

# Small Sites Metric

Auditing and accounting for biodiversity on small sites

## **Summary of Changes from Biodiversity Metric 3.0 to Version 3.1**

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## Further information

Natural England evidence can be downloaded from our [Access to Evidence Catalogue](#). For more information about Natural England and our work see [Gov.UK](#). For any queries contact the Natural England Enquiry Service on 0300 060 3900 or e-mail [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk) .

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## Summary

A small number of changes have been made to the Small Sites Metric in order to ensure its alignment with the updated Biodiversity Metric 3.1. Changes are focussed on minor criteria amendments to select habitats, minor improvements to tool functionality and an update to formatting in order to improve accessibility. As in Metric 3.1, except for a very small number of select habitats, the update is unlikely to have a significant impact on the range of overall outputs generated. This document sets out high level changes to the guidance and metric.

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# 1: General Changes and Minor Amendments

## Accessibility

- 1.1. Colour coding of cells within the Small Sites Metric calculation tool have been updated to aid data entry and interpretation. Icons are also used to convey important information.

## Inserting Photos

- 1.2. Permissions have been changed to allow users to upload and insert photos into the supporting information tab (tab 4).

## Planning Authorities

- 1.3. In line with feedback, users may now enter the relevant planning authority with free text rather than using the pre-assigned drop-down list in the site details tab (tab 2).

# 2: Area Habitat Specific Changes

## Urban Roofs

- 2.1. Following consultation with industry, urban roof classifications have been changed to reflect a range of contemporary urban roof specifications. The revised categories are as follows:
  - **Biodiverse Green Roof** (Medium distinctiveness)
  - **Intensive Green Roof** (Low distinctiveness)
  - **Other Green Roof** (Low distinctiveness)

## Urban Trees

- 2.2. Following user feedback, a range of tree diameter values has been provided to determine size.

Tree size (Diameter at breast height)
Small - DBH ≤ 30cm
Medium - DBH > 30 to ≤ 90cm
Large - DBH > 90cm
Total

## Quarries and Mines

- 2.3. 'Sand pit quarry or open cast mine' has been renamed 'Actively worked sand pit quarry or open cast mine'.

## Agricultural

- 2.4. The habitat type '**Cropland – Cereal crops other**' has been removed, as this habitat classification can be captured using '**Cropland – Cereal crops**'.
- 2.5. The distinctiveness of **Cropland - Winter stubble** has been revised from Medium to Low.