



## Levelling Up Fund: Story gardens and routes Consultation responses

### 1. Introduction

Consultation on Canterbury City Council's plans for the Levelling Up Fund Story Gardens and routes took place between Monday 12 June 2023 and Monday 24 July 2023.

In January 2023 Canterbury City Council was awarded money from the Levelling Up Fund to deliver our Connected Canterbury: Unlocking the Tales of England project.

As part of our bid, the council committed to delivering nine story gardens located across the city. The gardens would:

- be freely open to the public
- range from very small open spaces to larger parks
- be used to tell one of Canterbury's Tales of England
- promote the rich history of the city
- places for local people to be proud of and enjoy

As part of the Levelling Up Fund bid, the council also committed to creating three new routes around the city that could be promoted to encourage visitors to explore Canterbury's heritage sites, parks, and new story gardens.

This consultation asked a variety of questions about:

- the general story garden concept
- potential story garden locations
- story garden design concepts
- the aims of story garden routes

Respondents were also encouraged to provide suggestions for the above.

A total of 240 responses were received.

## 2. Executive summary

The main findings from the consultation are:

- Over 80% of respondents agree with the story garden concepts
- Respondents felt that explaining the history of Canterbury was important and this was deemed the most common reason for agreement, followed by the view that the gardens would have a positive impact of the environment and support tourism
- The most supported locations were Castle grounds, Courtyard in front of the closed Nasons store, and the High Street but all story garden locations received over 60% support
- Respondents with specific objections felt that some of the locations did not need significant investment and that areas in need of regeneration should be prioritised
- Over 75% of respondents agree with the story garden design concepts, respondents commented that ongoing maintenance is important in addition to the provision of bins
- Respondents commented that good planting, adequate seating, historical information and education, and a calm and clean environment were all likely to attract them to visit a story garden
- Over 80% of respondents agree with the proposed aims of the story garden routes
- Respondents felt that allowing people to discover and explore new places would benefit both residents and tourists
- A wide variety of locations for consideration as part of the project were received, these included the River Stour, St Martins Church, Westgate Towers and St Augustine's amongst others
- A high response rate was received suggesting people are really engaged with the project and would like to be involved as the project progresses

### 3. Consultation methodology

Consultation took place between Monday 12 June and Monday 24 July 2023. The following methods were used to seek views:

- an online questionnaire, which received **216** responses
- a paper version of the questionnaire, **24** copies of which were returned
- written representations were also welcomed and **one** was received

The consultation was promoted in the following ways:

- an article on the council's newsroom site
- posts on the council's social media channels
- a display at The Beaney, where details information on the plans and paper copies of the questionnaire could be found

A wide array of stakeholders were also emailed directly to encourage them to respond to the consultation.

## 4. Findings

### 4.1. Questionnaire responses

A total of 240 completed questionnaires were submitted, 216 of which were online and 24 of which were paper copies.

#### 4.1.1. Respondent profile

Approximately three quarters of respondents live in Canterbury.

| Postcode  | Area                | Percentage |
|---|---------------------|------------|
| CT1   | Canterbury          | 40.4% (97) |
| CT2   | Canterbury          | 24.6% (59) |
| CT4   | Canterbury          | 8.3% (20)  |
| CT5   | Whitstable          | 5.0% (12)  |
| CT3   | Canterbury          | 3.3% (8)   |
| Various (CF11, CV22, EC4R, EX4, GU8, KT5, LE11) | Out of county       | 2.8% (7)   |
| CT6   | Herne Bay           | 2.5% (6)   |
| ME13  | Faversham           | 2.1% (5)   |
| CT13  | Sandwich            | 0.8% (2)   |
| CT10  | Broadstairs, Thanet | 0.4% (1)   |
| CT15  | Dover               | 0.4% (1)   |

*NB: 22 respondents did not give their postcode*

The majority of people responding were aged between 35 and 74.

| Age          | Percentage |
|--------------|------------|
| Under 18     | 0.4% (1)   |
| 18 to 25     | 3.3% (8)   |
| 26 to 34     | 11.3% (27) |
| 35 to 44     | 17.1% (41) |
| 45 to 54     | 17.5% (42) |
| 55 to 64     | 14.6% (35) |
| 65 to 74     | 21.7% (52) |
| 75 to 84     | 6.3% (15)  |
| 85 and above | 2.1% (5)   |

*NB: 14 respondents did not give their age*

Significantly more females responded than males:

| Gender                  | Percentage  |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Male                    | 31.7% (76)  |
| Female                  | 60.4% (145) |
| Prefer to self-describe | 0.8% (2)    |

*NB: 17 respondents did not give their gender*

#### 4.1.2. Story garden concepts

Over 80% of respondents agree with the proposed aims of the story gardens, with less than 10% of respondents stating that they do not agree.

| Agree or disagree | Percentage  |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Agree             | 81.3% (195) |
| Disagree          | 6.3% (15)   |
| Not sure          | 11.7% (28)  |

*NB: 2 respondents did not answer this question*

Respondents were asked to provide further details and explain why they either agree or disagree. The following comments were received:

- General support for concept: 110 comments
- Explaining the history of Canterbury is important: 27 comments
- Gardens will have positive environmental impact: 18 comments
- Gardens are vital to ensuring a healthy, vibrant city: 16 comments
- Gardens will boost tourism: 15 comments
- Ensure gardens are well maintained: 12 comments
- Create a safe space: 12 comments
- Embrace cultural heritage: 9 comments
- Sustainability and biodiversity have been considered: 8 comments
- Canterbury's gardens are among the best feature of city: 7 comments
- Story concept seems artificial: 7 comments
- Inclusive aims: 7 comments
- Ensure parks are properly policed: 6 comments
- Green spaces over concrete: 6 comments
- Outdoor spaces encourage relaxation: 6 comments
- Canterbury needs more public spaces: 6 comments
- Favour biodiverse native pollinator plants: 5 comments
- Generational advantages: 4 comments
- Civic pride will increase: 4 comments
- Anything free is a great addition to the city: 4 comments
- Waste of money: 4 comments
- Will encourage community cohesion: 4 comments
- Long-term funding implications: 3 comments
- Gardens should compliment what is already on offer: 3 comments
- Aims are too tourist-led: 3 comments
- Too many aims: 3 comments
- Consider road improvements: 2 comments
- Leave lampposts intact: 2 comments
- Accessibility needs more work: 2 comments
- Be more imaginative: 2 comments
- Not all gardens need to be educational: 1 comment

- Consider elsewhere in the district: 1 comment
- Include lesser known stories: 1 comment
- Introduce tourist welcome booths: 1 comment
- These aims do not address issues of employment opportunities: 1 comment

### 4.1.3. Story garden locations

Respondents were asked for their thoughts about the following potential locations for the story gardens.

For all locations, more people support than object.

A high level of support can be seen for **Castle grounds, Courtyard in front of the closed Nasons store, High Street, and St George's Tower, St George's Street** (also known as the Clock Tower).

Respondents had more concerns about **Westgate Gardens, St George's Roundabout, Dane John Gardens, and City wall**. These locations received a relatively high level of objection, although were still supported by most respondents.

| Locations   | Percentage that support | Percentage that object | Percentage that don't support or object |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Castle grounds  | 80.8% (194)             | 4.2% (10)              | 12.5% (30)                              |
| St George's Tower, St George's Street (also known as the Clock Tower)   | 74.2% (178)             | 8.3% (20)              | 15.8% (38)                              |
| City wall   | 68.8% (165)             | 12.1% (29)             | 17.5% (42)                              |
| Dane John Gardens   | 62.5% (150)             | 13.3% (32)             | 22.5% (54)                              |
| Garden of St Mary de Castro, Castle Street  | 66.3% (159)             | 7.1% (17)              | 22.9% (55)                              |
| Greyfriars Gardens (the publicly-accessible area)   | 70.8% (170)             | 7.1% (17)              | 20.0% (48)                              |
| Longport public realm - opposite the Longport car park adjacent to the Abbey (linked to KCC Active Travel Scheme) | 61.3% (147)             | 10.8% (26)             | 25.0% (60)                              |
| Millers Field   | 62.1% (149)             | 8.8% (21)              | 26.3% (63)                              |
| Monastery Street pocket park (on the corner of Monastery Street and Church Street)                                | 55.4% (133)             | 7.1% (17)              | 34.2% (82)                              |
| Courtyard in front of the closed Nasons store, High Street  | 81.7% (196)             | 6.7% (16)              | 9.2% (22)                               |
| Solly's Orchard and Abbots Mill   | 62.1% (149)             | 10.0% (24)             | 24.6% (59)                              |
| St George's Roundabout - surrounds at all pedestrian subway entry/exit points around the roundabout               | 60.0% (144)             | 13.8% (33)             | 23.3% (56)                              |
| St Radigund's Garden, St Radigund's Street  | 59.6% (143)             | 6.3% (15)              | 25.4% (61)                              |



| Locations                           | Percentage that support | Percentage that object | Percentage that don't support or object |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Three Cities Garden, Best Lane      | 65.8% (158)             | 5.0% (12)              | 26.7% (64)                              |
| Tower of St Mary Magdalene, Burgate | 68.3% (164)             | 6.3% (15)              | 22.5% (54)                              |
| Westgate Gardens                    | 62.9% (151)             | 16.7% (40)             | 17.9% (43)                              |

*NB: Percentages/totals do not equal 100% as some respondents chose not to respond*

Respondents with specific objections were asked to provide further information. They made the following comments:

- Gardens are fine as they are: 14 comments
- Focus on areas in need of regeneration: 9 comments
- Consider traffic implications and how this affects suitability: 8 comments
- Do not neglect city outskirts: 6 comments
- Ongoing maintenance is unworkable: 5 comments
- City Wall proposal is too ambitious: 4 comments
- Anti-social behaviour concerns: 3 comments
- Visual plans need to be seen: 3 comments
- Dane John Gardnes is not safe at night: 3 comments
- Vandalism risk: 3 comments
- Green areas should not be removed or replaced: 3 comments
- Replace instead of improving: 3 comments
- Lampposts should not be removed: 3 comments
- Proposals would spoil cycle infrastructure: 3 comments
- Current reputation of locations is off-putting: 3 comments
- Parks should be locked at night: 2 comments
- Stories too complex: 2 comments
- St Peters Grove is too narrow: 2 comments
- Some areas are difficult to find: 2 comments
- St George's Tower is an unpleasant location: 2 comments
- Too close to parking: 1 comment
- Greyfriars suffers from anti-social behaviour: 1 comment
- Include volunteer gardeners: 1 comment
- More information on flower arrangement needed: 1 comment
- Guided tours already exist for these areas: 1 comment
- The 'garden feel' will be lost as gardens are too central: 1 comment
- Consider the wider district: 1 comment
- Waste of water: 1 comment
- Locations would get too noisy: 1 comment
- Parking must be considered: 1 comment
- Dane John Gardens is too big: 1 comment
- Westgate Gardens too big: 1 comment
- Nasons courtyard is too small: 1 comment

- Roundabout would be inaccessible so not suitable: 1 comment
- Millers Field is too far away: 1 comment
- Consider accessibility for those with disabilities: 1 comment
- Canterbury's charm and aesthetic could be lost: 1 comment
- Monastery Street is too narrow: 1 comment
- Longport is unsuitable: 1 comment
- Correct permission must be sought from churchyards: 1 comment

Respondents were asked if they had any other suggestions and the following comments were received:

- Focus on neglected spaces: 8 comments
- Prioritise historic significance of spaces: 8 comments
- Consider statue commemorating Christopher Marlowe: 7 comments
- Lady Wooton's Green is missing from the proposal: 5 comments
- Areas should be policed: 4 comments
- Areas should be locked at night: 4 comments
- Invite opportunities for volunteers: 4 comments
- Concentrate on smaller sites linked to Christopher Marlowe: 4 comments
- Consider long-term maintenance: 4 comments
- Avoid areas where vandalism is rife: 3 comments
- Beverley Meadow: 3 comments
- Invest outside of the city centre itself: 3 comments
- Improve garden next to Nasons: 3 comments
- Changes should be fitting with the look of city: 3 comments
- Changes should relate to wildlife: 2 comments
- Include a proper cycle lane on the city wall: 2 comments
- Consider adequate bin provisions: 2 comments
- Prioritise safety: 2 comments
- Lighting is essential for safety: 2 comments
- QR codes for educational purposes: 2 comments
- Cleanliness of town should be a priority: 2 comments
- Link areas for sense of flow: 2 comments
- Roman wall outside The Parrot pub: 2 comments
- The UNESCO pilgrims route along Burgate: 2 comments
- Consider unused sites (e.g. car park next to Castle St multi-story): 2 comments
- Wincheap Meadow area: 2 comments
- Toddlers Cove: 2 comments
- Clocktower area due to historic link and near war demolition: 2 comments
- Theme idea: historic town morphology: 2 comments
- Prioritise Castle grounds: 1 comment
- Extend the city wall story garden between St George's Street and North Downs Way: 1 comment
- Engage with schools on proposals: 1 comment
- Do not neglect city outskirts: 1 comment
- Accommodate needs of children: 1 comment
- Reduce concrete car park outside Tower House: 1 comment
- Use space occupied by the old Zoar Chapel: 1 comment

- All weather surfacing in Greyfriars Gardens to work as safe/attractive drop-off for St Peter's School: 1 comment
- Consider urban parks: 1 comment
- Consider Martyrsfield Memorial Garden: 1 comment
- Plant more flowers: 1 comment
- Improve small park on Black Griffin Lane: 1 comment
- Work with individual tour companies: 1 comment
- Link small piece of land outside Augustine House to pedestrian subway: 1 comment
- Focus on main entry points to city: 1 comment
- Consider partnership between library and the Three Cities Garden: 1 comment
- Include Canterbury Cathedral: 1 comment
- Include Franciscan Gardens: 1 comment
- Include green areas between The Pound and Cafe du Soleil: 1 comment
- Promote gardens well: 1 comment
- Theme idea: historic rivers: 1 comment
- Theme idea: spirituality: 1 comment
- Theme idea: conflict and defence: 1 comment
- Pilgrim route to incorporate Church of St Mildred: 1 comment
- Include Falala Way: 1 comment
- Improve toilet facilities: 1 comment
- Involve local artists in the design: 1 comment
- Include Legacy Park: 1 comment
- Public meeting welcome: 1 comment
- Consider Canterbury West Station as a continuation of the Westgate Gardens: 1 comment
- Street light design is unappealing: 1 comment
- Prioritise bus station: 1 comment
- Consider soft landscaping at St George's Street: 1 comment
- Consider sustainable planting: 1 comment

### 4.1.3. Story garden design

Over 75% of respondents agree with the story garden design concept. Some 17% of respondents agreed with a few, while only a very small proportion of respondents disagreed altogether.

| Agree or disagree | Percentage  |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Agree             | 77.5% (186) |
| Disagree          | 2.1% (5)    |
| Agree with some   | 17.1% (41)  |
| Not sure          | 2.1% (5)    |

*NB: 3 respondents did not answer this question*

Respondents were asked to provide further suggestions or highlight points they may disagree with and the following comments were received:

- Only consider options that are realistically maintainable: 13 comments
- Bin provisions are vital: 12 comments
- QR code or app: 9 comments
- Include ecological planting: 8 comments
- No play equipment: 7 comments
- Include sculptures: 5 comments
- Plant as many trees as possible: 4 comments
- Accessibility improvements: 4 comments
- Consider inclusivity - disabilities/other cultures/age groups: 3 comments
- Ensure bins have lids: 3 comments
- Well-kept toilets: 3 comments
- Water refill stations: 3 comments
- Do not remove old lampposts: 3 comments
- Leave parks untouched, they are already beautiful: 3 comments
- Include signposts: 3 comments
- Security should be a priority: 3 comments
- Recognise volunteers groups: 3 comments
- Gardens tell their own story, no additions needed: 3 comments
- Include a space for dog owners - facilities for dogs: 2 comments
- Access to drinking water: 2 comments
- Recycling bins should be included especially: 2 comments
- Good lighting is needed: 2 comments
- Upkeep should be financially practical: 2 comments
- Include artist-designed gardens: 2 comments
- Include historical information: 2 comments
- Include planters: 2 comments
- Ensure signs/lighting is in keeping with rest of the city: 2 comments
- Limit large signs as this attracts vandalism: 2 comments
- Parks are fine as they are: 2 comments

- Cleanliness of city needs to be addressed first: 2 comments
- Engage with young people: 2 comments
- Signpost to online engagement (social media, consultations): 2 comments
- Include opportunities for exercise: 2 comments
- Consider dogs and appropriateness of them in these spaces: 1 comments
- Child-free areas (calm area): 1 comment
- Regular litter picking: 1 comment
- Spaces need to be vandal-proof: 1 comment
- Too much CCTV: 1 comment
- Safety is paramount: 1 comment
- Don't include sheds/greenhouses as these attract anti-social behaviour: 1 comment
- Consider access and how this may affect businesses: 1 comment
- Include games/quizzes via QR code: 1 comment
- Limit seating to avoid day drinkers: 1 comment
- Recognise limitations of historical sites (access): 1 comment
- Implement British Sign Language communication boards: 1 comment
- Trying to do too much, keep it simple: 1 comment
- Include plant labels and information on planting: 1 comment
- Consider live actors for entertainment in gardens: 1 comment
- Consider how these options will help 'levelling up': 1 comment
- Proposed locations are not sustainable for play equipment: 1 comment
- Consider picnic areas: 1 comment
- Do not forget the Aphra Behn statue: 1 comment
- Consider the rest of the district too: 1 comment
- Consider the castle interior: 1 comment
- These plans could be made more exciting: 1 comment
- Avoid loud music as this upsets local residents: 1 comment
- Water features for wildlife: 1 comment
- Focus on sites rather than digital technology (e.g. QR codes) as this is unreliable: 1 comment
- Too many trees proposed: 1 comment

Respondents were asked to share what would attract them to visit a story garden and the following comments were received:

- Good planting and flowers: 41 comments
- Adequate seating: 36 comments
- Information and education on Canterbury's historical significance: 34 comments
- Peaceful space: 29 comments
- Clean environment: 22 comments
- Safe environment: 12 comments
- Engaging story-telling: 12 comments
- Child-friendly areas: 11 comments
- Areas of shade: 10 comments
- Good sign-posting: 8 comments
- Interactivity along routes: 8 comments
- Sculptures and statues: 8 comments
- Space for music events or acting: 7 comments

- Accessible route: 6 comments
- Attractive trees: 6 comments
- Picnic benches: 6 comments
- Well-designed spaces: 6 comments
- Good lighting: 5 comments
- Well-kept, accessible toilets: 4 comments
- Enclosed bins: 4 comments
- Depends on whether a tourist or local resident: 3 comments
- A community grow scheme: 3 comments
- Sensory boards: 3 comments
- The opportunity to learn something new: 3 comments
- Social space: 2 comments
- A trail of the gardens: 2 comments
- Bird feeding stations: 2 comments
- Memorials: 2 comments
- Bug hotels: 2 comments
- Free food: 2 comments
- Water fountains: 2 comments
- Artwork: 2 comments
- Cycle-only routes: 1 comment
- Dog-friendly areas: 1 comment
- New perspective on Canterbury: 1 comment
- Horticultural information plaques: 1 comment
- Bike parking: 1 comment
- Uncluttered space: 1 comment
- Dog-ban: 1 comment
- British Sign Language boards: 1 comment
- Something that celebrates women's history: 1 comment
- Each garden being special in its own right: 1 comment
- Gardens should speak for themselves: 1 comment
- Safe provisions for barbecues: 1 comment

#### 4.1.4. Routes

Over 80% of respondents agree with the proposed aims of the story garden routes, with less than 5% of respondents stating that they do not agree.

| Agree or disagree | Percentage  |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Agree             | 85.0% (204) |
| Disagree          | 4.2% (10)   |
| Not sure          | 7.5% (18)   |

*NB: 8 respondents did not answer this question*

Respondents were asked to explain why they either agreed or disagreed with the route proposals and the following comments were received:

- Support - allows people to discover new places: 24 comments
- Support - will benefit residents and tourists: 13 comments
- Support - Canterbury is lacking routes like this: 10 comments
- Cycle infrastructure is important: 10 comments
- Better signage needed: 9 comments
- Access is important: 6 comments
- Support - encourages community involvement with heritage: 5 comments
- Safety should be carefully considered: 5 comments
- Support - will encourage more people to cycle: 5 comments
- Separate cycle paths from pedestrian paths: 5 comments
- Use good quality materials: 5 comments
- Spend money on actual improvements to city: 5 comments
- Need to see visual plans: 4 comments
- Ensure areas are maintained: 4 comments
- Object - does not help 'levelling up': 3 comments
- Consider litter issues in the city: 3 comments
- Support - creative idea: 3 comments
- Consider those who cannot walk around the city: 3 comments
- Plans are unrealistic: 3 comments
- Utilise existing infrastructure: 3 comments
- Support - will encourage sense of belonging: 2 comments
- Routes are safe: 2 comments
- Facilities for rubbish disposal: 2 comments
- Don't focus on tourist benefits only: 2 comments
- Tourist congestion along routes: 2 comments
- Existing infrastructure is too poor: 2 comments
- Traffic will pose an issue: 2 comments
- Support - in the interests of local people: 1 comment
- Be consistent with road and pavement surfaces: 1 comment
- In the interests of tourists: 1 comment
- Avoid use of vehicles: 1 comment

- Cheap parking: 1 comment
- Ban electric scooters and bikes: 1 comment
- Manage use of electric scooters/bikes: 1 comment
- Need for a visitor centre: 1 comment
- Notice boards are futile: 1 comment
- Burgate should be promoted: 1 comment
- Kings Mile should be promoted: 1 comment
- Make routes pedestrian only: 1 comment
- Use Bigglestone style lampposts: 1 comment
- Ask tourists which routes they want to see: 1 comment
- Greyfriars Garden would not be good for a shared route: 1 comment
- Ensure train stations and coach park are on the routes: 1 comment
- Support - will bring Canterbury to life: 1 comment
- Plans should appealing to a wide group of people - intergenerational: 1 comment

Respondents were asked to share any other areas or points of interest they would like to see explored as part of the story gardens project and the following comments were received:

- Heritage and history is vital and should be emphasised: 7 comments
- Consider River Stour: 7: comments
- Route to St Martins Church: 6 comments
- Consider the Westgate Towers and Gardens: 6 comments
- Consider St Augustine's: 5 comments
- Educate about Canterbury during the war: 4 comments
- Roman Museum and The Beaney: 4 comments
- Focus on notable individuals, such as Christopher Marlowe: 4 comments
- Route to St Dunstan's Church: 3 comments
- Consider reduced price or deal for CCC residents to visit the cathedral and Eastbridge: 3 comments
- Encourage locations away from the town centre: 3 comments
- Burgate is not mentioned: 3 comments
- Utilise The Beaney as part of this project: 3 comments
- Route from Canterbury West Station: 3 comments
- Consider Martyrs Field, near Wincheap: 3 comments
- Introduce safe cycle routes: 3 comments
- Existing tourist companies already cover this scope: 2 comments
- Lady Wootons Green is not mentioned: 2 comments
- Consider old terminus of the Crab and Winkle line: 2 comments
- More detail needed: 2 comments
- Routes should change and interact with each other: 2 comments
- More work around the cathedral: 2 comments
- Emphasis female voices: 2 comments
- Cycle path down New Dover Road: 1 comment
- Consider St Mary de Castro: 1 comment
- Consider St Stephens: 1 comment
- Consider Hales Place : 1 comment
- Consider Long Meadow Way: 1 comment
- Consider St Radigan's Garden: 1 comment



- Free bike hire would help traffic issues: 1 comment
- Promote the high street and businesses: 1 comment
- Introduce segways in the city: 1 comment
- Inclusivity is important : 1 comment
- Create a simple map: 1 comment
- Share plans with local residents' associations: 1 comment
- Consider litter issues in Canterbury: 1 comment
- Longport is not mentioned: 1 comment
- Monastery Street is not mentioned: 1 comment
- Consider the wider district: 1 comment
- Not a castle, it's just the keep: 1 comment
- Encourage less vehicle use: 1 comment
- Unattractive design so far: 1 comment
- Prioritise more established historic routes, e.g. Pilgrims Mile, Castle Mile, City Walls Mile: 1 comment
- Consider historical hospital on the high street: 1 comment
- Consider Kings Mile: 1 comment
- Promote new transport routes as this appeals to younger gen: 1 comment
- Waste of money: 1 comment
- Consider the tannery site: 1 comment
- Integrate story gardens with countryside routes, e.g. Rings, Great Stour Way etc: 1 comment
- Pedestrianise area around Westgate Towers: 1: comment
- Idea is too idealistic: 1 comment
- Need to deter vandalism: 1 comment

## 5. Written representations

One written submission was received.

### 5.1. Canterbury Archaeological Trust

The director of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) submitted comments on the following points via email:

- protection and repair programme
- project realisation
- additional opportunities
- future steps

Some of CAT's comments are highlighted below:

*[...] The Trust is supportive of initiatives designed to engage locals and visitors with Canterbury's wonderful heritage. Engagement helps create a sense of identity and ownership, and heritage which is appreciated and valued is more likely to be protected. The story gardens proposed as part of Canterbury City Council's Levelling Up Project have the potential to promote heritage to those already engaged, and those yet to be, not least by the interweaving of additional narratives such as gardens, community spaces and art. They can also be used to address current issues, such as community cohesion, sustainability and biodiversity, and how these link past, current and future generations.*

*The Levelling Up initiative provides an opportunity for the story garden sites to be re-inserted into their historic setting, by means of public engagement before, during and after the creation of the story gardens, and by the production of a variety of complementary materials showcasing the nature and significance of the heritage sites. Such an initiative will have the dual role of both public and heritage benefit, enabling locals and visitors to share in and engage with the heritage of the city.*

*It is clear, though, that there is additional potential for a series of connected heritage routes and themes that move away from the general, which could encourage discovery and exploration of Canterbury's lesser known history. Examples could include an exploration of how the city wall has defined the urban space (and community thinking), not only in the Roman period but in the centuries following its construction; or perhaps how the city was for centuries dominated by its multiple medieval religious establishments – not just the abbey and the cathedral, but the friaries too. The project could also speak of Canterbury's social history, for example exploring themes of wealth, poverty and health through the ages.*

*The Levelling Up Project provides a unique opportunity for Canterbury City Council, in partnership with heritage groups and statutory bodies, to create a lasting legacy promoting the remarkable heritage of the city. Both the journey and the achievements have the potential to engage and inspire current and future generations.*

[View the full representation](#)

## **6. Conclusions**

Overall, the survey results show that story garden concepts and proposed route aims are supported. Respondents are particularly keen to see the castle grounds, the courtyard in front of the closed Nasons store, and the high street used as story garden location. It is clear that respondents would also like to see cultural heritage and the history of Canterbury thread through proposals amongst other themes.

Given the response rate and detailed comments received, residents seem engaged with the project which suggests ongoing public engagement is paramount.

It is hoped that the findings from the survey provide useful insight as to how the council will proceed during the next stages of the Connected Canterbury: Unlocking the Tales of England project.