

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN
TECHNICAL ADVICE NOTE - APPENDIX



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APPENDIX I - THE BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG) CHECKLIST

The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Checklist

This checklist can be used by the applicant for all applications within scope of BNG as set out in Table 1 of this TAN. If the associated boxes have not been ticked or any of the answers to these questions are 'no' then the applicant will need to provide the missing information to the case officer and ecology consultee.

*Householder applications, extensions, permitted development, prior approval and non-material amendments are not required to complete a BNG metric or the BNG Checklist but a Biodiversity Mitigation & Enhancement Plan (BMEP) may be required.

1) Biodiversity Gain Plan

- Information showing how adverse effects have been avoided or minimised clearly set out and following the mitigation hierarchy?
- A Pre-development value of onsite habitats
- A Post-development value of onsite habitats
- Any offsite BNG and its value
- Any credits purchased and the value

2) Relevant completed Biodiversity Metric (in Excel and Pdf format)

- Has a measurement and % for BNG been provided?
- Has the correct type and version of the metric been used (as per Table 1 of this TAN)?
- Is the appropriate type of habitat survey/assessment submitted for the right type of metric? For the full biodiversity metric this should be a full habitat survey undertaken by a qualified ecologist. For the Small Sites Metric a more basic habitat assessment should be carried out by a 'competent person'.
- Are all habitats within the redline boundary accounted for?

- Have the reasons for the habitat condition scores been set out in accordance with the guidance?
- If there are high distinctiveness habitats proposed for creation/enhancement, is there sufficient evidence to support this?
- If a high level or more than one-step change in condition is proposed, is there sufficient evidence to support this?
- Is the strategic significance consistent with the relevant strategy/guidance document?
- Has trading-down (within the hierarchy of habitat classification based on biodiversity value, from high-distinctiveness, to medium-distinctiveness, to low-distinctiveness) been avoided?
- Proposals do not include irreplaceable habitats which should be addressed separately.
- Proposals do not include bird boxes/bat boxes or any other species-based enhancements as they do not count towards measurable BNG?
- Any measures to mitigate or compensate for harm caused by the proposals have not been included in the BNG score?

3) Plans showing:

- Pre-development habitat (baseline habitat units)
- Post-development habitat (retained, enhanced and created habitat units)

4)

- Information showing how habitats will be created, managed and monitored for a minimum of 30 years?

5) Information showing how this makes a meaningful contribution to nature recovery.

- Responded to site specific evidence?
- Responded to the local landscape and ecological context of the site?
- Informed by strategic evidence and guidance as relevant?
- Provided bigger, better and more joined up habitats?
- Support naturally functioning ecosystems and use of nature-based solutions where possible and appropriate?
- Been well designed for functionality, taking into account impacts from nearby developments?



APPENDIX II - HOUSEHOLDER BIODIVERSITY MITIGATION & ENHANCEMENT PLAN CHECKLIST

Householder Biodiversity Mitigation & Enhancement Plan (BMEP) Checklist

A more detailed BMEP is required for full applications and they should refer to Appendix 3.

Give wild animals the opportunity to survive in our modern, changing world and provide a minimum of two of the following options:

1. Bird Box



2. Hedgehog Highway



3. Bat Box



4. New Species Planting



5. Log Pyramid/Bug Hotel



6. Wildlife Pond



Householder Biodiversity Mitigation & Enhancement Plan (BMEP) Checklist	
Application:	
Chosen options	Details (type, number, location)

APPENDIX III - BIODIVERSITY MITIGATION & ENHANCEMENT PLAN CHECKLIST

This is not necessary for householder applications, Appendix 2 should be used instead.

A Biodiversity Mitigation & Enhancement Plan (BMEP) is desirable for all applications in accordance with Policy CP16 to demonstrate how biodiversity will be retained, protected and enhanced through its design and implementation as set out in Table 1 of this TAN. This checklist can be used to outline the options to achieve satisfactory biodiversity enhancement. This is separate to the metric as it relates to **species** requirements rather than habitats.

Swift bricks are widely considered to be a 'universal brick' as they can be used by swifts, house sparrows, starlings, blue tits and great tits.

The locations of these features should consider height, aspect, external lighting, associated connective habitat and doors/windows below. Most boxes should be installed at a minimum of 3m where possible and swift boxes should have a clear drop below.

Integral features are within the fabric of the building and are therefore longer-lasting. Non-integral features will only be considered on new buildings in exceptional circumstances.



Swift

© Tim Norris at Hampshire Swifts

Requirements for new buildings

- A minimum of one integral bird box/brick per dwelling
- A minimum of one integral bat box/brick per dwelling

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in their book *Designing for Biodiversity* (2nd Edition) recommends:

“As a guideline, the number of built-in provisions of nest or roost sites per development should be approximately the same as the number of residential units”

Other requirements

If mature trees are present or proposed:

- A variety of bat boxes suitable for different species (number and type dependant on the habitat present)
- A variety of bird boxes suitable for different species (number and type dependant on the habitat present)

If new fences or walls are proposed:

- Hedgehog Highways (13cm by 13cm square holes)

If planting/soft landscaping is proposed:

- A minimum ratio of 70:30 native planting (such as pollinator friendly planting)

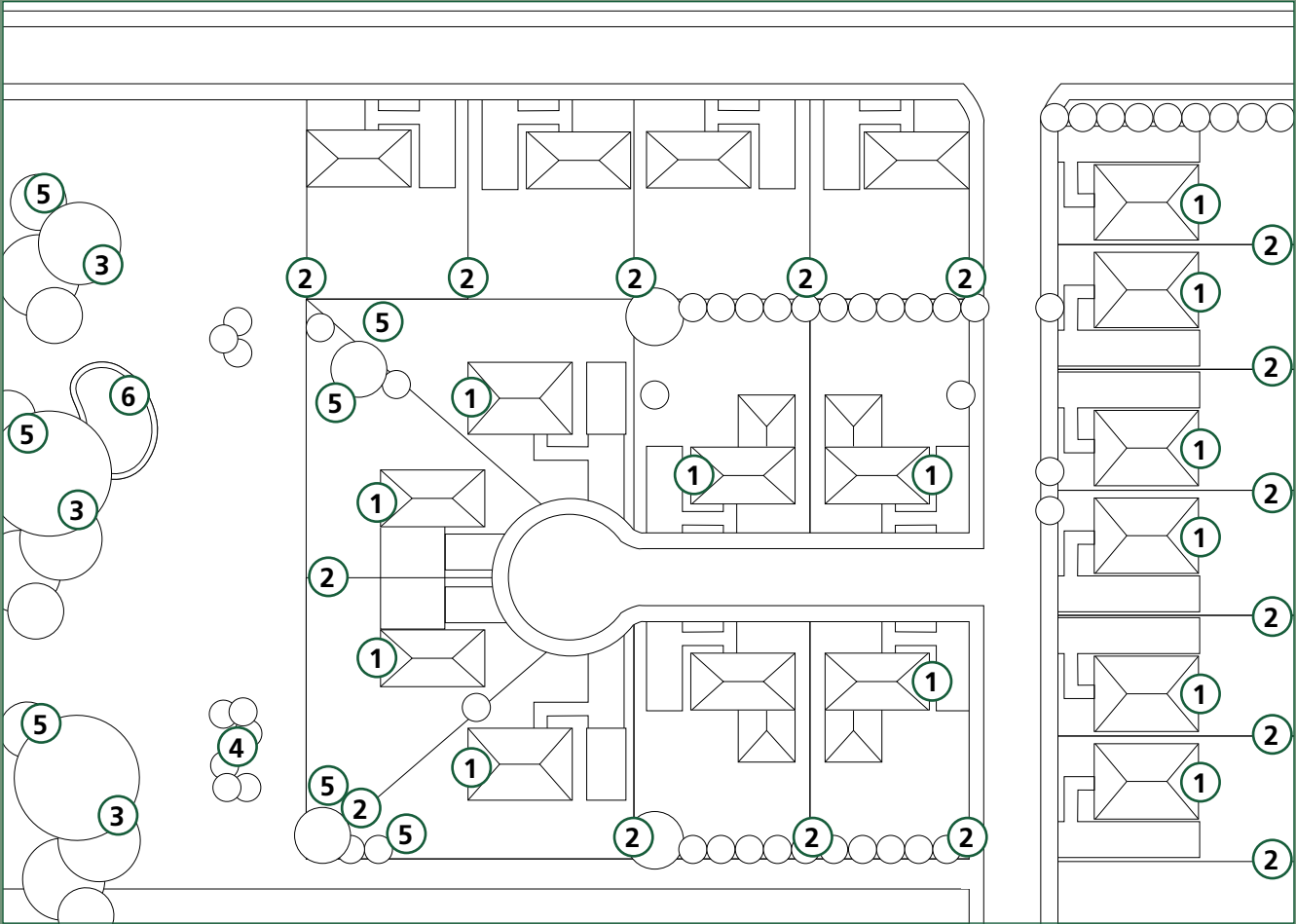
Other optional biodiversity enhancements

- Bee brick
- Hibernacula/log pile/bug hotel
- Pond
- Improved management of existing hedgerows and/or grassland for biodiversity

The options ticked on the checklist should be shown on a plan indicating the location where they will be provided.

- 1. Bird Box
- 2. Hedgehog Highway
- 3. Bat Box
- 4. New Species Planting
- 5. Log Pyramid/Bug Hotel
- 6. Wildlife Pond

We also need to know the type/details of each feature e.g Ibstock bat tube.



Example Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

