Following the suspension of the Examination of the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans, LDA Design was appointed by the two councils to undertake a review of the inner boundary of the Cambridge Green Belt.

Our study analysed how each parcel of land around the edge of the city contributes to Green Belt purposes, particularly preserving the setting and special character of the historic city, the primary reason the Cambridge Green Belt was designated. The report also considered the scope to release land for development without causing significant Green Belt harm.

Our assessment confirmed a number of releases proposed by the councils and led to the release of an area of land south of Cambridge, which had not previously been identified. On LDA Design’s advice, the site was allocated for an extension to Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

Our report became part of the councils’ evidence base and an LDA Design director appeared on behalf of the councils when the Examination hearings resumed. The Inspectors’ reports endorsed our study as ‘a robust approach’ and accepted its conclusions, including the release of land for the Biomedical Campus extension.
Aspects of analysis
1. Topography and drainage
2. Visual assessment
3. Gateways and approaches
4. Townscape and landscape role and function