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May 2024

OffshoreWind
IndustryCouncil

Biodiversity and Mitigation

**A review and glossary of
related terms and definitions
relevant to offshore wind**

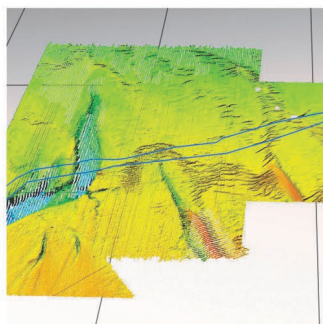
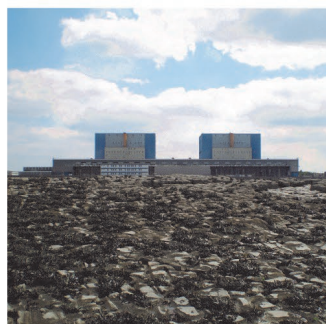
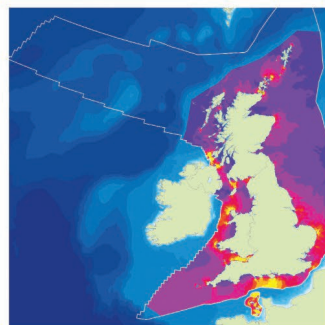
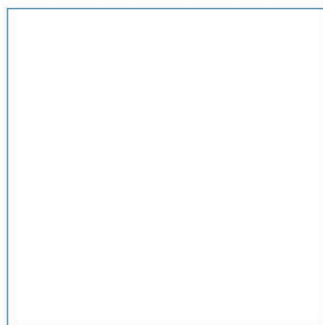
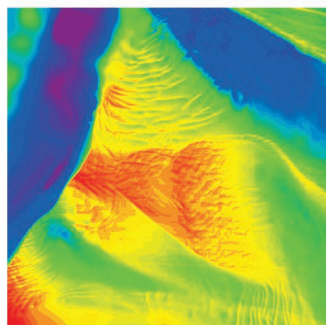


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Innovative Thinking - Sustainable Solutions

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1 Introduction

This project has been commissioned by the Offshore Wind Industry Council's Pathways to Growth (P2G) Coordination Group. The Pathways to Growth (P2G) workstream is part of the Sector Deal, a partnership between the Offshore Wind Sector and the UK Government which has the long-term aim of securing offshore wind (OSW) as the backbone of the UK's power system.

The aims of P2G are to provide leadership, oversight and coordination to the offshore wind industry to ensure that the UK meets its offshore wind 2030 targets and is in a position to deliver net zero. P2G aims to identify and overcome strategic deployment issues in relation to consents and cumulative environmental impacts both in the marine and onshore areas and impacts on other users of sea space such as navigation and fishing.

P2G have prioritised 7 focus areas. Of these, this project is most relevant to 'Biodiversity' defined as *"Providing clarity on the frameworks and measures through which biodiversity targets will be delivered will provide greater certainty for developers in ensuring that offshore wind farm sites can deliver biodiversity benefits"*. To achieve this P2G intend to ensure:

- Clarity and guidance on the definitions of biodiversity and mitigation related terms relevant to offshore wind and other industries UK wide is provided.
- Working with the UK Government and DAs to provide clarity to offshore wind developers on the delivery and measurement frameworks through which biodiversity targets will be delivered across the UK.
- That existing industry learning and experience informs policy, development of a delivery mechanism and trials to support net positive development.
- The delivery of clear criteria for prioritising trials that test the potential for OSW projects to deliver net positive outcomes to comply with Government biodiversity policy commitments.
- Working with industry and Government stakeholders to trial nature inclusive design and net positive measures.

1.1 Project background

In December 2022, a new deal to protect nature was agreed at COP15, the United Nations biodiversity summit, to reverse biodiversity loss and protect 30% of land and oceans by 2030. UK biodiversity policy is being driven by the 25 Year Environment Plan¹ and Environmental Improvement Plan² as well as international work recognising the links between climate and biodiversity crisis and joint solutions³. UK policy is evolving through the development of a series of measures being implemented by the UK Government and Devolved Administrations (DAs). This includes the establishment of approaches to achieving net environmental gain as a result of development in the marine environment. Policy development within the UK and across the DAs, which is happening at pace, is likely to create new biodiversity commitments to improve biodiversity and help achieve net zero targets. It is therefore helpful for the OSW sector and DAs to work collaboratively to develop solutions to these challenges and to do so taking account of differences across the DAs where relevant.

To support collaboration in this evolving process, this project sets out to review and, where required, clarify biodiversity and mitigation related terminology to highlight the commonalities and differences in the use of terminology across the DAs (see bullet one above).

¹ [25-year-environment-plan.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

² [Environmental Improvement Plan \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

³ [20210609_workshop_report_embargo_3pm_CEST_10_june_0.pdf \(ipbes.net\)](#)

1.2 Objectives

There is already a wide variety of terms being used in policy and wider discussions relating to biodiversity including, but not limited to, 'net gain', 'nature positive', 'nature inclusive', 'nature recovery', 'co-existence and co-location'. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has been progressing policy in relation to Marine Net Gain (MNG) and DAs are taking forward comparable initiatives. There are also related initiatives relevant to OSW to facilitate delivery of obligations under other environmental legislation including work on Offshore Wind Environmental Standards (OWES) and the Collaboration on Offshore Wind Strategic Compensation (COWSC) programme. As biodiversity approaches and related policy develop and discussions continue, the increasing number of terms being used leads to greater potential for confusion. As summarised above, the key objectives of this project have been to provide clarity on mitigation and biodiversity related terms across the UK along with an outline of Government biodiversity goals and targets relevant to the UK and DAs. Where key terminology and/or definitions differed between DAs or gaps were identified, then these are highlighted, along with the consideration of the potential implications e.g. for cross-border infrastructure and OSW developers operating across multiple administrations.

In addition to this review report, a key output from this work, a discrete glossary of biodiversity and mitigation related terms and phrases for each DA has been produced (Appendix A) and consideration given to potential options for hosting and updating the glossary.

1.3 Approach

In addition to the ongoing development of biodiversity policy in the marine environment (e.g. net gain, nature positive etc.), there are several other longer established legislative processes relevant to the OSW sector related to biodiversity and mitigation (e.g. Habitats Regulations, Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA), and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations etc.). These longer established processes and the terms used within them are generally well understood, with few differences between terminology across DAs, however, there is potential for confusion where similar terms are also being used within the context of developing biodiversity policy (but with a potentially different meaning).

As a starting point to this work, a list of terms relevant to biodiversity and mitigation was collated within a discrete glossary (Appendix A). Definitions of these terms were separated out by DA, specific bodies and according to legislative process. The glossary was then further refined following discussions with P2G and is the primary reference source of information for the review presented within this report.

The glossary was used to highlight where differences and commonalities in definitions and terms existed between DAs, as well as indicating where clear and/or agreed definitions for terms were lacking. Key terms and definitions which have been identified as having these differences, commonalities, or gaps across the various DAs have then been reviewed within this report. While many of these biodiversity and mitigation terms relate to approaches which may be a statutory requirement or recommended by a given DA, direct review of these approaches is outside the scope of this report.

Section 1 provides an introduction and background to the work. Section 2 details the drivers behind the development of biodiversity policy and the biodiversity targets across the UK and DAs. In Section 3, several terms/definitions relating to biodiversity and mitigation from well-established legislative processes are reviewed (Section 3.1), before focussing on terms and definitions relevant to biodiversity policy, such as net gain and nature positive (Section 3.2).

Consideration of the similarities and differences in terminology is discussed (Section 4) and, in some cases, such as the lack of a clear definition laid down in policy or guidance, recommendations provided for further consideration by stakeholders (Section 5). However, the work has not sought to create definition's where gaps were identified, or suggest amendments to those that already exist. Consideration is also given to the potential hosting and maintaining of a regularly updated glossary of terms database.

Throughout this work, delivery has been supported by regular discussions with the P2G Team and reviewed by members of the P2G Coordination Group.

2 Biodiversity Targets

There are a number of drivers behind the development of biodiversity policy in the UK. These key drivers are summarised below.

2.1 Marine Strategy Framework Directive

In July 2008, The European Union (EU) adopted the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) which requires Member States to take measures to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) by 2020⁴. To achieve this, Member States were required to produce marine strategies that; 'protect the marine environment, prevent deterioration and restore damaged marine ecosystems, where possible'⁵. In 2010, the MSFD was transposed into UK law under the Marine Strategy Regulations (2010) to help develop GES targets and indicators⁶. UK targets and indicators of GES (as required under Article 10 of the MSFD) were developed on the basis of scientific advice provided by Cefas, the JNCC and a large range of other experts, including those involved in the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy⁷. The UK marine environment is broken down into 11 qualitative descriptors to help assess progress against GES, these include Descriptor 1 – Biodiversity. There are 23 biodiversity indicators and 19 biodiversity targets.

2.2 25 Year Environmental Plan

To tackle the Global Climate Emergency and the Nature Emergency, each country has produced a set of targets to achieve. In 2018, Defra published the 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) which sets out goals to be the first generation to leave the natural world in a better state than we found it, reversing biodiversity decline by 2030 in the process. This plan was reviewed in 2023⁸ as part of the commitment set into law within the Environment Act 2021. The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (EIP23) represents the revised plan. This sets out for the first time how the 25YEP goals, Environment Act 2021 targets, and other commitments made domestically and internationally will combine to drive specific improvements in the natural environment. Of the goals and targets committed include the protection of 30% of our land and sea for nature by 2030. The majority of EIP23 covers England-only policy as the environment is primarily a devolved matter, with some reserved elements, such as chemicals. Defra have committed to a review of the EIP23 in 2028.

⁴ NatureScot (2023) Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Online. Available at: [Marine Strategy Framework Directive | NatureScot](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ [Science Search \(defra.gov.uk\)](#)

⁸ Defra (2023b) Environmental Improvement Plan 2023: Executive summary. Online. Available at: [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023: Executive summary - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

2.3 Global Biodiversity Framework

The UK Government is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The UK Biodiversity Indicators are aligned to the goals and targets (the 'Aichi targets') agreed in 2010 and set out in the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020⁹.

These Aichi targets have recently been replaced by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), which was at CoP15 in Montreal in December 2022. The KMGBF consists of a new set of global targets, indicators to measure progress against the targets, and a reporting framework. The key elements of this are four goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030^{10,11}. All Parties to the CBD are expected to report on their progress towards these goals and targets in 2026 and 2029.

Each of the four countries in the UK have their own set of biodiversity indicators that assess progress to targets set out in national biodiversity strategies. These indicator sets will be reviewed in light of the KMGBF and the new global goals and targets it includes. The Biodiversity Indicators production team are currently working alongside the DAs and Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs) to review the existing country-level indicator sets against the UK Biodiversity Indicators (UKBIs)¹², noting areas where UK indicators can be disaggregated to country level and where country-level data can be aggregated to a national level. These findings are currently being used to assess whether there is potential to align UK and country-level indicators more closely.

Currently, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are individually reviewing their own UK biodiversity indicators (UKBI) aligned against the KMGBF targets, to produce new targets which are expected to be published in 2024.

2.4 Devolved Biodiversity Targets

In 2020, England published a new national biodiversity strategy setting out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land and at sea¹³. England set out the vision that “By 2050 our land and seas will be rich in wildlife, our biodiversity will be valued, conserved, restored, managed sustainably and be more resilient and able to adapt to change, providing essential services and delivering benefits for everyone”¹⁴. England published in 2020 that “Our mission is to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people”¹⁵ with the hope that the outcomes of the strategies set, will benefit the habitats and ecosystems on land, marine habitats, ecosystems and fisheries, species and climate change¹⁶. The EIP23 sets out the biodiversity targets and commitments for England and how these will be delivered.¹⁷

In 2023, The Scottish Government published The Scottish biodiversity strategy setting out a clear ambition for Scotland to be Nature Positive by 2030, and to have restored and regenerated biodiversity across the country by 2045¹⁸. Six objectives have been published to help to achieve this which include; accelerate restoration and regeneration, protect nature on land and at sea, across and beyond protected

⁹ Convention on Biological Diversity (n.d) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Targets. Online. Available at: [Aichi-Targets-EN.pdf \(cbd.int\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹⁰ UNEP (2022) COP15 ends with landmark biodiversity agreement. Online. Available at: [COP15 ends with landmark biodiversity agreement \(unep.org\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹¹ JNCC (2023) UK Biodiversity Indicators. Online. Available at: [UK Biodiversity Indicators | JNCC - Adviser to Government on Nature Conservation](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ Defra (2020) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services. Online. Available at: [pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ [Environmental Improvement Plan \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁸ Scottish Government (2023b) Tackling the Nature Emergency – strategic framework for biodiversity: consultation. Online. Available at: [Tackling the Nature Emergency - strategic framework for biodiversity: consultation - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

areas, embed nature-positive farming, fishing and forestry, protect and support the recovery of vulnerable and important species and habitats, invest in nature; and take action on the indirect drivers of biodiversity loss¹⁹.

In Wales, The Nature and Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) was originally published in 2015 to set out how Wales plans to address the United Nations Environment Programme's CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2011-2020, now the KMGBF)²⁰. This included the Welsh Government's overall ambition "to reverse the decline in biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society" via three parts: 'Part One: Our Strategy For Nature', Part Two: Our Action Plan and Part Three: The Nature Recovery Framework'²¹. In 2021, a refreshed action plan was published, reviewing part two of the objectives²². Wales is promoting net benefit for biodiversity through amendments to planning policy in the light of COP15, implementation of its Biodiversity Deep Dive recommendations and strengthening of public body duties under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act. A consultation on these proposed amendments was undertaken in 2023 which included guidance on achieving a Net Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB)²³.

In response to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2011-2020, Northern Ireland has set out a strategy on how Northern Ireland plans to meet local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy²⁴. Building upon the first Biodiversity Strategy published in 2002, Northern Ireland are working towards the overall vision that: "By 2050, our life support system, nature, is protected and restored for its own sake, its essential contribution to our well-being and prosperity, and to avert catastrophic changes likely to arise from its loss"²⁵. Further, Northern Ireland published that they are 'making it their mission' "to make progress towards halting overall biodiversity loss, establish an ecosystem approach and help business and society in general have a greater understanding of the benefits that nature can bring to everyday life in Northern Ireland"²⁶.

3 Biodiversity and Mitigation Related Terminology

Consideration was initially given to biodiversity and mitigation related terms from well-established legislative processes and marine planning. As shown in the glossary, generally, terms from these processes are well understood and while definitions across DAs may vary slightly, the interpretation of these terms is well aligned by stakeholders (e.g. compensation, impact, mitigation etc.). However, a few examples have been taken from the glossary (Appendix A) and reviewed further within this report. Several of these relate to an approach or mechanism which has yet to be recognised by all the DAs.

Following this, a review of key terms and definitions from developing biodiversity policy relevant to targets (see Section 2) has considered a number of terms listed within the glossary (Appendix A) which are being increasingly used by one or more DA's.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Welsh Government (2020a) The Nature Recovery Action Plan 2020-21. Online. Available at: [The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales 2020 to 2021 \(gov.wales\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24]

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² *Ibid.*

²³ Welsh Government (2023) Targeted policy changes to Planning Policy Wales on Net benefit for Biodiversity and Ecosystems Resilience (incorporating changes to strengthen policy on Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Trees and Woodlands and Green Infrastructure. Online. Available at: [Targeted policy changes to Planning Policy Wales on Net benefit for Biodiversity and Ecosystems Resilience \(incorporating changes to strengthen policy on Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Trees and Woodlands and Green Infrastructure\) | GOV.WALES](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

²⁴ DAERA (2015) Valuing Nature. A biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020. Online. Available at: [A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

²⁵ DAERA (2015) Valuing Nature. A biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020. Online. Available at: [A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

²⁶ *Ibid.*

3.1 Terms from well-established legislative processes

3.1.1 Library of strategic compensation measures, marine recovery fund and strategic compensation measures

In association with the Habitats Regulations, terms such as 'Library of Strategic Compensation Measures (LoSCM)' and 'Marine Recovery Fund (MRF)' are relatively recent terms that have been proposed by Defra²⁷. The MRF is referred to as '*a delivery mechanism for compensatory measures approved by Government*'²⁸ and '*intended to facilitate the delivery of strategic compensatory measures (SCMs) to compensate for unavoidable damage to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) from offshore wind developments*'²⁹. Whereas, the term 'LoSCM' is not yet defined but has been described with the objective '*will give developers and plan-promoters earlier and greater certainty that ecologically appropriate compensatory measures are available*'³⁰. Across DAs, despite there being no defined explanations published by Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland for these terms, the idea and process of these are being explored.

The term 'strategic compensation measures' is also a relatively well-known phrase in relation to OSW. This is defined by Defra as '*compensation that can feasibly be delivered across multiple offshore wind projects*'³¹. The Collaboration on Offshore Wind Strategic Compensation (COWSC) provide a working definition of strategic compensation implying that intervention is usually required from Government (and potentially other bodies) to implement these measures³². While such intervention may inevitably benefit other OSW projects, if these strategic compensation measures are put forward by a specific project's compensation plan, then the measures are likely to benefit this project the most. Given the wide use of this term by stakeholders, care should be taken in its interpretation and how it may be applied in practice.

3.1.2 Measures of equivalent environmental benefit

The term 'measures of equivalent benefit (MEEB)' was defined by Defra in 2021 to be used '*in the context of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ)s to refer to measures of equivalent environmental benefit to the damage which an act will or is likely to have in or on an MCZ*'³³. However, more recently in the MNG consultation³⁴, the term MEEB is used within the definition of compensatory measures i.e. '*compensatory measures include relevant compensation under the Habitats Regulations and MEEB under MCAA*.' While there does not seem to be any explicit definition of MEEB it is generally interpreted as compensation measures but under the MCAA³⁵. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO)³⁶, for example, do not define the term but provide context for how it should be interpreted. While MCZs can be designated in English, Welsh and Northern Irish waters; other than England, the term MEEB is not currently used in the UK. Going forward, given its direct equivalence to compensatory measures, producing distinct terms across DAs (i.e. Wales and Northern Ireland) would potentially add confusion.

²⁷ Defra (2023a) Marine Recovery Fund. Request for Information. Online. Available at: [20231016 MRF Request for Information_sch.pdf](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

²⁸ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2023) Energy security Bill Policy Statement. Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package Measures. Online. Available at: [Policy Statement Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package Measures \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

²⁹ Defra (2023a) Marine Recovery Fund. Request for Information. Online. Available at: [20231016 MRF Request for Information_sch.pdf](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² COWSC (2023) (pers.comms).

³³ Defra (2021a) Best practice guidance for developing compensatory measures in relation to Marine Protected Areas. Online. Available at: https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine-planning-licensing-team/mpa-compensation-guidance-consultation/supporting_documents/mpacompensatorymeasuresconsultationdocument.pdf [Accessed 03/01/24].

³⁴ Defra (2022) Consultation on the principles of Marine Net Gain. Policy paper. June 2022. Online. Available at: [Consultation on the Principles of Marine Net Gain.pdf \(defra.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

³⁵ Defra (2021a) Best practice guidance for developing compensatory measures in relation to Marine Protected Areas. Online. Available at: https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine-planning-licensing-team/mpa-compensation-guidance-consultation/supporting_documents/mpacompensatorymeasuresconsultationdocument.pdf [Accessed 03/01/24].

³⁶ Marine Management Organisation (2013) Marine conservation zones and marine licensing. Online. Available at: [Marine conservation zones and marine licensing.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

3.1.3 Co-existence and co-location

In the UK, the marine planning system is an integral topic included in the Marine Policy Statement to manage competition and enable co-existence across a number of marine activities such as OSW and commercial fisheries³⁷. Particularly with reference to addressing the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Crisis, the development of large-scale projects such as offshore windfarms is an integral part to achieving these objectives. It is therefore important to have clear, concise definitions behind the terms 'co-existence' and 'co-location'.

Co-existence

The term co-existence is broadly aligned across DAs including Defra³⁸, Welsh Government³⁹ and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)⁴⁰. Specifically, *'co-existence is where multiple developments, activities or uses occur alongside or in close proximity to each other in the same area or at the same time'*^{41 42}(see Appendix A). The only slight variation is within the definition provided by DAERA⁴³; *'the ability for marine activities and users, to exist alongside or close to each other at the same time and/or in the same area, including at different depths in the water column'*.

Co-location

A form of 'co-existence' is 'co-location' which is also an important term that is referenced across the geographical areas in the UK and in different contexts and needs to be refined. As with 'co-existence', Defra⁴⁴ refer to 'co-location' as *'where multiple developments (often structures), activities or uses share the same marine footprint or area, either temporally or spatially (by using different portions of the water column)'*. Similarly, the Welsh Government⁴⁵ define 'co-location' as *'a subset of coexistence where multiple developments (often structures), activities or uses are located in the same place by sharing the same footprint or area in the marine environment'*. There is no definition clearly stated by Scotland and Northern Ireland.

It should also be noted that there is a risk of 'co-existence' and 'co-location' being used interchangeably due to the slight variations in the definitions. Therefore, it is important to clarify the differences and reduce the risk of confusion. It should also be highlighted that these two terms can be applied in multiple contexts. For example, when referring to the term 'co-existence', this could be in reference to inshore plans where space for inshore developments such as ports need to be shared with recreational users. This will differ to the definition provided to co-existence relating to offshore plans e.g. shared spaces required for shipping for transit, fishing grounds and landing facilities.

Recent work commissioned by P2G has developed working definitions for these terms from the perspective of the OSW sector⁴⁶:

³⁷ Marine Management Organisation (2020) Marine Developments. Co-existing in marine space. Online. Available at: <https://marinedevelopments.blog.gov.uk/2020/02/04/co-existing-in-marine-space/> Accessed 03/01/24.

³⁸ Defra (2021) South West Inshore and South West Offshore Marine Plan. Technical Annex. Online. Available at: [South West Marine Plan Technical Annex \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100000/south-west-marine-plan-technical-annex.pdf) [Accessed 03/01/24].

³⁹ Welsh Government (2020) Welsh National Marine Plan Implementation Guidance. Online. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-06/welsh-national-marine-plan-implementation-guidance.pdf> [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁴⁰ DAERA (2018) Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland. Public Consultation. Online. Available at: [Marine Plan for NI \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/draft-marine-plan-for-northern-ireland) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁴¹ Defra (2021) South West Inshore and South West Offshore Marine Plan. Technical Annex. Online. Available at: [South West Marine Plan Technical Annex \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100000/south-west-marine-plan-technical-annex.pdf) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁴² Welsh Government (2020) Welsh National Marine Plan Implementation Guidance. Online. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-06/welsh-national-marine-plan-implementation-guidance.pdf> [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁴³ DAERA (2018) Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland. Public Consultation. Online. Available at: [Marine Plan for NI \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/draft-marine-plan-for-northern-ireland) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁴⁴ Defra (2021) South West Inshore and South West Offshore Marine Plan. Technical Annex. Online. Available at: [South West Marine Plan Technical Annex \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100000/south-west-marine-plan-technical-annex.pdf) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁴⁵ Welsh Government (2020) Welsh National Marine Plan Implementation Guidance. Online. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-06/welsh-national-marine-plan-implementation-guidance.pdf> [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁴⁶ Opergy (2024) On behalf of P2G: Opergy (in partnership with ORECatapult, Cefas, UEA) [In draft: publication expected 2024], Co-location between Offshore Wind and Other Marine Industries.

'Co-existence is the spatial location of offshore wind energy infrastructure alongside other marine-based sectors, activities, or technologies in the same or closely adjacent geographical locations. The goal is to optimise space and resource utilisation.'

'Co-location is a subset of co-existence whereby offshore energy infrastructure occupies a closely adjacent or overlapping footprint with other marine-based sectors and results in some form of physical interaction or impact between the marine industries located together; either favourable or otherwise.'

Given that these terms are particularly relevant to the OSW sector, where accepted, providing such bespoke definitions will assist OSW and related marine spatial planning initiatives.

3.2 Terms from developing biodiversity policy

Following collation of terms within the glossary (Appendix A) it was found that there are a number of terms related to the net gain approach within England. Unsurprisingly, these terms are often less well defined across other DA's and, in some cases, may lead to confusion within the OSW sector, particularly where development is cross-border. However, in some cases, where a DA has adopted a term and/or definition relevant to their perspective, and how progression towards achieving and maintaining their own biodiversity targets is best suited, the difference may have limited implications for the OSW sector other than an awareness required. Terms related to net gain and other evolving biodiversity initiatives, relevant to the UK or a given DA, are considered below.

3.2.1 Net gain

Reference was made under the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework⁴⁷ of the need to 'provide net gains in biodiversity where possible'. In 2018, the 25YEP set out the intention to 'mainstream the use of existing biodiversity net gain approaches within the planning system'.

Net gain is an approach that aims to leave the natural environment in a better state than it was before development started. Within development planning in England, it is a tool to increase biodiversity and contribute to overall nature recovery. The Defra definition is:

'Net gain is an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand. This means protecting, restoring, or creating environmental features that are of greater ecological value to wildlife, habitats and people than any losses associated with the original project. Net gain has been identified as a potentially important mechanism that can contribute to halting and reversing marine biodiversity loss'⁴⁸.

While the term net gain appears to be understood beyond England, it is not adopted by other DA's. For example, in Wales, the term net benefit (for biodiversity) is used: *'The concept that development should leave biodiversity and ecosystems in a better state than before, through securing long term, measurable and demonstrable benefit, primarily on site'*.

Use of the word 'gain' as opposed to 'benefit' potentially indicates a greater need for quantitative accountability of biodiversity (see Biodiversity Net Gain below). The quantitative approach taken by England has required the development of a metric by Natural England⁴⁹. While a similar type of phrase has not yet been progressed by Scotland or Northern Ireland; along with Wales, these DA's have all adopted a qualitative approach to delivering an overall improvement in biodiversity from a planning

⁴⁷ [ARCHIVED CONTENT] National Planning Policy Framework - Guidance - GOV.UK (nationalarchives.gov.uk)

⁴⁸ Defra (n.d.) Definitions and current practice. Online. Available at: https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use/net-gain/user_uploads/02.-definitions-and-current-practice.pdf [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁴⁹ The Biodiversity Metric Supporting Documents - JP039 (naturalengland.org.uk)

context. For example, in Scotland, the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) states '*development proposals will contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including where relevant, restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks and the connections between them*'. While the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 places a statutory duty on public bodies to '*further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their functions and to look for opportunities to enhance or restore biodiversity, or provide an educational input to others about biodiversity*'⁵⁰.

The quantitative approach taken by England, currently sets it apart from the other DA's and the overarching terms/approaches that have evolved from 'net gain' i.e. 'Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)' and more recently Marine Net Gain (MNG) and 'Environmental Net Gain (ENG)'. While this is not necessarily an issue to an OSW developer if operating in a specific DA boundary, understanding how the approaches differ between English and other DA territorial waters is essential. These overarching terms and approaches are all considered in more detail below.

3.2.2 Biodiversity net gain

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a policy in the UK aimed at ensuring that new developments have a positive impact on biodiversity. In development planning, it can be used as one of the tools to increase biodiversity and contribute to overall nature recovery. Defra provides a definition of BNG as '*a way of creating and improving natural habitats*'⁵¹, and in the 2018 net gain report⁵² the glossary defines 'net gain for biodiversity' as '*delivering more or better habitats for biodiversity and demonstrating this measurable gain through use of the Defra biodiversity metric.*' However, given its fairly recent evolution from net gain, and its lack of adoption as a term by DAs other than England, BNG has not yet been defined so clearly elsewhere in the UK. The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) refers to BNG as a '*development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before*'⁵³ relating the term to biodiversity objectives rather than the improvement of habitat.

In England, under the 2021 Environment Act, BNG has become mandatory since 12 February 2024⁵⁴. The requirement is that a 10% NG in biodiversity is achieved for post-intervention units for new developments (with a few exemptions). NG aims to offset any impacts that cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated to enable faster and better redevelopment in line with government's wider infrastructure policy objectives. At present, BNG only applies to terrestrial and intertidal habitats, down to the Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) in England.

In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, while there are no clear plans for a mandatory or otherwise quantitative BNG target, all countries are actively identifying approaches, along with how they can be implemented to meet UK and country specific biodiversity targets and objectives.

In Wales, until recently, the term BNG was used interchangeably with NBB; however, the latter does not utilise a metric and instead puts the emphasis on proactive consideration of biodiversity and wider ecosystem benefits within a placemaking context early in the design process⁵⁵. BNG policy has been adopted and progressed to align with the various biodiversity targets across the UK. As with the yet to be mandated MNG, the utilisation of metrics to determine the biodiversity units affected and required for a development is specific to England. The confusion may arise where the phrase BNG (or in the future MNG) is being used in a more generic form rather than, in the case of England, as a defined quantitative approach.

⁵⁰ Biodiversity Duty - Guidelines for Public Bodies (daera-ni.gov.uk)

⁵¹ Defra (2022) Consultation on the principles of Marine Net Gain. Policy paper. June 2022. Online. Available at: [Consultation on the Principles of Marine Net Gain.pdf](https://www.defra.gov.uk/consultation-on-the-principles-of-marine-net-gain.pdf) (defra.gov.uk) Accessed 03/01/24]

⁵² Net gain Consultation proposals (defra.gov.uk)

⁵³ IEMA (2022) Biodiversity and Natural Capital Buzzword Guide. Online. Available at: [iemabiodiversitybuzzwordbuster-december20221.pdf](https://www.iemabiodiversitybuzzwordbuster-december20221.pdf) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁵⁴ Understanding biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

⁵⁵ Net-Benefits-briefing.pdf ([cieem.net](https://www.cieem.net))

The requirement for quantification with BNG has resulted in several terms specific to the metric approach such as BNG or biodiversity units and statutory BNG or biodiversity credits⁵⁶. That these are not picked up or defined elsewhere in the UK is not surprising given that outside England a quantitative approach has not been adopted.

3.2.3 Marine net gain

MNG typically applies to areas below the MLWS. In 2023, the working definition provided by HM Government⁵⁷ refers to the aims of MNG using the phrase 'nature recovery' (a term not clearly defined in itself); however, IEMA⁵⁸, provide a link to the 2022 Defra consultation document⁵⁹ as the source for the MNG definition.

In June 2022, Defra published its consultation on the principles of MNG and sought views on how NG could be applied in the marine environment⁶⁰. In December 2023, the UK Government response to the consultation on the principles of MNG was published, highlighting that MNG will become mandatory and require development of delivery mechanisms for MNG. Work is currently underway to explore how this will be delivered e.g. (Edwards-Jones *et al*, 2024⁶¹).

The response to the consultation itself made reference to several terms which are still evolving⁶², such as 'nature-first approach', 'wider environmental benefit', 'positive incidental effects', 'pressure reduction', 'irreplaceable habitats', and 'like-for-like' (Appendix A). Consequently, there is an urgent need to provide a clear definition for these terms to enable their achievement in the context of future offshore wind development and how MNG is interpreted.

MNG is not a term that has been adopted beyond England and across the other DAs, there are relatively few publications referencing the term MNG, despite the importance of this process, at least in England, to ensure biodiversity targets are met in the marine environment.

3.2.4 Environmental net gain

The term ENG is defined by Defra⁶³ as the approach to '*improving all aspects of environmental quality through a scheme or project*'. Essentially achieving biodiversity net gain first before going to achieve increases in the capacity of affected natural capital to deliver ecosystem services and make a scheme's wider impacts on natural capital positive. The intention of ENG is recognised across all DAs but is currently an aspiration rather than a defined approach.

In addition to the differences in environments that the terms BNG (terrestrial) and MNG (marine) apply, there are also differences in what they capture as compared with ENG. For example, 'ENG' is applicable in relation to wider benefits (e.g. flood protection, recreation)⁶⁴ as well as biodiversity, whereas BNG focuses solely on the value of biodiversity and habitats above MHWS.

⁵⁶ [Statutory biodiversity credits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/statutory-biodiversity-credits)

⁵⁷ HM Government (2023) Nature markets: A framework for scaling up private investment in nature recovery and sustainable farming. Online. Available at: [Nature markets: \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118111/nature-markets-framework.pdf) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁵⁸ IEMA (2022) Biodiversity and Natural Capital Buzzword Guide. Online. Available at: [iemabiodiversitybuzzwordbuster-december20221.pdf](https://www.iema.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/IEMA-Biodiversity-and-Natural-Capital-Buzzword-Guide-December-2022.pdf) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁵⁹ Defra (2022) Consultation on the principles of Marine Net Gain. Policy paper. June 2022. Online. Available at: [Consultation on the Principles of Marine Net Gain.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118111/consultation-on-the-principles-of-marine-net-gain.pdf) (defra.gov.uk) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁶⁰ Defra (2022) Consultation on the principles of Marine Net Gain. Policy paper. June 2022. Online. Available at: [Consultation on the Principles of Marine Net Gain.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118111/consultation-on-the-principles-of-marine-net-gain.pdf) (defra.gov.uk) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁶¹ Edwards-Jones, A., Watson, S., Szostek, C.L., Beaumont, N.J., (2024). Stakeholder insights into embedding marine net gain for offshore wind farm planning and delivery. *Environmental Challenges* 14, 100814. [Stakeholder insights into embedding marine net gain for offshore wind farm planning and delivery - ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468013424000814)

⁶² Defra (2022) Consultation on the principles of Marine Net Gain. Policy paper. June 2022. Online. Available at: [Consultation on the Principles of Marine Net Gain.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118111/consultation-on-the-principles-of-marine-net-gain.pdf) (defra.gov.uk) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁶³ [Consultation on Biodiversity Net Gain Regulations and Implementation January2022.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118111/consultation-on-biodiversity-net-gain-regulations-and-implementation-january2022.pdf) (defra.gov.uk)

⁶⁴ Defra (2021) South West Inshore and South West Offshore Marine Plan. Technical Annex. Online. Available at: [South West Marine Plan Technical Annex](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118111/south-west-marine-plan-technical-annex.pdf) (publishing.service.gov.uk) [Accessed 03/01/24].

Clearly the terms ENG, MNG and BNG represent quite different applications with only BNG mandated, under Town and Country Planning in England.

3.2.5 Net positive impact

Despite being referred to by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)⁶⁵ and Cross Sector Biodiversity Initiative (CSBI)⁶⁶, the term 'Net Positive Impact' (NPI) is infrequently used, nor is there much information on its meaning. However, where it is referenced, it is sometimes used synonymously with the term 'NG' and as such requires clarification. The two definitions provided (see Appendix A) are very similar, referring to the term as a 'target' that impacts biodiversity outcomes. The definitions are both more than eight years old. If this term is to be taken forward by a DA, then an updated definition would be required.

3.2.6 Nature positive, nature recovery, nature-based solutions, nature inclusive design, blue-green infrastructure

Nature positive

In response to addressing the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Crisis, many Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCB's) within the UK have pledged to make significant commitments to achieve recovery of the UK's nature.

The term 'nature positive' appears frequently throughout published reports, websites and news articles in relation to biodiversity targets. Therefore, it is important that the term is clarified for other stakeholders to communicate to a wider audience. In 2021, the joint statement across the DAs (JNCC, NRW, NE, NatureScot, NIEA), put forward an agreed definition for 'nature positive', using such target phrases as '*reversing the current decline of biodiversity*' and becoming '*nature positive by 2030*'⁶⁷.

However, other bodies (such as the IUCN and IEMA) have provided definitions that differ slightly from that given in the joint statement. The IEMA define 'nature positive' as a '*high-level goal and concept describing a future state (e.g. biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital) which is greater than the current state*'⁶⁸ and thus define the phrase in the context of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The IUCN refer to the term as '*a global societal goal*' defined as '*halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 on a 2020 baseline and achieve full recovery by 2050*'^{69,70} which emphasises the idea that it is a global goal. However, the IUCN⁷¹ also flag the need for businesses to align with this goal and thus contribute to its delivery.

Overall, across the DAs, there is an agreed theme that 'nature positive' is a target which DAs are working towards. To help accomplish these objectives, moving forward, it would be useful to specify across the DAs if it is a national or global target which should then be incorporated into the definition. Understanding whether it is a national or global target will allow the OSW developers to respond and act in a manner that acknowledges these targets according to the timeframes set. However, the joint statement produced by JNCC, NE, NRW, NatureScot and NIEA which identified the steps to achieve

⁶⁵ IUCN (2015) Net Positive Impact on Biodiversity: The Conservation Case. Online. Available at: [npi_conservation_01_2016_1.pdf \(iucn.org\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁶⁶ CSBI (2015) A cross-sector guide for implementing the mitigation hierarchy. Prepared by the Biodiversity Consultancy on behalf of IPIECA, ICMM and the Equator Principles Association: Cambridge UK. Online. Available at: [Mitigation Hierarchy Guide – CSBI](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁶⁷ Natural England, JNCC, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot & Northern Ireland Environment Agency (2021) Nature Positive 2030 – Summary Report. JNCC: Peterborough. ISBN: 978-1-86107-636-6. Online. Available at: [Nature Positive 2030 Summary \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁶⁸ IEMA (2022) Biodiversity and Natural Capital Buzzword Guide. Online. Available at: [iemabiodiversitybuzzwordbuster-december20221.pdf](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁶⁹ Nature Positive Initiative (2023) The Definition of Nature Positive. Online. Available at: [The Definition of Nature Positive.pdf \(hubspotusercontent-na1.net\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁷⁰ IUCN (2023) Nature-Positive. Online. Available at: [Nature-Positive - News | IUCN](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁷¹ [2023-023-En.pdf \(iucn.org\)](#)

'nature positive' is a good example of where a common understanding and interpretation has been agreed across DAs reducing the potential for confusion by stakeholders⁷².

Nature recovery

The phrase 'nature recovery' features in a number of definitions for a variety of biodiversity terms (e.g. NG, MNG, nature positive) in addition to being an identified goal (e.g. ^{73 74 75 76}). However, no clear definition of the phrase seems to exist. Despite the term 'recovery' being used and interpreted with wide variation (e.g. NatureScot⁷⁷ and Mazik *et al*⁷⁸) (see Section 3.2.9). As a commonly used umbrella term within biodiversity and mitigation related approaches and publications, a clear definition would be helpful.

Nature-based solutions

The phrase 'nature-based solutions' is often referenced in relation to making a positive contribution towards the environment..

Within the Defra⁷⁹ consultation report in response to MNG, the phrases '*actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges*' and '*providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits*' were used to define nature-based solutions. This suggests the term relates to a targeted contribution to improve ecosystems as well as human well-being and biodiversity. Contrastingly, NatureScot⁸⁰ express the term as the '*aim to enhance coastal structures, and work with natural habitats to provide a range of benefits to people and the environment*' which alternatively implies that this type of enhancement may only be relevant to coastal areas. Similarly, NRW⁸¹ also refer to '*enhancing coastal structures, natural habitats and features to provide a range of benefits to people and the environment*'. However, both these SNCBs are defining nature-based solutions in the context of the coastal environment rather than a generic manner.

The reference to 'societal challenges' in relation to nature-based solutions is picked up by Defra⁸², Scottish Govt⁸³, NRW⁸⁴, IEMA⁸⁵ and the IUCN⁸⁶ which provides a clear explanation on how environmental and social challenges will be accomplished.

While there may be benefits to adopting a definition of nature-based solutions which is specific to the environment (e.g. coastal), this may result in confusion especially as the IUCN standard definition is adopted across multiple DAs.

⁷² Natural England, JNCC, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot & Northern Ireland Environment Agency (2021) Nature Positive 2030 – Summary Report. JNCC: Peterborough. ISBN: 978-1-86107-636-6. Online. Available at: [Nature Positive 2030 Summary \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁷³ *ibid*

⁷⁴ The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales 2020 to 2021 (gov.wales)

⁷⁵ Environmental Improvement Plan (publishing.service.gov.uk)

⁷⁶ Building Partnerships for Nature's Recovery (publishing.service.gov.uk)

⁷⁷ NatureScot (n.d.) Information Note – Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples. Online. Available at: [Information Note - Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples | NatureScot](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁷⁸ Mazik, K., Strong, J., Little, S., Bhatia, N., Mander, L., Barnard, S. & Elliott, M., 2015. A review of the recovery potential and influencing factors of relevance to the management of habitats and species within Marine Protected Areas around Scotland. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 771.

⁷⁹ Defra (2022) Consultation on the principles of Marine Net Gain. Policy paper. June 2022. Online. Available at: [Consultation on the Principles of Marine Net Gain.pdf \(defra.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁸⁰ NatureScot (2020) Nature-based solutions. Online. Available at: [Nature-based solutions | NatureScot](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁸¹ Natural Resources Wales (2023a) Nature-based solutions for coastal management. Online. Available at: [Natural Resources Wales / Nature-based solutions for coastal management](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁸² Defra (2022) Consultation on the principles of Marine Net Gain. Policy paper. June 2022. Online. Available at: [Consultation on the Principles of Marine Net Gain.pdf \(defra.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁸³ [Scottish Government Draft Planning Guidance: Biodiversity \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

⁸⁴ Natural Resources Wales (2023a) Nature-based solutions for coastal management. Online. Available at: [Natural Resources Wales / Nature-based solutions for coastal management](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁸⁵ IEMA (2022) Biodiversity and Natural Capital Buzzword Guide. Online. Available at: [iemabiodiversitybuzzwordbuster-december2021.pdf](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁸⁶ IUCN (2023a) Nature-based solutions. Online. Available at: [Nature-based Solutions | IUCN](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

Nature inclusive design

In the Defra consultation report in response to MNG⁸⁷, the term 'nature inclusive design' was referred to as an *'approach to, or features of, infrastructure design that can increase habitats or help support species.'* Given its inclusion within a consultation document only, this is considered a working definition with no definitions provided across the other DAs. Its definition remains slightly open to interpretation and while Law Insider⁸⁸ and EirGrid⁸⁹ refer to the term 'nature inclusive design' they do not provide a clear definition.

Moving forward, it would be useful to have a refined definition agreed across all DAs that sets out how nature inclusive design should be defined and specifically how it links to supporting biodiversity targets. In direct relation to OSW, the Dutch Government produced a technical report on nature inclusive design which defines it as *'options that can be integrated in or added to the design of an offshore wind infrastructure to create suitable habitat for native species...'*⁹⁰. While specific to OSW, such a definition is probably unnecessary by inclusion of certain generic wording e.g. *'...to the design of infrastructure...'*, as essentially is referred to within the Defra MNG consultation report.⁹¹

Blue-green infrastructure

The term 'blue-green infrastructure' (defined as a *'strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services'*⁹²), encompasses both ecosystems such as trees, allotments (green) and rivers, canals (blue) but does not include offshore ecosystems which are an integral part of biodiversity strategies. It is therefore important to make a distinction as to the specific setting a particular term applies and whether this relates to offshore developments.

3.2.7 Natural capital, natural capital approach, natural capital accounting,

Terms such as 'natural capital' and 'natural capital approach' are used widely across the UK and internationally. While definitions vary slightly between DAs, and globally, they are aligned in their interpretation and unlikely to be confused.

The Defra definition of 'natural capital accounting' is *'the attempt to bring a systematic, standardised and repeatable framework to recording information on natural capital and the services it provides, whether or not those services have a market value.'*⁹³. While this term is not clearly defined elsewhere in the UK, it is interpreted in the same way, for example, in Scotland the 'natural capital account' is framed *'the value of the assets, the annual flow of services that these assets provide, and the value of these annual services'*⁹⁴

3.2.8 Marine resilience and ecosystem resilience

Marine and ecosystem resilience are an integral part in helping to recover and restore habitat losses and ecosystems, contributing ecosystem recovery, climate adaptation and net gain., While there is no set definition for the term 'resilience' from SNCBs, the term is clearly defined by MarLIN as *'the ability of a receptor to recover from disturbance or stress'*⁹⁵. NRW define marine and ecosystem resilience,

⁸⁷ Defra (2022) Consultation on the principles of Marine Net Gain. Policy paper. June 2022. Online. Available at: [Consultation on the Principles of Marine Net Gain.pdf \(defra.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁸⁸ Law Insider (n.d) Nature Inclusive Design definition. Online. Available at: [Nature inclusive design Definition | Law Insider](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁸⁹ EirGrid (2022) Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2022. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) SEA-Related Monitoring Report. Online. Available at: https://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/210727-EirGrid-SEA-Monitoring-Report_PUBLISHED_FINAL.pdf[Accessed 03/01/24].

⁹⁰ Nature_inclusive_design_catalogue_offshore_wind.pdf (pnnl.gov)

⁹¹ Defra (2022) Consultation on the principles of Marine Net Gain. Policy paper. June 2022. Online. Available at: [Consultation on the Principles of Marine Net Gain.pdf \(defra.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁹² IEMA (2022) Biodiversity and Natural Capital Buzzword Guide. Online. Available at: [iemabiodiversitybuzzwordbuster-december20221.pdf](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁹³ [Enabling a Natural Capital Approach guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

⁹⁴ [Scottish Natural Capital Accounts: 2023 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

⁹⁵ [Resilience - MarLIN - The Marine Life Information Network](#)

referring to their ability to deal with pressures, encompassing the social, economic and cultural impacts (Appendix A). In 2023, NRW published an Area Statement discussing the goals to improve the resilience of the marine environment and exploring the links between marine resilience in the context of the Welsh National Marine Plan⁹⁶. However, at this point, it is still in discussion and requires a set or agreed working definition by the DAs if these terms are to be used more widely in the UK. Yet the clear definition set by MarLIN provides a good foundation for how these might be interpreted by OSW.

3.2.9 Enhancement, recovery, regeneration, restoration and creation

Enhancement

Across the DAs, there is no set definition for the term ‘enhancement’ despite frequent use of the term. In general, ‘enhancement’ is used in relation to the intervention and improvement of habitat conditions and is adapted dependent on context.

However, in 2022, NRW produced a document refining the terminology associated with marine and coastal enhancement projects⁹⁷. This defines enhancement as an overarching term ‘*to describe activities that aim to improve the quality, size or geographic distribution of a habitat or species.*’ Similarly, NatureScot provided an information note clarifying the various definitions for actions associated with marine enhancement and recovery terms⁹⁸. NatureScot highlighted that the term ‘enhancement’ was more frequently used than the term ‘restoration’ in the context of conservation-oriented subjects, specifically in ‘Scotland’s National Marine Plan’⁹⁹.

As recognised by NatureScot, ‘enhancement’ is often used as an overarching term for the different processes in regard to ‘regeneration’, ‘recovery’, ‘restoration’ and ‘creation’¹⁰⁰, but again is determined by context and scale or size of the development occurring. Further to this, NRW state that the terms ‘recovery’ ‘restoration’ ‘regeneration’ and ‘creation’ are examples of a type of ‘enhancement’ and convey similar meanings¹⁰¹. NatureScot differentiate the terms under enhancement by the level of intervention (or effort) required to achieve each enhancement activity. For example, recovery (see below), as defined by NatureScot, represents the most passive form of enhancement (i.e. removing pressures) through to restoration, which represents the highest level of intervention¹⁰². Across the DAs, alignment on these terms and their contextual use, in relation to enhancement, is recommended.

Recovery

Tied into enhancement and net gain is the term recovery. NRW and NatureScot have very similar definitions of this term, whilst Scottish Government define it simply as ‘*the process by which the condition of a marine ecosystem, habitat or species improves*’¹⁰³ (see Appendix A). A clear definition is not available across all DAs and as NatureScot¹⁰⁴ and Mazik *et al.*¹⁰⁵ note, the term recovery is used and interpreted with wide variation. For example, some regard recovery as a return of an impacted habitat to its previous

⁹⁶ Natural Resources Wales (2023) Building resilience of marine ecosystems. Online. Available at: [Natural Resources Wales / Building resilience of marine ecosystems](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁹⁷ Natural Resources Wales (2022) Terms used in Wales for marine and coastal enhancement. Online. Available at: [Terms used in Wales for marine and coastal enhancement \(naturalresources.wales\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁹⁸ NatureScot (n.d.) Information Note – Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples. Online. Available at: [Information Note - Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples | NatureScot](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁰ NatureScot (n.d.) Information Note – Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples. Online. Available at: [Information Note - Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples | NatureScot](#) [Accessed 03/01/24]

¹⁰¹ Natural Resources Wales (2022) Terms used in Wales for marine and coastal enhancement. Online. Available at: [Terms used in Wales for marine and coastal enhancement \(naturalresources.wales\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹⁰² NatureScot (n.d.) Information Note – Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples. Online. Available at: [Information Note - Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples | NatureScot](#) [Accessed 03/01/24]

¹⁰³ Scottish Government (2023c) (Pers.comm)

¹⁰⁴ NatureScot (n.d.) Information Note – Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples. Online. Available at: [Information Note - Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples | NatureScot](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹⁰⁵ Mazik, K., Strong, J., Little, S., Bhatia, N., Mander, L., Barnard, S. & Elliott, M., 2015. A review of the recovery potential and influencing factors of relevance to the management of habitats and species within Marine Protected Areas around Scotland. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 771.

condition, others use recovery to describe both a process and an outcome. In addition, different definitions have been proposed as applicable at different scales or to individual species, communities and habitats¹⁰⁶. Furthermore, the term 'recover' or 'recovery' is often used in relation to the Habitats Regulations and conservation objectives. As noted above, the term 'nature recovery' is commonly used and yet this does not have a clear definition despite it being an explicit goal of Natural England¹⁰⁷.

Given that the term 'recovery' can be easily interpreted differently with the meaning often being dependent on context, it requires a clear definition specifically in relation to net gain and enhancement. Both Wales and Scotland have plainly stated that it is a process of promoting improvement to an impacted feature rather than the return of an impacted feature to its previous condition. Alignment across all DAs is recommended to avoid confusion.

Regeneration, remediation and rewilding

The term 'regeneration' is defined as a process with a *'low-level intervention to remove a pressure on an impacted feature'* by NatureScot¹⁰⁸, who tend to see it as a term associated with 'recovery' from fishing pressures, but acknowledge how it is used interchangeably with 'recovery' in some contexts. By contrast NRW consider that 'regeneration' (habitat regeneration) is not a term relevant for use in Welsh waters at this time, but also recognise that it is used elsewhere in the UK¹⁰⁹.

Guidance from both NRW and NatureScot provide very similar definitions for the term's remediation and rewilding. Both conservation bodies agree that these terms are not relevant to enhancement and that the term 'remediation' is relevant to EIA Regulations rather than enhancement in the UK.

Current definitions from England^{110 111} for rewilding and remediation are vague with no suggestion that the terms shouldn't be used within the context of enhancement. However, given that these terms are not linked to a statutory requirement or recommended approach there are minimal implications to OSW developers at this time.

Restoration

The term restoration is defined by both NRW and NatureScot in relation to enhancement^{112 113}. Specific to their definitions is that this should be used where a habitat (or species) previously removed from a location is re-introduced and restored. Other bodies apply the term more generically and unrelated to approaches such as enhancement and net gain, instead applying it to an improvement of a habitat or ecosystem from damage or degradation^{114 115 116} (see Appendix A).

¹⁰⁶ NatureScot (n.d.) Information Note – Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples. Online. Available at: [Information Note - Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples](#) | NatureScot [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹⁰⁷ About us - Natural England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

¹⁰⁸ NatureScot (n.d.) Information Note – Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples. Online. Available at: [Information Note - Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples](#) | NatureScot [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹⁰⁹ Natural Resources Wales (2022) Terms used in Wales for marine and coastal enhancement. Online. Available at: [Terms used in Wales for marine and coastal enhancement \(naturalresources.wales\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹¹⁰ Defra (2022) Consultation on the principles of Marine Net Gain. Policy paper. June 2022. Online. Available at: [Consultation on the Principles of Marine Net Gain.pdf \(defra.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹¹¹ Natural England (n.d.) Biodiversity metric 4 case study 5: Rewilding and Biodiversity Net Gain. Online. Available at: [Case Study 5 - Rewilding - BM4.0.pdf](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹¹² NatureScot (n.d.) Information Note – Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples. Online. Available at: [Information Note - Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples](#) | NatureScot [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹¹³ Natural Resources Wales (2022) Terms used in Wales for marine and coastal enhancement. Online. Available at: [Terms used in Wales for marine and coastal enhancement \(naturalresources.wales\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹¹⁴ [20190430_MMO1135_Identifying_sites_for_habitat_creation_datalayers_Report_a.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

¹¹⁵ CIEEM (2018) Guidelines For Ecological Impact Assessment In The UK and Ireland. Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Online. Available at: <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/ECIA-Guidelines-2018-Terrestrial-Freshwater-Coastal-and-Marine-V1.2-April-22-Compressed.pdf> [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹¹⁶ DAERA (n.d.) Blue Carbon Restoration in Northern Ireland – Feasibility Study. Online. Available at: [Blue Carbon Habitat Restoration in Northern Ireland - A Feasibility Study.pdf \(ulsterwildlife.org\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24]

In contrast to 'regeneration', both NRW and NatureScot, note that the process of restoration within the context of enhancement requires a high level of project intervention.

Creation

The term 'creation' may be related to 'habitat creation' or 'species introduction'. Both NRW and NatureScot consider habitat creation as where a '*habitat is introduced in a location where there was no historical records of its existence*'¹¹⁷ ¹¹⁸. Unlike NatureScot, NRW also capture 'species introduction' under the term 'habitat creation'. While the definition from NRW emphasises that the '*fundamental difference between habitat restoration and habitat creation is that this term refers to instances where there has been no known historical presence of a habitat or species prior to the intervention*', the wider definition also uses the phrase 're-establish habitat' suggesting that the habitat created was present historically. Acknowledging that 'creation' (as defined), can also be interpreted as re-establishment of historic habitat, accords with the idea that managed realignment 'creates' habitats. However, this is quite contrasting to the alternate definition of creation i.e. '*where there has been no known historical presence*'¹¹⁹.

Other definitions around the term 'creation', such as provided by MMO¹²⁰ and CIEEM¹²¹, are vaguer than those provided by NatureScot and NRW, particularly in relation to enhancement (see Appendix A).

Although the term 'replacement' was not included in the glossary (Appendix A) in relation to enhancement and net gain, it is noted that that The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), in their guidelines for ecological impact assessment in the UK and Ireland¹²² regard 'replacement' as the creation of a habitat that is an acceptable substitute for the habitat which has been lost.

3.2.10 Biodiversity, ecosystem, habitat, ecosystem services

The definitions 'biodiversity', 'ecosystem', 'habitat' and 'ecosystem services' are terms used in multiple publications and policies and, as such, are well defined throughout the UK and across DAs. Although for each of these terms, across DAs, the wording slightly differs, they are well understood. These terms and their interpretation do not tend to differ within the context of biodiversity and mitigation from other legislative mechanisms (e.g. Habitats Regulations, EIA Regulations).

4 Discussion

The requirement for the UK and DAs to meet agreed biodiversity targets by 2030 (see Section 2), is driving the implementation of suitable approaches to achieve net environmental gain and meet biodiversity targets. The rapid growth of the OSW sector and its overlap with the natural environment, presents both challenges and opportunities for supporting biodiversity targets, thus requiring a clear understanding and interpretation of the approaches by all relevant stakeholders.

¹¹⁷ NatureScot (n.d.) Information Note – Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples. Online. Available at: [Information Note - Marine Habitat Enhancement, Recovery, Restoration and Creation in Scotland: Terminology and Examples | NatureScot](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹¹⁸ Natural Resources Wales (2022) Terms used in Wales for marine and coastal enhancement. Online. Available at: [Terms used in Wales for marine and coastal enhancement \(naturalresources.wales\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹²⁰ 20190430_MMO1135_Identifying_sites_for_habitat_creation_datalayers_Report_a.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)

¹²¹ CIEEM (2018) Guidelines For Ecological Impact Assessment In The UK and Ireland. Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Online. Available at: <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/ECIA-Guidelines-2018-Terrestrial-Freshwater-Coastal-and-Marine-V1.2-April-22-Compressed.pdf> [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹²² CIEEM (2018) Guidelines For Ecological Impact Assessment In The UK and Ireland. Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Online. Available at: <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/ECIA-Guidelines-2018-Terrestrial-Freshwater-Coastal-and-Marine-V1.2-April-22-Compressed.pdf> [Accessed 03/01/24].

From the large number of terms collated in the glossary (Appendix A), work is required by the UK and across DAs to aid interpretation of terminology and thus implementation of approaches to support biodiversity targets. The level of relevant information currently available varies across countries and their relevant bodies, with relatively minimal available for Northern Ireland.

As stated earlier, a direct review of the approaches taken by DAs to meet biodiversity targets is not the objective of this report. This work is about considering the gaps and cross-over with biodiversity and mitigation related terminology, as well as highlighting if there are potential implications to the OSW sector and any recommendations to assist with understanding and facilitate adoption (see Section 5).

As evidenced throughout this report and appended glossary, the fast evolution of approaches to meet biodiversity targets has led to a multitude of terms and respective definitions across DAs. This is particularly evidenced in relation to biodiversity derived terminology in the UK and especially in England, where 'net gain' has been adopted into policy.

The quantitative approach to net gain, as legislated in England, means terms directly attributed to BNG need to be interpreted without confusion by OSW developers across the UK if they will be constructing or operating in English waters. Given that MNG will also become mandatory, corresponding terminology also requires clear interpretation.

As BNG and MNG approaches are adopted more widely across the UK, a coherent and aligned communication of the terms that underpin these approaches is needed. Without carefully agreed (and aligned) terms and/or definitions, there is a risk that stakeholders, including non-statutory bodies, will interpret them differently. In some cases, this may result in differing definitions for the same term (e.g. 'recovery') or using terms which aren't clearly defined (e.g. 'nature inclusive design'). However, the greatest risk for confusion is likely to result from literature which does not define key terms, using terms that themselves are not well-defined elsewhere. Without distinct/set definitions it can be left to the stakeholder to interpret documents. For example, a recent publication by the Scottish Government¹²³ in 2023, uses a range of terms such as enhancement, habitat creation, additionality, and restoration without clearly defining what is meant by these terms in the context of biodiversity.

In 2021, the British Standard covering the 'Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain' was published¹²⁴. From January 2024, it has become mandatory that new developments achieve a minimum of 10% BNG in England. However, as mentioned above (Section 3.2.1), while there are no clear plans for a mandatory or otherwise quantitative target in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, it is anticipated that similar quantitative approaches will be introduced. Should this occur, terms used to describe a particular quantitative approach need to be clearly defined to allow implementation and adoption across development planning.

Conversely, it is acknowledged that biodiversity terms that are not related to a statutory requirement or recommended approach for developers do not necessarily require such a clear interpretation. Yet, clarity on these terms/definitions may reduce misinterpretation in the future especially if a term is adopted by a soon to be mandated approach.

As might be expected, this review indicated that terminology used and tested for some time in legislative policies such as the EIA Regulations, Habitats Regulations and under the and the Marine and Coastal Access Act are, overall, better defined and understood than those which are either not laid down in policy or are derived through new and evolving approaches to meeting biodiversity targets. However, some terms are still unclear in their interpretation and further guidance from DAs may be helpful.

¹²³ Scottish Government (2023a) Research into Approaches to Measuring Biodiversity in Scotland. Online. Available at: [Research into Approaches to Measuring Biodiversity in Scotland \(www.gov.scot\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

¹²⁴ BSI.Knowledge (2021) Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain. Specification. Online. Available at: [BS 8683:2021 | 31 Aug 2021 | BSI Knowledge \(bsigroup.com\)](#) [Accessed 03/01/24].

5 Summary of Key Recommendations

The following section provides a summary of key recommendations to assist interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and mitigation related terminology by the OSW sector.

As an initial observation, given that OSW developments require activities in different settings (e.g. manufacture, assembly, landfall etc.) and may be operational over multiple jurisdictions (e.g. export cables), while it is acknowledged that individual DAs are developing terminology particular to their geographical perspective, where appropriate, it would be helpful if related terminology from other DAs was signposted within key documentation. The potential for cross-border OSW infrastructure as well as effects on biodiversity beyond a localised area, may require developer understanding of multiple approaches (e.g. BNG in England and NBB in Wales).

Despite the differences in terminology that currently exist, and are likely to continue to exist, wherever OSW development activities occur across the UK, they will encounter approaches to meet biodiversity targets in some form. OSW developers and stakeholders will thus need to demonstrate policy compliance as these processes are mandated across the DAs. In some cases, this may require a quantifiable approach to measure negative and positive impacts on biodiversity. Yet there is still uncertainty of exactly how all this will be delivered in practice as things continue to evolve. However, despite the uncertainty, there is an opportunity by DAs to align well understood terminology and minimise the potential for further terminology and/or vague definitions.

It is therefore recommended that, where feasible, DAs take the opportunity to discuss and align the use of key terms, how these will be defined and in what context. As noted earlier, a particularly useful resource for this project was the joint statement produced by JNCC, NE, NRW, NatureScot and NIEA which identified the steps to achieve 'nature positive'. While it is appreciated that this would not always work across the UK, if acceptable to DAs (or relevant SNCBs) then such collaborative outputs would benefit the OSW sector.

While many of the terms within this review have been defined, locating these definitions has often required extensive online searches across many documents. Many documents refer the reader to other documentation and glossaries, with very few providing a comprehensive glossary of terms. Ideally, a UK wide glossary encompassing the DA definitions, where they exist, for biodiversity and mitigation related terms is highly recommended. An alternative option would be for DA's to create their own online and regularly maintained glossaries. However, given that developers may have projects in different UK territorial waters and OSW projects often have cross-boundary elements, it is considered that a centralised UK wide glossary would be of greater benefit to the OSW sector.

The glossary collated during this project (see Appendix A), would potentially provide a useful starting point and is available online as a standalone glossary of terms. The fast evolution of approaches to support biodiversity targets, means that the glossary will require regular updates as terms/definitions are adopted and set by DAs. As such, it is recommended that the glossary be reviewed and updated at least once every six months by the custodian to ensure it is aligned with current thinking.

As an online resource, regular updates can be facilitated and as done for this project, it is suggested that the glossary be provided as a singular digital resource (database) to facilitate a user-friendly tool which can be interrogated based on specific criteria (e.g. by term). Hence, building upon the database created for this project is recommended. It is suggested that relevant groups such as nature conservation bodies, are invited to input, address gaps and improve clarity for stakeholder interpretation.

It is initially proposed that the database is hosted on the OWIC website¹²⁵ and is also made available through the Offshore Wind Evidence and Knowledge Hub¹²⁶. However, given all the work in relation to biodiversity targets across the various DA's, where relevant initiatives, approaches or terminology are being detailed by a statutory body, a link and reference to the glossary database should be provided to assist users.

Although providing a centralised online resource will significantly help understanding of biodiversity terminology, it is recommended that when new publications or policies are published by a DA or at UK level, then a complete glossary of the terms contained within the documents should be provided alongside. This will ensure that the key terms listed can be readily understood within the same resource, if required, but also that terms used within the definitions of key terminology are also well defined.

Even with terms and definitions clarified and readily accessible online, it is recommended that the context in which the term is used is also clear. For example, clearly defining the target for the terms recovery and restoration within a particular context will allow its application and interpretation to be fully understood.

As noted above (Section 3.2.3) the response to the MNG consultation also highlights several evolving terms (e.g. 'nature-first approach'; 'wider environmental benefit'; 'positive incidental effects'; 'pressure reduction'; 'irreplaceable habitats'; 'like for like'). If these are to be progressed for MNG it is recommended that these are defined clearly before MNG is mandated. As the metric application is fundamental to the determination of mandated BNG, ensuring a common approach by using aligned terminology, should be a priority as these mechanisms evolve. There are already numerous BNG metric references to terms such as 'biodiversity units', 'statutory credit', 'biodiversity net gain credits'. Given that a quantitative approach is also being considered beyond England, to avoid the risk of producing new terms that essentially mean the same thing, it is recommended, where feasible, to align metric terminology through collaborative input by DAs and/or SNCBs.

More generally, to assist understanding of terms commonly being used within the context of biodiversity and mitigation it is also strongly recommended that the terms 'nature recovery', 'marine resilience' and 'ecosystem resilience' are more clearly defined. While enhancement related terms are well defined by NRW and NatureScot (see Section 3.2.9), similarly clear definitions should be provided by England and Northern Ireland.

There are also several terms which could benefit from definitions mindful of OSW development, most notably 'co-location', 'co-existence', 'nature-inclusive design' and it is recommended that the opportunity is taken to provide definitions from an OSW perspective. On this point, the discrimination between settings and environments, as relevant, should be made clear. For example, where terminology is not relevant to the marine environment (e.g. blue-green infrastructure) then this should be stated.

As NRW stated¹²⁷ back in 2022, *'having too many terms may create ambiguity'*. As the UK progresses through the implementation of net gain policy and approaches, it is recommended that DAs consider where they can align definitions and application of terms common to a given process.

¹²⁵ OWIC | Pathways to Growth

¹²⁶ Offshore Wind Evidence and Knowledge Hub (owekh.com)

¹²⁷ Natural Resources Wales (2022) Terms used in Wales for marine and coastal enhancement. Online. Available at: [Terms used in Wales for marine and coastal enhancement \(naturalresources.wales\)](https://naturalresources.wales/terms-used-in-wales-for-marine-and-coastal-enhancement) [Accessed 03/01/24].

6 Abbreviations/Acronyms

25YEP	The 25 Year Environment Plan
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CBD	Convention of Biological Diversity
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CIEEM	The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CoP15	15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations CBD
COWSC	Collaboration on Offshore Wind Strategic Compensation
CSBI	Cross Sector Biodiversity Initiative
DA	Devolved Administration
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENG	Environmental Net Gain
EU	European Union
GES	Good Environmental Status
HM	His Majesty's
IEMA	The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
KMGBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LoSCM	Library of Strategic Compensation Measures
MarLIN	Marine Life Information Network
MCAA	Marine and Coastal Access Act
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MEEB	Measures of equivalent benefit
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MNG	Marine Net Gain
MPAs	Marine Protected Area
MRF	Marine Recovery Fund
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NBB	Net Benefit for Biodiversity
NE	Natural England
NG	Net Gain
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NPI	Net Positive Impact
NRAP	The Nature Recovery Action Plan
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
OSW	Offshore Wind
OWES	Offshore Wind Environmental Standards
OWIC	Offshore Wind Industry Council
P2G	Pathways to Growth
SCM	Strategic Compensation Measures
SNCB	Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies
UK	United Kingdom
UKBI	UK Biodiversity Indicators
UKGBC	The UK Green Building Council
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms Across UK

See separate Excel file for a glossary of terms and phrases related to nature recovery.

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