



Bath & North East Somerset Council Biodiversity Report

Reporting Period: 1st January 2021 – 31st December 2025

Summary

This report summarises the policies and actions that we have carried out to comply with the Biodiversity Duty introduced under the Environment Act 2021. It covers the period 1st January 2021 – 31st December 2025.

We declared an ecological emergency in 2020, and published an [Ecological Emergency Action Plan](#) in March 2023. This also acted as the ‘first consideration’ of the action we would take to address the Biodiversity Duty.

Tackling the ecological emergency is one of our key priorities, with ‘addressing the climate and ecological emergency’ being one of our two core policies and our [Corporate Strategy](#), setting an ambition to ‘lead the UK in climate and nature action’.

Managing our Land for Nature

Since 2021, we have been striving to manage more of the Council’s Estate for Nature. We have planted over 17,000 trees in our parks and green spaces as part of our successful commitment to plant 100,000 trees (with the remaining trees planted by private landowners and partners, and through subsidised tree giveaway schemes), and we are managing 42 ha of long grass and meadows to benefit nature.

Our Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Pathfinder Project is using funding received through the sale of Biodiversity Units to fund nature recovery at the new Charlcombe Community Nature Reserve, and at Purlewent Village Green.

Communities have been playing an even greater role in helping us manage land for nature, with several other sites being wholly or partly managed by ‘friends of’ groups or volunteers. For example, Lyncombe Hill Fields is a Council-owned site now managed by the [Friends of Lyncombe Hill Fields](#), a newly formed not-for-profit.

Place-based Projects

Some of our most impactful action for nature has been through our place-based ‘Strategic Green Infrastructure Projects’, which have largely been funded through securing external grants and have had partnership working at their heart.

The Bathscape Landscape Partnership has provided management advice for 200 hectares of woodland and 90 grasslands, as well as creating 17 new flower-rich meadows. It has also engaged thousands of residents of and visitors to Bath with their local environment. The Bathscape Podcast, Footprints, was even nominated for Best Local Show at the 2023 and 2024 Audio and Radio Industry Awards!

The Somer Valley Rediscovered project has improved 34 hectares of green space across in Midsomer Norton for nature and people; and has engaged thousands of local people with nature through events such as forest bathing and nature walks. And our flagship urban green infrastructure project, the Bath River Line, is a £2m investment to create a 10km linear park following the River Avon through Bath.

Working in Partnership

Partnership working is a crucial part of how we are delivering nature recovery and has delivered massive achievements for nature over the past five years.

Increasing tree and woodland cover across B&NES is one of our priorities. To help achieve this, we co-led a successful bid for the Western Forest to be chosen as

England's second National Forest, with £7.5 million of funding for more trees and woodland across the West of England, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. We also supported Avon Needs Trees and the Forest of Avon Trust in securing two huge opportunities for woodland creation in B&NES: the 40-hectare Great Avon Wood, and the 171-hectare Lower Chew Forest.

We transferred 24 hectares of Council land at Bathampton Meadows to the National Trust in 2022 to safeguard the site for nature and people. Together with adjacent farmland acquired by the National Trust, the site will form a nature-rich green corridor running along the River Avon from the centre of Bath.

Partnership working has also helped create a farmer cluster in B&NES, empowered local communities to manage spaces for nature, and developed priority programmes for investment in nature. We continue to be a funding and active member of partnerships including the [West of England Nature Partnership](#) (WENP), the [Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership](#) (BACP), and [the Natural History Consortium](#) (NHC).

In 2024, B&NES Council and other civic partners set up the [Future Ambition Board](#), which includes 'A Greener Economy' working group. And in November 2025, we hosted the first B&NES Climate and Nature Network Forum to bring together partners, businesses and organisations across the District.

Embedding Nature Recovery throughout the council

We also recognised the need to embed nature recovery throughout the whole of our organisation and operations, which is being assisted by the use of our Doughnut Decision Tool. For example, in 2021 we took the decision to stop the routine use of glyphosate on our streets and pavements; and transport and infrastructure projects being delivered by the council are delivering 20% Biodiversity Net Gain.

Our early adoption of a BNG policy has meant that major developments in the District have been required to deliver net gains for biodiversity since 2023, over a year ahead of national requirements. We have also developed new Green Infrastructure (GI) Standards to make sure new development creates healthy places to live that are climate resilient and support nature recovery.

Moving forwards

In the next five years, we want to build on these achievements and accelerate action for nature. We will continue to embed nature recovery across the organisation, with one of our key ambitions being to manage 30% of our Estate for nature by 2030.

The policies and site requirements in our updated Local Plan, which we are in the process of producing, will be critical to our ambitions for nature recovery.

We will continue working in partnership to convene and facilitate nature recovery. One of the key challenges in the next five years will be identifying, funding and delivering high-impact projects that deliver nature recovery and climate resilience. The Connecting Catchments Project, which we are co-funding with Wessex Water and Bristol Water, will seek to do this in the Chew, Cam and Wellow catchments.

More detail on our future plans for nature recovery will be set out in our forthcoming Climate and Nature Strategy.

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1. Context

1.1 The Biodiversity Duty

The Environment Act 2021 introduced a strengthened 'Biodiversity Duty', meaning that all public authorities (including local authorities) must:

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives.

The first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity had to be completed by 1st January 2024. Our first consideration was covered by our [Ecological Emergency Action Plan](#), published in March 2023.

Local Authorities must also publish a biodiversity report, which documents the policies and actions carried out to comply with the biodiversity duty. The end date of the reporting period must be no later than 1 January 2026, and the report must be published by 12 weeks after this date (i.e. 26th March 2026).

This document acts as Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) Council's Biodiversity Report for the first reporting period, covering the period 1 January 2021 – 31st December 2025.

1.2 What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is a measure of both the number and the variety of different kinds of life that can be found in a given area, including animals, plants, fungi, and microorganisms such as bacteria.

These species and organisms, and the environment around them interact in a complex way, forming **ecosystems**. An example of an ecosystem would be a woodland or a river.

Biodiversity is important both for its own sake and because our society and economy are dependent on it. The food we eat, the water we drink and even the air we breathe rely on healthy ecosystems.

We often talk about wildlife and nature instead of biodiversity and ecosystems, as these are more commonly understood terms.

2. Our Policies, Objectives and Actions

2.1 Policies, Strategies and Action Plans

2.1.1. Ecological Emergency Declaration and Core Policy

In July 2020, B&NES Council declared an ecological emergency to recognise the severity of the degradation of the natural environment and loss of wildlife, the consequences of this, and the urgent need to take action to restore nature. This followed the declaration of a climate emergency in March 2019.

The council made a number of commitments as part of this declaration, including updating its Green Infrastructure Strategy, reviewing planning policy, and continuing partnership working at a regional and district level.

One of our two core policies (alongside ‘giving people a bigger say’) is ‘addressing the climate and ecological emergency’, which has been in place since February 2020.

The [council's Corporate Strategy 2023-2027](#), published in 2023, introduced a new commitment under this core policy, as follows: ‘We will lead the UK in climate and nature action, building a sustainable future for Bath and North East Somerset - net zero, nature positive, by 2030’.

2.1.2. Ecological Emergency Action Plan

In early 2023 we published the council's [Ecological Emergency Action Plan](#), which sets out what actions we are taking and plan to take to tackle the Ecological Emergency and become a nature-positive organisation by 2030. It focuses on actions that we believe will make the biggest impact, whilst being realistic and achievable.

The Action Plan acted as the first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity to meet the Biodiversity Duty.

The Action Plan set out a vision for the council to be Nature Positive by 2030, with the following guiding Priorities:

- Increase the extent of land and waterways managed positively for nature across Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES)
- Increase the abundance and distribution of key species across B&NES
- Enable more people to access and engage with nature

More recently, we have agreed an ambition to manage 30% of the council's Estate for nature by 2030. We also have an ambition for the District's tree cover to increase by 650 hectares by 2030.

Our progress against the Action Plan is summarised in an [Annual Climate and Nature Progress Report](#).

2.1.3. Greener Places Plan

We have recently published a [Green Infrastructure Framework](#), the purpose of which is to provide a better understanding of the multifunctional benefits of green infrastructure (GI), and how to deliver planned and managed green and blue connected spaces.

Green Infrastructure (GI) is defined as ‘a network of multifunctional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity’¹.

The term is usually used in the context of places where people live. Examples of GI include street trees, parks, gardens, allotments, woodlands and rivers.

One of the parts of this framework is the [Greener Places Plan](#) for B&NES, which sets out the council’s vision for green infrastructure in B&NES, explains the purpose of the five parts of the framework, and makes the case for investment in Green Infrastructure (GI).

The other four components of the Framework are:

- [Greener Places Investment Delivery Plan](#)
- Green Infrastructure Mapping
- Green Infrastructure Standards
- Local Plan policy for Green Infrastructure

2.2 Actions we have taken

2.2.1. Managing land for Nature

B&NES Council owns over 600 hectares of land (some of which is tenanted); of the land that we manage, the majority is parks and green spaces, including 119 hectares of woodland.

Since 2019, we have reduced the cutting frequency of approximately 42 hectares of grass in our parks and green spaces to improve its value to biodiversity. Some areas are managed as long grass (where arisings from grass cuttings are left on site), and some as wildflower meadows (where arisings are removed).

We are currently working to increase the value of these 42 hectares to wildlife by, for example, increasing the number of sites managed as wildflower meadows. For more information on this, see ‘Our Future Actions’.

We also awarded £90,000 of CiL funding to Your Park Bristol and Bath to manage more space for pollinators in our parks and green spaces. This was topped up by

¹ UK Government (2024), National Planning Policy Framework

£75,000 from the West of England Combined Authority's Pollinator Fund, enabling the creation of new meadows, ponds, planting of new trees and hedgerows.

In 2019 we committed to planting 100,000 trees by 2023 as a key action to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies. As part of this, over 17,000 trees were planted in our parks and green spaces, and 500 in residential and urban areas. The remaining trees were planted by private landowners and partner organisations, and through subsidised tree giveaway schemes.

Through our BNG Pathfinder project, we are using funding received through the sale of BNG Units (both statutory and voluntary) to fund nature recovery on council-owned sites. This has enabled the creation of a new 6.5-hectare Community Nature Reserve at Charlcombe Meadows, powered by community action, and creation of a new wildflower meadow on Purlewent Village Green.

Case Study: Charlcombe Community Nature Reserve

Volunteers have played a crucial role in the story of Charlcombe Community Nature Reserve since it was set up in 2024.

Local people have collectively spent more than 650 hours helping to care for this special place, creating the conditions for nature to recover. Volunteers have helped to cut and clear brambles, remove barbed wire and collect rubbish on the reserve.

Sessions have also been run with a focus on establishing new habitats, with the Big Bramble Bash laying the foundations for tree planting to create mixed scrub and two pond digging days to build two new ponds on the reserve.

There has also been training for volunteers on scything and coppicing, giving local people the skills and knowledge that will help with future management of the grassland and woodland.

We've already seen a positive change thanks to the work of volunteers with the restoration of grassland and greater distribution of wildflowers and insects; and the building of a new community of local people that is playing a vital role in managing Charlcombe Community Nature Reserve.

Communities and volunteers have been crucial in helping us to manage our land for nature, while also ensuring sites reflect local priorities. In addition to Charlcombe Community Nature Reserve, a number of sites are managed by 'friends of' groups or other community organisations.

Lyncombe Hill Fields is a brilliant example of a Council-owned site that is managed under licence by the [Friends of Lyncombe Hill Fields](#), a newly formed not-for-profit Community Interest Company. A [number of other parks and green spaces](#), such as Manor Road Woodland in Keynsham and Alexandra Park in Bath, are partly managed by friends of groups or volunteer groups.

We have also created or plan to create nature-rich areas on other Council land outside of parks and green spaces, such as a wildflower meadow at Approach Golf

Course and a new nature-rich landscape plan for Odd Down Sports Ground that includes meadows, tree planting and an orchard.

2.2.2. Planning Policy

B&NES was one of the first councils to adopt BNG: our Policy NE3a (Biodiversity Net Gain) being adopted in January 2023 as part of our Local Plan Partial Update, more than a year ahead of national requirements. This means major developments in the District have been required to deliver net gains for biodiversity since 2023, with minor developments required to deliver no net loss in the period before BNG became mandatory nationally.

As part of this update, we also strengthened our Local Plan Policy 'NE3: Sites, Habitats and Species', which seeks to 'conserve and increase the abundance and diversity of Bath and North East Somerset's wildlife habitats and species'.

We have developed new Green Infrastructure (GI) Standards, aligning with national standards, to ensure new developments include the GI needed to provide healthy places to live that are climate resilient and support nature recovery. The Standards will support increases in tree canopy cover, Local Nature Reserves, permeable surfaces, and local food growing space.

2.2.3. Place-based Projects

Some of our most impactful action for biodiversity has been through our place-based 'Strategic Green Infrastructure Projects'. These have largely been funded through securing external grants, including from the West of England Combined Authority's Green Recovery Fund and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Partnership working has been critical to the success of these projects.

- The **Bathscape Landscape Partnership** has provided management advice for 220 hectares of woodland and 90 grasslands, as well as creating 17 new flower-rich meadows since its inception in 2018. The majority of this has been in this reporting period.

The Bathscape project has also engaged thousands of local people with the natural environment, with 24,441 people having attended Bathscape walks and events to date.

The Bathscape Podcast, Footprints, offered educational and engaging programming on the countryside around Bath, and was nominated for Best Local Show at the 2023 and 2024 Audio and Radio Industry Awards; and Bathscape's rolling programme of weekly well-being walks has supported communities to connect with the natural landscape surrounding the city of Bath, keep active and improve their wellbeing.

More Details are available on the [Bathscape website](#).

- The **Somer Valley Rediscovered** project has improved the value of 37 hectares of green space across seven sites in Midsomer Norton, Westfield

and Radstock for both nature and people, including improving grassland management, tree planting, and hedge laying.

The project has also engaged thousands of local people with nature through events such as forest bathing, park yoga, and nature walks; and it has achieved over 3,000 volunteering hours to help deliver nature recovery and access improvements. More information about the project can be found on the [Somerset Valley Rediscovered website](#).

- Our flagship urban green infrastructure project, the **Bath River Line**, is a £2m investment to improve the river corridor through western Bath. It aims to create a 10km linear park following the River Avon through the heart of Bath, creating a better-connected route for people and wildlife.
- The [Waterspace Connected](#) project aims to, among other things, deliver ecological enhancements along the River Avon corridor between Bristol and Bath, through partnerships and landowner advice. The project has so far focused on delivering an accessible bridge across the River Avon between Keynsham and enhancing the surrounding area to create a riverside park rich in wildlife.
- The [Chew Valley Reconnected](#) (CVR) project aims to accelerate nature recovery within the Chew Catchment, and to improve people's access to and enjoyment of nature. A CVR partnership has been created to bring together organisations and communities to deliver these aims.

2.2.4. Embedding nature recovery in our operations

Following the council's declaration of an Ecological Emergency, and the concerns shared by many residents about the use of weedkiller, in 2021 we took the decision to **stop the routine use of pesticides** containing glyphosate on our streets and pavements. The annual spray has been replaced with manual removal of weeds and mechanically sweeping, until other viable treatment solutions can be identified.

Transport projects in B&NES being delivered through the West of England's City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement are including a voluntary requirement to deliver 20% Biodiversity Net Gain, ensuring they are delivering positive outcomes for nature as well as people.

Our new Keynsham Recycling Hub, opened in 2024, achieved a voluntary biodiversity net gain of 17% through a mixture of incorporating tree and hedgerow planting on-site, and enhancing grasslands in the nearby Keynsham Memorial Park.

Our [Procurement Strategy](#), published in 2024, includes 'Embedding sustainability and climate action in to all procurement activity' as one of its six priorities. This recognises that the council's spending can have a significant impact on helping the council to achieve its net zero and nature positive ambitions.

Tackling the climate emergency and delivering nature recovery is being embedded in Council decision making via our **Doughnut Decision Tool**. This requires decisions

to be considered through the lens of doughnut economics, capturing the impact on our planetary boundaries and our social foundation.

To support our staff taking action for nature, we have a mandatory module on the climate and ecological emergencies that all staff must complete upon joining the council. We are currently working with the Combined Authority on producing a more comprehensive Nature Literacy training, which would be available for staff who would benefit from a more in-depth understanding of the causes behind the decline in nature and how they can contribute towards nature recovery.

At the time of writing, we are working with **Avon Wildlife Trust's Beaver Advice and Support Team** to deliver training to relevant Council staff on the implications of the presence of beavers in the District, and how to proactively prepare for and manage the impacts their activity may cause to Council operations and infrastructure. This will help us to learn to operate harmoniously alongside the beavers that have returned to B&NES and maximise the benefits they can bring to nature and people.

2.3 Working in partnership

Partnership working is a crucial part of how we are delivering nature recovery. B&NES Council is a funding and active member of the [West of England Nature Partnership \(WENP\)](#), the [Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership \(BACP\)](#), and [the Natural History Consortium \(NHC\)](#), among other partnerships. We work closely with neighbouring Local Authorities, the West of England Combined Authority, local charities, businesses, communities, landowners and farmers on nature recovery.

In 2024, B&NES Council and other civic partners in the District set up the [Future Ambition Board](#) to better work together with anchor institutions for the collective good of our people and our place. One of the working groups is 'A Greener Economy', the focus of which is delivering net zero, being nature positive and enhancing our natural assets.

In November 2025, we hosted the first **B&NES Climate and Nature Network Forum** to bring together partners, businesses and organisations involved in delivering the collective effort needed to bring about a resilient, low-carbon and nature positive B&NES that meets everyone's needs.

171 attendees from around 70 organisations attended the Forum, where we discussed what actions businesses and community groups can take on climate and nature. The event is helping to shape the direction of our upcoming Climate and Nature Strategy.

As well as the aforementioned place-based projects, some of the highlights of the results of our partnership working since 2021 are:

- Together with the Forest of Avon Trust, we led a successful bid for the [Western Forest](#) to be chosen as England's second National Forest, with £7.5 million of funding for more trees and woodland across the West of England, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. The Western Forest is only the second

National Forest in the country and will result in the creation of at least 2,500 hectares of new woodland and other tree habitats (such as agroforestry and orchards) in the first five years.

- We supported Avon Needs Trees and the Forest of Avon Trust in securing **two exciting opportunities for woodland creation in B&NES**: the 40-hectare Great Avon Wood, and the 171-hectare Lower Chew Forest. These are significant contributions towards our ambition to increase tree canopy cover across the District by 650 hectares by 2030.
- We transferred our land at [Bathampton Meadows](#), 24 hectares of green space adjacent to the River Avon, to the National Trust in 2022 to safeguard the site for nature and people. Together with adjacent farmland acquired by the National Trust, the site now forms a green corridor running along the River Avon from the centre of Bath. The National Trust is improving biodiversity on the Meadows through restoring 30 hectares of wildflower meadows, creating five hectares of new wetland habitat, planting new wood pasture and orchards, and hedgerow restoration.
- We supported Bristol Avon Rivers Trust in a successful bid to develop a **farmer cluster** covering the Chew Valley and Cam & Wellow catchments. The cluster is now active, and grants are being distributed to farmers and landowners to deliver interventions that enhance nature and improve water quality. We are represented on the Steering Group that oversees distribution of these grants.
- We published Guidance and Templates for Parish and Town Councils to create their own '**Nature Action Plans**', empowering them to identify local opportunities and actions for nature recovery. A number of Parish and Town Councils are using this opportunity to create a plan for nature.
- Following a successful bid by B&NES Council to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Avon Wildlife Trust delivered the '**Nextdoor Nature**' project in the **Somer Valley**. Nextdoor Nature empowered local communities to manage green spaces for nature, including an accessible sensory garden in Peasedown, a community food-growing space outside a pub in Paulton, and improving the Manor Copse woodland and playpark for residents and wildlife.
- Our Nature Recovery Manager led the development of the [West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\)](#), which was the first in the country to be published in November 2024.
- The West of England Nature Partnership published a **Nature Recovery Prospectus** in 2022, setting out the projects and programmes that would make the most strategic contributions to delivering the Nature Recovery Network. In 2024, this was followed by nine thematic [Priority Programmes](#), informed by the West of England LNRS, which would deliver the most impact for nature and could become investment-ready.

- We supported and endorsed the creation of the [Forest of Avon Plan](#), published in 2021, which set out a collective vision for trees and woodland in the Forest of Avon. This helped secure millions of pounds of trees for climate funding for the region, which has been used to create new woodlands, wood pasture, orchards, and hedgerows.
- The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership published the [Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy](#) in August 2023. The Strategy sets out how we can restore the health of our rivers and bring back thriving fish populations across the catchment.
- We sit on the Partnership Board of [Big Chalk](#), a partnership comprising more than 150 organisations with a common and ambitious vision of creating thriving chalk and limestone landscapes across southern England. Having only been established in 2023, the Partnership has gone from strength to strength in the past two years, recently securing core funding for project staff and £750k for a new capital grants fund. Work is ongoing to develop a much more ambitious funding proposal.

2.4 Raising awareness and engaging with communities

Our place-based projects, such as Somer Valley Rediscovered and Bathscape, have been very successful in engaging with local communities to raise awareness of biodiversity, enabling them to contribute towards nature recovery and increasing their engagement with nature. For example:

- The [Bathscape Podcast, Footprints](#), has engaged thousands of listeners with the natural environment surrounding Bath, and was nominated for Best Local Show at the 2023 and 2024 Audio and Radio Industry Awards. Thousands of people have taken part in the hundreds of wellbeing and tree walks that the project has run, the annual September Walking Festival, bug hunting with local children, and much more.
- The **Somer Valley Rediscovered Greenspaces project** has engaged thousands of local people through a variety of events including forest bathing, park yoga, and nature walks. It has also achieved over 3,000 volunteering hours to help deliver nature recovery and access improvements at 5 public parks in Radstock and Midsomer Norton.
- As part of the **2025 Festival of Nature**, the Bath River Line project hosted a vibrant programme of events and activities designed to connect people with the River Avon and its surrounding green spaces. Activities included an outdoor film screening, creative exhibitions, paddleboarding taster sessions, family-friendly craft day, and interactive displays. The “River in the Sky” installation at SouthGate was estimated to have been experienced by 9 million visitors.

We are one of the funding members of the [Natural History Consortium](#) (NHC), whose purpose is to ‘engage people with the natural world through collaborative action’.

Among lots of other work, the NHC runs the annual [Festival of Nature](#), which is the UK's largest celebration of the natural world; and coordinates the popular citizen science initiatives BioBlitz and the UK City Nature Challenge.

The NHC has previously run numerous successful projects to engage people with nature and encourage action to help wildlife across the West of England, such as People for Pollinators challenge and Pesticide Reduction Campaign, and has led other citizen science initiatives.

We have created pages on the Ecological Emergency on our webpage to improve visibility of our work to recover nature, and the reasons behind the ecological emergency.

We also regularly share posts about climate and nature through our social media channels, including dedicated 'Green BathNES' Instagram and Twitter/X accounts that share updates on our work to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies.

3. Our Future Actions

We are currently producing an updated Climate and Nature Strategy, which will set out how we will achieve a net zero, nature positive district. The Strategy will include an updated action plan through to 2030, which will set out in further detail how we will become nature positive and fulfil our biodiversity duty, building on the significant progress we have made so far.

3.1 Managing More of our Land for Nature

One of our current areas of focus is **managing more of the land on the council's estate for nature**; this will require seeking public and private funding to enhance our existing habitats and create new ones. Our ambition is to manage 30% of our Estate for nature by 2030, which will require managing more of our woodlands, improving grassland management, bringing new sites into positive management for nature, and working with tenants.

We have secured two years' worth of funding to provide more capacity, expertise and equipment towards this ambition, and will be seeking further funding through public (e.g. Countryside Stewardship) and private (e.g. biodiversity net gain) sources.

We also plan to build on successful examples of **community management**, such as Charlcombe Community Nature Reserve and Lyncombe Hill Fields, and make the best use of communities' interest in helping to manage sites for nature through, for example, 'Friends of' Groups. As well as helping us to manage more land for nature, this has the benefit of engaging more people with the natural environment and building a sense of community.

Our [Landscape City Programme](#) aims to increase the value of our Estate for nature in Bath and will work with communities to improve sites that are important for wildlife, among other aims. The project will run until early 2027 and will provide further resource to bring more of our land into positive management for nature.

3.2 Policy and Council Operations

We are in the process of producing an **updated Local Plan**, which will be crucial to our ambitions for nature recovery. As well as including policies and site requirements that will enable development to be nature positive and create high-quality places, we will be looking to develop a strategic approach to the provision of nature-rich, accessible green spaces that new development will require.

We are also in the process of reviewing and updating our **Planning Guidance on the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bat Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**; this will include updating mapping of 'consultation zones' within which development could potentially trigger impacts on the SAC, based on the most recent evidence of bat foraging distances.

We plan to develop a strategic approach that will enable development to offset its impacts on the Bat SAC through the purchase of 'Habitat Evaluation Process' units that can be used to create replacement habitat, where appropriate.

We will further embed nature recovery across the council's operations and projects in the forthcoming five years; more detail on this will be set out in our forthcoming **Climate and Nature Strategy**. To inform how we best focus our resources, we intend to produce a 'biodiversity footprint' for the council, if we can find the resource and expertise to do so.

We are also committing to pursue **20% BNG for infrastructure projects led by the council**, where feasible, ensuring that our own projects are creating positive change for nature.

We are increasingly focusing on **climate adaptation**, recognising the impact that a changing climate will have on our assets and the services we deliver. This will include considering how we can make best use of nature-based solutions to deliver climate resilience alongside nature recovery.

3.3 Convening and facilitating Nature Recovery across the District

We will continue our role in convening partners and stakeholders to deliver nature recovery, and we will use the powers we have as a Council to facilitate nature recovery across the District.

We are currently in the process of producing a **Tree and Woodland Strategy** for the District, which will build on the Forest of Avon Plan to set out how we can deliver our District-wide ambitions for increasing tree and woodland cover, and bringing more woodlands into management.

One of the biggest challenges over the next five years will be securing sufficient public and private funding to enable nature recovery. We are working in partnership at the West of England level (and beyond) to **facilitate investment in and delivery of large, high-impact projects** that deliver the West of England LNRS, as per the WENP Strategy.

The **Connecting Catchments** Project, which is co-funded by Wessex Water, Bristol Water and B&NES Council, will produce Catchment Investment Portfolios offering large-scale propositions for investment into nature recovery and climate resilience in the Chew catchment, and the Cam and Wellow catchments.

As mentioned above, we will also be looking to develop an approach that enables delivery of the **new large-scale, nature-rich, accessible green spaces** that new development will require. This could result in the creation of new, large spaces that deliver nature recovery while improving people's access to nature across the District.

We also plan to work with landowners adjacent or close to our Estate to boost the impact of the land we are managing for nature.

3.4 Continued Partnership working

WENP and the BACP will continue to be key vehicles for our partnership working on nature recovery. The Future Ambition Board will play an increasing role in improving partnership working on nature and climate within B&NES.

We intend to continue the successful partnership working that has taken place through our place-based projects, such as Bathscape and Somer Valley, and are working to secure funding to do so.

The Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership (BCNP) has recently secured funding from the National Lottery to roll out their Community Climate and Nature Action Plan approach to organisations in B&NES, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset. This means that two community organisations in B&NES will have funding and support to develop a community-led Climate and Nature Action Plan; we are supporting this project and, if the approach is successful in B&NES, we will aim to use it to enable community action for climate and nature into the future.

We aim to support the continued presence of farmer clusters within B&NES, which have proved to be important vehicles for engaging with farmers and landowners. Although we likely will not have the resources to support them financially, we will advocate for their value and support any applications for funding that they can make.

We will continue to work with partners through Big Chalk to restore calcareous habitats at scale and develop the mechanisms that will be needed to do so. We have recently secured funding through Big Chalk to procure equipment that will enable us to better manage grassland habitats on our Estate, further demonstrating the value of the partnership to us.

4. Biodiversity net gain information

4.1 Actions we have carried out to meet BNG Obligations

4.1.1. Securing capacity and in-house knowledge for BNG

In June 2022, we employed a dedicated Biodiversity Net Gain Officer to oversee our approach to meeting BNG obligations (as well as leading on generating Biodiversity Units on Council-owned land). This role has led on the work detailed in this section

We have taken a proactive approach to building internal capacity for BNG implementation through comprehensive in-house training, with different teams receiving training tailored to their needs.

We delivered training to planning officers to ensure they understood the BNG process, were confident when dealing with BNG aspects of planning applications, and knew when to escalate BNG issues to specialist ecologists.

The ecologists within the planning department received more detailed technical training on:

- Assessing BNG metric calculations and proposals;
- Evaluating habitat creation and enhancement plans;
- Understanding the nuances of the statutory metric; and
- Consistent interpretation and application of guidance.

Recognising that BNG impacts operations beyond planning, training was extended to other departments who are impacted by our BNG obligations.

4.1.2. Setting local policies and standards for BNG

On 19th January 2023 the adoption of the 'Local Plan Partial Update' included a local BNG policy requiring a 10% BNG objective for all major development, and no net loss and appropriate net gain for minor developments. The policy aimed to reflect the expected process of statutory BNG.

The Local List of information required for planning applications within B&NES was updated to include a requirement to submit a draft biodiversity gain plan as part of a planning application, ensuring forward thinking into site design and deliverability of BNG objectives. This requirement remains in use for statutory BNG.

Prior to statutory BNG, when off-site biodiversity units were required, they were accepted on additional land owned by the developer and secured by condition or, if in a different ownership, a legal agreement was used. The majority of gains were achieved on-site.

Additionally, our policy for small sites requires no net loss of biodiversity and appropriate net gain. This helps ensure that sites not covered by statutory BNG consider opportunities for biodiversity.

4.1.3. Monitoring and Enforcing BNG in the planning system

A back-office monitoring system (Exacom) linked to planning applications is being utilised to record developer BNG commitments and dates triggering surveys/monitoring reports. Within this reporting period and statutory BNG regime, no developments have reached a stage where monitoring has commenced.

4.1.4. Private Biodiversity Gain Sites within B&NES

We recognise that enabling a sufficient supply of biodiversity units from projects within B&NES increases the likelihood that mitigation and enhancement from development would remain in the District.

Therefore, we proactively introduced an application process for landowners to enter into legal agreements to secure land as a biodiversity gains site. The council acts as the monitoring and enforcing authority for the sites. A legal agreement is a pre-requisite for national registration and use of the site as a biodiversity unit supplier.

There are three biodiversity gain sites for which landowners have entered into legal agreement with the council in the reporting period; the details of these sites are set out below. Note that these sites are able to sell units to developments both based within B&NES and outside of the District.

Sleight Farm, Timsbury by Biofarm (24/02162/SGSBNG)

Available and on the National Register <https://environment.data.gov.uk/biodiversity-net-gain/search/BGS-281124001>

Website: <https://www.biofarm.co.uk/>

Habitat Units:	379.66
Comprising:	Grassland 55.95ha
	Shrub 4.45ha
	Woodland 6.26ha
	Individual trees 0.66ha
Hedgerow Units:	5.03
Comprising:	Hedgerow/line of trees creation/enhancement 0.91km
Watercourse Units:	2.48
Comprising:	New Ditches in good condition 0.4km

Wick Farm (Lower Chew Forest), Compton Dando by Avon Needs Trees (25/01038/SGSBNG)

Available and on the National Register <https://environment.data.gov.uk/biodiversity-net-gain/search/BGS-301025002>

Website: <https://avonneedstrees.org.uk/biodiversity-net-gain/>

Habitat Units: 417.25

Comprising:	Grassland	44.72ha
	Shrub	12.88ha
	Individual Trees	1.21ha

Hedgerow Units: 22.46

Comprising: Hedgerow/line of trees creation/enhancement 2.96km

The Wrangle, Compton Martin (25/01055/SGSBNG)

Available and on the National Register <https://environment.data.gov.uk/biodiversity-net-gain/search/BGS-171125002>

Contact: Lake View Farm office@lakeviewfarm.co.uk

Website: <https://www.greenshank-environmental.com/schemes/B&NES-bng-scheme>

Habitat Units: 52.56

Comprising:	Grassland enhancement	8.92ha
	Woodland enhancement	1.67ha
	Individual Trees	0.15ha

Hedgerow Units: 8.19

Comprising: 0.62km of new hedge and 0.45km of enhanced hedge

4.1.5. Council-owned Biodiversity Gain Sites

In 2023, we committed to preparing and using land in our ownership as biodiversity gain sites, and to work with the community to manage these sites for the benefit of nature and residents.

The sites remain unregistered while a viable solution to procuring a legal agreement is worked towards. In the meantime, the sites are available to supply biodiversity units to non-statutory BNG development and projects with alternative biodiversity requirements.

The details of these sites are as follows:

Charlcombe Community Nature Reserve

<https://www.charlcombenature.co.uk/home>

Habitat Units: **14.87** (of which used: 0.5679)

Comprising: Grassland enhancement 2.21ha
Scrub enhancement 0.5ha

Purlewent Village Green

Habitat Units: **7.87**

Comprising: Grassland enhancement 1.75ha

4.2 Biodiversity Gains in the Reporting Period

This section details the biodiversity net gain achieved in the reporting period as a result of our pre-statutory BNG policy (effective as of 19th January 2023) and statutory BNG (effective as of 12th February 2024).

4.2.1. Total Number of Permitted Applications requiring BNG

The table below summarises the total number of permitted applications requiring BNG during the reporting period.

Permitted applications requiring net gain	Number
Total number of planning permissions granted that require biodiversity net gain in the reporting period	300
Total number of planning permissions granted in the reporting period where an exemption to the biodiversity net gain condition applies	336

Table 1 - permitted applications requiring biodiversity net gain during the reporting period. Note that the first figure includes statutory and pre-statutory cases; the second figure is for exemptions to statutory BNG only.

4.2.2. Biodiversity Gain Plans

The following information includes all planning permission that have had a biodiversity gain plan condition approved where either the statutory metric or metric

version 4 has been used only. There will be other approvals prior to statutory BNG where older versions of the metric are used; these gains are not recorded in a retrievable format.

Category	Number	% biodiversity plans
Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period	33	100%
Number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through on-site units only	26	79%
Number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through off-site units only	0	0%
Number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through statutory credits only	0	0%
Number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site and off-site units	7	21%
Number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site units and statutory credits	0	0%

Table 2 - how biodiversity gain plans approved during the reporting period have delivered biodiversity net gain.

4.2.3. Change in Biodiversity Units

The table below provides more detail on the expected number of biodiversity units that are expected to be created as a result of BNG for biodiversity gain plans submitted during this reporting period. The units are broken down by area, hedgerow and watercourse, as per the Biodiversity Metric.

Overall expected gains and losses	Area Habitats	Hedgerows	Watercourses
Total number of pre-development biodiversity units approved on-site	77.58	29.33	1.24
Total number of post-development biodiversity units approved on-site	82.95	39.80	1.45
Net unit change in biodiversity units, on-site	5.37	10.47	0.20

Overall expected gains and losses	Area Habitats	Hedgerows	Watercourses
Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, on-site	6.93%	35.69%	16.21%
Total number of baseline biodiversity units approved off-site	19.51	0.00	0.18
Total number of post-intervention biodiversity units approved off-site	29.65	0.09	0.34
Net unit change in biodiversity units, off-site	10.15	0.09	0.16
Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, off-site	52.03%	9.04%	86.72%
Total number of biodiversity units offset using statutory credits	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net unit change in biodiversity units (including any units offset using credits)	15.52	10.56	0.36
Average percentage (%) net gain (including statutory credits)	15.99%	36.00%	25.13%

Table 3 - Detail on the overall expected gains and losses of biodiversity units approved during the reporting period, on the site of development (on-site), away from the site of development (off-site), and in total. The units are reported separately for area habitats, hedgerow and watercourse, as per the Biodiversity Metric.

Further detail on the change in biodiversity units by habitat type can be found within Appendix I: Composition of Biodiversity Net Gain.

4.3 Location of off-site biodiversity units

The table below shows the location of off-site biodiversity units that have been created as a result of development in the District. The Biodiversity Metric includes a penalty for units created outside the Local Planning Authority (LPA) or National Character Area (NCA) where the development takes place.

Note that B&NES lies across three NCAs: Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges; Cotswolds; and Mendip Hills. More information on NCAs can be found on the [National Character Areas website](#).

Location of off-site biodiversity units	Total	Proportion
Number of off-site biodiversity units located inside LPA boundary or NCA of impact site.	30.06	100%
Number of off-site biodiversity units located outside LPA or NCA of impact site, but in neighbouring LPA or NCA	0.03	0%

Number of off-site biodiversity units located outside of LPA or NCA of impact site and neighbouring LPA or NCA	0	0%
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Table 4 – table showing a breakdown of the location of off-site biodiversity units created during the reporting period by whether they are within the same Local Planning Authority (LPA) or National Character Area (NCA), in a neighbouring LPA or NCA, or further away.

4.4 How we plan to meet our BNG obligations in the next reporting period

4.4.1. Working towards an offsite market

To maximise the possibility that offsite biodiversity units are delivered locally in B&NES, we need to ensure there is a sufficient supply of offsite biodiversity units within the District, and that developers are aware of these units and understand the benefits of purchasing units locally.

A process for the application to the council’s Planning Department for a S106 legal agreement for approval of biodiversity gain sites is available and in use. The service uses a similar process to a planning application, utilising case officers, consultation of specialist officers and publication of documents in the public domain. The process allows for the modification, including expansion, of biodiversity gain sites, thus enabling operators to adapt and enhance their projects for nature as progress is made.

We are currently working with the West of England Combined Authority, the other Local Authorities in the region and habitat bank operators to create a ‘portal’ of offsite habitat banks in the West of England. This will promote the use of local sites for offsite biodiversity units and encourage an active regional marketplace.

We are also scoping the supply of and predicted demand for offsite biodiversity units to ensure there is a sufficient supply of units to meet demand locally.

We are looking at the possibility of registering more Council sites as biodiversity gain sites to contribute towards the supply of local biodiversity units, and to ensure that Council-led development (including transport projects with voluntary BNG requirements) has a ready supply of biodiversity units.

We will continue to work with adjacent Local Authorities adjacent to enable the use of Council owned land for nature conservation.

4.4.2. Monitoring and Enforcement

We expect the majority of biodiversity units will be delivered ‘onsite’ (i.e. as part of the development site). Therefore, during the next reporting period, where development has commenced and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plans are in

place, we will monitor and enforce compliance with BNG requirements where resources allow, prioritising resources for the greatest benefit to nature.

The council will continue to act as the monitoring and enforcement authority for off-site biodiversity gain sites where these have been approved by the council.

Where off-site biodiversity gain sites have a legal agreement with a 'responsible body' there is no requirement for the proposals to be placed in the public domain or ability for the council to formally monitor the sites. The council will work with the landowner, operator and responsible body, where willing, to enable a successful project.

5. Further context, monitoring and challenges

5.1 Information about B&NES Council

B&NES council operates as a unitary authority. It covers a population of approximately 196,000 as of 2022.

The council owns just over 600 hectares of land (around 1.7% of B&NES) comprising parks, green spaces, buildings, tenanted land, and other uses. What we do with and how we manage this land directly impacts on biodiversity in the District, which is why we have an ambition to manage 30% of our land for nature by 2030.

Some parts of our land are dedicated nature reserves, but there is plenty of scope within e.g. our parks and green spaces to provide space for nature, such as through creating areas of wildflower-rich meadows.

We have over 100 hectares of woodland within our Estate, which, with the right management, could deliver even more for nature.

Our role as a Local Planning Authority means we have an important role to play in ensuring developments are located in sites that do not cause significant harm to protected sites and species, and make positive contributions to nature recovery. We will be able to influence this through our developing Local Plan and individual site requirements.

We will have impacts on nature across all of our operations, to a greater or lesser extent, with resulting opportunities to contribute to nature recovery. Some of the more obvious sources of potential impacts on biodiversity are the operation of our highways network (through loss of habitat connectivity and pollutants from cars), construction, and our procurement of goods and services.

As stated in 'Our Future Actions', we would like to obtain a footprint of our impact on biodiversity to better quantify where the biggest opportunities to reduce our impact on nature are.

We also have an important role to play in working with and enabling communities to contribute towards nature recovery, including through funding (e.g. the award of Community Infrastructure Levy funding), advice and collaboration.

5.2 How we have considered other strategies

The [West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\)](#) was published in November 2024.

We are using the WoE LNRS to inform our developing Local Plan, including specific site requirements and opportunities for the creation of new green spaces. The LNRS is also being used by other projects, such as transport infrastructure projects, to inform interventions for nature.

The LNRS is also informing development of our Tree and Woodland Strategy for the District, our Climate and Nature Strategy, and how we are managing our land for the benefit of nature.

Through the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP), we are using the LNRS to prioritise regional development of projects to deliver nature recovery.

There have been no active Protected Site Strategies or Species Conservation Strategies during this reporting period that we have needed to consider in B&NES.

5.3 Monitoring and evaluating our progress

We have an internal reporting programme in place to monitor our progress on nature recovery. This includes monitoring the extent of land managed for nature across our estate, as well as monitoring District-level indicators of the state of the environment, such as tree cover and water quality.

At the regional level, we are part of WECA-led and WENP-led initiatives to improve our understanding of the state of nature in the West of England. This includes developing a Wildlife Index that enables us to better understand how different species are faring in the West of England (and potentially at the level of B&NES), and producing a comprehensive State of Nature Report for the region.

We also monitor progress on achieving the actions set out in our Ecological Emergency Action Plan via an [Annual Climate and Nature Progress Report](#).

5.4 Biodiversity challenges

As has been the case for the past five years, a lack of funding and resources is the biggest obstacle to doing more for nature as a local authority. Budgetary pressures, caused by a combination of previous funding cuts from central government and increasing demand on statutory services (including adult and social care), has meant that resources available to deliver nature recovery are limited.

This is particularly problematic for the management of parks and green spaces, and for monitoring and enforcing planning requirements on developments. With the new requirement for developments to deliver BNG and improved Green Infrastructure standards, the need for resources to monitor and enforce compliance with these requirements will be even more pressing.

We have made use of a range of funding sources, including grants from the West of England Combined Authority and from National Lottery funding, to deliver much of our work on nature recovery over the past five years. However, the availability of similar funding is not guaranteed into the future and leaves the legacy of many of our projects at risk. We are exploring alternative sources of income, such as from BNG, to continue to deliver our ambitions for nature.

B&NES (and the West of England more widely) will have high pressure from development over the next five years. The expected housing target for B&NES is

1,466 homes per year, which is almost twice as many homes per hectare per year than the England average².

While the logic behind BNG is that development results in a greater amount of biodiversity than there was beforehand, ensuring this is delivered in reality will be a significant challenge due to, among other factors, the potential lack of resources for monitoring and compliance (see above).

We will also need to work in partnership to ensure that recreational pressure on existing habitats is appropriately managed and mitigated; as well as working with developers and regulators to minimise other potential impacts of development on biodiversity that aren't considered by BNG (e.g. pollution resulting from construction, disturbance, and severance of habitats etc.).

Increasingly, adaptation to a changing climate is becoming more of a challenge both to biodiversity itself, with species unable to adapt to the speed of climate change, and to how we deliver nature recovery. In the next five years, we will need to be increasingly conscious of the impacts of flooding and droughts on the habitats that we and partners manage, as well as the risk of wildfire and how we mitigate this.

On the other hand, the need to rapidly adapt to a changing climate presents opportunities to deliver nature recovery at the same time through the use of nature-based solutions (e.g. for natural flood management, water storage, and reducing heat stress).

² B&NES housing target is projected to be 1,466 homes a year, compared to the 300,000 homes a year across England. The area of B&NES is 346 km², compared to England's area of 132,932 km².

6. Appendix I: Composition of Biodiversity Net Gain by Habitat Type

6.1 Composition of biodiversity gain: area-based habitats

Habitat Type	Total biodiversity units at baseline	Total hectares at baseline	Total biodiversity units post - development	Total hectares post - development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in hectares
Cropland	9.90	4.95	0.33	0.17	-9.57	-4.78
Grassland	53.86	12.41	63.23	10.64	9.37	-1.77
Heathland and Scrub	4.28	1.07	10.97	1.00	6.69	-0.07
Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sparsely Vegetated Land	1.42	0.33	0.10	0.02	-1.32	-0.31
Urban	0.93	4.36	3.75	8.20	2.82	3.84
Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Woodland and Forest	9.01	1.06	11.44	0.10	2.43	-0.96
Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Coastal Saltmarsh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rocky Shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Coastal Lagoons	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal Hard Structures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Watercourse footprint	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Individual Trees	17.68	1.88	22.78	4.38	5.10	2.50
Total	97.08	26.06	112.61	24.51	15.52	-1.55

Table 5 - the composition of biodiversity units and the corresponding areas for area-based habitats, broken down by the 'habitat' type used in the Biodiversity Metric. Units and areas are reported for baseline and post-development, with the net change shown.

6.2 Composition of biodiversity gains: hedgerows and lines of trees

Habitat type	Total biodiversity units at baseline	Total kilometres at baseline	Total biodiversity units post - development	Total kilometres post - development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in kilometres
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	12.73	0.64	23.26	0.64	10.53	0.00
Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	5.20	0.29	5.20	0.29	0.00	0.00
Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Species -rich native hedgerow	8.19	0.63	5.31	0.66	-2.88	0.03
Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Native hedgerow with trees	0.29	0.03	0.53	0.08	0.24	0.05
Ecologically valuable line of trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Native hedgerow	2.50	0.68	4.57	1.35	2.07	0.67
Line of trees	0.28	0.07	0.28	0.07	0.00	0.00

Habitat type	Total biodiversity units at baseline	Total kilometres at baseline	Total biodiversity units post - development	Total kilometres post - development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in kilometres
Line of trees associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.14	0.14	0.73	0.75	0.59	0.61
Total	29.33	2.49	39.89	3.85	10.56	1.36

Table 6 - the composition of biodiversity units and the corresponding distances for hedgerows and line of trees, broken down by the 'habitat' type used in the Biodiversity Metric. Units and distances are reported for baseline and post-development, with the net change shown.

6.3 Composition of biodiversity gains: watercourses

Habitat type	Total biodiversity units at baseline	Total kilometres at baseline	Total biodiversity units post - development	Total kilometres post - development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in kilometres
Priority Habitat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Rivers and Streams	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ditches	1.42	0.44	1.78	0.44	0.36	0.00
Canals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Culverts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	1.42	0.44	1.78	0.44	0.36	0.00

Table 7 - the composition of biodiversity units and the corresponding distances for watercourses, broken down by the 'habitat' type used in the Biodiversity Metric. Units and distances are reported for baseline and post-development, with the net change shown.