Daventry Reservoir Conservation Area Character Appraisal

March 2009
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1. Daventry Reservoir Conservation Area: Summary of special interest

1.1 The special interest of the Daventry Reservoir Conservation Area can be summarised as follows:

- The conservation area is centred on the early 19th century Daventry Reservoir (70 acres), which feeds the Grand Union Canal to the north
- The focal point of the area is the Visitor Centre and Rangers' Office in the 19th century Reservoir Cottage on the north side of the reservoir
- The special historic interest in the park is primarily the reservoir itself, due to its links with the Grand Union Canal
- Some minor surviving historic fabric in the form of brick culverts and walling associated with the reservoir
- The reservoir has historically provided leisure facilities and other uses for the people of Daventry

1.2 In addition, the Conservation Area benefits from the following:

- The reservoir is part of a large area of public open space, designated as a country park of approximately 164 acres, to the north east of Daventry Town Centre
- The park includes a Local Nature Reserve that enjoys Green Flag status and is covered by an up-to-date Conservation Management Plan
- Surrounding the reservoir is a rich range of habitats including wetlands, woods, recreational areas and pasture
- Easy access from Daventry means that the park provides an important amenity for the town
- The neighbouring countryside provides an attractive setting to the park and the adjoining Grand Union Canal

1.3 While the reservoir is a functioning part of the Grand Union Canal, it has gained additional significance as a resource for recreation and nature conservation. It is perceived locally as a special place in its own right and this justifies its designation as a separate conservation area.
2. INTRODUCTION

Background

2.1 During the course of 2008, Daventry District Council investigated the merits of designating a conservation area for Daventry Reservoir. On 10 July, the Strategy Group agreed with the principle of designation and determined that the Council should proceed with public consultation. The consultation exercise, detailed at 2.4 below, demonstrated strong local support and, accordingly, the Daventry Reservoir Conservation Area was designated by the Council at its meeting on 26 February 2009.

2.2 This appraisal provides an analysis of the special architectural and historic interest of the conservation area that justified its designation. It takes account of the planning policy context of Daventry and the wider East Midlands area. The analysis raises a number of issues affecting the conservation area and its maintenance.

2.3 The implications of designation and the issues raised are considered further in the Daventry Reservoir Conservation Area Management Plan, which the Council has published as a separate document. Together, the conservation area appraisal and management plan will guide future development and improvements in the vicinity of Daventry Reservoir, in conjunction with existing and forthcoming planning policies and plans adopted or approved by Daventry District Council.

2.4 Preparation of the appraisal involved an extensive survey of the Country Park and its setting undertaken in February and May 2008. While every effort has been made to assess all the factors that affect the special interest of the area, the omission of any particular feature does not necessarily imply that it is of no significance.

Planning policy context

2.5 Conservation Areas are defined, in Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (The Act), as:

‘areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance’.

2.6 Local Planning Authorities are required by the Act to identify the parts of their area that should be designated as conservation areas, to designate them, to formulate and publish proposals to preserve or enhance them, and to review them from time to time.

2.7 Broadly, the effects of designation are:

- Conservation Area Consent must be obtained from the local planning authority or Secretary of State prior to the substantial or total demolition of any building or structure within a conservation area, with some minor exceptions

Section 74(1) of The Act
The local planning authority must consider the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the conservation area in the exercise of its planning powers. This extends to the consideration of proposals that may affect the setting of a conservation area or views into or out of it.

- Permitted development rights are slightly different in conservation areas.
- Permission is required from the planning authority to fell, lop or top a tree over a certain size.

2.8 Conservation Areas are protected and supported by statutory legislation, by planning policies at regional, county and local levels, and by other supporting documents. The relevant documents are:

- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment - 1994
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Planning and Archaeology – 1993
- Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy (2005)
- Regional Spatial Strategy for East Midlands (March 2005 – under review)
- The Northamptonshire Structure Plan 1996-2016
- The Daventry District Local Plan, adopted in 1997, which will be superseded by the Local Development Framework currently in preparation
- Daventry Town Masterplan (Interim Draft, 2006)
- Daventry Town Centre Vision 2021 (July 2004)
- Daventry Waterspace Feasibility Study prepared by Mouchel Parkman (November 2006)

Other Designations

2.9 Daventry Reservoir, and the immediately bordering land, has been designated as a County Wildlife Site by the Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust, while the whole of the Daventry Country Park has been designated by Daventry District Council as a Local Nature Reserve (2007).

Community involvement

2.10 In advance of the formal consultation, a briefing presentation was given for Daventry District Councillors on 22 October 2008. Also in October, the Council issued a news release to the local media announcing the forthcoming public consultation, and details were sent direct to a number of key stakeholders.

2.11 The formal public consultation began on 1 November. An exhibition was displayed in the morning at the Farmers’ Market and in the afternoon at the Country Park Visitors’ Centre. This was attended by the Council’s...
consultant and the Country Park Ranger Service. A leaflet, which included the questionnaire, was made available.

2.12 Meanwhile, the appraisal, the management plan and the questionnaire had been posted on the Council’s website and copies had been made available at the District Council Offices in Lodge Road, at Daventry Library and at the Daventry Country Park Visitors’ Centre. At the website, the questionnaire could be filled out and returned on-line and items were placed in the news section on the home page. Posters were distributed to town centre shops. Advertisements were placed in the Daventry Express and London Gazette and a press release was issued.

2.13 An exhibition, with leaflets, was held at locations in the town: the Country Park, Waitrose, the Leisure Centre, the Abbey, Lodge Road Offices Reception Area and the Library.

2.16 Emails and letters were sent to a wide variety of organisations and individuals advising them of the consultation.

2.17 On 20 November, a presentation was given to the Daventry Town Council. On the following day, the exhibition was again displayed at Daventry Market in the morning and at the Country Park Visitors’ Centre in the afternoon. As before, the consultant and the Country Park Ranger Service were in attendance.

2.18 The consultation period was six weeks. It closed on 15 December.
3. LOCATION, LANDSCAPE SETTING AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geographic location
3.1 Daventry is a market town in Northamptonshire with a population of approximately 23,000. It lies about 22 kilometres (13.5 miles) to the west of Northampton, and 16 kilometres (10 miles) south east of Rugby. The central location within the country and the extensive transport infrastructure in the local area has left Daventry well positioned, with warehousing and distribution playing a large part in the economic activity of the town. This has led to the construction of the Daventry International Railfreight Terminal at Crick, to the north of the town, which links up to the railway network and the M1 motorway.

3.2 The A45 is a major ancillary route that passes through the town connecting it with Coventry in the west and Northampton in the east. The town is also served by the A361 to Banbury.

3.3 Daventry Country Park adjoins Northern Way and the B4036 to Long Buckby. The main entrance into the park is to the north east of Daventry town centre. It remains a significant open space, important as a break in the built-up area which has expanded out of Daventry, particularly since the 1970s.

Landscape setting
3.4 The conservation area lies within rural landscape on the edge of a more urban environment. There are buildings to the south and west, and there is open countryside, with a scattering of farm buildings and houses, to the north and east.

3.5 To the north the landscape drops away at the edge of the reservoir down to the canal spillway, a wide stretch of pasture and scrub which leads to the Grand Union Canal. A line of trees marks the canal, beyond which are extensive views across the Northamptonshire countryside.

Topography and geology
3.6 Daventry Country Park lies on a flattish area of land between 20 and 30 metres above sea level, at the foot of a series of undulating hills and valleys. To the north the land drops down to the valley floor where the level topography proved ideal for canal construction. To the east of the Country Park lies Borough Hill, which is a significant local landmark. It consists mainly of Lower Lias Clay capped by Northamptonshire Sand, and the highest point is almost 200 metres above sea-level.

3.7 The rocks of Northamptonshire lie between the Coal Measures of Leicestershire to the north and the chalklands of East Anglia and the Thames Valley to the east and south. The geology of the area is mostly Lias Clay on a bedrock of Oolitic limestone. The clay was dug out to form the reservoir and the same clay, mixed with sand and gravel to form ‘puddle clay’, was used to form an impervious lining. A stone spillway was constructed on the north side of the reservoir using the local limestone.
4. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Archaeology

4.1 A number of interesting archaeological finds have been made in and around Daventry parish, including one of the largest Iron Age hill forts to be discovered in this country. There have been several Saxon finds in Daventry itself, but the archaeological potential of the country park is largely unexplored.

4.2 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the conservation area, although Borough Hill (formerly Burrow Hill), the site of the two Iron Age hill forts, Bronze Age barrows and a Roman villa, is located close by.

Historical development

4.3 Daventry originated as a small rural Saxon settlement in the late 9th or early 10th century. By the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086 it had grown to become a large village, known as Daintree. The church already had a body of Canons by 1117 when the Cluniac priory was established.

4.4 The village grew into a market town during the Middle Ages, becoming a Borough by 1154. During the 12th and 13th centuries the tenants of the town properties were granted ‘burgage’ rights.

Thomas Eyre’s map of 1779 shows Daventry shortly before the canal

4.5 By the 16th century a shoe industry had become established and the town later became known for specialising in whip making. Daventry was on the busy coaching route from the south to the north west of England and, by
the late 17th century, it was servicing a large amount of through traffic, most notably mail coaches.

4.6 However, the continued growth of the town was subsequently curtailed by two separate developments. First, a planned Daventry Arm from the newly constructed Grand Junction Canal (now called the Grand Union Canal) was never built, although it is clearly shown on the proposed plans of the Grand Junction Canal dating from 1793. This meant that Daventry town did not benefit as much as it might have done from the proximity of the new canal. Second, Daventry was also by-passed by the main railway lines and it was not connected to the network until the late 1880s.

An extract from the 1793 map showing the proposed Daventry branch

4.7 The Grand Junction Canal itself was a milestone in civil engineering. It was built at the height of the boom in canal building in England and its construction was approved by an Act of Parliament in 1793. The stated purpose was to connect London to the rest of the canals in the East Midlands and beyond.

4.8 Daventry is located close to the termination of the canal at Braunston. At this point it meets the Oxford Canal and the Warwick and Birmingham Canal, which provide the onward journey to connect with other canals to several parts of Birmingham and the north of England. Although the canal was opened from Braunston to Weedon in 1796, the whole route did not open until 1805 because of problems with Blisworth Tunnel.

4.9 Reservoirs connected by feeder channels were vital to the operation of canals: they enabled the canal companies to regulate water levels at times of unusually low rainfall and to compensate for water lost through the operation of locks. Initially, the summit of the canal was fed by a small
reservoir at Braunston. However this was quickly supplemented by the Drayton Reservoir, later known as the Old Daventry Reservoir, built to the north west of the town.

4.10 It soon became apparent that further capacity was necessary. A site was identified for the Daventry New Reservoir and negotiations to purchase the land began in 1803. A map of 1803 shows the outline of the proposed reservoir and the landholdings that would be flooded, including the hamlet of Thrupp. Part of the land was common land and there was a delay while an act of parliament was obtained. However, the ground was dug out to build an earth dam and the reservoir was in use by 1804.

![The Plan of 1803](image)

4.11 The reservoir cost £20,000 which included £9,000 for land acquisition. It was about four times the size of the Drayton Reservoir with a catchment area of some 2,100 acres. It had a capacity, when full, equivalent to 6,470 locks.

4.12 The reservoir is within walking distance from the town and it soon became a popular beauty spot surrounded by the hilly farmland. Trees were grown around it and an area of open land was retained between the reservoir and the town. When the Daventry Rifle Volunteers were formed in 1860 a butts was constructed next to the reservoir for their shooting practice.

4.13 The reservoir and its feeder into the canal have been modified and reconstructed several times to maintain their effectiveness, and a number of early 20th century culverts have been retained. Reservoir Cottage (now serving as a Visitor Centre and the Rangers’ Office) was built by 1900. By this time the southern end of the reservoir was used for the treatment of
sewage from the town. The feeder was relined in concrete in the mid 20th century and its alignment was altered where it joins the canal. It was around this time that the idea of creating a country park was first publically proposed.

4.14 There was an amalgamation of canal ownership in the early part of the 20th century and eventually, in 1929, the whole network from Paddington in London to Birmingham was re-christened the ‘Grand Union Canal’.

4.15 The railway was very late in reaching Daventry and by the 1870s the town was beginning to suffer a severe economic downturn. However, the railway finally did arrive in 1888 and the town eventually recovered, expanding during the 20th century in all directions, apart from the north east, where the siting of the reservoir constrained development.

4.16 In 1975 a draft plan was drawn up for a country park to create a more accessible recreational space with areas dedicated to nature conservation. In 1977 the land was designated as the Daventry Country Park, and in the first years after designation the circular footpath around the reservoir was created. It was a joint venture between the Countryside Commission, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Northamptonshire County Council, East Midlands Sports Council, Daventry District Council and the majority landowners, British Waterways. Although much of the scheme was implemented, the extent of the plan was not fully realised because more of the park was given over to the nature reserve than formal recreational facilities.

4.17 In the post war period the West Midlands grew rapidly and, in the 1960s, “Birmingham Overspill” policies established Daventry as an Overspill Area. The town grew considerably as a result and the population of about 12,000 in 1971 rose to around 35,000 in 1981. The designation of the Country Park in 1977 was significant in safeguarding part of the town’s open space.

The Daventry Rifle Volunteers
for future enjoyment. In 2007 the Park was designated as a Local Nature Reserve, which gave further protection to the area.

Recreational use of the reservoir began from an early date

Dated brickwork is evidence of later development
5. **CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE**

Landscape and layout

5.1 Daventry Country Park is located within a wide flattish valley with the reservoir at its centre. This is an irregularly shaped body of water which, in places, has the appearance of a natural lake. The reservoir is divided into two fairly distinct sections in terms of use and appearance, although it also retains the continuous form of a single large body of water. The northern section is reserved for recreational activities and includes the Visitor Centre, Rangers’ Office, and café. The central and southern sections are managed as protected wildlife areas, where members of the public are excluded. It contains a water decontamination area to filter outflow from nearby sewage pipes.

5.2 The northern shore is the largest area to have a man-made appearance, with large rocks forming an artificial beach. These are set against the tall earth bank which has formed the dam to the reservoir since its first construction.

5.3 A footpath, generally about two metres wide, follows the reservoir on a circular route. To the south of the reservoir, the path runs further away from the edge of the water where dense woodland and willow trees provide an important wetland wildlife habitat. Footpaths continue to the west into the fields which contain a mixture of open grazing land, trees of varying species, and hedgerows. The B4036 cuts through the fields and modern concrete underpasses provide access to the town centre, while the Northern Way delineates the western boundary of the Country Park.

5.4 To the north of the fields are a large adventure playground and a surface car park, which are well screened by trees. Here the main driveway leads from the park entrance directly to Reservoir Cottage. The route is lined by tall poplar trees, which provide a strong boundary to the park in the west, but fall away to the east as views open up across the spillway to the Grand Union Canal and the countryside beyond. The area to the north of the dam is not included in the Country Park but forms an important part of the park’s setting and is vital for the management of the canal.

Activities and uses

5.5 Daventry Country Park is the location of a broad range of leisure activities and conservation uses. The park is particularly busy in the summer months when the meadows even have to be used for overflow parking to cope with the increased amount of visitors. The northern part of the reservoir is reserved for leisure activities which can include quiet water sports. The Visitor Centre and café attract a large number of visitors, including parents with young children, who enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

5.6 The rest of the country park, including the public exclusion area, are set aside for the wildlife of the reservoir and are used for nature trails, bird watching and conservation management projects. The circular path is popular with walkers and cyclists. Licensed fishing takes place on the earth dam that forms the north side of the reservoir.
5.7 Other activities include special event days with more varied appeal such as Countryside Days and vintage agricultural machinery rallies. The Ranger Service, which is based on site, runs a very active programme of educational guided activities linked to the National Curriculum. The park is used by local groups to meet and run activities such as a Surestart group, breast feeding awareness days, foster carers associations’ family days and raising money for local and national charities.

The buildings

5.8 The Country Park is notable for the predominance of its landscape and trees. As with the neighbouring Grand Union/ Oxford Canal Conservation Area, a lack of buildings is one of its principal characteristics. However, it is relevant that the reservoir itself is a man-made structure and that there is also a variety of subsidiary structures within the park, although they are not necessarily attractive.

5.9 The main body of the reservoir is not a natural feature, but was formed through the digging out of the land by manual labour and sealing the excavation with a lining of “puddle” clay. Excavated material was used for the construction of a large earth bank to form the dam.

5.10 Besides the clay and earth shell, the reservoir also has other built features. The concrete platform over the sluice in the north east corner of the reservoir is modern, angular and functional, as is the concrete spillway to its north and the feeder channel that extends as far as the canal in the north. In the dam there is a small culvert that is accessible through an entrance lined with blue engineering brick. It was constructed (or renewed) in 1923. A smaller storm drain, also with an engineered brick architrave is situated in the dam opposite the Rangers’ Office and is dated 1910.

Reservoir Cottage, the country park visitor centre
Reservoir Cottage (including the Visitor Centre, Rangers Office and café)

5.11 This early 20th century cottage is two storeys high and constructed of red brick using Flemish bond. Although it has been significantly altered with extensions to the east to form the café, it has retained much of its original form and appearance, with regular window openings and doorways. The building is colourfully adorned with banners, a small wind turbine and notice boards, which do not enhance its historic appearance.

Public toilets, store rooms and other structures

5.12 These are all modern structures of little interest but of low impact. The jetty, footbridges and bird hides are all modern and appropriately constructed using timber.

Focal points, views and vistas

5.13 The principal landmark and focal point is the reservoir itself. Its wide expanse of water provides an attractive centre-piece to the park, bringing in many visitors for walking or other country activities. The Visitor Centre is a key building and its position close to the edge of the reservoir marks the historic relationship of the reservoir keeper’s cottage to the body of water. The building provides the most immediate architectural focal point of the reservoir and, as well as being at the visual and social heart of the Country Park, forms a gateway to the reservoir.

5.14 Views in and out, and across many parts of the Country Park, are key components of its character. To the north there are extensive views across the neighbouring countryside and across the reservoir itself. However, the heavy tree coverage along other parts of the reservoir walk means that views are either limited to the fields running up the hillside to the east, or reduced to brief glimpses of meadows or the water through breaks in the tree cover.

The picturesque qualities of the reservoir are important
5.15 At the southern end of the reservoir there are more significant gaps which give views across the fields to a scattering of housing and the modern road network nearby. However, the view through to the reservoir remains largely hidden, except at designated bridges and viewing platforms which lead out to the water edge.

5.16 It is notable that the views across the reservoir vary with the seasons. During the winter months views are far more extensive. Views that are principally available during the summer months have been marked on the appraisal map with a broken line.

5.17 The reservoir is also significant in views from Borough Hill and the intervisibility of these two cultural reference points is locally important.

Plants and trees

5.18 The park is notable for its varied areas of grassed open space and woodland, providing contrasting environments. The grassed areas are best enjoyed along the ‘Meadow Walk’, and the woodland along the ‘Reservoir Walk’.

![The woodland walk](image)

5.19 The areas of grass take a variety of forms, from managed hay meadow to more natural areas which have been left virtually uncontrolled to nurture many different types of rare flower. The woodland forms the second largest habitat in the park, and consists mainly of trees that have been planted since the building of the reservoir. Willow and oak are the most significant species.

Public realm

5.20 Items in the public realm, such as the pavements, street furniture, signage and lighting columns, are all modern and relatively inconspicuous. The majority of the footpaths are constructed of compacted earth with a
covering of loose bark chippings or fine gravel. To the south, however, there are modern tarmac pathways that echo the materials found in the nearby residential areas of Daventry into which the paths lead.

5.21 Timber finger posts are a distinctive feature of the park, providing useful directions for many walkers along the different routes through the park. The muted tones of the timber blend in well with the wooded appearance of the land around the reservoir. Other signage is limited to some timber information boards on the northern bank of the reservoir. A number of plain timber benches set into the ground on steel posts are positioned around the park, most notably on the perimeter of the reservoir. There are also a few litter bins in the car park and by the café.

5.22 There is no external lighting in the Country Park, except for the light spill from the Northern Way. The surface car park contains some modern furniture, such as ticket machines and steel barriers.

Timber decking provides unobtrusive walkways where enclosure is necessary
6. **NEGATIVE FEATURES**

**Definition of negative factors**

6.1 English Heritage’s *Guidance on conservation area appraisals* (2005) states that the conservation area appraisal should identify elements which detract from the special character of the area, and which offer potential for beneficial change.

6.2 In fact, there are very few such negative features in the Daventry Reservoir Conservation Area, although the list below highlights some of the more obvious:

- The garish and dominant signage on the Reservoir Keeper’s Cottage
- Some graffiti, notably on the culvert leading into the dam
- Some damage to fencing close to the underpass leading to the town centre
- The unattractive appearance of the sewage outflows to the south of the reservoir

Vandalism is an issue in many of the consultation responses
7. **ISSUES**

**Definition of Issues**

7.1 A number of issues arise from the survey work conducted for this appraisal and from the public consultation. They relate to:

- The need to maintain the special interest of the area
- The need to exploit opportunities for enhancement
- The need to respond to the negative factors noted in Section 6

7.2 The issues provide the basis for the Site Specific Actions in the Management Plan. They will be subject to regular review by the Council and new points may be added in the future.

**Conservation area boundary review**

7.3 A conservation area already exists for the Grand Union Canal. Known as the Grand Union/ Oxford Canal Conservation Area, it covers the line of the canal and associated points of interest, such as wharfs, bridges and spillways. At the time of designation, however, it did not include the Daventry Reservoir.

7.4 There were options for designating the country park as a separate new conservation area or as an extension to the existing Grand Union/ Oxford Canal Conservation Area. While the principal historic interest of the reservoir lies in its function of holding water to feed into the canal, it was clear from public consultation that local people value the reservoir as a special place in its own right. Accordingly, it has been designated as a separate entity.

7.5 The boundary follows the main circular path around the reservoir, thereby clearly defining the special historic interest that forms the core of the conservation area. However, to the north, the boundary deviates from the footpath and leads northwards from the dam wall to connect with the Grand Union Canal.

7.6 This deviation from the footpath includes the spillway and the feeder channel, both of which relate to the functional operation of the canal. To the north east, the boundary follows the east side of the feeder channel that connects the reservoir with the Grand Union Canal. On the north west side, it follows the line of poplar trees that turns northwards from the dam and thus includes the spillway, which is the land that historically was considered to be necessary should the water overflow the dam. From the poplar trees, the boundary proceeds to join the Grand Union Canal, taking in a surviving length of the original feeder a short distance to the west of the modern channel.

7.7 The line of the boundary between the poplar trees and the original feeder is based on an interpretation of cropmarks seen in aerial photography. These cropmarks may be evidence of earlier field boundaries, but this has yet to be verified by archaeological investigation. This line was used in preference to the imposed geometry of a straight line between the two points. It results in an area slightly smaller than the modern dam-burst zone that is already safeguarded.
7.8 The conservation area boundary is shown on the Townscape Appraisal Map at Appendix 1 below.

The modern feeder as it joins the canal

Public realm
7.9 The information signs in the Country Park could be more extensive and better maintained. Although there is generous information available at the Visitor Centre, there is little in other parts of the Country Park.

Building maintenance and repair
7.10 The general condition of the built fabric of the Country Park is good, although concrete has been used for repairs to the reservoir over the past 50 years. Whilst this has been a practical response to operational requirements, the use of concrete has resulted in the loss of some original material. The retention of the remaining historic fabric, including the early 20th century brick culverts, is desirable in conservation terms. Some features require improved maintenance and/or cleaning.

Trees
7.11 The ongoing management of trees is vital for the maintenance of the special character of the Country Park. Trees are currently controlled and cared for through the implementation of the Local Nature Reserve Management Plan, and it is important that situation is maintained.

Expansion of Daventry
7.12 Plans for the development of Daventry are in preparation in response to the Government’s Milton Keynes – South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy. Various schemes are also currently at different stages of development within Daventry, as identified in the Daventry Town Centre Vision.
7.13 Planning applications for developments near to the Country Park have also been submitted. These areas play an important role in providing the setting for both the conservation area along the Grand Union Canal and for Daventry Reservoir. It is vital to ensure that future development does not harm the special interest of these conservation areas.

New Canal Arm

7.14 The proposed line of a new Daventry Arm to the Grand Union Canal passes very close to the east and south sides of Daventry Reservoir. This provides an important opportunity to enhance the setting of the conservation area.
Appendix 1. Daventry Reservoir Conservation Area Map
Appendix 2. Public consultation

1. In advance of the formal consultation, a briefing presentation was given for Daventry District Councillors on 22 October 2008. Also in October, the Council issued a news release to the local media announcing the forthcoming public consultation, and details were sent direct to a number of key stakeholders.

2. The formal public consultation began on Saturday 1st November. An exhibition was displayed in the morning at the Farmers’ Market and in the afternoon at the Country Park Visitors’ Centre. This was attended by the Council’s consultant and the Country Park Ranger Service. A leaflet, which included the questionnaire, was made available.

3. Meanwhile, the appraisal, the management plan and the questionnaire had been posted on the Council’s website and copies had been made available at the District Council Offices in Lodge Road, at Daventry Library and at the Daventry Country Park Visitors’ Centre. At the website, the questionnaire could be filled out and returned on-line and items were placed in the news section on the home page. Posters were distributed to town centre shops. Advertisements were placed in the Daventry Express and London Gazette and a press release was issued.

4. On 20 November, a presentation was given to the Daventry Town Council. On the following day, the exhibition was again displayed at Daventry Market in the morning and at the Country Park Visitors’ Centre in the afternoon. As before, the consultant and the Country Park Ranger Service were in attendance.

5. An exhibition, with leaflets, was held at locations in the town: the Country Park, Waitrose, the Leisure Centre, the Abbey, Lodge Road Offices Reception Area and the Library.

6. Emails and letters were sent to a wide variety of organisations and individuals advising them of the consultation.

7. The consultation period was for six weeks. It closed on 15 December.
Appendix 3. References:

Crowe, Nigel – *English Heritage Book of Canals* – 1994

Daventry District Council – *Daventry District Local Plan* – 1997


East Midlands Regional Assembly – *Green Infrastructure for the East Midlands* – 2006

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