



Biodiversity gain plan

Submit a biodiversity gain plan to show how your development will achieve biodiversity net gain.

When to use this form

A biodiversity gain plan shows how a development will achieve 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG). Submit this form to your local planning authority after they approve your planning application.

Unless your development is exempt, you cannot start the development until the LPA approves your biodiversity gain plan and biodiversity metric calculation tool.

1. Submission details

1.1 Date

For example, 3/11/2023

14/04/2026

1.2 Planning application reference number

PL/2026/00924

1.3 Local planning authority (LPA)

Wiltshire County Council

1.4 Development site address

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

Bowmans Paddock, Winterborne Bassett, Swindon, SN4
9QA

1.5 Describe the development

Tell us about the proposed development and any changes of use (250 words).

Removal of 7.5m of hedgerow to create new access into the adjacent bowmans paddock. As habitat within bowmans paddock has already been cleared, compensation for this habitat loss is included within this application. Compensation is proposed to be provided on offsite land located 2km south of the site. This application therefore refers to on-site habitat, Bowmans paddock (BP) and offsite land (OL).

2. Developer details

2.1 Applicant name

2.2 Company name

2.3 Address

2.4 Email address

2.5 Telephone number

2.6 Declaration

By signing this declaration, you confirm that the information you give is complete and correct. Any opinions are your genuine opinions.

2.7 Signature

2.8 Date

3. Responsible person details

Tell us about who is responsible for completing the biodiversity gain plan. For example, a consultancy ecologist or planning agent.

3.1 Name

3.2 Company name

3.3 Address

3.4 Email address

3.5 Telephone number

3.6 Declaration

By signing this declaration, you confirm that the information you give is complete and correct. Any opinions are your genuine opinions.

3.7 Signature

3.8 Date

14/04/2026

4. Biodiversity net gain strategy

4.1 Is the relevant date for the pre-development biodiversity value the same date as the planning application?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

4.2 If no, what earlier date did you agree with the LPA?

The site and adjacent Bowmans paddock have been recently cleared. Biodiversity value has been calculated using the latest aerial imagery (Dated May 2025), with condition assessment aided by photographs provided by the applicant during habitat removal

4.3 How have you met the guidance on ‘what counts towards your BNG’?

[Find out what you can count towards a development's BNG](#)

Yes

4.4 How will you avoid or minimise impacts to habitats?

Tell us about the steps you've taken on site, including to avoid or minimise the impact on irreplaceable habitats.

Do the small size of the site, the proposal to remove 7.5m of hedgerow will minimally impact on the hedgerow, with the remainder of the hedgerows surrounding bowmans paddock being retained. The onsite vegetation was cleared prior to the HCA being undertaken.

There is a priority habitat (Bowman's wood – Deciduous woodland) located adjacent to the site close to the southern boundary of Bowman's paddock. This habitat was recorded within the National Forest Inventory 2020 and was shown to extend within the blue line boundary of the site. However, photographic evidence provided by the applicant and historical aerial imagery demonstrate that that the habitat located within the blue line boundary was not contiguous with the nearby priority woodland and was comprised of mature scrub and a small number of scattered fruit trees.

However, in order to ensure that the highest level of compensation is provided, the BNG assessment was based on the assumption that good condition broadleaved woodland was lost during the habitat clearance. The rest of the site was assessed as bramble scrub based on photographs provided by the applicant and aerial imagery showing the site to be comprised of grassland within the last few years, suggesting that the onsite scrub had only recently established and was very unlikely to be comprised of mature, woody species.

4.5 Did you use your local nature recovery strategy to inform the strategic significance of habitats?

This includes other specified strategies if you do not have a local nature recovery strategy.

☒ Yes

☐ No

4.6 How will you achieve the target net gain percentage?

☐ On-site

☒ Off-site

☐ Both

4.7 Are any of your on-site enhancements considered 'significant'?

[Find out what counts as a significant on-site enhancement.](#)

☐ Yes

☒ No

4.8 If yes, tell us about the significant on-site enhancements

Include the appropriate planning condition or how you've secured the habitat.

N/A

4.9 How many off-site biodiversity units do you need to meet 10% net gain?

1.65

4.10 Explain why you're using off-site biodiversity units

Only answer this question if you're planning to use off-site biodiversity units (250 words).

As the onsite habitat and adjacent bowmans paddock have already been cleared, and may be subject to separate proposals, it was considered unfeasible to use the onsite habitat or adjacent bowmans paddock for biodiversity enhancement. Offsite land located 2km south of the site was therefore made available for habitat creation and enhancement. The land lies within the same LPA boundary as the site and contains habitat suitable to compensate for the loss of woodland, scrub and hedgerow.

4.11 Explain why you're planning to use statutory biodiversity credits

Only answer this question if you're planning to use statutory biodiversity credits (250 words).

N/A

4.12 Do you have a habitat management and monitoring plan?

☐ Yes

☒ No

4.13 Have you used the statutory biodiversity metric tool?

☒ Yes

☐ No

4.14 Biodiversity metric calculation

Send your biodiversity metric calculation to the LPA and enter the file name.

Bowmans Paddock -
The_Statutory_Metric_Macro_Enabled_1.0.4

4.15 Condition assessments

Send your condition assessments to the LPA and enter the file name.

Bowmans Paddock, Winterbourne basset, Swindon, SN4
9QA - HCA

4.16 Pre-development habitat survey report and map

Send your baseline habitat survey report and map to the LPA. Enter the file name.

‘Bowman's Paddock - Baseline habitat map’ and
‘Bowman's Paddock - Baseline habitat map – Offsite
habitat’

4.17 Post-development habitat map or landscape plan

Send your post-development habitat survey report and map to the LPA. Enter the file name.

‘Bowman's Paddock - Proposed habitat map’ and ‘Bowman's Paddock - Proposed
habitat map – Offsite habitat’

4.18 Have you included an approved habitat degradation in the baseline?

If yes, include the relevant consenting body and reference number.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Consenting body

Reference number

5. Irreplaceable habitats

5.1 Does the development impact any irreplaceable habitats?

If yes, tell us if you've submitted an approved compensation plan.

☐ Yes

☒ No

5.2 Have you submitted an approved compensation plan?

☐ Yes

☒ No

6. On-site habitat enhancements

Answer this section if your development includes on-site habitat enhancements.

6.1 Survey date

For example, 3/11/2023

28/10/2025

6.2 Survey constraints

For example, access issues, weather, or seasonal constraints.

Onsite habitat and habitat within the adjacent bowmans paddock, had already been cleared at the time of the habitat condition assessment, meaning that the habitat assessment had to be made via aerial imagery and photographic evidence. The hedgerows, including the onsite hedgerow, had not been cleared and so an accurate assessment could be made.

6.3 Total pre-development biodiversity value

Enter the number from the headline results in your statutory biodiversity metric calculation.

Number of area habitat biodiversity units

<0.01

Number of hedgerow biodiversity units

0.06

Number of watercourse biodiversity units

N/A

6.4 Total post-development biodiversity value

Enter the number from the headline results in your statutory biodiversity metric calculation.

Number of area habitat biodiversity units

0

Number of hedgerow biodiversity units

0

Number of watercourse biodiversity units

N/A

6.5 Total net change in biodiversity units

Enter the number from the headline results in your statutory biodiversity metric calculation.

Area habitat biodiversity units

~-0.01

Area habitat biodiversity units % change

-100%

Hedgerow biodiversity units

-0.06

Hedgerow biodiversity units % change

-100%

Watercourse biodiversity units

N/A

Watercourse biodiversity units % change

N/A

6.6 Will you register and allocate any biodiversity units from your site to other developments?

If yes or provisionally, give details.

☐ Yes

☒ No

6.7 Give details

Tell us about the amount of biodiversity units and the development location (250 words).

N/A

7. Off-site habitat enhancements

Answer this section if your development includes off-site habitat enhancements.

7.1 Tell us about the off-site habitat enhancements

Include whether you're delivering the off-site enhancements or buying biodiversity units.

Offsite enhancements are being made both for the loss of onsite habitat and for the loss of offsite habitats within the adjacent Bowmans Paddock

7.2 Biodiversity gain site register reference number

N/A

7.3 How have you secured the off-site habitat enhancements?

Tell us about any responsible bodies and whether you've used an S106 or conservation covenant.

Offsite enhancements will be secured through a section 106 agreement

7.4 Total baseline biodiversity value

Enter the number from the headline results in your statutory biodiversity metric calculation.

Number of area habitat biodiversity units

11.36

Number of hedgerow biodiversity units

4.75

Number of watercourse biodiversity units

N/A

7.5 Total biodiversity value post-intervention

Enter the number from the headline results in your statutory biodiversity metric calculation.

Number of area habitat biodiversity units

13.01

Number of hedgerow biodiversity units

5.72

Number of watercourse biodiversity units

N/A

7.6 Total net change in biodiversity units

Enter the number from the headline results in your statutory biodiversity metric calculation.

Area habitat biodiversity units

1.65

Area habitat biodiversity units % change

14.49%

Hedgerow biodiversity units

0.97

Hedgerow biodiversity units % change

20.39%

Watercourse biodiversity units

N/A

Watercourse biodiversity units % change

N/A

8. Statutory biodiversity credits

Answer this section if you need to use statutory biodiversity credits.

8.1 Do you need to use statutory biodiversity credits?

☐ Yes

☒ No

8.2 How many statutory biodiversity credits do you need?

Tell us the unit shortfall by tier, including the spatial risk multiplier. Enter the number from the headline results in your statutory biodiversity metric calculation.

A1

A2

A3

A4

A5

H

W

8.3 What evidence is there that no units are available through the market?

Send a message from at least 3 habitat providers, or a search result from online registers.

8.4 Proof of purchase

Send proof of purchase and enter the reference number.

9. Trading summary

9.1 Distinctiveness group

Tell us if you met the BNG trading rules on habitat compensation for each distinctiveness group. If you did not meet the trading rules, tell us if you agreed bespoke habitat compensation.

Check the rules on habitat compensation in the [statutory biodiversity metric user guide](#).

Very high

N/A

High

N/A

Medium

Although offsite habitats within bowmans paddock included land recorded as part of the bowmans wood priority habitat, aerial imagery and photographs provided by the applicant show that the habitat would not meet criteria to be assessed as priority woodland. However, to ensure that offsite habitats are fully compensated, the lost habitat has been treated as good condition broadleaved woodland and bramble scrub within the metric.

Low

N/A

10. Sharing data (optional)

10.1 Can we share your ecological survey data with the Local Environmental Records Centre or other bodies?

☒ Yes

☐ No