

Participant Information Sheet

The title of the research project

Exploring the Challenges and Opportunities in Biodiversity Net Gain Delivery: Insights from Developers, Conservationists and Local Authorities.

Invitation to take part

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you wish to take part.

What is the purpose of the project?

The purpose of this project is to explore the challenges and opportunities in delivering Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) within the context of urban development. It aims to understand the perspectives of developers, conservationists, local authorities, and local communities on BNG implementation. The project will also assess how different stakeholders navigate the balance between environmental conservation and development pressures. The study will run for 10 months, gathering insights through interviews and data analysis.

Why have I been invited?

You have been invited to participate in this study because you are part of a community that plays a role in or is impacted by Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) initiatives. This includes developers, conservationists, local authorities, and members of the local community, including those without professional experience in BNG. We are interested in gathering a wide range of perspectives to understand both the challenges and opportunities of delivering BNG in urban environments, from experts in the field as well as individuals whose lives may be directly or indirectly affected by these initiatives.

What would taking part involve?

Taking part in this study will involve a semi-structured interview, which can be conducted in person or via video call, depending on your preference. During the interview, we will ask for your opinion on biodiversity conservation, specifically regarding the concept of **Biodiversity Net Gain**. This involves ensuring that new developments leave the natural environment in a better state than before. We want to understand how familiar you are with this concept, whether you

think it's a feasible process, and how you believe the government can effectively integrate biodiversity considerations into urban planning.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a participant agreement form. We want you to understand what participation involves, before you make a decision on whether to participate.

If you or any family member have an on-going relationship with BU or the research team, e.g. as a member of staff, as student or other service user, your decision on whether to take part (or continue to take part) will not affect this relationship in any way.

Can I change my mind about taking part?

Yes, you can stop participating in study activities at any time and without giving a reason.

If I change my mind, what happens to my information?

After you decide to withdraw from the study, we will not collect any further information from or about you.

As regards to the information we have already collected before this point, your rights to access, change or move that information are limited. This is because we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. Further explanation about this is in the Personal Information section below.

Will I be reimbursed for taking part?

Unfortunately, there will be no reimbursement or financial compensation for participating in this study. However, your contribution is highly valuable, and your insights will significantly help in understanding public perspectives on biodiversity conservation and its integration into urban planning. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

What are the advantages and possible disadvantages or risks of taking part?

Whilst there are no immediate benefits to you participating in the project, it is hoped that this work will provide valuable insights into how biodiversity conservation can be better integrated into urban planning, benefiting communities and future environmental policies. Your involvement will contribute to an important area of research that could shape sustainable urban development in the future.

Whilst we do not anticipate any risks to you in taking part in this study, you may experience some discomfort in discussing issues related to environmental concerns or urban planning, depending on your personal views. You are free to skip any questions or topics you feel uncomfortable with, and you can withdraw from the study at any time without any consequence.

What type of information will be sought from me and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research project's objectives?

In this study, we will be asking for your views and opinions on biodiversity conservation, particularly in relation to urban planning and how biodiversity net gain can be integrated into this process. We will also explore your understanding of current environmental policies, the feasibility of implementing biodiversity net gain in urban settings, and how government and local authorities can support conservation efforts.

The information you provide will help us gain a deeper understanding of public and expert perspectives on biodiversity and urban planning. This is crucial for the research, as it aims to identify challenges, opportunities, and practical solutions for incorporating biodiversity conservation into urban development, which can inform policymaking and planning strategies for sustainable urban environments.

Will I be recorded, and how will the recorded media be used?

The semi-structured interviews will be audio-recorded. The audio recordings will be transcribed as soon as possible, and original recordings will be disposed of. The transcripts of your audio recording(s) will be used only for analysis and in anonymised form for illustration in conference presentations and lectures. No other use will be made of them without your written permission, and no one outside the project will be allowed access to the original recordings.

How will my information be managed?

Bournemouth University (BU) is the organisation with overall responsibility for this study and the Data Controller of your personal information, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it appropriately. Research is a task that we perform in the public interest, as part of our core function as a university.

Undertaking this research study involves collecting and/or generating information about you. We manage research data strictly in accordance with:

- Ethical requirements; and
- Current data protection laws. These control use of information about identifiable individuals, but do not apply to anonymous research data: "anonymous" means that we

have either removed or not collected any pieces of data or links to other data which identify a specific person as the subject or source of a research result.

BU's [Research Participant Privacy Notice](#) sets out more information about how we fulfil our responsibilities as a data controller and about your rights as an individual under the data protection legislation. We ask you to read this Notice so that you can fully understand the basis on which we will process your personal information.

Research data will be used only for the purposes of the study or related uses identified in the Privacy Notice or this Information Sheet. To safeguard your rights in relation to your personal information, we will use the minimum personally identifiable information possible and control access to that data as described below.

Publication

You will not be able to be identified in any external reports or publications about the research without your specific consent. Otherwise, your information will only be included in these materials in an anonymous form, i.e. you will not be identifiable.

Security and access controls

BU will hold the information we collect about you in hard copy in a secure location and on a BU password protected secure network were held electronically.

Personal information which has not been anonymised will be accessed and used only by appropriate, authorised individuals and when this is necessary for the purposes of the research, or another purpose identified in the Privacy Notice. This may include giving access to BU staff or others responsible for monitoring and/or audit of the study, who need to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Rest, during and after the data analysis stage, all the data will be anonymised.

Further use of your information

The information collected about you may be used to support other research projects in the future and access to it will not be restricted. You will not be able to be identified in the data without your specific consent. To enable this use, the data will be added to an appropriate research data repository such as BORDaR (BU's Data Repository): this is a central location where data is stored, which is accessible to the public.

Keeping your information if you withdraw from the study

If you withdraw from active participation in the study, we will keep information which we have already collected from or about you, if this has on-going relevance or value to the study. This may include your personal identifiable information. As explained above, your legal rights to access, change, delete or move this information are limited as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. However, if you have concerns about how this will affect you personally, you can raise these with the research team when you withdraw from the study.

You can find out more about your rights in relation to your data and how to raise queries or complaints in our Privacy Notice.

Retention of research data

Project governance documentation, including copies of signed **participant agreements**: we keep this documentation for a long period after completion of the research, so that we have records of how we conducted the research and who took part. The only personal information in this documentation will be your name and signature, and we will not be able to link this to any anonymised research results.

Research results:

As described above, during the course of the study we will anonymise the information we have collected about you as an individual. This means that we will not hold your personal information in identifiable form after we have completed the research activities.

You can find more specific information about retention periods for personal information in our Privacy Notice.

We keep anonymised research data indefinitely, so that it can be used for other research as described above.

Contact for further information

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Rick Stafford on rstafford@bournemouth.ac.uk

In case of complaints

Any concerns about the study should be directed to Professor Tiantian Zhang, Bournemouth University by email to researchgovernance@bournemouth.ac.uk.

Finally

If you decide to take part, you will be given a copy of the information sheet and a signed participant agreement form to keep.

Thank you for considering taking part in this research project.