



Environmental Impact Assessment [version 1.0]

Proposal title: Cemetery Expansion Capital Programme – EIA to support the Committee Paper for Bristol Cemetery Capacity and Options for Future Provision – 11 October 2024 PH&C Committee Meeting		
Project stage and type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial Idea Mandate <input type="checkbox"/> Outline Business Case <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Business Case		
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other [please state]	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review	<input type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: Growth & Regeneration		Lead Officer name: Jon James
Service Area: Natural and Marine Environment		Lead Officer role: Head of Service for N & M Env.

Step 1: What do we want to do?

The purpose of this Environmental Impact Assessment is to help you develop your proposal in a way that is compliant with the council's policies and supports the council's strategic objectives under the [One City Climate Strategy](#), the [One City Ecological Emergency Strategy](#) and the latest [Corporate Strategy](#).

This assessment should be started at the beginning of the project proposal process by someone with a good knowledge of the project, the service area that will deliver it, and sufficient influence over the proposal to make changes as needed.

It is good practice to take a team approach to completing the Environmental Impact Assessment. See further [guidance](#) on completing this document. Please email environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk early for advice and feedback.

1.1 What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this proposal?

Briefly explain the purpose of the proposal and why it is needed. Please use plain English, avoiding jargon and acronyms.

The cemetery expansion scheme as approved at the January 2024 Cabinet Meeting comprised the expansion of burial provision at South Bristol Cemetery to meet the future need for burials, baby burial, ash interment and to accommodate specific belief / faith burial requirements. The project would provide provision up to circa 2050 subject to fluctuations in burial demand.

This EIA is an update of the assessment made to support the January 2024 Cabinet Paper. This assessment will be appended to a new Committee Report for the 11 October 2024 Committee Meeting. The committee has been asked to consider three options based on the originally proposed and approved project. There are no material amendments to the substance of this environmental impact assessment. For each section of this assessment a short summary has been provided to explain how the impacts of Option 2 and Option 3 differ from the previously assessed Option 1.

These three options are:

Option 1: Continuation of the current project to expand South Bristol Cemetery, as approved by Cabinet in January 2024 and planning permission secured in November 2023. An EIA was completed and approved to support the January 2024 Cabinet Report and there is no change to this assessment.

Option 2: Continue with the project but on a reduced scale which would allow burials to take place outside the Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) and enable up to ten years of burial provision. This will still require the Attenuation Pond and outfall into Colliters Brook to be formed within the SNCI. Option 2 commits the project to

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achieving proportionately the same level of Biodiversity Net Gain for the SNCI, albeit with a reduced planting scheme to reflect the reduced burial provision.

Option 3: Stopping the expansion project in its entirety and ceasing providing burial plots from 2026, when the current provision ends. In whole project terms, a direct consequence of not proceeding with the cemetery expansion will be a loss of opportunity for the ecological enhancement of the SNCI in terms of BNG and grassland restoration. Key aspects being the loss of a new pond with 495* new aquatic plants, not planting 136* new trees and not planting 6542* new hedge plants. No grassland restoration, no enhancements to the banks of Colliters Brook, no improvements in ecological continuity across the SNCI and no provision of interpretive material (ecological information signage).

*Planting numbers as stated on current design drawings and subject to final council approval as part of the project design approval and LEMP (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan) approval.

1.2 Will the proposal have an environmental impact?

Could the proposal have either a positive or negative effects for the environment now or in the future? If 'No' explain why you are sure there will be no environmental impact, then skip steps 2-3 and request review by sending this form to environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk

If 'Yes' complete the rest of this assessment.

Yes No [please select]

1.3 If the proposal is part of an options appraisal, has the environmental impact of each option been assessed and included in the recommendation-making process?

If 'Yes' please ensure that the details of the environmental impacts of each option are made clear in the pros and cons section of the [project management options appraisal document](#).

Yes No Not applicable [please select]

If 'No' explain why environmental impacts have not been considered as part of the options appraisal process.

Step 2: What kinds of environmental impacts might the project have?

Analysis of impacts must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts of the proposal in this section, referring to evidence you have gathered. See detailed [guidance documents](#) for advice on identifying potential impacts.

Does the proposal create any benefits for the environment, or have any adverse impacts?

Outline any potential benefits of the proposal and how they can be maximised. Identify how the proposal will support our corporate environmental objectives and the wider [One City Climate and Ecological Emergency strategies](#).

Consider how the proposal creates environmental impacts in the following categories, both now and in the future.
Reasonable efforts should be made to quantify stated benefit or adverse impacts wherever possible.

Where the proposal is likely to have a beneficial impact, consider what actions would enhance those impacts. Where the proposal is likely to have a harmful impact, consider whether actions would mitigate these impacts.

Enhancements or mitigation actions are only required when there is a likely impact identified. Remember that where enhancements or mitigation actions are listed, they should be assigned to staff and appropriately resourced.

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GENERAL COMMENTS (highlight any potential issues that might impact all or many categories)			
The scope of this EIA covers the South Bristol Cemetery Expansion. South Bristol Cemetery is the only remaining cemetery in Bristol with current and future capacity to receive burials.			
<p>ENV1 Carbon neutral: Emissions of climate changing gases</p> <p>BCC has committed to achieving net zero emissions for its direct activities by 2025, and to support the city in achieving net zero by 2030.</p> <p>Will the proposal involve transport, or the use of energy in buildings? Will the proposal involve the purchase of goods or services? If the answer is yes to either of these questions, there will be a carbon impact.</p> <p>Consider the scale and timeframe of the impact, particularly if the proposal will lead to ongoing emissions beyond the 2025 and 2030 target dates.</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p>Benefits</p>	<p>For South Bristol Cemetery Expansion, the project will allow for a continuation of existing burial services, with minor climate change gas emissions associated with use of fuel in operational activities. The project will not deliver any benefits.</p> <p>Options: Option 2 will not significantly alter the emissions of climate change gases. Option 3 will involve no construction works, therefore removing one off emissions related to the construction works.</p>	
	<p>Enhancing actions</p>	<p>The project will not deliver any benefits.</p> <p>Options: Neither Option 2 nor Option 3 feature any additional enhancing actions.</p>	
	<p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>		
	<p>Adverse impacts</p>	<p>None Identified.</p> <p>Options: Option 2 features less burial provision and therefore may necessitate longer journey times for the public to travel to alternative cemetery sites outside the city. These sites may not be accessible by public transport. Option 3 will likely mean more journeys with the associated increased carbon impact of longer travel times, potential without public transport.</p>	
	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>N/A.</p> <p>Options: In providing coffin burial space within the city boundary and close to public transport, Option 1 mitigates the potential adverse impacts of Options 2 and 3 described above.</p>	
<p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>			
<p>ENV2 Ecological recovery: Wildlife and habitats</p> <p>BCC has committed to 30% of its land being managed for nature and to halve its use of pesticides by 2030.</p> <p>Consider how your proposal can support increased space for nature, reduced use of pesticides, reduce pollution to waterways, and reduce consumption of products</p>	<p>Benefits</p>	<p>The South Bristol Cemetery Expansion project falls partly within a SNCI (Site of Nature Conservation Interest), detailed ecological assessments have been undertaken, to ensure that localised impacts are offset by an overall net ecological benefit. Ecological enhancements proposed as part of the project will achieve a positive 2.93% gain in area habitats, 107% gain in hedgerow units and 0.19% gain in river units as measured by a formal Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment. Source: Ecological Surveys, Studies, Assessments and Calculations undertaken for BCC by Wessex Ecological Consultancy.</p> <p>Options: Option 2 maintains a level of BNG for the SNCI area proportionate to the development, including grassland restoration. Option 3 provides no BNG benefits or grassland restoration. However, Option 3 removes the negative ecological impact of the cemetery expansion in gross terms, despite incurring a loss of potential biodiversity improvement in net terms.</p>	

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<p>that undermine ecosystems around the world.</p> <p>If your proposal will directly lead to a reduction in habitat within Bristol, then consider how your proposed mitigation can lead to a biodiversity net gain. Be sure to refer to quantifiable changes wherever possible.</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p>Enhancing actions</p>	<p>South Bristol Cemetery Expansion - Key enhancement measures – to be read in conjunction with Ecological Assessment, proposed Ecological Mitigation Proposals and Biodiversity Net Gain Calculation. Document most easily accessed through the BCC Planning portal Ref:22/05714/FB. Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site 3 phased to allow ongoing cattle grazing on part of the land for up to 15 years. • Over 1.5Km of new hedgerows planted within existing site and expansion areas. • Over 90 new trees planted within existing site and expansion areas. • Creation of a new wetland habitat, which would help address the national decline in these high value features and create additional ecological interest and value over the existing species poor grassland , • Longer grass maintained around cemetery boundary edges in order to provide habitat for insects and small mammals • Cemetery Grassland maintained at moderate height, which allows low growing plant species such as bird’s-foot trefoil and meadow vetchling to flower but has a formal appearance. Swards of this height can be of value for groups such as mining bees and some grassland fungi, which cannot compete with tall grasses. • Ecological interpretation boards in both expansion areas to add education interest to areas and wider SNCI • New access to the SNCI created from the cemetery via site 3 to improve public access • Measures to address key areas of trampled ground along river edge, whilst maintaining cattle access to drink. <p>Options: Option 2 will provide a BNG sufficient to meet the planning requirements of the consented scheme, adjusted to reflect the reduced project. Option 3 provides no enhancing actions.</p>
<p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>		
	<p>Adverse impacts</p>	<p>Summary of adverse impacts as per Ecological Report Summer 2020, Wessex Ecological Consultancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The areas within the cemetery that are proposed for burials do not have diverse grassland. The trees across some of these areas are of value for birds and other wildlife; the significant trees would be retained and those proposed for removal have been assessed as having minimal ecological value. There would be no adverse impact in these areas. • Extension of the cemetery would involve incorporating areas of moderately species-rich grassland, a Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act priority habitat, into the site. Use of a site for burials is not necessarily incompatible with grassland conservation: several parts of the existing cemetery support species-rich grassland. • The current proposals would involve the loss of the lower part of grassland area 3, and part of grassland area 4 would be used as an attenuation pond. The areas of both fields that would be affected support species-poor semi-improved grassland and the more diverse areas of both fields would be retained. These proposals would not affect the most valuable areas of the SNCI, which would remain intact, but they would affect areas of grassland of interest for which the site is designated. • There would be no significant adverse impact on hedges. • There would be no impacts on roosting bats. No other potential impacts on protected species have been identified.

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		<p>Options: Option 2 reduces the impact of the cemetery expansion by reducing the land use for burials within the SNCI. Option 3 has no impact, however in selecting Option 3 there is a loss of the opportunity to achieve both a BNG for the SNCI and to undertake grassland restoration. It is likely that Option 3 will lead to continued bramble scrub encroachment across the SNCI. This is considered as a negative impact in terms of the loss of species rich grassland.</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>Key mitigation measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expansion areas are within parts of the SNCI where the grassland is classed as “species-poor semi-improved” and avoids the areas of grassland within the SNCI that have greater ecological value and species diversity. • Management proposals will address the previously unchecked scrub encroachment within the wider SNCI, with objective of restoring areas of higher value grassland. • The development will produce a full 30-year SNCI management plan (LEMP), based on the principles and measures identified in the submitted ecological mitigation document. These will include tailored management arrangements within the cemetery expansion areas to maintain the value of the existing grassland, including tailored grave digging and filling practices to maintain grassland interest. • An area of higher value species rich grassland is retained within Site 1 (outside of the SNCI) as a fenced wildlife area. It will be managed through annual hay-cut to enhance ecological-interest over previous heavy horse grazing. • Ecological protection measures to be identified within the construction phase management plan, including arboricultural and ecological watching briefs for key activities. • Can align communications to positively show how nature rich cemeteries can have a positive effect on local ecology and aid in goals around the Ecological Emergency declaration. For example simple signage around the cemetery space with information on the ecological protection measures. <p>Options: Option 2 retains the mitigating actions of Option 1, albeit adjusted to reflect the reduced scheme size. Option 3 has no mitigating actions.</p>
<p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>		
<p>ENV3 A cleaner, low-waste city: Consumption of resources and generation of waste</p> <p>Consider what resources will be used as a result of the proposal, how they can be minimised or swapped for</p>	<p>Benefits</p>	<p>Waste generation and consumption of resources will not be significantly altered by the South Bristol Cemetery projects.</p> <p>Options: Neither Option 2 nor Option 3 change this assessment.</p>
	<p>Enhancing actions</p>	<p>No enhancement actions</p>
<p>Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>		

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<p>less impactful ones, where they will be sourced from, and what will happen to any waste generated</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p>Adverse impacts</p>	<p>Proposed South Bristol Cemetery Expansion construction operations will generate a low level of construction waste. The excavation of foundations for roads and paths, the installation of drainage and the excavation of the attenuation pond will all generate a potential surplus of topsoil and sub soil.</p> <p>Options: Option 2 presents a marginal reduction in this construction related impact. Option 3 removes this impact.</p>
	<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<p>Site waste will be managed in accordance with construction best practice, ensuring minimisation and reuse wherever possible, and that waste from construction activities and excess materials is minimised. A Site Waste Management Plan will ensure waste disposal is controlled and disposal options are closely controlled.</p> <p>For SBCE all excavated arisings will be retained on site, ensuring their reuse in landscaping.</p> <p>Options: Option 2 requires the same mitigation actions as Option 1. Option 3 removes the need for mitigation.</p>
	<p>Persistence of effects: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	
<p>ENV4 Climate resilience: Bristol’s resilience to the effects of climate change</p> <p>Bristol’s climate is already changing, and increasingly frequent instances of extreme weather will become more likely over time.</p> <p>Consider how the proposal will perform during periods of extreme weather (particularly heat and flooding).</p> <p>Consider if the proposal will reduce or increase risk to people and assets during extreme weather events.</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	<p>Benefits</p>	<p>The South Bristol Cemetery Expansion project includes a comprehensive drainage design, including new main drainage runs for the existing site and a <u>new (reduced size) 900m³ Attenuation Pond (Basin)</u>.</p> <p>The attenuation basin reduces the risk of flooding during heavy rainfall. This will lower the flow rate into Colliter’s Brook, mitigating the increase in runoff volume from the development and reducing flood risks further downstream. Noting that the proposal does not include significant additional impermeable road, pathways or landscaping.</p> <p>Options: Option 2 retains the same benefits offered by Option 1. Option 3 removes these benefits – the current cemetery drainage does not feature attenuation and land drainage outfalls to surface in an upper grassland field of the SNCI.</p>
	<p>Enhancing actions</p>	<p>The proposed drainage design featuring a new attenuation pond will enhance the level of runoff control for the existing site. This allows the safe containment and controlled release of excess runoff associated with storm weather events. About 30-40% of cemetery drainage on the higher section presently goes to an outfall on the SNCI. via Site 1. The Site 1 plans allow for removal of existing drainage runs on that site and connection back to the manhole at the end of the cemetery access road leading into that area. The other parts of the cemetery go to an outfall into a ditch on the opposite side of the cemetery. There is currently no attenuation pond.</p> <p>Options: Option 2 retains the same enhancing actions provided by Option 1. Option 3 has no enhancing actions.</p>
	<p>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>	
	<p>Adverse impacts</p>	<p>The development area is Flood Zone 1 land which is at low risk – less than 1 in 1,000 in any given year.</p> <p>Increased run off volume resulting from additional impermeable surfaces.</p> <p>Options: Option 2 reduces the land area of new cemetery expansion and associated hard surfacing. Option 3 presents no adverse impacts but removes provision to connect the existing site land drainage into a new attenuated drainage scheme.</p>

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	Mitigating actions	<p>Effective drainage design featuring over 600metres of new carrier drains of 225mm, 300mm, 375mm & 450mm diameter, Hydrobrake Chamber to control storm flow between new 900m³ Attenuation pond and outfall into Colliters Brook and the use of permeable (porous) surface finishes where feasible and practical.</p> <p>Options: Option 2 retains the same mitigating actions as Option 1. Option 3 does not require mitigating actions.</p>	
Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years			
<p>Statutory duty: Prevention of Pollution to air, water, or land</p> <p>Consider how the proposal will change the likelihood of pollution occurring to air, water, or land and what steps will be taken to prevent pollution occurring.</p> <p>Further guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No impact</p>	Benefits	<p>For South Bristol Cemetery Expansion, operations are undertaken in accordance with Environmental Agency Guidance to prevent the risk of pollution to groundwater.</p> <p>Options: Neither Option 2 nor Option 3 will change the operational policy of statutory compliance.</p>	
	Enhancing actions	<p>For South Bristol Cemetery Expansion the existing surface water drainage within South Bristol Cemetery will be connected to the new drainage system, with the designed interceptor and silt traps providing an enhancement to the existing drainage system.</p> <p>Options: Option 2 retains the same enhancing actions (connection to new attenuated drainage system) provided by Option 1. Option 3 has no enhancing actions.</p>	
	Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years		
	Adverse impacts	<p>Project assessments have not identified other adverse statutory pollution impacts.</p> <p>For South Bristol Cemetery Expansion, consideration has been given to grey water pollution from burial activities and surface water pollution from vehicles using roads and parking areas.</p> <p>Options: Option 2 reduces the scale of burials of Option 1, this may reduce the potential for adverse impacts. However, scheme design and operational procedures are likely to be more significant in influencing the prevention of pollution than the size of the proposed cemetery expansion. Option 3 removes potential additional adverse impacts.</p>	
	Mitigating actions	<p>For South Bristol Cemetery Expansion detailed ground water monitoring, modelling and risk assessments have been undertaken to ensure that water table levels are at a level where there will be no risk of pollution from burial activities. Drainage designs are all above burials to ensure that grey water is not mixed with surface water. Drainage designs ensure that surface water from roads will be treated via an interceptor and silt traps to ensure it is uncontaminated, so that discharged ground water is clean. Source: Planning Application Documents: Flood Risk Sustainable Drainage Ground Water and Environmental Assessment include detailed Tier 3 Ground Water Assessments for both Site 1 and Site 3.</p> <p>Options: Option 2 does not materially change mitigating actions. Option 3 removes the need for mitigating actions related to the proposed new expansion.</p>	
Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years			

Step 3: Action Plan

Use this section summarise and assign responsibility for any actions you have identified to improve data, enhance beneficial, or mitigate negative impacts. Actions identified in section two can be grouped together if named responsibility is under the same person.

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This action plan should be updated at each stage of the project. Please be aware that the Sustainable City and Climate Change Service may use this action plan as an audit checklist during the project's implementation or operation.

Enhancing / mitigating action required	Responsible Officer	Timescale
<p>The South Bristol Cemetery Expansion project will include the implementation of an extensive range of ecological mitigation proposals. These mitigation proposals were detailed in the Planning Application approved at Committee in November 2023. The project will be preparing detailed documentation including a full 30-year SNCI management plan (LEMP) and a Construction Environmental Management Plan which combined will detail the full enhancement, mitigation, and management arrangements to complete the associated works. These documents will be submitted for condition discharge approval from the Planning Authority ahead of the associated works being undertaken.</p> <p>Options: Option 2 does not materially change the enhancing and mitigating actions, there will be a reduction in scale / quantity. Option 3 removes the enhancing actions and removes the need for mitigation actions.</p>	Jon James	Aligned to the project programme

Step 4: Review

The Sustainable City and Climate Change Service need at least five working days to comment and feedback on your impact assessment. Assessments should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the environmental impact of the proposal.

Please seek feedback and review by emailing environmental.performance@bristol.gov.uk before final submission of your decision pathway documentation¹.

Where impacts identified in this assessment are deemed significant, they will be summarised here by the Sustainable City and Climate Change Service and must be included in the 'evidence base' section of the decision pathway cover sheet.

<p>Summary of significant beneficial impacts and opportunities to support the Climate, Ecological and Corporate Strategies (ENV1,2,3,4):</p> <p><i>BCC's Environmental Impact Assessment has identified biodiversity net gain beneficial impacts. The individual measures which achieve this are described in the report above, with measures such as planting of Over 1.5Km of new hedgerows having potential to achieve significant beneficial impacts.</i></p>
<p>Summary of significant adverse impacts and how they can be mitigated:</p> <p>The report identifies the mitigation measures identified to avoid a harmful impact to the SNCI area that are included within the cemetery expansion proposals. No significant adverse impacts are identified.</p>

<p>Environmental Performance Team Reviewer:</p> <p>Daniel Shelton</p>	<p>Submitting author:</p> <p>Tom Worley</p>
<p>Date:</p> <p>11/09/2024</p>	<p>Date:</p> <p>09/09/2024</p>

¹ Review by the Sustainable City and Climate Change Service confirms there is sufficient analysis for decision makers to consider the likely environmental impacts at this stage. This is not an endorsement or approval of the proposal.

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