



# Biodiversity Net Gain for Kent and Medway



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## Biodiversity gain statement Version 1

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.

Submit a biodiversity gain statement to show how your development has considered biodiversity net gain.

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### When to use this form

A biodiversity gain statement shows how a development may achieve 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) (or a higher percentage if required by local policy). Submit this form to your local planning authority with your planning application. If your scheme design changes during the planning application process, you may be asked to update and resubmit this form.

This statement aligns closely with [Defra's Biodiversity Gain Plan](#) and information should be easily transferrable between the two forms. The Biodiversity Gain Plan must be submitted 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 Local planning authority (LPA)

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 1.3 Development site address

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 1.4 Describe the development

Tell us about the proposed development and any changes of use (250 words).

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

# 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

## 3.2 Company name

## 3.3 Address

## 3.4 Email address

## 3.5 Telephone number

## 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

## 4 Biodiversity net gain exemption\*

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Section 4 requests information relevant for meeting the minimum information requirement of “confirmation that the applicant believes that planning permission, if granted, the development would be subject to the biodiversity gain condition.”

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### 4.1 Do you believe this application is exempt from statutory biodiversity net gain?

- Yes – [Proceed to 4.2](#)  
 No - [Proceed to section 5](#)

### 4.2 Which exemption best applies to your application?

- Small sites (exempt from statutory net gain requirements until 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024) –  
 Section 73 planning permission where the original planning permission was exempt (e.g. original planning permission was submitted prior to 12th February 2024)  
 Developments below the ‘de minimis’ threshold  
 Householder applications  
 High Speed Railway Transport Network  
 Self-build and custom build applications which meet the exemption criteria  
 Planning permission required to deliver a consented BNG scheme

### 4.3 Have all habitats (including urban) with a distinctiveness score above 0 been assessed/considered when making this judgement?

This includes, but is not limited to, ivy covered walls, planters, and vacant/derelict land.

- Yes  
 No

### 4.4 Has habitat degradation since January 2020 been considered when making this judgement?

- Yes  
 No

### 4.5 Is your application likely to have a negative impact on habitat outside of the red line boundary?

- Yes  
 No

### 4.6 Explain why you believe that this development is exempt from Biodiversity Net Gain

Click or tap here to enter text.

[Statement Form Complete](#)

## 5. On-site biodiversity net gain - baseline

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5.1 – 5.5 request information relevant for meeting the minimum information requirement: “*the pre-development biodiversity value(s), either on the date of application or earlier proposed date (as appropriate); and, the completed metric calculation tool showing the calculations of the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat on the date of application (or proposed earlier date) including the publication date of the biodiversity metric used to calculate that value*”.

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### 5.1 List the ecological survey reports and ecological assessments that have been submitted to planning

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

### 5.2 Survey date to inform pre-development biodiversity value

For example, 3/11/2023

### 5.3 Survey constraints

For example, access issues, weather, or seasonal constraints.

### 5.4 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

No

### 5.5 Biodiversity metric calculation

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

### 5.6 Condition assessments and Methodology

≠ *This is only not applicable if all baseline habitats do not require a condition assessment in accordance with the statutory biodiversity metric.*

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 5.7 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

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5.8 – 5.10 request information relevant for meeting the minimum information requirement: “*where the applicant proposes to use an earlier date, this proposed earlier date and the reasons for proposing that date.*”

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

Yes - [Proceed to 5.11](#)

No - [Proceed to 5.9](#)

## 5.9 If no, what date have you put?

This date will be reviewed and agreed by the LPA as per 4.2 of Defra’s Biodiversity Gain Plan.

Click or tap to enter a date.

## 5.10 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.

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5.11 – 5.14 request information relevant for meeting the minimum information requirement: “*a statement whether activities have been carried out prior to the date of application (or earlier proposed date), that result in loss of onsite biodiversity value (“degradation”), and where they have:*

- *a statement to the effect that these activities have been carried out;*
  - *the date immediately before these activities were carried out;*
  - *the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat on this date;*
  - *the completed metric calculation tool showing the calculations, and*
  - *any available supporting evidence of this”*
-

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

- Yes - [Proceed to 5.12](#)  
 No – [Proceed to 5.13](#)

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

- Yes - [Proceed to 5.13](#)  
 No – [Proceed to 5.15](#)

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

**5.14 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.

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5.15 – 5.16 request information relevant for meeting the minimum information requirement: “a description of any irreplaceable habitat (as set out in column 1 of the Schedule to the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024) on the land to which the application relates, that exists on the date of application, (or an earlier date).”

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

<https://defralanduse.blog.gov.uk/2023/10/05/irreplaceable-habitats-and-bng-what-you-need-to-know/> .

- Yes  
 No

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

**5.17 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

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5.18 requests information relevant for meeting the minimum information requirement: “*plan(s), drawn to an identified scale and showing the direction of North, showing onsite habitat existing on the date of application (or earlier proposed date), including any irreplaceable habitat (if applicable).*”

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**5.18 Pre-development habitat survey report (UKHAB V2.0 preferred) and map (Including North and showing onsite habitat existing on the date of application (or earlier proposed date), including any irreplaceable habitat (if applicable)).”**

Send your baseline habitat survey report and map to the LPA. Enter the file name(s).

Click or tap here to enter text.

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In addition to the minimum information requirements, applicants are encouraged to complete sections 6, 7 and 8 of the Kent Biodiversity Gain Statement. [Planning practice guidance on BNG](#) sets out that “*it may be appropriate for local planning authorities to ask for further information in order to assist the consideration of biodiversity net gain as part of the determination of the planning application where they believe this would be material to the consideration of the application.*”

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## 6. Onsite biodiversity net gain - post development

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

Send your post-development habitat map and/or landscape Plan to the LPA. Enter the file name.

Click or tap here to enter text.

### 6.2 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.

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

If yes to any go to 6.4. If no continue to 6.6.

- 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
- marine licensing
- remediation under the environmental damage regulations
- river basin management plan (RBMP) mitigation and enhancement measures
- environmental impact assessment (EIA) compensation or sustainable drainage



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

- Yes - [Proceed to 6.5](#)
- No – [Proceed to 6.6](#)

**6.5 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

**6.6 Will the development have any negative impact on irreplaceable habitats?**

Including individual ancient/veteran trees.

- Yes - [Proceed to 6.7](#)
- No – [Proceed to 6.8](#)

**6.7 Irreplaceable Habitat compensation plan**

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

**6.8 How do you foresee achieving the required (10%) net gain percentage?**

- On-site – [Proceed to 6.9](#)
- Off-site – [Proceed to section 7](#)
- Both – [Proceed to 6.9](#) then [Section 7](#)

**6.9 Confirm you have added post development details to the metric tool submitted with this application.**

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

- Yes
- No

### 6.10 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

### 6.11 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

### 6.12 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

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-on-site-biodiversity-gains-as-a-developer>

Yes - [Proceed to 6.13](#)

No - [Proceed to section 7](#) (or [Statement Form Complete](#))

### 6.13 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. Do any of these have a high/very high difficulty level in achieving, if so, how will you manage it?

Click or tap here to enter text.

### 6.14 Habitat monitoring and management plan (HMMP) for significant on-site enhancement/creations (where possible use Natural England Template <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5813530037846016>).

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

### 6.15 Does your application include an excess of significant on-site units?

- Yes - [Proceed to 6.16](#)  
 No - [Proceed to section 7 \(or Statement Form Complete\)](#)

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

- Yes [Proceed to 6.17](#)  
 No - [Proceed to section 7 \(or Statement Form Complete\)](#)

### 6.17 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 7 \(or Statement Form Complete\)](#)

## 7. Off-site biodiversity net gain

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

### 7.1 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.

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

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

- Yes – [Proceed to 7.5](#)
- No - [Proceed to 7.4](#)

**7.4 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.

[Statement Form Complete](#)

**7.5 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

**7.4 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 at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-east-midlands>

- 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

**7.5 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.

**7.4 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.

## 8. Biodiversity net gain post development – Statutory credits

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

- Yes  
 No

### 7.1 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.

## 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