Road and Burgh Hall, Park End. The District Council is keen to retain the stock of business land and premises in order to support local economic growth. Proposals to re-use employment sites for other purposes will only be permitted in certain circumstances (see Policy EMP 1).

No new employment allocation sites are proposed on the edge of Swaffham Bulbeck. However, suitable new employment proposals within or on the edge of the village will be supported in principle, subject to Policies EMP 2, EMP 3 and EMP 4.

Infrastructure and community facilities

Residents in Swaffham Bulbeck have indicated a desire for improvements to infrastructure and facilities in the village. A list of priorities is set out in the table below. The table also includes details relating to the potential upgrading of the Bottisham Waste Water Treatment Works.

	Priority	Suggestions
1	Improvements to public realm	Improvement to pavements, more drop kerbs and marked crossings Pedestrian crossing from the Denny to the High Street
2	Provision of a community/village hall	Provide Village Hall at the pavilion
3	Improvements to pedestrian/cycle routes	Cycle facilities around the triple bends in the central village From Cemetery Corner to Heath Road/Commercial End crossroads Proper surfaced cycle links to the Wicken Fen/Lode Way cycle route Direct cycle links to Newmarket and to the Lodes Way. New pedestrian/cycle crossing over the River Cam to Waterbeach, linking us directly with the station there and the fast riverside path to Cambridge City centre. Improved footpath/cycle path to Bottisham Cycle route from Swaffham Bulbeck to Cambridge should be made more direct. Improvement to cycle route along High Street from the church to Stonebridge Footpaths to the north and east of the village
4	Improved transport	Bus service to Ely

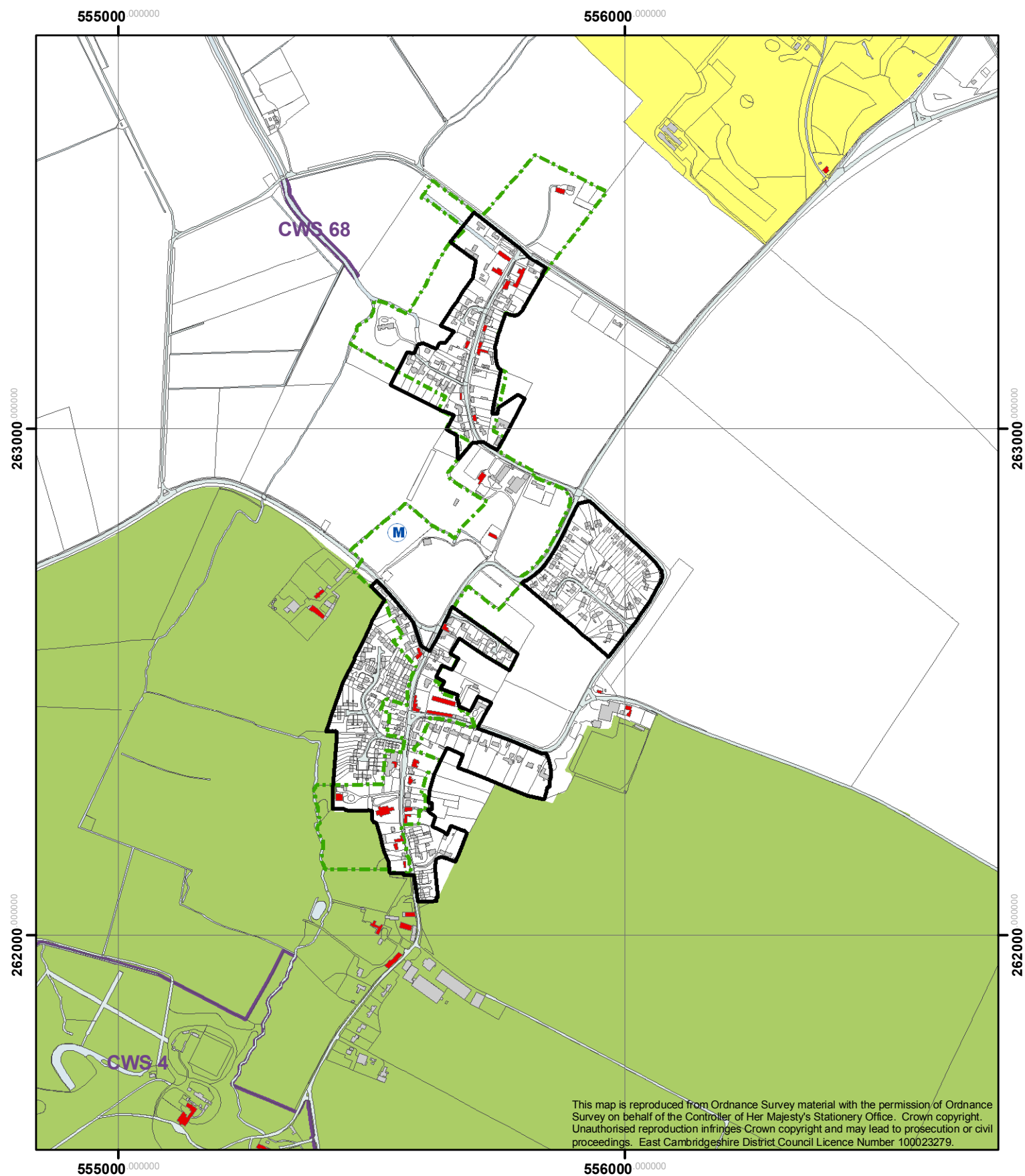
Part Two: Village/Town Visions

-	links/public transport services Potential upgrade to Bottisham Waste Water Treatment Works	Anglian Water has indicated that the Bottisham Wastewater Treatment Works which serves Swaffham Bulbeck may need to be upgraded to accommodate future development (please section 3 for further details).
---	---	---

Many of the priorities identified are transport-related, involving improvements to pedestrian/cycle links and pavements, provision of pedestrian crossings in the village and improved public transport services. The second priority is for a community/village hall in Swaffham Bulbeck to provide premises to hold events and a meeting place for local groups. The District Council will work with the Parish Council and County Council to explore options and secure funding for community facilities and road and transport schemes in Swaffham Bulbeck. The District Council will also work in partnership to try to retain existing public transport levels, and encourage self-sufficient transport services, such as community transport.

The current community facilities in Swaffham Bulbeck (including the shop, pub, primary school, recreation ground, play area and church) contribute to the quality of people's lives. The loss of community facilities will also be resisted under Policy COM 3. Proposals for new community development that benefits the village will be supported in principle, subject to Policy COM 4.

Spatial strategy for Swaffham Bulbeck (see Map 8.40)



Key

-  **Development Envelope**
-  **Conservation Area**
-  **Listed Building**
-  **Scheduled Ancient Monument**
-  **County Wildlife Site**
-  **Green Belt**
-  **Historic Parks & Gardens**



Map 8.40
**Swaffham
Bulbeck**



1:10,000