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# Biodiversity Gain Statement

Please ensure that you refer to the [webpage](#) to download the latest version of this template. With the evolving nature of BNG guidance it is likely that it will be updated regularly.

The Council encourages applicants to submit a **Biodiversity Gain Statement** with a planning application.

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## When to use this form

Use this form to show how a development has considered biodiversity net gain (BNG) in accordance with Legislation and Council Policies and to provide all the information the Council needs to assess your application for BNG.

This statement aligns closely with [Defra's Biodiversity Gain Plan](#) and information should be easily transferrable between the two forms. The Biodiversity Gain Plan is required post-determination in order to discharge the Mandatory Biodiversity Gain Condition. If you have a fully completed Biodiversity Gain Plan, then you may submit it at planning application stage instead of this Biodiversity Gain Statement.

All parts of this form must be completed (unless directed by the form to skip ahead) and all supporting documents must be provided.

When not directed by a hyperlink to another question, always proceed to the next question.

Parts of the form identified by an \* represent "Statutory minimum information" outlined in Article 7 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

# 1. Submission details

## 1.1 Date

For example, 3/11/2023

Click or tap to enter a date.

## 1.2 Development site address as stated on the planning application

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 1.3 Description of the development as stated on the planning application

Click or tap here to enter text.

# 2. Developer details

## 2.1 Applicant name

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 2.2 Company name

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 2.3 Address

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 2.4 Email address

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 2.5 Telephone number

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 2.6 Declaration

By signing this declaration, you confirm that the information you give is complete and correct. Any opinions are your genuine opinions.

## 2.7 Signature

## 2.8 Date

Click or tap to enter a date.

# 3. Responsible person details

Tell us about who is responsible for completing the biodiversity gain statement. For example, a consultancy ecologist or planning agent.

## 3.1 Name

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 3.2 Company name

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 3.3 Address

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 3.4 Email address

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 3.5 Telephone number

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 3.6 Declaration

By signing this declaration, you confirm that the information you give is complete and correct. Any opinions are your genuine opinions.

## 3.7 Signature

### 3.8 Date

Click or tap to enter a date.

## 4. On-site biodiversity net gain – baseline

### 4.1\* Confirm you have used the statutory biodiversity metric tool?

*Use small site metric when appropriate.*

Failure to do so will result in the validation requirements not being met.

Yes Please state the date of publication of the statutory biodiversity metric tool used

Click or tap to enter a date.

No

### 4.2 List the ecological survey reports and ecological assessments that have been used to complete the Defra Metric and habitat condition assessments. Please use UKHAB V2.0 for habitat surveys.

Send your reports to the LPA. Enter the file name here.

Click or tap here to enter text.

### 4.3 Total pre-development biodiversity value

Enter the number from the headline results in your statutory biodiversity metric calculation.

Number of area habitat biodiversity units

Number of hedgerow biodiversity units

Number of watercourse biodiversity units

### 4.4\* Is the relevant date for the pre-development biodiversity value the same date as the planning application?

Yes - [Proceed to 4.7](#)

No - [Proceed to 4.5](#)

### 4.5\* If no, what date have you put?

Click or tap to enter a date.

**4.6\* To support the LPA in reviewing and agreeing the relevant date, please explain why your relevant date is different to the planning application date.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**4.7\* Is there any evidence of habitat degradation that has taken place on-site since January 2020?**

Yes - [Proceed to 4.8](#)

No – [Proceed to 4.11](#)

**4.8\* Was this habitat degradation undertaken with approval from a consenting body?**

Yes - [Proceed to 4.9](#)

No – [Proceed to 4.10](#)

**4.9\* Provide details of the relevant consenting body and reference number.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**4.10\* Describe the nature of the degradation and how this has been factored into your application.**

e.g. predicting the habitat baseline prior to degradation, adopting a precautionary approach

Click or tap here to enter text.

**4.11\* Does the site (or did the site prior to degradation) have any Irreplaceable Habitats?**

[Find out what is considered Irreplaceable Habitats, and how biodiversity net gain applies to them.](#)

Yes

No

**4.12\* If yes, describe the type and conditions irreplaceable habitats that are (were) present.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**4.13 Do the habitats within your site fall within the local nature recovery strategy?**

In the absence of the local nature recovery strategy please refer to the Interim Strategic Significance Guidance for Biodiversity Net Gain in Kent and Medway, accessible via [this webpage](#). Please bear in mind that not every habitat within a set geographic area will be classified as high, medium or low strategic significance. High strategic significance is awarded to the 'right habitat in the right place'.

Yes

No

#### 4.14\* Biodiversity metric calculation

Send your biodiversity metric calculation to the LPA and enter the file name here.

Click or tap here to enter text.

#### 4.15\* Condition assessments

Send your condition assessments to the LPA and enter the file name here.

Click or tap here to enter text.

#### 4.16\* Pre-development habitat survey map (Including North point)

Send your baseline habitat survey report and map to the LPA. Enter the file name here.

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 5. Onsite biodiversity net gain – post development

### 5.1 Post-development habitat map or landscape plan

Send your post-development habitat map to the LPA. Enter the file name here.

Click or tap here to enter text.

### 5.2 How will you avoid or minimise impacts to habitats?

Tell us about the steps you've taken on-site to follow the mitigation hierarchy, including to avoid or minimise the impact on irreplaceable habitats.

Click or tap here to enter text.

### 5.3 Does your development site/scheme include any of the following:

If yes to any go to 5.4. If no continue to 5.6.

- mitigation or compensation for protected species
- mitigation or compensation for protected sites (including nutrient mitigation)
- restocking conditions relating to a tree felling licence or a restocking notice
- remediation under the environmental damage regulations
- river basin management plan (RBMP) mitigation and enhancement measures
- environmental impact assessment (EIA) compensation

### 5.4 Has any habitat creation/enhancements relating to the above been counted towards your BNG?

- Yes – [Proceed to 5.5](#)
- No – [Proceed to 5.6](#)

### 5.5 Have you met 'what counts towards your BNG'?

[Find out what you can count towards a development's BNG](#)

Yes please provide details

Click or tap here to enter text.

No

### 5.6 Will the development have any negative impact on irreplaceable habitats?

Including individual ancient/veteran trees.

Yes – [Proceed to 5.7](#)

No – [Proceed to 5.8](#)

### 5.7 Irreplaceable Habitat compensation plan

Send your draft Irreplaceable Habitat compensation plan to the LPA and enter the file name here.

Click or tap here to enter text.

### 5.8 How do you foresee achieving the required (10%) net gain percentage?

On-site – [Proceed to 5.9](#)

Off-site – [Proceed to section 6](#)

Both – [Proceed to 5.9 then Section 6](#)

### 5.9 Have you added post development details to the metric tool submitted with this application?

Failure to do so may result in the validation requirement not being met.

Yes

No

### 5.10 Total post-development biodiversity value – onsite only

Enter the number from the headline results in your statutory biodiversity metric calculation.

Number of area habitat biodiversity units

Number of hedgerow biodiversity units

Number of watercourse biodiversity units

### 5.11 Total net change in biodiversity units – onsite only

Enter the number from the headline results in your statutory biodiversity metric calculation.

Area habitat biodiversity units

Area habitat biodiversity units % change

Hedgerow biodiversity units

Hedgerow biodiversity units % change

Watercourse biodiversity units

Watercourse biodiversity units % change

### 5.12 Does your application include any on-site habitat enhancements/creations that could be considered 'significant'?

For more information as to what is considered significant, please visit [this webpage](#).

Yes – [Proceed to 5.13](#)

No – [Proceed to section 6](#) (or [Statement Form Complete](#))

### 5.13 Tell us about the significant on-site enhancements/creations.

Which parcels does significance apply to, what total units and % gain is made up by these parcels.

Click or tap here to enter text.

### 5.14 Habitat monitoring and management plan (HMMP) for significant on-site enhancement/creations covering 30 years (where possible use [Natural England Template](#))

If available, send your draft HMMP to the LPA. Enter the file name here.

Click or tap here to enter text.



**5.15 Does your application include an excess of significant on-site units?**

- Yes – [Proceed to 5.16](#)
- No – [Proceed to section 6](#) (or [Statement Form Complete](#))

**5.16 Are you looking to secure these excess units to be placed on Natural England Off-site Register?**

- Yes – [Proceed to 5.17](#)
- No – [Proceed to section 6](#) (or [Statement Form Complete](#))

**5.17 Give details**

Tell us about the units and which specific parcels you would like to secure. Provide details as to how trading rules remain met (250 words).

Click or tap here to enter text.

[Proceed to section 6](#) (or [Statement Form Complete](#))

## 6. Off-site biodiversity net gain

*Answer this section if your development includes/requires off-site habitat enhancements.*

**6.1 Explain why you're using off-site biodiversity units.**

Ensure you make reference to the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy and the NPPF Mitigation Hierarchy

Click or tap here to enter text.

**6.2 How many off-site biodiversity units do you need to meet 10% net gain (or a higher percentage if required by local policy)?**

Number of area habitat biodiversity units

Number of hedgerow biodiversity units

Number of watercourse biodiversity units

**6.3 Have you (preliminarily) secured off-site units?**

- Yes – [Proceed to 6.5](#)
- No – [Proceed to 6.4](#)

**6.4 Explain why you believe that the delivery of the necessary off-site BNG units is realistic and delivery is feasible?**

You may wish to refer to evidence to support the availability of the required habitat units in the locality of your development (the Kent BNG Site Register may support you in this) or refer to correspondence with potential BNG providers.

Click or tap here to enter text.

**6.5 Confirm you have added proposed off-site gains to the metric tool submitted with this application.**

Failure to do so will result in the validation requirement not being met.

- Yes
- No

**6.6 Which option best describes the location of your off-site provision?**

LPA refers to the Local Planning Authority this application has been submitted to. National character areas can be found [here](#).

- Within the same LPA and same National Character area
- Within the same LPA or same National Character area
- Within a neighbouring LPA or neighbouring National Character area
- Not within the same or neighbouring LPA or National Character area

**6.7 Provide the exact location of the off-site provision.**

If the site does not have an address, enter the OS grid reference

Click or tap here to enter text.

**6.8 Provide details of the off-site provider.**

Name

Click or tap here to enter text.

Email address

Click or tap here to enter text.

Telephone number

Click or tap here to enter text.

**7. Biodiversity net gain post development – Statutory credits**

**7.1 Do you anticipate needing to use statutory biodiversity credits?**

- Yes
- No

## 7.2 Explain why you're planning to use statutory biodiversity credits

Only answer this question if you're planning to use statutory biodiversity credits (250 words). What evidence is there that no units are available through the market? You can include correspondence from habitat providers and reference the Kent BNG Site Register.

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 8. Planning Obligations and Conservation Covenants

Please provide details of any Planning obligations or conservation covenants needed to secure on-site or off-site BNG.

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 9. Form Complete

### 9.1 Can we share your ecological survey data with the Local Environmental Records Centre or other bodies? (Optional)

This survey data may be used to better inform Local Policies and inform action taken by local charities to further enhance/protect the natural environment. This data is also made available for academic research via the Record Centre.

Yes

No

### 9.2 Save this file as a .doc, .docx or .pdf and submit with your application