



Building
with Nature

Setting the standard for green
infrastructure

info@buildingwithnature.org.uk

Sophie Jones, Building with Nature Programme Manager

Standards Framework

(BwN 2.0)

UK's First Benchmark for Green Infrastructure

In 2018 BwN launched a framework of GI Standards which are free to use and can assist with the planning and development of new places and communities for the benefit of people and wildlife.

In June 2021 BwN launched a refreshed Standards Framework and a GI training product, strengthening support for industry and local authorities to tackle climate, ecological and health emergencies.





How does good quality
GI help to deliver better
development?

Climate emergency

mitigation (reducing carbon)
urban cooling, sequestration

adaptation (responding to
carbon)

SuDS for flood resilience

climate positive behaviours

active travel routes



How does good quality
GI help to deliver better
development?

Ecological emergency
making space for nature

*Landscape scale connectivity
+ Nature Recovery Networks*

*Enhancing quality + Gains for
biodiversity (BNG)*



How does good quality
GI help to deliver better
development?

Health emergency

focusing on outcomes for
people

*Reducing health and social
inequalities*

*Accessible and high-quality
greenspace for everyone*



How does good quality
GI help to deliver better
development?

Green Growth

how do we Build Back Better?

Valuing nature-based solutions

Quality place-making

Building with Nature supporting local authorities

Feedback from our research suggested local authorities are looking for:

1. Better understanding across departments of the value of high-quality GI
2. Better communication across departments to implement delivery
3. Practical tools to help deliver high-quality GI on the ground



The BwN Standards Framework 2.0

12 quality Standards providing a definition of
high-quality green infrastructure

CORE



WELLBEING



WATER



WILDLIFE



Our Standards Board

The Building with Nature framework is overseen by our Standards Board, comprised of key professional bodies, leading experts in green infrastructure and representatives from industry and government across the UK.



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE



**The Scottish
Government**
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



planning advisory service



Environment
Agency



**Taylor
Wimpey**



**Landscape
Institute**
Inspiring great places



The background image shows a modern residential development. In the foreground, there's a wooden bridge over a small pond or water feature. The water reflects the surrounding buildings and trees. The buildings have a mix of dark wood cladding and light-colored brickwork. There are some bare trees in the background, suggesting a cooler season. The overall atmosphere is calm and modern.

We've defined quality

Drawing from evidence and good practice guidance, we have defined high quality green infrastructure at each stage of the development process, from planning and design, through to long-term management and maintenance.

Building with Nature Awards

We offer Awards at both pre- and post-construction stages, to highlight what good looks like at each stage of the green infrastructure lifecycle.

Schemes which are signed off post-completion, will be invited to apply for a Building with Nature National Award.

OUTLINE
planning
application



RESERVED MATTERS
& FULL planning
application



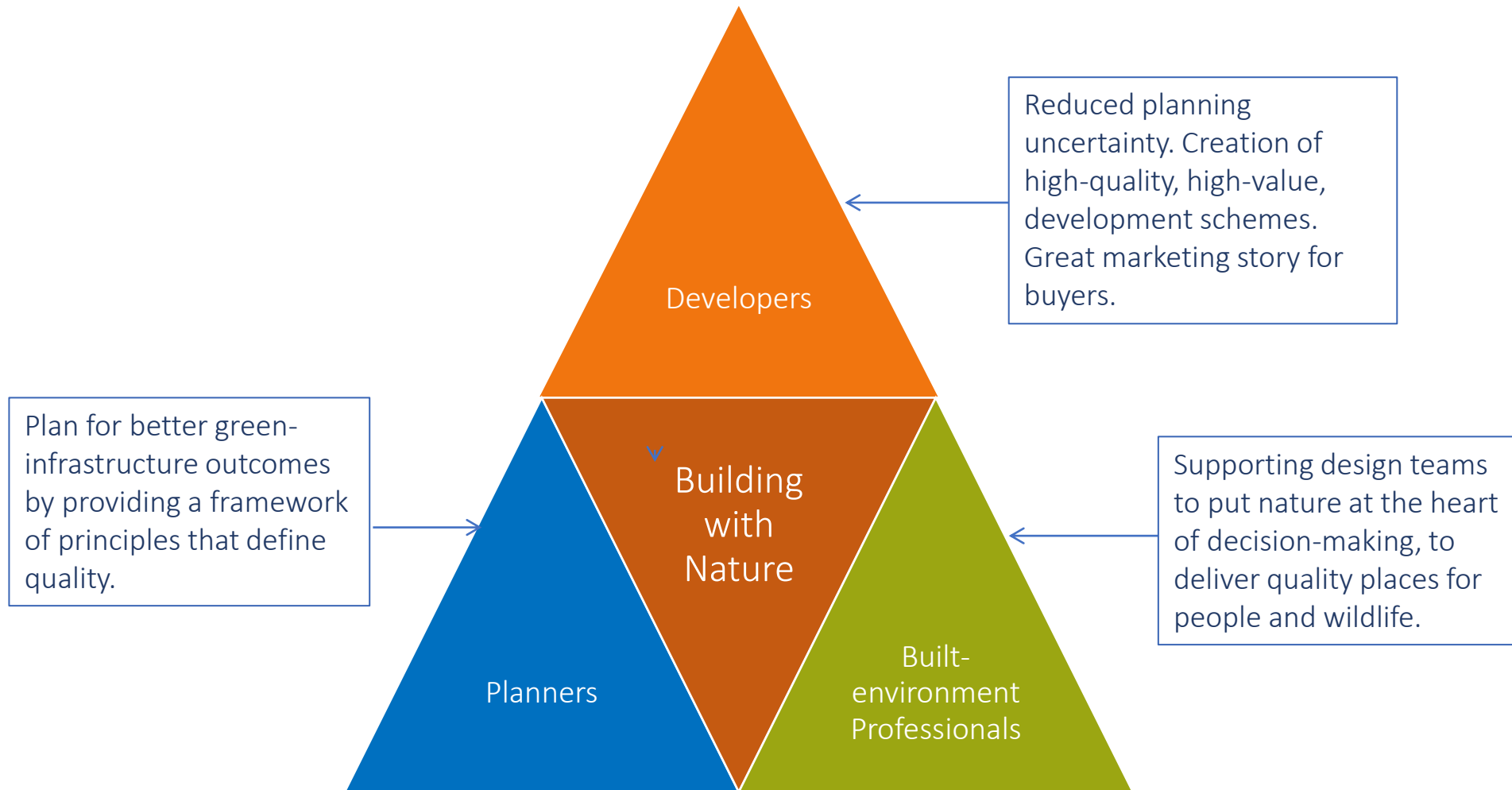
CONSTRUCTED
schemes with
FULL AWARD



We also accredit policy documents to confirm local authorities have clearly defined their requirements for high-quality green infrastructure.



Who is the Benchmark for?





We're doing it

Over 50 projects using BwN to secure high-quality green infrastructure.

The Standards have been developed in partnership with industry and are being used across the UK to support the planning and development of new places and communities.

What can BwN deliver for local authorities?

- An evidence-based and consistent approach to tackling the triple public health, climate and ecological emergencies (including delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain)
- An industry tested GI framework suitable for use in a range of policy documents, including local design guides.





What can BwN deliver for local authorities?

Future proofing local policy frameworks:

- Being one step ahead of the potentially new legislative context with Planning White Paper and the new National design guide.
- If there is a move to a more permissive system, councils will be expected to determine the details, and this could take time.
- Emphasis will be on the use of design guides and codes. BwN Standards are the only UK GI Standards that could be used now as part of a local design standard for GI.

What can BwN deliver for local authorities?

Creating a framework for discussion within teams and with applicants, for considering GI aims, strategies and designs options on a site-by-site basis at an early project stage

West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020-2030



What can BwN deliver for local authorities?

- Clear presentation of a site's green infrastructure offering as part of a planning application.
- Option of external verification of a site's green infrastructure offering e.g. BwN Accreditation for each project stage.
- Offers reassurance to local communities that high-quality GI will be delivered during construction and managed post-construction (i.e. supports enforcement).



What training options does BwN offer local authorities?

Green Infrastructure Training:

- 1-day online workshop for 10-15 participants
- Includes a *free 1-hour webinar for an unlimited number of participants*

BwN Approved Assessor training:

- 2-days online training + 1-day desk-study

BwN Introductory session:

- 1-hour online introductory session, with time for Q&A



Next steps

Visit the Building with Nature website

<https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/training>

Contact Sophie Jones

Email: sophie@buildingwithnature.org.uk

Tel: 07485 307237



Building
with Nature

Thank you

c/o Conservation Centre
Robinswood Hill Country Park
Reservoir Road
Gloucester, GL4 6SX