

## **Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation Statement**

Regulation 12 Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012  
(as amended)

### **Persons consulted when preparing the Supplementary Planning Document**

The Draft Biodiversity SPD was subject to public consultation for a period of 6 weeks between 29 August 2023 and 10 October 2023. Copies of the draft SPD and supporting documents (namely a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement and Statement of Matters and Availability (see Appendix 1)) were made available to view at the following locations during opening hours:

- Rushmoor Borough Council Offices
- Aldershot Library
- Farnborough Library

The SPD and supporting information was also made available to view online at <https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultations> (see Appendix 2.)

Representations were invited via an on-line survey on the website or via email or via post.

#### *Consultation emails*

The Council notified all those registered on the Rushmoor Local Plan consultation database. The database covers a wide range of stakeholders including local residents, businesses, statutory bodies such as Natural England and the Environment Agency. In total, there are approximately 190 contacts on the database and all were contacted via email (see Appendix 3).

#### *Documents available on the Council's website*

Copies of the draft SPD, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement and Statement of Matters and Availability were made available to view/download on the Council's website at <https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultations>

### **Summary of the main issues raised**

Six responses to the consultation were received in total, including from Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.

The main issues raised by respondents include:

- Need to strengthen the SPD to include more detail on existing biodiversity resource and how developers can deliver biodiversity net gain in the district and on their specific sites.

- More guidance should be provided on how to assess watercourses and achieving biodiversity net gain in a meaningful and sustainable way.
- Recommend a more holistic approach and recognition for the overlap between the natural and historic environment.
- Ensure reference is made to the latest adopted Biodiversity Metric.

The detailed comments received are set out in Appendix 4.

### **How those issues have been addressed in the supplementary planning document**

The Officer responses relating to the detailed comments and how they have been addressed in the final version of the SPD are set out in Appendix 4.

## Appendix 1 Statement of SPD Matters and Availability



### Draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

#### Statement of SPD Matters and Availability

Regulation 12 Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012  
(as amended)

**Title:** Draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

**Area Covered:** Rushmoor Borough

**Subject Matter:** The Biodiversity SPD seeks to provide further guidance to applicants on how biodiversity considerations, including Biodiversity Net Gain, should be incorporated into the development process from the outset to ensure that legislation and Local Plan policy requirements are met, and best practice standards are achieved. This will support the implementation of Policy NE1: Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area and Policy NE4: Biodiversity, contained within the Rushmoor Local Plan.

**Representation Period:** 29 August 2023 – 5pm on 10 October 2023

Copies of the draft documents and the supporting information are available to view at:

- **Rushmoor Borough Council Offices** between 9am and 2pm Monday to Friday
- **Aldershot Library**, 109 High Street, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 1DQ at the following times:
  - Monday 9.30am – 1.30pm
  - Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9.30am - 5pm
- **Farnborough Library**, Pinehurst, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7JZ at the following times:
  - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9.30am – 5pm
  - Tuesday 9.30am – 1.30pm
- **Online** at [www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultations](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultations)

**Representations to be sent:**

By **online survey** via [www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultations](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultations) or by **email** to [planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk)

Or in **writing** to: Planning Policy, Rushmoor Borough Council, Council Offices, Farnborough Road, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 7JU

**Adoption Notification:** If you wish to be notified of the adoption of this SPD, please request this as part of your submissions.

## Appendix 2 Planning Policy Consultations webpage

**RUSHMOOR**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Search Rushmoor Borough Council

Open Menu

# Planning policy consultations

Home > Planning and building control > Planning policies > Get involved in developing our planning policies

Get involved in developing our planning policies

- Statement of Community Involvement
- Planning policy consultations**
- Conservation area reviews

Keep up to date with the latest news on planning policy

## Current consultations

Find out about what we are consulting on and how to give us your views.

We are currently consulting on the following draft conservation area appraisal and management plans:

- [Draft Aldershot West Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan](#)
- [Draft Farnborough Street Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan](#)
- [Draft South Farnborough Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan](#)

For more information and to have your say, please visit our [conservation area reviews page](#).

We are also consulting on a [draft Biodiversity supplementary planning document \(SPD\)](#). For more information and to have your say, please visit our [draft Biodiversity SPD page](#).

The consultations close on 10 October 2023 at 5pm.

# Draft biodiversity SPD

Home > Planning and building control > Planning policies > Supplementary planning documents and advice n

## Supplementary planning documents and advice notes

- Affordable housing SPD
- Aldershot town centre prospectus SPD
- Locally Listed Heritage Assets SPD
- Car and cycle parking SPD
- Development affecting public houses SPD
- Farnborough civic quarter masterplan SPD
- Farnborough town centre SPD
- Home improvements and extensions SPD
- Shop front design guide SPD
- Transport contributions SPD
- Financial contributions for open space
- Draft biodiversity SPD**

We are consulting on a draft biodiversity supplementary planning document (SPD).

## What the supplementary planning document is for

Our [draft biodiversity supplementary planning document \(SPD\)](#) gives you guidance in how from the start of your development, you should consider biodiversity.

It also sets out how you, as a planning applicant, should meet the new national mandatory requirement for a minimum of 10% biodiversity net-gain on new developments. This requirement is due to be introduced on large development sites from November 2023.

As part of the [Rushmoor Local Plan](#), the biodiversity supplementary planning document will support the implementation of:

- Policy NE1: Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area
- Policy NE4: Biodiversity

## The draft supplementary planning document and its supporting documents

You can read the draft Biodiversity SPD and supporting documents below. The documents are also available to view at the Council Offices and at Aldershot Library and Farnborough Library, during opening hours.

- [Draft Biodiversity supplementary planning document \(SPD\)](#)
- [SEA/HRA Screening Statement](#)
- [Statement of Matters and Availability](#)

## Have your say

You can submit your feedback by completing our short [online survey](#).


You can also send us your comments by emailing [planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk) or by post to the address below:

Planning Policy  
Rushmoor Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Farnborough Road  
Farnborough  
GU14 7JU

This consultation closes on 10 October at 5pm.

## Contact us

 Planning policy

 01252 398 787

 [planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk)


## Appendix 3 Email to Consultees

Rushmoor Draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation - Message (HTML)

File Message Help Tell me what you want to do

Delete Archive Move Reply Reply All Forward Share to Teams +TO ACTION Mark Unread Find Zoom

### Rushmoor Draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation

 Rushmoor Council Planning Policy  
To  
Cc Rushmoor Council Planning Policy

Reply Reply All Forward

Tue 29/08/2023 14:46

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Council is currently consulting on the following document for a period of six weeks:

- Draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

You can view the SPD and supporting documents online at [www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultations](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultations).

**The closing date for comments is 5pm on Tuesday 10th October 2023.** Comments can be submitted:

- by using our online survey available via [www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultations](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsultations)
- by email to [planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk) or
- in writing to: Planning Policy, Rushmoor Borough Council, Council Offices, Farnborough Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7JU.

Hard copies of the draft SPD and the supporting information are available to view at:

- Rushmoor Borough Council Offices** between 9am and 2pm Monday to Friday
- Aldershot Library**, 109 High Street, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 1DQ at the following times:
  - Monday 9.30am – 1.30pm
  - Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9.30am - 5pm
- Farnborough Library**, Pinehurst, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7JZ at the following times:
  - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9.30am – 5pm
  - Tuesday 9.30am – 1.30pm

If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the Biodiversity SPD, please request this as part of your submissions.

You have received this email because you have previously asked to be notified about consultations and updates on Planning Policy documents. If you no longer wish to be included on the Council's Planning Policy Consultation Database, please email [planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk).

Yours Sincerely,  
The Policy and Conservation Team  
Rushmoor Borough Council

## Appendix 4 Detailed Consultation Responses and Officer Comments

Respondent	Section	Summary of Response	Officer Comment
The Basingstoke Canal Society	Whole Document	<p>The Society has considered the draft Biodiversity SPD and we feel that our previous response to the Green Infrastructure Strategy in March 2022 captures all the issues that we would wish to highlight.</p> <p>The previous response to the Green Infrastructure Strategy in March 2022 raised the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference to the Canal and Rivers Trust within GP3 - Enhancing the Basingstoke Canal is incorrect, the Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA) supported by the Basingstoke Canal Society (BCS) perform this role and whilst the C&amp;RT are responsible for the majority of canals in the UK, this is not the case for the Basingstoke Canal.</li> <li>• Questioned whether any of the studies referred to in the Strategy considered the additional pressure on the canal through the additional use by residents from the likes of Hartland &amp; Wellesley together the very likely use of the canal within Rushmoor and Hart's LCWIP (formerly Green Grid)?</li> <li>• Recommend use of approach used by Woking Borough Council Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - Applicants' Climate Neutral Development Checklist</li> <li>• The canal towpath provides an important and much used multi user green route connecting SANGS, open spaces and urban areas across Rushmoor and adjoining.</li> <li>• Much of the canal is designated as a SSSI and has conservation area status in many areas of its route. Not all of the canal is designated as a Public Right of Way but whether designated or not the public still use it as a preferred route for exercise and leisure. This use often puts it in conflict with the heritage and conservation designations.</li> <li>• Upgrading the towpath to modern combined use standards would seriously change the character of the canal and its important designations.</li> <li>• Successive new developments inevitably lead to increased use and demand for better access to the canal. Appropriate mitigation measures and financial contributions are required from such developments to allow the canal to maintain its historical and tranquil character without the need for wholesale upgrading to a more urban cycle/running/walking type of infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<p>The relevance of the comments made on the Green Infrastructure Strategy in March 2022 have been considered and whilst the issues raised are recognised there are no recommended changes to the SPD.</p>

Respondent	Section	Summary of Response	Officer Comment
Environment Agency	Whole Document	<p>In the context of the climate crisis and the recent changes to the timeline of the government's biodiversity legislation it is imperative that local authorities have robust and ambitious policy in place to protect and enhance their local biodiversity. The SPD does a good job of explaining biodiversity net gain and informing the context within which the document operates. It contains a good level of detail on the application of national legislation and the hierarchical approach to biodiversity net gain. Overall the document does a good job of supporting policy NE1 and NE4 of the local plan.</p> <p>The Environment Agency suggests the SPD could be strengthened by including more detail on the areas existing biodiversity resource and how developers can deliver biodiversity net gain in the district and on their specific sites. Detail on the districts water courses, protected habitats and lacking infrastructure could be included to ensure that developers receive the guidance they need to succeed first time in delivering the local policy requirements.</p>	<p>Officers agree with the changes recommended by the Environment Agency. Amendments have been made to the SPD including an additional section with guidance on delivering the right habitats in the right places. This also makes reference to Natural England guidance on Green Infrastructure.</p>
Environment Agency	Policy NE4	<p>Policy NE4 mentions specific watercourses, the SPD should outline how developers will need to assess these habitats and should also provide guidance on achieving biodiversity net gain at these sites in a meaningful and sustainable way. Ultimately the goal of the SPD is to guide developers to achieve biodiversity net gain, whilst the document leads them well on the process it could be stronger in providing guidance on the desired outcomes.</p>	<p>Officers agree with the changes recommended by the Environment Agency. Amendments have been made to the SPD including an additional section with guidance on delivering the right habitats in the right places. This also makes reference to Natural England guidance on Green Infrastructure.</p>



Respondent	Section	Summary of Response	Officer Comment
Historic England	Whole Document	<p>There is significant overlap between the natural environment and historic environment, and the opportunity for 'triple wins' that deliver good outcomes for biodiversity, climate and heritage. For this opportunity to be taken, the proposed biodiversity strategy needs to reflect this more holistic perspective. Newly created or altered habitats will sit within a historical landscape and may have both positive and negative impacts on setting as well as physical and chemical conditions of heritage assets. The respondent provides links to a number of relevant documents.</p> <p>We strongly recommend liaison with the Council's conservation team and with Hampshire County Council's archaeological advisers to inform relevant revisions to the SPD and during its implementation. They are best placed to advise on: local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the Historic Environment Record; how the SPD can be tailored to avoid or minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment and to maximise opportunities for securing wider benefits for conservation and management of heritage assets, including heritage at risk; the nature and extent of any required mitigation measures; as well as options for effective monitoring.</p>	It is acknowledged that the SPD needs to include more reference to the historic environment and Officers have made the a number of the recommended amendments to the SPD (as set out below)
Historic England	Introduction (page 5)	Add a new paragraph under 'Professional Advice' recommending liaison with the Council's heritage conservation team and Hampshire County Council's archaeological advisers as appropriate, when considering proposals that impact on the historic environment.	The suggested additional paragraph has been added.
Historic England	Policy and Legislation (page 8, para 2.9)	We had interpreted the reference to 'environmental assets' being natural and historic. We encourage a holistic approach, noting the overlap between natural and historic, and that the historic environment and the Borough's heritage assets are mentioned in the plan's objective referenced in paragraph 2.10. That being we propose this minor edit: "the following vision relating to the Borough's <del>natural</del> environment"	The suggested amendment has been made.

Respondent	Section	Summary of Response	Officer Comment
Historic England	page 23	We advise minor amendment to paragraph 4.32 as follows: “BNG should therefore be achieved on-site with retained and enhanced habitats, appropriate buffers and creation of habitats to increase connectivity for wildlife. Where appropriate evidence demonstrates that BNG cannot be fully achieved onsite, off-site BNG can be explored. <u>BNG should be delivered without harm to the historic environment (see ***insert paragraph reference to proposed new paragraph in section 5***).</u> ”	The additional wording suggested has been added to the SPD.
Historic England	page 27	We advise including a new paragraph early in section 5 along the following lines: “Rushmoor’s historic environment needs also to be considered when developing proposals to support or enhance its biodiversity. Newly created or altered habitats will sit within a historical landscape and may have both positive and negative impacts on setting as well as physical and chemical conditions of heritage assets. By acknowledging the significant overlap between the natural and historic environment, the Council can deliver outcomes that are good for both nature and heritage.”	The additional wording suggested has been added to the SPD.
Historic England	Appendix 1	We advise adding the following headline paragraph when introducing the biodiversity checklists: “Rushmoor includes a range of designated and non-designated heritage assets, including the possibility of undiscovered archaeological remains. If the proposed scheme lies within an area or place designated for its heritage significance, liaison with the Council’s heritage conservation team is recommended. Liaison with Hampshire County Council’s archaeological advisers is recommended if the site is likely to include archaeological remains”.	The additional wording suggested has been added to the SPD.

Respondent	Section	Summary of Response	Officer Comment
Historic England	Appendix 1	<p>Within the checklists, we recommend including questions linked with the historic environment, which would help the user to ensure that heritage is considered where appropriate. We recommend this for both householder and full applications (where it has the potential to be particularly important for some major schemes). We offer the following two questions for consideration:</p> <p>Does the site intersect with or lie within the setting of a heritage asset? If so, liaison with the Council's heritage conservation team is recommended, especially for major schemes or where the assets and/or local landscape are highly designated.</p> <p>Does the site have archaeological interest or is it likely to have archaeological potential? If so, please discuss plans for BNG with Hampshire County Council's archaeological advisers. Reference to the local Historic Environment Record is recommended</p>	<p>The checklists are duplicated from those prepared by HCC. Therefore, we do not consider it necessary or appropriate to amend as recommended. Officers also consider that additional wording in the introduction to the checklists is sufficient in highlighting the need to consider potential heritage assets.</p>

Respondent	Section	Summary of Response	Officer Comment
Natural England	Whole Document	<p>Natural England welcome the draft Biodiversity SPD which appears to have taken appropriate consideration of previous Natural England advice. Natural England have no specific comments to make on this draft Biodiversity SPD and are satisfied with the content.</p> <p>The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, along with partners, has developed 'good practice principles' for biodiversity net gain, which can assist plan-making authorities in gathering evidence and developing policy.</p> <p>Natural England support the consideration of multi-functional spaces and green infrastructure and highly recommend referring to the Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework.</p> <p>Natural England recognise that correct reference has been made to the use of the latest biodiversity net gain metric, currently the Biodiversity Metric 4.0. We recommend that consideration is placed on demonstrating your understanding that there will be an adopted Biodiversity Metric which will be referred to once BNG is mandatory. This could be a version of the metric which is beyond the current Metric 4.0.</p> <p>We would like to remind you to review the timeline for when the requirements for a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain to be delivered will come into effect. This is following updated government guidance on BNG since your draft Biodiversity SPD was submitted.</p>	<p>Support for the SPD welcomed and noted.</p> <p>The SPD already includes reference to the Natural England Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide. Officers have added reference to the Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework.</p> <p>Where appropriate specific reference to the version 4.0 has been removed and replaced with reference to the latest version of the adopted Biodiversity Metric. A note has been added to recognise that it is expected that there will be new versions of the metric will be adopted and applicants will need to ensure they are using the adopted version.</p> <p>The expected date that the mandatory requirement is due to come into effect has been updated.</p>

Respondent	Section	Summary of Response	Officer Comment
Waverley Borough Council	Whole Document	Waverley Borough Council does not want to comment specifically on the SPD. However, as you will be aware Waverley responded on 2nd October 2023 to your request for any cross-boundary issues that we think you need to consider in reviewing your adopted Local Plan, of which we pointed out that Green Infrastructure including sites for BNG and mitigation for SPA will be one.	Noted
Woking Borough Council	Whole Document	This is a very comprehensive document to facilitate the delivery of BNG within Rushmoor, and we don't have any further comments to add.	Noted