

# Using the Environmental Benefits for Nature Tool to improve Green Infrastructure: Opportunity Kensington



*Greengage's successful use of the EBNT in the Opportunity Kensington project (following an earlier use as part of a project at Grosvenor Square, Mayfair) helps exemplify the tool's adaptability, user-friendliness, and effectiveness in driving sustainability initiatives. The positive response and ongoing discussions for future phases underscore the tool's potential for continued impact in the field of sustainability consultancy.*

## **Task – Using the EBNT to assess opportunities for Green Infrastructure**

Commissioned by the forward-thinking Opportunity Kensington Business Improvement District (BID), Greengage started work on an ambitious new Green Infrastructure Action Plan for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in 2023. The project aimed to assess and enhance the existing network, identifying opportunities for ecological corridors to create a more functional ecological network, to update and supplement existing green infrastructure audit data, and address flood risk. Greengage' goal was to identify and assess opportunities for green infrastructure retrofit within the BID's boundaries that addressed identified deficiencies and risks. This required consideration and analysis of the benefits associated with different intervention scenarios. These ranged in scale from street-scale improvements to rooftop interventions such as the retrofit of green roofs.

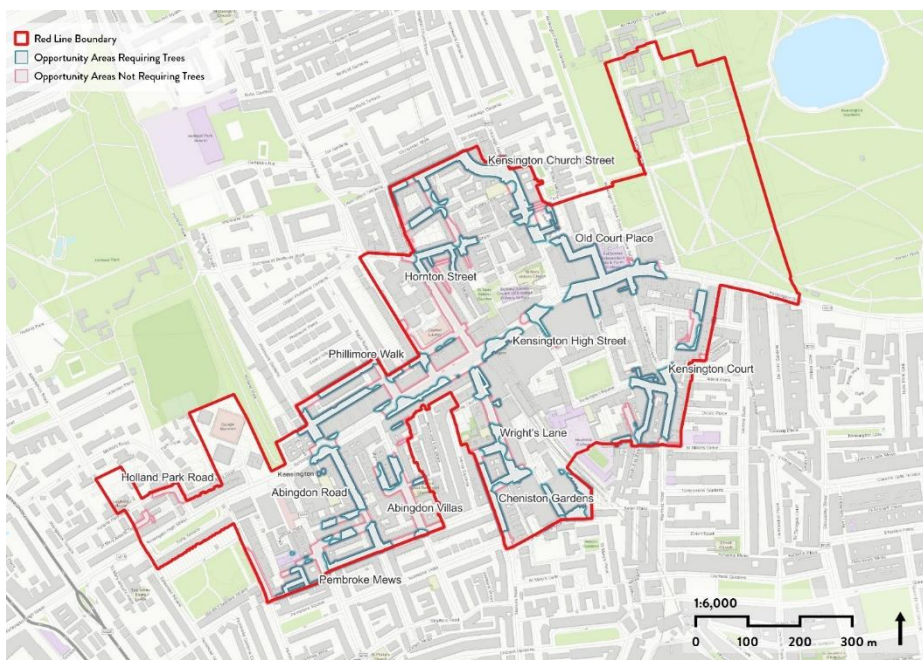


Figure 1: A map which shows the Business Improvement District boundary and G.I opportunities within this area

## **Why they used the EBNT?**

The EBNT was chosen by Greengage to support their consideration of intervention benefits for 3 business reasons:

1. Integrated & Consistent - EBNT aligns with the Biodiversity Net Gain Metric: EBNT aligned seamlessly with the statutory metric, allowing for the use of consistent data for comprehensive analysis.
2. Ease of Use - EBNT has a user-friendly Interface: The tool's ease of use allowed not only ecologists but also wider social scientists within the organisation to navigate and utilise it effectively.
3. Compares Option - : EBNT allows 'in-tool' scenario analysis: EBNT's ability to undertake scenario analysis was instrumental in predicting biodiversity uplifts and broader ecosystem service values.

### **How was it used and what were the results?**

Greengage used the EBN Tool to calculate and present the impact of different scenarios such as street to roof scale interventions on ecosystem services across different intervention typologies (ranging from flood management to air quality and carbon storage). These outputs showed positive impacts for cultural and regulatory services and supported the business case for investment in nature-based retrofits. The tool supported decision-making and provided a strategy an action plan which lay the foundation for physical works to be undertaken.

Conversations are now underway for the second phase of the plan, focusing on street-scale interventions, including the transformation of parking spaces into raingardens. Greengage hope to use the tool again alongside biodiversity net gain considerations to get to stage two/three in the RIBA process, ready for works to be delivered.

### **What were the Benefits of EBNT to assess multi-functionality?**

**Comparing options** - The Environmental Benefits for Nature Tool (EBNT) played a crucial role in in facilitating scenario analysis to predict uplift in various intervention typologies, broadening the scope beyond just biodiversity value.

**Articulating Cultural Services**: The tool proved valuable in articulating cultural services, offering a standard qualitative approach to elements that are traditionally challenging to quantify.

### **Tips for use**

The tool's capability to provide both summaries and detailed information catered to diverse audiences. Headline results were well-received but explaining them depended on the audience's expertise. Pitching the outputs to the audience can help get messages across.

**Future Direction**: Planned further alignment with statutory metrics for data entry, import, and export would be welcomed, and help improve efficiency and effectiveness. Integration with the green infrastructure map (already underway) is also considered to enhance overall functionality.

### **About Greengage**

Greengage is an independent sustainability consultancy specialising in Nature, People, and Planet. The Nature Team focuses on diverse areas, including more traditional planning ecology, as well as offering wider natural capital services, supporting corporate strategy development, reporting, and TNFD-aligned disclosures. Primarily working with developers, asset owners, and investment managers, Greengage helps formulate and implement biodiversity strategies at asset-specific and portfolio-wide scales, to enhance environmental sustainability.

### **About Opportunity Kensington**

Opportunity Kensington is a new Business Improvement District (BID) formalised in April 2022 to deliver a programme of services and initiatives that support and improve the area centred around Kensington High Street.

### **About Environmental Benefits from Nature Tool**

More information is available at [The Environmental Benefits from Nature Tool - Beta Test Version - JP038 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk/nature-tool-beta-test)

