

Dear Secretary of State,

We, the undersigned, write to you as a coalition of innovative businesses and organisations to celebrate the first anniversary of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and its role in supporting nature, promoting growth and driving a sustainable housebuilding revolution in the UK.

Since its implementation on 12th February 2024, this first-of-its-kind policy has positioned England as a global leader in biodiversity restoration, demonstrating how nature recovery, growth, and sustainable investment can thrive together. It has brought together sectors which have historically been at odds with each other - with environmental campaigners championing BNG's role in halting biodiversity loss and housebuilders recognising the benefits it can bring in securing local support for development.

As a group dedicated to promoting nature restoration through investments in novel technology and habitat restoration, we have seen first hand how innovative policies, like BNG, can help the UK channel inward investment to meet binding nature restoration obligations – at no cost to the taxpayer.

Put simply, BNG has enabled the UK to become an international leader in shaping a greener future while at the same time boosting investment into a range of sectors and industries. UK nature businesses are winning international contracts and attracting venture investment based on this world-leading policy position.

BNG is a true success story. Over the past year, it has unlocked unprecedented investment in local habitats, while also driving green growth. Implementing BNG has prompted businesses and organisations like ours to invest in new, highly skilled jobs across England. From AI to ecology, and from automation to analysis, we - along with many other businesses and partners - have innovated to develop ways to make the implementation of BNG as simple as possible for housebuilders and planning authorities, whilst simultaneously streamlining the planning process and creating new opportunities for nature restoration. In doing so, we have been able to create new opportunities and roles.

This policy proves that government leadership can stimulate investment and sustainability in tandem, and should serve as an outstanding model for green investment in the future. Indeed, BNG is expected to create a £1 billion privately financed fund for nature by 2030.

As we mark this milestone, it's important to reflect on the strides made so far, and look forward to what can be done to continue this policy's successful implementation, including the application of BNG to major infrastructure projects. As businesses and organisations, we are committed to championing the policy as a driver of environmental recovery, a catalyst for sustainable housebuilding, and to continuing to innovate, ensuring that BNG remains an integral pillar of the green economy.

Sincerely

1. Vincent Ganley, Managing Director, Adonis Blue
2. Dr Martina Girvan, Senior Technical Director – Head of Ecology and Arboriculture, Arcadis: on behalf of the Green Construction Board (GCB) - Biodiversity and Environmental Net Gain Working Group
3. Ian Boyd, Director, Arc Biodiversity and Climate
4. Mr Dave Wood, CEO, Avon Needs Trees.
5. David Thomas, CEO, Barratt Redrow plc
6. Simon Scougall, CCO, Bellway plc
7. Estelle Bailey, Chief Executive, Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust
8. Jon Garner, Director & Co-Founder, BioGains Ltd
9. Sue Riddlestone OBE, CEO & co-founder, Bioregional
10. Andrew Hicks, CEO, BNGx
11. Ben Gregory, Director of Nature Recovery, Cheshire Wildlife Trust
12. Georgia Ruth Elliott-Smith, Director, Earth Ethos
13. Catherine Spitzer, CEO, Environment Bank
14. Adam Ralph, Director & Co-Founder, Field Works Biodiversity Land Management Ltd.
15. Rich Speak, Co-founder and Managing Director, Finance Earth
16. Professor David Hill CBE, DL, DPhil (Oxon), CEnv, FCIEEM, Founder and President, Foundation for Nature
17. Morgan Taylor, Director, Greengage
18. Alistair Emery MRICS, Director, Kingwell
19. Kim Connor Streich, Founder and CCO, Greenshank Environmental Limited
20. David Pinder, Chair, Green Construction Board (GCB)
21. Simon Towers, Co-Chairman, Green Earth Group
22. Sam Jones, Founding Director, The Green Partnership
23. Oliver Lewis CBE, CEO, Joe's Blooms
24. Evan Bowen-Jones, Chief Executive, Kent Wildlife Trust
25. Greg Nightingale, Director, and Lorna Roberts, Associate Director, Luscinia Ecology Ltd
26. Richard Flemmings, CEO, Map Impact
27. Archie Struthers, CEO, Nattergal
28. Dimple Patel, CEO, NatureMetrics
29. Tom Tew, Founder & Chief Executive, Naturespace Partnership
30. Thomas Pickford, Head of Policy, The Nature Conservancy
31. Tom Nelson, Director, Nature Impact
32. Rich Stockdale, Founder and CEO, Oxygen Conservation
33. Stephen Elderkin and Evan Bowen-Jones, Co-Founders, Rebuilding Nature
34. Jamie Quinn, Sustainability Director, Related Argent Ltd.
35. Jon Davies, Director, RSK Wilding
36. Michael Copleston, Director, RSPB England

37. Eleni Polychroniadou, CEO, and Dr Gemma Jerome, Head of Green Infrastructure, Sintali
38. Dick Jeavons-Fellows, CEO, Small Habitat Company
39. Georgia Dent, CEO, Somerset Wildlife Trust
40. Glenn Anderson, Director of Landscape Strategy, Swallowtail Consulting LTD.
41. Craig Melson, Associate Director, TechUK
42. Bevis Watts, CEO, Triodos Bank UK
43. Simon McWhirter, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of External Affairs, UK Green Building Council
44. Matthew Brown and Rafi Cohen, Co-CEOs, Verna
45. Jonathan Wates, Director, Wates Developments Group
46. Alex Begg, Co-Founder, Wendling Beck Op-Co LLP
47. Jack Potter, Director, Wild Capital