

Biodiversity Net Gain. Rationale and early lessons from the new regime.

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RTPI
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BNG & The Planning System

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What is BNG?

- Mandatory 10% net gain
- Habitat, linear, watercourses
- Does not negate existing ecological requirements
- Exemptions



How is BNG enforced?

- Primary legislation
 - Env Act – Nov 21
- Secondary legislation
 - 6x Sis – Jan 24
- On site
 - Planning system
- Off site
 - Natural England





arbtech



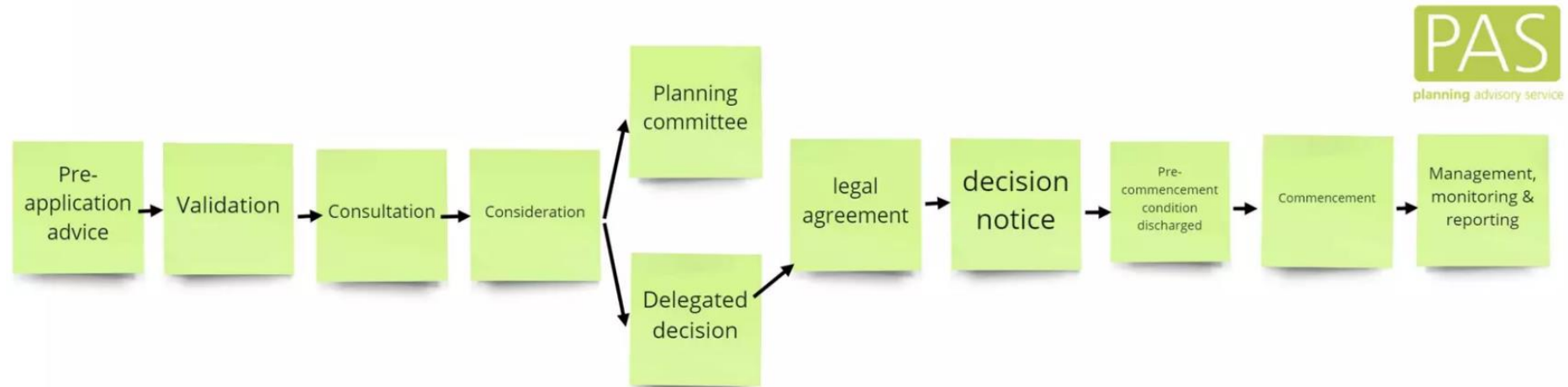
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Biodiversity Net Gain: Key challenges for the planning system

The Independent Consultants Network
Conference
Brighton 2024

Dr Daniel Slade MCD MRTPI
RTPI Policy Manager

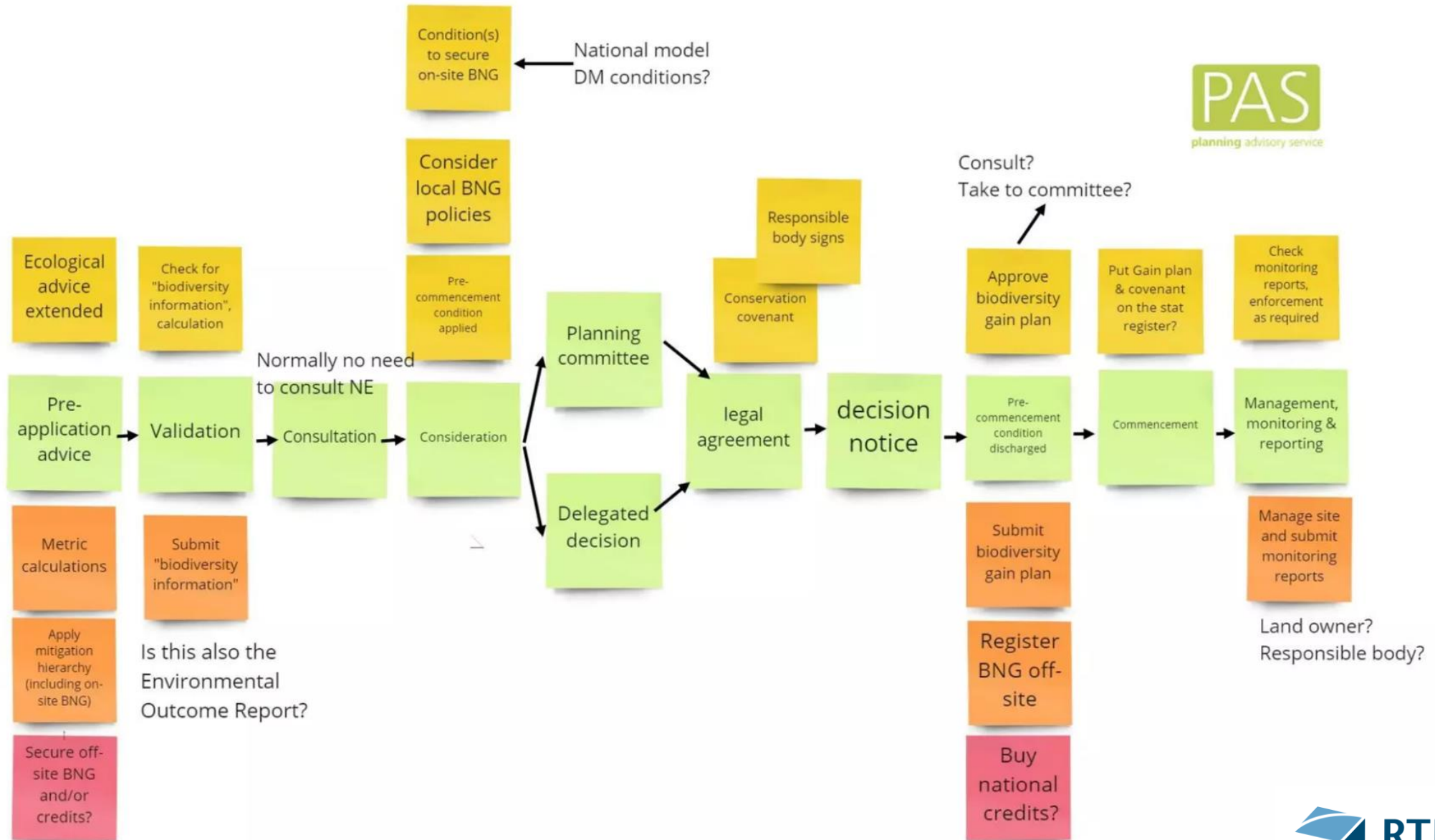
The planning process without BNG



miro

Source: PAS (2022) https://www.biodiversity.ox.ac.uk/research_stories/fixing-the-gaps-in-englands-biodiversity-net-gain-policy/

The planning process with BNG

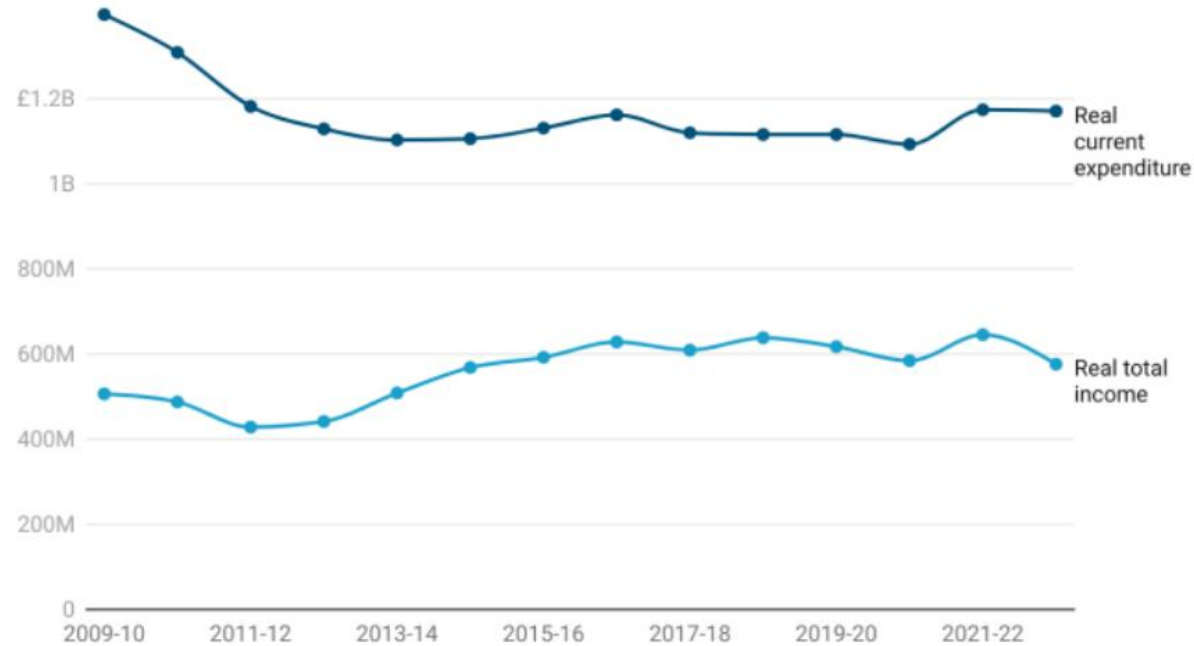


Source: PAS (2022) https://www.biodiversity.ox.ac.uk/research_stories/fixing-the-gaps-in-englands-biodiversity-net-gain-policy/

Under-resourcing's impact on the planning system as a whole

Councils in England spend less on planning services even as revenues are increasing

Adjusted for inflation, local authority spending on planning services in England has been falling, even as income from planning services has been increasing. Total current expenditure on planning fell by 16% and income rose by 14%.

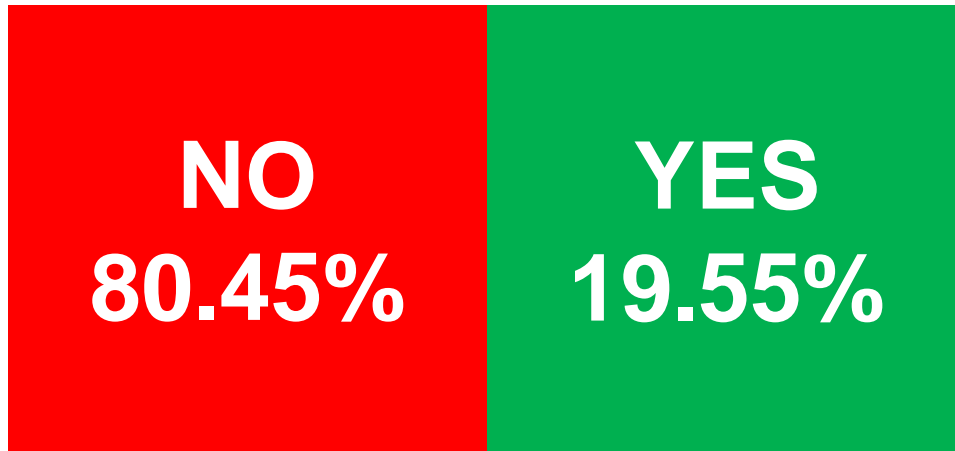


Planning Services refers to the aggregate of Development Control, Conservation and listed buildings planning policy, and Other planning policy lines found in the Revenue Outturn (RO) for Cultural, Environmental, Regulatory and Planning Services (RO5) table. These values are adjusted using a UK GDP Deflator to adjust for inflation.

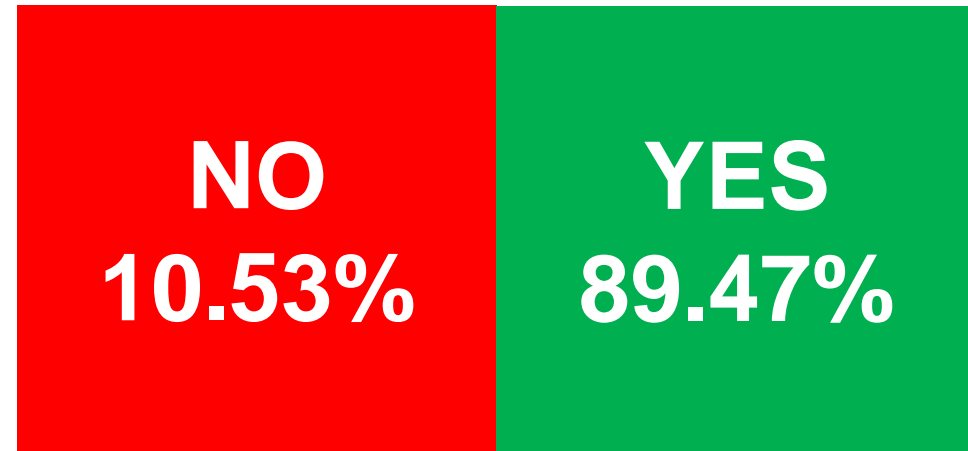
Chart: RTPI • Source: DLUHC • Created with Datawrapper

Enforcement challenges

Are there enough enforcement officers in your team to carry out the workload?



Is your local authority currently experiencing a backlog of cases?



“...around one-quarter of all the biodiversity units delivered under the policy so far fall within a “governance gap” – meaning that they are likely to go unmonitored, and may even be legally unenforceable. As a result, there is a very high probability that regulators will not be able to take any action if these promised gains are not delivered.”



Link to
town and
country
planning

Direct
investment
to where
nature is
most
depleted

Link to
other
types of
enviro
planning

Why does BNG need to be plan-led rather than (purely) market-led?

Direct
investment
to areas of
social need

Address
habitat
break up

Enabling
strategic
planning

What is the RTPI doing and how can I get involved?

What is the RTPI doing?

- Lobbying for Local Environmental Improvement Plans
- Successfully campaigning for additional funding and time for LPAs to implement BNG
- Exploring the case for further guidance, advice and support

What can I do?

- Contribute your experiences and case studies to our rolling survey on biodiversity net gain...

<https://www.rtpi.org.uk/policy-and-research/topics/biodiversity-net-gain/>





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Feel free to get in touch...

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Consequences – On Site

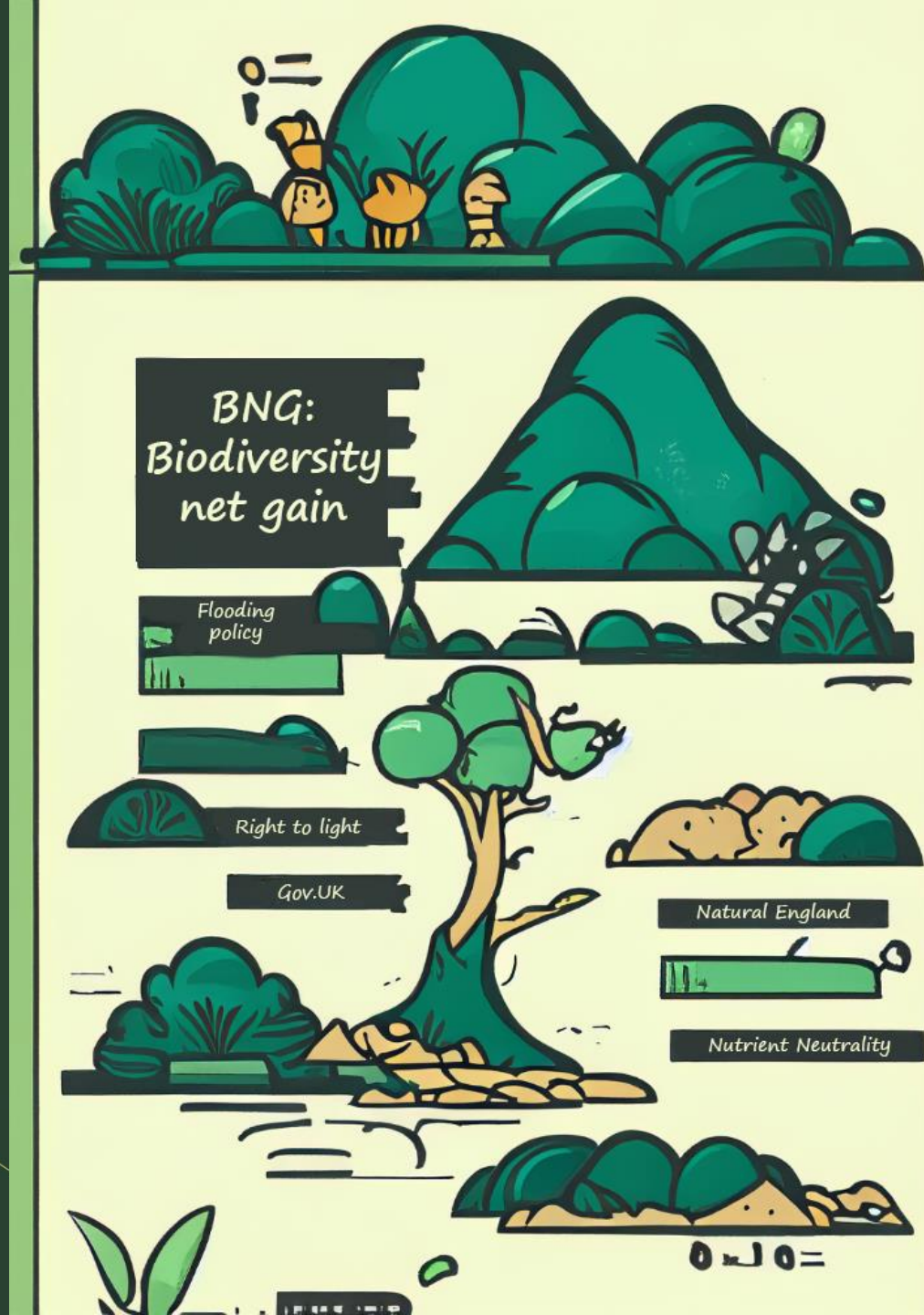


Consequences – Off Site



BNG & Existing Legislation

- Flooding policy
- Nutrient neutrality
- Right to light



Thank you!
Any questions?