



Building
with Nature

Setting the standard for green
infrastructure

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Dr Gemma Jerome, Building with Nature Director

UK's First Benchmark for Green Infrastructure

In 2018 we 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 we refreshed the Standards Framework, launching BwN 2.0.



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**



CIEEM

**Taylor
Wimpey**



RTPI

**Landscape
Institute**
Inspiring great places



tcpa



The BwN Standards Framework 2.0

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

CORE



WELLBEING



WATER






WILDLIFE



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.



Why do we need a benchmark?

“We need a tool to help planners.”
(Landscape Institute)

“We need a framework of principles to define what high quality green infrastructure looks like.”
(Natural England)

“Agreeing a framework of principles at an early stage could help speed up the planning process, which represents a potentially huge cost saving for us.”
(Planning agent for volume housebuilder)

“The government will use the forthcoming Environment Bill to mandate biodiversity net gain for development in England ensuring that the delivery of much-needed infrastructure and housing is not at the expense of vital biodiversity.”
(HM Treasury Spring Statement 2019)



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.



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 Building with Nature deliver?

Reducing planning uncertainty

Shared framework of consistent, evidence-based principles to adopt at an early stage of planning

Smoother/faster passage through planning

Allocating the 'right' land for development

A mechanism to secure: net gain, health and wellbeing, natural water management and landscape connections

Turning ecological constraints into new opportunities to deliver nature-rich development



The Building with Nature Benchmark

The Core Standards



CORE STANDARDS

Standard 1

The Green Infrastructure Optimises
Multifunctionality and Connectivity



CORE STANDARDS

Standard 2

The Green Infrastructure Positively responds to the Climate Emergency



CORE STANDARDS

Standard 3 Maximises Environmental Net Gains



CORE STANDARDS

Standard 4 Champions a Context Driven Approach



CORE STANDARDS

Standard 5 Creates Distinctive Places



CORE STANDARDS

Standard 6 Secures Effective Place-keeping



The Building with Nature Benchmark

The Wellbeing Standards



WELLBEING STANDARDS

Standard 7 Brings Nature Closer to People



WELLBEING STANDARDS

Standard 8 Supports Equitable and Inclusive Places



The Building with Nature Benchmark

The Water Standards



WATER STANDARDS

Standard 9

Delivers Climate Resilient Water Management



WATER STANDARDS

Standard 10 Brings Water Closer to People



The Building with Nature Benchmark

The Wildlife Standards



WILDLIFE STANDARDS

Standard 11 Delivers Wildlife Enhancement



WILDLIFE STANDARDS

Standard 12 Underpins Nature's Recovery





Forth Valley Royal Hospital and Larbert Woods

“Forth Valley Royal Hospital and Larbert Woods is a national exemplar for demonstrating what is possible when a shared vision between ambitious and committed partners is delivered with fastidious attention to the detail set out by the professionals responsible for protecting and enhancing landscape quality in the early stages of design.

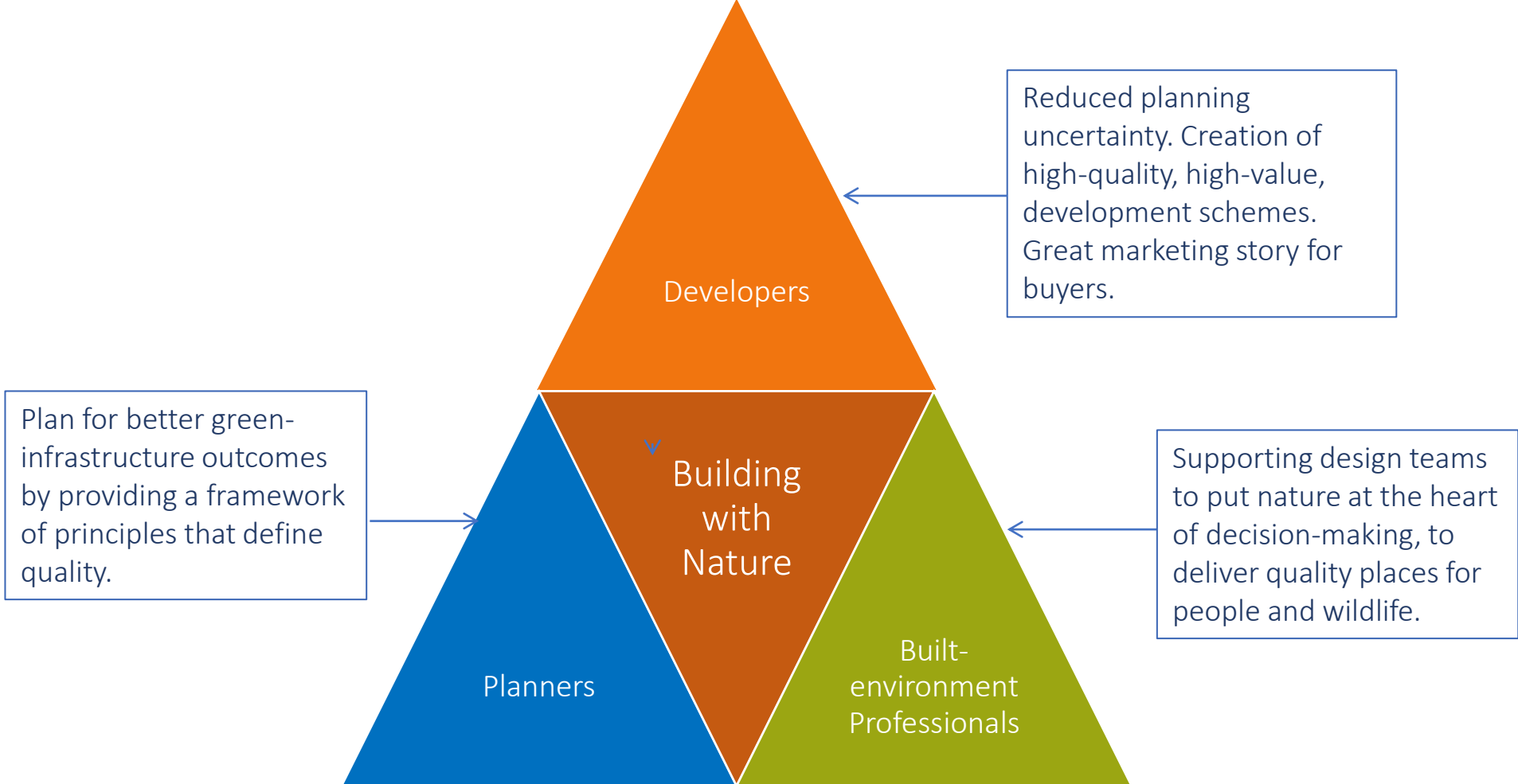
The partnership between NHS Forth Valley, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage, and the commitment to quality from Ian White Associates Landscape Architects at each stage of delivery, has resulted in the delivery of an exceptional medical facility in a high quality landscape setting.”



North Toryglen Green Infrastructure and Access Project

- “This 16-hectare, urban retrofit scheme in the City of Glasgow is an exemplar for how green infrastructure can be improved for the benefit of the local community and wildlife using the Building with Nature approach. North Toryglen is an area experiencing multiple deprivation and health inequalities, and this case study clearly demonstrates how the BwN Assessment process can be used in this context, improving the scheme’s design for high quality multifunctional green infrastructure on the site, particularly in relation to water management, habitat improvements and connectivity.”

Who is the Benchmark for?



Where are we now

- **Build with Nature Ltd** – currently a trading subsidiary of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, soon to be an independent CIO.
- **Standards Framework recently refreshed** to ensure Standards remain up to date with current legislation and industry practice, and to streamline and simplify process.
- **Standards Board** well established, partnership working across the sector, looking to extend members to include engineering bodies.
- **Assessor training** to support national extension, over 100 qualified assessors across the UK.
- **GI Training provider** for industry and local authorities
- **National advocacy for GI**, working with national stakeholders (e.g. Natural England+MHCLG, Welsh Government+NRW, Scottish Govt+NatureScot, BSI) and working with local planning authorities to extend impact.
- **Partnering with the Wildlife Trusts, Landscape Institute, RTPI, and CIEEM** to extend the impact of BwN





Building
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Thank you

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