



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

BNG team
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Biodiversity Net Gain: considering a targeted exemption for residential brownfield development

Dear Consultee,

I am writing to invite views on a potential exemption from Biodiversity Net Gain for residential brownfield development.

This consultation invites feedback on:

- A definition of brownfield residential development - establishing a clear, operational definition that combines both what constitutes residential-led development and what counts as brownfield land.
- Potential exemption thresholds - seeking views on whether a targeted exemption is required and if so, the appropriate area based threshold at which a brownfield residential development may qualify for the exemption.
- Measures to limit ecological impacts - identifying safeguards to ensure that exempted developments continue to protect important habitats.
- The potential impacts of a targeted BNG exemption - a summary of the evidence and modelling used to assess the potential impacts of a targeted brownfield BNG exemption across different thresholds and definitions of brownfield land.

The following documents may be found on GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/biodiversity-net-gain-considering-a-targeted-exemption-for-brownfield-residential-development>.

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals.

Responses

The consultation will run primarily via the Citizen Space online portal. Citizen Space is the department's consultation portal and our preferred route for receiving consultation responses. We strongly encourage responses are made via Citizen Space, particularly from organisations with access to online facilities. Using the online survey greatly assists

our analysis of the responses, enabling more efficient and effective consideration of the issues raised.

However, if you are unable to use Citizen Space, or you have supporting evidence to accompany your response, you can download the consultation documents and return your response via email to bngconsultation@defra.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can post to:

Biodiversity Net Gain Consultation,
Defra Seacole Building,
2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 4DF,
United Kingdom.

For this consultation, campaign responses may be analysed separately from other responses to ensure the breadth of views received can be summarised effectively and efficiently. All campaign responses will be taken into account in the final analysis of public views and campaigns help indicate the strength of feeling on an issue. The preferred route for all respondents to provide their views (including where a response is based on a campaign) is through the Citizen Space platform.

Responses should be received by 23:59 on the 10th of June 2026. Submitted responses can be withdrawn or amended by request during the consultation period, and up to 2 weeks after the consultation close.

You do not need to respond to all of the questions in the online survey - please answer only those that are relevant to your experience or interests. Your responses will be analysed in full even if you choose to answer only some questions. Any evidence submitted will be reviewed but will not be analysed, summarised, or included in the published government response.

Consultation criteria

This consultation is being conducted in line with the [Cabinet Office consultation principles](#).

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information legislation. We respect your personal privacy when responding to access to information requests. We only share information when necessary to meet the statutory requirements of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Using and sharing your information

How we use your personal data is set out in the consultation and call for evidence exercise privacy notice which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defras-privacy-notice>

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please email:

consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours sincerely,

Defra BNG team

bngconsultation@defra.gov.uk.