



Government
Events

Enabling Biodiversity Net Gain in the Planning System 2020

Tuesday 3rd November 2020
Event Guide



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Welcome Letter

Dear Delegate,

Welcome to Enabling Biodiversity Net Gain in the Planning System 2020.

The Government's new Environment Bill 2020 introduces a requirement for biodiversity net gain in the planning system "to ensure that new developments enhance biodiversity and create new green spaces for local communities to enjoy."

The planning system in the UK is now required to work actively to protect and stimulate healthy growth in flora and wildlife. Recognising importance of increasing biodiversity, the Bill sees the planning system as a resource for safeguarding natural assets rather than a necessary burden.

The increased focus on biodiversity in the planning system is timely. Findings from the State of Nature Report 2019 indicates the net loss of nature in the UK has not decreased since the 1970. At the same time, demographic changes are also putting an increased strain on natural resources. Around 11% of land in England is developed, and each year new building takes place on an average of 17,000 hectares of undeveloped land. Meeting the new requirements for biodiversity net gain in the planning system will therefore depend on innovation, collaboration, and communication between relevant actors.

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We hope you have a rewarding and enjoyable day.

Yours Truly,

David Blake
Government Events



Agenda AM

- 09:00-09:40 **Online Registration**
- 09:40-09:50 **Chair's Welcome Address**
Dr Iain Boulton, Vice-Chair, Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE)
- 09:50-10:10 **Keynote Address: Why Biodiversity Matters: Thriving Nature for People and Planet**
Nick White, Principal Adviser – Net Gain, Natural England
- 10:10-10:30 **Keynote Address: Implications of Covid-19 on Enabling Biodiversity in the Planning System**
Sally Hayns, Chief Executive Officer, Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
- 10:30-10:50 **Question and Answer Session**
- 10:50-11:05 **Comfort Break**
- 11:05-11:25 **Keynote Address: Obligations and Opportunities to Promote Biodiversity in the Planning System**
Richard Blyth, Head of Policy Practice and Research, Royal Town Planning Institute
- 11:25-11:45 **Case Study: Sustainable Planning and Biodiversity Net Gain – Tools to Aid the Process**
Dr Carol Williams, Director of Conservation, Bat Conservation Trust
- 11:45-12:05 **Questions and Answers**
- 12:05-12:35 **Breakout Networking Session**
- 12:35-13:15 **Lunch Break**

*Programme Subject to Change



Agenda PM

- 13:15-14:15 **Workshop: Successfully Meeting the Requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain in the Planning System**
Julia Baker, Biodiversity Specialist, Balfour Beatty
- 14:15-14:30 **Comfort Break**
- 14:30-14:50 **Keynote Address: The Role of High-Quality Green Infrastructure in Securing Biodiversity Enhancement through Development**
Dr Gemma Jerome, Director, Building with Nature
- 14:50- 15:10 **Case Study: Sustainable Infrastructure: Gloucester Service Station**
Sarah Dunning OBE, Chair, Westmorland Limited
- 15:10- 15:30 **Questions and Answers**
- 15:30 **Chair's Summary and Close**

*Programme Subject to Change



Speaker Biographies (A-Z)

Julia Baker

Biodiversity Specialist, Balfour Beatty

Dr Julia Baker is Biodiversity Technical Specialist for Balfour Beatty, a major infrastructure contractor in the UK. Julia has designed and overseen delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for a variety of infrastructure projects including large and small scale, ranging from transport, energy and housing. Julia is the lead author for the UK's Good Practice Principles on BNG, runs professional training courses on BNG and is a member of Natural England's Sounding Board of the Biodiversity Metric 2.0. She is also co-author of the international "people principles" for BNG and leading a new study on BNG and people's wellbeing.

Richard Blyth

Head of Policy Practice and Research, Royal Town Planning Institute

Richard Blyth has been Head of Policy Practice and Research at the RTPI since September 2011. His recent work for the Institute has covered Brexit and the Accelerating Housing Green Paper. Prior to this he was an Associate Director at Capita Symonds where he worked on commissions for local authorities on infrastructure planning to support core strategies, and for a number of private clients on regeneration schemes. He spent over four years in the Civil Service, including being responsible for Local Plans in England.

Sarah Dunning OBE

Chair, Westmorland Limited

Dr Iain Boulton

Vice-Chair, Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE)

Iain has worked for the London Borough of Lambeth for over 20 years, and is responsible for parks improvements including biodiversity, wildlife conservation policy and increasing people's access to nature in Lambeth. He also has a wide-ranging interest in using wildlife as 'early warning indicators' for environmental change, and making sure the way we manage and use our parks and other open spaces is adapted to increasingly challenging issues like climate change, air and water pollution, and population pressures. Iain has been involved with ALGE for over fifteen years and represents its members in Greater London, leading on liaison with statutory and non-government agencies and working to share and apply good practice, including biodiversity offsetting, net biodiversity gain and cross-borough and land boundary partnerships which protect and improve biodiversity in the Metropolis

Sally Hayns

Chief Executive Officer, Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

Sally Hayns CEcol MCIEEM is Chief Executive Officer of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), the leading professional body for ecologists and environmental managers in the UK and Ireland. As well as overseeing the running of the Institute she currently leads on the CIEEM's professional standards and professional development work as well as being actively involved in policy engagement. Prior to taking on this role in 2010, she had worked for a number of environmental charities as well as spending six years with the City of London Corporation at Epping Forest. In recent years Sally has led the Institute's work on policy and practice in relation to biodiversity net gain, the accreditation of ecological competence to promote high standards of practice and the production of guidance to facilitate the consideration of biodiversity in the development planning process.

Gemma Jerome

Director, Building with Nature

Dr Gemma Jerome is the Director of Building with Nature. Gemma is an environmental planner with a specialism in the delivery, management and maintenance of green infrastructure. She chairs the British Standards Institute panel for the emergent Biodiversity Net Gain standard and sits on the advisory group for the Natural England Green Infrastructure Standards Project. 'Building with Nature' is the UK's first green infrastructure benchmark and was a winner in the 2018 RTPI Planning Excellence Awards winning the 'Sir Peter Hall Award for Wider Engagement'. The benchmark was developed over three years as part of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) between Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and the University of the West of England and has been supported and endorsed from inception by the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership.



Dr Carol Williams

Director of Conservation, Bat Conservation Trust

Carol has worked in bat conservation for over 25 years including carrying out research. She has worked for the Bat Conservation Trust for 13 years in roles including Built Environment Officer; Woodland Officer and most recently as Director of Conservation for over seven years. Prior to this Carol was employed by Natural England (and previously EN) culminating as a Team Leader in a team that included land management but also planning and development, marine, health, landscape scale delivery/projects and green infrastructure. Carol is a fellow of the Royal Society of Biology and also a Chartered Biologist and Chartered Scientist.

Nick White

Principal Adviser – Net Gain, Natural England



Delegate List

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, *Biodiversity Manager*
Arup, *Associate*
Ashford Borough Council, *Principal Planning Officer*
Ashford Borough Council, *Team Leader Spatial Planning*
Ashford Borough Council, *Planning Policy Officer*
Atomic Weapons Establishment, *Environmental Specialist*
Atomic Weapons Establishment, *Environmental Specialist*
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, *Corporate Manager – Public Realm Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council*
Basildon Borough Council, *Graduate Planning Officer*
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, *Senior Planning Officer*
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, *Biodiversity Officer*
Bat Conservation Trust, *Built Environment Manager*
BCP Council, *Biodiversity Officer*
BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP, *Partner*
BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP, *Partner*
Cefas Laboratory, *Specialist Biodiversity Advisor*
Cheshire Constabulary Headquarters, *Environment & Sustainability Manager*
Cheshire Constabulary Headquarters, *Head of Estates and Facilities*
Christ the King Sixth Form, *Assistant Principal*
Connect Plus Services, *Environmental Assistant*
Countryside Service, *Greenspace and Countryside Service Manager*
Cumbria County Council, *Planning Officer*
Dalcour Maclaren, *Associate Director – Environment and Planning*
Devon County Council, *Senior Planning Officer*
East Devon District Council, *Service Lead - Countryside & Leisure*
East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, *Chairman*
Elmsfield Publica Group. (West Oxfordshire, Cotswolds and Forest of Dean), *Policy Planner*
Elmsfield Publica Group. (West Oxfordshire, Cotswolds and Forest of Dean), *Garden Village Programme Manager*
Elmsfield Publica Group. (West Oxfordshire, Cotswolds and Forest of Dean), *Ecologist Specialist*
Environment Agency, *Planning Advisor*
Essex County Council, *Development and Flood Risk Officer*
Essex County Council, *Development and Flood Risk Officer*
Essex County Council, *Development and Flood Risk Manager*
Essex County Council, *Lead Local Flood Authority Manager*
Essex County Council, *Senior Development and Flood Risk Officer*
Fera Science Ltd, *Senior Ecologist*
Guildford Borough Council, *SANGs Officer*
Guildford Borough Council, *Senior Planning Policy Officer*
Guildford Borough Council, *Principle Planning Officer*
Haringey Council, *Nature Conservation Officer*
Harrogate Borough Council, *Senior Policy and Delivery Officer*
HaskoningDHV UK Ltd, *Senior Environmental Consultant*
Herefordshire Council, *Service Manager Built and Natural Environment*
Hertfordshire County Council, *Head of Countryside and Rights of Way*
Horsham District Council, *Planning Officer*
Horsham District Council, *Senior Planning Officer*
Horsham District Council, *Senior Planning Officer*
Islington Council, *Nature Conservation Manager*
Jacobs, *Principal Ecologist*
Jacobs, *ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, ECOLOGY*
JBA Consulting, *Ecologist*
Kingston University, *Biodiversity & Landscape Manager*
Lancaster City Council, *Engagement & Development Officer*
Lancaster City Council, *Planning Assistant*



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Leeds Beckett University, *Lecturer in Landscape Architecture*
Leeds Beckett University, *Professor of Landscape Architecture + Urban Forestry*
Leicestershire County Council, *Wildlife Officer*
Leicestershire County Council, *Wildlife Officer*
Leicestershire County Council, *Principal Ecologist*
Linc Cymru, *Environmental Officer*
Linc Cymru Housing Association Ltd, *Project Manager*
London Borough of Lewisham, *Nature Conservation Office*
London Borough of Lewisham, *Parks and Open Space Contracts & Service Development Manager*
London Borough of Lewisham, *Ecological Regeneration Manager*
Mayer Brown, *Associate*
Medway Council, *Greenspace Development Manager*
Medway Council, *Head of Planning*
Medway Council, *Planning Policy Manager*
Mid and West Wales Fire Service Headquarters, *Environment and Sustainability Manager*
Middlesex University, *Senior Research Fellow*
Middlesex University, *Senior Lecturer in Construction, Architecture & BIM*
Ministry of Justice, *Principal Ecologist*
Ministry of Justice, *Ecology Technical Support Manager*
MJCA, *Planning Consultant*
Mott Macc, *Senior Ecologist*
National Galleries of Scotland, *Community Engagement Officer*
Natural England, *Area Manager*
Natural England, *Principle Specialist*
Natural England, *Senior Adviser – Biodiversity Net Gain*
Network Rail, *Ecologist*
North Herts District Council, *Councillor*
North Herts District Council, *Councillor*
North Somerset Council, *Transport Technical Lead*
North Somerset Council, *Project Officer*
North Somerset Council, *Principal Green Spaces Officer*
Nottingham City Council, *Chief Operating Officer [Museums]*
Notts County Council, *Economic Development Officer*
Ove Arup & Partners International Ltd, *Environmental Scientist*
Pell Frischmann, *Ecologist*
Pick Evard, *Senior Landscape Architect*
Queen Mary University of London, *Reader in Theoretical Ecology*
Ramboll UK Limited, *International Biodiversity Technical Specialist*
RSK ADAS Ltd, *Landscape Consultant*
RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL, *Environmental Sustainability officer*
Rushmoor Borough Council, *Biodiversity and Ecology Officer*
RWE, *Senior Consent Manager*
RWE, *Environmental Manager*
Ryedale District Council, *Climate Change and Environmental Projects Officer*
Sir Charles Frossard House, *Director of Policy*
Somerset County Council, *County Ecologist*
South Cambridgeshire District Council, *Biodiversity Office*
South Cambridgeshire District Council, *Natural Environment Team Leader*
South Cambridgeshire District Council, *Senior Ecologist*
South Cambridgeshire Hall, *Local Member for Histon and Impington and Chair of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee*
South Downs National Park Authority, *Director of Planning*
South Downs National Park Authority, *Senior Planning Policy Officer*
South Gloucestershire Council, *Head of Street Care and Transport*
South Gloucestershire Council, *Group Manager – Asset and Infrastructure*
SRUC, *Environment Team Lead*
States of Guernsey, *Biodiversity Officer*
Tenterden Town Council, *Tenterden Town Councillor*
Test Valley Borough Council, *Senior Planning Officer*



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Test Valley Borough Council, *Parks and Countryside Manager*
The Diocese of London, Church of England, *Head of Environment and Sustainability*
University of Edinburgh, *Research and Policy Manager (Climate Change and Biodiversity)*
University of Leicester, *Professor*
Wakefield Council, *Planning and Transportation Service Manager*
Wakefield Council, *Team Leader, Spatial Policy*
Waltham Forest Council, *Principal Planning Policy Office*
Waltham Forest Council, *Planning Technician*
Waltham Forest Council, *Nature Conservation Manager*
Waverley Borough Council, *Planning Technician (Dunsfold Park Garden Village)*
Welsh Government, *Ecological Advisor*
West Berkshire Council, *Ecologist*
West Suffolk Council, *Ecology and Landscape Officer*
WWF UK, *Director Policy & Advocacy*
WWT, *Director of Conservation*
WWT, *Head Project Development*
WYG, *Associate Director of Ecology*
Young Epilepsy, *Pathway Lead - Personal & Social Wellbeing & Safeguarding*
Young Epilepsy, *Assistant Principal*



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27th January 2021, Central London

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23rd February 2021, Central London

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We hope you found the day interesting and insightful. Speaker presentations will be made available to download on completing the post show survey which will be emailed to you within one week after the event.

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