

GCLP Webinar 5 Biodiversity

Unanswered and answered questions

Question 1

BNG only applies to green habitat. Nest space habitat (nest boxes) in the new buildings is not included. The Biodiversity and Green Spaces topic paper has just 2 mentions of bird boxes or bat boxes. Specific wording is needed in the Policy 'Biodiversity & geodiversity' on integral bird/bat boxes, up to a 1:1 ratio of bird boxes to dwellings as recommended by RIBA, NHBC and the NPPG. For bird boxes, read 'swift bricks' as these provide nest sites for a range of species.

Many thanks for this helpful comment. We will take it into account as we prepare the draft plan. Please do provide comments such as this, including any further details, via our website in relation to the relevant draft policy directions:

<https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-proposals/explore-theme/biodiversity-and-green-spaces/policy>

Answered live by John Cornell

Thank you for your reply - we are here to help.

Question 2 – unanswered

This all sounds fine but if you live in Horningsea there a herd of elephants in the room. The relocation of the WWTP to Honey Hill, the destruction of Important Green Belt.

Our website has an excellent description of the problem.

<https://www.savehoneyhill.org/necaap-the-threat-to-high-quality-green-belt/>

The move will be decided by the DCO process, but this was voted for by local councillors without due regard to its outcome.

Cambridge is removing green space not increasing it.

Question 3

Are there any maps of the Cambridge Green Belt superimposed on (a) the baseline map you have shown, and (b) the map showing the proposed GI initiatives? It is not clear what status the Green Belt has in these first proposals and whether the original green belt principles are any longer being considered.

See our interactive map where you can turn these layers on and off: <https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-preferred-options/explore-map>. Please also see our Green Belt policy direction: <https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-proposals/explore-theme/great-places/policy-gpqb-protection-and>

Question 4

How are these new spaces to be maintained and funded?

There will need to be a range of mechanisms and models for stewardship of both existing and new spaces. Much of this lies outside of the control of planning policy, however Cambridge and Peterborough are currently part of the Future Parks Accelerator which is doing some comprehensive work in this space too...

Question 5

How will the work of the FPA feed into the open space's strategy?

Answered by Paul Frainer live

Question 6

How confident can we be that policies seeking to protect and enhance biodiversity will not be undermined by other big issues that still have to be resolved such as the supply of water of sufficient quantity and quality needed for the new development planned?

Answered live by Jon Dixon

Question 7

much of the of the Biodiversity and Green Spaces policy direction majors on biodiversity net gain, restoration, and enhancement - this is, of course, welcomed and supported. However, would GCSP also agree that the priority should be to protect existing sites from the adverse effects of development and that this should be made clear from the outset in the new Local Plan?

We'd definitely agree that protecting existing sites is the first priority. If you don't think that our First Proposals are explicit enough on this, please do say so in responses to the consultation

Question 8

Where do the existing and proposed country parks fit in? Are these considered more nature places, or recreation?

Answered live

Question 9

It feels that GI ambitions are overwhelmingly biodiversity focussed. GI can perform many ecosystem functions and might not even have to be part of a network to perform a green infrastructure function for example sustainable drainage in high urbanised areas. Will other GI functions also be given considerable weight through the planning system, for example through an ENG or Natural Capital approach?

This question has been answered live

Question 10

What about impact of light on wildlife? It is tricky as people nervous. Why can't we carry lights?

This question has been answered live

Question 11 – unanswered

I'm really concerned that the offsite BNG option may become a cop out for landowners and developers. On-site (and possibly near-site options that can provide a place for displaced wildlife to move into) must surely be priorities?

This question has been answered live