



# COTSWOLD

District Council

## Biodiversity Duty Report

January 2026

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# About Cotswold District Council

Cotswold District Council (CDC) is a district authority in Gloucestershire which covers an area of 450 square miles (1,165 square kilometres) and includes the Cotswolds, Severn and Avon Vales, and Upper Thames Clay Vales National Character Areas, formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The district has an extensive and rich history and is home to a variety of landscapes which support a wide and diverse range of ecosystems, habitats and species.

The area covered by CDC also contains many statutory and non-statutory designated sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) such as the Cotswold Beechwoods SAC, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) such as the Cotswold Water Park SSSI, the Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods National Nature Reserve as well as Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites. These sites and other natural and semi-natural habitats within the district accommodate notable floral and faunal species, in addition to providing valuable connected ecological networks, natural resources and green space.

## Introduction and Background

The biodiversity duty is a legal obligation placed on public authorities which operate in England to consider what can be done across the functions of the authority to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (as amended)<sup>1</sup> originally placed a specific duty on public authorities in exercising their functions to conserve biodiversity. The Environment Act 2021<sup>2</sup> strengthened this duty by amending Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 so that public authorities are now required to **conserve and enhance** biodiversity through the exercise of its functions – referred to as the 'biodiversity objective'.

In January 2023, the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP23)<sup>3</sup> was published by the government which set out specific actions and targets to improve and restore the natural environment and halt the decline in biodiversity. Under the 'apex goal' of improving nature, commitments were set out to protect land and sea for nature through the Nature Recovery

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<sup>1</sup> Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>

<sup>2</sup> Environment Act (2021). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted> Accessed 5th April 2024

<sup>3</sup> Environmental Improvement Plan (2023). Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64a6d9c1c531eb000c64fffa/environmental-improvement-plan-2023.pdf>

Network and deliver on rolling out and implementing Local Nature Recovery Strategies and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

By 2030, the Government committed to:

- Halting the decline in species abundance
- Protecting 30% of land in the UK

By 2042, the Government committed to:

- Increasing species abundance by at least 10% to exceed 2022 levels
- Restoring or creating at least 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats
- Reducing the risk of species extinction
- Restoring 75% of one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition

The EIP was updated in December 2025<sup>4</sup> to build on the existing visions and goals presented in the 2023 EIP, providing further detail for measures and delivery actions required to preserve and prioritise the natural environment. The latest EIP sets out clear targets, including ten goals to:

- Restore nature
- Improve environmental quality
- Drive forward a circular economy
- Achieve environmental security, and
- Increase access to nature

The actions taken by CDC to meet the biodiversity duty will contribute to achieving the goals and targets set out within the EIP.

Public authorities were required to complete a 'first consideration' of what action to take for biodiversity by the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2024 and agree policies and objectives as soon as possible after this date.

As part of the first consideration in December 2023, CDC:

- Reviewed the management of land within their ownership which is a small land parcel partially within the Cotswold Water Park SSSI
- Reviewed the Ecological Emergency Action Plan<sup>5</sup>. The review was undertaken by the CDC Biodiversity Team
- Proposed next steps to:

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<sup>4</sup> Environmental Improvement Plan (2025). Available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/692d8d9cce50d215cae962a5/Environmental\\_Improvement\\_Plan\\_EIP\\_2025.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/692d8d9cce50d215cae962a5/Environmental_Improvement_Plan_EIP_2025.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Cotswold District Council Ecological Emergency Action Plan (2020). Available at: [ecological-emergency-action-plan-update.pdf](#)

- Review the Ecological Emergency Action Plan by June 2024
- Set up a reporting framework to simplify the preparation of the first biodiversity duty report in 2026
- Provide parish and town councils with information on the enhanced duty
- Investigate the requirement for management plans for designated sites owned by CDC

## The Biodiversity Duty

The NERC Act 2006 (as amended) states that *the action which may be taken by the authority to further the general biodiversity objective includes, in particular, action taken for the purpose of:*

- a) conserving, restoring or otherwise enhancing a population of a particular species, and*
- b) conserving, restoring or otherwise enhancing a particular type of habitat.*

The NERC Act enables public authorities to state that there is no further action to take, but if it is concluded that further action needs to be taken, S40 1(A) requires that the public authority must:

- a) determine such policies and specific objectives as it considers appropriate for taking action to further the general biodiversity objective, and*
- b) take such action as it considers appropriate, in the light of those policies and objectives, to further that objective.*

Section 40 (1B) enables for (1A)(a) to be satisfied by revising existing policies and specific objectives to further the general biodiversity objective. Section 40 (1E) requires that the determination of policies and objectives must be made as soon as practicable after consideration.

The NERC Act is amended by the Environment Act 2021 with reporting obligations placed on local authorities, including local planning authorities. Under Section 40A of the NERC Act, local authorities must publish a biodiversity report to evidence the actions taken to enhance and conserve biodiversity.

Guidance from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on when biodiversity duty reporting needs to be published<sup>6</sup> states:

- The end date of your first reporting period should be no later than 1 January 2026
- After this, the end date of each reporting period must be within 5 years of the end date of the previous reporting period

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<sup>6</sup> Reporting your biodiversity duty actions (17<sup>th</sup> September 2025). Available at: [Reporting your biodiversity duty actions - GOV.UK](#)

- You must include the start and end dates of your reporting period in each report
- You must publish all reports within 12 weeks of the reporting period end date

By law, the biodiversity duty report must include:

- A summary of the action you've taken to comply with the biodiversity duty
- How you plan to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period
- Any other information you consider appropriate

Reports from local planning authorities must also include the following BNG information:

- The actions you've carried out to meet BNG obligations
- Details of BNG resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans you've approved
- How you plan to meet BNG obligations in the next reporting period

The guidance from Defra also includes a list of optional reporting elements to further communicate how the authority has taken steps to improve the environment. The biodiversity duty report looks at actions that have been taken by CDC, as well as actions that can be implemented in the future to meet the biodiversity duty.

## Reporting Compliance with the Biodiversity Duty

This report covers actions taken by CDC to meet the biodiversity duty from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2024 to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2025 and adheres to the following structure to demonstrate compliance with the biodiversity duty reporting requirement, as set out in guidance on biodiversity duty reporting from Defra:

- Section 1: Policies, objectives and actions
  - The policies and objectives set to meet the biodiversity duty
  - The actions completed, either alone or in partnership with others, that benefit biodiversity
- Section 2: Future actions
  - How the local authority plans to fulfil the biodiversity duty over the next five years following the end of this reporting period
- Section 3: Biodiversity Net Gain information for the local planning authority
  - The actions carried out to meet BNG obligations
  - Details of BNG resulting, or expected to result, from approved biodiversity gain plans
  - How CDC will meet BNG obligations in the next reporting period

# Section 1: Policies, Objectives and Actions

The table within appendix 1 demonstrates and provides details on the policies, objectives and actions that CDC has taken and implemented to meet the biodiversity duty across its functions. Policies, objectives and actions in appendix 1 provide either specifically, or in part, for biodiversity within the district and across the diverse functions of the Council.

In order to implement some of these policies, objectives and actions, CDC has operated in partnership with other organisations, stakeholders and groups including:

- The Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership
- The Cotswold Lakes Trust
- The Cotswold National Landscape Board
- The Cotswold Nature Recovery Forum
- NatureSpace
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- The Wildlife Trust
- Gloucestershire town, parish, district and county authorities
- Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund (GNCF)
- Authorities of other neighbouring counties

## Section 2: Future Actions

CDC will meet the biodiversity duty over the next 5-year period through a combination of the continuation and review of existing policies, objectives and actions as detailed within appendix 1, and by taking the following actions:

1. Develop and implement a biodiversity strategy:
  - Create a CDC biodiversity action strategy which outlines specific measures to enhance biodiversity within the district
  - Align the biodiversity action strategy with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and national biodiversity targets
  
2. Continue to integrate biodiversity into decision making:
  - Ensure biodiversity considerations are embedded in planning policies and decisions
  - Land management and investment to benefit biodiversity
  - Require ecological assessments for relevant planning applications and promote nature-based solutions
  
3. Manage and enhance Council-owned land for nature:
  - Implement biodiversity-friendly land management practices on parks, verges, and public spaces (e.g., wildflower meadows, reducing mowing and additional tree planting)
  - Support the creation and improvement of wildlife corridors and green and blue infrastructure across the district to improve ecological connectivity and resilience
  
4. Collaborate with stakeholders and further engage in partnership working:
  - Work with local conservation groups, nature partnerships, landowners, and businesses to support biodiversity initiatives
  - Engage with the public and community groups to promote nature restoration and enhancement at a local scale
  
5. Reporting on actions and progress:
  - Publish reports every five years demonstrating how the Council is meeting its legal obligations regarding the biodiversity duty
  - Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of biodiversity initiatives to show measurable improvements and to identify areas where further progress may be deliverable

## Section 3: Biodiversity Net Gain Information for the Local Planning Authority

Under the Environment Act 2021, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) became mandatory for major developments on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 and for minor developments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2024, which has required developers to deliver at least a 10% net gains for biodiversity through the following mechanisms, either alone or in combination:

- Delivery of on-site habitat creation and/or enhancements
- Delivery of off-site habitat creation and/or enhancements
- Purchase of off-site biodiversity units from a suitable provider such as a habitat bank or broker
- Purchase of statutory credits obtained from the government (considered as a 'last resort')

A list of exemptions and accompanying guidance was published by Defra<sup>7</sup>. Since the introduction of mandatory BNG in 2024, the Government publicly consulted on 'Improving the implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain for minor, medium and brownfield development'<sup>8</sup> which ran from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2025 until the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2025. The consultation included options around the extension of exemptions, simplification of the small sites metric, increasing ease of access to the off-site biodiversity units market and addressing challenges for BNG on brownfield developments. A formal response from the Government to the public consultation is expected in 2026.

In order to meet the BNG obligations, CDC has carried out the following actions:

- Applied the biodiversity gain hierarchy to non-exempt developments across the district
- Cross-boundary collaborative working with other local authorities in Gloucestershire to produce a county-wide guidance note for developers: 'Guidance on delivering Biodiversity Net Gain for planning applicants and developers in Gloucestershire'<sup>9</sup>
- Provided publicly available information on the planning sections of the CDC website for BNG with:

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<sup>7</sup> Guidance for Biodiversity net gain: exempt developments (August 2024). Available at: [Biodiversity net gain: exempt developments - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>8</sup> Public consultation on improving the implementation of biodiversity net gain for minor, medium and brownfield development (May 2025). Available at: [Improving the implementation of biodiversity net gain for minor, medium and brownfield development - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>9</sup> Guidance on delivering Biodiversity Net Gain for planning applicants and developers in Gloucestershire (February 2024). Available at: [BNG Guidance for LPA February 2024](#)

- links to statutory and small sites metric tools, relevant guidance and good practice documents from the Government and the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)
- links to the county-wide BNG guidance document for Gloucestershire
- guidance for planning applicants on how to discharge the biodiversity gain condition prior to commencing development, on-site significant BNG and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plans (HMMPs)
- guidance for securing significant on-site and off-site BNG, legal (S.106) agreements and financial contributions for Council BNG monitoring costs
- links to guidance on habitat banks
- Updated local validation checklists for planning applications to include information for BNG requirements
- Created, and made publicly available, a BNG statement form for planning applicants to enable applicants to provide relevant information for BNG prior to the determination of planning applications
- Delivered internal training on BNG for relevant teams
- Monitored all applications subject to mandatory BNG, including subsequent biodiversity gain plans and legal agreements which have been submitted
- Acquired software to assist with assessing BNG for developments during the planning application stage, and to assist with the monitoring and enforcement of BNG after planning permissions have been granted, and the biodiversity gain conditions have been discharged
- Specific BNG training for the biodiversity team to assist with implementation of BNG within development management and policy functions
- Appointed an additional Biodiversity Officer to assist with biodiversity functions including BNG
- Supporting Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP) and Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund (GNCF) in delivering for BNG off-setting across the district and county areas
- Collaborated with the responsible authority (Gloucestershire County Council) and other supporting authorities for the LNRS and its functions with regards to BNG
- Addressed BNG broadly through existing pre-application planning advice services

In order to meet the BNG obligations in the next reporting period, CDC will:

- Review existing BNG actions and CDC public guidance information, and update accordingly in response to new and emerging guidance and legislative changes
- Continue to secure BNG for non-exempt developments through the implementation of successful and relevant existing actions which have been implemented within development management and planning policy functions to address the requirements of BNG

- Continue to ensure that all biodiversity officers, planning officers and validation teams receive appropriate and up-to-date BNG training to enable the effective assessment of BNG during the planning application process
- Biodiversity officers will assess BNG applications in accordance with the adopted LNRS for Gloucestershire to ensure that BNG opportunities for developments have been adequately considered in the context of the LNRS
- Offer a BNG-specific pre-application service from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2026 which will enable developers to better understand the potential implications of delivering BNG through their proposed development
- Continue to monitor all major sites and significant on-site BNG applications and report to Defra in line with published guidance
- Continue to work with organisations such as GNCF to deliver habitat banks within the district

CDC has approved twenty-four biodiversity gain plans prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2026, between the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 and the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2025, with two S.106 legal agreements secured for developments with significant on-site BNG. Across the approved biodiversity gain plans, the following have been provided for BNG:

- 12.91 habitat units
- 0.04 watercourse units
- 2.65 hedgerow units

Appendix 2 contains additional details of approved biodiversity gain plans.

## Appendix 1: CDC Policies, Objectives and Actions

<b>Policy, Strategy or Plan</b>	<b>Context and Relevance</b>	<b>Current Position</b>	<b>Future Work/Actions to be Undertaken</b>	<b>Persons/Team responsible</b>	<b>Hyperlinks</b>	<b>Next Review or Completion Date</b>
Corporate Plan 2024-2028.	The Corporate Plan set out the Council's ambitions for delivering good services, responding to the climate emergency, delivering housing, supporting communities and the economy.	The Corporate Plan was published on the 16 <sup>th</sup> of January 2024.  The plan was refreshed in September 2025 to reflect national and local changes.	Continuation alongside annual review of the plan.	Leader of the Council.	<a href="https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/kbqdj51w/our-cotswolds-our-plan-action-plan-2024.pdf">https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/kbqdj51w/our-cotswolds-our-plan-action-plan-2024.pdf</a>	Annually – September 2026.
Adopted Local Plan Policies EN7, EN8, EN9, and SP5.  Other policies which provide for	Policies EN7, EN8, EN9, and SP5 of the Cotswold District Local Plan 2011-2031 provide for the natural environment, including designated sites, and protected and priority habitats and species.	The current Local Plan was adopted in August 2018 and is currently used as the strategic framework for development across the district.	Continuation of use of the current Local Plan until the adoption of a new plan.  Undertake a review of the existing Local Plan policies ahead of the Local Plan submission in 2026.	Head of Planning Policy and Infrastructure.	<a href="#">Output file</a>	Submission in 2026 for adoption in 2027.

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biodiversity in part include S2, EC3, EC4, EC5, INF7, INF8, INF9, INF10, SP3, SP6, DS1, EN1, EN2, EN3, EN5, EN6, EN10, and EC13.	Other policies in the Local Plan provide for biodiversity in part.					
Local Plan review including amendments to existing and inclusion of new biodiversity-related policies.	The process of reviewing and partially updating the existing Local Plan began in June 2020 with the intention of making the Plan green to the core.  However, following the introduction of new housing targets	Submission of the Local Plan is expected in Winter 2026 with adoption anticipated in 2027.  Additional policies added to the new Local Plan, including: EN16: Dark Skies.	Ongoing.	Chief Executive, Council Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning.  Planning Policy and Infrastructure Team.	Link to adopted Local Plan 2011 – 2031. <a href="#">Adopted Local Plan 2011-31</a>  <a href="#">Regulation-18-issues-and-options-consultation-doc-feb-2022.pdf</a>	Submission of the Local Plan is expected in Winter 2026 with adoption anticipated in 2027.  Plan will run until 2043.

Policy, Strategy or Plan	Context and Relevance	Current Position	Future Work/Actions to be Undertaken	Persons/Team responsible	Hyperlinks	Next Review or Completion Date
	<p>from Government, Members agreed to proceed with a full update of the Local Plan. The commitment to making the Plan green to the core remains unchanged.</p> <p>A Habitats Regulations Assessment will be carried out to support the new Local Plan.</p>	<p>EN18: Sherborne Park Masterplan.  EN19: Soils.  EN20: Watercourses.  EN21: Biodiversity Net Gain.  CC7: Green Infrastructure.</p>				
Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).	Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) is the responsible authority for the preparation of Gloucestershire's LNRS. Cotswold District Council has contributed to its	<p>An LNRS officer has been appointed within GCC and is in post.</p> <p>Public consultation of the draft LNRS</p>	CDC will continue to support the development of the LNRS until it is formally adopted by Gloucestershire County Council. Following adoption, Cotswold District Council will seek to implement the LNRS	LNRS Officer at Gloucestershire County Council.	<p><a href="#">Local Nature Recovery Strategy   Gloucestershire LNP</a></p> <p><a href="#">A Nature Recovery Strategy for</a></p>	Every 3 to 10 years after adoption.

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	development through consultation alongside various other stakeholders including the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership.	now has closed. Adoption is anticipated in January 2026.	where appropriate. This will include integrating LNRS objectives into Local Plan policies and ensuring that the LNRS is considered during the delivery of development across the district, including through BNG.		<a href="#">Gloucestershire</a>   <a href="#">Gloucestershire County Council</a>	
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).	BNG is a mandatory approach to development whereby, developers must deliver at least a 10% net gain, ensuring habitats for wildlife are left in a measurably better state than they were before development.	Since the 12 <sup>th</sup> of February 2024, the Council has been assessing and securing measurable Biodiversity Net Gain on developments subject to the mandatory biodiversity gain condition. To prepare for this change in the planning system, the Council has undertaken a	The Council will continue to adapt its BNG practices in line with any alterations to existing secondary legislation or guidance produced by Government or Governmental bodies.  The Council will periodically review its processes, guidance documents and software to ensure its statutory reporting duty is met.  Any additional training required for BNG will be	Development Management and the Natural, Built and Historic Environment Teams.	<a href="#">Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) - Cotswold District Council</a>	Spring 2026 subject to any changes made by Government following the public consultation in 2025.

Policy, Strategy or Plan	Context and Relevance	Current Position	Future Work/Actions to be Undertaken	Persons/Team responsible	Hyperlinks	Next Review or Completion Date
		<p>range of actions, including the development of a county-wide BNG guidance document (2024) to support applicants and developers in the delivery of mandatory net gain.</p> <p>In addition, the Council has worked with GNCF and the National Trust to secure habitat banks within the district.</p>	<p>provided to the relevant teams and Officers.</p> <p>Continue to work with external partners to secure habitat banks.</p>			
Ecological Emergency Action Plan.	In July 2020, Cotswold District Council declared an ecological emergency and the following action plan	The Ecological Emergency Action Plan was approved on the 15 <sup>th</sup> of July 2020. An update on	A review of the action plan is scheduled to take place in March 2026 with an update to be presented to members. This update will highlight	The Natural, Built and Historic Environment Team.	<a href="#">ecological-emergency-action-plan.pdf</a>	March 2026.

Policy, Strategy or Plan	Context and Relevance	Current Position	Future Work/Actions to be Undertaken	Persons/Team responsible	Hyperlinks	Next Review or Completion Date
	was prepared and adopted by the Council.	progress made was provided on the 7 <sup>th</sup> of May 2024. The Plan continues to be implemented.	key successes and identify areas where further efforts are required.			
Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-2030.	In July 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency, and the strategy was adopted by the Council on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> of September 2020.	Climate action starting is to be implemented across multiple functions across the Council.  Target of 80% reduction in emissions against 1990 baseline by 2030, 100% reduction by 2045.  Direct control action areas for CDC include waste fleet possibly moving to electric	Continuation.	Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Team.	<a href="#">Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-2030</a>  <a href="#">Annex A Corporate Plan.pdf</a>	There are currently no plans to review the Climate Emergency Strategy.

Policy, Strategy or Plan	Context and Relevance	Current Position	Future Work/Actions to be Undertaken	Persons/Team responsible	Hyperlinks	Next Review or Completion Date
		vehicles, affordable homes within the district being built to net zero carbon standards, additional staff training and retrofit and upgrades to energy systems at the Trinity Road offices.				
<p>Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Pre-application Advice Note.</p>	<p>The Green Infrastructure Strategy was formally adopted by Cabinet on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure pre-application advice note provides additional advice on green infrastructure</p>	Strategy adopted and used as evidence for the Local Plan.	The GI strategy will be reviewed prior to the Local Plan Submission 2026.	The Natural, Built, and Historic Environment Team and the Planning Policy Team. Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning.	<p><a href="#">1-draft-green-infrastructure-strategy-draft-for-consultation-june-2021.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="#">Green Infrastructure Strategy 2024</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/">https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/</a></p>	<p>Review of the GI strategy prior to the Local Plan Submission 2026.</p> <p>No plans for review of the GI pre-application advice note.</p>

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	to highlight the importance of high-quality green infrastructure in delivering well-designed developments.				<a href="#">media/4sojaskr/green-infrastructure-planning-advice.pdf</a>	
Cotswold Design Code.	The current design code sets out guidelines for achieving effective green infrastructure and high-quality landscapes for developments and provides for GI and biodiversity (local character, biodiversity mitigation and enhancements). Ecological design and effective GI are core components of the Design Code, with reference to	Local Plan policies are aligned, and development is delivered in accordance with the adopted Design Code.	A review of the existing Design Code will take place throughout 2025/26 and will increase the provision to deliver GI and biodiversity in the district.	The Natural, Built and Historic Environment Team and the Planning Policy Team.	<a href="https://cotswold.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=885eb94398bf4819b17bd66d64275e59">https://cotswold.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=885eb94398bf4819b17bd66d64275e59</a>	End of 2026 to accompany the Local Plan submission.

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	ecological appraisals and local biodiversity data to inform design decisions.					
North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC Interim Recreation Mitigation Strategy (2023).	An interim strategy was published in May 2023 and prepared by Cotswold District Council in partnership with neighbouring authorities and Natural England.	<p>The Strategy was developed as an interim measure pending the availability of more comprehensive monitoring data.</p> <p>Additional data collection, including a compaction study, was carried out in 2025 to inform future updates and decision-making.</p> <p>Currently, all developments</p>	<p>The effectiveness of the mitigation measures outlined in the interim strategy will be evaluated against the most recent survey work. An updated version of the strategy will then be prepared based on these findings.</p> <p>SAMM and SANG implementation to continue in accordance with the interim mitigation strategy.</p>	The Natural, Built and Historic Environment Team and the Planning Policy Team.	<a href="#">North Meadow SAC Interim Mitigation Strategy</a>	2026.

Policy, Strategy or Plan	Context and Relevance	Current Position	Future Work/Actions to be Undertaken	Persons/Team responsible	Hyperlinks	Next Review or Completion Date
		<p>within the designated zones of influence that result in a net increase in residential or holiday accommodation are required to contribute financially to the mitigation strategy. These contributions are then used to deliver both Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) measures.</p>				

Policy, Strategy or Plan	Context and Relevance	Current Position	Future Work/Actions to be Undertaken	Persons/Team responsible	Hyperlinks	Next Review or Completion Date
Cotswold Beechwoods SAC Recreation Mitigation Strategy (2022).	The strategy was published on the 11 <sup>th</sup> of May 2022 and prepared by Cotswold District Council in partnership with neighbouring authorities and Natural England.	Currently, all developments within the designated zone of influence that result in a net increase in residential or holiday accommodation are required to contribute financially to the mitigation strategy. These contributions are then used to deliver both Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and Strategic Access Management and Monitoring	SAMM and SANG implementation to continue in accordance with the mitigation strategy.  The Strategy is scheduled for a detailed review on a 5-year basis.	The Natural Built and Historic Environment manager Team and the Planning Policy Team.	<a href="#">Cotswolds Beechwoods SAC Mitigation Strategy</a>	2027.

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		(SAMM) measures.				
Cotswold Water Park Nature Recovery Plan.	The Cotswold Water Park Nature Recovery Plan superseded the 2007 – 2016 Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Action Plan and was endorsed by Cotswold District Council on the 21 <sup>st</sup> of June 2022.	The plan is currently used to guide planning decisions and local development, support biodiversity enhancement and habitat restoration and to inform the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and other environmental initiatives.	Continuation.  Cotswold Lakes Trust to update the plan.	Cotswold Lakes Trust in partnership with Cotswold District Council.	<a href="#">Cotswold Water Park Nature Recovery Plan: Technical Details</a>  <a href="#">Cotswold Water Park Nature Recovery Plan</a>	Periodic updates expected as the Plan is intended to be a living document.  The plan is to be updated – the Council is awaiting further details from Cotswold Lakes Trust.
Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan.	The Cotswold Nature Recovery Plan was adopted by the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) Board and the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Forum	The plan is currently active and serves as a guidance document used to inform local decision making and strategies.	The Council will continue to use this document to deliver the outcomes of the management plan.  Continue to liaise with CNRF in the	Cotswolds National Landscape Board and Cotswolds Nature Recovery Forum.	<a href="#">Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan - Cotswolds National Landscape</a>	A review date will be identified following the adoption of the LNRS.

<b>Policy, Strategy or Plan</b>	<b>Context and Relevance</b>	<b>Current Position</b>	<b>Future Work/Actions to be Undertaken</b>	<b>Persons/Team responsible</b>	<b>Hyperlinks</b>	<b>Next Review or Completion Date</b>
	(CNRF) in October 2021.	The CNL board are formally consulted on planning applications following endorsement of the plan in May 2022.	development of the new Local Plan.			
Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030.	This statutory plan was produced by the Cotswolds National Landscape Board, which sets out policies for the management of the Cotswold National Landscape.	The plan was endorsed at cabinet on the 8 <sup>th</sup> of May 2025. This document will be used as evidence for the preparation and implementation of relevant Council strategies, policies and projects including but not limited to the Local Plan and Neighbourhood	The Council will continue to use this document to deliver the outcomes of the management plan.	Cotswold National Landscape Board.	<a href="#"><u>CNL Management Plan 2025-2030</u></a>	2030.

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		Plans. In addition, it is a material consideration when determining planning applications.				
Cotswolds Tourism Destination Management Plan.	CDC contributes to a regional Destination Management Plan (DMP) coordinated through Cotswolds Tourism (a shared team between CDC and West Oxfordshire District Council, which convenes a partnership approach to destination management across the broader Cotswolds area).	2022-2025 plan is active. Indirectly provides for biodiversity through sustainability, landscape protection and responsible tourism.	None identified.	Head of Economic Development and Communities.	<a href="#"><u>Cotswolds tourism Destination Management plan</u></a>	The DMP is likely to be refreshed in the next year – subject to external funding. The refresh presents an opportunity to reflect any synergy with the biodiversity duty.
Gloucestershire Tree Strategy 2020.	Gloucestershire Tree Strategy September 2020 (Gloucestershire	CDC seeks to ensure that its policies and practices accord	Continuation.	Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership.	<a href="#"><u>APPENDIX A Gloucestershire Tree Strategy</u></a>	Last reviewed on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> of January 2025.

<b>Policy, Strategy or Plan</b>	<b>Context and Relevance</b>	<b>Current Position</b>	<b>Future Work/Actions to be Undertaken</b>	<b>Persons/Team responsible</b>	<b>Hyperlinks</b>	<b>Next Review or Completion Date</b>
	Local Nature Partnership).  Local Plan Policy EN7.  CDC policy for the management of trees owned by the Council (2018).	with the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy 2020.			↓ <a href="#">Gloucestershire LNP</a>	No future review date specified.
CDC policy for the management of trees owned by the Council (2018).	Produced by the Head of the Natural, Built and Historic Environment and the Tree Officers.	The policy was adopted by Cabinet on the 18 <sup>th</sup> of January 2018.  The policy seeks to maintain and enhance tree stock on Council-owned land.	Continuation.	Head of the Natural, Built and Historic Environment and the Tree Officers.	<a href="https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/ruyhk10e/policy-for-the-management-of-trees-owned-by-the-council-adopted-2018.pdf">https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/ruyhk10e/policy-for-the-management-of-trees-owned-by-the-council-adopted-2018.pdf</a>	No update planned.
CIL – 10% of the Community Infrastructure Levy is set aside as a	The purpose of the fund is to help deliver the Council's Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-2030 and its Ecological	The Council will continue to work with external stakeholders to deliver infrastructure that	The process for bidding for funds from the CIL Climate and Ecological emergencies pot is to be reviewed by the CIL team in 2026.	Community Infrastructure Levy Team and the Natural, Built and Historic	<a href="#">Infrastructure spending and funding - Cotswold District Council</a>	Yearly reporting schedule.  A review for the bidding process and allocated

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Climate and Ecological Emergencies fund.	Emergency Action Plan 2020.	supports the delivery of new green and ecological infrastructure projects and/or climate change mitigation or adaptation projects.	The CIL team are also to review the percentage allocated to the Climate and Ecological emergencies pots.	Environment Team.		percentages of funds to be undertaken in 2026.
Crowdfund Cotswold -  Crowdfund Cotswold has funded biodiversity projects and requires applicants to say how they are addressing the climate and ecological emergencies.	Initiative run by CDC in partnership with Spacehive.  Projects funded from inception in 2021 through to 2024 include KCG community and wildlife haven project, Ampney Crucis village hall solar panels, enable nature and wellbeing in Cirencester, wild flowering of Long Newton verges,	Continuation.	Ongoing opportunity to support community led initiatives. There is scope to do some 'soft commissioning' through promotion of specific themes or additional project funds.	Head of Economic Development and Communities.	<a href="#">Crowdfund Cotswold - Home</a>	No formal review date has been identified.

<b>Policy, Strategy or Plan</b>	<b>Context and Relevance</b>	<b>Current Position</b>	<b>Future Work/Actions to be Undertaken</b>	<b>Persons/Team responsible</b>	<b>Hyperlinks</b>	<b>Next Review or Completion Date</b>
	Cotswold Lakes Trust Educational trailer the 'Beaver Bus', Quenington wildflower and wildlife areas.					

## Appendix 2: Information for Approved Biodiversity Gain Plans

Details in the table below relate to applications where the biodiversity gain plan has been discharged prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2026:

Planning reference	Date biodiversity gain plan discharged	On-site/Off-site/Units/Credits	BNG Units and Net Change Delivery					
			Habitats		Watercourses		Hedgerows	
			Units	Net change %	Units	Net change %	Units	Net change %
24/00158/FUL	09/10/2024	On-site	0.5	10.16	0	0	0.87	56.98
24/01688/FUL	22/10/2024	On-site	0.04	10.30	0	0	0	0
24/01818/FUL	18/11/2024	On-site	0.032	17.57	0	0	0	0
24/01922/FUL	22/11/2024	On-site	0.018	30.33	0	0	0	0
24/02126/FUL	04/12/2024	On-site	0.024	12.35	0	0	0	0
24/02629/FUL	18/12/2024	On-site	0.1	10.43	0	0	0	0
24/01783/FUL	16/01/2025	On-site	0.14	37.31	0	0	0.16	1,640.50
24/02074/FUL	19/02/2025	On-site	0.56	10.50	0	0	0.19	92.18
24/02397/FUL	24/02/2025	On-site	0.25	28.0	0	0	0%	0
24/02232/FUL	21/03/2025	On-site	1.98	10.18	0	0	0.069	25.67
24/02073/FUL	16/04/2025	On-site	0.0088	20.0	0	0	0	0
24/01467/FUL	29/04/2025	On-site	0.48	11.25	0	0	0	0
24/02636/FUL	04/06/2025	Units	0.0063	10.05	0	0	0	0
24/03647/FUL	04/04/2025	On-site	0.61	14.79	0	0	0.27	52.33
24/01998/TDC	18/06/2025	On-site	0.074	10.99	0.04	11.40	0.046	10.87
24/01364/FUL	04/08/2025	On-site	0.062	54.80	0	0	0.28	173.54
24/02773/FUL	20/08/2025	On-site	0.44	10.39	0	0	0	0
25/01240/FUL	28/08/2025	On-site	0.076	13.52	0	0	0	0
25/00634/FUL	10/09/2025	On-site	0.0072	10.77	0	0	0	0
24/02539/FUL	10/10/2025	On-site	0.015	14.18	0	0	0.054	29.30

24/03839/FUL	31/10/2025	On-site	0.082	<i>47.83</i>	0	<i>0</i>	0.14	<i>16.34</i>
24/01739/FUL	17/11/2025	On-site	0.24	<i>18.71</i>	0	<i>0</i>	0	<i>0</i>
24/02161/FUL	17/11/2025	On-site	7.0	<i>55.55</i>	0	<i>0</i>	0.43	<i>10.90</i>
25/00958/FUL	21/11/2025	On-site	0.16	<i>11.82</i>	0	<i>0</i>	0	<i>0.14</i>