

Protecting chalk streams in Cambridge

Many thanks for your interest in completing our Protecting chalk streams in Cambridge survey. 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 Friday 17 October 2025. Any responses received after this date will not be considered.

If you are in need of any further assistance, please email us at communications@cambridge.gov.uk. Or call our Customer Service Centre and ask for the Communications Team on 01223 457000 (open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5.15pm).

Background information

Cherry Hinton Brook and Coldham's Common are two of Cambridge's hidden chalk stream treasures, rare habitats at the heart of the city.

Together they support specialist wildlife and provide a peaceful escape for people. But these streams are fragile: banks are eroding, gravels are smothered with silt, and pollution pressures are increasing.

We want to protect and restore these special places. By stabilising banks, cleansing gravels, enhancing flows, and creating habitats, we can give sensitive chalk stream species a future while keeping paths safe for people. These works are only a first step. Each site is a case study demonstration project, designed to test practical solutions and gather robust evidence on how urban chalk streams can be made more resilient.

Both sites form part of the Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project's network of case studies. Each will be monitored before, during, and after restoration to study water quality, biological communities, and sediment processes. This evidence will guide future restoration across the city and beyond. Local people and volunteers will play an active role, through citizen science monitoring and hands-on restoration activities.

Cherry Hinton Brook

We are consulting on the area from Burnside to Sainsbury's car park.

This shaded stretch, bordered by well-used footpaths, faces several pressures: eroding banks, compacted access points, and silt accumulating in gravels. These changes reduce habitat for aquatic plants and invertebrates.

Our aim is to stabilise eroded banks, improve flow conditions, and restore gravels to support a greater diversity of macrophytes, invertebrates, and fish. The consultation will help us prioritise where

to strengthen banks, improve flows, and create more resilient habitats, ensuring this urban chalk stream remains both ecologically rich and accessible for the community.

Coldham's Common

Coldham's Common is a large green space where streams wind through open grassland and tree belts. Recent eDNA surveys show that brown trout are attempting to enter city streams from the River Cam, and we also have precise data on the water quality parameters needed for their spawning and early life stages. Through this project we are working to understand and demonstrate the full ecological potential of the watercourses in Coldham's Common.

At present, the streams here are under pressure: polluted water enters from urban drains, and fine sediments are settling into gravels that fish and invertebrates depend on. Coldham's Common provides an opportunity to create a demonstration site that trials in-channel works while also testing pollution interception features. Our case study site will gather evidence to inform the design of wider interventions that help intercept pollutants before they reach the stream, while also improving access routes and protecting the wider landscape.

We are inviting views on how people use the Common, where they notice erosion or changes to the streams, and where habitat and access improvements would be most valuable.

Have your say

Tell us your priorities for these stretches: where you see erosion, silt, or habitat change, and how you use the brook and the Common. Your input will help refine designs and guide monitoring.

Next steps

We will review all comments, publish a summary of what we heard, refine designs, and share monitoring results openly.

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. Are you responding on behalf of a business or community group? (mandatory)

**Choose as many as you like*

- ☐ Business
- ☐ Community group
- ☐ None of the above

2. What is the name of your business or community group? (optional)

3. What is your postcode? (mandatory)

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. - If you are answering on behalf of a business or community group, please use the postcode connected to the business or community group.

4. What is your year of birth? (optional)

We may use this information to help us to analyse the results of consultations to find out what residents in different age groups think about a proposal for the city.

5. Are you a student? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes - Full-time
- ☐ Yes - Part-time
- ☐ No

6. 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.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Arab | <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British: Chinese | <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British: Indian |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British: Pakistani | <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British: Any other Asian background (please give details) |
| <input type="radio"/> Black or Black British: African | <input type="radio"/> Black or Black British: Caribbean |
| <input type="radio"/> Black or Black British: Any other Black background (please give details) | <input type="radio"/> Mixed: White and Asian |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed: White and Black African | <input type="radio"/> Mixed: White and Black Caribbean |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed: Any other mixed background (please give details) | <input type="radio"/> White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British |
| <input type="radio"/> White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller | <input type="radio"/> White: Irish |
| <input type="radio"/> White: Roma | <input type="radio"/> White: Any other White background (please give details) |
| <input type="radio"/> Any other ethnic group (please give details) | |

If 'Any other ethnic group (please give details)', please specify

7. 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

8. 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 find out what residents with different levels of incomes think about our services or facilities. We will not use the data for any other purposes.

**Only choose one option.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Less than £10,000 | <input type="radio"/> £10,000 to £19,999 |
| <input type="radio"/> £20,000 to £29,999 | <input type="radio"/> £30,000 to £39,999 |
| <input type="radio"/> £40,000 to £49,999 | <input type="radio"/> £50,000 to £59,999 |
| <input type="radio"/> £60,000 to £69,999 | <input type="radio"/> £70,000 to £79,999 |
| <input type="radio"/> £80,000 to £89,999 | <input type="radio"/> £90,000 to £99,999 |
| <input type="radio"/> £100,000 to £119,999 | <input type="radio"/> £120,000 or more |



Protecting chalk streams in Cambridge - Survey open

Instructions

- Write as **clearly** as you can— these forms might be scanned
- Write your answers in the same language as this form

Cherry Hinton Brook

1. How often do you use the Burnside to Sainsbury's path?

**Only choose one option.*

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Daily | <input type="radio"/> Weekly |
| <input type="radio"/> Monthly | <input type="radio"/> Rarely |
| <input type="radio"/> Never | |

2. What issues have you noticed along Cherry Hinton Brook?

**Choose as many as you like*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bank erosion | <input type="checkbox"/> Collapsing path |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Litter | <input type="checkbox"/> Pollution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silt build-up | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of aquatic plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

If 'Other (please specify)', please specify

3. Drop a pin on the map where you see erosion, silt or pollution. (optional)

Please draw an X on the map below to show the location or write the address instead.



4. In your view, which outcomes should be prioritised?

Please write a number from 1 (most preferred) and 6 (least preferred) in each box. Use each number exactly once.

- ☐ Bank stability
- ☐ Cleaner gravels
- ☐ Improved habitat
- ☐ Safer public access
- ☐ Biodiversity gains
- ☐ Reduced pollution impacts

5. Do you have any other comments to make about Cherry Hinton Brook? (optional)

Coldham's Common

6. How often do you visit the Coldham's Common/Abbey Pool area?

**Only choose one option.*

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Daily | <input type="radio"/> Weekly |
| <input type="radio"/> Monthly | <input type="radio"/> Rarely |
| <input type="radio"/> Never | |

7. What benefits do you see from creating a demonstration chalk stream site here?

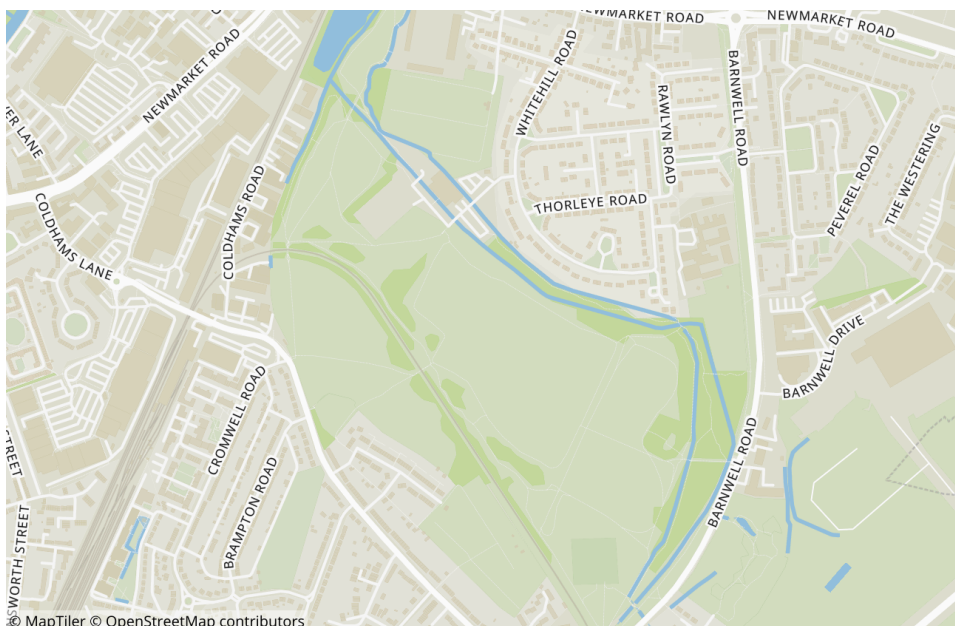
**Choose as many as you like*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaner water | <input type="checkbox"/> More fish and wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better access | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational value |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate resilience | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

If 'Other (please specify)', please specify

8. Draw an area on the map where you think habitat creation would be most beneficial. (optional)

Please draw a shape on the map below.



9. Do you support the creation of pollution interception systems upstream of Coldham's Common to improve water quality for wildlife and people?

**Only choose one option.*

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not sure

10. Do you have any other comments to make about Coldham's Common? (optional)

General questions

- 11. How important do you think it is to monitor water quality and publish the results openly?**

Please write a number between 1 (Not important) and 5 (Very important) only

- 12. How important do you think it is that the project tackles not only habitat restoration but also the causes of pollution?**

For example, phosphate and nitrate spikes during rainfall or drought events.

Please write a number between 1 (Not important) and 5 (Very important) only

- 13. Do you have any further comments to make regarding chalk stream restoration in Cambridge? (optional)**

- 14. If you would like to be kept informed about these projects, please provide your email address. (optional)**
