

Nature Recovery Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)



Key

	Significant and/or long-term positive impact identified. No changes needed.
	Slight or short-term positive impact identified. No changes needed but could be reviewed to improve.
	Not applicable or no cause for concern.
	Slight or short-term negative impact identified. Review to identify possible improvements.
	Significant and/or long-term negative impact identified. Changes needed before proceeding.

This summary of the CIAT should be used to aid your decision making. Please note that red/amber segments simply mean that mitigations and changes should take place not that the project cannot go ahead.

Environmental	Scores	Justification	Recommendation
GHGs	4	Research suggests that 10% Biodiversity Net Gain is a minimum to prevent further decrease, and not all BNG will necessarily provide carbon sequestration for the linked construction works. Therefore, we took a conservative approach and assessed this impact as slightly positive.	0
Air quality	8	An increase in vegetation species is linked to pollutant absorption and humidity regulation. Therefore, we tag it as significantly positive.	0
Sustainable Transport	4	Networks of connected green infrastructure could stimulate people going outside and use these routes for walking, but behaviour change has multiple causes. Therefore, we classified it as slightly positive.	0
Land use change	8	Statutory minimum 10% BNG is a novel legislation worldwide, that has heavily changed the planning system, the ecology sector, and it is opening promising opportunities for nature recovery across majority of new development. BNG alongside this SPD ensures that nature recovery is integrated into the planning process. These policies embed positive land use change through within the borough.	0

Biodiversity	8	This SPD sets out why biodiversity and nature recovery are important, the current planning policies related to nature recovery, what Cheltenham Borough Council expects to be delivered for nature recovery in planning proposals, and how this will be secured long term to deliver for nature. This document is targeted at those who intend on making the most out of the biodiversity components of their planning schemes and therefore, the SPD's main purpose is to restore nature and biodiversity.	0
Soil and waterway health	8	One of the components of BNG are water courses ecosystems and the SPD delves into Sustainable Drainage Systems guidance. Nature recovery restores critical ecosystem services like water purification, soil fertility, and pollination.	0
Climate Change Adaptation	8	Nature recovery makes habitats more diverse thus more resilient to environmental issues, allowing the restoration of their self regulation characteristics. Healthy ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, and grasslands, act as carbon sinks absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Restoring these environments can help mitigate the impacts of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas concentrations. Restoring ecosystems like riparian zones, wetlands, and forests enhances natural buffers against flooding, storms, and erosion. Healthy landscapes are more resilient to extreme weather events and provide safer, more stable environments for communities.	0
Energy Use	2	The tree component of BNG could increase canopy cover providing shade, decreasing the need for cooling systems and could coexist with renewable energy schemes.	0
Sustainable Materials	0	0	0
Waste	0	0	0

Social	Scores	Justification	Recommendation
Food	0	Nature recovery restores critical ecosystem services like water purification, soil fertility, and pollination. These services are essential for food production.	0

Health	4	Evidence shows that a thriving, wildlife-rich environment benefits both physical and mental health. People with nature on their doorstep are more active, mentally resilient and have better all-round health, access to nature provides spaces for recreation, relaxation, and connection with the natural world. Nature recovery is in the public interest as can create more green spaces in urban areas, improve quality of life and promote social cohesion.	0
Housing	-1	BNG is one of the factors contributing to viability of development schemes, thus it could impact negatively on developer costs	0
Education	0	0	0
Community	2	There are many opportunities to protect, enhance, and grow the biodiversity in Cheltenham, and for developers to incorporate these aims into their development plans. Nature recovery is crucial for maintaining the delicate balance between human progress and environmental health, ensuring a sustainable future for both people and the planet.	0
Culture	0	0	0
Accessibility	4	Interacting with nature is mostly an accessible experience. We will take necessary steps for the document to be as accessible as possible.	0
Local Economy and Jobs	0	0	0
Safety	0	0	0
Equity	1	The SPD will include a sort of "nature justice" related to Tree Equity Score and nature-deprived areas of the Borough.	0
Democratic Voice	2	It will have public consultation. Not sure about the scope of the delivery	0