



Environmental Impact Assessment [version 1.0]

Proposal title: Cemetery Expansion Capital Programme – EIA to support the Cabinet Paper for South Bristol Cemetery Expansion Project.		
Project stage and type: <input 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"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Changing
<input type="checkbox"/> Other [please state]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review	
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.

Expand 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.

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.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 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](#).

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.

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>Enhancing actions</p> <p>The project will not deliver any benefits.</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>Mitigating actions</p> <p>N/A</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 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 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 <input type="checkbox"/> No impact</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 Assessment. Source: Ecological Surveys, Studies, Assessments and Calculations undertaken for BCC by Wessex Ecological Consultancy.</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>Adverse impacts</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>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 are without 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,

		<p>but they would affect areas of grassland of interest for which the site is designated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
	Mitigating actions	<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, 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>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 less impactful ones, where they will be sourced from, and what will happen to any waste generated</p>	Benefits	<p>Waste generation and consumption of resources will not be significantly altered by the South Bristol Cemetery projects.</p>
	Enhancing actions	<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>		
	Adverse impacts	<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>Further guidance</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No 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. For SBCE all excavated arisings will be retained on site, ensuring their reuse in landscaping.</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 new 3265m³ Attenuation Pond (Basin). 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>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>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. Increased run off volume resulting from additional impermeable surfaces.</p>	
<p>Mitigating actions</p>	<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 3265m³ Attenuation pond and outfall into Colliters Brook and the use of permeable (porous) surface finishes where feasible and practical.</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>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</p>	<p>Benefits</p>	<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>Enhancing actions</p>	<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>Persistence of effects: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or less <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5+ years</p>		

steps will be taken to prevent pollution occurring. Further guidance <input type="checkbox"/> No impact	Adverse impacts	Project assessments have not identified other adverse statutory pollution impacts. 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.
	Mitigating actions	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.
	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.

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
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 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 fo the associated works being undertaken.	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.

Summary of significant beneficial impacts and opportunities to support the Climate, Ecological and Corporate Strategies (ENV1,2,3,4):

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.

Summary of significant adverse impacts and how they can be mitigated:

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.

Environmental Performance Team Reviewer: Daniel Shelton	Submitting author: Tom Worley
Date: 29.11.23	Date: 27.11.23

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.