

Role of the Net Zero Champion

Meet the Standard

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Inclusive Net Zero Champion – My experience

How my understanding of the INZC role has developed

My initial expectation

- Take a hands-on role in delivery
- Keep the relevant objectives moving
- Act as an additional resource for the client

Experience in practice

- Oversee rather than produce the analysis
- Maintain separation from design delivery
- Coordinate, test and challenge ambition
- Influence without control
- Recognise success

Why independence matters

Independence helps to:

Protect assessment integrity

Keep the client's objectives visible

Look beyond individual disciplines

Identify both gaps and success

The INZC should be close enough to understand delivery but separate enough to challenge it objectively.

Challenges

Flexibility can create uncertainty

Influence without control - The INZC can identify the need for change but does not own the design outputs.

Role boundaries - The appropriate level of intervention is not always clear.

Competing project priorities – It is a balance embedding the principles and design features to enable net zero, whilst considering cost, usability, resilience, and place.

Flexibility versus consistency - Freedom to explore better outcomes comes with less certainty than a rigid assessment system.

Opportunities

Flexibility can create opportunity



Influence decisions
early



Connect net zero with
inclusive outcomes



Provide independent
and constructive
perspective



Maintain performance
through delivery and
operation



Capture learning
opportunities

Practical lessons for project teams

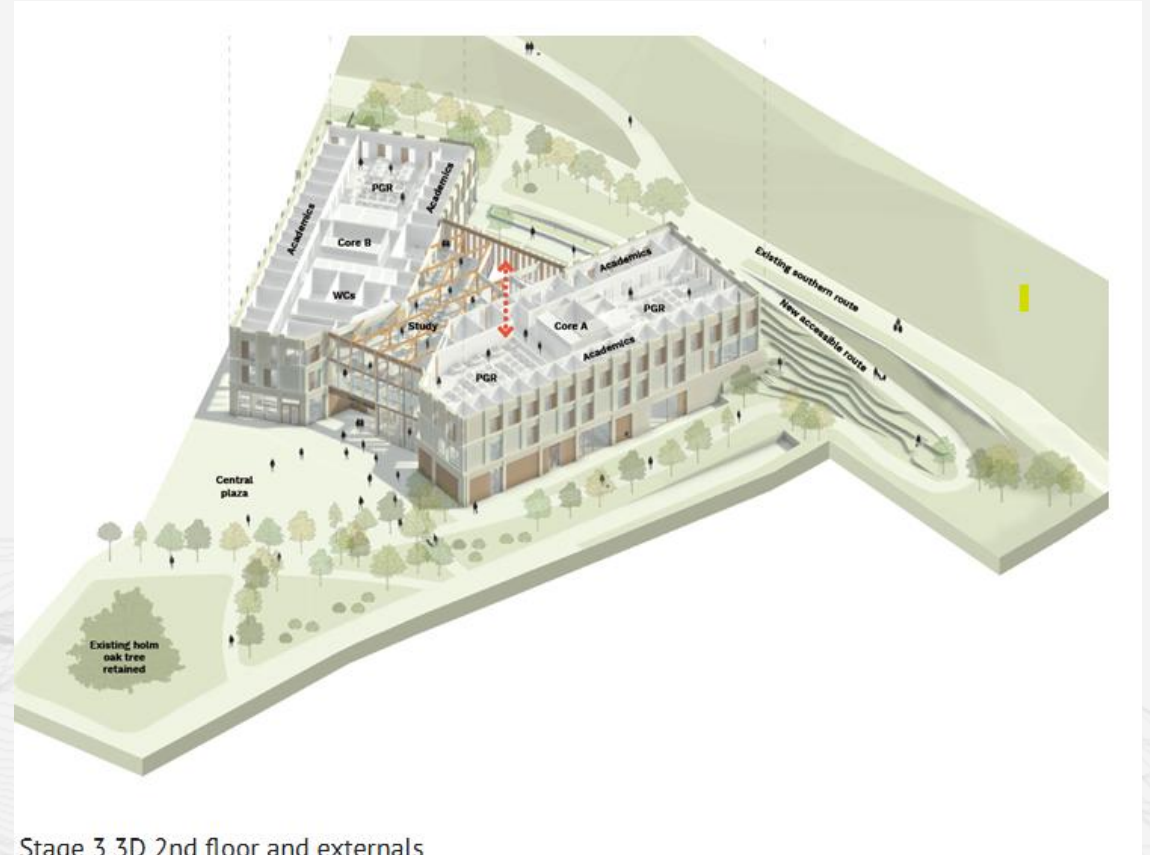
- **The role works best when:**
- Independent challenge is valued
- Responsibilities are clear
- Evidence is reviewed regularly

Practical priorities

- Appoint the INZC before the brief and discipline scopes harden
- Establish regular touchpoints with the client, design team and SFT
- Agree responsibilities, actions and evidence requirements early
- Use an early gap analysis to identify delivery risks
- Establish Objective 1 and place-based requirements at the outset

Project Example – Digital Nexus

The Standard in Practice



Stage 3 3D 2nd floor and externals

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Thank you

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