

Biodiversity Net Gain in Planning

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Outline



Basics: what is biodiversity Net Gain where did it come from

Why adopt a net gain approach?

Good practise

Applying the approach at local plan level:

Discussion: How to apply Net Gain in the Tees Valley

Warwickshire Greater Manchester,

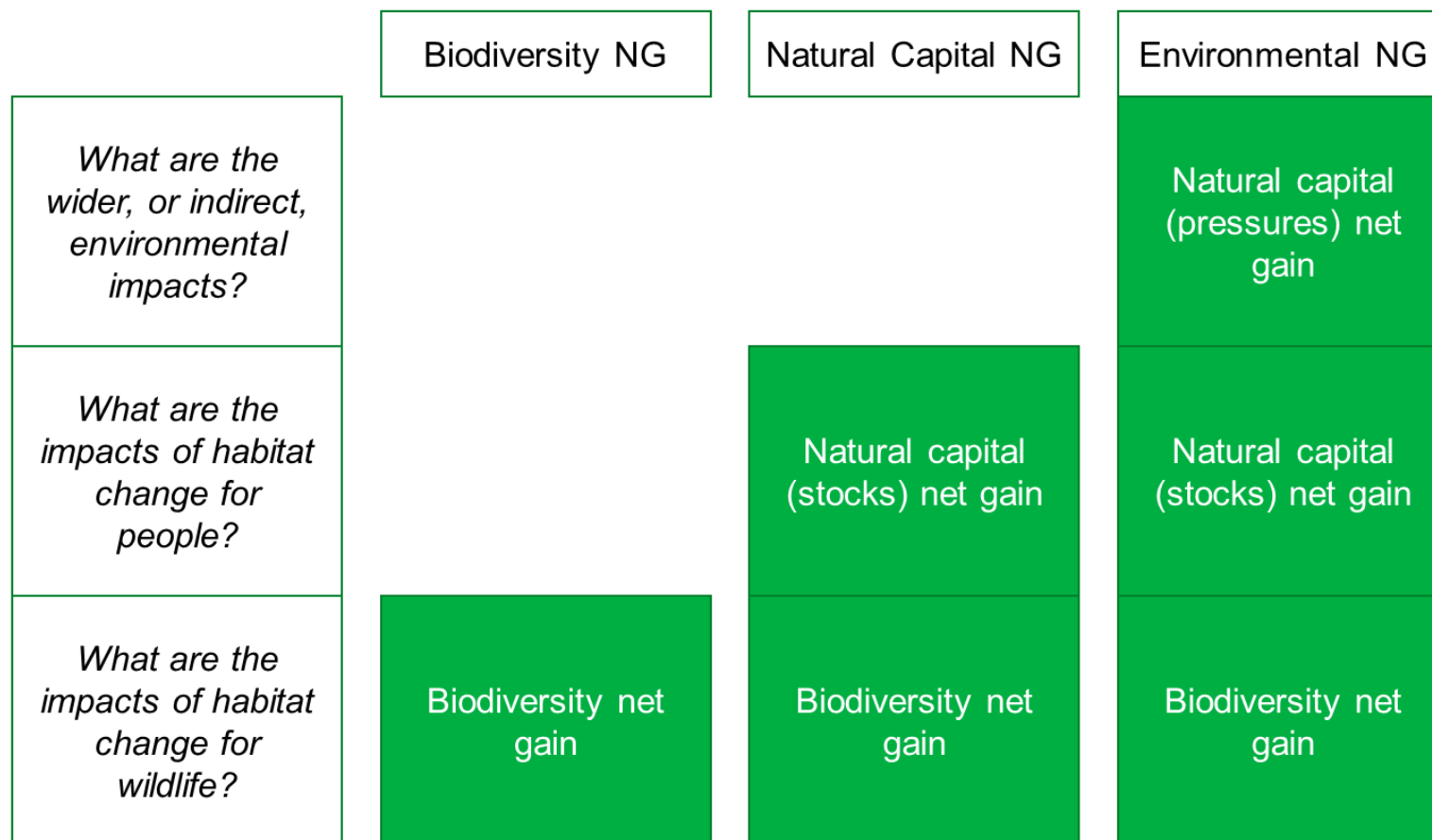
Policy framework

www.gov.uk/natural-england

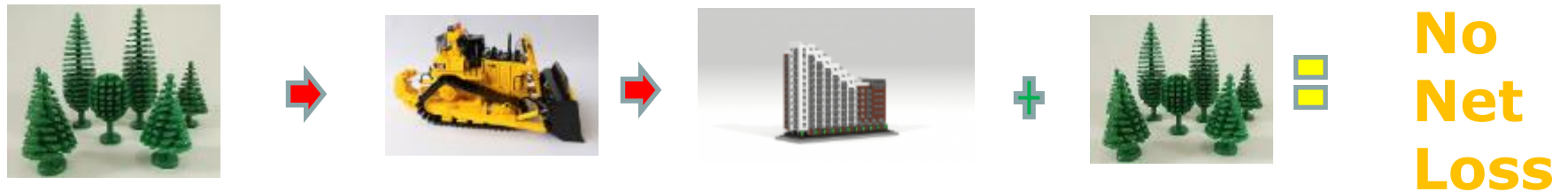
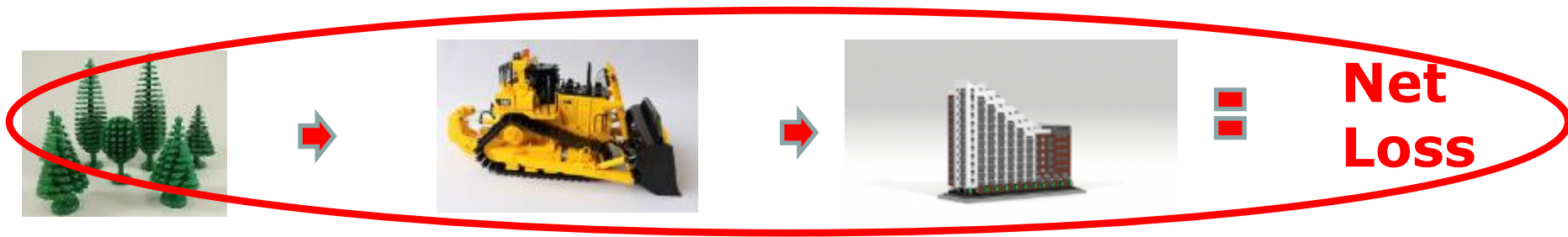
‘Net gain is an approach to development, and/or land management, that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand’

Net Gain = More Nature

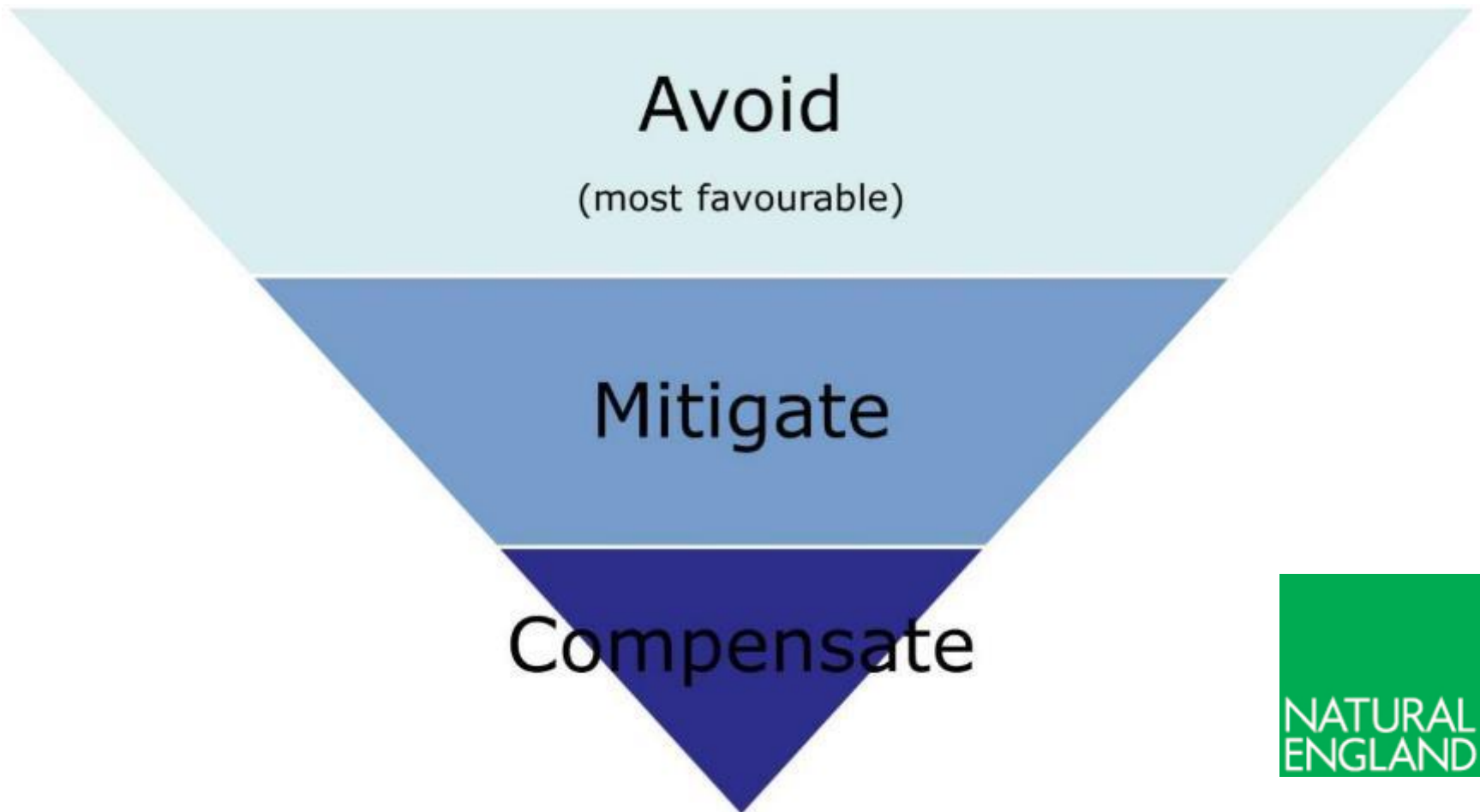
Types of 'net gain'



Biodiversity Loss/Gain



Mitigation Hierarchy



Location Location Location



On-Site

Developer delivers biodiversity enhancements on own site through well designed built environment and landscaping



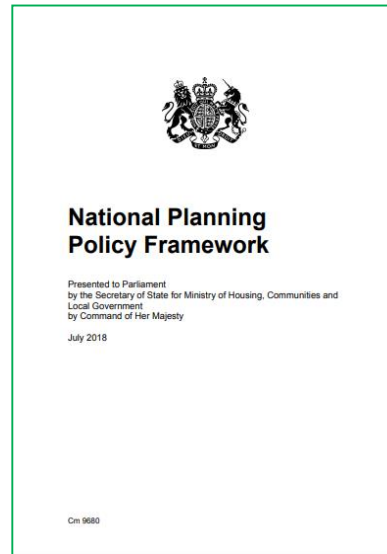
Off-Site

Developers looks off-site to deliver required gains. Off-site locations should align with **strategic conservation** objectives and form part of the wider nature recovery network. Delivery could be through land owner, tenant, organisations.

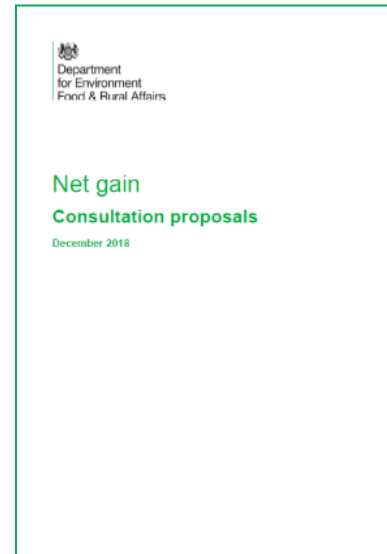
Why adopt a net gain approach?



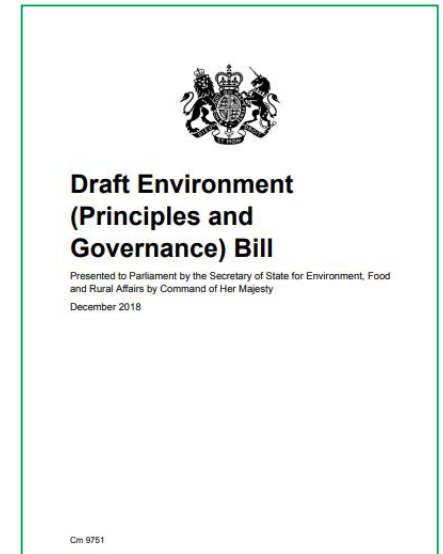
25 Year
Environment
Plan
(2018)



National
Planning
Policy
Framework
(2018)



National
Net Gain
Consultatio
n (2018)



Environmen
t Bill
(coming
soon!)

Net Gain and NPPF (2018)

118 - *Planning policies and decisions should:*

a) *encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to **achieve net environmental gains** – such as developments that would enable new **habitat creation** or improve public access to the countryside...*

170 - *Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:.....*

d) *minimising impacts on and **providing net gains for biodiversity**, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures*

171 - *Plans should:.... take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and **plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.***

174 - *To **protect and enhance biodiversity** and geodiversity, plans should:*

b) *promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and **identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.***

Net Gain Benefits.....



The Net Gain Business Case

- De-Risking Planning
- Place-Making
- Resilience
- Reputation
- Cost Control + Potential Income



Good Practise – standards & guidance

BREEAM®



bsi.



IEMA

Transforming the world
to sustainability

CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA Biodiversity Net Gain – Good Practice Principles & Guidance

- Principle 1. **Apply the Mitigation Hierarchy**
- Principle 2. **Avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset by gains elsewhere**
- Principle 3. **Be inclusive and equitable**
- Principle 4. **Address risks**
- Principle 5. **Make a measurable Net Gain contribution**
- Principle 6. **Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity**
- Principle 7. **Be additional**
- Principle 8. **Create a Net Gain legacy**
- Principle 9. **Optimise sustainability**
- Principle 10. **Be transparent**

Defra Metric 2.0



July 2019: Natural England plans to publish:

- Biodiversity Metric 2.0 (4 parts to this)
 - Terrestrial habitats - updated
 - Hedgerows - new
 - Rivers - new
 - Inter-tidal habitats - new
- Free Calculator Spreadsheet Tool for ease of calculation (new)
- Evidence Summary + Technical Guidance (new)



July 2019- Spring 2020: gather feedback and amend as needed

Local Plans & Strategies

Biodiversity Net Gain Requirements

- What metric?
- All developments?
- What amount?



Level Playing Field

Links to Other Strategies

Investment & Income Generation

Supplementary Planning Document



Net Gain Examples



Delivery Arrangements

Locally Identified Priority Area



Defra Metric 2.0



Quality Assurance



Local Priority Areas

Inform On-Site and Off-Site
Net Gain



Finance and
delivery

Discussion: Moving Forward



- **Advocacy and building partnerships**
- **Evidence base & developing local plan policy**
- **Finance and delivery arrangements**
- **Securing the benefits**
- **Engaging people**

Thanks



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