

# Biodiversity Net Gain

## Preparing Parks Professionals

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**Carbon Literate  
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# Outline



- ❑ Background to BNG
- ❑ Understanding the issues
- ❑ The challenge we face
- ❑ Practical application
- ❑ Next steps and opportunities

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# Background to BNG

# What is Biodiversity Net Gain?

Biodiversity Net Gain is an approach to developments and projects which means that habitats for wildlife must be left in a measurably better state than they were in before.





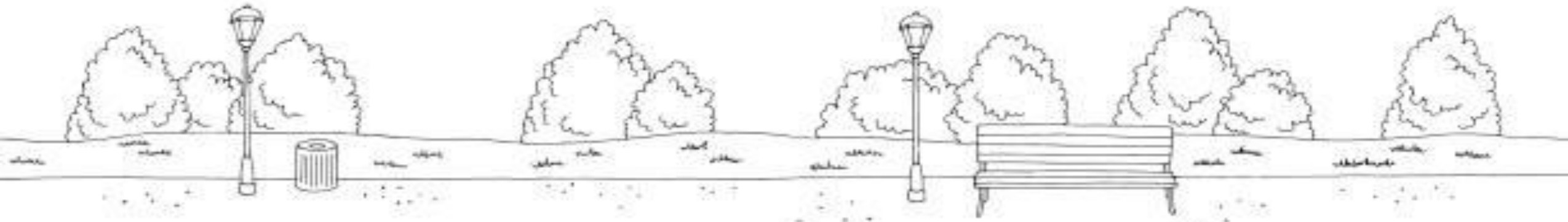
# The origin of BNG

- Previously an optional requirement **until** the Environment Act and the Town and Country Planning Acts were amended in 2021.
- It does not change existing legal protections for important habitats and wildlife species.



# What we have done so far?

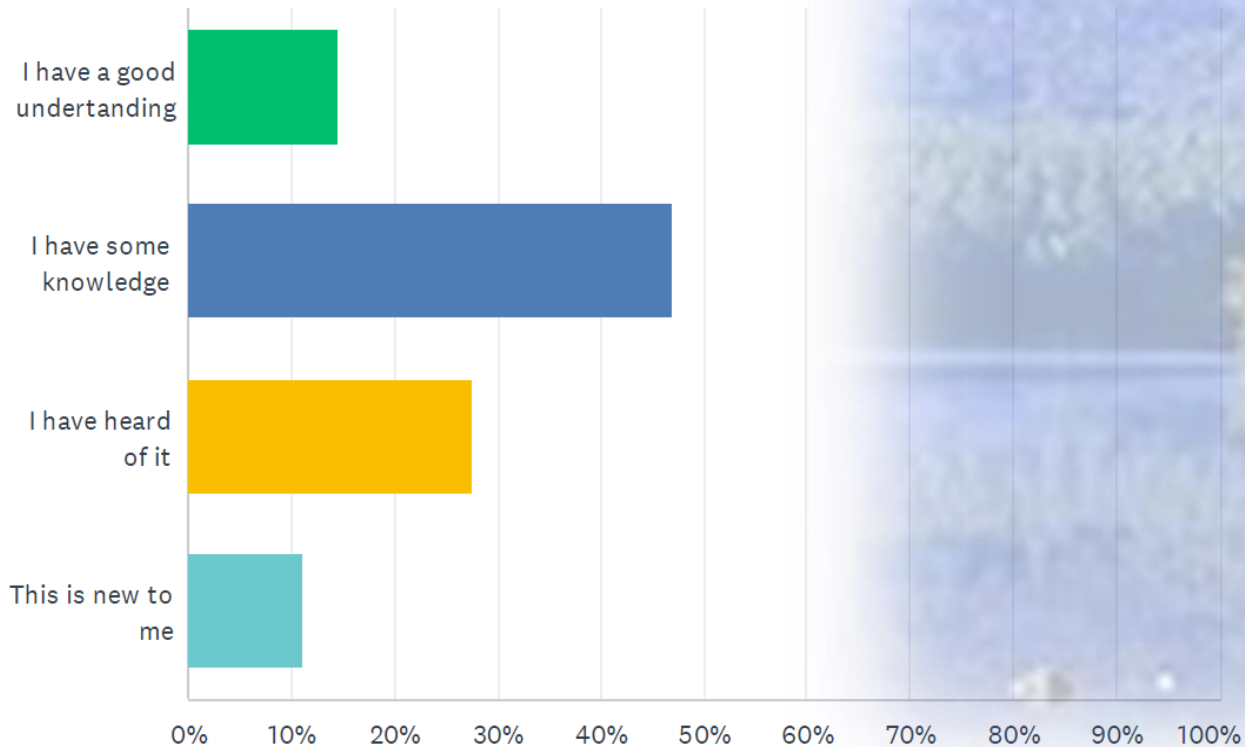
- apse 01 November 2022: Biodiversity Net Gain Event for Parks and Greenspaces Managers
- apse Delivered in partnership with Midlands Park Forum and Natural England
- apse APSE survey to better understand need



# Survey Results

## Q7 Do you understand the role of biodiversity net gain in delivering local and strategic priorities?

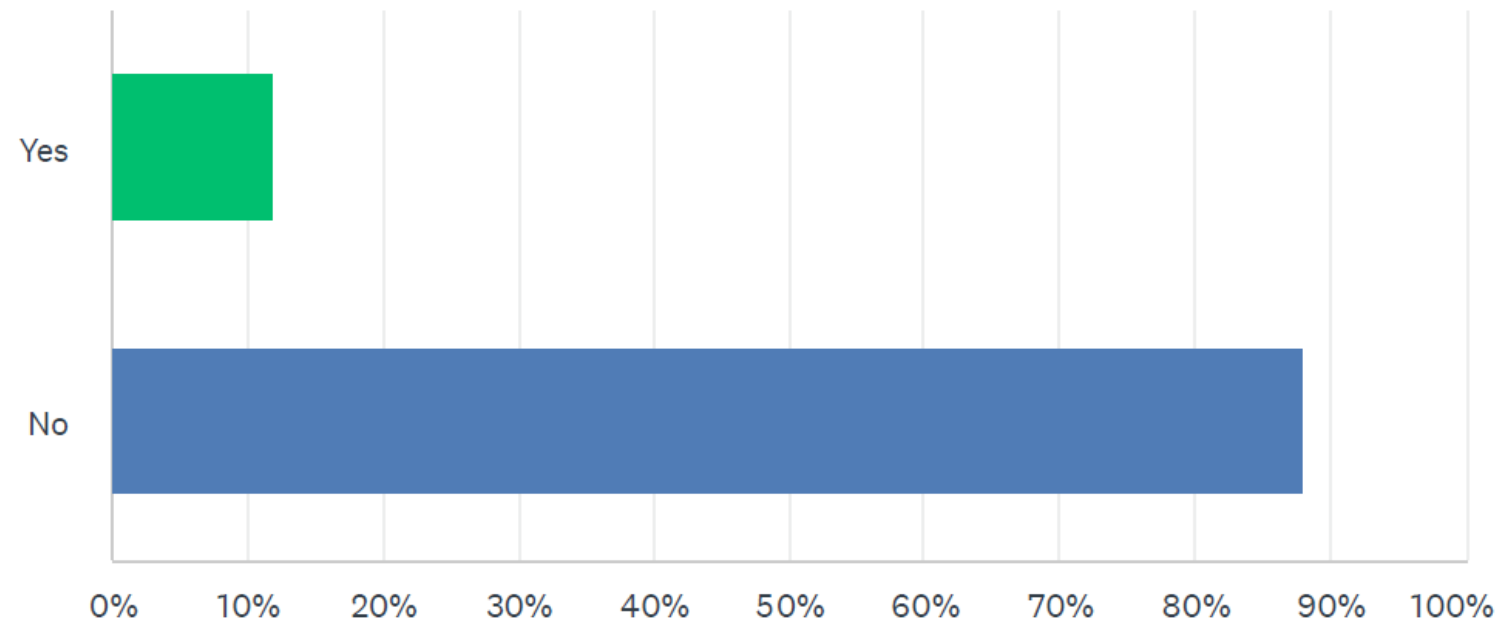
Answered: 145 Skipped: 1





Q10 Do you feel confident in having the relevant knowledge and skills required to deal with BNG projects? E.g. Measuring the biodiversity value of a site/developing a proposal for a BNG project.

Answered: 142 Skipped: 4





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# Understanding the issues

# Where is this applied?

- For the majority of developments where planning permission is granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- For nationally significant infrastructure projects consented under the Planning Act 2008



# What does this mean and why is this important?

- Almost all planning permissions granted in England will have to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain
- Expected from November 2023



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# The challenges we face





# Why is there a need for BNG?

Biodiversity Net Gain aims to **create new habitat** as well as enhance existing habitats.

- Scientists have identified about 1.75 million species.
- The WWF Living Planet Report 2022 finds wildlife populations have declined by an average 69% in the past 50 years.

# Why is there a need for BNG?

- ❑ The UK boasts more than 70,000 known species of animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms.
- ❑ Since the 1970's, it has been shown that 41% of all UK species studied have declined.



# BNG in Scotland

- ❑ Scotland is home to an estimated 90,000 animal, plant and microbe species.
- ❑ Unlike England, Scotland has not followed the model of imposing a legal requirement to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain.
- ❑ The Scottish Government is proposing to deliver BNG through the national planning framework.





## Loss of habitats: stats

- The extent of UK urban environments increased 30% between 1990 and 2019.
- More than 50% of remaining habitats are in decline.
- Habit connectivity reduced to its lowest level in 2005.
- One in ten UK species are threatened with extinction





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# Practical application

# The Mitigation Hierarchy



**AVOID**

## **AVOID**

Where possible, habitat damage should be avoided

## **MINIMISE**

Where possible, habitat damage and loss should be minimised



# The Mitigation Hierarchy



## REMEDiate

Where possible, any damaged or lost habitat should be restored

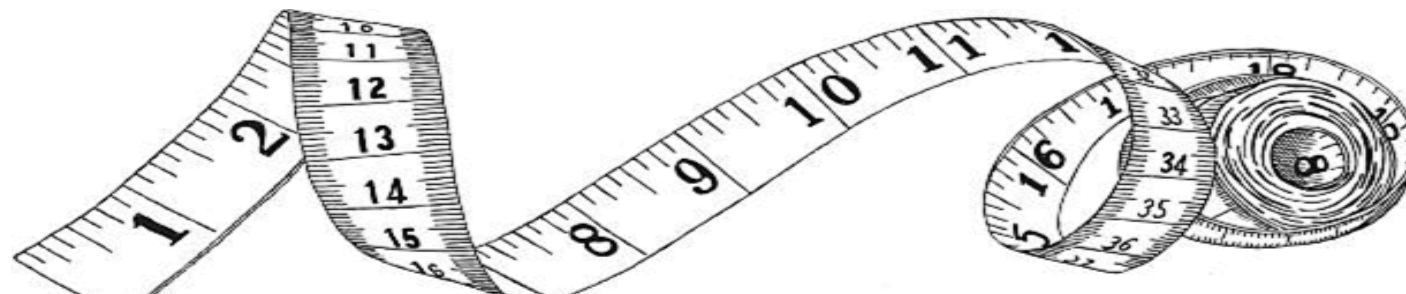


## COMPENSATE

As a last resort, damaged or lost habitat should be compensated for

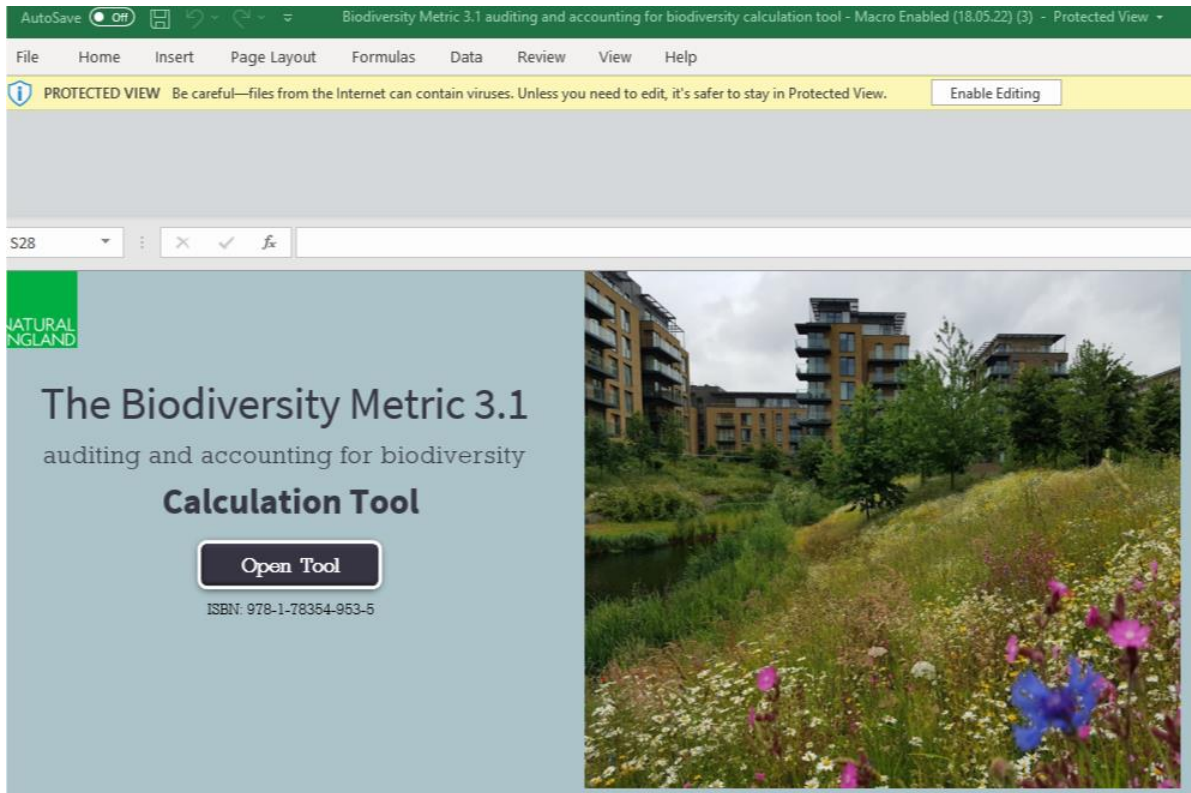
# An Overview of the Biodiversity Metric

- ❑ Tool for auditing and accounting for biodiversity losses and gains
- ❑ Uses habitats as a 'proxy' measure and translates into biodiversity units
- ❑ All intertidal and terrestrial habitats plus linear habitat types
- ❑ Establishes a baseline and forecasts a proposed outcome
- ❑ Provides confidence and consistency of approach
- ❑ Aids communication to non technical audiences
- ❑ Underpinned by ecological evidence but deliberately simple and practical to use

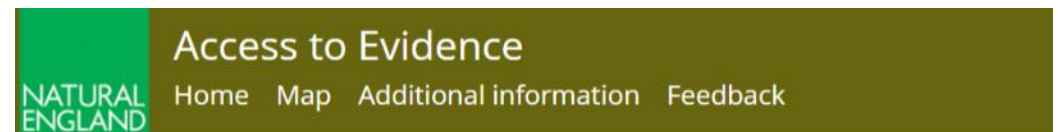




# An Overview of the Biodiversity Metric



[The Biodiversity Metric 3.1 - JP039 \(nepubprod.appspot.com\)](https://nepubprod.appspot.com)



[Home](#)

## The Biodiversity Metric 3.1 (JP039)

## The Register

- Registers gains allocated to a specific development
- Enables sites to be tracked and monitored over time scrutiny of outcomes
- Prevents double counting of biodiversity gains
- General public and local communities can access information on habitat sites delivered
- Currently only required for off-site gains



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# Next steps and opportunities



# Preparing for Biodiversity Net Gain

- apse First course date - 28.03.23
- apse For parks professionals
- apse Prepare for BNG legislation
- apse Gather information, discuss strategies, apply to your setting





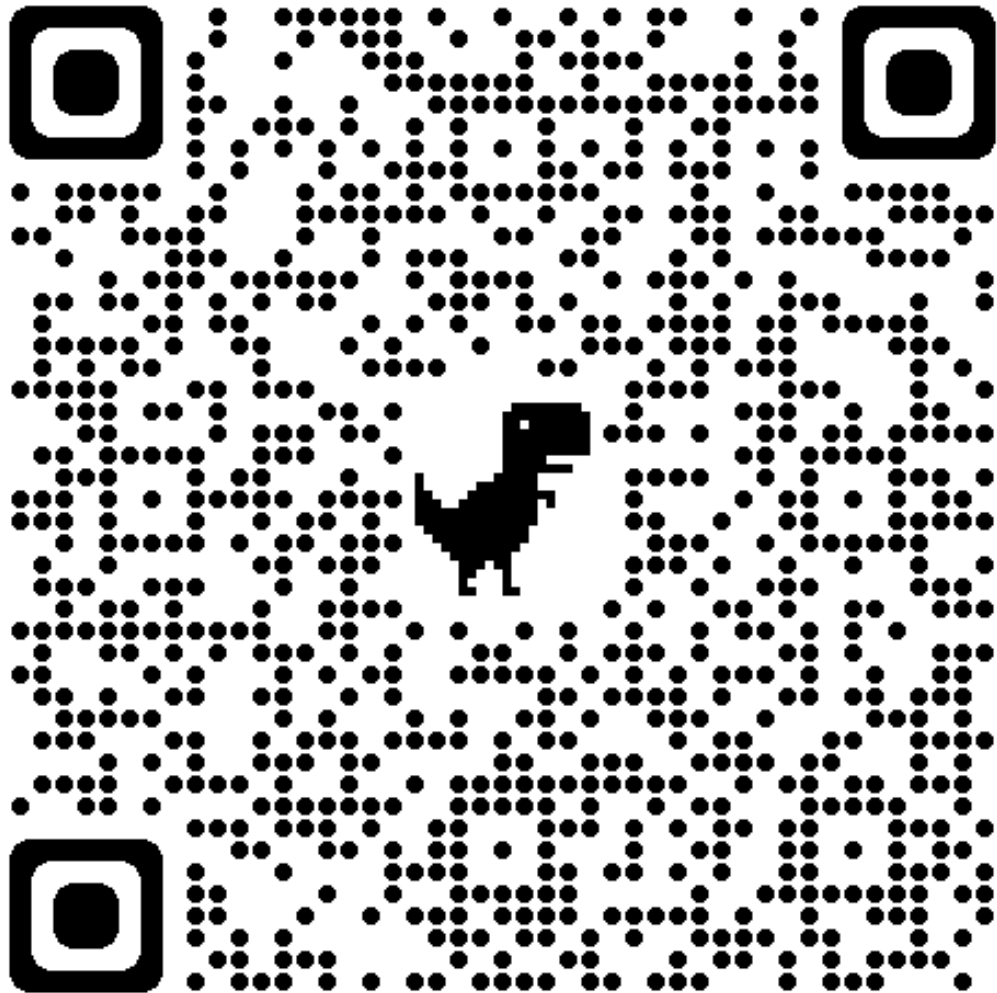
# APSE Training – support for parks

## A one day introductory course

- Better understanding of what Planners are doing
- Developing a process for Parks professionals
- Criteria to create a long list
- How to determine a good site
- Case studies of good practice
- Funding opportunities



Scan the code/visit the website to book



Any  
questions



# Contact



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**Association for Public Service Excellence**



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