



# GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

March 2019

Volume 2 **Delivery Plan**



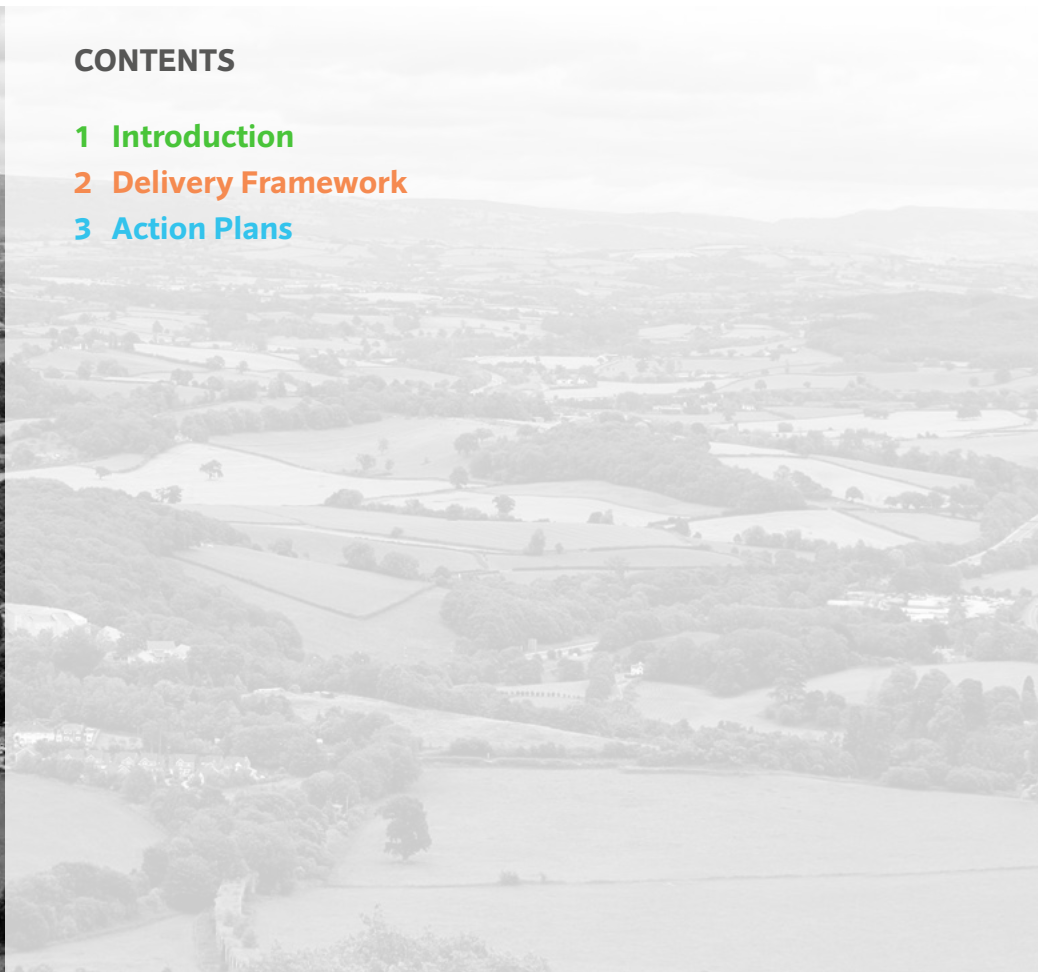
Monmouth





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1

# Introduction





## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Green Infrastructure Strategy

1.1.1 The Green Infrastructure Strategy sets out Monmouthshire County Council's approach to enhancing biodiversity and increasing ecosystem resilience in line with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, and improving health and wellbeing outcomes in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

1.1.2 The Strategy was prepared by Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) on behalf of the Council.

#### Volume 1 – Strategic Framework

1.1.3 Volume 1 of the Green Infrastructure Strategy sets out the Council's strategic framework for GI provision in Monmouthshire. Provided as a separate document, the Strategic Framework identifies key priorities and strategic opportunities where the restoration, maintenance, creation or connection of green features and functions would deliver the most significant benefits, both on a county-wide basis and for key settlements where growth is planned in the adopted Local Development Plan (2011-2021).

1.1.4 An Executive Summary of the Green Infrastructure Strategy is also set out in a separate document.

#### Volume 2 – Delivery Plan (this document)

1.1.5 Volume 2 of the Green Infrastructure Strategy provides the Council's delivery plan for GI in Monmouthshire. The Delivery Plan includes prioritised action plans for delivery of strategic/landscape-scale GI projects, and local GI projects to support development at the key growth locations and rural secondary settlements. The action plans are designed to support funding bids by the Council and its delivery partners.

### GIS Database of GI Assets

1.1.6 A comprehensive and user-friendly GIS Database of GI assets and related information is held by the Council, which provides a tool for informing land use planning and land management decision-making with regards to GI.





# 2

## Delivery Framework





## 2.0 DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

### 2.1 Approach

2.1.1 The framework for delivery of the GI Strategy is outlined below broadly based around the “ways of working” approach that public bodies are required to adopt by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

#### **Integrated and Joined Up Approach**

2.1.2 The GI Strategy promotes an integrated and joined up approach to delivering GI that takes into account the needs of Monmouthshire’s communities, environment and economy. An important overarching principle underpinning the Strategy is the need to recognise the multi-functionality of GI assets and to maximise the benefits different assets can deliver through an integrated approach. For example, greenspaces can be used for sustainable food production, contribute to flood management and provide access to nature for informal recreation. It is essential that the inter-relationship and connections between the individual GI projects outlined in this Delivery Plan are considered in the round to ensure that opportunities for shared outcomes and mutual benefits are maximised.

#### **Long-Term Thinking and Prevention**

2.1.3 The GI Strategy promotes long-term thinking by aiming to balance current and long-term GI needs for Monmouthshire. It also encourages taking action now to prevent problems in the future through targeted investment in the delivery of new and enhanced GI where it is most needed. This is reflected in the range and nature of the GI projects included in the Action Plan.

### **Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Involvement**

2.1.4 As reflected in the Action Plan, the GI Strategy promotes a collaborative approach to working with a range of stakeholders and partners to help meet its aims and objectives. The benefits of collaboration by public bodies in GI delivery are being championed by the Gwent Green Grid partnership. The partnership includes the five local authorities in South East Wales (Monmouthshire County Council, Torfaen County Borough Council, Newport City Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council and Blaenau-Gwent County Borough Council) and Natural Resources Wales, NHS Wales and Welsh Government.

2.1.5 The Gwent Green Grid Partnership aims to bring together existing partnerships/projects to achieve greater strategic and local impact by providing a framework for connecting other initiatives and strategies; pooling funding; sharing resources and learning around ecosystem resilience, healthy living and climate adaptation; making landscape-scale biodiversity enhancements; and involving partners on a wider footprint.

2.1.6 Importantly, the GI Strategy also seeks to directly involve and engage local communities in the delivery of the GI projects included in the Action Plan.

2.1.7 The benefits of a collaborative partnership approach to delivery of GI projects are illustrated by the Living Levels Landscape Partnership in the Gwent Levels (see **Box 2.1**).



### BOX 2.1 The Living Levels Landscape Partnership

The Living Levels Landscape Partnership has come together to deliver a programme of work which will promote and reconnect people to the heritage, wildlife and wild beauty of the historic landscape of the Gwent Levels.

The Scheme covers an area of 225 km<sup>2</sup> extending from Cardiff and the River Rhymney in the west to Chepstow on the River Wye in Monmouthshire to the east.

The Partnership comprises the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Gwent Wildlife Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Monmouthshire County Council, Newport City Council, Cardiff City Council, Cardiff Story Museum, Sustrans, The National Trust, Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Buglife.

Involving a work programme of 24 inter-related projects, the Scheme seeks to work with landowners, farmers and the local community to conserve and restore the important natural heritage features of the area, develop a far greater appreciation of the value of the landscape and to inspire people to learn about and participate in the heritage of the Gwent Levels. A £2.5 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund is helping to lever in further funding and deliver a £4 million scheme between 2018 and 2021.

The Partnership is leading on the delivery of the Gwent Levels GI Strategy, which aims to protect and enhance the area's GI assets, address the challenges of climate change and help underpin economic stability and growth that meets the needs of local communities and businesses.

[www.livinglevels.org.uk](http://www.livinglevels.org.uk)

## 2.2 Delivery Principles

2.2.1 To maximise the successful implementation of the GI Strategy, the Council will work with its partners to:

- Champion the benefits of GI across the public, private and voluntary sectors.
- Influence and enable delivery of GI.
- Provide advocacy to market and promote GI.
- Identify opportunities for funding GI projects.
- Establish partnerships for pooling funding, coordinating delivery and long-term management of specific GI projects.
- Liaise with partners in neighbouring areas to co-ordinate cross-boundary delivery of GI projects at the regional scale.
- Monitor progress in delivery of the Action Plan and evaluate project impact in relation to the GI Strategy's objectives.
- Promote adoption of best practice with regards to implementation and long-term maintenance of GI.
- Provide assistance/advice on integration of the GI Strategy into other plans, policies and programmes.
- As the local planning authority, seek to promote best practice by promoting principles for embedding GI into development outlined in the adopted Green Infrastructure SPG.

## 2.3 Potential Funding Streams

2.3.1 The Council will continue to be proactive in seeking funding opportunities for delivery of GI in line with the objectives and priorities set out in this GI Strategy. Potential funding streams that may support delivery of GI projects include:

- **Welsh Government:** such as the Green Infrastructure Capital Fund 2017-2021 and the Enabling Natural Resources & Well-Being in Wales Grant 2019-2023 can provide support for delivery of cross-sector, collaborative GI projects.
- **Developer contributions:** can provide funding for delivery of GI projects secured in line with the Council's LDP policy.
- **Landfill Disposal Tax Communities Scheme:** distributes grants to community-based environmental projects to help mitigate effects of landfill on local communities.
- **Small-scale community grants:** can provide funding for community-based environmental projects in support of GI objectives.
- **Public/private sector funding:** can play a key role in securing the future of community green space and other GI assets as part of meeting corporate social responsibility objectives.

## 2.4 Green Infrastructure Management and Maintenance

2.4.1 Monmouthshire County Council will support the long-term management and appropriate maintenance of GI assets on land within its ownership, and is committed to sharing good practice in this regard.

2.4.2 The Council will also encourage other landowners and land managers of GI assets on public or private land to put in place appropriate management and maintenance practices.

2.4.3 Landowners and land managers are encouraged to follow the Council's Guidance Note on Green Infrastructure Management Plans.

2.4.4 Landowners and land managers of public land are also encouraged to support the delivery of the GI Action Plan for Pollinators in South East Wales.

2.4.5 An example of best practice in preparing Green Infrastructure Management Plans is illustrated by the case study in **Box 2.2**.

### **BOX 2.2 Caldicot Country Park Green Infrastructure Management Plan: Case Study**

Caldicot Country Park is one of a number of countryside sites owned and managed by Monmouthshire County Council. In 2017, the Council developed a long-term green infrastructure management plan for the Country Park, which included a public consultation to encourage the community to help plan and shape the future of the park. The aim of the plan is to safeguard the park's connected green spaces, while reflecting its heritage and natural environment to enhance the quality of life and community identity.





# 3

## Action Plans





## 3.0 ACTION PLANS

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Informed by the needs and opportunities for strengthening Monmouthshire's Strategic GI Network identified in Volume 1, Section 3.4/ Appendix D3, the Action Plans set out existing and potential strategic/ landscape-scale GI projects that extend across one or more of the GI Zones.

3.1.2 The Action Plans also set out existing and potential local GI projects focussed around the key growth locations and rural secondary settlements in the adopted LDP, which were identified from the assessment of local needs and opportunities for GI provision in Volume 1, Section 4.0.

3.1.3 The projects have been selected based on their potential to make a contribution to the GI Strategy's objectives and associated priorities for guiding the planning, management and delivery of GI in Monmouthshire (see Volume 1, Section 3.3). The projects were confirmed by the Council in consultation with stakeholders.

3.1.4 The Council will review the Action Plans annually and update them as necessary to reflect progress or changing circumstances.

### 3.2 Action Plans User Guide

3.2.1 The Action Plans are available as an updateable Excel Database held by MCC. Contact Colette Bosley (01633 644852/colettebosley@monmouthshire.gov.uk) to request access to the Action Plans database.

3.2.2 The database is structured as follows:

**Ref No** – the unique reference number for the project.

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**Project Name** – existing project name or suggested name for a potential project.

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**Project Scope** – summary of the project's aims, location or spatial extent.

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**Status:**

- Concept/Aspirational Stage
- Feasibility Stage
- Business Case Established and Ready for Funding
- Existing/Funded

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**Strategic/Landscape-Scale or Local/Place-Specific GI Project**

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**GI Zone Name:**

A: Gwent Levels  
B: Wye Valley  
C: Usk Catchment  
D: Wye Catchment  
E: Brecon Beacons Uplands  
Multiple Zones



**Settlement Name:**

- Abergavenny & Llanfoist
- Monmouth
- Chepstow
- Severnside Settlements: Magor & Undy
- Severnside Settlements: Rogiet
- Severnside Settlements: Caldicot
- Severnside Settlements: Portskewett & Sudbrook
- Severnside Settlements: Caerwent
- Usk
- Raglan
- Penperlleni

**Contribution to GI Strategy Objectives:**

- 1: Improve Health & Wellbeing
- 2: Enhance Biodiversity & Increase Ecosystem Resilience
- 3: Strengthen Landscape Character & Distinctiveness
- 4: Increase Climate Change Resilience
- 5: Support Sustainable Economic Development

**Contribution to National Well-being Goals:**

- 1: A Prosperous Wales
- 2: A Resilient Wales
- 3: A Healthier Wales
- 4: A More Equal Wales
- 5: A Wales of Cohesive Communities
- 6: A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
- 7: A Globally Responsive Wales

**Contribution to Monmouthshire Well-being Objectives:**

- 1: Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life
- 2: Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change
- 3: Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change
- 4: Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county

**Contribution to Monmouthshire Biodiversity & Ecosystem Resilience Plan Objectives:**

- 1: Embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels
- 2: Provide environmental education to raise awareness and encourage action
- 3: Undertake land management for biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience
- 4: Influence land management to improve ecosystem resilience
- 5: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats
- 6: Support landscape scale projects and partnerships to maximise delivery
- 7: Monitor the effectiveness of the plan and review

**Priority – the indicative timescale for project delivery:**

- Short-term (1 year)
- Medium-term (2-5 years)
- Longer-term (5+ years)

**Indicative Cost:**

- Low: <£10k
- Medium: £10k-£100k
- High: £100k-£1M
- Major: >£1M

## Delivery Lead

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## Delivery Partners

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**Outcomes/Indicators** – for monitoring progress in delivery of action/evaluating project impact.

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## Abbreviations

- Blaenau-Gwent County Borough Council (BCBC)
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA)
- Blaenavon WHS Partnership (BWHSP)
- Blaenavon World Heritage Environment Group (BWHEG)
- Cadw (Welsh Government Heritage Service) (Cadw)
- Canal & River Trust (CRT)
- Cardiff City Council (CCC)
- Gwent Wildlife Trust (GWT)
- Living Levels Landscape Partnership (LLLLP)
- Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust (MBACT)
- Monmouthshire County Council (MCC)
- Monmouthshire Housing Association (MHA)
- Natural England (NE)
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
- Newport City Council (NCC)
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

- Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC)
- Visit Wales (VW)
- Welsh Government (WG)
- Welsh Water (WW)
- Wye Valley AONB Unit
- Wye & Usk Foundation (WUF)

## Search Function

3.2.3 The Excel Database includes a search function; using the drop down grey filter arrows in the column headings, the projects can be searched by the following:

- Status
- Strategic/Landscape-Scale or Local/Place-Specific GI Project
- GI Zone Name
- Settlement Name
- GI Strategy Objective
- National Well-being Goals
- Monmouthshire Well-being Objective
- Monmouthshire Biodiversity & Ecosystem Resilience Plan Objective
- Priority
- Indicative Cost
- Delivery Lead

3.2.4 The Excel Database also includes a function to find specific text (e.g. a specific project title).

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landscape | environment | heritage



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