

# Enabling Biodiversity Net Gain in the Planning System

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Chair's Introductory remarks

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# 8 key issues and tensions from an academic perspective

1. BNG is part of a wider ecosystem within which environment planning sits ([Scott et al 2020](#)).
2. Regulation alone is NOT a silver bullet; needs effective guidance, incentives and enforcement avoiding regulatory capture ([Scott et al 2014](#)).
3. BNG in the [mitigation hierarchy](#) (avoid/minimize/restore & offset).([Arlidge et al 2018](#))
4. Achieving increased biodiversity conservation with ongoing infrastructure expansion (300,000 new houses every year) [Ermgassen et al 2021](#)
5. Offsite versus on-site versus environment & social justice BNG ([Bateman and Zonnerfield](#))
6. Trade offs between different ecosystem services impact on biodiversity (net gain vs BNG tools) [Cordingley et al 2015](#) (Habitat fragmentation)
7. Major governance gaps risk jeopardizing positive outcomes of BNG; lack of enforceability ([Ermgassen et al 2021](#))
8. Better incorporation of local community values into BNG processes and outcomes ([Jones et al 2019](#))

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# Exploring the ecological outcomes of mandatory biodiversity net gain using evidence from early-adopter jurisdictions in England

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## Abstract

Net outcome-type biodiversity policies are proliferating globally as perceived mechanisms to reconcile economic development and conservation objectives. The UK government's Environment Bill will mandate that most new developments in England demonstrate that they deliver a biodiversity net gain (BNG) to receive planning permission, representing the most wide-ranging net outcome type policy globally. However, as with many nascent net-outcome policies, the likely outcomes of mandatory BNG have not been explored empirically. We assemble all BNG assessments (accounting for ~6% of England's annual house-building and other infrastructure) submitted from January 2020 to February 2021 in six early-adopter councils who are implementing mandatory no net loss or



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# Raising the standard



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- There is a British Standard on biodiversity net gain and development projects: **BS 8683:2021 Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.**
- The standard provides a framework to demonstrate that a project has followed a process based on UK-wide good practices

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## Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain. Specification

BS 8683:2021 · Current · 31 Aug 2021

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