



## WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN?

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a planning policy requirement that ensures biodiversity is measurably enhanced by development. BNG is measured using Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric, which calculates the biodiversity value of habitats based on habitat type, area, quality, distinctiveness, and location.

## LEGISLATION

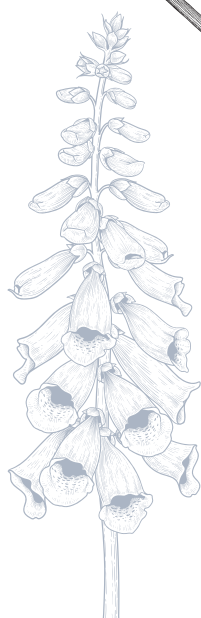


### Environment Act (2021)

The Act makes BNG mandatory for most new planning permissions in England.

Developments are legally required to deliver at least a 10% increase in biodiversity value compared to the pre-development state of the site.

Some local planning authorities may set higher targets.



## BNG PROCESS



### A. ASSESS THE BASELINE

Map and assess the condition of habitats using UKHab to calculate baseline

### B. DESIGN FOR NET GAIN

Avoid harm, enhance/create habitats.

### C. ACHIEVE 10% GAIN

Show uplift via the metric

### D. LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT

Maintain gains for 30 years



## THE SITE VISIT & ASSESSMENT

Our ecologist will visit and survey the Site in order to ascertain whether the Biodiversity Gain Condition applies. During the visit, they will record the size, extent and condition of the habitats within the Site combined with other checks for protected species constraints.

Back in the office, the data is used to calculate the BNG requirement and produce the Biodiversity Statement, which is suitable for planning validation.

The aim is to provide a measurable assessment of the effect of the Proposed Development on habitats.

## DESIGN REVIEW

Our ecologist will review the illustrative or detailed landscape proposals and their associated proposed management. This includes working closely with the project landscape architect.





## BIODIVERSITY GAIN PLAN

Before development can commence, a draft Biodiversity Gain Plan must be submitted which details how the 10% objective will be met. This will include a full assessment of onsite/offsite/statutory credit options.

We provide the draft plan alongside the Biodiversity Statement at validation which ensures that the LPA have confidence in the plan prior to approval.

This means that the Gain Plan can be approved more quickly post-consent (when the gain condition is met).



## THE REPORT

We produce a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment report. This includes the data gathered and agreed management practices.

Our team will complete the initial calculations and then discuss next steps with the project team. Often, with minor amendments to the landscaping plans, better outcomes for the project budget and wildlife are achieved rapidly. The final assessment will be truly reflective of the scheme and the project team's needs.

## THE DELIVERY



### ON-SITE

Enhancing or creating habitats within the development's boundary



### OFF-SITE

Enhancing or creating habitats on land elsewhere. These off-site gains need to be registered and legally secured for at least 30 years.



### STATUTORY CREDITS

As a last resort, developers can purchase credits from the government if on-site and off-site options are not feasible.



## DID YOU KNOW?

We're experts on BNG! Speak to us about your project today!

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