



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI696208868

Thank you for your request for information relating to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) legislation.

You have requested the following information:

Since the implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) legislation in February 2024:

1. The number of planning applications submitted to your local authority that were considered (a) large sites, (b) small sites as per the BNG classification

Large sites: 69

Small sites: 556

Please note the figures relate to the number of applications received hence a small number of these may not have been valid at the time of providing this response.

2. What percentage of (a) large sites and (b) small sites had completed and submitted the relevant BNG documentation with their application (e.g. statement of applicability, pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat, description of any irreplaceable habitat, on-site habitat plan)?

Large sites: Approximately 60%

Small sites: Approximately 50%

3. What percentage of (a) large sites and (b) small sites planned to deliver the BNG (a) through fully onsite habitat creation and enhancement, (b) fully offsite compensation or (c)

a combination of onsite/offsite

Large sites: 30% through onsite habitat creation and enhancement, 20% through offsite compensation, and 50% through a combination of onsite and offsite.

Small site: 100% through offsite compensation.

4. The number of planning applications refused based on biodiversity-related concerns

We confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. The data is not available due to change in Planning software and staff.

To assist however, 17 relevant applications have been received this year.

- Ecology have objected to three on the grounds of insufficient evidence; information was never provided so a full decision could not be made.
- Additionally, one site was objected to at the Pre application stage due to the mature trees on site, and it being one of the last habitat corridors between two of the parks.
- In all cases there were also objections on other grounds. Ecology have attended two appeal hearings this year, both appeals were refused, partly on ecology grounds.

5. The number of staff working on implementing BNG at the end of 2023 and at the end of 2024.

Number of staff end 2023 (March 2024: 2 FTE + 0.5 FTE manager

Number of staff end 2024 (March 2025): 1.2 FTE + 0.5 FTE manager

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If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance