



Broxtowe
Borough
COUNCIL

Broxtowe Borough Council

Biodiversity Duty Report

Reporting Period:

12 February 2024 to the 31 December 2025

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Section 1: Policies, Objectives and Actions

1.1 Council Policies and Objectives Relevant to Biodiversity

Broxtowe Borough Council (BBC) has set a range of policies and objectives to comply with the strengthened biodiversity duty introduced under the Environment Act 2021.

Part 2 Local Plan (2019)

The Broxtowe Part 2 Local Plan contains biodiversity-related policies, including:

- **Policy 26: Green Infrastructure** – requires development to protect and enhance biodiversity assets and contribute to ecological connectivity.
- **Policy 31: Biodiversity Assets** – protects designated sites, priority habitats, and species; requires ecological assessments and mitigation hierarchy.
- **Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridors** – strengthening habitat networks, especially along the River Erewash, Nottingham Canal, and urban green spaces.

Aligned Core Strategy (ACS, 2014)

As part of the Greater Nottingham Growth Point authorities, the ACS includes:

- **Policy 16: Green Infrastructure** – supporting habitat connectivity on a sub-regional scale.
- **Policy 17: Biodiversity** – requiring conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity.

Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan (Draft)

The emerging GN Strategic Plan emphasises:

- Mandatory **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)** integration.
- Enhancing long-term ecological networks across Broxtowe, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe.
- Aligning policies with the Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy to deliver area-based recovery.

Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Broxtowe contributed to the production of the LNRS which was produced by Nottinghamshire County Council.

The LNRS establishes:

- Priority areas for nature recovery.
- Locally important species/habitats.
- Opportunities for habitat creation and enhancement.

1.2 Actions Taken to Enhance Biodiversity

Broxtowe Borough Council has undertaken a broad programme of actions to enhance biodiversity. Key actions include:

Planning and Development Management

- Application of the mitigation hierarchy in assessing planning applications.
- Securing ecological enhancements through planning conditions (e.g., native planting, bat/bird boxes, SuDS).
- Requirement for Ecological Assessments for major development, consistent with Part 2 Local Plan Policies 26 and 31.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Preparation

- Development of internal BNG validation procedures.
- Purchasing specific software to enable the consideration and recording of BNG.
- Employing an ecologist to provide expert advice.

Habitat Management and Enhancement on Council-Owned Land

- Improved management for parks and open spaces (reduced mowing, wildflower areas, native hedgerow planting).
- Canal corridor habitat restoration (Nottingham Canal SSSI/SINCs).
- Tree planting and woodland management through the Broxtowe Green Futures programme.

Partnership and Community Actions

- Support for community groups delivering local nature projects.
- Participation in LNRS development workshops and data sharing.

Section 2: Consideration of Relevant Strategies

The reporting guidance requires councils to explain how they have considered and incorporated Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS), Protected Site Strategies, and Species Conservation Strategies into their work.

2.1 Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Broxtowe Borough Council has:

- Ensured that future plans and applications reflect LNRS spatial priorities, strengthening ecological corridors across administrative boundaries.
- Used LNRS data to identify opportunities for habitat creation on council land, informing future management plans.

2.2 Species Conservation Strategies

Where applicable, the Council has:

- Considered species strategies provided by Natural England for protected species found in the borough (e.g., great crested newts, bats).
- Reviewed ecological survey requirements to align with conservation strategy guidance.

2.3 Protected Site Strategies

The Council has:

- Ensured development proposals affecting SSSIs, LNRs, and SINCs align with requirements for protecting designated sites (Part 2 Local Plan Policy 31).
- Worked with partners to manage pressures on sensitive sites, particularly along the Erewash Valley green corridor.

Section 3: Future Actions (Next 5 Years)

Over the next five years, Broxtowe Borough Council plans to:

- Deliver measurable Biodiversity Net Gain outcomes across the borough and maintain a BNG register.
- Expand ecological networks in line with the Nottinghamshire LNRS recovery zones.
- Update biodiversity-related planning guidance following adoption of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan.
- Embed nature recovery objectives across corporate strategies and service areas.
- Enhance canal, watercourse, and wetland habitats.
- Develop long-term management plans for council green spaces to maximise biodiversity value.
- Strengthen partnership work with neighbouring authorities and local groups.
- Support landowners to deliver LNRS-aligned habitat improvements.
- Provide public engagement programmes to improve ecological awareness.
- Improve data collection through using specific software.
- Establish a standardised monitoring process.
- Track and report progress in accordance with statutory requirements.

Section 3.5: Quantitative Data

3.5.1 Eligible Planning Permissions granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requiring biodiversity net gain

Table 1

ID	Consented applications requiring net gains	Number	Proportion (%)
A	Total number of planning permissions granted that require biodiversity net gain in the reporting period	18	Not applicable
B	Total number of planning permissions granted in the reporting period where an exemption to the biodiversity net gain condition applies	111	Not applicable
C	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period	5	Not applicable
D	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through on-site units only	3	60.00
E	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through off-site units only	0	0.00
F	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through statutory credits only	0	0.00
G	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site and off-site units	1	20.00
H	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site units and statutory credits	1	20.00
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	0.00
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	0.00

3.5.2 Overall expected gains and losses across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period

Table 2

ID	Overall expected gains and losses	Area habitat	Hedgerow	Watercourse
A	Total number of pre-development biodiversity units approved on-site	11.72	0.28	0.00
B	Total number of post-development biodiversity units approved on-site	8.78	0.67	0.00
C	Total net unit change in biodiversity units, on-site	-2.94	0.39	0.00
D	Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, on-site	-25.09	136.36	0.00
E	Total number of baseline biodiversity units approved off-site	1.19	0.00	0.00
F	Total number of post-intervention biodiversity units approved off-site	5.01	0.00	0.00
G	Total net unit change in biodiversity units, off-site	3.82	0.00	0.00
H	Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, off-site	320.17	0.00	0.00
I	Total number of biodiversity units offset using statutory credits	0.63	0.00	0.00
J	Total net unit change in biodiversity units (including any units offset using credits)	1.51	0.39	0.00
K	Average percentage (%) change (including statutory credits)	11.67	136.36	0.00

3.5.3 Impact on Irreplaceable Habitat

Table 3

ID	Impact on irreplaceable habitat	Total	Proportion (%)
A	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period where the on-site change negatively impacts irreplaceable habitats	0	0.00

3.5.4 Location of off-site biodiversity units

Table 4

ID	Location of off-site biodiversity units	Total	Proportion (%)
A	Number of off-site biodiversity units located inside LPA boundary or NCA of impact site	5.01	100.00
B	Number of off-site biodiversity units located outside LPA or NCA of impact site, but in neighbouring LPA or NCA	0.00	0.00
C	Number of off-site biodiversity units located outside of LPA or NCA of impact site and neighbouring LPA or NCA	0.00	0.00

3.5.5 Results of monitoring biodiversity gains

Table 5

ID	Results of monitoring biodiversity gains where the LPA is part of the legal agreement	Total	Proportion (%)
A	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans including the delivery of 'significant' on-site gains	4	80.00
B	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements and habitat delivery expectations for 'significant' on-site gains	3	60.00
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	2	40.00
D	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are failing to meet monitoring requirements for 'significant' on-site gains	1	20.00
E	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans where the status of monitoring requirements is unknown for 'significant' on-site gains	-	-
F	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans including the delivery of off-site gains, where the LPA are responsible for monitoring.	-	-

ID	Results of monitoring biodiversity gains where the LPA is part of the legal agreement	Total	Proportion (%)
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	-	-
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	-	-
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	-	-
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	-	-

ID	Enforcement actions taken in the reporting period	Total	Proportion (%)
L	Number of enforcement actions taken during the reporting period associated with Biodiversity Net Gain policy	-	-

Tracking monitoring of biodiversity gains

The data is gathered from Mycelia and from the Council's internal Uniform system. The monitoring data is then reviewed by officers.

3.5.6 Composition of biodiversity gains – areas

Table 6

ID	Habitat Type - Area	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
A	Cropland	1.19	0.52	0.00	0.00	-1.19	-0.52
B	Grassland	7.25	1.54	8.30	1.55	1.05	0.01
C	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.62	0.09	0.62	0.09
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	0.26	0.70	0.30	1.30	0.04	0.60
G	Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
H	Woodland and forest	3.55	0.64	3.77	0.46	0.22	-0.18
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	Not applicable	0.00	Not applicable	0.00	Not applicable	0.00
O	Individual trees	0.66	0.09	0.78	0.22	0.13	0.13
	Total	12.91	3.47	13.79	3.60	0.87	0.14

3.5.7 Composition of biodiversity gains - hedgerows and lines of trees

Table 7

ID	Habitat type - hedgerows and lines of trees	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
A	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C	Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
D	Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E	Species-rich native hedgerow	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G	Native hedgerow with trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
H	Ecologically valuable line of trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I	Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

ID	Habitat type - hedgerows and lines of trees	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
J	Native hedgerow	0.19	0.05	0.59	0.15	0.40	0.11
K	Line of trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
L	Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
M	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	-0.01	-0.01
	Total	0.28	0.14	0.67	0.23	0.39	0.10

3.5.8 Composition of biodiversity gains – watercourses

Table 8

ID	Habitat type - watercourse	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
A	Priority habitat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B	Other rivers and streams	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C	Ditches	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
D	Canals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E	Culvert	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00