# **Biodiversity Net Gain – additional information requirements**

In addition to national minimum information requirements (which are set out in [paragraph 15](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/50/regulation/15/made) of The Biodiversity Gain (Town and Country Planning) (Modifications and Amendments) (England) Regulations 2024), the council requires applicants to provide additional information in support of their planning application to assist with our consideration of biodiversity net gain (BNG) and how the BNG objective is to be met.

In determining an application, the council will need to consider:

* the appropriate balance expected between onsite gains, off-site gains and the use of statutory biodiversity credits for the development, taking account of the biodiversity gain hierarchy (which is described in [paragraph 19](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/50/regulation/19/made) of The Biodiversity Gain (Town and Country Planning) (Modifications and Amendments) (England) Regulations 2024)
* whether the type and location of any significant onsite habitat enhancements proposed for onsite gains are appropriate, taking into account local policies and strategies to support biodiversity, such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (West Midlands Combined Authority, in preparation) and other wider objectives
* any planning conditions or planning obligations which need to be imposed to secure any significant onsite habitat enhancements or off-site gains, including securing the maintenance and monitoring of habitat interventions for at least 30 years after the completion of the development

**Additional information requirements**

For all planning applications subject to mandatory BNG, applicants are required to submit a Biodiversity Net Gain Statement which includes:

* A completed draft Biodiversity Metric for the proposed scheme. This should include, as a minimum, calculation of the onsite, baseline biodiversity value and onsite post-development biodiversity value. These calculations must be supported by an onsite baseline habitat plan and a post-development habitat map and/or landscape plan. The [statutory biodiversity metric calculation tool](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides) must be used. If your development qualifies as a small site, you can, if you prefer, use a simplified version of the metric tool called the small sites metric (SSM).
* Information demonstrating the following:
  + How the mitigation hierarchy ([NPPF (2023), paragraph 186[a]](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NPPF_December_2023.pdf)) has been followed
  + How the Biodiversity Metric Principles (set out in the [Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65673fee750074000d1dee31/The_Statutory_Biodiversity_Metric_-_Draft_User_Guide.pdf) and [Small Sites Metric User Guide](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65674019312f40000de5d5c2/The_Small_Sites_Metric__Statutory_Biodiversity_Metric__-_Draft_User_Guide.pdf)) and BNG Good Practice Principles ([CIEEM 2017](https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Biodiversity-Net-Gain-Principles.pdf)) are being adhered to
  + How the BNG hierarchy (which is described in [paragraph 19](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/50/regulation/19/made) of The Biodiversity Gain (Town and Country Planning) (Modifications and Amendments) (England) Regulations 2024) has been followed
  + How proposals for onsite habitat creation or enhancement are appropriate, taking account of other requirements for green and blue infrastructure within a development
  + How any need for off-site units will be met
  + Whether there is an excess of onsite biodiversity units which are intended to be used for other development or to be sold to the market

The Biodiversity Net Gain Statement must be prepared by a professional ecologist with suitable qualifications and experience and be in accordance with British Standard BS 8683:2021 *Process for designing and implementing biodiversity net gain – Specification*.

Where significant onsite habitat enhancements are proposed, applicants will be required to submit a draft [Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/creating-a-habitat-management-and-monitoring-plan-for-biodiversity-net-gain) which sets out proposals for long-term maintenance of habitats to be secured through planning conditions or planning obligations.

Where proposals require significant onsite biodiversity gains or off-site biodiversity gains, applicants are encouraged to provide details of draft heads of terms clearly setting out obligations that they are likely to be bound to in a Section 106 agreement, should planning permission be granted.