



# Case studies



# Elderberry Walk

## Developer

HAB Housing

## Scheme

Development of 161 new homes on the former Dunmail Primary School site, focused around a central green street, with retained trees, new multi-functional green infrastructure, a communal wildlife garden and edible planting

## Location

Bristol

## Building with Nature award\*



## Why has Elderberry Walk been certified with Building with Nature?

Elderberry Walk is a fantastic example of how high quality green infrastructure can be achieved in a high density development. This residential scheme has a mix of tenures, including social rent and ethical rent, proving that it is possible to design for healthy diverse communities.

Green infrastructure is integral to the layout of the scheme, creating places for people and wildlife, optimising the health and wellbeing benefits of green infrastructure by creating opportunities for people to connect to nature as part of their everyday lives. The communal wildlife garden provides a space for people to get together, encouraging community cohesion; and areas of productive planting support local priorities for reducing health inequalities.

Structurally, Elderberry Walk is a good example of a green infrastructure-led approach to landscape and urban design. The green street running through the site provides an attractive setting for the houses which front on to it, and creates habitat and foraging potential for bats, whilst integrating sustainable drainage features. This is one example of how HAB Housing have utilised the multifunctional potential of green infrastructure to its fullest across the scheme.



# Elms Park

## Developers

Persimmon Homes and  
Bloor Homes

## Scheme

Development of up to 4115 new homes, 24ha of employment land to be used for commercial and community facilities, plus new multifunctional green infrastructure including woodland habitat and areas for sport and food production

## Location

Cheltenham

## Building with Nature award\*



## Why has Elms Park been certified with Building with Nature?

Elms Park is the largest strategic allocation in the Joint Core Strategy for Gloucester, Tewkesbury and Cheltenham. The size and significance of the scheme presents a unique opportunity to showcase the potential of large developments to contribute to priorities for green infrastructure at the county-level.

Persimmon Homes and Bloor Homes have designed a range of green infrastructure features to deliver multifunctional benefits. For example, the green and blue corridor that runs the length of the development forms a landscape-scale feature and provides functions for water management, ecological connectivity for wildlife, and acts as a site of accessible greenspace for people to connect with nature close to where they live.

Given the scale of the development, it will be delivered across several phases, each delivering a key component of the wider green infrastructure framework. The Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Management Plan will guide the implementation of features that link up across different phases to secure benefits for people and wildlife into the long-term. The development plans also show a commitment to supporting existing and new communities to access and enjoy green infrastructure from the first phase onwards.



# Chesterton Farm

## Developers

Bathurst Development Limited

## Scheme

Development of up to 2350 new homes, 9ha of employment land to be used for commercial and community facilities, plus green cycle links, and multifunctional green infrastructure including playing fields and allotments

## Location

Cirencester

## Building with Nature award\*



## Why has Chesterton Farm been certified with Building with Nature?

Chesterton Farm is an urban extension to the west of Cirencester, the largest town in the Cotswold District. Bathurst Development Limited, developer and landowner for Chesterton Farm, have worked closely with Cotswold District Council and wider stakeholders to design a scheme which complements the landscape character of the Cotswolds area.

The quality and layout of green infrastructure depicted within the outline planning application promises to deliver multifunctionality for the benefit of both people and wildlife. This includes formal and informal areas for recreation and play; areas for food production; and a network of green routes running throughout the development, and linking the development to the town centre, to encourage active travel. Features within the boundary of the development will be connected to the wider area to create new linkages, improving the viability of priority species such as great crested newts.

Chesterton Farm is a good example of how new development can positively contribute to the local planning context, creating a vision for a liveable and sustainable neighbourhood which respects and complements the special landscape character highly valued by existing communities.



# Gloucester Services

## Developers

Gloucestershire Gateway Trust  
and Westmorland Limited

## Scheme

A north and south bound motorway service area on the M5 motorway, incorporating café and amenity buildings, a tourist information point, and green infrastructure including an outdoor picnic area, play facilities and habitat provision

## Location

M5, Gloucester

## Building with Nature award



## Why has Gloucester Services been certified with Building with Nature?

Gloucester Services has been the subject of numerous building and design awards. Completed in 2014, it was designed to achieve BREEAM 'excellent' and was endorsed by the South West Design Review Panel. The overarching ambition of the scheme is to have minimal impact on its surrounds, reflecting the sensitivity of the wider environment and proximity to the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The development has been awarded Building with Nature 'achieved' to highlight successful implementation of ambitious design credentials. In situ, Gloucester Services is sensitive to the landscape character and green infrastructure is utilised to maximum effect to contribute a unique sense of place. Individual features are linked to improve ecological connectivity, and SuDS features provide wildlife habitat and manage surface water within the boundary of the scheme.

The applicant found the process of Building with Nature certification helpful in refining plans for enhancing the wetland habitat, and identifying improvements to the long term management and maintenance of green infrastructure features.



# Cotswold District

## Policy makers

Cotswold District Council:  
*Green Infrastructure Open Space  
and Play Space Strategy (2017)*

## Policy

*Forming part of the evidence  
base for the emerging local  
plan, the strategy sets out  
how green infrastructure in  
new development can protect  
and enhance the natural  
environment in the context of  
a predominantly rural district*

## Location

Cotswolds

## Building with Nature award



## Why has Cotswold District Council's strategy been certified with Building with Nature?

Cotswold District Council have successfully created a strategy which satisfies convergent priorities, balancing significant planning constraints with the need to build new homes. Although this tension is present in many areas in the UK, it is particularly significant in Cotswold District, which has more Conservation Areas than any other district in England, and a high number of sites designated for their value for wildlife.

The document is well situated within national policy and the Strategic Framework for Green Infrastructure in Gloucestershire. It is strengthened by the emerging Cotswold Local Plan and the Cotswold Design Code, which contain policies and principles for green infrastructure. The strategy includes an audit of features at the parish level, and promotes new linkages and the creation of additional habitat across a series of sub-areas within the district. It also highlights how the benchmark can be used to secure high quality green infrastructure within new development.

The decision to certify the strategy with the benchmark highlights a demonstrable commitment to secure the benefits of multifunctional green infrastructure in all aspects of forward planning.



## Further information

If you are interested in your development or policy document being certified with Building with Nature, or have any questions about the benchmark, please get in touch with our team at Building with Nature: [info@buildingwithnature.org.uk](mailto:info@buildingwithnature.org.uk)

You can also find out more at [www.buildingwithnature.org.uk](http://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk)



Building with Nature has been developed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, in partnership with the University of the West of England, Bristol. It has been developed through collaboration with planners and developers from across Gloucestershire and the West of England.

