

Statutory Biodiversity Metric

Summary Overview

The UK Government's official tool for measuring biodiversity value in development projects.

Used to calculate the biodiversity value necessary to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Primary Rules:

Minimum 10% Biodiversity Gain required.

Trading Rule:

- Habitats must be replaced with equal or higher distinctiveness.
- Example: a high-distinctiveness habitat must be replaced by another high or very high one.
- Applies strictly until "no net loss" is achieved; gains beyond that can be more flexible.

Key Principles:

Must be used by a trained professional.

Does not apply to irreplaceable habitats (e.g. ancient woodland, veteran trees).

Not a substitute for ecological advice.

Outputs are relative

Must be used alongside other ecological data.

Projects should aim to exceed the 10% minimum

Ensure actions are deliverable in a realistic timeframe

Prioritize local restoration using mitigation hierarchy.

