

# **Biodiversity Report for Period Ending 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026**

March 2026

Serving people, Improving lives

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## 1. Introduction

Gedling Borough is located in the heart of Nottinghamshire, bordering Sherwood Forest to the north and the River Trent to the south-east. The borough has a distinctive mix of urban and rural areas, covering an area of 120 km<sup>2</sup>. Gedling Borough spans across three National Character Areas (NCAs); the Southern Magnesium NCA, Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA and Sherwood NCA, each of which is characterised by different natural habitats and terrain. Within our borough we have a number of sites identified in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham as areas of particular importance to biodiversity, including five Local Nature Reserves (LNRS) and six Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) located either partly or wholly on Gedling Borough Council land.

As a public authority, Gedling Borough Council must comply with the ‘Biodiversity Duty’<sup>1</sup>, introduced by the Environment Act<sup>2</sup>. To comply with this duty, we must:

1. Consider what we can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on these considerations.
3. Act to deliver our policies and achieve our objectives.

We completed our first consideration of actions to take for biodiversity by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, as required by the Biodiversity Duty, by looking at each of our functions and determining opportunities and actions that could be taken to conserve and enhance biodiversity in Gedling Borough. Details of the actions, policies and objectives that have resulted from these considerations are provided within Section 2 of this report.

As part of our ‘Biodiversity Duty’, we are required to publish a report within 12 weeks of the end of each ‘Biodiversity Duty’ reporting period. The first period ended on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. Subsequent periods will cover the 5 years following the end of the previous reporting period. This report covers the period from our first consideration of our biodiversity duty, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.



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<sup>1</sup> Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (2025). *Complying with the biodiversity duty*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty>

<sup>2</sup> *Environment Act 2021*, c. 30. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents>

## 2. Our Policies, Objectives and Actions

### 2.1. Gedling Plan

The Gedling Plan<sup>3</sup> sets out the vision and priorities for Gedling Borough which includes in a summarised form:

- Economy - encouraging and supporting healthy businesses; and supporting the visitor economy;
- Community - enabling resilient communities;
- Place - enabling a safe attractive, clean Borough that plays its part in tackling the climate emergency; and
- The Council - ensuring the Council is a healthy place to work.

These priorities are mutually inclusive and are to be addressed holistically. Environment and climate change are addressed under the “Place” priority for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment including waterways, parks and open spaces habitats and wildlife. This aim is to be addressed through the Council’s policies and strategies and individual Service Plans for departments.

### 2.2. Local Plan

The adopted Local Plan comprises Part 1 - Aligned Core Strategy<sup>4</sup> for Gedling Borough and Part 2 – Local Planning Document<sup>5</sup> for Gedling Borough, where relevant policies seek to protect and enhance biodiversity and seek biodiversity enhancements in new development where possible. Policies in the Local Plan:

- Ensure that development provides a minimum of 10% open space;
- Seek to protect and enhance biodiversity, wildlife sites, Local Nature Reserves and open space

The Local Plan is supported by the Open Space Provision for New Housing Development Supplementary Planning Document<sup>6</sup> setting out more detail on developer requirements for open space and its management.

### 2.3. Interim Planning Guidance

Following, the enactment of the Environment Act and the coming into force of mandatory BNG targets, Gedling Borough Council adopted Interim Planning Guidance for Biodiversity net gain<sup>7</sup> approved by the Council’s Cabinet at its meeting

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<sup>3</sup> Gedling Borough Council (2023). *Gedling Plan*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/democracy-and-elections/about-us/plans-priority-and-performance/gedling-plan>

<sup>4</sup> Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council and Nottingham City Council (2014). *Greater Nottingham. Broxtowe Borough, Gedling Borough, Nottingham City. Part 1 - Aligned Core Strategy*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/adopted-plan-and-local-policy-documents/aligned-core-strategy-part-1-local-plan>

<sup>5</sup> Gedling Borough Council (2018). *Gedling Borough. Part 2 – Local Planning Document*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/adopted-plan-and-local-policy-documents/local-planning-document-part-2-local-plan>

<sup>6</sup> Gedling Borough Council (2001). *Open Space Provision for New Housing Development Supplementary Planning Document*. Available at: [https://www.gedling.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-09/open\\_space\\_planning\\_guidance\\_document\\_%28final\\_edition%29.pdf](https://www.gedling.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-09/open_space_planning_guidance_document_%28final_edition%29.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Gedling Borough Council (2024). *Gedling Borough Council Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-09/Bio%20Diversity%20Net%20Gain%20Guidance.pdf>

on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024. This Guidance seeks to complement the Environment Act 2021 in relation to achieving Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) from the development of land. The purpose of the Guidance is to provide developers with more certainty particularly in relation to the development management process for the consideration of BNG as part of development proposals, the information needed in support of planning applications and for securing BNG in the long term. A key objective of the Guidance is to:

- Ensure that all qualifying development provides a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain in line with the Environment Act 2021

The Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the period up to 2043. Progress to date includes consultation on an Issues and Options document which sought views on adopting a similar policy to that set out in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan, which will include a biodiversity target for Gedling Borough and ensure that blue and green infrastructure provision also benefits biodiversity. A Publication Draft version is due to be published by July 2026.

## **2.4. Environmental Policy Statement**

In 2019 Gedling Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency. Following this, we published an Environmental Policy Statement<sup>8</sup> in 2023, setting out the Council's commitment to minimise our adverse environmental impacts while enhancing quality of life for people living in Gedling Borough, with a focus on the following core topics:

- Positive Environmental
- Built Environment & Transport
- Energy, Natural Resources & Climate Change
- Environmental Awareness
- Waste Reduction & Recycling
- Blue-Green Infrastructure/Biodiversity
- Procurement & Purchasing

## **2.5. Carbon Management Strategy**

Alongside our declaration of a climate emergency in 2019, Gedling Borough Council Pledged to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. Our Carbon Management Strategy<sup>9</sup>, published in 2022, sets out our key priorities for carbon emission reduction and the actions we will take to achieve our net-zero carbon emission objective.

The plan focuses on the reduction of carbon emissions in six priority areas:

- Home building
- Transport
- Energy generation
- Behavioural change
- Waste reduction and recycling
- Improving infrastructure

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<sup>8</sup> Gedling Bough Council (2023). *Environmental Policy Statement*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/environment-and-climate/environmental-policy-statement>

<sup>9</sup> Gedling Borough Council (2022). *Carbon Management Strategy*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/environment-and-climate/carbon-management-strategy>

Carbon emission reduction will benefit biodiversity in the borough by improving air quality and contributing towards reducing climate change.

## **2.6. Contaminated Land Strategy**

The principal causes of land contamination in the UK are past industrial development and waste management. Common contaminants include tars, heavy metals, organic compounds, mining materials and landfill waste.

Gedling Borough Council's Contaminated Land Strategy<sup>10</sup> details the problems of land contamination within Gedling Borough and sets out our aims, objectives, actions and timescales for the inspection of land within the borough, under regulations inserted into the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Amongst the aims of the strategy is the protection of designated ecosystems.

The Strategy employs a five-stage process to identify, prioritise and then inspect potentially contaminated sites. Receptor priorities for inspection in order are:

1. To protect human health.
2. To protect controlled waters.
3. To protect designated ecosystems.
4. To prevent damage to property and designated historic sites.

The Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) expect that the vast majority of Contaminated Land will be remediated via the planning system. As part of our planning process, our Scientific Officer is consulted on all relevant planning applications, to ensure that contaminated land is identified and remediation measures conditioned, where required.

## **2.7. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Air Quality strategy**

Gedling Borough is covered by the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Air Quality Strategy<sup>11</sup>, which was created with the aim to control and protect air quality throughout the county. The objectives of this strategy are as follows:

- Place Making and Development for Good Air Quality.
- Enable the Shift to Zero and Low Emission Transport to Reduce Emissions.
- Reduce, Minimise and Prevent Emissions from Industrial, Commercial, Agricultural and Domestic Sources and activity.
- Engagement and Communication for Behaviour Change.

The aims of the policy are “To reduce average concentrations of nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate matter in Nottinghamshire (which will ultimately lead to a reduction in Air Quality Management Areas in Nottinghamshire)” and “To reduce the estimated proportion of disease and deaths attributable to air pollution (encompassing fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and other air pollutants)”. Meeting these aims will reduce air quality impacts on the natural environment and local ecosystems within Gedling Borough. Gedling Borough Council's Air Quality Annual Status Reports are produced in alignment with this strategy.

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<sup>10</sup> Gedling Borough Council (2024). *Contaminated Land Strategy*. Available at <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/community-and-consultation/environmental-health/contaminated-land>

<sup>11</sup> *Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Air Quality Strategy 2020-2030*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/community-and-consultation/environmental-health/air-pollution-monitoring-and-reporting>

## 2.8. Green Space Strategy 2021 - 2026

Prepared within the context of the Gedling Plan 2020 – 2023, our Green Space Strategy 2021-2026<sup>12</sup> seeks to protect and improve Gedling Borough’s accessible parks and open spaces and to provide a strategic vision. A key part of the vision is to promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the Borough’s biodiversity. It also provides a robust evidence base for making development decisions and negotiating planning obligations with developers.

This strategy includes a specific objective to “Protect the biodiversity of the many habitats found in the borough’s urban and rural green spaces” and sets out a series of actions and the timescales for implementation. Some of these actions are summarised in section 2.10.

## 2.9. Waste and Recycling Policy

The Gedling Borough Council Waste & Recycling Policy<sup>13</sup> aims to promote a sustainable environment through the following objectives:

- Provide an attractive and sustainable local environment that local people can enjoy.
- Promote and protect the environment by minimising pollution and waste and becoming carbon neutral.

Relevant policy aims include increasing rates of recycling and minimising the carbon impact of the Waste Service, including fleet mileage and route optimisation

## 2.10. Actions up to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Section 40 NERC (2006) Act inserted by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021 came into force in January 2023 imposing a duty on local authorities to consider what action they may take to further the biodiversity objective which is to be reported on a regular basis. Table 1. below summaries the actions taken within the 1st January 2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 reporting period.

Table 1. Biodiversity Duty Actions up to January 2026

Action	Outcome
Gedling Plan priorities for the environment, protection and enhancement of the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Included in Service plans</li></ul>

<sup>12</sup> Gedling Borough Council (2021). *Gedling Borough Council's Green Space Strategy 2021*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/leisure-culture-and-parks/parks-and-green-spaces/green-space-strategy>

<sup>13</sup> Gedling Borough Council (2022). *Waste & Recycling Policy*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/waste-and-recycling-policy>

<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<p>Collaboration between Council Services to manage and maintain green space and secure biodiversity net gain through the planning process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New ecologist post established and shared between Planning Development Management and Parks and Street Care</li> <li>• Production of this report has strengthened links between departments</li> <li>• Monitoring systems established</li> </ul>
<p>Provision of more detailed planning guidance for Gedling Borough following the coming into force of the Environment Act and mandatory BNG.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of Interim Planning Guidance for BNG completed</li> </ul>
<p>Ensure that all qualifying development provides a minimum of 10% BNG in line with the Environment Act and Interim Planning Policy Guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-going through the development management process</li> </ul>
<p>Ensure that qualifying development provides new open space in line with the Local Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-going through the development management process</li> </ul>
<p>Implement policies in the Local Plan to protect and enhance biodiversity, wildlife sites, Local Nature Reserves and open space</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-going through the development management process</li> </ul>
<p>Preparation of new local plan commenced to include policies on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protection and enhancement of biodiversity, wildlife sites, Local Nature Reserves and open space</li> <li>• Blue and green infrastructure provision</li> <li>• Biodiversity net gain including target</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-going through the Local Plan preparation process</li> </ul>
<p>We have used data produced by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) as part of a nationwide dataset of carbon emissions by local authority area for the period 2005-2018 and commissioned the APSE to establish our carbon baseline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These data will be used as a benchmark against which we can measure our carbon emission reductions going forward.</li> </ul>

<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<p>Actions we have taken so far to reduce carbon emissions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacing our diesel fleet to hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO) fuel</li> <li>• Incorporating 'high carbon products' to the list of items unlikely to be accepted by the Council for advertising or sponsorship.</li> <li>• Installing LED lighting and energy efficient windows in the Civic Centre.</li> <li>• Installing 35 EV charging points across 10 council car parks with more planned.</li> <li>• Installing solar panels at several council-owned buildings.</li> <li>• Creating a solar park at Gedling Country Park that provides renewable energy to over 1,500 properties</li> <li>• Planting over 4,000 new trees across the borough.</li> <li>• Creating wildflower areas in our parks.</li> <li>• Promoting &amp; encouraging active travel by installing secure cycle lockers at Redhill Leisure Centre &amp; Arnot Hill Park.</li> <li>• Fully funding energy efficiency measures for 53 homes in the borough.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced carbon emissions across the borough.</li> </ul>
<p>Contaminated land assessment within the borough continues. Planning Applications reviewed to ensure adequate land contamination surveys have been completed and necessary remediation work conditioned for approved applications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce land contamination across the borough, protecting controlled waters and designated ecosystems.</li> </ul>
<p>Air pollution monitoring and reporting conducted in accordance with the Environment Act 1995 and the National Air Quality Regulations 2000 the Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2002</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring allows comparison against objective levels</li> <li>• Annual reporting tracks actions and progress against objectives.</li> </ul>

<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Work with 'Friends of' volunteer groups to maintain and enhance our Local Nature Reserves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitats within Local Nature Reserves maintained and enhanced for biodiversity.</li> </ul>
Act on national guidance and best practice guidelines, e.g., DEFRA hedge cutting principals and review the specification accordingly in relation to aspects such as habitat piles from cuttings for invertebrates, reptiles and small mammals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide safe nesting and foraging habitat for birds and shelter for reptiles, amphibians and small mammals.</li> </ul>
Where applicable, analyse grass cutting regimes and machinery used, review changes to accommodate best practice to encourage biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase biodiversity in grassland habitats.</li> <li>Provide additional foraging habitat for pollinator species.</li> <li>Provide habitat for birds, small mammals, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles.</li> </ul>
Audit current practices to determine where pesticides are being used, for what purposes and which chemicals are used. Particular attention should be paid to fine turf areas, rose gardens and hard surfaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce harm to biodiversity by reducing pesticide use.</li> </ul>
Over 4000 trees planted across the Borough through the Tree's for Climate Scheme and Urban Tree Challenge Fund during the reporting period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased tree coverage in the Borough and contribute to the aims of The Gedling Plan, Carbon Management Strategy and the Greenwood Community Forest - Forest Plan 2020 – 2050<sup>14</sup></li> </ul>
Ecological surveys commenced in Gedling Country Park Local Nature Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess impacts of habitat management and land use since surveys last undertaken</li> <li>Collect data on the valuable habitats and species present within the park</li> <li>Inform revision of the park's ecological management plan, to conserve and enhance biodiversity within the park</li> </ul>

<sup>14</sup> Greenwood Community Forest (2020) *Forest Plan 2020 – 2050*. Available at: [http://icm.greenwoodforest.org.uk/assets/Helping%20Greenwood%20Forest%20Plan%20\(2025-2050\)%20Full%20Version.pdf](http://icm.greenwoodforest.org.uk/assets/Helping%20Greenwood%20Forest%20Plan%20(2025-2050)%20Full%20Version.pdf)

## **3. How the Council has Considered Other Strategies**

### **3.1. Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham**

The LNRS for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire<sup>15</sup> was published in November 2025, with preparation work taking place for much of the reporting period. Gedling Borough Council has worked closely with the Responsible Authority leading on the LNRS, Nottinghamshire County Council. As one of the Supporting Authorities, Gedling Borough have collaborated and cooperated in the preparation of the LNRS. Gedling Borough Council is represented on the Strategic Oversight Group, who are responsible for the monitoring and production of the LNRS; to ensure that there is buy-in from key stakeholders; and that the LNRS meets strategic priorities for Nottinghamshire.

There is a legal duty for local planning authorities to have regard to the LNRS in our planning policies and decisions, and in the fulfilment of our Biodiversity Duty.

The LNRS will provide part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan and set out priorities for determining how the Local Plan should contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural environment. The priorities and measures of the LNRS are now considered in all planning decisions. Where a planning application is subject to mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain, the strategic significance guidance for areas with a published LNRS is also now applied. Training has been delivered to all Planning Officers to support this.

### **3.2. Biodiversity Net Gain Framework for Nottinghamshire**

The Council has collaborated with partners, including all Nottinghamshire Councils, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England, as part of the BNG Working Group for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, to collectively produce the Biodiversity Net Gain Framework for Nottinghamshire<sup>16</sup>. This provides a consistent planning framework for implementing BNG across Nottinghamshire and has been used to inform updates to our local planning application validation requirements<sup>17</sup>.

### **3.3. Greater Nottingham Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy**

Gedling Borough Council, as part of the Greater Nottingham Planning Partnership, has participated in the preparation of the Greater Nottingham Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy. This strategy provides a detailed evidence base concerning existing strategic Blue and Green Infrastructure (BGI) assets and networks which should be protected, their functions and connectivity within Greater Nottingham and beyond. Critically, this strategy will inform the distribution and location of strategic

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<sup>15</sup> *Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (2025)*. Available at: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/local-nature-recovery-strategy-for-nottinghamshire>

<sup>16</sup> BNG Working Group for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham (2024). *A Biodiversity Net Gain Framework for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham*. Available at: <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/cu0jjrr/final-nottingham-and-nottinghamshire-bng-framework-october-2024.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> Gedling Borough Council (2025). *Local Requirements List*. Available at: <https://www.gedling.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/development-management-and-planning-applications/submit-planning-application/local-requirements-list>

development and the delivery of high quality BGI across Greater Nottingham, ensuring that strategic BGI and ecological networks are protected, created and enhanced, indicating where development should be sensitively managed for environmental reasons.

The Greater Nottingham BGI study identifies strategic and local corridors and provides part of the evidence base for informing local plan preparation and a basis for guiding planning decisions relating to developer contributions towards the provision of new BGI.

This strategy will inform the emerging Local Plan and facilitate contributions towards improved blue and green infrastructure focussing on the network of strategic and local blue and green infrastructure corridors within the Council's administrative boundaries and beyond.

### **3.4. Local Biodiversity Action Plan**

The Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan<sup>18</sup> (LBAP) identifies species and habitats of conservation concern in Nottinghamshire and sets out action plans to improve the conservation status of these habitats and species within Nottinghamshire. The LBAP has been produced and regularly updated by the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group, of which Gedling Borough Council is a member. Gedling Borough Council seeks opportunities to deliver against the action plans of the LBAP in the management of our land and considers impacts to the habitats and species identified in the LBAP as part of the planning process.

### **3.5. Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping**

The Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Project<sup>19</sup> includes a Biodiversity Opportunities Map for Gedling Borough (2021). This work was undertaken to support Gedling Borough Council in carrying out its services and functions to benefit biodiversity where relevant and also to underpin the work of the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group and implementation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Prior to the adoption of the LNRS it was also used to identify strategically significant sites which would benefit from the "Formally identified in a local strategy" (High category) multiplier in the statutory biodiversity metric.

The biodiversity mapping has informed the preparation of the LNRS, Greater Nottingham Blue and Green Infrastructure strategy and was used to help implement actions set out in the Gedling Borough Council Green Space Strategy.

### **3.6. Protected Sites Strategies**

The Environment Act 2021 provided Natural England with the Power to prepare and publish Protected Sites strategies for 'a) improving the conservation and management of a protected site, and b) managing the impact of plans, projects or other activities...on the conservation and management of the protected site'. There are currently no Protected Sites Strategies covering Gedling Borough.

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<sup>18</sup> Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group. *Nottinghamshire's Local Biodiversity Action Plan*. Available at: <https://nottsbag.org.uk/lbap/>

1. <sup>19</sup> Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group. *Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping*. Available at: <https://nottsbag.org.uk/projects/biodiversity-opportunity-mapping/>

## **4. Future Actions**

### **4.1. Gedling Local Development Plan**

We are currently reviewing our existing Core Strategy and Local Plan in order to prepare the new Gedling Local Development Plan (GLDP) for future development. This plan will replace our existing Local Plan documents, following its planned adoption in spring 2028. In drawing up the new GLDP, we will have regard to the LNRS and our Biodiversity Duty by identifying any opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity in the borough and contribute to the priorities of the LNRS.

### **4.2. Carbon Management Strategy**

As part of our Carbon Management Strategy we have multiple ongoing actions which will continue through the next reporting period and contribute towards our pledge of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. These include:

- Developing & implementing minimum energy standards in commercial and domestic properties
- Identifying low carbon management measures & energy efficiency technologies
- Delivering effective carbon monitoring & reporting of scope 1 (direct emissions), scope 2 and scope 3 (indirect emissions)
- Continually improving the energy efficiency of the council's existing building stock and its services
- Transitioning from fossil fuel to electric vehicles
- Reducing emissions from Council fleet & Private Vehicle Hire
- Expanding renewable energy in the borough
- Increasing local and low carbon solutions
- Encouraging environmental/sustainable awareness
- Minimising the borough's waste and its impact on the environment
- Carbon Offsetting

### **4.3. Contaminated Land Strategy**

Our Contaminated Land Strategy is subject to periodic review. The next full review of the Strategy is due to take place in 2030; however, additional revisions may be made if a need to significantly update the strategy is identified before this date.

### **4.4. Gedling Borough Council Green Space Strategy 2021**

As we continue to implement the Action Plan laid out in this strategy, the following key actions will be a focus over the coming reporting period:

- Undertake biodiversity surveys for all applicable sites and update the specification to account for any changes. Work to reduce sources of harm to habitats and associated species whilst creating and developing new habitat sites, including green corridors.
- Review management plans for Bestwood, Burntstump and Gedling Country Parks. Management statements for all other countryside sites, LNR's, SSSIs and SINC's with action plans for delivery. Consult and involve relevant local groups regularly on proposed management.

As the current Green Space Strategy runs from 2021-2026, a full review and update of the strategy will be conducted during the next reporting period. The LNRS will be considered in this update, and we will use this opportunity to incorporate the priorities and measures laid out in the LNRS into the Action Plan for our Parks and Green Spaces.

#### **4.5. Leisure Transformation Programme**

Gedling Borough Council are currently in the early stages of a new Leisure Transformation project - Carlton Active. For Carlton Active, climate, sustainability and biodiversity considerations are embedded as core design principles. A Climate Impact Assessment has recently been completed for the scheme, which sets out a clear commitment to delivering a modern, low-impact and energy-efficient building to replace ageing and inefficient leisure facilities. Key elements include a high-performance building fabric, energy-efficient mechanical and electrical systems, LED lighting throughout, and compliance with (and where possible exceeding) current Building Regulations. The design approach prioritises reducing operational energy demand and long-term carbon emissions, alongside resilience to future climate conditions.

The scheme also seeks to incorporate low and zero-carbon technologies where viable, alongside opportunities for heat recovery, particularly relevant in wet leisure environments. Sustainable materials and procurement practices will be considered through the UK Leisure Framework, with an emphasis on durability, embodied carbon reduction and responsible sourcing.

From a site and landscape perspective, the project is exploring sustainable drainage solutions to manage surface water, reduce flood risk and improve water quality, alongside opportunities to enhance biodiversity through native and climate-resilient planting. The wider site layout also provides scope to strengthen green infrastructure.

In addition, as the Carlton Active scheme progresses, biodiversity considerations will be embedded across the planning, construction and operational stages of the project. This will include assessing biodiversity net gain requirements at planning stage, the use of native and climate-resilient planting within the wider landscape strategy, sustainable drainage solutions that support surface water management and habitat creation, and ecologically sensitive external lighting to minimise impacts on wildlife.

During construction, environmental protection measures will be secured through a Construction Environmental Management Plan, and post-completion the building's environmental performance will be monitored to support continuous improvement. Carlton Active is intended to act as a benchmark for future leisure developments within the borough, embedding biodiversity and climate resilience into the wider Leisure Transformation Programme.

#### **4.6. Biodiversity Monitoring**

We will continue to collect monitoring data for eligible planning permissions requiring biodiversity net gain and monitor BNG gain sites within our borough for which we have a monitoring agreement.

In order to monitor progress toward achieving the priorities of the LNRS, we will periodically provide Nottinghamshire County Council, as the Responsible Authority, with updates on Gedling Borough Council projects which contribute towards achieving these priorities.

## **5. Biodiversity Net Gain Information**

### **5.1. Actions To Meet Biodiversity Net Gain Obligations**

In order to meet our Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) obligations, Gedling Borough Council have taken the following actions during this reporting period:

- Publication of our Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance document in April 2024, to provide developers with more certainty, particularly in relation to the development management process, for the consideration of BNG as part of development proposals, the information needed in support of planning applications and for securing BNG in the long term.
- Production of template section 106 agreements, to legally secure off-site gains and monitoring obligations for significant on-site gains where required.
- Production and publication of a BNG monitoring fee structure, to ensure that fees charged are proportionate to the Council's anticipated costs.
- Recruitment of an Ecology Officer with knowledge and experience of the BNG process, to review all planning which might be subject to mandatory BNG and to BNG documents submitted with planning applications and at discharge of conditions stage.
- Planning Policy, Development Management and Legal team members have attended external training courses to ensure they are familiar with BNG legislation and requirements. The Council's Ecology Officer has also delivered inhouse BNG training to the development management team, to assist them in the validation and processing of planning applications where mandatory BNG may apply.
- Development Management have delivered two BNG presentations to our developers' forum to help our local developers understand BNG, statutory and local BNG validation requirements and the Council's response to recent government BNG consultations.
- Provided a response to the government's recent Consultation on improving the implementation of BNG for minor-medium and brownfield development.
- Collected data for planning applications where mandatory BNG applies, those which are exempt and applications with approved gain plans, as well as detailed BNG data for applications with approved gain plans.
- Put in place a system to track BNG gain plan implementation and monitoring requirements using the Exacom Obligation Suite web-based application.

### **5.2. Biodiversity Gains from Approved Gain Plans**

During the reporting period, only one Biodiversity Gain Plan was approved in Gedling Borough. This Plan has not yet been implemented, but on completion, it is expected to achieve an on-site loss of 0.02 habitat units and an off-site gain of 0.03 habitat units giving a total gain of 0.01 habitat units. This gain plan does not include any hedgerow or watercourse units.

Full quantitative data for Gedling Borough Council's Biodiversity duty: biodiversity net gain information is provided in Appendix A.

### **5.3. How We Will Meet Our BNG Obligations in the Next Reporting Period**

Over the next reporting period we will continue to review all planning applications which might be subject to mandatory BNG and continue to review BNG documents submitted with planning applications and discharge of BNG conditions applications. We will also continue to use Exacom to track applications BNG gain plan implementation and monitoring requirements over the next reporting period.

Our Ecology Officer will review all Gain Plans, Habitat Management and Monitoring Plans and monitoring reports, and conduct site visits as necessary to ensure that habitats are created, enhanced and maintained in accordance with approved Gain Plans for off-site and significant on-site gains.

We will continue to keep abreast of any changes in BNG process guidance or legislation. Internal policies and processes will be updated and additional training provided to staff members to ensure that we continue to act in accordance with the most recent guidance and legislation.

## Appendix A – BNG Quantitative Data

Table 2. Eligible planning permissions granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requiring biodiversity net gain

<b>ID</b>	<b>Consented applications requiring net gains</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Proportion</b>
A	Total number of planning permissions granted that require biodiversity net gain in the reporting period	26	not applicable
B	Total number of planning permissions granted in the reporting period where an exemption to the biodiversity net gain condition applies	367	not applicable
C	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period	1	not applicable
D	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through on-site units only	0	0
E	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through off-site units only	1	100%
F	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through statutory credits only	0	0
G	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site and off-site units	0	0
H	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site units and statutory credits	0	0
I	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of off-site units and statutory credits	0	0
J	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site, off-site units and statutory credits	0	0

Table 3. Overall expected gains and losses across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period

<b>ID</b>	<b>Overall expected gains and losses</b>	<b>Total or Average</b>
A	Total number of pre-development biodiversity units approved on-site broken down by area/hedgerow/watercourse	0.05/0/0
B	Total number of post-development biodiversity units approved on-site broken down by area/hedgerow/watercourse	0.03/0/0
C	Total net unit change in biodiversity units, on-site broken down by area/hedgerow/watercourse	-0.02/0/0
D	Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, on-site	-42.02
E	Total number of baseline biodiversity units approved off-site broken down by area/hedgerow/watercourse	0.01/0/0
F	Total number of post-intervention biodiversity units approved off-site broken down by area/hedgerow/watercourse	0.04/0/0
G	Total net unit change in biodiversity units, off-site broken down by area/hedgerow/watercourse	0.03/0/0
H	Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, off-site	320.17
I	Total number of biodiversity units offset using statutory credits broken down by area/hedgerow/watercourse	0/0/0
J	Total net unit change in biodiversity units (including any units offset using credits)	0/0/0
K	Average percentage (%) change (including statutory credits)	0/0/0

Table 4. Impact on Irreplaceable Habitat

<b>ID</b>	<b>Impact on irreplaceable habitat</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Proportion</b>
A	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period where the on-site change negatively impacts irreplaceable habitats	0	0

Table 5. Location of off-site biodiversity units

<b>ID</b>	<b>Location of off-site biodiversity units</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Proportion</b>
A	Number of off-site biodiversity units located inside LPA boundary or NCA of impact site.	0	0
B	Number of off-site biodiversity units located outside LPA or NCA of impact site, but in neighbouring LPA or NCA	0.03	0.03
C	Number of off-site biodiversity units located outside of LPA or NCA of impact site and neighbouring LPA or NCA	0	0

Table 6. Results of monitoring biodiversity gains

<b>ID</b>	<b>Results of monitoring biodiversity gains where the LPA is part of the legal agreement</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Proportion (%)</b>
A	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans including the delivery of 'significant' on-site gains	0	0
B	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements and habitat delivery expectations for 'significant' on-site gains	N/A	N/A
C	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements but not meeting habitat delivery expectations for 'significant' on-site gains	N/A	N/A
D	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are failing to meet monitoring requirements for 'significant' on-site gains	N/A	N/A
E	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans where the status of monitoring requirements is unknown for 'significant' on-site gains	N/A	N/A
F	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans including the delivery of off-site gains, where the LPA are responsible for monitoring.	0	0
G	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements and habitat delivery expectations for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring	N/A	N/A
H	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements but not meeting habitat delivery expectations for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring	N/A	N/A
I	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are failing to meet monitoring requirements for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring	N/A	N/A

<b>ID</b>	<b>Results of monitoring biodiversity gains where the LPA is part of the legal agreement</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Proportion (%)</b>
J	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans where the status of monitoring requirements is unknown for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring	N/A	N/A

<b>ID</b>	<b>Enforcement actions taken in the reporting period</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Proportion</b>
L	Number of enforcement actions taken during the reporting period associated with Biodiversity Net Gain policy	0	0

<b>ID</b>	<b>Tracking monitoring of biodiversity gains</b>	<b>Free Text</b>
K	Please describe how you have collected information on monitoring (e.g., use of digital software to collect and analyse monitoring data/ manual checking of monitoring reports/ internal monitoring system etc.	N/A this year, but Exacom software will be used in future

Table 7. Composition of biodiversity gains - areas

<b>ID</b>	<b>Habitat Type - Area</b>	<b>Total biodiversity units at baseline</b>	<b>Total hectares at baseline</b>	<b>Total biodiversity units post - development</b>	<b>Total hectares post - development</b>	<b>Net change in biodiversity units</b>	<b>Net change in hectares</b>
A	Cropland	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00
B	Grassland	0.02	0.01	0.07	0.02	0.05	0.01
C	Heathland and Scrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
D	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E	Sparsely Vegetated Land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	Urban	0.03	0.11	0.00	0.10	-0.03	0.00
G	Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
H	Woodland and Forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<b>ID</b>	<b>Habitat Type - Area</b>	<b>Total biodiversity units at baseline</b>	<b>Total hectares at baseline</b>	<b>Total biodiversity units post - development</b>	<b>Total hectares post - development</b>	<b>Net change in biodiversity units</b>	<b>Net change in hectares</b>
I	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
J	Coastal Saltmarsh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
K	Rocky Shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
L	Coastal Lagoons	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
M	Intertidal Hard Structures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
N	Watercourse footprint	0.00	0.00	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
O	Individual Trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	0.06	0.12	0.07	0.12	0.01	0.01