

Project title: Maximising outcomes for nature and people from Biodiversity Net Gain

Ref: OP2433

Keywords: Biodiversity; Multifunctionality; Spatial Planning

One Planet Research Theme:

Climate & Climate Change | Earth System Processes | Anthropocene | Environmental Informatics

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Key Research Gaps and Questions:

1. How can the new English policy requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) best be designed, managed and delivered to optimise outcomes for nature and people.
2. How can BNG be better mainstreamed with wider environment and planning policies in general and Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) in particular
3. How can England's environmental policy and practice collectively tackle biodiversity and climate emergencies.

Project Description: The design, development, implementation and evaluation of BNG and LNRS pose significant resource (technical and cost) challenges for local authority and private sector planners raising key questions over what good policy delivery looks like. This project will

- Assess how BNG is being designed and managed in development plans and selected planning application decisions across Northeast England
- Assess the efficacy of the biodiversity metric in capturing biodiversity value achieving net gain from developer and manager perspectives
- Assess how to mainstream wider ecosystem services into environmental policy and practice.
- Examine how wider nature integration can be realised assessing added value of integrating BNG with LNRS and green infrastructure networks.

The key methods will revolve around (1) systematic review of BNG and associated terms from global literatures (2) designing an assessment framework for development plan and planning application evaluation of BNG and LNRS policies (3) planning application assessments (registers) of NE authorities (4) detailed deep dive case studies of live applications involving desk and primary research including biodiversity metric. (5) Complementary use of the NATURE and Building with Nature tools/standards to assess integration potential of wider environmental benefits in developments (6) Recommendations for future development of BNG and LNRS design and delivery.

Prerequisites:

Essential: Degree/Master in environmental science and or planning. Desirable: Experience working in a multidisciplinary policy environment.

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