

# Biodiversity net gain launch date confirmed

To: All local authorities in England

For info: Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales

## 1 Summary

The UK Government has confirmed that mandatory biodiversity net gain (BNG) requirements will go live from 12 February.<sup>1</sup>

From this date, BNG will be mandatory for new planning applications for major development made under the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1990, subject to the confirmed exemptions.

This includes residential developments with 10 or more dwellings, or where the site area is greater than 0.5 hectares.

BNG for small sites will have an extended transition period and will apply from 2 April 2024. A small site means:

- Residential development where the number of dwellings is between 1 and 9, or if unknown the site area is less than 0.5 hectares.
- Commercial development where floor space created is less than 1,000 square metres or the total site area is less than 1 hectare.

BNG will only apply where the planning application was made on or after 12 February.

Defra has put transitional arrangements in place in the main BNG commencement regulations, to ensure that BNG will not apply to a planning permission if the planning application was made before this date.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://defralanduse.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/18/bng-launch-date-confirmed/>

## **2 Discover how APSE can help your council's biodiversity programme**

All APSE members can sign up to APSE's Parks, Horticulture and Grounds Maintenance Advisory Group network, which is an online network providing four learning events across the year, with expert speakers from across local government and the wider parks and greenspace sector. You can sign up to the network using [this link](#).

APSE Training has also designed a special interactive online course for parks professionals: Preparing for Biodiversity Net Gain. This training has been specifically designed to prepare parks and greenspaces colleagues for the introduction of this legislation. Through a variety of interactive activities, learners will have the opportunity to gather information and discuss strategies for practical application. Heavily discounted for APSE members, you can book your place on the course [here](#).

**Matt Ellis, Principal Advisor**

**Email:** [mellis@apse.org.uk](mailto:mellis@apse.org.uk)

## Sign up for APSE membership to enjoy a whole range of benefits

APSE member authorities have access to a range of membership resources to assist in delivering council services. This includes our regular advisory groups, specifically designed to bring together elected members, directors, managers and heads of service, together with trade union representatives to discuss service specific issues, innovation and new ways of delivering continuous improvement. The advisory groups are an excellent forum for sharing ideas and discussing topical service issues with colleagues from other councils throughout the UK.

Advisory groups are a free service included as part of your authority's membership of APSE and all end with an informal lunch to facilitate networking with peers in other councils. If you do not currently receive details about APSE advisory group meetings and would like to be added to our list of contacts for your service area please email [enquiries@apse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@apse.org.uk).

Our national advisory groups include:-

- FM and Building cleaning
- Catering (School Meals)
- Cemeteries and Crematoria
- Cost of Providing/Cost of Living Network
- Highways and Street Lighting
- Housing, Construction and Building Maintenance
- Local Authority Commercialisation, Income and Trading Network
- Parks, Horticulture and Grounds Maintenance
- Recovery and Renewal
- Renewables and Climate Change
- Roads, highways and street lighting
- Sports and Leisure Management
- Vehicle Maintenance and Transport
- Waste Management, Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing

Visit [www.apse.org.uk](http://www.apse.org.uk) for more detail



**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™**  
We invest in people Gold

Association for Public Service Excellence  
3rd floor,  
Trafford House,  
Chester Road, Manchester M32 0RS.  
telephone: 0161 772 1810  
fax: 0161 772 1811  
web: [www.apse.org.uk](http://www.apse.org.uk)

**NEW MUNICIPALISM**  
Delivering for local people and local economies