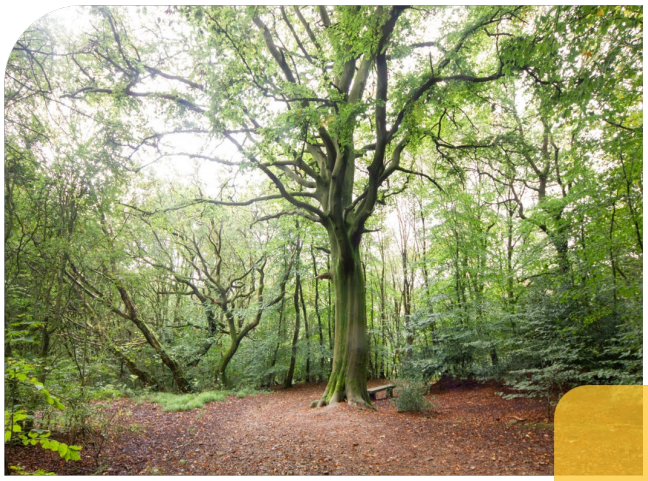
Biodiversity Duty Report








12 February 2024 – 31 December 2025

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1. Introduction

1.1. Bury's natural environment is one of its key assets and a reason that people choose to live and invest here. From the wild moorland in the north to the extensive parks and public open spaces in the south, the borough's natural environment helps define the character of its settlements, provides habitats for other species and provides relief from air, noise and light pollution.

1.2. Biodiversity Net Gain is an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before. The approach should deliver measurable improvements to biodiversity through enhancing existing habitats or creating new ones in association with development. It goes beyond the no net loss approach that has previously been required.

1.3. The net gain approach, however, does not override the mitigation hierarchy of avoid, mitigate, compensate. In other words, development proposals cannot merely jump to the compensation phase - they must first seek to avoid any harm to biodiversity. Neither does it override the protection for designated sites, protected or priority species and irreplaceable or priority habitats.

Purpose of this document

1.4. The purpose of this report is to communicate how Bury Council is helping to improve the environment and show the positive change we are making.

1.5. The report provides:

- a summary of the action we have taken to comply with the biodiversity duty and biodiversity net gain obligations;
- biodiversity net gain resulting or expected to result from plans we have approved between 12 February 2024 and 31 December 2025; and
- how we plan to comply with the biodiversity duty and biodiversity net gain obligations in the next reporting period.

How to use the document

1.6. This document is to inform all users about how we are collectively meeting our shared goals to conserve and enhance biodiversity and learn about the action we are taking across the borough to improve biodiversity.

1.7. This document shows other authorities and the general public what they can do for nature recovery and share good practice.

Document status and relationship to other documents

1.8. Local planning authorities must write and publish a biodiversity report which details the action we are taking across the borough to improve biodiversity.

1.9. DEFRA will include references to these biodiversity reports in the 5-yearly reviews of the Environment Improvement Plan.

2. Policies, Objectives and Actions

2.1. The provisions of the Environment Act and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) set the context for our biodiversity duty and biodiversity net gain.

National Policies

The Environment Act 2021

2.2. The Environment Bill 2021 requires all qualifying development to achieve a minimum of ten percent net gain in biodiversity. This requirement came into force for major developments and minor developments in November 2023 and April 2024 respectively.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2.3. The National Planning Policy Framework states, at paragraph 187 that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);

b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;

c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;

d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs;

e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and

f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate

2.4. At paragraph 192, the NPPF goes on to confirm that to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

> a) *Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and*
>
> b) *promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.*

2.5. The NPPF also states at paragraph 193 that when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

> a) *if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;*
>
> b) *development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;*
>
> c) *development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and*
>
> d) *development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate*

Local Policies

2.6. Following the introduction of our biodiversity duty and biodiversity net gain, we have adopted the following policies and objectives.

Places for Everyone (PFE)

2.7. The Places for Everyone Joint Plan[1] (PfE) forms an integral part of Bury's wider development plan. The Plan is a key tool in meeting Greater Manchester's ambition to become carbon neutral by 2038 and will work in tandem with the Five-Year Environment Plan 2019-2024 produced by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

2.8. PfE has an overall aim of achieving a major net enhancement of biodiversity value across Greater Manchester. In order to achieve this, each new development will deliver a net gain in biodiversity. Objective 8 of PfE is to improve the quality of our natural environment and access to green spaces. It states that we will, amongst other things, enhance special landscapes, green infrastructure, biodiversity and geodiversity.

2.9. Policy JP-G8: A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity states the following:

> *Through local planning and associated activities a net enhancement of biodiversity resources will be sought, including, where relevant, by:*
>
> 1. *Increasing the quality, quantity, extent and diversity of habitats, particularly priority habitats identified in national or local biodiversity action plans and those that support priority species;*
> 2. *Improving connections between habitats, to protect and enhance the provision of corridors, ecological networks (including Nature Recovery Networks) and steppingstones that enable the movement of species, especially as the climate changes;*
> 3. *Enhancing the management of existing habitats, including through habitat restoration, avoiding habitat fragmentation and combating invasive species;*
> 4. *Protecting sites designated for their nature conservation and/or geological importance, with the highest level of protection given to international and then national designations;*
> 5. *Facilitating greater access to nature, particularly within urban areas;*
> 6. *Supporting the development and implementation of the Great Manchester Wetlands Nature Recovery Network; and*

[1] Places for Everyone (2024) https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/strategic-planning/places-for-everyone/

7. *Safeguarding, restoring and sustainably managing our most valuable soil resources, tackling soil degradation/erosion and recovering soil fertility, particularly to ensure protection of peat-based soils and safeguard 'best and most versatile' agricultural land.*

   Development will be expected to:

   a) *Follow the mitigation hierarchy of:*

      i. *Avoiding significant harm to biodiversity, particularly where it is irreplaceable, through consideration of alternative sites with less harmful impacts, then*

      ii. *Adequately mitigating any harm to biodiversity, then*

      iii. *Adequately compensating for any remaining harm to biodiversity*

   b) *Avoid fragmenting or severing connectivity between habitats;*

   c) *Achieve a measurable net gain in biodiversity of no less than 10%*

   d) *Make appropriate provision for long-term management of habitats and geological features connected to the development;*

   e) *Where appropriate, development should: mitigate air pollution impacts on Manchester Mosses SAC; mitigate urban edge, functionally linked land and recreation disturbance impacts on the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPAs; and assess and potentially mitigate boat movement, water pollution, and light spillage and shading impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC; and*

   f) *Development proposals should be informed by the findings and recommendations of the appropriate biodiversity/ecological assessment(s) in the PfE evidence base and/or any updated or appropriate biodiversity/ecological assessments submitted as part of the planning application process.*

Emerging Bury Local Plan

2.10. The draft Local Plan (March 2025) seeks to conserve, enhance and expand Bury's natural environment whilst accommodating the growth required over the plan period.

2.11. Central to this approach is the protection and enhancement of the Borough's strategic environmental assets, particularly the River Irwell and Roch valleys, the West Pennine Moors, woodland, watercourses and wider green infrastructure network. The Plan recognises that these assets contribute

significantly to landscape character, biodiversity, climate resilience, recreation and the health and wellbeing of residents.

2.12. The Local Plan aims to secure a net improvement in biodiversity through the protection of designated ecological sites, wildlife corridors and priority habitats, alongside the delivery of mandatory biodiversity net gain. New development will be expected to contribute positively to nature recovery through habitat creation, ecological enhancement and the incorporation of wildlife-friendly features. The Plan also supports the emerging Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Network, with a focus on strengthening habitat connectivity and restoring degraded ecological assets.

2.13. A key objective of the Plan is to maintain and enhance green and blue infrastructure across the Borough. This includes safeguarding parks, open spaces, recreation routes, rivers, woodlands and other natural features, whilst ensuring that new development contributes to the creation of additional green infrastructure. The Plan also promotes greater opportunities for access to nature, outdoor recreation and active travel, recognising the important role that the natural environment plays in supporting healthy communities.

2.14. The Plan also seeks to use the natural environment as a tool for addressing climate change. Measures include increasing tree cover, protecting ancient woodland and hedgerows, restoring peatland and wetland habitats, improving water quality, managing flood risk through sustainable drainage and supporting nature-based solutions that improve climate resilience. Together, these measures are intended to ensure that Bury's natural environment is not only protected but enhanced for future generations.

Our objectives and actions

2.15. In 2024, Bury adopted its first Biodiversity Strategy. The Biodiversity Strategy considers the current state of biodiversity in Bury, the key issues, and what we can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. It outlines our objectives to conserve and enhance biodiversity in Bury and suggests future actions and policy directions.

2.16. The Strategy sets out the following objectives:

1. Improve our understanding and awareness of biodiversity
2. Consider biodiversity in all council decision making
3. Bring about the recovery of nature in the borough, in line with national and city-region objectives and targets

2.17. To meet these aims, the strategy also sets out our proposed actions. The following Tables 1 – 3 outline these actions, and provide an update on our progress toward meeting these actions and objectives.

2.18. Through the implementation of the strategy, the Council is already making good progress toward meeting its Biodiversity Objectives.

2.19. There have been positive steps toward Objective 1 of improving understanding and awareness of biodiversity through work to improve the

Council's own biodiversity webpages, although work is still ongoing to support communities and spread understanding. Positively, community organisations in Bury have done well out of the Green Spaces Fund with several successful projects that will help improve the natural environment.

2.20. There has been particular progress toward Objective 2 of considering biodiversity in all council decision making, where there have been a number of policy advancements for the natural environment including:

- the implementation of BNG requirements through development management;
- the public consultation and subsequent adoption of the GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy (GM LNRS);
- the adoption of Places for Everyone; and
- consultation on the draft Bury Local Plan.

2.21. Additionally, the environment assessment section of cabinet reports has been updated to include consideration of Biodiversity. The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) are also establishing a BNG monitoring framework and have recruited a dedicated officer.

2.22. Whilst there is less progress toward Objective 3 of bring about the recovery of nature in the Borough, this is to be expected as these actions are longer-term, however most significantly, positive steps have been made toward bringing Council-owned BNG receptor sites for off-site gains to the market and this is a key focus for the Council in 2026.

Table 1. Objective 1: Improve our understanding and awareness of Biodiversity

Action	Lead	Measure	Target date	2024/2025 progress	Progress details
Encourage public reporting of species to GM Records Centre	Bury Council/ Wildlife Groups/ GMLRC	Number of reports	2024	Ongoing	
Update the Register of SBIs	GMEU/ Bury Council	Annual review adopted for planning purposes by the Council	2020 review adopted by end of 2023	Completed	Register updated and review taken to Planning Control Committee in 2024.
Update Council webpages on biodiversity	Bury Council	Updated webpages	2024	Completed	View the Council's updated webpages.
Support local communities in acquiring and spreading understanding	Bury Council/ GMCA/ GMET/ Wildlife Trust	Number of groups and sessions	Ongoing	Early stages	

Table 2. Objective 2: Consider biodiversity in all Council decision making

Action	Lead	Measure	Target date	2024-2026 progress	Progress details
Implement mandatory BNG requirement	Bury Council	Delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain, use of guidance, directory and register	April 2024	Ongoing	The Council has delt with 27 planning applications that were subject to Biodiversity Net Gain during the reporting period 2024-2026
Contribute to production of a GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy	GMCA / Bury Council	Production and adoption	2024	Completed	The GM LNRS was published in September 2025.
Adoption of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan	Bury Council	Use of PfE policies in planning decisions	2024	Completed	
Update local planning policies for biodiversity through the Bury Local Plan	Bury Council	New Local Plan policies that reflect / reference /integrate the Biodiversity Strategy and LNRS	2026	Ongoing	
Implement updated planning policies through the development management process	Bury Council	Use of Local Plan policies in planning decisions Use of Places for Everyone policies in planning decisions.	2024-2026	Ongoing & partially completed	Places for Everyone policies are used in planning decisions. The Regulation 19 Local Plan is expected to be published in 2026.

Action	Lead	Measure	Target date	2024-2026 progress	Progress details
Adopt biodiversity recovery as a corporate objective	Bury Council	Environmental assessment section in cabinet reports	2024	Completed	
Establish monitoring system for delivery off-site biodiversity gain	DEFRA, Greater Manchester Ecology Unit	Monitoring framework established	2024	Ongoing	GMEU has recruited a BNG Monitoring Officer to monitor BNG progress across Greater Manchester, including for Bury Council.

Table 3. Objective 3: Bring about the recovery of nature in the Borough

Action	Lead	Measure	Target date	2024/2025 progress	Progress details
Encourage biodiversity-aware land management of all Council land	Bury Council	Changes in land management practices	ongoing	Early stages	
Identify public and privately owned potential receptor sites for BNG	GMEU/ Bury Council	Completion of land audits	First 6 by June 2024	Completed	
Encourage all landowners to accommodate BNG or Defra's Environmental Land Management Scheme	NFU/ DEFRA/ Bury Council/	Number of schemes	ongoing	Ongoing	
Identify and produce management plans for Council owned, potential BNG receptor sites	Greater Manchester Environment Trust	Production of first 6 plans and inclusion on the GM directory of receptor sites	2024	Ongoing	Draft habitat management plans have been prepared and two pilot sites are to be progressed.
Deliver BNG on Council-owned sites	Bury Council/ GMET/GMEU	Number of sites on GM directory	2024	Ongoing	Cabinet has approved the in-house self-management of 6 sites (starting with two pilot

Action	Lead	Measure	Target date	2024/2025 progress	Progress details
					sites) and authorised up-front investment required to bring these sites to market.
Seek external funding for priority sites, habitats and corridors	Bury Council/ partners/ community groups	Number of sites and lengths of corridor improved.	ongoing	Early stages	
Encourage householders and other property owners to encourage biodiversity.	Bury Council/ Wildlife Trust/ Property owners	The presence and abundance of key species.	ongoing	Ongoing	
Support 'naturalisation' of watercourses to permit fish passage	Landowners / Bury Council/ Irwell Catchment Partnership	Number of weirs removed or fish passes constructed	2030	Discussion stage	
Protect peatland by reducing use of peat	Bury Council	Amount of peat used	2028	Discussion stage	

Action	Lead	Measure	Target date	2024/2025 progress	Progress details
Protect designated sites from invasive species	Landowners / Bury Council	Number of designated sites with invasive species present	2026	Discussion stage	
The Council will expect relevant proposed developments to incorporate nesting or roosting opportunities for birds and bats.	GMEU/Bury Council	Number of developments with bat or bird boxes.	From 2024	Ongoing	Proposed policy in draft Local Plan.

3. How we have considered other strategies

Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

3.1. As a member of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Area, we have been involved in the preparation and delivery of both the Pilot Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Greater Manchester (published 2021) and the first Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy (published September 2025)[2].

3.2. The Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) sets out a roadmap for nature recovery across the city-region – how we can all work together towards a greener city region where nature is thriving and where we need to focus our efforts to have the biggest impact. It is a strategic document, covering the ten local authorities in Greater Manchester, including Bury. We are utilising the LNRS to understand how we can improve habitats on land we own and manage and have taken account of the LNRS in the drafting of the emerging Bury Local Plan.

3.3. The aims of the GM LNRS are to:

- Enhance and protect: Safeguarding, enhancing and restoring our nature rich sites.
- Create and connect: Creating more wildlife-rich resilient spaces, where they will expand and connect spaces for wildlife and people.
- Build resilience: Managing and reducing pressure on our environment and waterways, maximising nature's role in adapting the city-region climate change.
- Act together: Working together to take action for nature and embed space for nature and people to thrive across all our communities.
- Improve access: Improving local access to nature and ensure there are more opportunities to enjoy nature, in those areas which need it the most.
- Engage and value: Improving engagement with nature and better understanding of its value in our lives.

3.4. The LNRS:

- agrees our collective priorities for nature's recovery across the region;
- maps the most valuable existing areas for nature on the Greater Manchester Nature Network of core local nature sites; and

[2] GM LNRS https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/natural-environment/our-plan-for-nature-recovery/

- maps specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals though the nature recovery opportunity areas.

3.5. The GM LNRS has influenced the draft policies within the emerging Bury Local Plan and, as a supporting authority, we will continue to support the GMCA as they work to deliver the aims of the LNRS.

Protected sites

3.6. Established by the Environment Act 2021, protected site strategies (PSS) take a new approach to protecting and restoring species and habitats in protected sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Protected site strategies will provide ways to overcome offsite pressures and will be produced by Natural England. There are no protected sites strategies currently published however, we will continue to engage and support Natural England as they develop PSS for sites across the borough.

Conservation

3.7. Established by the Environment Act 2021, species conservation strategies aim to safeguard the future of the species that are at greatest risk. The strategies will find better ways to comply with existing legal obligations to protect species at risk and to improve their conservation status. These strategies are in development and not published as of yet.

4. Biodiversity net gain in Bury 2024-2025

4.1. This section of the report outlines the details of biodiversity gains resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans we have approved. It also provides a summary of how we plan to meet our biodiversity net gain obligations in the next reporting period.

4.2. This reporting period covers 1st February 2024 to 1st January 2026.

Meeting biodiversity net gain obligations as a Local Planning Authority

4.3. The 2021 Environment Act placed a new duty on Local Planning Authorities to require a 10% increase in biodiversity value from new development requiring planning permission.

4.4. This became mandatory in two steps:

- From 12th February 2024: all major housing developments are required to deliver at least a 10% net gain in Biodiversity.
- From 2nd April 2024: all minor developments are required to deliver at least a 10% net gain in Biodiversity.

4.5. Biodiversity net gains (BNG) can be delivered either fully or in part through on-site habitat, off-site habitat, or as a last resort, the purchase of statutory biodiversity credits.

4.6. In order to meet biodiversity net gain obligations, the development management team has been implementing the new policy requirements and where applicable, working with legal officers to secure significant on-site gains.

Biodiversity net gains 2024-2025

4.7. Since 12th February 2024, the Council has delt with 27 planning applications that were subject to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

4.8. During the reporting period, 810 planning permissions were granted where an exemption[3] to the biodiversity net gain condition applies.

4.9. There were no negative impacts upon irreplaceable habitats during the reporting period.

4.10. Since 12th February 2024, five Biodiversity Gain Plans have been approved, where all final required information has been provided (i.e. final metric, biodiversity gain plan and HMMP, where necessary). Table 4 shows the application details of each approval during the reporting period.

[3] Exempt applications include planning applications made before 12 February 2024, variations of planning permission, developments below the de-minimis threshold, householder applications, self-build and custom build applications, biodiversity gain sites, high speed rail transport network, urgent crown developments, and developments that are granted by a development order (including permitted development rights). Source: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain-exempt-developments

4.11. This is due to provide a total net gain of approximately 3.19 area habitat units and 0.91 hedgerow units. 60% of the gain plans secure BNG through on-site units only, whilst 40% secure BNG through a combination of on-site and off-site units. During the reporting period, no gain plans resorted to purchasing the Governments statutory credits.

4.12. According to the approved gain plans, 100% of the off-site biodiversity units are located outside of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) boundary but within a neighbouring LPA or National Character Area.

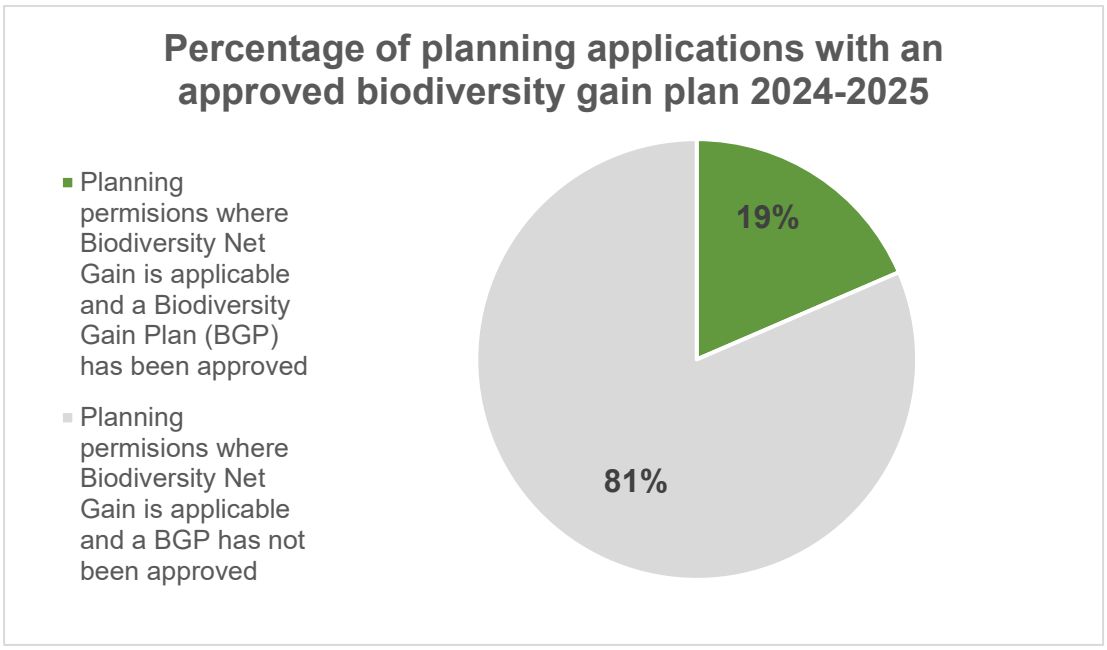


Figure 1. Percentage of approved planning applications with an approved biodiversity gain plan (2024-2025)

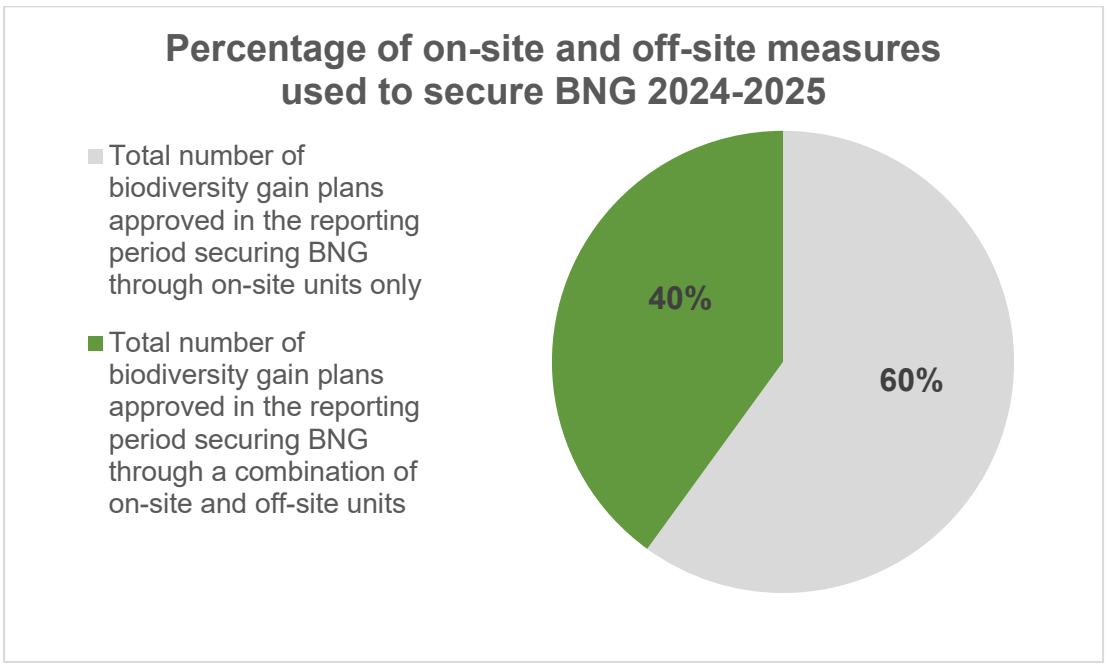


Figure 2 Percentage of on-site and off-site measures used to secure BNG (2024-2025)

Summary

- Since the start of the reporting period, five biodiversity gain conditions have been discharged.
- Three applications are providing the BNG wholly on-site.
- Two applications are providing BNG through a mixture of on-site and off-site BNG.
- All four BNG approved sites include the provision of “significant” on-site BNG, which will require monitoring over a 30-year period.
- This is expected to provide a total net gain of approximately 3.19 area habitat units and 0.91 hedgerow units.
- There has not been any off-site provision for BNG within the LPA area during the reporting period, which suggests that there is a unit availability gap in Bury.

Future reporting

4.13. During the next reporting period, the council will continue to monitor the net gains secured through planning applications.

Table 4. Planning applications with approved gain plans in the reporting period (12th February to 31st December 2025).

Planning Application Ref No.	Site Address	Description	Discharge of Condition Ref No.	Location of BNG	Off-site Habitat Bank Name if applicable
70805	Land off Fletcher Fold Road, Bury, BL9 9RX	Erection of 4 no. bungalows and a block of 39 no. apartments for the over 55s including communal facilities, landscaping and car parking provision.	71668	On-site: significant	N/A
71043	Holcombe Brook Sports and Tennis Club, Hazel Hall Lane, Tottington, Bury, BL0 9FS	Alterations to existing tennis court to create 2 no. padel courts.	72064	On-site: significant	N/A
70565	Former Bury Police Office HQ, Irwell Street, Bury, BL9 0HE	Hybrid application comprising Full application for specialist care home (Class C2) with associated parking, landscaping and infrastructure and Outline application for care home (Class C2) with all matters reserved.	71912	On-site significant & off-site	Bolton Old Links Golf Course, Horwich
72149	Meadow View, Watling Street, Tottington, Bury, BL8 3QR	Demolition and replacement of existing agricultural building.	72464	On-site: significant	N/A

Planning Application Ref No.	Site Address	Description	Discharge of Condition Ref No.	Location of BNG	Off-site Habitat Bank Name if applicable
70903	Land at Pyramid Park, Market Street, Bury, BL9 0BG	Land remediation works, construction of vehicular access road and footway from Market Street with associated infrastructure and structural works	71735	On-site significant & off-site	Shaw and Newhey

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

5.1. During the next reporting period 2026-2030, the Council will continue to work toward achieving the actions within the Bury Biodiversity Strategy (2024) and will continue to monitor the net gains secured through planning applications.

5.2. Following the introduction of our biodiversity duty and biodiversity net gain, we have adopted a number of policies through the Places for Everyone Plan, and will be continuing to progress work on localised policies through the emerging Bury Local Plan during 2026.

5.3. As identified in Chapter 4, there is a clear gap in provision of off-site units in Bury. The Council is seeking to address this through the provision of BNG Receptor sites on Council-owned land which will:

- Help ensure that the benefits of biodiversity net gain from development in the Borough are secured locally, as opposed to regionally or nationally.
- Improve management of, and maximise investment in, Council-owned greenspace.
- Give the Council the ability to redirect any surpluses/profits to support the growth of resources to implement other nature related projects across the Borough.
- Support and facilitate the delivery of development in Bury which meets the statutory BNG requirements.

6. Conclusion

6.1. Since 12th February 2024, the Council has delt with 27 planning applications that were subject to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and five biodiversity gain plans have been approved.

6.2. In September 2025, the first Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Greater Manchester was published. The strategy sets out our vision for a greener Greater Manchester, where space for nature to flourish is grown and enhanced, more people can access and enjoy the natural environment, and the many benefits nature brings are increased for everyone – from supporting mental and physical wellbeing to creating leisure space and supporting biodiversity.

6.3. As identified in Chapter 4, there is a clear gap in provision of off-site units in Bury. The Council is seeking to address this through the provision of BNG Receptor sites on Council-owned land.

6.4. Overall, the Council has made good progress toward achieving the actions within the Bury Biodiversity Strategy (2024), however there are still some remaining actions.

Bury Council