

STATEMENT OF ADOPTION

Nature Recovery Supplementary Planning Document

Adopted: 14 April 2026

In accordance with Regulations 11 and 14 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, notice is hereby given that Cheltenham Borough Council adopted the Nature Recovery Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on 14 April 2026.

The Nature Recovery SPD has been prepared to provide clear guidance to ensure development in Cheltenham protects and enhances biodiversity, in line with the Environment Act 2021, mandatory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), and the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Although not part of the Statutory Development Plan, it is a material consideration for all proposals affecting biodiversity, trees, or green infrastructure. The SPD establishes that early ecological assessment and nature led design are essential to ensuring development avoids harm and delivers meaningful ecological enhancement.

Consultation

The Council undertook public consultation on the draft Nature Recovery SPD from 7 November 2025 until 7 December 2025. Therefore, this SPD forms part of Cheltenham Borough Council's response to the climate and biodiversity crisis, the environmental objectives of the NPPF, the Environment Act 2021 and the Gloucestershire LNRS. In accordance with Regulation 12 of the 2012 Regulations, consultation was undertaken with a range of statutory consultees, including Historic England, and relevant environmental organisations such as Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Engagement also took place with internal council services including planning policy, climate change, ecology and arboriculture officers, as well as with elected Members.

Availability of Documents

The adopted Nature Recovery SPD, the Consultation Statement summarising the main issues raised during consultation and how these have been addressed, and this Adoption Statement are available to view on the Council's website:

Hard copies of these documents can be made available on request. Please contact Planning Policy by email at planningpolicy@cheltenham.gov.uk or by telephone on 01242 264328

Legal Challenge

Any person with sufficient interest in the decision to adopt the Nature Recovery Supplementary Planning Document may apply to the High Court for permission to apply for judicial review of that decision. Any such application must be made promptly and in any event not later than 3 months after the date on which the SPD was adopted.