

Date: 03 December 2025
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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Martin,

Consultation on BCP approach to statutory Biodiversity Net Gain(BNG) provision

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

It is not within Natural England's remit to advise on the Councils financial arrangements although I observe these are well set out in the reports.

There are significant benefits to local residents, biodiversity enhancement and local developers in making provision for BNG credits within the Council area.

Local residents will realise directly an uplift in biodiversity and the development community will gain more rapid planning permissions as appropriate local credits can be secured directly through BCP as a supplier and of course a lower credit price.

I am familiar with the three local sites, Solent meads, Erlin farm and Millhams Mead and can confirm that they will each benefit from the approach you have outlined. Solent Mead in particular will provide opportunities for the functional restoration of floodplain meadow habitat which will support Christchurch Harbour SSSI as well as spreading the visitor load on Hengistbury Head.

Bringing these areas into positive management for biodiversity is fully in accordance with national and local nature recovery aims and for a constrained authority such as BCP is consistent with the Councils Nature Towns commitment.

The proposal is timely in respect of the outcomes set out in Natural England's newly launched Strategy. In particular the following outcomes : *Recovering nature, Building better places* and *Improving health and wellbeing*.

These three initial locations are well located across BCP both for sustainable public access and to encourage better understanding of amongst local residents of the effects of climate change on the natural environment and the direct local actions they can take to support climate adaptation through urban greening.

Natural England advise the Council that in bringing forward this proposal it will be need to be mindful of the need to have clearly set out land use functions if it brings forwards

proposals to layer BNG with other mitigation schemes to ensure the delivery of all aspects funded.

I trust this advice will be of assistance to the Council.

Yours sincerely

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