

# **BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN**

An introduction to the benefits.



Environmentally Focussed | Responsibly Sourced | Ethically Driven

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#### WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a way to contribute to the recovery of nature while developing land. It is making sure the habitat for wildlife is in a better state than it was before development. This will apply from January 2024 for developments in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, unless exempt.

BNG is additional to existing habitat and species protections. Intended to reinforce the mitigation hierarchy, BNG aims to create new habitat as well as enhance existing habitats, ensuring the ecological connectivity they provide for wildlife is retained and improved.

To help differentiate and avoid accusations of 'greenwashing', which could compromise BNG approaches, tested and accredited practices and products should be used to ensure a true sustainable design is achieved.





## WHO WILL IT AFFECT

#### BNG will apply to you if you're a:

Land Manager

- Developer
- Local Planning Authority (LPA)

#### If you're a developer:

You must try to avoid loss of habitat to a piece of land you plan to do development work on. If you cannot do this, you must create habitat either on-site or off-site.

On-site means on the land your development work is on. Off-site is either your own land away from the development site, or you have bought units from a land manager.

If you cannot use on-site or off-site land, you must buy statutory credits from the government. You must provide evidence for using this option. This must be a last resort. The government will invest in habitat creation elsewhere in England.

You may be able to combine all 3 options to make up your BNG. You must discuss this with an ecologist, as you will need to prove why you cannot use one option. You must get approval from your local planning authority before you start building.

#### If you're a local planning authority:

LPAs will have to approve a biodiversity net gain plan for development work before it can start.



## **HOW DOES IT WORK**

The new British Standard, named <u>BS 8683: Process for designing and</u> <u>implementing biodiversity net gain</u> builds on and adds to the UK's Good Practice Principles of BNG. It translates these principles and actions into a specification standard, providing a consistent and structured process for designing and implementing BNG based on good practice.

BNG requires development to deliver more for nature, setting a requirement to increase biodiversity by a minimum of 10% compared to the baseline.

BNG is measured using the Biodiversity Metric.

The metric uses changes in the extent and quality of habitats as a proxy for nature and compares the habitat found on a site before and after development.

## Four key factors underpin this comparison:

- Habitat Size
- Habitat Condition
- Habitat Distinctiveness
- Strategic Significance



## Strategy for BNG delivery:

- On-site (units) delivered through habitat creation/enhancement via landscaping/green infrastructure, including green roofs.
- Off-site (units) delivered off-site through habitat creation/ enhancement, including via habitat banks with public and private landowners.

Statutory Credits – delivered through largescale habitat projects delivering high value habitats which can also provide long term nature-based solutions (it is anticipated that these credits will be made available for purchase in the future – they are intended for use ONLY where BNG cannot be delivered on-site or off-site via the market, as a last resort.

## HOW CAN ALUMASC ASSIST WITH ACHIEVING BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

Green roofs have many connections with a host of economic, environmental, sustainability, and well-being benefits.



They can play a huge part in the future of construction to reciprocally give back to the future of the planet.

Not only do they break up the mass of concrete and glass in heat island effect, but they are fundamental for habitat protection and reintroduction.

Other environmental benefits include a reduction of carbon footprint and energy consumption, including biosolar. Utilising our blue roof stormwater management system, to control rainwater run off for flood prevention, and linking best practice SuDS design with BNG.

Blackdown supply a large range of green roofs depending on the requirement of the space. To learn more about our green roof solutions, <u>click here</u>.

Intensive Green Roofs offer the benefits of a small urban park and support a wide range of plants, trees, and shrubs. They provide recreational space for people and rich habitat for wildlife.

**Biodiverse Green Roofs** can be planted with vegetation

to replace or replicate a lost

enhancements or habitat

encourage habitat.

planting.

habitat or allowed to naturally develop over time. Ecological

assists can be incorporated to

**Extensive and Semi-Intensive** 

a relatively shallow substrate,

providing a versatile range of

Green Roofs are lightweight with









## Your Complete Roofing Solution

Environmentally Focussed Responsibly Sourced Ethically Driven



Proud to have received London Stock Exchange's Green Economy Mark











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