



Principles for Environmental Net Gain

- 1. Incorporate the good practice principles for biodiversity net gain (BNG)**
Biodiversity underpins the resilience, productivity and sustainability of ecosystems and it is not possible to deliver environmental net gain (ENG) if biodiversity is in decline.
- 2. Be guided by ecological theory and practice**
ENG should be based on ecological science and applied at an appropriate landscape scale and in an appropriate location to embody ecological coherence. Projects should work with nature, maximise the functional value of future habitats, including their connectivity, recognising that not all habitats are appropriate in all locations.
- 3. Deliver the right benefits in the right place**
This means maximizing ENG for those receptors in greatest need and where the demand for those ecosystem services is greatest ensuring an equitable distribution of benefits.
- 4. Apply to all stages of decision making, starting at the earliest planning stages**
Long term environmental gains should be clearly stated and designed in from the earliest stages of a project to ensure they realise their full potential
- 5. Demonstrate ENG with an evidence-base**
A clear metric or measurement should be used to demonstrate the increase in natural capital assets, ecosystem services (ESS) and benefit flows from a robust and site-specific baseline and should not be retrospectively collected. Benefits should be clearly identified, quantified wherever possible, and monetised if appropriate.
- 6. Be transparent about losses and gains**
Most projects will not result in gains in ESS across the board and the balance of individual gains and losses should be presented, not masked behind a single netted off figure for ENG.
- 7. Trade-offs should be clearly explained**
Where one ESS is traded off against another this should be justified and contextualised in relation to nature conservation status, community and business needs and local, regional and national strategies
- 8. Developers should be accountable for the delivery and legacy of ENG**
Funding, monitoring and management is required to ensure the stated environmental gain is delivered and measurable for audit. The gain should be in place at least for the life of the development or 'in perpetuity'.

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