Biodiversity Duty Report

For period January 2024 to 1st January 2026

Newcastle City Council
March 2026

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Newcastle City Council

Contents

1. Context and Background

The Enhanced Biodiversity Duty

The Environment Act 2021 strengthened the Biodiversity Duty for local authorities in England. The duty means that the Council must consider what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity through the work it carries out and decisions it makes. This means that through its function the Council should be aiming not only to protect biodiversity but to improve it.

The enhanced duty requires the Council to:

- Review our activities and identify actions that could benefit nature.
- Set clear policies and objectives for biodiversity.
- Keep these under review at least every five years.

Local Authorities must report on biodiversity outcomes, including biodiversity net gain. By law, LPAs must include the following BNG information:

- The actions you've carried out to meet BNG obligations
- Details of BNG resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans you've approved
- How you plan to meet BNG obligations in the next reporting period

2. Purpose of the report

This report explains how we are meeting the duty. It sets out:

- The steps we have taken to consider biodiversity in our work to meet the Biodiversity Duty
- Actions and objectives we plan to deliver over the next reporting period to meet the Biodiversity Duty

3. Biodiversity in Newcastle

Newcastle has a wealth of natural assets, including protected species, plants and habitats. Some of the species which reside in the city are of international and national importance as examples of how wildlife can adapt to urban environments. Newcastle is, for example, home to the most inland breeding population of Kittiwakes in the world.

Newcastle's industrial heritage has left a range of brownfield sites, often over impoverished soils which provide important habitats for invertebrates such as dingy skipper and grayling and plants which are scarce in the north of England including bee orchid.

The River Tyne defines the southern boundary of the City. The river is tidal for much of its reach through Newcastle and estuarine habitats revealed at low tide support regionally important populations of wintering wading birds, the Tyne also provides an important habitat for salmon and trout, otter and even grey seals. Open water within the city also support populations of protected species including otter, great crested newt and water vole.

Farmland habitats to the north and west of the urban centre provide habitats for a range of species including farmland birds, and brown hare and woodland habitats support an even wider range of species including badger and bats.

4. Pre-existing Policies and Strategies relating to Biodiversity

Before the enhanced biodiversity duty came into effect, Newcastle already had a range of policies and strategies that help protect and improve nature. These policies and strategies show that biodiversity has long been part of our decision making and service delivery, forming a strong foundation for meeting the enhanced duty.

Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan (2010-2030)

- Policy CS18 – which includes the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity assets including designated sites, designated wildlife corridors and priority habitats and species and trees, woodland and hedgerows.

Development Allocations Plan (2015-2030)

- Policy DM27 - requires development to create an enhance green infrastructure assets for a range of reasons including to enhance biodiversity.
- Policy DM28 - requires development to protect trees and landscape features, provide compensation for any loss and provide new trees and landscaping which achieve multifunctional benefits.
- Policy DM29 - supports CS18 by ensuring that the diversity and richness of the cities biodiversity are protected and enhanced through devel-opment

Trees Newcastle – Newcastle City Council Tree Policy 2021 - 2026

- The guiding principles of this document are to:
- Protect and care for Newcastle's trees and hedges.
- Plant more trees and hedges.
- The document sets a target of increasing the current canopy cover from 18.1% to 20% by 2050.
- The overall objective is for Newcastle to have a sustainably managed and protected, healthy and diverse tree population with sufficient canopy cover to benefit and meet the needs of all who live, work, and visit the city.

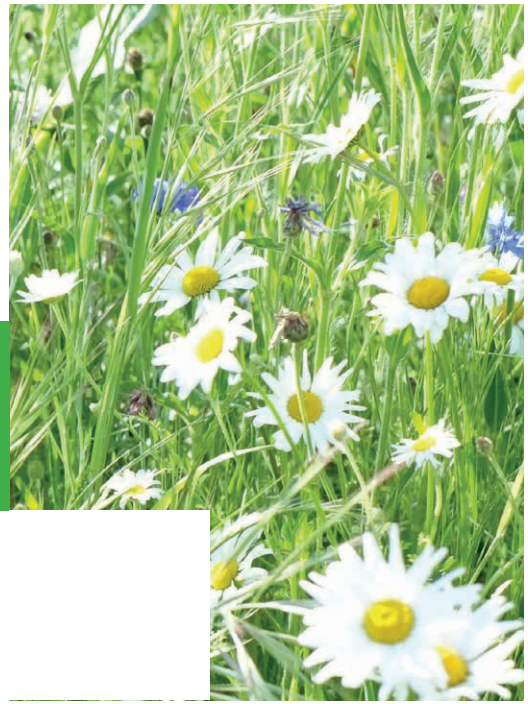
Biodiversity Emergency Declaration (2022)

NCC declared a Biodiversity Emergency in July 2022. This included a range of targeted actions aimed at addressing the rapid decline in nature. Refer Appendix 02.

5. Meeting the Biodiversity Duty

Our First Consideration report for the Biodiversity Duty produced in January 2024 included a number of areas where indicative actions could be taken to help the Council comply with the Biodiversity Duty.

Progress on action points are included below alongside additional actions taken by the Council which have contributed to meeting the Biodiversity Duty.



Action 5.1 - Review internal policies and processes to ensure that biodiversity was actively considered in Local Authority Actions:

Action to date

Training and information sharing across departments has increased the consideration of biodiversity when planning and implementing capital schemes and projects. Initial ecological assessments are embedded into the process for informing demolitions and ecological advice is informing capital projects such as building repairs and improvements, regeneration projects, and highways schemes.

The Ecology team also regularly deliver training to Grounds Maintenance and Tree Teams to ensure an awareness of biodiversity

Future Actions

Going forwards, we will raise awareness of the biodiversity duty across the organisation and task colleagues with reviewing their processes and procedures to see where they could make improvements for biodiversity. Where this identifies knowledge, skills, or training gaps we will work with internal specialists and external partners to meet this need.
In late 2024 it was announced that Newcastle City Council and Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council would work together to produce a joint Local Plan. We will work to ensure that the Local Plan recognises biodiversity in it's spatial vision and identifies strategic objectives relating to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity through the delivery of the Plan.

Internally, as existing policies and strategies are reviewed and new ones developed, we will ensure that opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity form part of that process.

Action 5.2 - Biodiversity Emergency Action Progress

Action to date

The Biodiversity Emergency identified 15 local measures to be undertaken to prevent the loss of and to enhance biodiversity. Progress has been made towards a number of measures identified in the Biodiversity Emergency including the update of the Allotment Handbook (2024) to include a section on how to encourage biodiversity within allotments, identification of a location for a natural burial ground and the completion of key projects including the Greener Grey Street project which has integrated sustainable drainage features with natural planting and created improved spaces for pedestrians and cyclists.

Future Actions

The Council will endeavour to work towards achieving actions within the Biodiversity Emergency declaration and will regularly review the progress internally. A summary is provided in Appendix 02.

Action 5.3 - Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Actions to date

Newcastle City Council are a 'Supporting Body' for the North of Tyne LNRS and have been actively involved in the development of the strategy. This role involves actively engaging with the LNRS process including being involved in stakeholder consultation and ensuring that our priorities as an urban authority are considered within the wider context of the LNRS.

NCC has been represented on the LNRS Steering Group and the LNRS Task and Finish Sub-Group. The role of the Task and Finish Group is to produce the required elements of the LNRS and report back to the LNRS Steering Group.

The draft LNRS was subject to a public consultation between the 14th November and the 9th January 2026 and is due to be published in March 2026.

Future Actions

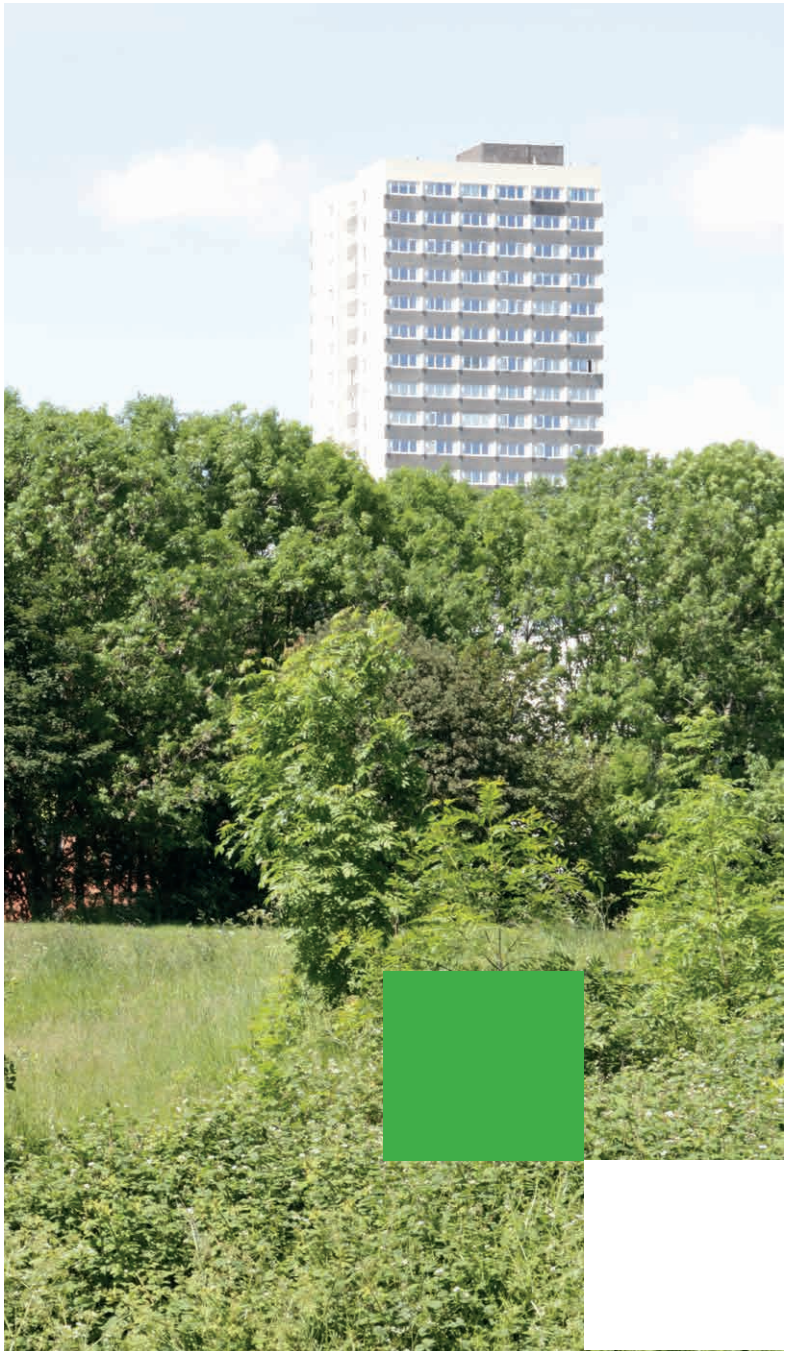
The Council will proactively engage with the delivery of projects and initiatives to help deliver measures identified within the LNRS where possible to do so. The Council will also continue to actively engage in Steering Group meetings and potential reviews and updates to the LNRS should they be required during the next reporting period.

Action 5.4 - Partnership Working

The council works closely with a wide range of organisations across the region to maximise opportunities for nature recovery and deliver positive outcomes for biodiversity. Through strong collaboration, we support each other in developing projects, securing funding, and delivering initiatives that make a real difference. Key partners include The Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water, The Natural History Society of Northumbria and the Tyne Rivers Trust, alongside others committed to conserving and enhancing our natural environment. We also work with other councils across the region to share best practice and coordinate biodiversity initiatives, ensuring a consistent and effective approach to nature recovery.

The council is a member of the following regional and sub-regional partnerships that work collaboratively to achieve a wide variety of benefits for biodiversity across the northeast. Key outcomes during the reporting period are:

- North East Community Forest – planted over 300,000 trees and 17 km of hedgerows, creating new woodlands that boost wildlife habitats and help fight climate change.
- Tyne Catchment Partnership - improved river connectivity for fish and restored peatlands, supporting species like Atlantic salmon and enhancing natural flood management.
- Tyne Estuary Partnership - delivered nature-based solutions to restore habitats along the Tyne. These projects improve biodiversity, create green jobs, and help tackle climate change by boosting carbon storage and adapting to rising sea level.
- Northeast Invasive Non-Native Species Partnership - tackled invasive species and created native meadows, helping pollinators and grassland birds thrive while safeguarding local ecosystems.
- Tyne Kittiwakes Partnership - safeguarding the world's most inland kittiwake colony during Tyne Bridge restoration works, using innovative nesting structures to keep seabirds breeding successfully.



In addition, the council has been part of the following partnerships and initiatives that have delivered specific projects and enhancements for biodiversity over the reporting period:

5.4.1. Newcastle Parks Initiatives

The NCC Parks Service have worked closely with a number of partners to deliver biodiversity projects throughout the city. This includes participating in No Mow May and creating wildflower meadows at City Stadium with key partners including Wild Intrigue and The Ouseburn Trust.

5.4.2 Blue Green Newcastle

Blue Green Newcastle is a project that aims to protect the city centre from flooding. It does this by using sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and working with nature. The drainage solutions used in this project won't just help stop flooding. They'll also improve wildlife habitats, green spaces, and public areas. The project is a partnership between the City Council, Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water and The Freemen of Newcastle.

The Pilot Phase was completed in Summer 2025 in conjunction with the Freemen of Newcastle. The project manages rainwater from the Town Moor and Exhibition Park. It uses natural flood management to help stop flooding.

The next Phase will fall into the next reporting period and will focus on the Pandon Burn and Hunters Moor and Castle Leazes areas.

5.4.3. Newcastle Nature Networks

In 2024, a new citywide partnership led by Urban Green Newcastle was awarded £701,417 from Defra and The National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop and improve pollinator pathways across Newcastle. The project, Newcastle Nature Networks, lasting two years, until February 2026, will deliver habitat improvements to create and restore 41 green spaces across public parks, nature reserves and previously developed land, to support assemblages of pollinator species. This includes Council owned sites including Paradise Local Wildlife Site, Exhibition Park, and Havannah Local Nature Reserve. The Council took over responsibility for the Partnership in February 2025 when UGN returned to the Council.

Future Actions

The Council will continue to work with existing partners and seek new collaborations to drive nature recovery within the City.

5.4.4. Advocating for Resources and Legislation

Use our influence to lobby and work positively with government at national and regional levels for the powers and funding needed to deliver nature recovery.

North East Combined Authority (NECA)

We work closely with NECA and the seven councils in its area to support nature recovery. By taking part in key meetings and discussions, we use our voice to champion the need for resources and powers that make real change possible - both within NECA and in its efforts to influence national government.

North East Carbon and Nature Marketplace

Newcastle Council has played an active role in supporting the development of the North East Carbon and Nature Marketplace - an innovative platform that connects businesses and investors with local projects focused on restoring nature and reducing carbon emissions. This marketplace ensures that funding stays in the region, supporting initiatives such as tree planting, peatland restoration, and habitat creation. By linking climate action with nature recovery, the scheme will deliver long-term benefits for biodiversity, including healthier ecosystems, improved habitat connectivity, and greater resilience to climate change - all while creating green jobs and boosting the local economy. A number of Newcastle City Council led projects are currently on the Nature Marketplace.

Future Actions

The Council will seek to build on existing partnerships and advocacy work with NECA and other regional bodies to strengthen the case for nature recovery. Through continued engagement and lobbying, the Council will ensure its position and support for key legislation are clearly communicated to national government. It also intends to respond proactively to all relevant government consultations, shaping policies that secure the powers and funding needed for transformative action.

At the same time, the Council will maintain involvement in initiatives such as the North East Carbon and Nature Marketplace, attracting investment and driving large-scale projects that deliver long-term benefits for biodiversity, climate resilience, and local communities.

6. Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a new approach to development. It makes sure that habitats for wildlife are left in a measurably better state than they were before the development.

In England, BNG is mandatory under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021.
Developers must deliver a BNG of 10% above its baseline value. This means a development will result in more or better quality natural habitat than there was before development.

Some developments are exempt from BNG requirements including householder planning applications.

Measuring Biodiversity

For the purposes of BNG, biodiversity value is measured in standardised biodiversity units using a statutory biodiversity metric calculation tool.

A habitat will contain a number of biodiversity units, depending on things like its size, quality, location, type, and rarity. Biodiversity units can be lost through development or generated through work to create and enhance habitats.

The biodiversity metric must be used for every eligible development to calculate:

- The number of units a development site has before development – its baseline score.
- The number of units a development site is expected to have after the development has been built – its post development score.

Achieving Biodiversity Net Gain

Through site selection and layout, developers should avoid or reduce any negative impact on biodiversity. They must then deliver at least a 10% increase on the baseline biodiversity value of their development site as measured by the statutory biodiversity metric.

Developers have three available routes to achieve the required 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), and these approaches can be combined as needed.

1. Onsite - retain, enhance, and create biodiversity within the red line boundary of their development site.
2. Off-site - funding or securing habitat creation or enhancement on land away from the development site, often through accredited providers or habitat banks.
3. Statutory credits - purchase government-issued biodiversity credits as a last resort. The government will use the revenue to invest in habitat creation in England.

Developers can combine all three options but must follow the steps in order. This order of steps is called the biodiversity gain hierarchy.

Action to Date

Biodiversity Net Gain Data

This section provides key data on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) delivery within Newcastle from this reporting period. It includes figures on approved biodiversity gain plans, the balance between on-site and off-site delivery, and the use of statutory credits. We also report on the number of biodiversity units created, habitat types, and monitoring results. These details demonstrate how the Council is meeting the 10% net gain requirement in line with national policy.

A full breakdown of number and net change in biodiversity units split by habitat types is available in Appendix 01.

Overall expected gains and losses	Area habitat	Hedgerow
Total number of pre-development biodiversity units approved on-site	53.92	0.61
Total number of post-development biodiversity units approved on-site	48.76	1.30
Total net unit change in biodiversity units, on-site	-5.16	0.70
Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, on-site	-9.56	114.92
Total number of baseline biodiversity units approved off-site	8.62	0.00
Total number of post-intervention biodiversity units approved off-site	28.04	0.00
Total net unit change in biodiversity units, off-site	19.42	0.00
Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, off-site	225.43	0.00
Total number of biodiversity units offset using statutory credits	0.00	0.00
Total net unit change in biodiversity units (including any units offset using credits)	14.27	0.70
Average percentage (%) change (including statutory credits)	22.81	114.92

Making BNG work for Newcastle

During the reporting period, the Council have taken the following pro-active measures to try and ensure that BNG will deliver for biodiversity and support nature recovery within the City.

Onsite Delivery - Monitoring of BNG

Where developments achieve biodiversity net gains that are considered significant, either because of the value and/or volume of habitat delivered, the Council has committed to actively monitoring their delivery.

Habitat management and monitoring plans are agreed between the developer and the council and secured through the planning system. The council has produced a Monitoring Fee Calculator which is based upon the scale of the development site and complexity of habitat creation within it to cover the costs of monitoring over the 30-year delivery period and using dedicated software to track this.

At present no applications subject to the mandatory biodiversity gain obligation have reached the monitoring stage of BNG. It is anticipated that this will form part of the next Biodiversity Duty report.

Offsite Delivery - Developing a BNG local market

Having biodiversity gain sites within Newcastle is vital because it means the benefits of development stay local. Instead of improvements happening elsewhere, they help our own wildlife and green spaces. This approach creates better-connected habitats, supports local species, and ensures people in our communities can enjoy the positive impact of nature recovery close to home. It also gives the Council more control over how these sites are managed for the long term, making sure they fit with local plans and priorities.

During the reporting period, the Council began looking into the use of its own land for BNG delivery. Due to the scale of sites required to create viable biodiversity gain sites this only became feasible once Urban Green Newcastle was re-incorporated into the Council. Several potential sites have been identified as having the potential to be used as biodiversity gain sites.

The council has also committed to enable private landowners to bring forward biodiversity gain sites by entering into legal agreements that will secure the appropriate management and monitoring of the land over the long term.

Future Actions

In the next reporting period, the Council will build on its current framework by scaling up both on-site and off-site Biodiversity Net Gain delivery. We will continue to explore options for in-house delivery of BNG on Council owned sites to benefit development and local communities through the delivery of enhancements within these sites within the city. A formal monitoring programme will be expanded, using digital tracking tools and ecological audits to verify compliance over the 30-year management period.

Alongside this, we will work with regional partners and landowners to grow a local BNG market, enabling off-site delivery that aligns with the North of Tyne Local Nature Recovery Strategy. By combining robust governance, transparent reporting, and collaborative partnerships, we aim to deliver measurable biodiversity improvements that contribute to nature recovery and climate resilience.

Appendix 01

Biodiversity Net Gain Information
12 February 2024 to 1st January 2026
Percentage net gain required by LPA 10%

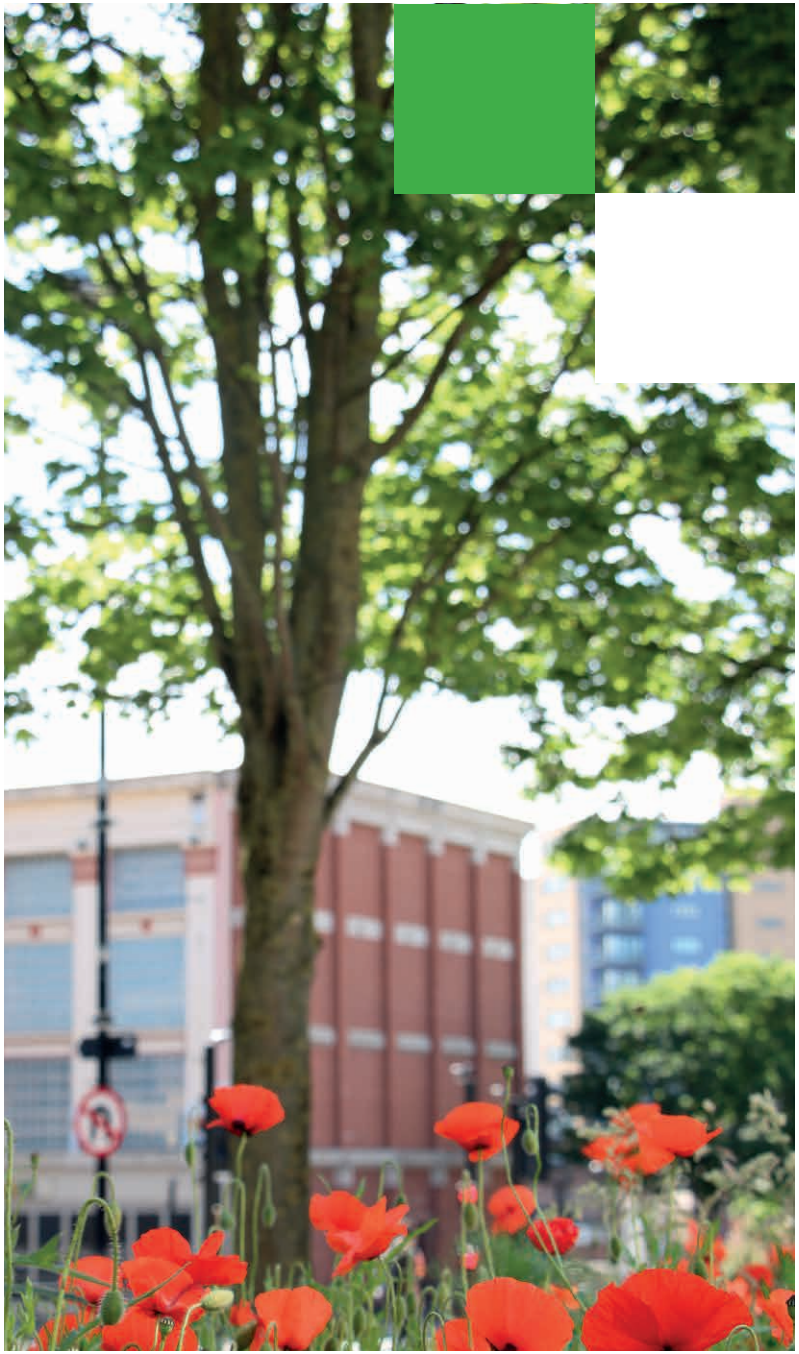


Table of Contents

This spreadsheet contains 8 worksheets.
Worksheet 1 covers information about the number of eligible planning permissions granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requiring biodiversity net gain
Worksheet 2 covers the overall expected gains and losses from biodiversity gain plans approved during the reporting period
Worksheet 3 covers the number of biodiversity gain plans approved during the reporting period that impact irreplaceable habitat

Worksheet 4 covers the number of biodiversity gain sites and biodiversity units delivered
Worksheet 5 covers a summary of whether approved development is meeting its monitoring requirements
Worksheet 6 covers the composition of gains split by area habitat type

Worksheet 7 covers the composition of gains split by hedgerow and line of trees type

Worksheet 8 covers the composition of gains split by watercourse type

Eligible planning permissions granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requiring biodiversity net gain

This information can be manually collected from approved biodiversity gain plans or statutory metrics if you are not using a software package

This worksheet contains one table.

This is Table 1.

ID	Consented applications requiring net gains	Number	Proportion (%)
A	Total number of planning permissions granted that require biodiversity net gain in the reporting period	28	Not applicable
B	Total number of planning permissions granted in the reporting period where an exemption to the biodiversity net gain condition applies	1183	Not applicable
C	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period	10	Not applicable
D	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through on-site units only	7	70.00
E	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through off-site units only	0	0.00
F	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through statutory credits only	0	0.00
G	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site and off-site units	3	30.00
H	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site units and statutory credits	0	0.00
I	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of off-site units and statutory credits	0	0.00
J	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period securing BNG through a combination of on-site, off-site units and statutory credits	0	0.00

Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

A	
B	
C	
D	Biodiversity Gain Plan, question 4.6. For proportion divide the number by Table 1, Line C. Expressed as a percentage
E	Biodiversity Gain Plan, question 4.6. For proportion divide the number by Table 1, Line C. Expressed as a percentage
F	Biodiversity Gain Plan, question 4.11. For proportion divide the number by Table 1, Line C. Expressed as a percentage
G	Biodiversity Gain Plan, question 4.6. For proportion divide the number by Table 1, Line C. Expressed as a percentage
H	Biodiversity Gain Plan, question 4.6 and 4.11. For proportion divide the number by Table 1, Line C. Expressed as a percentage
I	Biodiversity Gain Plan, question 4.6 and 4.11. For proportion divide the number by Table 1, Line C. Expressed as a percentage
J	Biodiversity Gain Plan, question 4.6 and 4.11. For proportion divide the number by Table 1, Line C. Expressed as a percentage

Overall expected gains and losses across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period

This worksheet contains one table.

This is Table 2.

ID	Overall expected gains and losses	Area habitat	Hedgerow	Watercourse
A	Total number of pre-development biodiversity units approved on-site	53.92	0.61	0.00
B	Total number of post-development biodiversity units approved on-site	48.76	1.30	0.00
C	Total net unit change in biodiversity units, on-site	-5.16	0.70	0.00
D	Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, on-site	-9.56	114.92	0.00
E	Total number of baseline biodiversity units approved off-site	8.62	0.00	0.00
F	Total number of post-intervention biodiversity units approved off-site	28.04	0.00	0.00
G	Total net unit change in biodiversity units, off-site	19.42	0.00	0.00
H	Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, off-site	225.43	0.00	0.00
I	Total number of biodiversity units offset using statutory credits	0.00	0.00	0.00
J	Total net unit change in biodiversity units (including any units offset using credits)	14.27	0.70	0.00
K	Average percentage (%) change (including statutory credits)	22.81	114.92	0.00

Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

A	Biodiversity Gain Plan, total 6.3 across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period
B	Biodiversity Gain Plan, total 6.4 across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period
C	Biodiversity Gain Plan, total 6.5 number of area/hedgerow/watercourse units across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period
D	Table 2, line C divided by Table 2, line A expressed as a percentage
E	Biodiversity Gain Plan, total 7.4 across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period
F	Biodiversity Gain Plan, total 7.5 across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period
G	Biodiversity Gain Plan, total 7.6 number of area/habitat/watercourse units across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period
H	Table 2, line G divided by Table 2 line E, expressed as a percentage
I	Biodiversity Gain Plan, total 8.2 across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period
J	Sum of Table 2 line C+G+I
K	Table 2 line J divided by the sum of Table 2 line A+E, expressed as a percentage

Impact on Irreplaceable Habitat

This worksheet contains one table.

This is Table 3

ID	Impact on irreplaceable habitat	Total	Proportion (%)
A	Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period where the on-site change negatively impacts irreplaceable habitats	0	0.00

Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

A The number of applications selecting 'yes' on biodiversity gain plan 5.1. For proportion divide by Table 1 line C, expressed as a percentage

Location of off-site biodiversity units

This worksheet contains one table.

This is Table 4

ID	Location of off-site biodiversity units	Total	Proportion (%)
A	Number of off-site biodiversity units located inside LPA boundary or NCA of impact site	0.00	0.00
B	Number of off-site biodiversity units located outside LPA or NCA of impact site, but in neighbouring LPA or NCA	10.53	37.57
C	Number of off-site biodiversity units located outside of LPA or NCA of impact site and neighbouring LPA or NCA	17.50	62.43

Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

For 'Total' sum number of off-site biodiversity units in each category for all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period where off-site gains have been used. Category found in 'Off-site Habitat Baseline Tab', Number of biodiversity units found in 'Off-site gain site summary' tab

For 'Proportion (%)' should be calculated as such: ((Total (Column C) / (sum of totals in column C)) x 100)

Results of monitoring biodiversity gains

This worksheet contains two tables.
This is Table 5

ID	Results of monitoring biodiversity gains where the LPA is part of the legal agreement	Total	Proportion (%)
A	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans including the delivery of 'significant' on-site gains	0*	0*
B	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements and habitat delivery expectations for 'significant' on-site gains	0*	0*
C	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements but not meeting habitat delivery expectations for 'significant' on-site gains	0*	0*
D	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are failing to meet monitoring requirements for 'significant' on-site gains	0*	0*
E	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans where the status of monitoring requirements is unknown for 'significant' on-site gains	0*	0*
F	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans including the delivery of off-site gains, where the LPA are responsible for monitoring.	0*	0*
G	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements and habitat delivery expectations for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring	0*	0*
H	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are meeting monitoring requirements but not meeting habitat delivery expectations for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring	0*	0*
I	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans that are failing to meet monitoring requirements for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring	0*	0*
J	Number of applications with approved biodiversity gain plans where the status of monitoring requirements is unknown for offsite gains where the LPA is responsible for monitoring	0*	0*

ID	Enforcement actions taken in the reporting period	Total	Proportion (%)
L	Number of enforcement actions taken during the reporting period associated with Biodiversity Net Gain policy	0	0.00

ID	Tracking monitoring of biodiversity gains	Free Text
K	Please describe how you have collected information on monitoring (e.g., use of digital software to collect and analyse monitoring data/ manual checking of monitoring reports/ internal monitoring system etc.	*There are currently no applications at the monitoring stage therefore data is not yet available.

Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

Proportion (%) should be calculated as such: ((Total (Table 5a) / Total number of biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period (Table 1, line C)) x 100)

Composition of biodiversity gains - areas

This worksheet contains one table.

This is Table 6

ID	Habitat Type - Area	Total biodiversity units at baseline	Total hectares at baseline	Total biodiversity units post - development	Total hectares post - development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in hectares
A	Cropland	8.49	4.25	0.00	0.00	-8.49	-4.25
B	Grassland	26.86	6.24	35.02	6.48	8.16	0.24
C	Heathland and shrub	0.76	0.18	18.02	2.21	17.26	2.03
D	Lakes	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.00
E	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	Urban	1.25	5.44	1.98	7.43	0.73	1.99
G	Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
H	Woodland and forest	0.41	0.09	0.48	0.10	0.07	0.01
I	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
J	Coastal saltmarsh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
K	Rocky shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
L	Coastal lagoons	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
M	Intertidal hard structures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
N	Watercourse footprint	Not applicable	0.00	Not applicable	0.00	Not applicable	0.00
O	Individual trees	24.72	2.35	21.26	2.63	-3.46	0.28
	Total	62.53	18.55	76.80	18.86	14.27	0.31

Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

For 'Total biodiversity units at baseline' column, see column D, rows 78-92 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.
For 'Total hectares at baseline' column, see column C, rows 78-92 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.
For 'Total biodiversity units post-development' column, see column F, rows 78-92 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.
For 'Total hectares post-development' column, see column E, rows 78-92 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.
For 'Net change in biodiversity units' column, calculate by deducting 'Total biodiversity units at baseline' from 'Total biodiversity units post-development'.
For 'Net change hectares' column, calculate by deducting 'Total hectares at baseline' from 'Total hectares post-development'.

Composition of biodiversity gains - hedgerows and lines of trees

This worksheet contains one table.

This is Table 7

ID	Habitat type - hedgerows and lines of trees	Total biodiversity units at baseline	Total kilometres at baseline	Total biodiversity units post - development	Total kilometres post - development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in kilometres
A	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C	Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
D	Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E	Species-rich native hedgerow	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G	Native hedgerow with trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
H	Ecologically valuable line of trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I	Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
J	Native hedgerow	0.37	0.16	1.27	0.52	0.90	0.36
K	Line of trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
L	Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
M	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.24	0.24	0.04	0.04	-0.21	-0.21
	Total	0.61	0.40	1.30	0.55	0.70	0.15

Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

For 'Total biodiversity units at baseline' column, see column D, rows 140-152 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Total kilometres at baseline' column, see column C, rows 140-152 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Total biodiversity units post-development' column, see column F, rows 140-152 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Total kilometres post-development' column, see column E, rows 140-152 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.

For 'Net change in biodiversity units' column, calculate by deducting 'Total biodiversity units at baseline' from 'Total biodiversity units post-development'.

For 'Net change in kilometres' column, calculate by deducting 'Total kilometres at baseline' from 'Total kilometres post-development'.

Composition of biodiversity gains - watercourses

This worksheet contains one table.

This is Table 8

ID	Habitat type - watercourse	Total biodiversity units at baseline	Total kilometers at baseline	Total biodiversity units post - development	Total kilometers post - development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in kilometers
A	Priority habitat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B	Other rivers and streams	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C	Ditches	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
D	Canals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E	Culvert	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Guidance - where to find/how to calculate the data

For 'Total biodiversity units at baseline' column, see column D, rows 203-207 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.
For 'Total kilometers at baseline' column, see column C, rows 203-207 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.
For 'Total biodiversity units post-development' column, see column F, rows 203-207 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.
For 'Total kilometers post-development' column, see column E, rows 203-207 of Metric's 'Detailed Results' tab. Total these across all metrics from the reporting period.
For 'Net change biodiversity units' column, calculate by deducting 'Total biodiversity units at baseline' from 'Total biodiversity units post-development'.
For 'Net change in kilometers' column, calculate by deducting 'Total kilometers at baseline' from 'Total kilometers post-development'.

Appendix 02

Biodiversity Emergency Progress Tracker
March 2026

Appendix 02 - Biodiversity Emergency Progress Tracker – to accompany cabinet report on Biodiversity Duty – March 2026

Action	Responsibility	Date Raised	Due Date	Action Taken	Status
Using planning powers and policies to improve biodiversity in the city	Development Management	July 2022	Ongoing	Planning powers continue to be used to secure mitigation and enhancements for biodiversity across the city. This includes securing enhancements for protected and priority species and in accordance with the NPPF including bats, birds, and hedgehog. The LPA is also responsible for the implementation of BNG through the planning process. A summary of BNG information is provided in the Biodiversity Duty Report.	Ongoing
Developing a plan to phase out the use of weedkillers by Newcastle City Council within 5 years by working with local communities to develop appropriate alternative management systems for their neighbourhoods.	Operations	July 2022	Ongoing	The Council are continuing to explore how this target would be achieved. The Council are continuing to explore the development of a webpage to enable residents to request that glyphosate weedkillers are not used in specific areas. As part of the development of alternative options for the management of weeds without the use of weedkillers the Council have been monitoring what other Councils are doing in relation to herbicides and have noted a number of caveats that will be taken into account in the development of a future strategy.	Ongoing
Protecting and restoring the city's parks and green spaces, including the Town Moor, to maximise their contribution to biodiversity in the city by:	Multiple	July 2022	Ongoing	Various initiatives have contributed to an increase in the biodiversity value of the cities green spaces including BlueGreenNewcastle, NECF (North East Commuity Forest), parks initiatives such as No Mow May and Wildflower Creation with partners including the Ouseburn Trust and Wild Intrigue.	Ongoing
Revise the standard allotment contract and update the cultivation guidance to promote biodiversity.	Parks and Allotments	July 2022	2024	The updated Allotment Handbook 2024 (initially produced in collaboration with Urban Green Newcastle now in house) includes a section on biodiversity including advice on how to encourage biodiversity, look after soil, health and how to provide different habitats within allotment plots.	Completed
Committing to ensure that, where practical, of the two trees planted to replace a tree felled for disease-prevention purposes, at least one of replacements is planted in the immediate vicinity of the original tree.	Landscape/Trees	July 2022	Ongoing	This measure has not been adopted to date. Most of the tree planting within the NCC area is funded through North East Community Forest grants. This precludes planting of trees for replacement purposes or to meet existing obligations. NCC to explore potential funding opportunities to allow for this action to be achieved.	Ongoing
Refraining from using any fake grass in permanent landscaping (outside of all weather sports pitches).	Transport	July 2022		No fake grass has been installed in permanent landscaping for Highways schemes since the declaration was made.	Ongoing
Wherever possible, integrating planted sustainable drainage swales into all major highways projects.	Transport/LLFA	July 2022	Ongoing	The Greener Grey Street project was completed in Autumn 2024. The project included the integration of rain gardens, natural planting and improved spaces for pedestrians and cyclists. The Transformation of Northumberland Street project is currently installing rain gardens, tree pits and paving and seating into the street.	Ongoing
Exploring ways of integrating wildlife-friendly planting into low traffic neighbourhood measures.	Transport	July 2022	Ongoing	There were planters installed at the following locations: • Cradlewell shops • Bolbec Road build out • Nuns Moor Road/Wingrove Gardens build out	Ongoing
Protecting wildlife by enforcing the use of low noise fireworks for all events on Council land.	Events	July 2022	Ongoing	At present NCC request that all organised firework events are subject to scrutiny from the Safety Advisory Group which includes input from Ecology and Environmental Health, who would provide guidance relating to noise concerns. The Council continues to review potential future changes to council policy, including 'banning excessively loud fireworks' and 'creating 'firework free zones' however this is ongoing.	Ongoing

Providing an alternative to balloon and lantern releases (which are already prohibited on council land) by introducing a meadow where residents can plant seeds and flowers in memory of loved ones or to mark significant events.	Events	July 2022	Ongoing	The Council recommends candle lit vigils or using balloons on strings or kites as an alternative option to balloon and lantern releases. Guidance is available on the page below: https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/environment-and-waste/environmental-health-and-pollution/sky-lanterns-and-helium-balloons The introduction of a wildflower meadow has not been completed to date, however, a memorial garden has been created at the Civic Centre and could be further explored for closed sites such as cemeteries.	Ongoing
Exploring the potential for a natural burial ground for the city.	Bereavement Services	July 2022	Ongoing	Location for a natural burial ground identified in Jesmond Old Cemetery. Bereavement Services are currently waiting the plan and prepare the ground for seeding in conjunction with internal Ecology and Landscape teams. Initially 100 plots will be available however are as yet not available to for the public.	Complete
Promoting biodiversity measures that residents can take in their own homes	Landscape/Ecology/Comms	July 2022	To start	There is advice on the NCC Wildlife and Ecology webpage with actions that can be taken in gardens across the city. This has not been updated since the Biodiversity Emergency Declaration.	Ongoing