Greater Cambridge Local Plan

Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) Consultation - Response Form

Please submit your comments (known as representations) by **5pm** on **Friday 25 September 2026**.

Data Protection and Freedom of Information

We will treat your data in accordance with our Privacy Notice. All personal information that you provide will be used solely in relation to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Please note that each representation and the name of the person or organisation who made the representation, and the name and organisation of the agent (where used), will be published on our website - representations cannot be treated as confidential.

Additionally, respondent details and representation(s) will be made available to the Planning Inspectorate and to the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State to conduct the examination.

By submitting this response form you are agreeing to these conditions.

About this Response Form

This response form has two parts:

- Part A – Your details. We cannot formally register your comments without your details.
- Part B – Your representation(s). Please fill in a separate sheet for each representation you wish to make. If you need more space to provide your answers, please expand the boxes or continue on an attached separate sheet.

We strongly encourage the submission of representations via our consultation platform at https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/proposed-submission-greater-cambridge-local-plan If you are unable to submit your representation using our online system, this response form is available to downloaded to complete electronically from www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan.

Your completed response form should be:

- emailed to localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org, or
- posted to: Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Policy Team, South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6EA

If you are having difficulty submitting your comments, please contact localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org or call 01954 713694.

Part A: Your Details

Information required	Personal details *	Agent's details (if applicable)
Name	Caroline Danby	
Organisation (where relevant)	Central Bedfordshire Council	
Job Title (where relevant)	Head of Strategic Growth	
Address, including Post Code	Priory House Monks Walk Chicksands SG17 5TQ	
Telephone		
Email address	localplan@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk	

* If you have appointed an agent to represent you, you only need to complete the Name and Organisation (if applicable) under Personal Details, but you do need to complete the full details of the agent. All correspondence will be sent to the agent.

Part B: Your Representation

Please fill in a separate sheet for each representation.

Section 1: Which document, and section of that document, does your representation relate to?

Document	**Policy / Paragraph / Site / Map** (please identify)
Proposed Submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan	Policy BG/BG: Biodiversity and geodiversity
Proposed Submission Policies Map	
Sustainability Appraisal	
Habitats Regulations Assessment	

Section 2: Do you consider that the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is sound and legally compliant?

Test	**Yes / No**
Legally compliant	Yes
Sound	Yes

Section 3: Your representation

Please set out and explain your comments. Please be as precise as possible, and please do not just refer to an attached supporting document(s). For your representation (comments) to be considered, your representation must be set out here. Wherever possible, set out precisely any changes you think should be made to the plan and its policies.

The Greensand Ridge is a distinctive "island" of significantly wooded sands and sandstone that rises prominently above the surrounding clay vales. With a toehold in both Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire, and stretching over 45 km, the vast majority of the 273 km2 of this attractive landscape is in Bedfordshire. The north eastern extent runs within the area of the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan but has not been included within the extent of the area to be considered, protected and enhanced. It is essential that policies ensure that development within the area does not have adverse effects which would have indirect landscape and visual effects within Central Bedfordshire.

Paragraph 5.3 refers to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Whilst support for this strategy is welcomed, consideration should also be given to neighbouring Local Nature Recovery Strategies where development proposals are located close to administrative boundaries. Cross-boundary ecological networks and habitats do not necessarily align with local authority boundaries.

Central Bedfordshire Council suggests that criterion 7 of policy BG/BG: Biodiversity and Geodiversity would benefit from recognising both direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity. This would ensure that all potential effects arising from development are appropriately considered and assessed.

Criterion 9 should also acknowledge sites located both within and outside the Greater Cambridge area where those sites satisfy published selection criteria. This would provide a more comprehensive and consistent approach to biodiversity protection.

In addition, criteria 9(c) and 9(d) could be strengthened by explicitly requiring developments to reflect existing landscape and river corridor characteristics, as well as protecting and enhancing important views to and from rivers.

Criterion 10 would benefit from recognising irreplaceable habitats located within adjoining local authority areas. Development proposals can have ecological effects beyond administrative boundaries, and policy wording should reflect the need to protect and enhance irreplaceable habitats both within Greater Cambridge and neighbouring authorities.

Please provide a 100 word summary of your representation.

The Greensand Ridge is a distinctive "island" of significantly wooded sands and sandstone that rises prominently above the surrounding clay vales. The north eastern extent runs within the area of the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan but has not been included within the extent of the area to be considered, protected and enhanced. It is essential that policies ensure that development within the area does not have adverse effects which would have indirect landscape and visual effects within Central Bedfordshire.

Cross-boundary ecological networks and habitats do not necessarily align with local authority boundaries.

Section 4: Supporting Documents

If you are submitting any supporting documents with your representation, such as maps or further evidence documents, please provide a list.

N/A

Section 5: Proposed Modifications

Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Greater Cambridge Local Plan legally compliant and sound.

You will need to say why each modification will make the Greater Cambridge Local Plan legally compliant or sound. Please put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or paragraph, being as precise as possible.

Central Bedfordshire Council suggests that criterion 7 of policy BG/BG: Biodiversity and Geodiversity would benefit from recognising both direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity. This would ensure that all potential effects arising from development are appropriately considered and assessed.

Criterion 9 should also acknowledge sites located both within and outside the Greater Cambridge area where those sites satisfy published selection criteria. This would provide a more comprehensive and consistent approach to biodiversity protection.

In addition, criteria 9(c) and 9(d) could be strengthened by explicitly requiring developments to reflect existing landscape and river corridor characteristics, as well as protecting and enhancing important views to and from rivers.

Criterion 10 would benefit from recognising irreplaceable habitats located within adjoining local authority areas. Development proposals can have ecological effects beyond administrative boundaries, and policy wording should reflect the need to protect and enhance irreplaceable habitats both within Greater Cambridge and neighbouring authorities.

Please note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to justify your representation and any proposed modification(s), as there will not be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations other than at the invitation of the Inspector during the Examination process.

Section 6: Participation at the Examination

If you are proposing a modification to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, do you consider it necessary to participate at the examination hearings?

Examination	Yes / No
Participate at the hearing sessions	No

If you wish to participate at the hearing sessions, please outline why you consider this to be necessary.

Please note: the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate in Examination hearing sessions. You may be asked to confirm your wish to participate when the Inspector has identified the matters and issues for examination.

Section 7: Being Kept Informed

Would you like to be kept informed of the progress of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan through to adoption?

Notifications	Yes / No
Informed of submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent Examination	Yes
Informed of the publication of the Inspector's recommendations following the Examination of the Local Plan	Yes
Informed of adoption of the Local Plan	Yes