

Proposed Biodiversity Gain Plan

Introduction

Under the free online exemption checker it appears to tell me that the proposed site is exempt from Biodiversity Net Gain, however I has always been the intention to make the site more eco-friendly and I believe that the intentions I will mention will address this issue to meet the 10% threshold whether exempt or not.

- **Location:** A small corner of an underused, species-poor equine turn out area
- **The Development:** Placement of one timber-framed, sheep-wool insulated shepherd's hut (approx. 3.66m x 2.4m) with no foundations.
- **Initial Baseline (Before):** 500 sqm area is "low distinctiveness" modified grassland used to graze horses and ponies with outlying woodland.
- **The Improvement Plan (After):**
 - **Wildflower Area:** Within the site a small wildflower area to be planted.
 - **Habitat Enhancement:** Planting six native, small fruit-bearing plum trees on the site boundary
 - **Structural Biodiversity:** Installing a bat boxes and bird boxes on nearby trees.

Small Site Metric

This small intervention can easily show a >10% gain, as the enhancement of the grass and new trees and bat / bird boxes vastly outweigh the footprint of the hut.

Key Biodiversity Benefits:

- **Sustainable Materials:** Wool insulation and locally sourced timber reduce the carbon footprint, supporting sustainable, low-impact construction.
- **Habitat Creation:** The shift from species-poor to species-rich habitat is the core driver of the positive BNG
- This approach allows for a "small development" (defined as under 1 hectare) to meet the mandatory 10% BNG requirements effectively.

Biodiversity and Sustainability Features:

- **Ecological Materials:** Use of British sheep wool for insulation, which is sustainable and biodegradable.
- **Off-Grid Power:** Utilization of solar panels and battery storage to minimize reliance on non-renewable energy.
- **Waste Management:** Use of composting toilets to avoid connection to main sewer systems and reduce pollution.
- **Natural Heating:** Use of multifuel stoves for heating, which can be fuelled by wood from the surrounding area.
- **Habitat Preservation:** The compact, mobile nature of the huts prevents the need for permanent foundations, allowing the land to remain relatively undisturbed.