



27th July 2023

Dear Planning Officers,

Ref – Draft Colchester City MasterPlan

The Colchester Natural History Society has engaged with the Council on many matters over many years and will continue to comment and provide advice on issues related to biodiversity and the management of green spaces. The recently produced City Centre Masterplan sets out a clear vision for the future development of Colchester city centre for years to come.

The CNHS would like to see the importance of biodiversity emphasised in the Plan and the place of biodiversity in Colchester's future strengthened. Castle Park and the adjacent riverside open spaces are hugely important sites for biodiversity and rich in wildlife, enjoyed and valued by local residents and the visitors to the area.

The proposed Roman Wall Park includes grassland and wetland by Land Lane, Riverside and King's Head Meadow – much of which is currently managed for biodiversity following discussions with the CNHS. It's important that any new park should have very clear aims to enhance the biodiversity.

The CNHS would be happy to meet with Members and Officers to discuss the issues further, so that our City Centre green open spaces and the riverside continue to deliver on biodiversity.

Kind regards,

Dougal Urquhart
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