

Natural Capital & Infrastructure

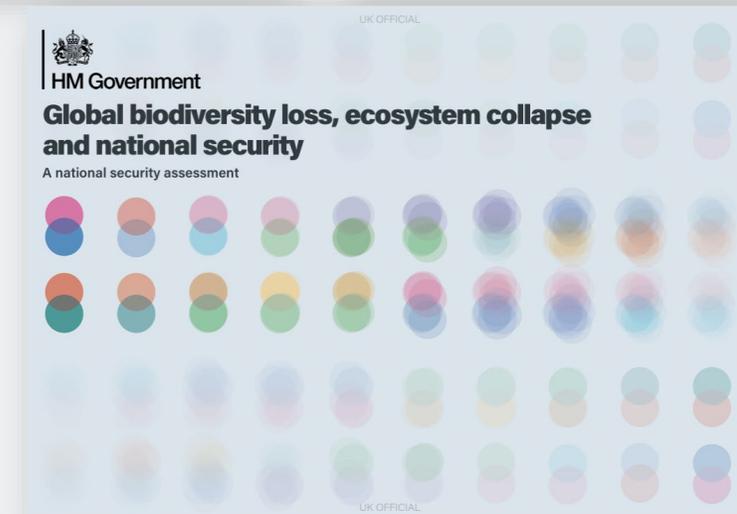
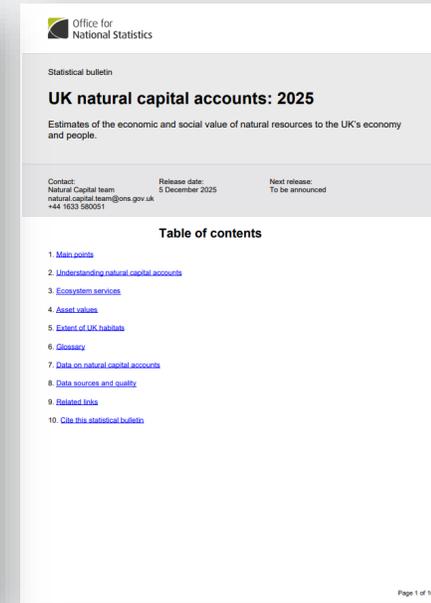
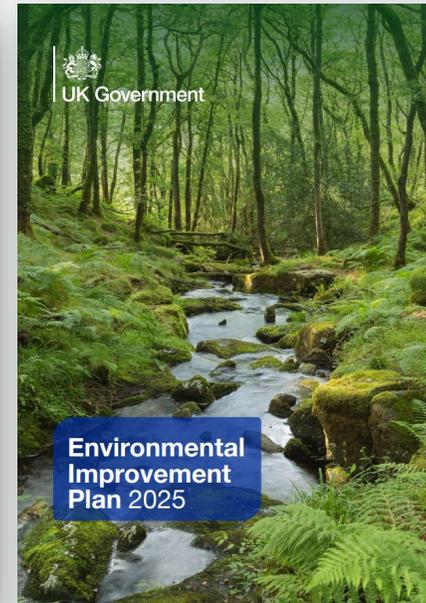
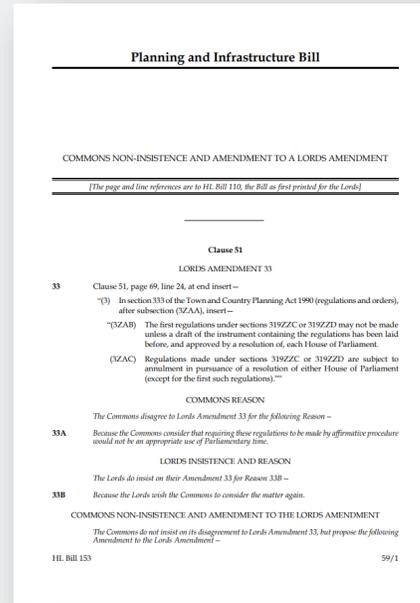
Briefing pack for TDinfo Community of Practice

Will Masters

Agenda

This pack summarises four key UK government publications:

- Planning and Infrastructure Bill
 - Environmental Improvement Plan 2025
 - UK Natural Capital Accounts 2025 (ONS)
 - Global Biodiversity Loss, Ecosystem Collapse and National Security
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- UK policy is now converging around growth, energy security, climate resilience and nature recovery as a single integrated agenda.
 - Nature is no longer a standalone environmental issue — it is being framed as a foundation of economic resilience and national security.
 - Major Defence, nuclear and energy infrastructure projects will increasingly be judged on their ability to:
 - Deliver capability and resilience
 - Demonstrate nature-positive outcomes
 - Remain investable and publicly defensible



Energy & Environment International
UK Natural Capital

£1.6 trillion
asset value of
ecosystem services

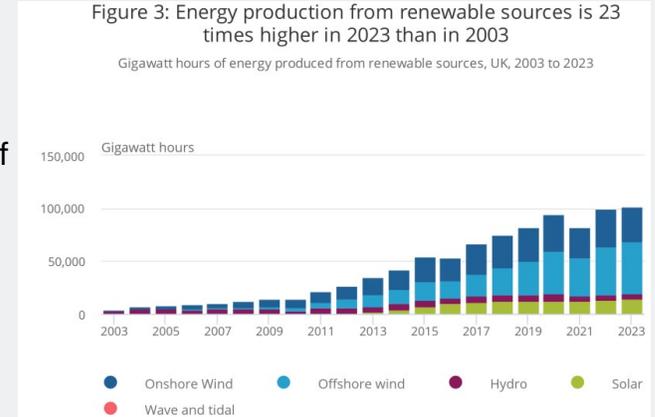
£508 billion
health benefits from
recreation
ecosystem services

-£330 million
annual value of GHG
regulating
ecosystem service

£1 billion
urban heat
regulating
ecosystem services



£3 billion
annual value of
renewable
electricity
provisioning
ecosystem



Estate decisions now intersect with:

- Energy generation potential
- Carbon sequestration
- Flood and coastal resilience
- Habitat restoration

Natural capital degradation increases:

- Operational risk
- Maintenance burden
- Future adaptation costs

Planning & Infrastructure Bill

What is changing:

- Introduction of a **Nature Restoration Levy** for developers.
- Creation of strategic, landscape-scale restoration schemes via a **Nature Restoration Fund**.
- Shift from project-by-project mitigation toward coordinated restoration.

Risks to Defence projects:

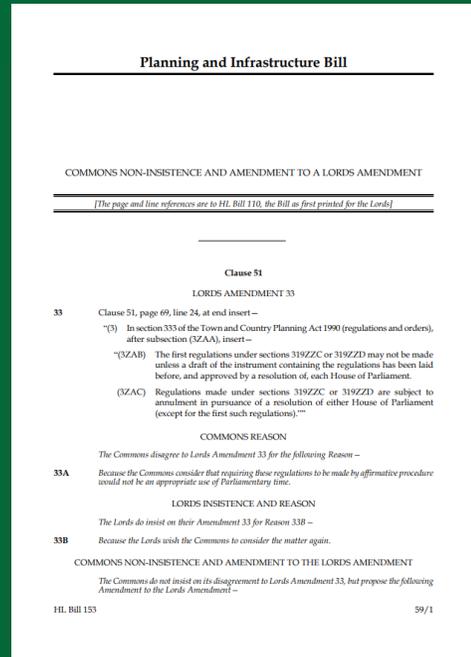
- Increased cost and complexity for major infrastructure.
- Heightened scrutiny on ecological impact and long-term environmental performance.
- Potential planning delay where mitigation is weak or unconvincing.

Opportunities:

- Strategic restoration aligned to Defence landholdings.
- Integrated energy and nature schemes (e.g., solar + habitat, flood mitigation + training land).
- Positioning Defence infrastructure as a contributor to national resilience.

Timeframe:

- Implementation will be phased, with some powers already active and others rolling out over 2026 and beyond



Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2025

What it does:

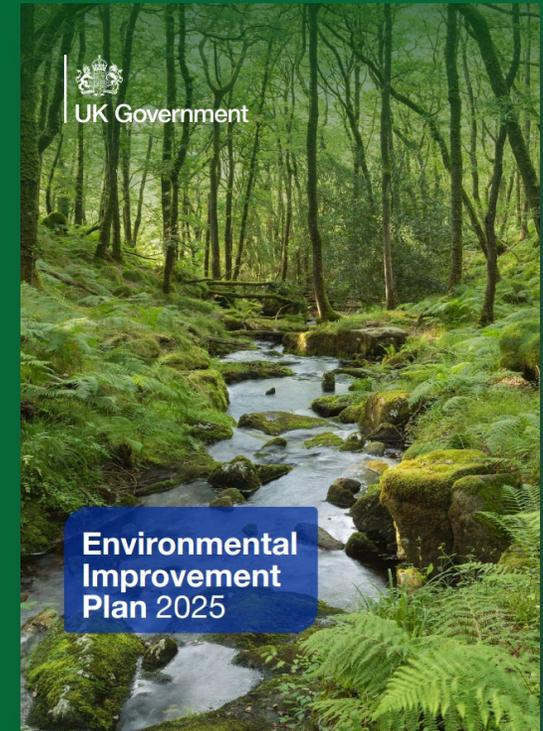
- Sets statutory environmental targets to 2030.
- Emphasises biodiversity recovery, water quality, woodland expansion, peat restoration, circular economy.

Implications for Defence:

- Estates and infrastructure may face increasing scrutiny against EIP targets.
- Projects unable to demonstrate:
 - Nature-positive outcomes
 - Circular material use
 - Climate resiliencemay face reputational and planning headwinds.

Delivery challenge:

- Embedding EIP goals into:
 - Base masterplanning
 - Estate optimisation
 - Decommissioning strategies
 - Infrastructure corridor design



Why This Matters to National Security

- Nature is now explicitly framed as a foundation of mission resilience, not a standalone environmental issue.
- Infrastructure that fails to account for ecosystem risk becomes a long-term security and investment liability.
- This strengthens the rationale behind the Planning & Infrastructure Bill, the Environmental Improvement Plan, and the Nature Restoration Levy/Fund as tools to manage systemic risk.

Global and UK security analysis increasingly identifies:

- Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse as systemic risks.
- Climate-driven disruption affecting:
 - Supply chains
 - Energy security
 - Infrastructure resilience



For Defence:

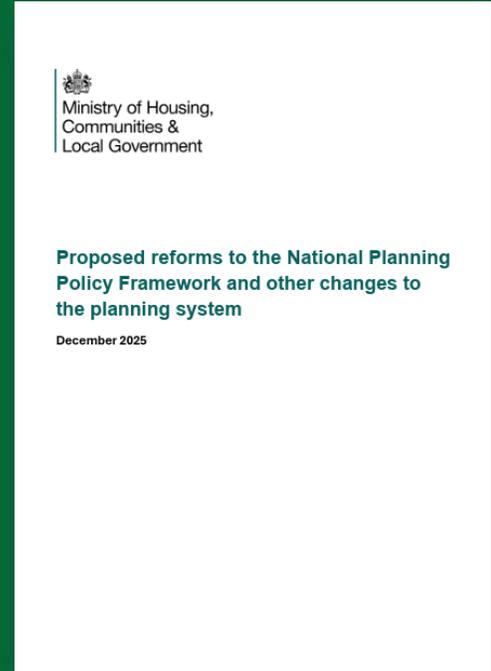
- Coastal bases
 - Training land
 - Nuclear facilities
 - Energy infrastructure
- all sit within ecosystems under stress.

NPPF Proposed Reforms (Consultation)

Implications for Defence Infrastructure

- **Climate adaptation is now material** - climate risks (eg overheating, water stress, flooding) must be addressed at planning stage, with resilience and mitigation considered together.
- **Energy security carries greater weight** - renewables and electricity networks are explicitly supported where they strengthen growth and Net Zero.
- **Nature integration is expected, not optional** - green infrastructure and biodiversity alignment are embedded in policy, favouring strategic, landscape-scale approaches.
- **Design response matters** - passive and nature-based solutions to overheating and resilience are increasingly preferable to energy intensive mechanical fixes.

Planning reform aims to reinforce how infrastructure must deliver growth, resilience and nature together through design.



This consultation closes at
11:45pm on 10 March 2026

What This Means for Defence Delivery Teams

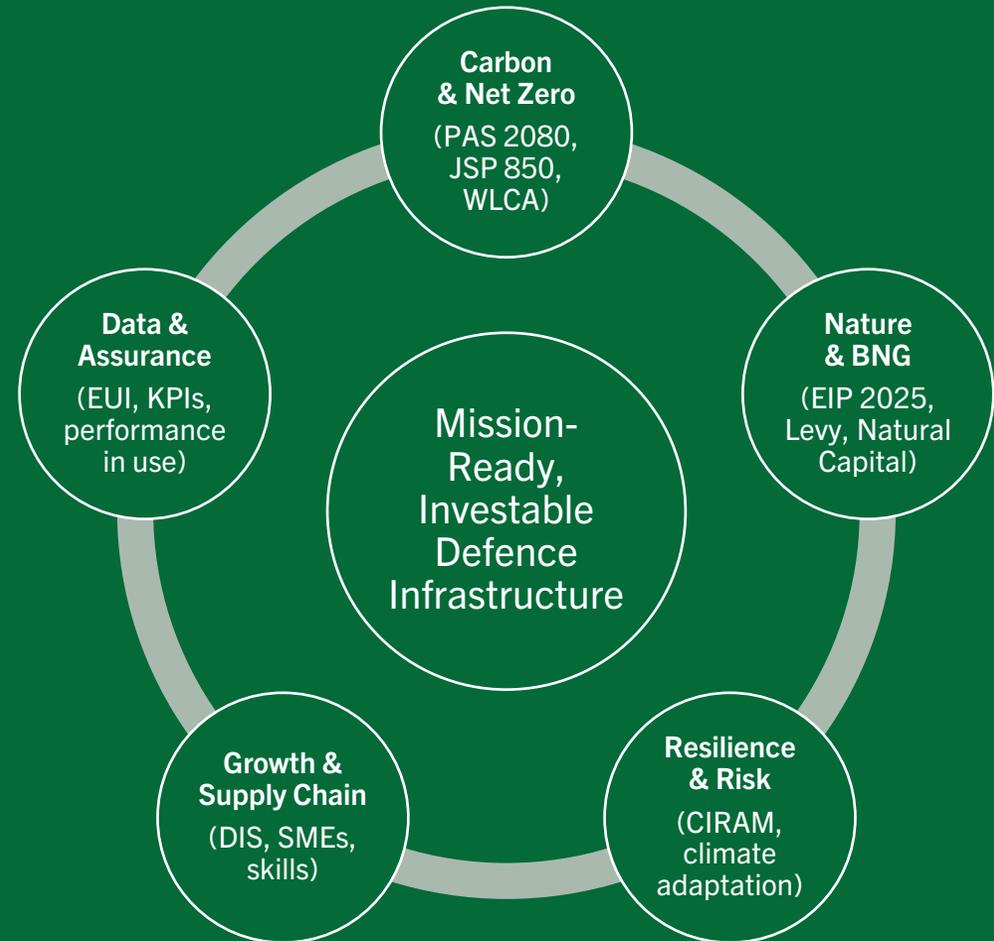
Across Defence programmes, natural capital and infrastructure design must now:

- Integrate Net Zero (carbon) with nature recovery (BNG) and resilience (CIRAM-style risk).
- Quantify whole-life impacts, not just capital cost.
- Demonstrate measurable outcomes.
- Align with Defence Industrial Strategy emphasis on:
 - Growth
 - UK capability
 - Resilience
 - Supply-chain strength

Industry implication:

We must be conversant not only in engineering and programme delivery, but also in:

- Natural capital valuation
- Circular economy principles
- Climate adaptation
- Biodiversity metrics



How Industry Can Support

Integrate Nature into Core Design

- Treat biodiversity and resilience as design inputs.
- Align with BNG, Natural Capital Accounts, and whole-life carbon assessments.

Support Estate Productivity

- Identify renewable energy and sequestration opportunities on Defence land.
- Integrate energy generation with habitat enhancement.

Strengthen Supply Chains

- Build SME capability in restoration, low-carbon materials and MMC.
- Reduce reliance on vulnerable or carbon-intensive supply routes.

Enable Better Business Cases

- Quantify whole-life value including:
 - Reduced flood risk
 - Reduced overheating risk
 - Energy self-sufficiency
 - Long-term cost avoidance

Support Delivery Assurance

- Improve data capture and performance monitoring.
- Embed nature and resilience KPIs into programme governance.

Key Take Aways

1

Nature and infrastructure are no longer separate conversations

The Planning & Infrastructure Bill, EIP 2025 and Natural Capital Accounts signal that growth, energy security and biodiversity recovery are now interdependent. Defence infrastructure will be assessed on how it integrates environmental performance with capability and resilience.

2

Growth, energy security and biodiversity recovery will be judged together

Mechanisms such as the Nature Restoration Levy raise expectations on whole-life carbon, ecological robustness and investability. Major projects must demonstrate technical, financial and environmental performance as a single, integrated value proposition.

3

Opportunity to shape how this integration is delivered, not simply respond to it

Industry can embed natural capital, biodiversity and resilience into infrastructure design from the outset. Moving beyond compliance toward integration will strengthen business cases, reduce risk and support long-term mission performance.



Thank you.



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