

Table 17: Defra Rules

Principle	Recommendations
The trading rules of this biodiversity metric must be followed.	Trading rules 1 and 2 are not satisfied, however this will be rectified through securing off-site biodiversity units for area-based and watercourse-based habitats - see the associated metric trading summary tabs for detailed breakdown.
Biodiversity unit outputs, for each type of unit, must not be summed, traded, or converted between types. The requirement to deliver at least a 10% net gain applies to each type of unit.	No unit types have been summed, traded or converted. The 10% gain for each unit type has not yet been achieved for area-based habitats, however this will be rectified through securing off-site biodiversity units for area-based and watercourse-based habitats.
To accurately apply the biodiversity metric formula, you must use the statutory biodiversity metric calculation tool or small sites biodiversity metric tool (SSM) for small sites. The tools remove the need for a user to manually calculate the change in biodiversity value. The tool will summarise the results of the calculation and inform a user whether the biodiversity net gain objective has been met.	The Statutory Metric has been used.
In exceptional ecological circumstances, deviation from this biodiversity metric methodology may be permitted by the relevant planning authority.	N/A - standard methodology applied.

Appendix P: Defra Principles

Table 18: Defra Principles

Principle	Recommendations
The metric should be completed by a competent person	The metric has been completed by an ecologist of 'Proficient' level in Environmental Assessment (which includes BNG) of the CIEEM competency framework. The report has been reviewed by an ecologist of 'Proficient' level in Environmental Assessment of the CIEEM competency framework.
The use of this biodiversity metric does not override existing biodiversity protections, statutory obligations, policy requirements, ecological mitigation hierarchy or any other requirements. This includes consenting or licensing processes, for example woodlands.	The biodiversity metric complements rather than replaces existing biodiversity protections and statutory obligations. All relevant designations and protected species requirements have been addressed separately.
This biodiversity metric should be used in accordance with established good practice guidance and professional codes.	The metric has been applied following current good practice guidance, including the Biodiversity Metric User Guide and relevant CIEEM standards (see Appendix Q below).
This biodiversity metric is not a complex or comprehensive ecological model and is not a substitute for expert ecological advice.	This metric calculation forms part of a comprehensive ecological assessment. Full ecological surveys and expert interpretation have informed the development proposals.
Biodiversity units are a proxy for biodiversity and should be treated as relative values.	Biodiversity units are recognised as relative proxy values for comparison purposes and have been treated accordingly throughout the assessment.
This biodiversity metric is designed to inform decisions in conjunction with locally relevant evidence, expert input, or guidance.	The metric has been applied alongside local biodiversity evidence, including local priorities and site-specific ecological data. See section 2.2.4 of this report.
Habitat interventions need to be realistic and deliverable within a relevant project timeframe.	All proposed habitat interventions are realistic and deliverable, with management and monitoring provisions for 30 years.
Created and enhanced habitats should be, where practical and reasonable, local to any impact and deliver strategically important outcomes for nature conservation.	Created and enhanced habitats deliver strategically important outcomes for nature conservation in the locality as they will result in an improvement to area, hedgerow and watercourse habitats available to proximal and vagile fauna.
This biodiversity metric does not enforce a minimum habitat size ratio for compensation of losses. Proposals should aim to: - Ensure that proposed or retained habitat	Created and enhanced habitats deliver strategically important outcomes for nature conservation in the locality as they will result in an improvement to area,

parcels are of sufficient size for ecological function;
Maintain habitat extent - supporting more, bigger, better
and more joined up ecological networks.

hedgerow and watercourse habitats available to
proximal and vagile fauna.

Appendix Q: CIEEM Principles

Table 19: CIEEM Principles

Principle	Recommendations
Apply the mitigation hierarchy	The development has followed the mitigation hierarchy by first avoiding impacts through design refinement, minimising unavoidable impacts through construction and operational measures, and providing compensation for residual impacts through on-site habitat creation and /or off-site offsetting where necessary.
Avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset elsewhere	No irreplaceable habitats have been identified within the development boundary. All habitats present can be adequately compensated if impacts cannot be avoided.
Be inclusive and equitable	Stakeholder engagement has been undertaken through the planning consultation process. The BNG strategy has been developed in consultation with local planning documents and will deliver benefits accessible to the local community.
Address risk	Risks to achieving BNG have been addressed through the application of appropriate multipliers within the metric calculations and will continue to be addressed via the securing of management arrangements for the required 30-year period and the incorporation of contingency measures into the habitat management and monitoring plan.
Make a measurable net gain contribution	The Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been used to calculate a minimum number of off-site units needed to achieve 10% net gain in biodiversity. This measurable gain will contribute to local and national nature recovery objectives.
Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity	The development delivers the best outcomes by creating /enhancing habitats of higher distinctiveness where feasible, ensuring connectivity with existing ecological networks, and aligning with local nature recovery strategies. The purchase of off-site units will contribute to the overall net gain in biodiversity.
Be additional	All biodiversity enhancements are additional to existing obligations and would not otherwise be delivered through statutory requirements or existing management regimes.
Create a net gain legacy	Long-term management and monitoring arrangements will be secured, ensuring biodiversity gains are maintained for a minimum of 30 years.

Optimise sustainability	The development integrates biodiversity enhancements with wider sustainability objectives including sustainable drainage, climate resilience, and amenity provision for local communities.
Be transparent	This BNG assessment and associated documentation will be publicly available through the planning application process, ensuring transparency in how biodiversity net gain is being achieved.



Biodiversity Net Gain Full Report

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