

# Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy

## 23 April – 18 May 2012

[www.bathnes.gov.uk/greeninfrastructure](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/greeninfrastructure)

## Comment Form

### Let us know what you think

We are passionate about making this strategy work and for it to be effective and useful to all sectors and partners, and so genuinely welcome your feedback and comments.

We would particularly welcome your “first impressions” to the strategy as a whole, and whether it meets “your expectations” but would also like thoughts and comments on some specific points as set out below.

In terms of general thoughts it would be great to have feed back on the over all feel of the document - does it read well?, does it say enough about Green Infrastructure and what we should be achieving; will it lead to real change in working practice and have results on the ground etc.?

#### First impressions and expectations?

The Strategy is good and fits well with the purposes and duty of the Cotswolds Conservation Board and the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan. The strategy also compliments other areas of the Board's work such as its position statement on road verge management and the forthcoming Climate Change Strategy

#### Strategy aims (page7)

• Do you agree with the strategy aims?	Yes ✓	mostly	no
• Comments			

#### Vision (page 32)

• Do you agree with the vision?	Yes ✓	mostly	no
• Does vision reflect the locally distinctive context of B&NES?	Yes ✓	mostly	no

- Comments

### B&NES context- local drivers (pages 11-14)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do the proposed priorities cover the important local issues within B&amp;NES?</li> </ul>	yes	Mostly ✓	no
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there any important drivers missing? (please specify)</li> </ul> <p>The supporting text in this section of the strategy needs to highlight the strong links between the urban areas and the wider countryside. The city/urban element and the rural/wider landscape element are considered in two separate paragraphs on pages 13 and 14 and need to be brought together. For example, a lot of the wider landscape assets like the Cotswold escarpment, are visible from Bath city centre and some, such as the River Avon and the K&amp;A Canal, penetrate the city. These assets form a visual and physical link between the city and the surrounding countryside as well as routes between the two.</p> <p>Climate change – GI also provides opportunities to reduce carbon emissions by the provision of green transport – walking and cycling</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments</li> </ul>			

### B&NES context- Green infrastructure components (pages 15 - 31)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you agree with the suggested priorities?</li> </ul>	Yes ✓	mostly	no
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is your sector/specialist area?</li> </ul> <p>Cotswolds AONB – dual purposes of Conserving and Enhancing and Enjoyment and Understanding</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you agree with your specific priorities?</li> </ul>	Yes ✓	mostly	no
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments</li> </ul> <p>Table 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– include unimproved grasslands. Could also include hedges and roadside verges if mapping data exists. Some hedgerow survey work has been undertaken by BRERC and it is assumed there are some road verges identified as important for biodiversity (local sites/protected verges)</li> <li>- Ecosystem services – add aquifers?</li> <li>- Accessible open spaces – include wider countryside via the rights of way network</li> </ul> <p>Landscape and cultural heritage, page 16, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph – may be useful to include that both AONBs have Management Plans that support and would help deliver GI.</p> <p>Page 16 – heritage is not just parks, gardens and locations on the SMR. It is important to recognise the historic dimension of the wider landscape. This is illustrated in the Avon Historic Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>Page 18 – 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph states that the District is served by two AONBs. Better wording would be ‘the district has parts of two AONBs’</p> <p>Page 19, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph. The last sentence is an important point and may be worth expanding. The opportunities exist for engaging in the</p>			

natural environment. However, many non-participants either do not know the opportunities exist or are not confident or motivated to use them.

Page 19, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph – Cotswold Scarp NIA. There is also the Cotswold Rivers NIA, which includes the By Brook, a tributary of the Avon.

Biodiversity Priorities, first bullet point – within and between SNAs. SNAs contain core habitat, but it still tends to be fragmented.

Ecosystem Services, page 21 – should it be the National Ecosystem Assessment?

Recreation and open space priorities - the Board supports the inclusion of highway verge maintenance. The Board has a position statement and guide for Parish Councils on the Management of Roadside Verges. Page 27, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph – should be Agri-environment Schemes. This would also include EWGS.

Trees and Woodlands – opportunities also include renewable energy (woodfuel and firewood). Tree planting, last paragraph, page 30, needs to take account of landscape character. It can also negatively impact on biodiversity and the historic environment.

### Principles (pages 33 – 39)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do the principles and supporting delivery objectives provide a useful working base for delivery of Green Infrastructure?</li> </ul>	Yes ✓	mostly	no
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there any missing or unnecessary? (please specify)</li> </ul> <p>No</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is your sector/specialist area? Cotswolds AONB – dual purposes of Conserving and Enhancing and Enjoyment and Understanding</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you agree with your principle/objectives?</li> </ul>	Yes ✓	mostly	no
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments.</li> </ul> <p>Principles 3 and 10 – AONB agendas and management and delivery plans already support GI principles in all but name 13 – add Cotswold Scarp NIA?</p>			

### Mapping (page 40/41)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you agree with the proposed mapping delivery priorities?</li> </ul>	Yes ✓	mostly	no
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comment</li> </ul> <p>Making GIS files available to partners would also help ensure support and inclusion in delivery plans etc</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there any additional spatial data relevant to the strategy and /or you want included in the mapping data base – please specify</li> </ul>			

The data collated for the Strategy is comprehensive. Useful additions from comments above would be:

Cotswold Scarp NIA

Protected road verges.

Useful background data, not necessarily for including in the strategy mapping would be the HLCA and any hedgerow surveys

### Strategic GI network diagram (map 9)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you support inclusion of a strategic network diagram?</li> </ul>	yes ✓	mostly	no
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on the consultation diagram</li> </ul>			

### Emerging priorities and strategic projects (page11 and appendix A)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you agree with the emerging sector priorities?</li> </ul>	yes ✓	mostly	no
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you agree with the emerging strategic projects?</li> </ul>	yes ✓	mostly	no
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments</li> </ul>			

### Document structure

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are you happy with the report structure?</li> </ul>	yes ✓	mostly	no
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How could it be improved?</li> </ul>			

### Endorsement of the Strategy

Would your organisation/group be happy to endorse the final strategy?	yes	no
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### Delivery plan

Would your organisation want to be involved in developing the delivery plan?	Yes ✓	no
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Please expand on any of the above points or make any observations, specific or detail below.

**Please refer to a specific page number if you have a comment about a particular page ☺**

*(Attach an additional sheet if necessary)*

**Remember to return this Comments Form by 18 May 2012 to:**

**Planning Policy & Environment Group, Planning Services, PO Box 5006,  
Bath, BA1 1JG or emailing it to [environmentteam@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:environmentteam@bathnes.gov.uk)**

**Please note that all comments will be made publicly available.**

## What will happen to your views?

Your views on the Green Infrastructure Strategy will be used to help shape the final draft which is due to be adopted later in 2012.

**If you have supplied email address, the Council will communicate with you through email unless you request otherwise.**

## Your contact details

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**Signature:**..... **Date:** ...../...../2012

**If you would like help completing this form or need more copies, please ring the Planning Policy & Environment Group on 01225 477548**  
**[www.bathnes.gov.uk/greeninfrastructure](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/greeninfrastructure)**