

Appendix 3: Biodiversity Duty responsibilities

Biodiversity Duty responsibilities https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty		Nature Recovery Declaration aim(s)	Responsible Directorate(s)
Consider relevant strategies	<p>You must check if these strategies will affect how your organisation complies with the biodiversity duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> local nature recovery strategies species conservation strategies protected site strategies <p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand how/if they are relevant to your organisation be aware of how these strategies affect land that you own or manage, or actions you could take to conserve and enhance biodiversity consider how you could contribute to the strategy, where appropriate 		<p>Environment, Culture and Wellbeing</p> <p>Growth and Regeneration (planning policy)</p>
How your biodiversity duty helps achieve biodiversity goals and targets	<p>Contribute to the achievement of national goals and targets on biodiversity in the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP23):</p> <p>Consider the value of taking a Natural Capital approach.</p> <p>Consider the biodiversity duty when complying with requirements under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strategic environmental assessment environmental impact assessment Habitats Regulations assessment 	1, 2, 3, 4	<p>Environment, Culture and Wellbeing</p> <p>Growth and Regeneration (planning policy)</p>
Manage land to improve biodiversity	<p>Consider how the land you manage could improve biodiversity. This includes green and blue spaces like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> allotments cemeteries parks and sports fields amenity spaces and communal gardens roadside and railway verges 	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Environment, Culture and Wellbeing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • field margins and hedgerows • rights of way and access routes • woodlands and nature reserves • canals and rivers • water-dependent habitats • estuaries and coastal habitats 		
	<p>Consider other things you can do to improve habitats, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using native and sustainably sourced trees when planting • creating dedicated spaces for wildlife • leaving dead wood safely in place in woodlands to provide additional habitat • maintaining planted trees to give them the best chance of survival • reducing the use of herbicides, pesticides, peat and water • implementing measures to prevent the spread of invasive species and plant disease <p>These actions can save money while delivering benefits to biodiversity. If you own or manage large areas of land, consider promoting and encouraging nature-based solutions, restoration of natural processes and landscape recovery. Natural England has published the Green Infrastructure Framework - Principles and Standards for England. This includes planning, design and process guides.</p>	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8,	Environment, Culture and Wellbeing
Make space for wildlife	<p>You could create dedicated spaces to attract wildlife and enhance biodiversity. This is possible even if your public authority owns a single office building. It is important that these measures are appropriate to the location.</p> <p>You could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build and install nest boxes for birds, bats and other animals • add green walls or roofs to existing or new buildings • plant native trees and shrubs • plant wildflowers for pollinators <p>You can do more if you own or manage specific types of land. For example, if you own or manage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • school grounds – create gardens, ponds, meadows or woodlands to improve biodiversity and aid education 	5, 7, 10, 11	Environment, Culture and Wellbeing Growth and Regeneration (planning policy)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> farmland – be aware of soil health, water use and waste management and encourage farmers to apply for agri-environment schemes and use pesticides appropriately. 		
Enhance protected sites	<p>Sites that public authorities own or manage can be protected by other legislation. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sites of special scientific interest special areas of conservation or special protection areas national nature reserves local nature reserves and local sites <p>You should already be helping to conserve and enhance biodiversity on this land. For example, public bodies already have a duty to take all reasonable steps to conserve and enhance sites of special scientific interest.</p> <p>The Environmental Improvement Plan set the expectation that all public authorities should ensure they have management plans in place by the end of 2023 to support their sites to reach favourable status.</p> <p>Authorities should produce those plans and work actively with Natural England and others to identify and implement the actions needed to improve site condition.</p>	1, 5, 6	<p>Environment, Culture and Wellbeing</p> <p>Growth and regeneration (Planning policy - BNG/ habitat banking project)</p>
Improve how you manage buildings	<p>Review how you manage buildings and the land around them. This could include considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> whether you should remove vegetation around your buildings and if you do, when to do it what chemicals you use on the premises when you carry out maintenance work, to minimise disturbance to wildlife whether you can reduce the use of energy and water to help reduce pollution and address the pressure it puts on wildlife 	3,4, 10	<p>Environment, Culture and Wellbeing</p> <p>Growth and regeneration (climate change)</p>
Educate, advise and raise awareness	<p>You can help the public understand biodiversity and why it's important to conserve and enhance it. This can encourage land managers, businesses and the general public to take action to benefit biodiversity too.</p> <p>For your policies, objectives and actions, you could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> include the public in projects to improve biodiversity 	3, 12,13	Environment, Culture and Wellbeing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feature biodiversity in public or internal communications • use libraries and museums to raise awareness of biodiversity • put information boards in green spaces or offer guided walks • include biodiversity considerations in advice for internal and external clients and service users • educate your staff on your biodiversity actions and why they're important • raise public awareness of how their gardens can support biodiversity, for example by avoiding artificial grass 		Growth and regeneration
Review internal policies and processes	<p>All public authorities have internal policies and processes for staff and facilities that could affect biodiversity.</p> <p>Changes to internal policies and processes that can affect biodiversity are another way you can meet your duty. Policies you could review include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transport – support sustainable travel to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality • waste – review waste management and recycling processes to reduce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water pollution and air pollution from waste transport and landfill • water – improve water efficiency to reduce the effect water abstraction can have on sensitive habitats and species • procurement – buy sustainable materials and supplies to reduce the demand on natural resources • light – make sure the design of artificial lighting minimises effects on nature 	2, 3	All directorates
Prepare for biodiversity net gain	<p>Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is an approach to development or land management that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. If your public authority does not have a biodiversity net gain policy in the local plan, you could consider preparing one.</p> <p>Future development projects (apart from exempt developments) will need to achieve a 10% biodiversity net gain. This is expected to be required from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2023 for Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) projects not falling under the small sites definition [footnote 1] 	4	Growth and Regeneration (planning - development management)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2024 for TCPA small sites • the end of 2025 for Planning Act 2008 (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects) <p>Local planning authorities will need to report what is done for biodiversity net gain on and off development sites.</p> <p>Local planning authorities should consider areas that are appropriate for biodiversity net gain. Consider how existing planning advice and strategies can protect and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>The developer is responsible for selecting the competent person for completing the small sites metric (SSM). The competent person does not need to be an ecologist for the SSM. The local planning authority does not need to verify the competent person.</p> <p>Find out about biodiversity net gain and how it affects you.</p>		
<p>Get help with your actions</p>	<p>You can get help from experts when considering what actions you can take. For example, you could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commission a survey or audit to help assess your property and its potential to improve biodiversity • consult your local nature recovery strategy to find out what actions would benefit your area – preparation of these will begin in 2023 • check existing data about wildlife and habitats in the area • speak to Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, local wildlife trusts or consultant ecologists <p>You can get existing local data from Local Environmental Record Centres. If you commission research, you can share that data with them. To help you understand habitats and species in your area, you can use the national Magic Map.</p> <p>Getting expert advice can help you understand how you can make a difference for biodiversity and avoid unintended outcomes.</p> <p>You may need to get expert environmental advice on planning before preparing plans or considering development proposals.</p> <p>Environmental assessment regulations require monitoring of the effects of development plans and projects. You could use the results of this monitoring as a source of environmental data.</p>	<p>Not directly mentioned in Nature Recovery Declaration.</p> <p>However we are working with:</p> <p>Local Nature Recovery Strategy team at Staffs</p> <p>SWT / Wild About Tamworth / Staffs Eco Record</p>	<p>Environment, Culture and Wellbeing</p> <p>Growth and Regeneration (Planning policy)</p>

		Environment Agency (re watercourses)	
		Canal and River Trust	