

Environment Act Update

South CEEAC 3 April 2023



Minute Item 47



Environment Act 2021 - Update

At the end of February 2023 the Government published its response to the consultation on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

Summary of key issues for South Oxfordshire:

- Clarification over the types of application that are likely to be excluded from BNG requirements:
 - Householder applications
 - Development below a de-minimis threshold of 25m² or 5 metres for linear features
 - Biodiversity net gain sites
 - Small scale self-build sites.

BNG Consultation Response Summary (cont.)

- Biodiversity net Gain will be implemented in November 2023 for Major Development sites
- For all other in-scope applications the implementation has been extended to April 2024.
- National Infrastructure Projects will be subject to 10% BNG from November 2025
- Natural England will operate the Biodiversity Gain Site Register and will be the supplier of last resort for Biodiversity Credits

Local Nature Recovery Strategies:

- Oxfordshire County Council has provisionally agreed to be the Responsible Body for producing the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- A Steering Group was established in Jan 23 with representatives from OCC, the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership, National Landscapes (AONB's), Forestry Commission, Natural England, Environment Agency, Community Groups, Farmers/Landowners, Environmental NGO's and the Oxfordshire District Councils.
- A provisional timeline has been set out aiming for a launch of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy in October 2024.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (cont.):

- Defra Published the guidance and regulations for LNRS on 23 March.



