

Toolbox Talk - Environment

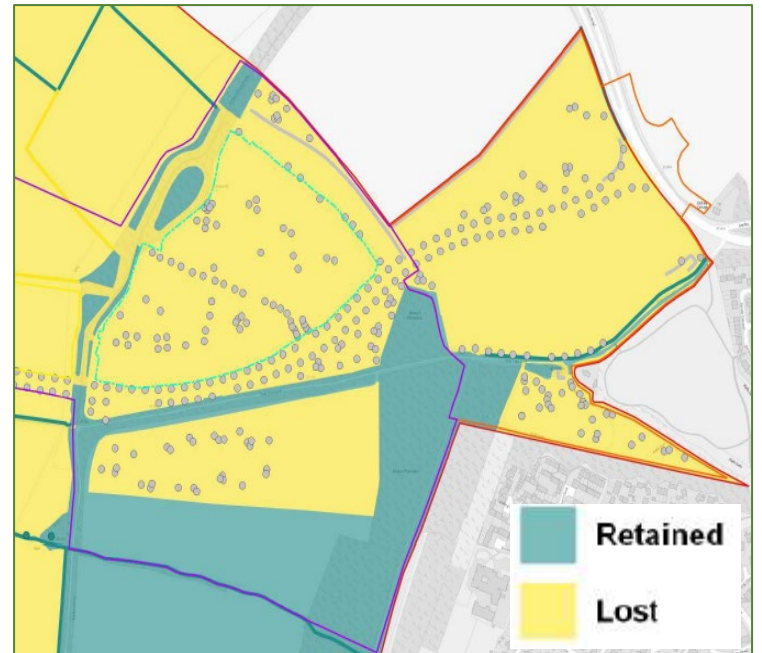
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) - Retained and Protected Habitats

NEW LEGISLATION IN ENGLAND

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requires developments, under the Environment Act, to enhance biodiversity that is measurably better following development.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SITES?

This means that sites may have larger areas protected during the construction phase and/or landscaped areas requiring specific ground preparation in order to create the right habitat.



Ground preparation techniques may differ and understanding what is required for each habitat is essential to ensure habitat establishment and delivering BNG obligations. These areas are safeguarded for a **minimum of 30 years** and need to reach an agreed habitat condition by that time to remain compliant with planning obligations. This requires protection measures.

PROTECTION MEASURES

Protection measures will be site specific and will generally involve root protection zones, buffer zones and other measures in line with any site wildlife licences. It's important to regularly take note of site notice boards, undertake a site induction and talk to your supervisor about site specific measures for BNG.

WHAT DO I DO IF I NEED TO WORK IN THESE PROTECTED AREAS?

If you need to enter these retained/protected areas, the site manager must be made aware prior to work and the sites ecologist or Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) contacted to provide appropriate advice.

DO'S AND DON'TS

- ✓ Adhere to protection measures at all times
- ✓ Check with your Supervisor if you need to enter any retained/protected areas
- ✓ **IMMEDIATELY** report any unauthorised activity within any retained/protected areas to site management

DON'TS

- ✗ Damage or destroy retained habitats/protected areas
- ✗ Take machinery or any equipment into to any protected area without advice from the site's ecologist or ECoWs
- ✗ Do not work close to a protection area without any protective fencing in place