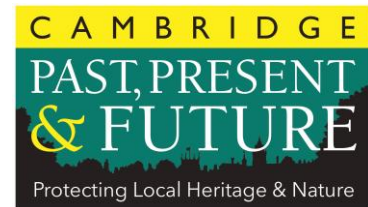


MWLP Scoping Consultation,
County Planning, Minerals and Waste

By email to:

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07/10/2026



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Response to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review Scoping Consultation August 2026

Cambridge Past, Present & Future is Cambridge's largest civic society. We are a charity run by local people who are passionate about where they live. We operate in the greater Cambridge area and working with our members, supporters and volunteers we:

- Are dedicated to protecting and enhancing the green setting of Cambridge for people and nature.
- Care about Cambridge and are an independent voice for quality of life in the strategic planning of Greater Cambridge.
- Are working to protect, celebrate and improve the important built heritage of the Cambridge area.
- Own and care for green spaces and historic buildings in and around the city for people and nature, including Wandlebury Country Park, Coton Countryside Reserve, Cambridge Leper Chapel & Barnwell Meadows, Bourn Windmill and Hinxton Watermill.

Cambridge Past Present and Future made the following responses on the online survey.

Q7. What outcomes do you think the new Minerals and Waste Plan should be retained, removed or added, and what should they be measured against?

The new Minerals and Waste Plan should retain and prioritise core spatial and environmental outcomes, specifically:

- **Landscape Quality:** Conserving and enhancing the quality and distinctiveness of the landscape across the county.
- **Biodiversity:** Protecting, expanding, and encouraging biodiversity assets.
- **Built and Historic Environment:** Protecting and, where possible, enhancing the character, quality, and distinctiveness of the built and historic environment.

These outcomes should be measured against clear, locally derived environmental indicators and framework targets, including:

- Quantifiable deliverable targets within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).
- Impact assessments against designated landscape character areas and historic asset settings across Greater Cambridge.

Q12. Are there other location-specific restoration requirements that should be considered for inclusion in a restoration and aftercare policy?

Restoration policies must explicitly integrate and deliver the strategic priorities of the **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)**. Specifically, policies should align with and directly incorporate the **Cambridge Nature Network** (which is embedded within the LNRS) to ensure that mineral restoration sites function as connected, landscape-scale ecological corridors rather than isolated patches.

Public Access Infrastructure: Restoration schemes must mandate public access enhancements where appropriate, explicitly prioritising the integration, creation, and expansion of local public rights of way, walking/cycling footpaths, bridleways, and countryside amenity space. This directly supports accessible green infrastructure around Greater Cambridge while reconnecting communities with restored landscapes.

Q13. Do you have comments on the proposed approach to restoration and aftercare?

We strongly encourage the Plan to mandate a 20% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) target on allocated sites and actively work to achieve this benchmark on non-allocated/windfall sites:

Greater Cambridge is one of the most nature-depleted sub-regions in the UK, defined by low woodland cover, severely fragmented habitats, and deep historic biodiversity losses. A standard statutory 10% gain on major sites is wholly insufficient to halt and reverse this decline alongside rapid regional economic and housing expansion.

A 20% BNG requirement proactively supports local nature recovery goals and directly aids the delivery of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

The 20% requirement is grounded in robust local evidence, including the '*Cambridgeshire CC Biodiversity Strategy 2025*', the '*Cambridge City Biodiversity Strategy 2022–2030*', and the '*South Cambridgeshire Climate and Nature Strategy 2026–2030*'.

Robust local policy mechanisms must be formulated to address the BNG policy gap for unallocated sites (such as farm reservoir creation or borrow pits), ensuring non-allocated extraction sites deliver equivalent environmental value without obtaining an unfair commercial advantage over allocated sites.

Aftercare schemes should ensure that public access provisions (such as permissive paths and countryside access) are integrated into long-term management plans, ensuring ecological enhancements and public health benefits are sustained and managed in perpetuity.

Q21. Do you have any comments on the proposed approach to local policies for conserving and enhancing the natural environment?

Local policies must include explicit, robust safeguards to prevent permanent or inappropriate industrial waste and minerals processing infrastructure within the **Cambridge Green Belt**.

The plan policies must account for and reinforce the three Cambridge-specific Green Belt purposes established in adopted local plans and the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan:

1. **Preserve the unique character of Cambridge** as a compact, dynamic city with a thriving historic centre.
2. **Maintain and enhance the quality of its setting.**
3. **Prevent communities in the environs of Cambridge** from merging into one another and with the city.

I trust that you will take our comments into consideration.

Yours sincerely
Sarah Nicholas
Principal Planning Officer