Biodiversity Impact Assessment Calculator

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BRINGING NATURE TO THE HEART OF DESIGN

Overview

- Why is this being developed?

- What is it?

- When is it needed?

Why is this being developed?

- Under the latest NPPF (NPPF V3 Para 170 d, 2019) planning policies and decisions should aim to minimise impacts of development on biodiversity, while striving to provide net gains in biodiversity and enhance the natural and local environment.

- The Environment Bill will mandate a minimum 10% uplift in biodiversity, which can be evidenced through the biodiversity metric.

Process

What is it?

- This metric is a computer model designed to calculate the net change in biodiversity units post-development.

- Data input is based on a pre-development habitat survey using standardised habitat classifications.

- Data on the post-development habitats is then entered, based on proposed enhancements.

- The metric uses this data to generate a score in biodiversity units
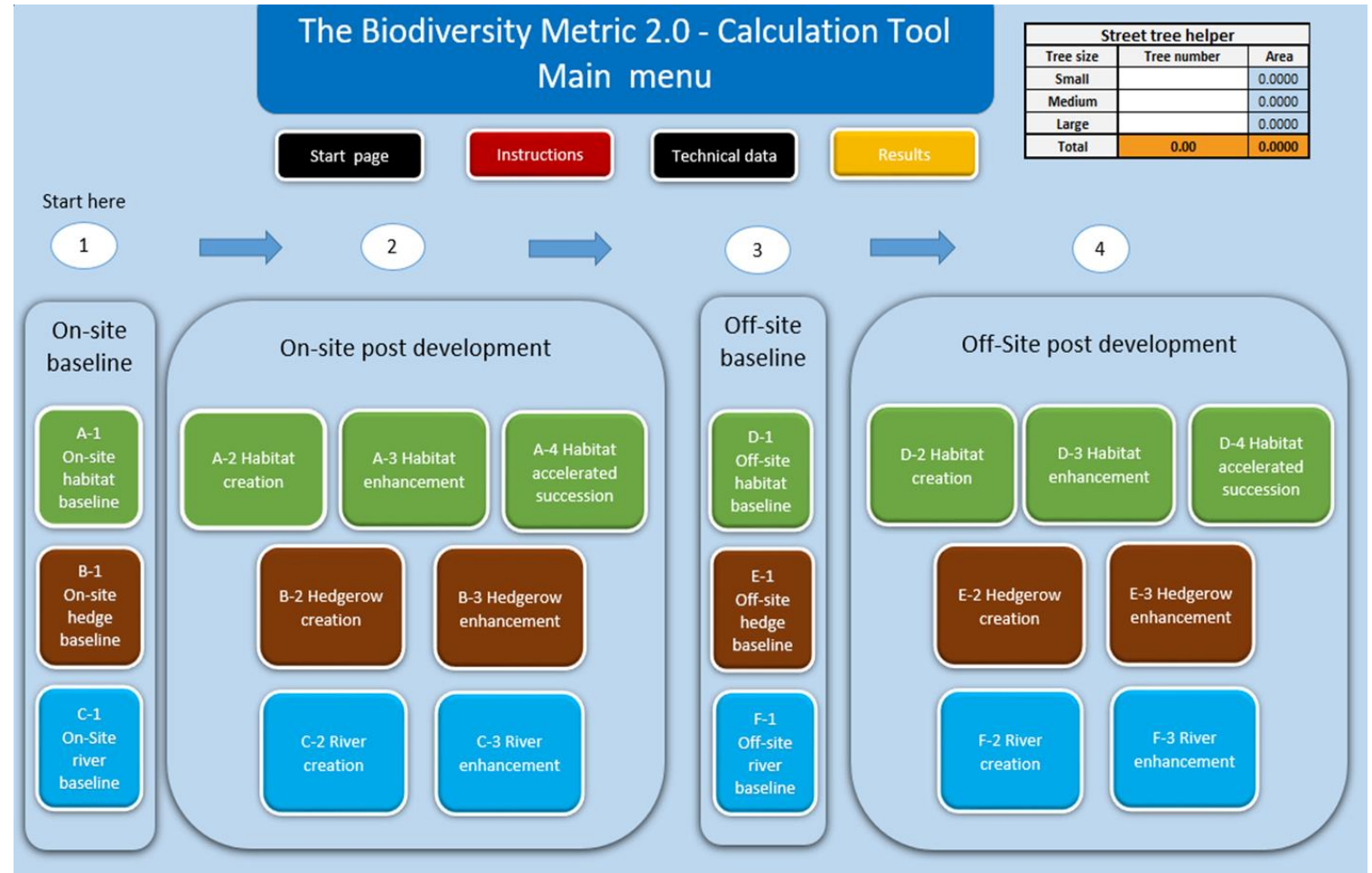
Example

- An algorithm is applied to the data to calculate the net biodiversity units for the development

- The biodiversity metric can also generate graphics to show additional information such as distinctiveness categories and habitat retention by type in units and area.

Summary Figures

Net project biodiversity units (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention/creation)		
Habitat units	1.68	
Hedgerow units	0.00	
River units	0.00	

Total project biodiversity % change (including all On-site & Off-site Habitat Creation + Retained Habitats)		
Habitat units	10.75%	
Hedgerow units	0.00%	
River units	0.00%	

On-site habitat retention and enhancement

	Habitats	Hedgerows	Rivers
Total site area / length	3.09	0.00	0.00
Total site units	15.66	0.00	0.00
Area / length retained	0.10	0.00	0.00
Units Retained	0.88	0.00	0.00
Area / length enhanced	2.62	0.00	0.00
Baseline units enhanced	11.53	0.00	0.00
Area / length succession	0.00		
Units succession	0.00		
Area / length lost	0.37	0.00	0.00
Units lost	3.26	0.00	0.00

lost by distinctiveness

| Category	Area lost (hectares)	Area lost (%)
V.High	0	
High	0	
Medium	0.37	100
Low	0	
V.Low	0	

Proposed Enhancements

When is it used?

- Although primarily focused on development proposals under the TCPA, the biodiversity metric could be used in other ways

Conclusions

- Although the metric may seem complicated, the calculator does most of the work for you.

- There are also guidelines available which detail exactly how the metric works and what you need to do to complete it

- The metric is generally helpful in promoting proposals

- It should form a part of the argument for enhancements - but may be used incorrectly in isolation

- A specialist is not required to use this metric as long as a sound habitat survey has been completed

- Data measurements can be taken from any standard drawing program - Autocad is ideal for this
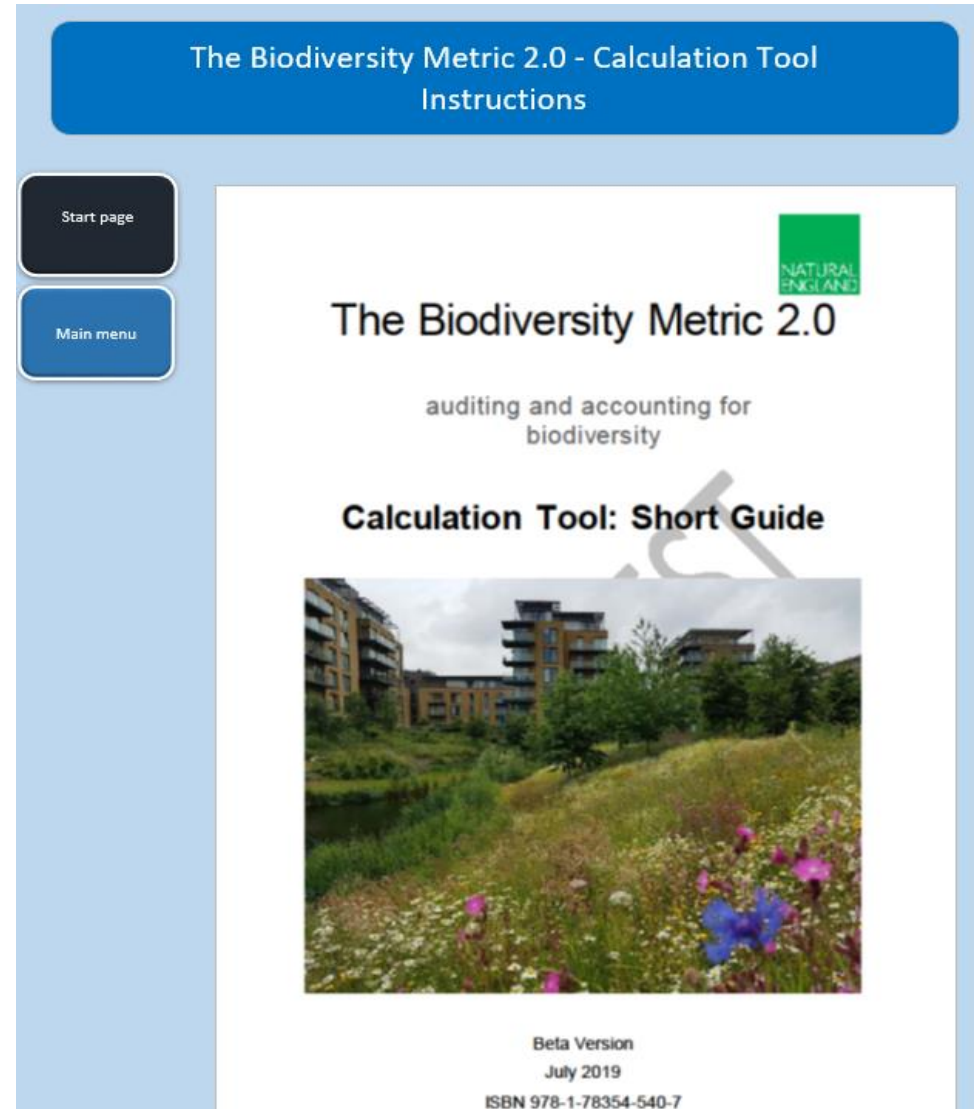
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