

Biodiversity Net Gain in Hull

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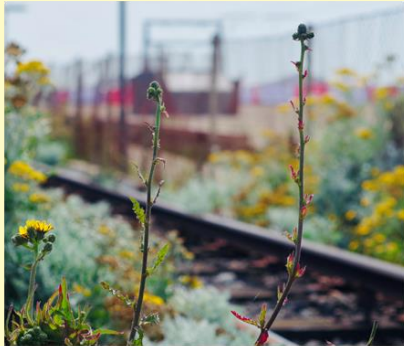
BNG – An Introduction

- Development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before
- Measurable using habitat as a proxy and a metric to calculate net losses/gains
- Mandatory for T&C Planning Act projects in England from January 2024
- In England, net gain system runs alongside existing policy/legal protection of sites, habitats and species

Mechanisms for BNG Delivery

Onsite (units)

Potentially in full or combination



Delivered on-site via habitat creation/enhancement via soft estate/green infrastructure/landscaping

Offsite (units)



Delivered through new habitat creation/enhancement on landholdings or via habitat banks. May involve legal agreements with public/ private landowners directly or via broker

Statutory Credits (2024 onwards)

Only if units not available



Paid into central government managed system to support landscape-scale strategic habitat creation

On site

- Early consultation around the proposed development is desirable to attempt to preserve existing features and habitats.
- Incorporating these features will reduce the burden on the developer. (although they might not see the immediate benefit)
- Design in features and landscape to increase biodiversity

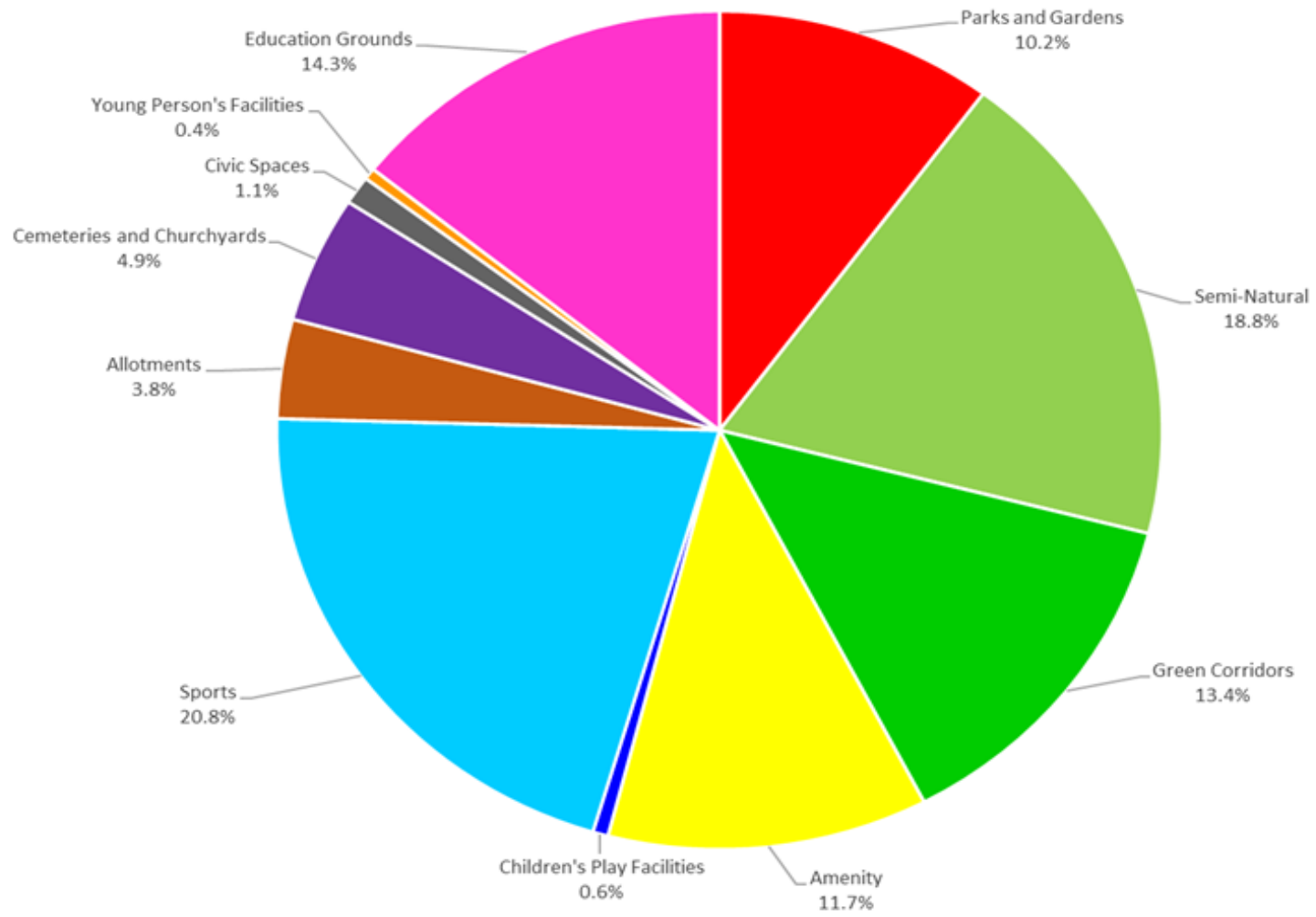
On site – provision examples

- Green roofs
- Incorporate roosting provision (bats and birds)
- On site SuDs schemes incorporating soft landscaping features (eg reed beds)
- Permeable / green driveways
- Native Planting Schemes

Off site

- Establish a baseline assessment of key sites in the area.
- Have projects ready to go.
- Consider all green spaces not just the obvious ones.
- Establish multi - functional sites
- Develop community engagement, interpretation and education to ensure sustainability

Open Space Typologies in Hull



OFFICIAL

Proposed SuDS schemes – Standard SuDS Designs

- Interventions that have not been designed with biodiversity in mind
- Typically of low biodiversity value
- No significant net gain or even a net loss

**Aquagreens – Detention basins – Raised planters -
Swales – Rain gardens – Tree pits**



Proposed SuDS schemes – Biodiversity Enhanced Designs

- Designed with biodiversity in mind
- **Example** – targeting species-rich grasslands
- **Example** – using only native species
- Overall net gain can be achieved



Pickering Park - Hull



Pickering Park - Hull



City Centre Opportunities



Peter Pan Park



After



Before

Statutory Credits

- Last preferred option
- Not local schemes
- Do contribute to larger national schemes

Top Tips for BNG Delivery

- When looking for **locations to develop**, target areas that support existing **habitats of very low distinctiveness** (e.g. hardstanding areas). If not possible, target areas that support **low distinctiveness habitats** (e.g. modified grassland).
- Potential presence of other **ecological constraints** will need to be considered e.g. **protected species**
- **Semi-natural habitats** should be **retained as a priority** and enhanced
- Gains do not have to be restricted to the specific project area, potential to **enhance retained habitats around proposed scheme**.

Key points

- **Community** – don't assume they all want trees/green infrastructure
- **Resources** – the level of engagement is massive, needs full commitment to resourcing
- **Collaboration** – between architects/engineers, landscape architects and ecologists
- **Site selection** – ideally baseline habitats being of very low (if not low) distinctiveness
- **Habitat banking** – BNG could be a way of securing income both capital and revenue to maintain these valuable resources.
- **Sustainability** – 30 year funds need ringfencing

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THANK YOU

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