**Biodiversity statement**

To show how your development has considered Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

# Purpose of this form

A biodiversity statement shows how a development may achieve 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG), or provides evidence of exemption (as applicable).

Parts of the form identified by an \* represent “Statutory minimum information” outlined in [Article 7 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/595/article/7).

# When to use this form

* **Householder applications: Do not use this form.**
* **Non-material amendment applications: Do not use this form.**
* **All other applications: Submit this form as part of your planning application**

# Sections of the Biodiversity Statement

PART A

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# PART A

# Application details

## 1.1 Development site address

If the site does not have an address, enter the OS grid reference.

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 1.2 Description of development

Tell us about the proposed development and any changes of use (max. 250 words). This should be consistent with the planning application form. If self-build/custom-build housing then “self-build” or “custom-build” should be included in the description of development.

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 1.3 Applicant/ Agent name

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 1.4 Applicant/Agent Company name

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

# 2. Responsible person details

Tell us about who is responsible for completing this biodiversity statement and supporting information including the Biodiversity metric and plan. For example, a consultancy ecologist or planning agent.

## 2.1 Name

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 2.2 Company name

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 2.3 Address

|  |
| --- |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 2.4 Email address

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 2.5 Telephone number

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 3.6 Qualifications and competency

## of the person carrying out the assessment.

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 3.7 Declaration

By signing this declaration, you confirm that the information you give is complete and correct.

## Signature

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## 3.8 Date

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap to enter a date. |

# 3. Biodiversity net gain exemption

## 3.1\* Do you believe this application is exempt from statutory biodiversity net gain?

[ ] Yes – [Proceed to 3.2](#_*4.2_Which_exemption)

[ ] No - [Proceed to section 4](#_5._Biodiversity_net)

## 3.2\* Which exemption applies to your application?

[ ] De minimis impact (i.e. development impacts less than 25sqm of onsite area habitat with biodiversity value of greater than 0, or 5m of onsite linear habitat and does not impact Priority habitat)– [Proceed to 3.](#_4.4_Have_all)3

[ ] Self-build and custom build application - [Proceed to 3.](#_*4.7_Explain_why)5

## 3.3 Has habitat degradation occurred since January 2020?

[ ] No

[ ] Yes. If Yes, please describe:

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 3.4 Is your application likely to have a negative impact on habitat outside of the red line boundary?

[ ] Yes. If Yes, please describe:

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

[ ] No

## 3.5\* Explain, with evidence. why you believe that this development is exempt from Biodiversity Net Gain

## This refers to the exemptions in [The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/47/contents/made), such as the de minimis exemption or self-build or custom build exemption.

## For example, if claiming exemption on basis of self-build or custom build, please describe the involvement of the intended occupier in the development process. For further guidance on eligibility please refer to the Council’s Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance.

## If exempt on the basis of de minimis please include evidence of an aerial photograph and sufficient (date stamped) photos of the site taken since January 2020.Please annotate aerial photograph with locations of site photographs.

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

**If claiming exemption, please complete up to end of Section 3, save and submit form with application.**

**The Council reserves the right to request a Biodiversity metric and Biodiversity baseline plan, in order to demonstrably evidence exemption on a de minimis basis.**

# PART B

# 4. Biodiversity net gain baseline

## 4.1\* Is the relevant date for the pre-development biodiversity value the same date as the planning application is submitted?

[ ] Yes - [Proceed to 4.4](#_*5.4_Is_there)

[ ] No (most likely) - [Proceed to 4.2](#_*5.2_What_date)

## 4.2\* If no (highly likely), what date have you used (in the Biodiversity Metric)?

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap to enter a date. |

## 4.3\* Explain why your relevant date is different to the planning application date.

For example, the Biodiversity baseline was prepared prior to the final scheme design and submission of application, so that biodiversity conservation and enhancements could be considered in the scheme development proposal.

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 4.4\* Is there any evidence of habitat degradation that has taken place on site since January 2020?

[ ] Yes - [Proceed to 4.5](#_*5.5_Describe_the)

[ ] No – [Proceed to 4.6](#_*5.6_Does_the)

## 4.5\* Describe the nature of the degradation and how this has been factored into your application.

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 4.6\* Does the site (or did the site prior to degradation) have any [Irreplaceable Habitats](https://defralanduse.blog.gov.uk/2023/10/05/irreplaceable-habitats-and-bng-what-you-need-to-know/)?

[ ] Yes - [Proceed to 4.7](#_*5.7_Describe_the)

[ ] No – [Proceed to 4.](#_5.8_Does_your)8

## 4.7\* Describe the type and conditions irreplaceable habitats that are (were) present.

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 4.8\* Confirm you have used the statutory biodiversity metric tool.

Use small site statutory metric when appropriate.

[ ] Yes

# 5. Biodiversity net gain post development

## 5.1 Confirm you have entered post development details into the metric tool submitted with this application.

[ ] Yes

[ ] No

## 5.2 Will the development have any negative impact on irreplaceable habitats?

Including individual ancient/veteran trees.

[ ] Yes

[ ] No

## 5.3 How do you foresee achieving the required (10%) net gain percentage?

## Consider all aspects of biodiversity value (Area habitats, Hedges and Lines of Trees, Watercourses)

[ ] On-site – [Proceed to 5.4](#_6.7_Does_your)

[ ] Off-site – [Proceed to section 7](#_7._Biodiversity_net)

[ ] Both – [Proceed to 6.7](#_6.7_Does_your) **then** [Section 7](#_7._Biodiversity_net)

## 5.4 Describe how the scheme proposal follows the Biodiversity hierarchy.

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 5.5 Does your application include any on-site habitat enhancements/creations that could be considered ‘significant’?

For Gov information as to what is considered significant, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-on-site-biodiversity-gains-as-a-developer>

In Surrey Heath we consider ‘significant’ to be any areas of:

* habitats of medium or higher distinctiveness in the post-development biodiversity metric and/or
* an on-site proposed total net biodiversity unit change of more than 0.2 Biodiversity Units for ‘Area Habitats’ or 0.2 ‘Hedgerow & Lines of Trees’ units or 0.2 ‘Watercourse’ units.

[ ] Yes - [Proceed to 5.5](#_6.8_Tell_us)

[ ] No - [Proceed to section](#_7._Biodiversity_net) 6

## 5.6 Tell us about the significant on-site enhancements/creations.

Which parcels does significance apply to, what total units and % gain is made up by these parcels. Do any of these have a high/very high difficulty level in achieving, if so, how will you manage it?

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

# 6. Biodiversity net gain post development – Off-site

# *Answer this section only if your development includes/requires off-site habitat enhancements.*

## 6.1 Explain why you’re using off-site biodiversity units.

Ensure you make reference to the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy

|  |
| --- |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 6.2 Have you (preliminarily) secured off-site units or National Biodiversity Credits?

## Note: This is not compulsory at application stage.

[ ] Yes – [Proceed to 6.3](#_7.3_Confirm_you) to provide details

[ ] No

## 6.3 Have added proposed off-site gains to the metric tool submitted with this application?

[ ] Yes

[ ] No

## 6.4 Which option best describes the location of your off-site provision?

National character areas can be found at [National Character Area profiles - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-the-east-of-england)

[ ] Within Surrey Heath

[ ] Not within Surrey Heath but with Thames Basin Heaths National Character Area

[ ] Within a neighbouring Local Planning Authority or neighbouring National Character Area

[ ] Not within the same or neighbouring LPA or National Character area

## 6.5 Provide the exact location and details of the off-site provision.

|  |
| --- |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

## 6.6 Provide details of the proposed off-site provider.

## Name

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## Email address

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## Telephone number (if available)

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

## Website (if available)

|  |
| --- |
|  Click or tap here to enter text. |

# 8.0 Document checklist

**All applications eligible for Biodiversity Net Gain must submit the following documents marked with an \*:**

[ ] **A Biodiversity Statement\* (i.e. Part A and B of this form)**

[ ] **Completed biodiversity Metric (as excel file type) including:**

* **pre-development baseline\***
* draft details for post-development

[ ] **A baseline plan\*, showing:**

* **the location of onsite habitat (area and linear) existing on the date of application, or an acceptable earlier date.**
* **any areas of Irreplaceable habitats must be shown.**
* **the plan must be drawn to an identified scale and include a North arrow**

[ ] A draft post-development plan **(this is a local requirement\*)**showing:

* the location of future onsite habitat (area and linear) aligned with the draft details in the post-development metric tab
* the plan must be drawn to an identified scale and include a North arrow.

# Appendix 1: Process for preparing the appropriate BNG information

