



Broxtowe Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy

Appendices

Broxtowe Borough Council

Draft report

Prepared by LUC

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Appendix A

Policy Context

A.1 This appendix covers all relevant policy and legislation at national, regional and local level. This includes existing policies and legislation as well as new plans and strategies likely to be developed during the lifespan of the Broxtowe BGI Strategy 2025 – 2030.

National

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024)

A.2 The NPPF (updated December 2024) [**See reference 1**] emphasises the importance of placing green infrastructure (GI) at the heart of plan making, reinforcing the value of taking a strategic approach to maintain and enhance networks of GI, and planning for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries (Paragraph 188). GI is identified as a tool to help meet the challenge of climate change, notably in relation to incorporating GI and sustainable drainage within new development (Paragraph 164) and to promote healthy, inclusive and safe communities (Paragraph 96).

A.3 Paragraph 103 of the NPPF states that ‘access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and wellbeing of communities and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative and qualitative deficits and surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the

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assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.

A.4 Paragraph 104 states that: 'existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use'.

A.5 The NPPF also provides a mechanism by which local authorities can protect some open spaces through 'Local Green Space' designations (Paragraph 107). Policies and decisions for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with national policy for Green Belts (paragraph 108).

Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023)

A.6 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act received Royal Assent in October 2023, resulting in significant changes to the planning system. Regarding the provision of BGI the following changes are important:

- Requirements for design codes to accompany Local Plans;
- Strengthening protection of the historic environment through the planning system, including giving registered parks and gardens the same statutory protection as conservation areas; and
- Placing more weight on neighbourhood plans in decision making.

Environment Improvement Plan (EIP) (2023)

A.7 The EIP builds on the 25 Year Environment Plan vision and sets out how government, landowners, communities and businesses can deliver goals for improving the environment, aligned with interim targets to measure progress. The delivery of GI will contribute to the delivery of several of the updated targets the EIP sets against the 25YEP's 10 goals. The headline targets within the EIP which GI will contribute to include:

- Restoring and enhancing habitats;
- Improving air quality by tackling NO₂ hotspots;
- Contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Reducing flood risk;
- Meeting greenspace access targets ensuring everyone has access to greenspace within a 15-minute walk of their home; and
- Improving active travel and increasing the number of journeys cycled or walked to 50%.

Environment Act (2021)

A.8 The Environment Act requires the development of targets by government to enact change, and drive a landscape-scale, network-led response. The Act addresses four 'priority areas' of air quality, water, biodiversity and resource efficiency / waste reduction. The legislation also outlines the requirement for a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (Biodiversity Net Gain). In addition, the Act includes a duty on local authorities to review every five years all policies regarding nature conservation.

UK 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) (2018)

A.9 The 2018 25YEP sets the direction for the Environment Act, including long-term targets for environmental improvement. It includes a commitment to a national GI framework, a network of ‘nature recovery areas’ and to embed the principle of ‘environmental net gain’ to development (see later subheadings). These emerging approaches will become established during the lifespan of this Strategy. The 2023 Environmental Improvement Plan builds on the 25YEP vision, setting out how government, landowners, communities and businesses should deliver each goal for improving the environment. This is matched with interim targets to measure progress.

Regional

Draft Greater Nottinghamshire Strategic Plan (2024)

A.10 The Greater Nottinghamshire Planning Partnership comprises Broxtowe Borough, Gedling Borough, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Borough Council. The Partnership is currently in the process of undertaking a review of their Aligned Core Policies, with the publication of the Regulation 19 Draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan **[See reference 2]** published in Autumn 2024.

- Spatial Objective 11 ‘protecting and improving natural assets’ focuses on improving and providing BGI by enhancing and developing the network of multi-functional green spaces for the benefit of people and wildlife. It is supported by Policy 16: Blue and Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space and Policy 17: Biodiversity which set out requirements for BGI and biodiversity.

Draft Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document (2024) (emerging)

A.11 Nottinghamshire County Council are currently consulting on their Draft BNG Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) [**See reference 3**]. It sets out guidance for the delivery of biodiversity enhancement in line with national statutory requirements for all development, unless exempt, to deliver 10% BNG. The SPD sets out local principles and priorities for BNG in Nottinghamshire including signposting relevant guidance, setting out validation, determination and post-determination requirements, and identifying key plans and strategies to inform the delivery of BNG priorities, including the emerging LNRS.

A Biodiversity Net Gain Framework for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham (2024)

A.12 This regional BNG framework [**See reference 4**] was produced collaboratively by the Environment Agency, Natural England, Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, and constituent local authorities. It sets out a vision for meeting the aims of the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan and delivering exemplary BNG in the region. While the statutory minimum BNG requirement is 10%, this partnership and framework sets out that it will encourage developments to provide a higher minimum of 20% BNG where possible, taking account of evidence and viability considerations.

A.13 The framework sets out ten over-arching principles for delivering BNG. It also sets out other considerations relevant to BNG in Nottinghamshire including key priorities, pre-application advice, use of the BNG metric, measuring significant on-site enhancement, assessing strategic significance (including signposting LNRS), off-site compensation, approaches for delivering the right habitat in the right place, BNG validation and determination requirements, and associated guidance and tools.

Greater Nottingham Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy (2022)

A.14 The Greater Nottingham Planning Partnership produced a regional-level BGI strategy [**See reference 5**] to inform the preparation of the Greater Nottingham Strategic plan and the development of policies and plans within it. The plan sets out ten key priorities for BGI, key national and local planning priorities, and regional and local BGI initiatives. Across the Greater Nottingham region, the Strategy identifies:

- ‘Primary Strategic Networks’ which have regional or sub-regional significance (such as the Trent Valley or the Erewash Canal / river Erewash);
- ‘Secondary Strategic Networks’ which may have significance due to their connectivity with the primary network, provision of cross-boundary links between neighbouring authorities, importance for outlying settlements/wider rural areas, or other strategic importance due to their land use, connectivity or function.
- ‘Urban Fringe GI Enhancement Zones’ surrounding the main urban area of Nottingham. These zones are identified to represent a significant resource for urban communities and already experience urban edge pressures.
- ‘Local / Neighbourhood Networks’ generally connect local communication within settlements or urban areas or provide links to other areas of the BGI network.
- ‘Biodiversity Opportunity Areas’ are based on the existing ecological network, including biodiversity focal areas and existing areas of connectivity.

Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan

A.15 Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group produced a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) [**See reference 6**] which sets out the overall goal for

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conserving and enhancing the County's unique variety of wild species and natural habitats, to contribute to the conservation of both UK and global biodiversity. It sets out three key objectives for delivery of the LBAP:

1. To conserve and where appropriate to enhance Nottinghamshire's unique variety of wild species and natural habitats, in particular: a) internationally and nationally important species and habitats; b) species and habitats that are characteristic of Nottinghamshire and its distinctive Regional Character Areas (section 3.4); and c) species and habitats that are rare or threatened in the County.
2. To increase public awareness of, and involvement in, conserving biodiversity.
3. To contribute to biodiversity conservation on a national, European and global scale.

A.16 The LBAP sets out threats, issues and opportunities in Nottinghamshire, generic actions for biodiversity, implementation and monitoring measures, Habitat Action Plans for the County's various habitats and Species Action Plans for priority species.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Nottinghamshire (emerging)

A.17 LNRSs are an England-wide system of spatial strategies introduced by the Environment Act 2021. Nottinghamshire County Council is developing an LNRS which seeks to help reverse the decline of nature in the county and help to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) locally. The final LNRS for Nottinghamshire is expected to be published in Autumn 2025 [**See reference 7**].

Severn Trent Gateway Strategy (2020)

A.18 The EA and partnerships produced a strategic landscape vision and masterplan for the Trent Gateway [**See reference 8**], covering a 75km length of the river Trent between Erewash and Newark. The Trent Gateway Strategy aims to deliver a functioning watercourse that reduces flood risk, creates and connects habitats, and complements the aims of a range of stakeholders, while supporting sustainable growth and local economic priorities. The Strategy identifies both larger-scale strategic opportunities for the Trent Gateway, as well as smaller scale projects targeting local habitats, species and recreational opportunities. The strategic objectives for the river Trent corridor are to:

- Achieve a natural, functioning and healthy river through creation of a high-quality and well-connected environment.
- Bring key partners together to align initiatives that achieve multiple outcomes and transform the river in the most sustainable and relevant way.
- Pro-actively coordinate and influence activities to develop opportunities and set an agenda for future change.

A.19 Of key relevance to Broxtowe, identified interventions include:

- Improved access and interpretation within Attenborough Nature Reserve to maintain and increase usage by a wider population leading to improved wellbeing and health. The Attenborough Nature Reserve is identified as a key case study and one of the most important sites for wildlife in the East Midlands. It is also a key resource for the community and visitors.
- Wetland habitat creation / enhancement along the river Trent including enhanced wetland habitat creation to reinforce GI along the river Erewash leading to Toton Fields Nature Reserve.
- Improve surfacing and seating provision along the 'Big Track', linking Beeston Marina to Victoria Embankment in Nottingham, to improve accessibility and encourage increased usage.

6Cs Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010)

A.20 The 6Cs GI Strategy [**See reference 9**] provides an evidence base of data and information for the regional context. The document is comprised of a strategic framework and action plan. The '6Cs' refer to the 3 cities and 3 counties that make up the study area Derby; Leicester; Nottingham; Derbyshire; Leicestershire; and Nottinghamshire. The document identifies existing GI assets, and the strategic infrastructure needs of the region and identifies opportunities for enhancing connectivity of the natural greenspace network across the region Strategic GI Network, informing the preparation of the previous Broxtowe Borough Council GI Strategy.

Borough

Adopted Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategies Part 1 Local Plan: Core Strategy (2014)

A.21 The Aligned Core Strategy [**See reference 10**] forms part of the adopted Broxtowe Local Plan and sets out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and strategic policies for the Borough up to 2028. Neighbouring councils have worked together to ensure that core planning policies are consistent across Greater Nottingham. The Core Strategy covers:

- **Section A: Sustainable Growth** reinforces the presumption in favour of sustainable development, contained within NPPF, ensuring that development proposals are considered against the core policies related to climate change, strategic spatial growth, the Green Belt, employment provision and economic development, town and local centres, and regeneration priorities.

- **Section B: Places for People** sets out the principles of good development relating to housing provision, design principles, the historic environment, local services and healthy lifestyles, culture, tourism and sport, travel demands and transport infrastructure priorities.
- **Section C: Our Environment** sets out priorities for the environment and biodiversity in a strategic and comprehensive way, including Policy 16: 'Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space' which supports the delivery, protection and enhancement of GI through a network of regional and sub-regional GI corridors and assets.

Adopted Broxtowe Part 2 Local Plan 2018 - 2028 (2019)

A.22 BCC adopted the Part 2 Local Plan in 2019 [**See reference 11**]. It sets out specific site allocations required to meet the housing need, as set out in the Core Strategy, as well as Borough level planning policies. Of key relevance to the delivery of BGI in the Borough:

- Site allocation policies include site-specific considerations and requirements for proposals, including key site sensitivities, infrastructure requirements and contributions to the strategic GI network.
- Policy 27: Local Green Space allocates the field off Cornwall Avenue, Beeston Rylands, as Local Green Space, in accordance with NPPF.
- Policy 28: Green Infrastructure Assets sets out requirements for proposals likely to lead to increased use of any GI asset in the Borough. Proposals are required to take reasonable opportunities to enhance these assets.
- Policy 29: Biodiversity Assets sets out the requirements for biodiversity net gain and contributions to the Borough's ecological network.

Reduction of Carbon in New Development: Supplementary Planning Document (2024)

A.23 Broxtowe Borough Council and Nottingham City Council have produced this joint SPD [**See reference 12**] to provide detailed advice and guidance for new development in meeting low carbon requirements through improving energy efficiency and sustainable construction. Of relevance to the delivery of BGI in the Borough, the SPD sets out best practice guidance related to:

- The Urban Heat Island Effect (UHIE) including suggested mitigation measures, and the requirement for applicants to demonstrate they have incorporated measures to combat UHIE.
- Incorporating green roofs to mitigate heat gain.
- Incorporating trees for shading and green spaces into development to increase biodiversity, reduce overheating and promote outdoor recreation.

Broxtowe Borough Council Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029 (2019)

A.24 The Corporate Plan [**See reference 13**] sets the vision for the borough to be a ‘greener, healthier Broxtowe where everyone prospers’. It sets out aims and priorities for the Borough in relation to housing, the environment, business growth, community safety, leisure and health, and communications and engagement. Relevant to the delivery of BGI in the Borough, the Plan sets out ambitions for:

- Reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality including working with stakeholders to create climate resilience against extreme weather events (such as against flooding through measures such as sustainable urban drainage).
- Investing in parks and open spaces, including enhancing BGI corridors and ensuring biodiversity net gain positively enhances the environment.

- Promoting active and healthy lifestyles in every area of Broxtowe.
- Improving public safety including the public realm and cycle security infrastructure.

Broxtowe Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy 2022 – 2028 (2024)

A.25 The Broxtowe Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy [**See reference 14**] sets out the strategic direction for future activity that will support the local economic and improve the prosperity and wellbeing of Broxtowe, without compromising the environment. Of key relevance to the delivery of BGI in the Borough, points of the 10-point framework of the strategy include:

- 2) Deliver place-making and sustainable town centres: Help town centre businesses and services adapt to changing consumer demands and patterns, alongside the need for digital transformation. Place-making, pedestrian improvements and the expansion of markets across the Borough are part of this aim to maintain and improve footfall, improve perceptions of Broxtowe, and drive tourism and the visitor economy.
- 4) Develop sustainable and active green travel around the Borough: Work with residents, businesses and specialised organisations to encourage greater uptake of sustainable methods of transport, such as public transport, cycling, other forms of non-motorised users and walking.

A.26 The Strategy sets out key priorities for supporting town centres in the Borough as economic, social and cultural hubs. The 'K.E.B.S+ (Kimberley, Eastwood, Beeston and Stapleford) approach aims to keep the Borough's main towns vibrant, prosperous and adaptable. The '+' reflects that objectives must also reflect challenges and opportunities in the Borough's other neighbourhoods and economic hinterlands.

A.27 The Strategy sets out major projects committed to take place in the Borough, provides a SWOT analysis of Broxtowe and lists other relevant local

strategies for investment, development, the visitor economy, health and wellbeing, and business.

Broxtowe Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy 2023 – 2027 (2024)

A.28 The Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy [**See reference 15**] sets out the plan protecting the environment for the future of Broxtowe. This includes three key priorities relevant to the delivery of BGI in the Borough:

- Reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality; and
- Continue to invest in our parks and open spaces.

A.29 The Strategy sets out strategic aims for the Borough, organised by ten themes. Of key relevance to the delivery of BGI in the Borough:

- 1) Climate Strategy:
- 2) Transport and Travel
 - Improve air quality
 - Raise awareness and influence behaviour change to increase uptake of active travel options.
- 7) Natural Environment
 - Identify opportunities to enhance biodiversity across the Borough.
 - Maximise opportunities through Biodiversity Net Gain.
 - To establish a sequestration value for the Council's natural assets using an appropriate methodology.
 - To continue to work with relevant stakeholders in order to bring about improvements in local air quality.
- 8) Communities

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- Support Town/Parish Councils and local community groups to take climate action.
- Formulate appropriate climate adaptation strategies to support health and wellbeing.
- Develop a green social prescribing model in Broxtowe.

Tree Management Strategy 2023 – 2027

A.30 The Council's first Tree Management Strategy [**See reference 16**] was adopted in 2023 and sets out a proactive approach to the management of the Council's own trees. It aims to enhance and safeguard the environment, establish green spaces and effectively mitigate against the impacts of climate change. The strategy includes key objectives to improve landscape enhancement, biodiversity, physical environmental benefits, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and delivery of health and wellbeing benefits in the Borough.

Neighbourhood

A.31 Several local communities are currently in the process of preparing Neighbourhood Plans, which once 'made' will sit alongside the Local Plan and take precedence over non-strategic policies. The following Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted and so form part of the Development Plan for their respective neighbourhoods:

- **Awsorth Neighbourhood Plan 2015 – 2030** (adopted 2021) [**See reference 17**]. Key objectives and policies of relevance include:
 - Policy GI 1: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
 - Policy GI 2: Local Landscape Character Areas
 - Policy GI 3: Biodiversity
 - Policy GI 4: Designated Local Green Spaces

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- Policy GI 5: Local Woodlands, Tree Belts and Hedgerows
- Chetwynd Neighbourhood Plan 2020 – 2040 (adopted 2024) [See reference 18]. Key policies of relevance include:
 - ENV01: Local Green Space
 - ENV02: Natural Environment
 - ENV03: Green and Blue Infrastructure Requirements
 - INF02: Active Travel
- Cossall Neighbourhood Plan 2022 – 2037 (adopted 2024) [See reference 19]. Key policies of relevance include:
 - Policy 2: Protecting landscape character
 - Policy 3a: Protecting and enhancing blue and green infrastructure
 - Policy 3b: Protecting and enhancing biodiversity
- **Nuthall Neighbourhood Plan 2015 – 2030** (adopted 2018) [See reference 20]. Key objectives and policies of relevance include:
 - Policy 4: New and Enhanced Green Infrastructure Network.

Appendix B

Developer Checklist

B.1 The following checklist for development provides a concise set of questions related to BGI provision within new development. These can act as a guide for both developers and decision-makers, ensuring that BGI is considered from the beginning of the design process.

B.2 It is recommended that developers complete and submit a copy of this checklist with their planning application stating whether or not each requirement has been met and providing further information or justification where necessary.

Table B.1: Developer Checklist

	Yes / No / Not Applicable	Additional Information / justification
Understanding the site and wider context		
Has the BGI Strategy been reviewed to identify any specific opportunities in the specific BGI zone or within the vicinity of the development?		
Is the development masterplan landscape-led (meaning it is context-driven by an understanding of the surrounding landscape character and main BGI features on and surrounding the site and have these been integrated into the earliest stages of design)?		
Has the project team directly engaged with local stakeholders with regards to BGI plans, including the Council as local planning authority and the local community?		
Does the development proposal result in loss or fragmentation of the BGI network?		
Does the development prejudice the retention, use, enhancement, or further development of the BGI network?		
Has long-term stewardship of BGI been discussed at the earliest stages of design, to ensure stewardship in perpetuity? Have delivery partners been identified?		
Ensuring BGI is protected, enhanced and incorporated into design		

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	Yes / No / Not Applicable	Additional Information / justification
Does the development considered the Headline Standards of the Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework ?		
Has the development proposal considered the Building with Nature standards?		
Improved water management		
Have opportunities to improve water quality and natural flood management on the development site and in the wider catchment been considered? Do the proposed measures provide an important contribution to Flood Risk Management and Water Framework Directive objectives for each watercourse ?		
Have high quality Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) considered at the earliest stages of concept planning and selected for site characteristics (topography, ground conditions, surface water runoff destination, and character of the setting) integrated into the development which maximise multi-functional benefits including water quality and recreational access?		
Nature-rich and beautiful		
Has the proposal evidenced how the development strengthens habitat connectivity opportunities within the site and the wider area, including those identified in the emerging Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy ?		
Has the site layout and design been oriented to maximise opportunities for improved habitat linkages and enhancement of adjacent / nearby wildlife assets and networks?		
Does the design prioritise the retention of existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows? Are any losses adequately compensated?		

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	Yes / No / Not Applicable	Additional Information / justification
Do BGI proposals follow the mitigation hierarchy to approach habitat and species protection and creation, and do they deliver an enhancement of biodiversity (i.e. 10% Biodiversity Net Gain)?		
Active and healthy		
Does the scheme connect effectively into the wider walking and cycling networks and greenways, so that people of all ages and abilities can access important daily destinations (including schools, shops and leisure centres) without a private car?		
Are walking and cycling routes attractive and integrated with BGI assets of all scales?		
Have opportunities to enhance education and interpretation of BGI been explored?		
Are play areas multi-functional, nature-based, inclusive and accessible?		
Has the scheme considered the provision of designated space to enable effective community growing with appropriate environmental considerations in terms of aspect, shelter, drainage and soil provision?		
Has the development been designed to minimise disturbance and protect amenity against noise and air quality?		
Resilient and climate-positive		
Does the development deliver multi-functional BGI which effectively integrates opportunities for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including flood risk and urban heating?		

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	Yes / No / Not Applicable	Additional Information / justification
Does the proposal 'make space for water' through the delivery of new BGI to sustainably manage flood risk for the duration of the anticipated lifespan of the development? Has an allowance for climate change been made in line with Environment Agency guidance?		
Thriving and prosperous		
Does the development seem to retain, protect and incorporate existing landscape / townscape and cultural heritage features as part of BGI proposals?		
Does the development deliver high-quality design and an attractive environment with a distinctive sense of place?		
Planning submission		
Has a BGI Plan been prepared (as a standalone document or incorporated into the Design and Access Statement)? Does it set out how BGI is managed, maintained and monitored within the development, for a period of at least 30 years?		
Does the development comply with the relevant Local Plan policies?		

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