

Officers are aware of correspondence that has been received by Members, from the Great Ouse Valley Trust regarding the report being presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on Wednesday 1st April 2026.

This supplement intends to respond to the points raised:

1. Self-Designation of the Great Ouse Valley Way report – Members should be reassured regarding the report’s title. The document is focused entirely on the landscape of the Great Ouse Valley and the Ouse Washes, fully consistent with the purpose of the jointly commissioned Arkwood Report. The term “Great Ouse Valley Way” appears only once within the paper, reflecting a legacy reference linked to an element of the Arkwood analysis. This should not be interpreted as an indication that the report relates to the long-distance footpath. All substantive content, conclusions and recommendations relate solely to the landscape self-designation proposal.
2. Commitments to working with the GOVT – The report HDC recognises the longstanding commitment of the Great Ouse Valley Trust and the significant financial contribution it has made to support the development of the business case. The environmental, cultural and economic importance of the Great Ouse Valley, and the potential benefits identified in the Arkwood Report, are fully acknowledged.
3. The report also reflects the current operational and strategic context for HDC, which includes resourcing constraints, the discretionary nature of this work and the uncertainties associated with Local Government Reorganisation. These factors inform HDC’s position at this point in time, but do not diminish the quality of the Arkwood work nor the shared ambition to protect and enhance this valued landscape.

HDC welcomes the Trust’s continued willingness to collaborate, including its offer to convene wider partners. As set out in the report HDC remains committed to working with the Trust in line with the principles of ‘enable’ and ‘influence’ and to maintaining constructive engagement on future opportunities.

HDC expresses its appreciation for the Trust’s constructive involvement and its sustained partnership in this important area of work; the report does clearly articulate the reasons for the recommendation as set out in the relevant section.