



Biodiversity Net Gain

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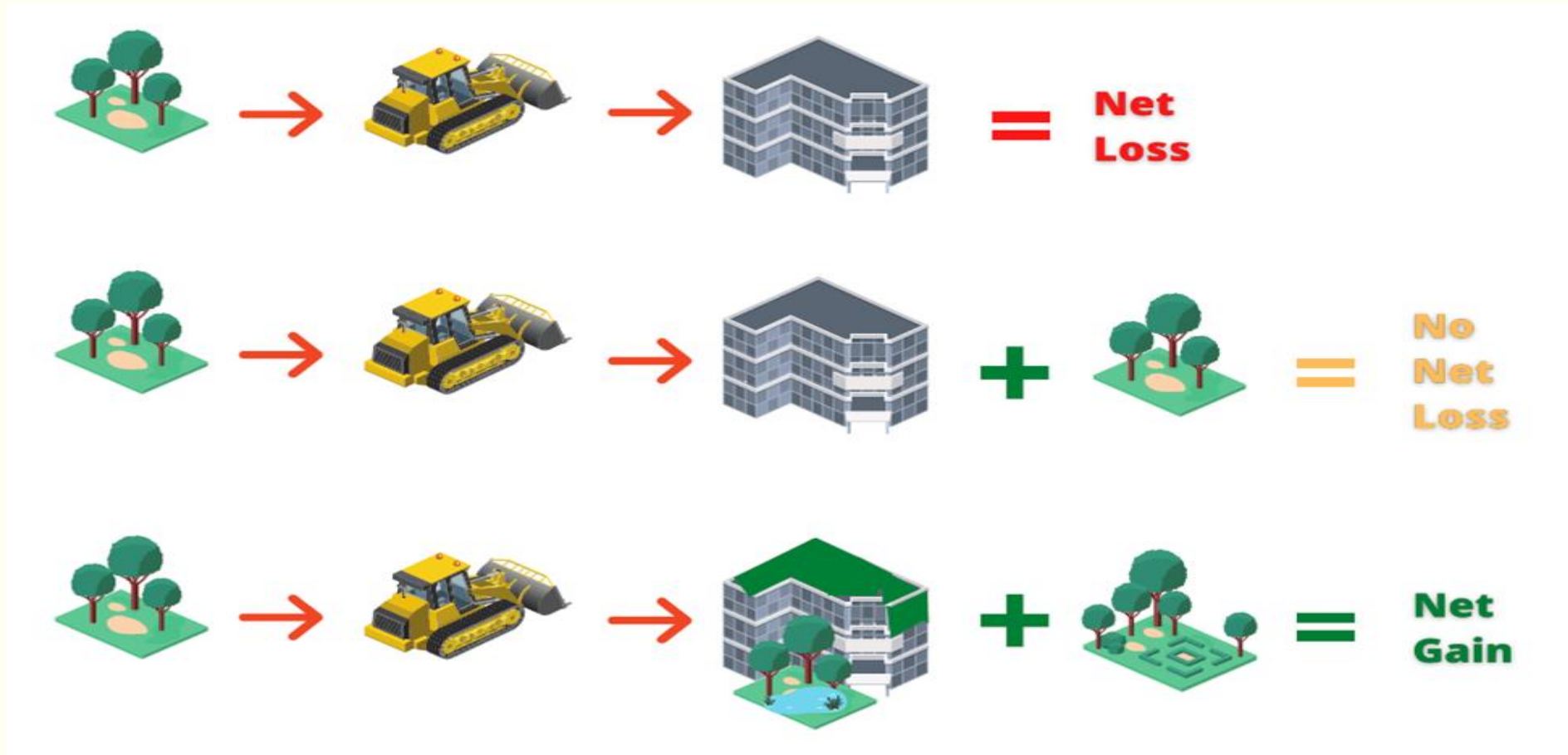




Introduction to BNG

What is Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is an approach to development and/or land management, that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand.

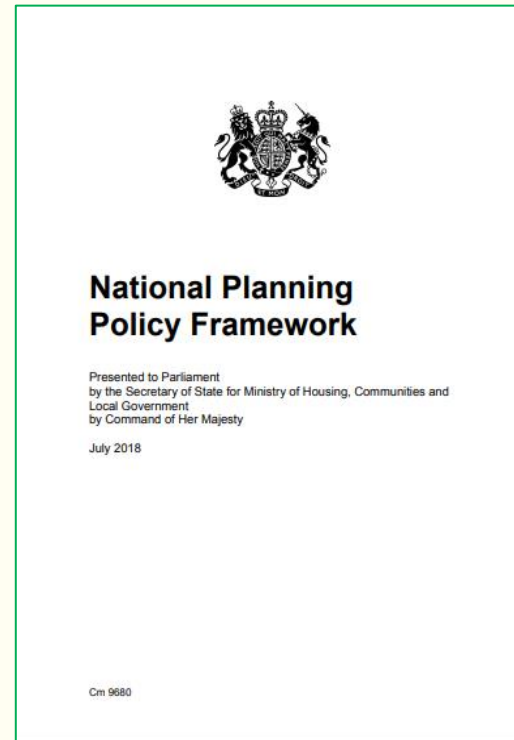


Biodiversity Net Gain

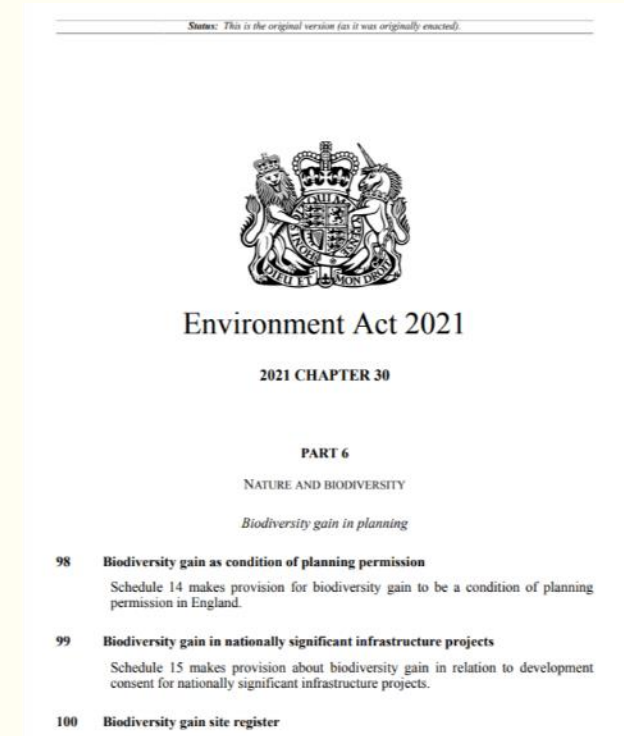
Recent background and context



25 Year
Environment Plan
(2018)



National Planning
Policy Framework
(2018)



Environment Act (2021)
Royal assent
9th November 2021

Part 6
Nature and
Biodiversity

Biodiversity Net Gain: Benefits

For the Economy



For Nature



For People



Environment Act 2021



Key components of mandatory BNG

- England only
- Amends Town & Country Planning Act (TCPA) and 2008 Planning Act (NSIP's) and mandates BNG in the planning process
- Minimum 10% gain required & approval of net gain plan
- Off-site habitat secured for at least 30 years
- Delivered on-site, off-site or via Statutory Biodiversity Credits
- Baseline and post-intervention unit values calculated using standardised Biodiversity Metric
- National register for net gain sites
- Likely to become law – late 2023 (2 year transition period)
- Does not change existing legal protections
- Amended to include Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

Mechanisms for delivery of BNG



On-site (units)

Potentially in full or combination



Habitat creation or enhancement; landscaping or green infrastructure

Off-site (units)



New habitat creation or enhancement on land holdings or via habitat banks

Statutory Credits

Only if units not available



Landscape-scale strategic habitat creation delivering nature-based solutions

The Market for off-site units



Biodiversity Net Gain

Mechanisms for delivery of BNG

Onsite (units)

Potentially in full or combination



Habitat creation or enhancement; landscaping or green

Offsite (units)

New habitat creation or enhancement on land holdings or via habitat banks



Statutory Credits?

Only if units not available



Landscape-scale strategic habitat creation delivering nature-based solutions

Demand



Market



Supply

Trading in Biodiversity Units – a new environmental market



The role of parks & greenspace in delivering BNG

Opportunities for parks & greenspaces



Local off-site biodiversity unit providers through:

- New habitat creation
- Existing habitat enhancement

Provision of additional benefits beyond biodiversity

These spaces can provide additional benefits for local people including community access to natural greenspace



BNG offers Sustainable, long-term finance opportunities for parks & greenspaces

Requirements for BNG delivery in parks & greenspaces



- Habitat needs to be legally secured, managed and monitored for 30 years.
- BNG habitat needs to be registered on the Biodiversity Gain Site Register
- Baseline and post-intervention biodiversity unit values should be calculated using the standardised Biodiversity Metric

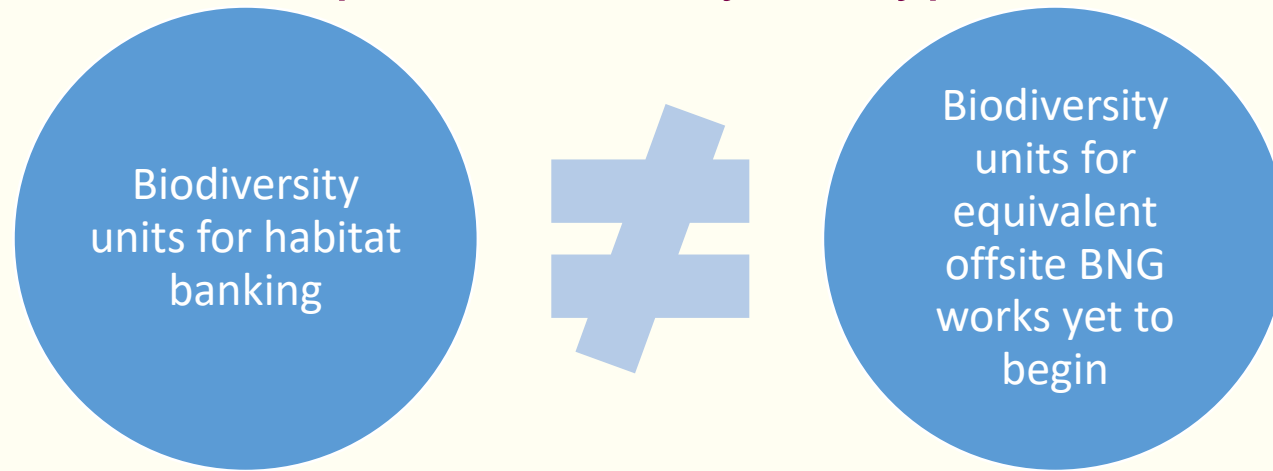


LPA owned land can be used to deliver BNG under a fair & equal system

Habitat banking



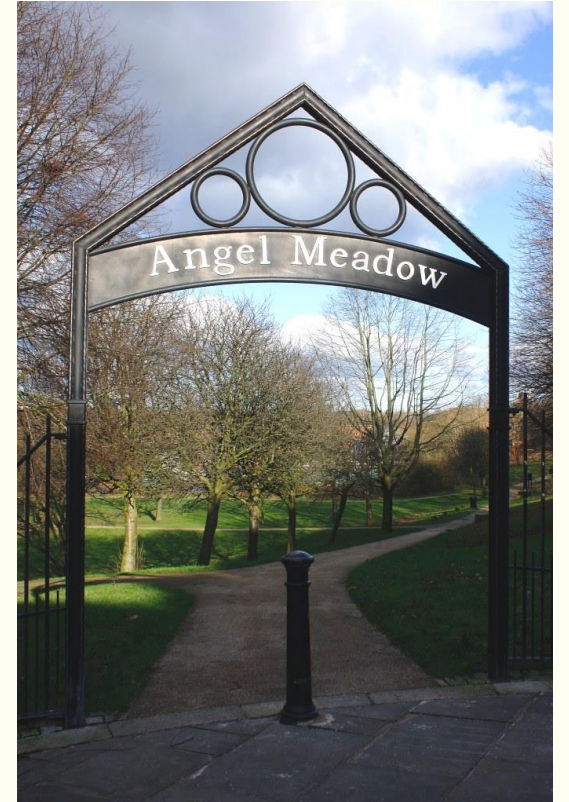
- Habitat banking is a form of off-site BNG delivery where habitat works are done in advance
- Habitat banking can generate more biodiversity units from the same parcel of land
- Risks associated with the upfront capital investment can be mitigated through engagement with developers to identify the types of biodiversity units they will need



Management, monitoring & reporting of BNG



- Monitoring requirements are likely to be set by:
 - the LPA as part of planning conditions & obligations
 - the Responsible Body where enhancements are secured via Conservation Covenants
- It will be the landowner or developers responsibility to fulfil these, or to delegate them to another body
- Failure to deliver BNG outcomes can result in enforcement action



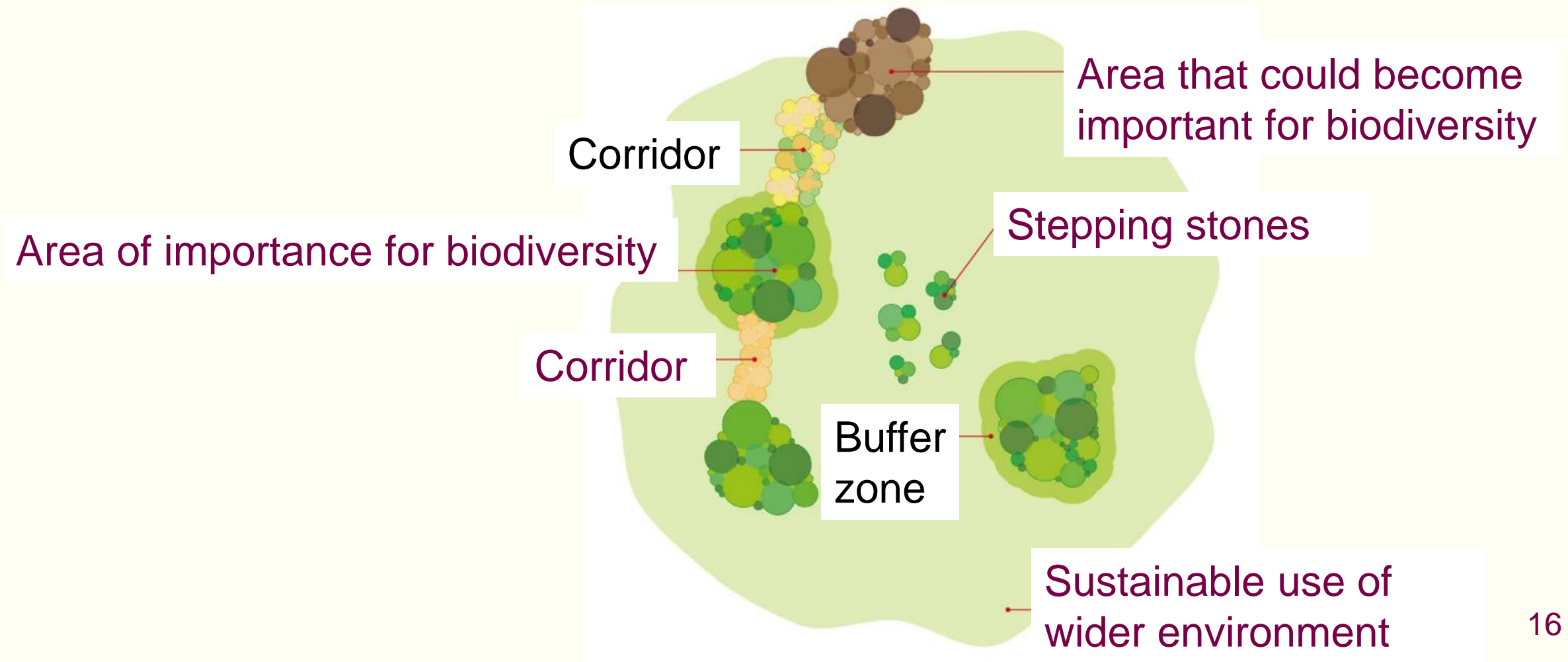
NE are developing a standardised template for habitat management & monitoring



The role of BNG in delivering local & strategic outcomes

How we can recover nature

‘More, bigger, better and joined’ Lawton Report (2010)



Local Nature Recovery Strategies



Related component of the Environment Act

- The Act contained a specific duty on public authorities to ‘have regard’ to relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)
- Locally developed, spatial strategy for nature working within a national framework
- Identify opportunities and priorities for enhancement of the natural environment
- Inform and underpin the national Nature Recovery Network (NRN)

Expectation that LNRS’ will be used to help inform how and where BNG should be delivered i.e. what habitats are appropriate in which locations

BNG & Place Making



- Place-making = important consideration for many LPAs & developers
- Mechanism to invest long-term in local green/blue spaces
- Can help address inequalities in access to greenspace
- Creation of new complimentary green assets
 - can reduce pressures on existing parks & greenspace





Green Infrastructure Framework

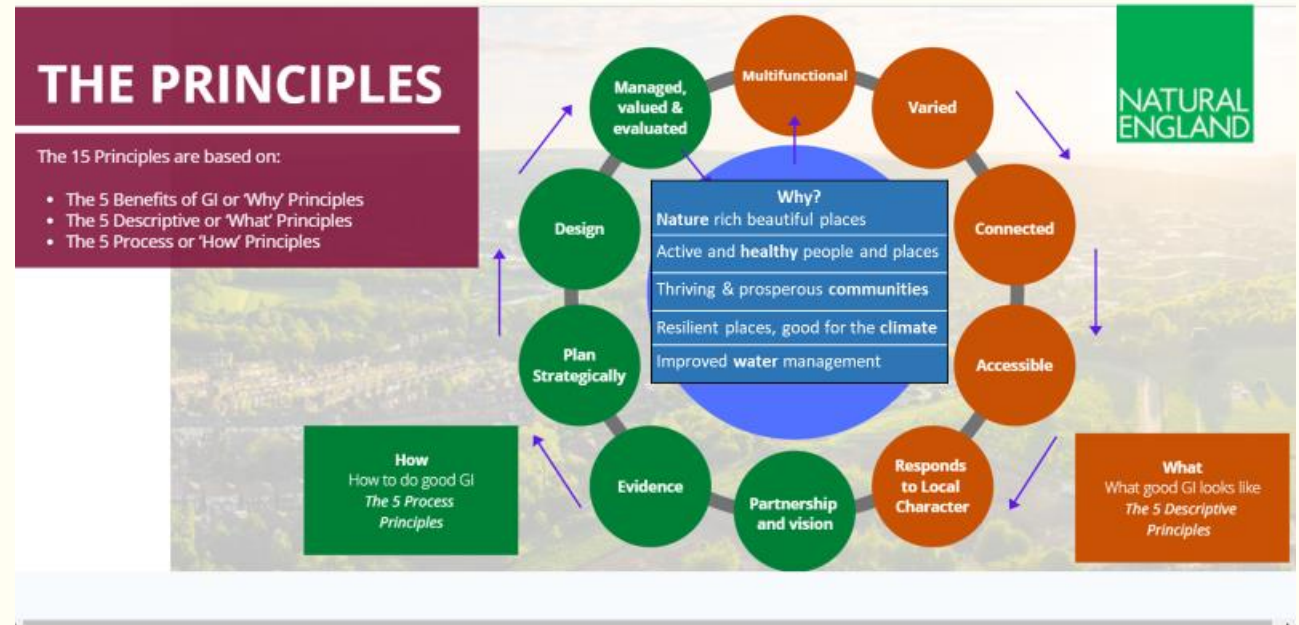
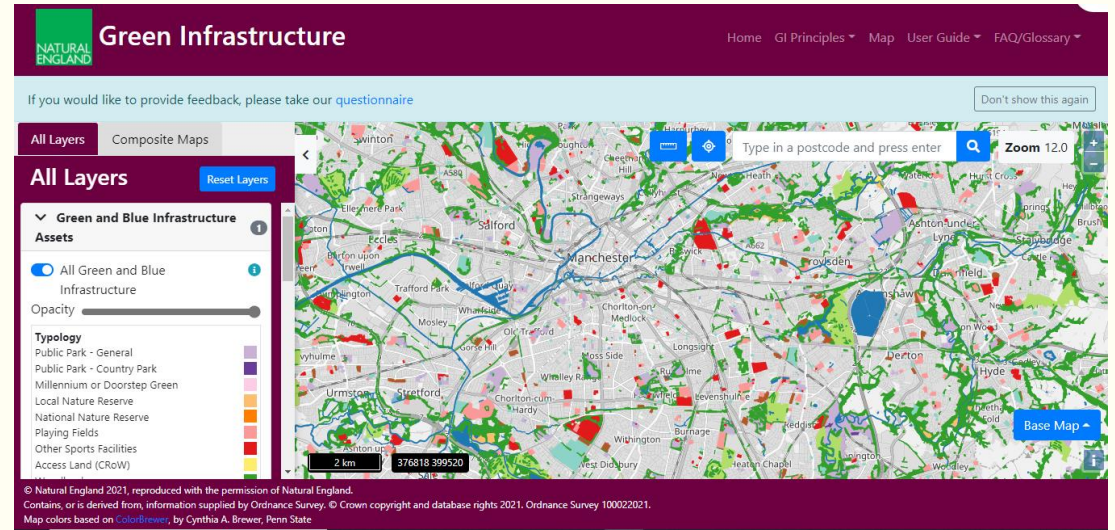
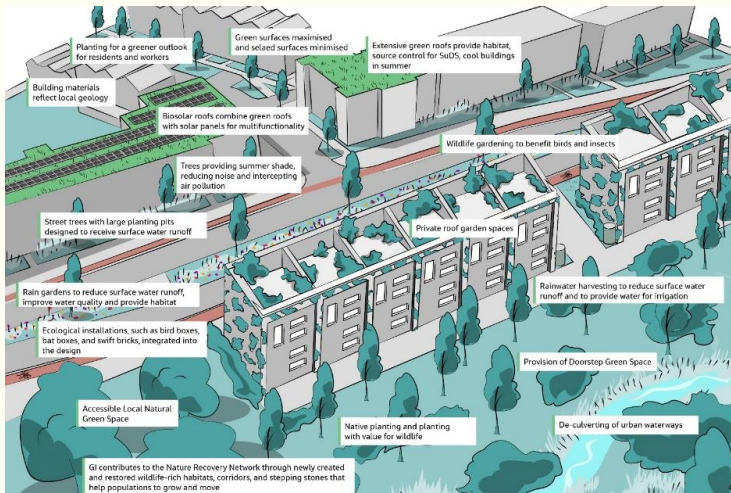


<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/home.aspx>

- Improve existing green infrastructure (GI) and create more GI to provide benefits for health, nature, climate and prosperity
- Everyone has access to good quality GI and by focusing on areas of poor GI provision especially in areas of multiple deprivation and health inequalities
- Support Local Authorities in refresh of local plans
- Mainstream GI as a key asset/ infrastructure in creating and maintaining sustainable places

Products..

- GI Mapping and Principles
- GI Standards including
 - National Urban Greening Factor
 - Accessible greenspace standards
- GI Design Guide for design codes





Preparing for mandatory BNG

BNG now vs. mandatory BNG



BNG NOW



The percentage BNG required is **dependent on the Local Plan.**



BNG can be **delivered on-site or off-site** in the market, both via units.



Land delivering BNG is **not formally registered** on a national database.



Projects delivering BNG can use **any metric** to calculate losses and/or gains in habitat.



Land delivering habitats for BNG purposes is **not required to be legally secured.**

MANDATORY BNG (NOV 2023)



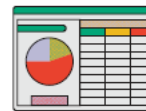
The percentage BNG required is a **minimum of 10%**. This can be higher if stated in the Local Plan.



BNG can be delivered **on-site or off-site, as units, or as a last resort via the statutory credits system.**



Land delivering BNG off-site is **required to be formally registered** on the national Biodiversity Gain Site Register.



Development delivering BNG is required to use the **Secretary of State's Biodiversity Metric** to quantify losses and/or gains in habitat.



Land delivering habitats for BNG purposes is required to be **legally secured and maintained for a minimum of 30 years.**

NB. Key differences only. Not an exhaustive list of every change.

NB. NSIP's = 2025

To consider in preparation for mandatory BNG



- Minimum 10% requirement, but this could be higher depending on local policy
- Current uses of the space and realistic ecological ambitions
- Other factors impacting the site, such as landscape/historic/recreational etc
- Engagement with local communities to highlight any changes that may be taking place



To consider in preparation for mandatory BNG

NATURAL
ENGLAND

- Start baselining sites
- Establish relationships with developers
- Local priorities will encourage BNG delivery in certain parks / greenspaces
- ‘No regrets’ lines for LPAs



Further information sources

Other resources:



- For Local Planning Authorities specifically: [Planning Advisory Service](#)
- [BNG Introductory brochure](#)
- Digital Services progress [blog](#)
- [CIEEM, CIRIA and IEMA Good Practice Principles for Development](#)
- [The British Standard for BNG: BS 8683](#)
- [Landscape Institute: BNG for landscape professionals FAQs](#)



Questions