

BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL NET GAIN

EXPLAINER GUIDE

This **Explainer Guide** covers the key principles of Biodiversity and Environmental Net Gain.

What is Biodiversity & Environmental Net Gain?

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a process of development that aims to leave biodiversity in a better state after construction than before, while protecting the existing nature onsite.

Environmental Net Gain (ENG) is an approach to development that leaves both biodiversity and the wider environment (such as soils, rivers, and minerals) in a measurably better state than prior to development – as measured by **biodiversity measures**, **ecosystem services** and **environmental metrics**.



DID YOU KNOW...

...that as of November 2023 **UK legislation** requires all new development in England to produce a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain from the pre-development biodiversity value? This applies to all new large-scale development (small sites to follow in 2024). It can be achieved either onsite, or **offsite** through the use of statutory credits.

Why is it important?

The UK is in a biodiversity crisis. According to the **Biodiversity Intactness Index** the UK sits in the bottom 12% globally for biodiversity; England specifically retaining less than half of its original biodiversity. As vital component of ecosystem health, and climate system regulation, biodiversity is a core characteristic of nature on which we as society depend. Biodiversity and Environmental Net Gain concepts aim to directly address and remedy one of the **largest drivers** of biodiversity decline in the UK and globally; land use change.

What is the role of the built environment?

The built environment has been identified as a key driver in nature loss across the UK and globally, impacting **29%** of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature's** (IUCN) list of threatened and near threatened species. The negative effects include land use change (removing fauna and flora), the fragmentation of habitats, pollution, and the introduction of non-native species. Achieving Biodiversity and Environmental Net Gain will help to directly counter, and remedy the built environment's footprint on UK habitats, by enforcing the introduction of 'nature' throughout the full design process; this is what new UK BNG legislation aims to help achieve.



FURTHER RESOURCES

- UKGBC [Biodiversity & Environmental Net Gain](#)
- UKGBC [Biodiversity Net Gain Factsheets](#)
- UKGBC [Biodiversity Net Gain Infographics](#)