



**RTPI**

Royal Town Planning Institute

# Planning and the Environment

Home Builders Federation

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# Biodiversity Net Gain

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- Site size threshold
- Brownfield Exemption
- Output or Outcome?
- Market Solutions?



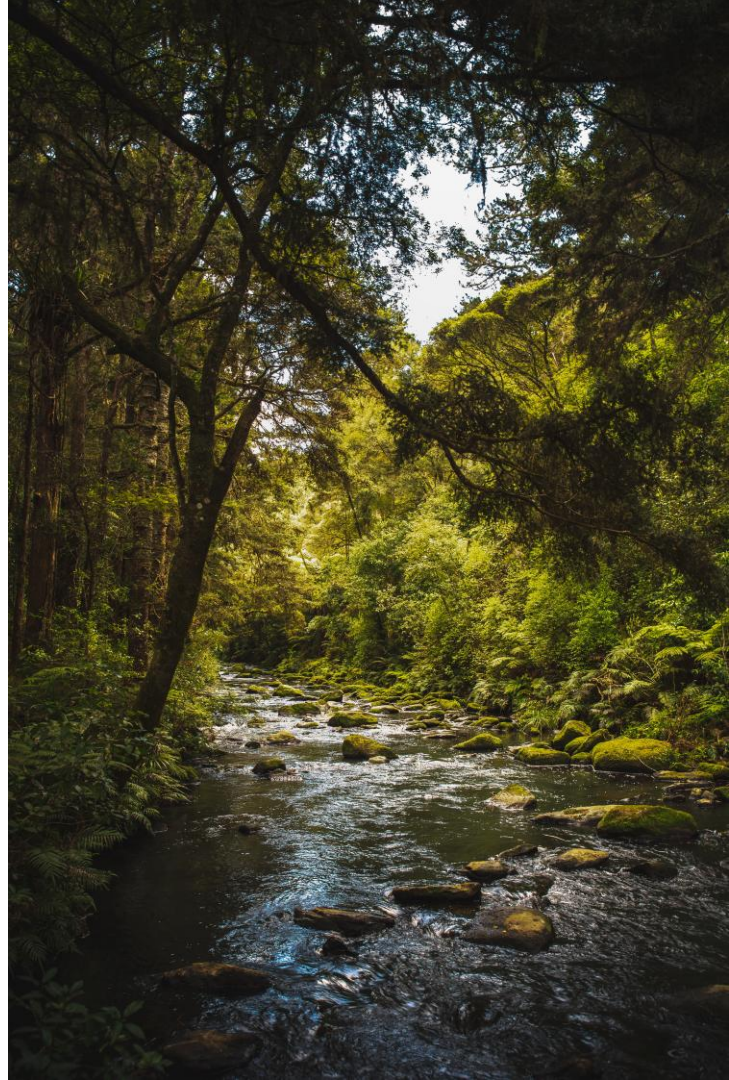
Photo R Callway

# Nutrient Neutrality

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- CLC letter 2021
- March 2022 announcement
- DEFRA targets consultation
- July 2022 announcement
- New prime minister

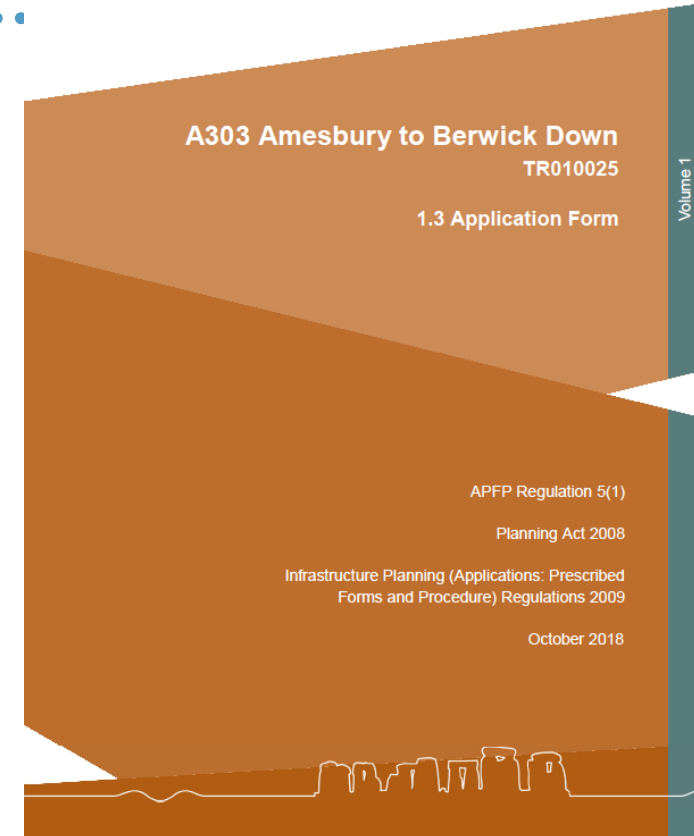
Photo by Casey Horner on Unsplash



# Environmental Outcomes Reports

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- Århus Convention
- Treatment of alternatives



# Local Environment Improvement Plans

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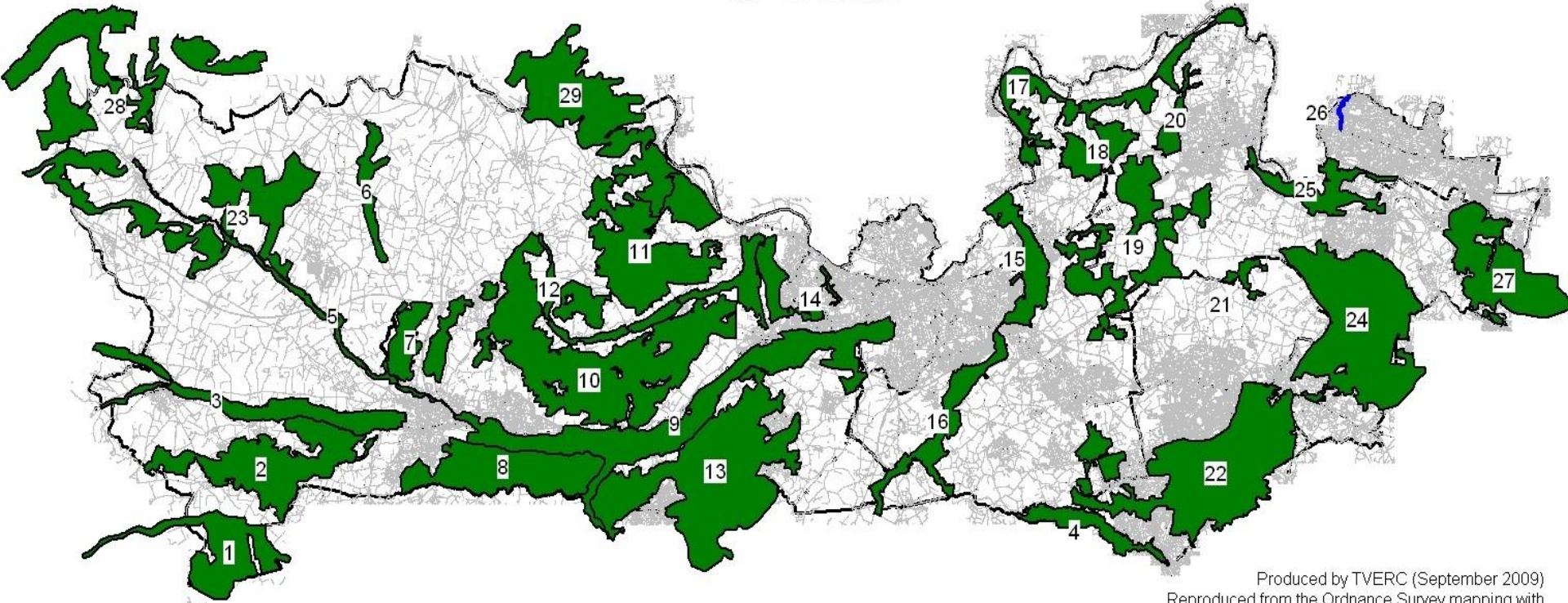
- up-to-date assessment of the current state of the environment, with data frequency appropriate to need
- showing where the environment is in favourable /unfavourable/etc state
- overlaying other activities/communities where relevant, helpful and feasible
- assessing causes and drivers for improvement
- showing designations and other spatial rules

# Local Environment Improvement Plans

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- collating local needs, expectations and preferences
- basis for marrying environmental needs with the place-based needs of other parts of government/society/economy
- showing opportunities for nature's recovery and environmental improvements
- agreeing plans, programmes and projects, where improvements need to be incorporated into other plans
- reporting on where collaboration is needed

# Biodiversity Opportunity Areas in Berkshire



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# Planning Reform: “Computer says no”?





# Planning in Crisis?

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- Net expenditure on planning has fallen from £844m in 2009/10 to £480m in 2020/21.
- Public spending on planning fallen the most – by 62% - in the North East of England.
- Proposed Planning fee increases are vulnerable to inflation and could be lost in real terms when introduced in 2024

# Not just money

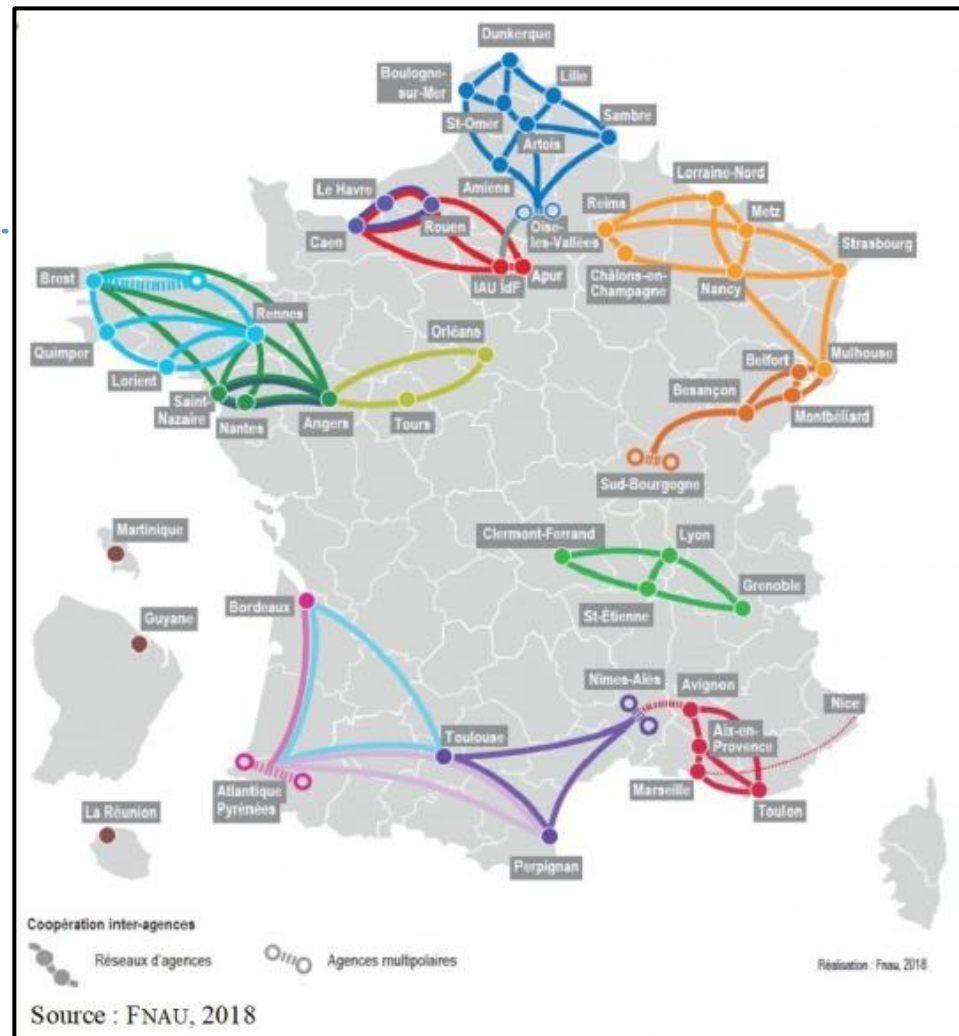
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- Recruitment (especially 5-10 years)
- Low Morale
- Skills gaps



# Agences D'Urbanisme

- French planning system
- Multidisciplinary teams
- Strategic planning
- A resource for local authorities
- Collaboration



# Shared Service model

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## Examples:

- Greater Cambridge
- East Suffolk

## Benefits:

- Resourcing & Resiliency
- Alignment of challenges and opportunities
- Efficiency
- Maintain local knowledge and understanding



# Our Suggestion

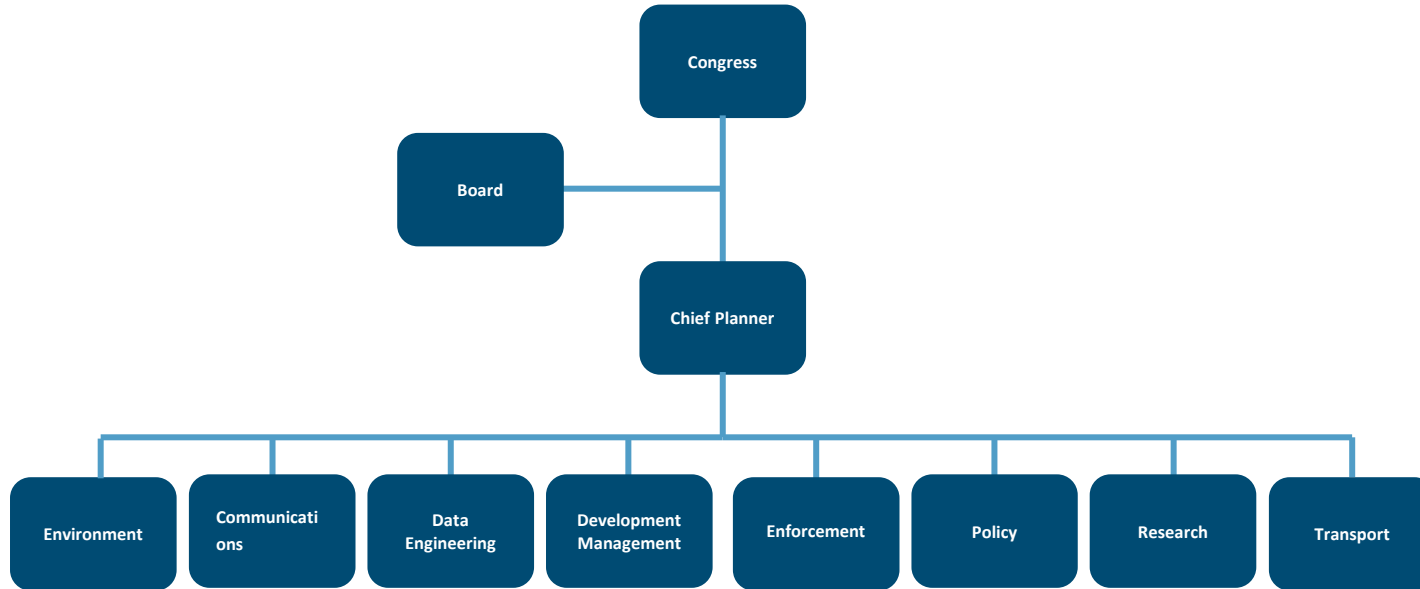
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- Pooling together the planning resources of multiple LPAs, likely within a county boundary
- Taking the economies of scale and combining it with a collaborative and strategic approach
- Creating resilience



# Our Suggestion

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# Benefits of Planning Agencies

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- Economies of scale
- Career Progression
  - Networking
  - Mentoring
  - Location
- Research and data capabilities
- Collaboration
  - Local authorities
  - Key stakeholders
- Sustainable Development



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**Thank you**

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