



Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Proposed Changes (April 2026 Update)

Changes Expected Before July 2026

The Government has indicated that the following changes are likely to come forward in the near term (subject to final confirmation):



SMALL SITE EXEMPTION ($\leq 0.2\text{HA}$)

A proposed exemption for minor developments below 0.2ha is expected to be introduced. This could remove the requirement for BNG on some smaller sites, particularly in urban areas.



REMOVAL OF SELF-BUILD / CUSTOM BUILD EXEMPTION

The existing exemption is expected to be withdrawn, bringing these developments into scope of mandatory BNG requirements.

Changes Expected Before July 2026

A number of additional updates are proposed but are subject to further consultation, refinement and legislative change:



BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Proposed refinements to better reflect the constraints of dense urban and brownfield sites. This is likely to include greater flexibility in habitat typologies and the potential use of proxy habitats where like-for-like replacement is not feasible.



NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (NSIPs)

Mandatory BNG requirements for NSIPs have been delayed and are currently anticipated to come into force in November 2026.



DE MINIMIS THRESHOLD (25m^2)

Further clarity is pending, particularly in relation to how small-scale impacts on urban sites will be treated.



MOVE TOWARDS DIGITAL METRIC/TOOLS

The current Excel-based biodiversity metric is expected to transition to a more standardised digital system over time.

Further information can be found here: [UK Government BNG Consultation Response](#)

Partner with Us

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