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The Small Sites Metric (Biodiversity Metric 4.0) (JP040)

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The Small Sites Metric (SSM) is a simplified version of the Biodiversity Metric 4.0. It has been specifically designed for use on small development sites where the project chooses to do so. Such sites are defined (for the purposes of this Small Sites Metric) as small sites where the following criteria are met:

for residential development:

- there are fewer than 10 residential units on a site area (no more than 9 units) less than 1 hectare; or
- if number of residential units is not known, the site area is less than 0.5 hectares

for non-residential development:

- where the floor space to be created is less than 1,000 square; or
- where the site area is less than 1 hectare

However, the SSM cannot be used on such sites where:

- habitats not available in the SSM are present
- priority habitats are within the development site (excluding some hedgerows and arable field margins)
- European protected species are present on the development site
- any offsite interventions are required

The Small Sites Metric is being published with user guidance and an accompanying calculation tool. It has been updated to reflect the newly released biodiversity metric 4.0 (published 24.03.2023)

Natural England continues to welcome technical suggestions and feedback on this updated Small Sites Metric via our mailbox biodiversitymetric@naturalengland.org.uk

Please note that whilst it may not be possible to respond to all enquiries individually, all suggestions and feedback will be logged, considered and where appropriate fed into future reviews of the metric.

To access the main Biodiversity Metric 4.0 please go to [Biodiversity Metric 4.0 page](http://nepubprod.appspot.com/publication/6049804846366720) (<http://nepubprod.appspot.com/publication/6049804846366720>)

Visit the [Archive Site](http://nepubprod.appspot.com/publication/5850908674228224) (<http://nepubprod.appspot.com/publication/5850908674228224>) to access the previously published (April 2022) beta test version of the Small Sites Metric.

UPDATES

27/03/23 – updated user guide to provide greater clarity on competency of SSM user and to correct link to BS 8683

19/04/23 – section 7.1 of the user guide has been updated to clarify use of the SSM

Downloads available for this record

File	Uploaded
The Small Sites Metric (Biodiversity Metric 4.0) - User Guide, PDF, 1.3 MB (/file/6561272464932864)	2023/05/19
The Small Sites Metric Calculation Tool (Biodiversity Metric 4.0), XLSM, 898.8 kB (/file/4674998191783936)	2023/05/19
Biodiversity Metric 4.0 and Small Sites Metric - QGIS template and GIS import tool User Guide, PDF, 2.3 MB (/file/6286852886364160)	2023/03/24
Biodiversity Metric 4.0 and Small Sites Metric - GIS data standard, XLSX, 74.4 kB (/file/5402780307816448)	2023/03/24
GIS Import Tool, XLSB, 5.1 MB (/file/6306300498280448)	2023/03/24

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