

Flow chart to determine which BNG metric to use for minor applications

The main DEFRA metric or the latest equivalent should be used for all Major applications

The development is:

- a) A residential development: where the number of dwellings to be provided is between one and nine inclusive, on a site having an area of less than one hectare
- b) A residential development: where the number of dwellings to be provided is not known and there is a site area of less than 0.5 hectares
- c) Other development type: where the site area is less than 0.5 hectares or 5000 square metres.

Do any of the above apply? →

YES

NO

Is there priority habitat within the development area (excluding hedgerows and arable margins)?

YES

NO

Is there any habitat creation or enhancement outside the site area?

YES

NO

Metric 3.1 or latest equivalent

Larger developments should be scored using the Metric 3.1 or latest equivalent and will require the services of a suitably qualified ecologist.

It is considered appropriate in the following instances: the site is above the size threshold, there is priority habitat present (excluding hedgerows and arable margins), or the development includes the assessment of off-site habitat enhancement or creation).

Small Site Biodiversity Metric (SSM)

The SSM is very similar to the main Biodiversity Metric for larger development, but it simplifies the process.

The SSM and the associated biodiversity assessment needs to be undertaken by a competent person for the habitats involved (which may be the project managers and architects on many sites). The competent person is defined as someone who is confident in identifying habitats present on the site before the development AND identifying the management requirements for habitats which will be created or enhanced within the landscape design.