



Building with Nature: key literature & references

As the first UK green infrastructure (GI) benchmark Building with Nature (BwN) is increasingly being recognised within local and national government and across the built-environment sector as the go-to standards framework for GI. To support the utilization of the BwN Standards in bringing forward high-quality GI in development and local policy, we have compiled an overview of how and where BwN is referenced in key policy documents, academic literature and good practice guidance.

Please note only documents referencing BwN are listed here. For a full list of literature and good practice guidance relating to GI please refer to the BwN User Guide.

1. Planning policy guidance referencing BwN

- a. National policy documents
- b. Local policy documents

2. Good practice guidance referencing BwN

- a. UK
- b. England
- c. Scotland
- d. Wales

3. Academic literature referencing BwN

1. Planning Policy guidance

a. National Policy guidance

[MHCLG National Design Guide 2019](#)

Illustrates how well-designed places can be achieved in practice and forms part of the Government's collection of planning practice guidance. Building with Nature is referenced in this National Design Guide.

[Placemaking Wales: Placemaking Guide 2020](#)

BwN are one of the original signatories to the Placemaking Charter and a core contributor to the development of the Placemaking Guide.

b. Local Policy Guidance

The BwN Standards are increasingly being directly referenced in Local Plans, GI Strategies, Design Guides, SPDs, Pre-App Advice notes, CIL documents and other local policy documents by local authorities seeking

to raise the quality of green infrastructure coming forward in development. Below is a full list of local policy documents that make direct reference to BwN.

BwN also award BwN accreditation to policy documents for those councils seeking independent validation of the quality of their policy in relation to delivery of high-quality GI. Policy documents below that have been accredited by BwN are marked (BwN Policy Award).

Local Plans

[West Dunbartonshire Local Development plan 2](#) (BwN Policy Award)

[Minerals Local Plan, Gloucestershire County Council](#) (BwN Policy Award)

[Gloucester City Council – City Plan \(pre submission\)](#)

[Tewkesbury Borough Council – Borough Plan \(pre submission\)](#)

[Wyre Forest DC – Emerging Local Plan](#)

Policy guidance documents, e.g. strategies

[Essex GI Strategy](#) (BwN Policy Award)

Making Space for Nature Strategy (GI4G2 Strategy)
due to be published in early 2021 – link to follow

[South Gloucestershire GI Strategy](#) emergent

[West of England Joint GI Strategy 2020-2030](#)

Cornwall Council Design Guide (working toward a BwN Policy Award)
due to be published in early 2021 – link to follow

SPDs

[West Cheltenham Cyber Central garden community - Golden Valley SPD](#) (BwN Policy Award)

[Falkirk Council Green Infrastructure and New Development SPG05](#) (DRAFT)

Glasgow North Maryhill TRA masterplan – (working toward a BwN Policy Award)
due to be published in early 2021 – link to follow

[West Oxfordshire District Council Salt Cross AAP \(DRAFT\)](#) (working toward a BwN Policy Award)

Other types of policy documents








































































[Cotswold Pre-App advice Note \(BwN Policy Award\)](#)

2. Good practice guidance

a. UK-wide

[RTPI Guide to climate action tools 2020](#)

BwN is referenced as the only Climate Tool to address all 5 key drivers: Adaptation, Mitigation, Climate justice, Plan making and Development management.

CLIMATE TOOLS		Adaptation	Mitigation	Climate justice	Plan making	Development management
Adaptation Catalyst - supporting adaptation strategies						
BEST - valuing the benefits of blue-green infrastructure						
BlueHealth - collecting information on blue infrastructure						
BREEAM - Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method						
Building with Nature Standards and Accreditation						
Climate Just - highlighting climate disadvantage						
Climate View - carbon neutral transition tool						
Heat Resilient Cities Toolkit						
Natural Capital Planning Tool - implementing environmental net gain						
Neighbourhood Planning in a Climate Emergency						
Overheating Toolkit - mitigating overheating risk in new homes						
Planning for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy: a toolkit for planners						
RESIN - Climate resilient cities and infrastructures						
SCATTER - Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction						
THERMOS - optimising district energy network planning processes						
Transport for New Homes checklist						
Tyndall Carbon Targeter Tool - carbon targets by local authority area						
UKGBC Policy Playbook - driving sustainability in new homes						

[Committee on Climate Change: UK housing: Fit for the future? 2019](#)

BwN offered input into this report and is referenced as offering guidance and standards that can help industry bodies address skills and knowledge gaps.

b. England

[Public Health England: Putting Health into Place: Design, Deliver and Manage 2019](#)

BwN is referenced in the 3rd Putting Health into Place guidance, under Principle 4: Create compact neighbourhoods - Design multi-functional green spaces.

[Public Health England: Improving Access to Greenspace a new review for 2020](#)

Report highlighting new evidence and actions to help local areas consider how good-quality greenspace can support the delivery of health, social, environmental, and economic priorities, at a relatively low cost. BwN is referenced as an example benchmark for defining quality of greenspace.

[Public Health England, TCPA, UWE: Getting Research into Practice: a resource for local authorities on planning healthier places 2021](#)

The TCPA and UWE (University of the West of England) were commissioned by Public Health England to create a suite of resources to help planners and neighbourhood planning groups find and use public health evidence in planning.

In addition, the TCPA, working with UWE and a number of local councils, has produced four detailed guides showing how to find and use health evidence to create specific planning resources. Building with Nature is referenced in the first of these guides:

[Framework for a healthy places supplementary planning document \(SPD\)](#)

c. Scotland

d. Wales

[Placemaking Wales Charter](#) (2020)

BwN supported the development of the charter and is a signatory.

3. Academic literature

[Building with Nature: a new benchmark for green infrastructure](#)

Sinnett, D., Jerome, G., Burgess, S., Smith, N., & Mortlock, R. (2017, September) UWE (University of the West of England)

[Setting the Standard for Green Infrastructure: The Need for, and Features of, a Benchmark in England](#)

Tom Calvert, Danielle Sinnett, Nick Smith, Gemma Jerome, Sarah Burgess & Louise King (2018) Setting the Standard for Green Infrastructure: The Need for, and Features of, a Benchmark in England, Planning Practice & Research, 33:5, 558-573, DOI: [10.1080/02697459.2018.1531580](#)

[Raising the Standard: Developing a benchmark for green infrastructure](#)

Sinnett, D., Jerome, G., Burgess, S., Smith, N., & Mortlock, R. (2018) International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning

[The translation and use of green infrastructure evidence](#)

Tom Calvert, Danielle Sinnett, Nick Smith, Sarah Burgess & Louise King (2018) Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers: Water Management

[A framework for assessing the quality of green infrastructure in the built environment in the UK](#)

Gemma Jerome, Danielle Sinnett, Sarah Burgess, Thomas Calvera, Roger Mortlock. (2019) Urban Forestry and Urban Greening

Understanding the Role of Standards in the Negotiation of a Healthy Built Environment

Callway, R., Pineo, H., Moore, G. (2020) Sustainability