

Many thanks for your interest in completing our Biodiversity and urban forest strategies consultation. Once you have completed the survey, please return it to our Customer Service Centre in person or via post at the following address:

Communications Team, Customer Service Centre, Mandela House, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1BY.

The survey closes on Tuesday 10 February 2026.

Any responses received after this date will not be considered.

For any further assistance, email us at communications@cambridge.gov.uk.

You can also call our Customer Service Centre and ask for the Communications Team on 01223457000 (open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5.15pm).

Background information

Cambridge City Council wants your views on our Biodiversity Strategy's mid-period review and on a new Urban Forest Strategy.

Trees, habitats, wildlife and climate resilience are closely interconnected. Many of the most important challenges facing the city, including climate change, extreme heat, access to nature, development pressures and community stewardship, cut across both strategies and cannot be addressed in isolation.

By asking you about both at the same time, we aim to take a coordinated, efficient and joined-up approach, avoid duplication for residents and ensure that future policies for trees and biodiversity are aligned and mutually supportive.

Biodiversity Strategy

Our current Biodiversity Strategy (2022–2030) pledged to undertake a five-year review of actions and progress to ensure we continue to collaborate with partners and communities to protect, manage and enhance nature in the city.

The draft revised strategy proposes to retain the same vision and themes, and support for the existing Cambridge Nature Network.

It suggests alternative actions and projects to align with our new statutory Biodiversity Reporting Duty, the draft Urban Forest Strategy, and wider initiatives including the statutory Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), the BIG Chalk partnership and an ambition to collaborate to achieve future Nature City Accreditation. These more recent initiatives are described within the draft strategy.

The consultation is being held to seek views from residents, community groups, and other stakeholders.

Urban Forest Strategy

The Urban Forest Strategy sets out how trees across Cambridge will be managed, protected, planted and cared for over the next 10 years.

An internal consultation on the draft strategy has already taken place with council services and partners, and the feedback from that process has informed the version now being shared for public comment.

This consultation invites residents, communities and stakeholders to help shape the future direction of tree management in the city, including ambitions for increasing canopy cover, climate resilience, mature tree protection, mitigating development pressures, fairness in access to trees, and opportunities for community involvement.

You can view both draft strategies and topic papers, which provide background evidence and detailed explanations that support the Urban Forest Strategy, on our online consultation platform. Visit cambridge.gov.uk/BiodiversityUFS.

Feedback from the consultation will inform the final Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy and associated action plans going to Cabinet for approval on Wednesday 25 March 2026.

Personal data

We will submit your input to Cambridge City Council's online participation platform. If you want to receive updates relevant to your input by email, please fill out the following fields on this page and we will create an account for you. Your data will not be public and will only be used by Cambridge City Council. If you do not agree for us to use your personal data in this way, you can leave them empty.

First name(s) (optional)

Last name (optional)

Email address (optional)

By checking this box I consent to my data being used to create an account on Cambridge City Council's participation platform.

1. Which of our strategies would you like to feed back on?

You can comment on either or both strategies.

At the end of the end of the survey you will also have the option of completing several cross-cutting questions. These focus on how trees and biodiversity should work together to support habitat connectivity, climate adaptation, fair access to nature, community roles in stewardship, and clear communication and trust in decision-making.

**Only choose one option.*

- Biodiversity Strategy
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Both

Biodiversity Strategy

- [Draft Biodiversity Strategy](#)

2. Do you support the Biodiversity Strategy vision? (optional)

Our Biodiversity Strategy vision is that over the next five years Cambridge will see a 'measurable net gain' in biodiversity, both within the city and the surrounding countryside, including the extent and quality of priority habitats and populations of priority species.

Wildlife habitats will be protected, enhanced and where possible expanded and linked. The very best wildlife habitats will form the Cambridge Nature Network that will permeate the whole of the city and link to the wider Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Everyone who lives or works within Cambridge will have access to high quality natural greenspaces within walking distance of their home or place of work, and there will be a greater awareness and understanding of biodiversity with opportunities to be involved and collaborate in local wildlife enhancement projects and monitoring.

**Only choose one option.*

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly support | <input type="radio"/> Support |
| <input type="radio"/> Neutral | <input type="radio"/> Oppose |
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly oppose | |

3. Do you feel our parks currently provide enough space for nature in the city? (optional)

Over the last five years, we have planted trees and created new meadows, wetlands and installed features such as log piles and bat boxes in our parks.

**Only choose one option.*

- Not enough
- About right
- Too much
- Other

If 'Other', please specify

4. What if any additional things should we be including for nature in our parks? (optional)

**Choose as many as you like*

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Shrubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildflowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Long grass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ponds and wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Deadwood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signage on habitats and species that can be found | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

If 'Other', please specify

5. Which of our proposed strategic objectives should be prioritised? (optional)

The strategy proposes to keep the existing seven objectives.

**Choose exactly 3 options*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secure a measurable net gain in biodiversity across the city by 2031 in support of the Natural Cambridgeshire Doubling Nature Vision | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure designated sites and priority habitats are in good/favourable condition and connected, where possible, to increase resilience to a changing climate and contribute to the Cambridge Nature Network and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engage and promote awareness of biodiversity and wellbeing, supporting and empowering coordinated action in our communities, businesses, and institutions | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that biodiversity protection and enhancement is considered by all council service functions and projects in line with our statutory Biodiversity Duty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maximise the potential of our buildings, parks, open spaces, allotments and community gardens, watercourses and tree stock to support biodiversity, whilst balancing their multifunctional needs | <input type="checkbox"/> Harness the wealth of local professional and amateur knowledge and experience in identifying and solving local issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work with partners to establish long term, species and habitat surveys and monitoring to measure the impact of activities and identify new threats and opportunities across the city | |

- 6. What if any additional objectives would you like to see included in the strategy? (optional)**

7. **How important is it for every resident to have access to high-quality natural greenspace within 15 minutes walking distance? (optional)**

Regular access to nature is known to improve physical and mental wellbeing.

**Only choose one option.*

- Essential
 - Important
 - Nice to have
 - Not important

8. Should resources be directed first to communities who currently have the poorest access to nature and lowest tree canopy cover? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- Yes
 - No
 - Maybe

9. What local habitats or species should be the focus of future projects? (optional)

We want to know what urban habitats and species you value.

10. How should we balance recreational access and people's enjoyment of our parks with protecting sensitive habitats? (optional)

We want people to have access to enjoy high quality greenspaces, however, disturbance from recreation can adversely impact some wildlife.

11. If there are children or young people in your household, what do they want from existing and future green spaces? (optional)

We want young people to experience and enjoy local nature.

12. Do you support Fulbourn Road Local Nature Reserve designation? (optional)

The council proposed to designate two sites it owns in Cherry Hinton as new Local Nature Reserves to protect and enhance the habitats and species they support.

- [Fulbourn Road Open Space](#)
- [Church End](#)

If supported, we will develop a management and monitoring plan for each site to guide our work to ensure they continue to provide a place for people to enjoy local nature.

**Only choose one option.*

- Yes
 No

13. Do you support Church End Local Nature Reserve designation? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- Yes
 No

14. Do you support Cambridge seeking Nature City Accreditation? (optional)

Nature City Accreditation is an award that celebrates towns and cities that put nature at the heart of their plans.

It means creating more green spaces, planting trees, protecting wildlife, and making sure everyone can enjoy nature close to home. A Nature City is a healthier, happier place for people and wildlife alike.

**Only choose one option.*

- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

15. How would you or your organisation like to collaborate on biodiversity projects and engage with Nature City accreditation? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- Volunteering
 - Sponsorship
 - Citizen science
 - Providing land
 - Education
 - Prefer not to be involved

16. What barriers might prevent you from participating in nature activities such as exploring a Local Nature Reserve or volunteering to help with a nature project in your local park?
(optional)

17. How would you like us to share progress and decisions on biodiversity actions? (optional)

**Choose as many as you like*

- Online updates
 - Social media
 - Other
 - Community meetings
 - Interactive maps

If 'Other', please specify

18. Do you have any innovative ideas that could help make Cambridge a leader in urban biodiversity and meet our Nature City accreditation aspiration? (optional)

- 19. Are there any other comments or suggestions you'd like to make regarding the Biodiversity Strategy or Nature City accreditation? (optional)**

20. What would you like to do next?

Some issues are shared by both the Urban Forest Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy and require a common approach.

The cross-cutting questions focus on how trees and biodiversity should work together to support habitat connectivity, climate adaptation, fair access to nature, community roles in stewardship, and clear communication and trust in decision-making.

These shared questions ensure that the outcomes of the feedback we receive is aligned and that future action across the city's green infrastructure, trees and wildlife is coordinated and coherent.

**Only choose one option.*

- Go to the end of the survey
- Go to the Urban Forest Strategy questions
- Go to the cross-cutting questions

Urban Forest Strategy

- [Draft Urban Forest Strategy](#)

21. Does the strategy clearly explain the concept of Urban Forestry? (optional)

The Urban Forest Strategy sets out how trees across Cambridge will be managed, protected, planted and cared for over the next 10 years.

An internal consultation on the draft strategy has already taken place with council services and partners, and the feedback from that process has informed the version now being shared for public comment.

This consultation invites residents, communities and stakeholders to help shape the future direction of tree management in the city, including ambitions for canopy cover, climate resilience, mature tree protection, development pressures, fairness in access to trees, and opportunities for community involvement.

**Only choose one option.*

- Clearly explains
- Somewhat explains
- Does not explain

22. Do you support the overall vision, principles and aims of the Urban Forest Strategy and the direction of travel for the next decade? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly support | <input type="radio"/> Support |
| <input type="radio"/> Neutral | <input type="radio"/> Oppose |
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly oppose | |

23. What level of ambition should Cambridge adopt for future canopy cover and overall tree legacy? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- Maintain the current canopy cover (no major change at ~17%)
- Aim for modest canopy growth (~20%) over the next 10-15 years
- Aim for modest canopy growth, prioritising areas with the lowest canopy cover
- Adopt an ambitious long-term target above current levels (~25%), supported by major investment

24. What approach should the council take to selecting tree species in a changing climate? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- Prioritise traditional native species wherever possible
- Use a mix of native and non-native species, with careful site-based selection
- Prioritise climate-resilient species (including non-native) where evidence supports it
- Actively diversify the species mix for long-term resilience, even if this means major shifts from historic species

25. How should the council balance mature tree retention with public safety? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- Prioritise safety above all; remove trees where risk is identified
- Balance safety with retention, using pruning before removal
- Retain mature trees where risks are tolerable and can be managed proportionately
- Retain mature trees wherever reasonable, accepting some residual risk, to preserve public benefits

26. What level of responsibility should developers have for new and existing trees? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- Meet minimum national requirements
- Protect existing trees of value and plant replacements where feasible
- Deliver high-quality tree retention, planting and aftercare as a standard requirement
- Provide full funding for establishment/aftercare (for example, at least three years), long-term protection and enhanced canopy delivery

27. How should the council prioritise where new trees are planted? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- Evenly across the city
- Where new development is happening
- Where canopy cover is lowest or heat risk is highest
- Strongly prioritise areas with the greatest environmental inequalities, even if this means fewer new trees elsewhere

28. What approach should the council take to replacing and establishing new trees? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- Replace removed trees 1:1 where possible
- Replace trees 1:1 and provide basic establishment
- Increase replacement ratios and invest in high-quality watering and formative care
- Treat young-tree establishment as a high-priority investment, even if it means planting fewer trees

29. What approach should be taken when subsidence is alleged to be caused by a public tree? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- Remove the tree if any subsidence is reported
- Investigate and remove the tree if evidence suggests possible contribution
- Require robust technical evidence and consider engineering alternatives before removal
- Prioritise public benefits; only remove trees where strong evidence shows they are the dominant cause

30. How would residents like to be involved in supporting Cambridge's urban forest? (optional)

**Choose as many as you like*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to better information and guidance | <input type="checkbox"/> Join local planting or maintenance volunteer groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a tree | <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in citizen science (monitoring pests, species, canopy) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to be involved directly, but support the council doing more | |

31. If resources are limited, what should the Council prioritise? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Tree safety work | <input type="radio"/> Maintenance and aftercare of existing trees |
| <input type="radio"/> Planting fewer trees but with proper establishment | <input type="radio"/> Maximising long-term benefits (biodiversity, shade, climate) even if it means difficult trade-offs (like what) |
| <input type="radio"/> Engagement, education and partnerships to expand capacity | |

32. What would you like to do next? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- Go to end
- Go to cross-cutting questions

Cross-cutting questions

- 33. Do residents support a more integrated approach to canopy cover, habitat connectivity and species recovery? (optional)**

**Only choose one option.*

- Yes
 - No
 - Maybe

- 34. How should the city adapt habitats and planting practices to hotter, drier summers and increased climate risks? (optional)**

35. Should reasonable resources be directed first to communities with the lowest canopy cover and poorest access to wildlife? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- Yes
 - No
 - Maybe

36. What role could communities play in both tree and biodiversity? (optional)

37. How can we best present evidence, decisions and trade-offs to build public confidence across both strategies? (optional)

About you

38. Are you registering on behalf of a business or a community group?

**Only choose one option.*

- Business
 - Community group
 - None of the above

39. Business or community group name (optional)

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40. Postcode

We may use postcode information to invite you to take part in consultations that particularly affect your local area, such as consultations about children's play areas in your local park or community centres in your local area. We may also use it to help us to analyse the results of consultations, for example to find out what residents in a particular ward think about a particular proposal for the city.

41. Place of residence (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Abbey | <input type="radio"/> Arbury |
| <input type="radio"/> Castle | <input type="radio"/> Cherry Hinton |
| <input type="radio"/> Coleridge | <input type="radio"/> East Cambridgeshire |
| <input type="radio"/> East Chesterton | <input type="radio"/> Fenland |
| <input type="radio"/> Huntingdonshire | <input type="radio"/> King's Hedges |
| <input type="radio"/> Market | <input type="radio"/> Newnham |
| <input type="radio"/> Petersfield | <input type="radio"/> Queen Edith's |
| <input type="radio"/> Romsey | <input type="radio"/> South Cambridgeshire |
| <input type="radio"/> Trumpington | <input type="radio"/> West Chesterton |
| <input type="radio"/> Somewhere else | |

42. Year of birth (optional)**43. What is your sex as registered at birth? (please select one response from the following) (optional)**

We may use information about your sex to help us help us to carry out consultations to understand the needs of people of a particular sex, such as men's and women's views on night-time safety in the city. It will also help us to analyse the results of consultations, for example to find out whether there are particular issues affecting male and female homeless people and rough-sleepers in Cambridge.

**Only choose one option.*

- | |
|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Female |
| <input type="radio"/> Male |
| <input type="radio"/> Intersex |
| <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |

44. Does your gender identity match your sex as registered at birth? (please select one response from the following) (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

45. Which of the following describes how you think of yourself? (please select one response from the following) (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- Male
- Female
- In another way
- Prefer not to say

46. What is your ethnic group? (optional)

We may use information on your ethnicity to help us to carry out consultations to understand the needs of minority ethnic groups in the city. It will also help us to analyse the results of consultations to find out what residents in different ethnic groups think about a proposal for the city.

**Only choose one option.*

- Arab
- Asian or Asian British: Chinese
- Asian or Asian British: Pakistani
- Black or Black British: African
- Black or Black British: Any other Black background (please give details)
- Mixed: White and Black African
- Mixed: Any other mixed background (please give details)
- White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- White: Roma
- Prefer not to say
- Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British: Indian
- Asian or Asian British: Any other Asian background (please give details)
- Black or Black British: Caribbean
- Mixed: White and Asian
- Mixed: White and Black Caribbean
- White: English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British
- White: Irish
- White: Any other White background (please give details)
- Any other ethnic group (please give details)

47. If you selected 'Other' in the previous question, please tell us what your ethnic group is (optional)

48. Do you currently have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more? (optional)

We may use information on any disability you may have to help us to target consultations on proposals that may particularly affect residents with a disability, such as consultations on Shopmobility or accessibility of public toilets. We may also use it to help us to carry out consultations to understand the needs of disabled people in the city, or to analyse the results of consultations, for example to find out what disabled residents think about a proposal for the city.

**Only choose one option.*

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

49. What is your current total annual household income, including pay, benefits, pensions and investments? (optional)

We may use information about your household income to help us to target consultations on issues that may affect residents with particular levels of income, such as a consultation on our Council Tax Reduction scheme. It can also help us to analyse the results of consultations, for example to find out what residents with different levels of incomes think about or services or facilities.

**Only choose one option.*

- Less than £10,000
- £10,000 to £19,999
- £20,000 to £29,999
- £30,000 to £39,999
- £40,000 to £49,999
- £50,000 to £59,999
- £60,000 to £69,999
- £70,000 to £79,999
- £80,000 to £89,999
- £90,000 to £99,999
- £100,000 to £119,999
- £120,000 to £139,999
- £140,000 to £159,999
- £160,000 to £179,999
- £180,000 to £199,999
- £200,000 or more
- Prefer not to say