

# BNG'S CONTRIBUTION TO EXISTING TARGETS



## STRATEGY (\*ENGLAND)

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) delivery should be part of a strategic approach aligned with **key Environment Act targets** and priorities, as underpinned by key **data sources**. Well-developed local strategies which identify and support local and national nature recovery priorities and appropriate enhancements, are crucial to achieving

this. For more information on local target setting, data sources, and strategies see **UKGBC's Nature and Resilience Playbook**. Mandatory **Local Nature Recovery Strategies** or 'LNRS' will be a vital component of identifying local priorities and strategic BNG enhancements; through directing off-site gains and development.

**\*This factsheet covers England where current legislation is in place.  
Policy in Wales and Scotland will be forthcoming.**

ENVIRONMENT ACT LEGAL TARGET	INDICATOR AND DATA	HOW TO ALIGN WITH TARGET
Halting the decline in species populations by 2030, and increasing populations by at least 10% to exceed current levels by 2042.	<b>Species abundance indicator</b> – covering approximately 1,000 species for which there is sufficiently robust data [to be <a href="#">updated</a> ]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check species identified in the indicator, <a href="#">Local Environmental Records Centres</a> (LERCs) and relevant data tools.</li> <li>• Consult local authority biodiversity strategies, priorities, and associated requirements.</li> <li>• Seek advice from the relevant forestry authority, NGOs and nature conservation agencies on the management options and requirements for priority habitats and species.</li> </ul>
Increasing tree and woodland cover to 16.5% of total land area in England by 2050; with an interim target to increase this by 0.26% (equivalent to 34,000 hectares) by 31 January 2028.	<a href="#">Area of woodland in England</a> <a href="#">Forestry Commission Research</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the <a href="#">UK Forestry Standard</a></li> <li>• Woodland Condition Assessment forms and guidance from the <a href="#">Woodland Wildlife Toolkit</a>.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Decision support framework for peatland protection and the establishment of new woodland (Interim) June 2021</a>.</li> <li>• Consult local Tree strategies and priorities; as linked to <a href="#">Tree &amp; Woodland strategy toolkit</a>.</li> </ul>
Improve the Red List Index species for England by 2042, compared to 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GB Red list Index</li> <li>• [New <a href="#">indicator</a> being developed]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult Red lists, <a href="#">LERCs</a>, local strategies &amp; requirements, BAPs, LNRSs and relevant guidance.</li> </ul>
To restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of <b>wildlife-rich habitat</b> outside protected sites by 2042, compared to 2022 levels. With an interim target for an extra 140,000 ha by 31 January 2028.	<p>'Wildlife-rich' is identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitats of principal importance under <a href="#">Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006</a>;</li> <li>• High /very high distinctiveness in the <b>Biodiversity Metric</b>.</li> <li>• medium distinctiveness, in good/moderate condition, and high/medium strategic significance</li> <li>• Non-priority habitats with wildlife benefit. [<a href="#">list</a>]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the <b>Biodiversity Metric</b></li> <li>• Consult the habitats of principal importance list, local strategies and mapping data sources</li> <li>• Consult non-priority habitat list and data sources.</li> </ul>
<b>[interim]</b> All sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) to have an up-to date condition assessment; and for 50% of SSSIs to have actions on track to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028	Enhancements may not usually be counted if they are already being taken to fulfil a form of statutory obligation (for example, improving a designated feature of a Site of Special Scientific Interest)	
The UK Government has also committed to protect 30% of land and sea in the UK by 2030 (30-by-30) and publish a map of what counts towards 30-by-30 by the end of the 2023.		

It remains the Government's intention to allow higher BNG percentage targets to be set by planning authorities at a local or site level, alongside **supplementary requirements** (for example, using the [Natural England GI Framework & tools](#)). Any higher target should be made clear at an early stage in the planning or development process.

All applications must submit **biodiversity net gain information** and include how targets will be met. Outline and phased permissions will have to explain a strategy to achieve the BNG across the whole site and how this is to be delivered on a phase-by-phase basis. Where targets are exceeded, the excess may be sold as off-site gains, or used by the same landowner for development offsetting elsewhere, if entered into the Government's off-site register and metric calculation.

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