UK GBC

The voice of our sustainable built environment

BNG, ENG AND EIA

THE INTERCONNECTIONS BETWEEN BNG, ENG AND WIDER ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)*

Where a development is likely to have a significant impact on the environment, an assessment is required under the EU 'Environmental Impact Assessment Directive'.

PROPOSALS MAY UNDERGO **EIA SCREENING**

If required, an **Environmental Statement** should include:

Information covering the environmental factors specified in schedule 4, including timeframes, any cumulation, linked evidence, mitigation measures and monitoring.

Key factors include:

- CLIMATE IMPACTS
- USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
- RISKS TO HUMAN HEALTH, CULTURAL HERITAGE OR THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT
- A BASELINE SCENARIO (DESCRIBING THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS) AND AN OUTLINE OF IT'S LIKELY EVOLUTION.

ENVIRONMENTAL NET GAIN (ENG)

Originally proposed in the 25 year Environment Plan; environmental net gain aims to build on the biodiversity net gain approach to deliver wider, additional Natural Capital benefits.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF NATURE TOOL

The Nature Tool was developed by Natural England and partners to help the Government fulfil its commitment in the 25 Year Environment Plan to expand the net gain approach to include wider benefits tied to Natural Capital.

The tool encompasses **18 Ecosystem Services** and intended as a scoping tool. To be used alongside other approaches, including EIA (where required) the BNG Metric, and other impact assessments.

- REGULATING SERVICES
- PROVISIONING SERVICES
- CULTURAL SERVICES

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES

Can target ecosystem services and priorities through local planning policies, design codes, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs), and SPDs

NATURAL CAPITAL

- **STOCKS:** UNDERPIN ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
- **PRESSURES:** (TO ADDRESS)

*[BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN CREDITS **CANNOT** BE **DUALLY SOLD** (STACKED) WITH OTHER CREDITS (SUCH AS CARBON) **OTHER THAN NUTRIENT** NEUTRALITY].

ENHANCES

LPA PLANNING POLICIES/ SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

LPAs can target BNG enhancements and priorities through local planning policies, design codes, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs), and SPDs

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG)

Delivering 10% biodiversity net gain for new development will become mandatory in England in November 2023 (for large sites) as a condition of planning permission.

What does BNG delivery involve?

- Creating habitats, quantified as BNG units.
- To be delivered on-site or off-site via off-site providers.
- Purchasing statutory credits from the government as a last resort.

How can you demonstrate compliance?

- You must submit a **BNG statement**/core **BNG information** with the application.
- A **full net gain plan** must be submitted before commencement (including initial BNG info).
- You must include a completed version of the statutory BNG Metric Calculator (**small sites** or **full version 4.0**)

*At the time of publishing, England is proposing to move to a system of Environmental Outcome Reports (EOR).

PROJECT PARTNERS

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