

**Biodiversity net gain.
Good practice principles
for development**
A practical guide



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This webinar will provide an overview of two new free guidance documents produced by CIEEM, CIRIA and IEMA building on the Biodiversity Principles published in 2016.

Biodiversity Net Gain – Principles and Guidance for UK construction and developments

Webinar recording available soon

handy hints for using the guide

Top Three Hidden Gems

Achieving BNG on sites with limited or no impact on biodiversity

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Technical note T2

Threshold of biodiversity impact	Development scale	Indicators	Measuring biodiversity net gain
No biodiversity on site and/or no biodiversity affected by the project	Typically small scale Could exceptionally include medium or large scale development	Below a LPAs set validation checklist thresholds for whether a suitably-qualified ecologist is required for the project	The ' basic measurements ' option
Low level of biodiversity on site, low level of impact	Typically small scale Could exceptionally include medium or large-scale development	Definition of small scale and low impact described within this technical note (or locally established adaptation) is met	The ' simplified metric ' option

T2.10 OPPORTUNITIES FOR DELIVERING BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

What does good **not** look like?



Avoid pitfalls when quantifying losses and gains in biodiversity

When designing BNG, demonstrating delivery of the ‘Lawton principles’ is a vital consideration but there can be pitfalls to avoid, as illustrated in **Table 11.6**.

Outcome-based KPIs	Example activities to achieve KPI	Business advantages	How to avoid pitfalls
<i>Individual projects</i>			
Achieve net gains in biodiversity affected by a development in a way that contributes towards local priorities for biodiversity.	Project X results in permanent loss of woodland after following the mitigation hierarchy. It achieves BNG by creating new areas of native-species-rich woodland in areas identified for woodland creation in the local biodiversity plan.	Quantifying a project’s contribution towards local biodiversity plans is a powerful message for an organisation to demonstrate the wider value, and legacy, of its project.	Link to published biodiversity plans (eg those by LPAs) to avoid a numbers-focused approach where BNG is achieved on paper but means little in practice, eg woodland is created but in areas inaccessible to the target species. Ensure that the contribution towards local biodiversity priorities is measurable and proportionate with the biodiversity affected by a project.

DESIGN FOR NET GAINS IN BIODIVERSITY

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Designs for BNG are based on individual features in both qualitative and quantitative terms. Key considerations include the following:

- Should the net gains be in the same or a different type of habitat?
- Where should BNG activities be located?
- Should BNG enhance existing or create new habitat?
- How can BNG create more, bigger, better and joined-up areas for wildlife?
- How can BNG optimise wider benefits?
- Are the BNGs more than what would have happened anyway?

Principle 10. Be transparent



Part A
Introduction and overview

Chapter 1
What is biodiversity net gain?

Chapter 2
Overview

Part B
Guidance for local
planning authorities

Part C
The business case for
biodiversity net gain

Chapter 3
Understanding and maximising
the public sector benefits

Chapter 5
The business case
for developers

Chapter 4
Incorporating biodiversity net gain
into local plans and strategies

Part D
Main guidance: processes and life cycle stages

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Developing corporate strategies

Chapter 10
Ecological impact assessment

Chapter 7
Stakeholder engagement

Chapter 11
Design

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Quality assurance

Chapter 12
Construction

Chapter 9
Feasibility and scoping

Chapter 13
Maintenance and monitoring

Part E
Technical notes and case studies

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The guide can be downloaded from

<https://cieem.net/biodiversity-net-gain-guidance-published/>