

Exploring the adoption of Biodiversity Net Gain in the UK

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Agenda

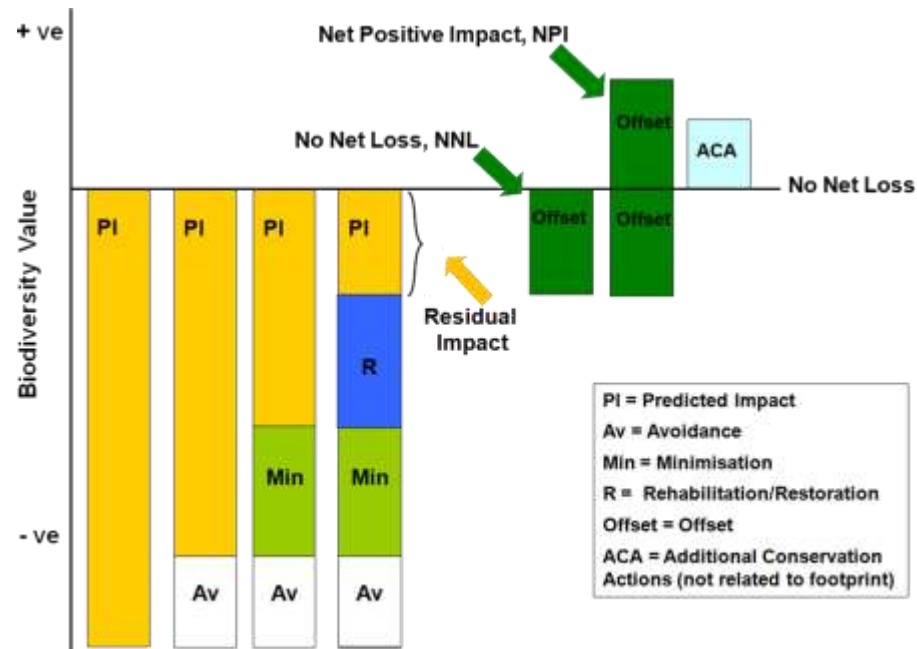
- Brief Intro to Biodiversity Net Gain
- WSP's White Paper & Findings
- What has happened since the Paper's publication?
- Case Studies
- Q&A



What is Biodiversity Net Gain?

Even when efforts to AVOID, MINIMIZE and RESTORE are made human activities and developments can have negative impacts on biodiversity.

To avoid net loss from activities, damage must be balanced with at least equivalent gains.



Source: BBOP, adapted from Rio Tinto & Govt of Australia

Biodiversity Net Gain

A new role for infrastructure and development in improving Britain's wildlife.

Published
September 2016



Our White Paper Recommendations

- Biodiversity net gain and the use of the Defra metric could be an obligatory part of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- Biodiversity net gain could be incorporated into Defra's forthcoming 25 year environment plan.
- The most recent Defra guidance for biodiversity offsetting could be revised and the Defra metric used to measure biodiversity net gain made more robust, whilst maintaining simplicity.
- Creating a consistent understanding of guidance at a local level could create a level playing field for developers.
- Biodiversity net gain could be incorporated at a corporate level and in developments.
- Collaboration to build an evidence base of the long term performance of biodiversity net gain developments.

At a glance

What has happened over the last year?



1. Biodiversity net gain and the use of the Defra metric could be an obligatory part of the National Planning Policy Framework.

National Planning Policy Framework 2012

“moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature”

“providing net gains in biodiversity”

“Where adequate mitigation measures are not possible, compensatory measures may be appropriate”



National Planning Framework 3

It makes no specific reference to the duty of planning authorities to account for impacts to biodiversity during development



Planning Policy Wales. Edition 9

“prevent biodiversity losses, or compensate for losses where damage is unavoidable.”



Planning Policy Statement 2: Natural Heritage 2013

“Planning policies of this statement must have regard to any strategy designated for the conservation of biodiversity”



At a glance

2. Biodiversity net gain could be incorporated into Defra's forthcoming 25 year environment plan.

The 25 Year Environment Plan was put on hold following the EU Referendum



Michael Gove MP –Environmental Hero?

Watch this space!



Biodiversity Offsetting Pilots

Technical Paper: the metric for the biodiversity offsetting pilot in England

March 2012

3. The most recent Defra guidance for biodiversity offsetting could be revised and the Defra metric used to measure biodiversity net gain made more robust, whilst maintaining simplicity.

Review of the
High Speed 2 No Net Loss in
Biodiversity Metric



4. Creating a consistent understanding of guidance at a local level could create a level playing field for developers.



10 Guiding Principles

1. Apply the Mitigation Hierarchy
2. Avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset by gains elsewhere
3. Be inclusive and equitable
4. Address risks
5. Make a measurable Net Gain contribution
6. Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity
7. Be additional
8. Create a Net Gain legacy
9. Optimise sustainability
10. Be transparent

4. Creating a consistent understanding of guidance at a local level could create a level playing field for developers.

Development of Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance – ready for publication in 2018

Consortium:



5. Biodiversity net gain could be incorporated at a corporate level and in developments.

Let's have a look at some case studies!



Transport for London



Strategic assessments of land holdings present potential opportunities for the businesses to **increase social and environmental value as well as financial value** of their land.

WSP worked with TfL to:

- Calculate the number of biodiversity units on the TfL estate
- Create a bespoke biodiversity toolkit for their land holdings
- Create a novel Tree metric to assess the biodiversity of individual trees

The Biodiversity baseline will help deliver TfL’s strategic requirement to protecting biodiversity to meet Mayoral ambitions for net positive as set out in the Mayoral Transport Strategy.

Biodiversity Baseline Toolkit

Before completing the baseline, please ensure that you have agreed the baseline year to be the basis of the calculations. Please also identify who has responsibility as the Baseline Lead and Baseline Approver, to ensure that there is an audit trail for the tools, and to set further conversations. For each the Baseline entry, please provide an appropriate Borough / Local Authority, business unit, geographical reference and the type of work.

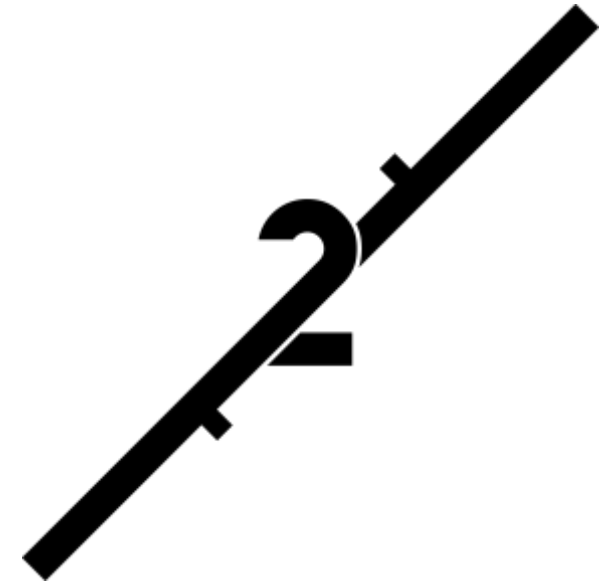
Calculate the biodiversity of linear units for a habitat by entering the appropriate Phase 1 Habitat, condition / target condition and entering the year that the habitat will be delivered (if the habitat exists enter the same year as the baseline year). All biodiversity and linear metrics are calculated using different methodologies, depending on the Phase 1 Habitat that has been selected (the tool will grey out boxes where no data is required). Enter the appropriate area (hectares) or length (metres) of the selected habitat. Refer to the Habitat Data tab throughout the process for more information. You will see the biodiversity and linear units calculated automatically.

Review the graph that summarises Transport for London's total biodiversity and linear units in the baseline year and shows the proposed units in the future, based on the delivery completion years.

Baseline year:		Baseline Lead:	Baseline Approver:	Approval Date:									
2017		Lucie Horley	Nyle James										
Project Information					Habitat Characteristics					Summary			
ID	Borough	Local Authority	Business Unit	Geographical Reference	Type of work	Phase 1 Habitat	Disturbance Level	Condition / Target Condition	Delivery Completion Year	Area of impact (hectares)	Length of Linear Units (metres)	Biodiversity Units	Linear Units
01	Reading		Urban Transport			A12 Wooded Broadwood (semi-rural) Habitat	Medium	Poor	201	11		66	100
02	Hammerhead and Fulham		Urban Transport			A21 Wooded Broadwood (semi-rural) Habitat	Medium	Poor	201	0.6		0.6	100



Crossrail 2



WSP worked with Crossrail 2 to define project specific biodiversity net gain principles, in consultation with statutory regulators, planning authorities and wildlife groups. These were the basis for Crossrail 2's biodiversity net gain strategy.



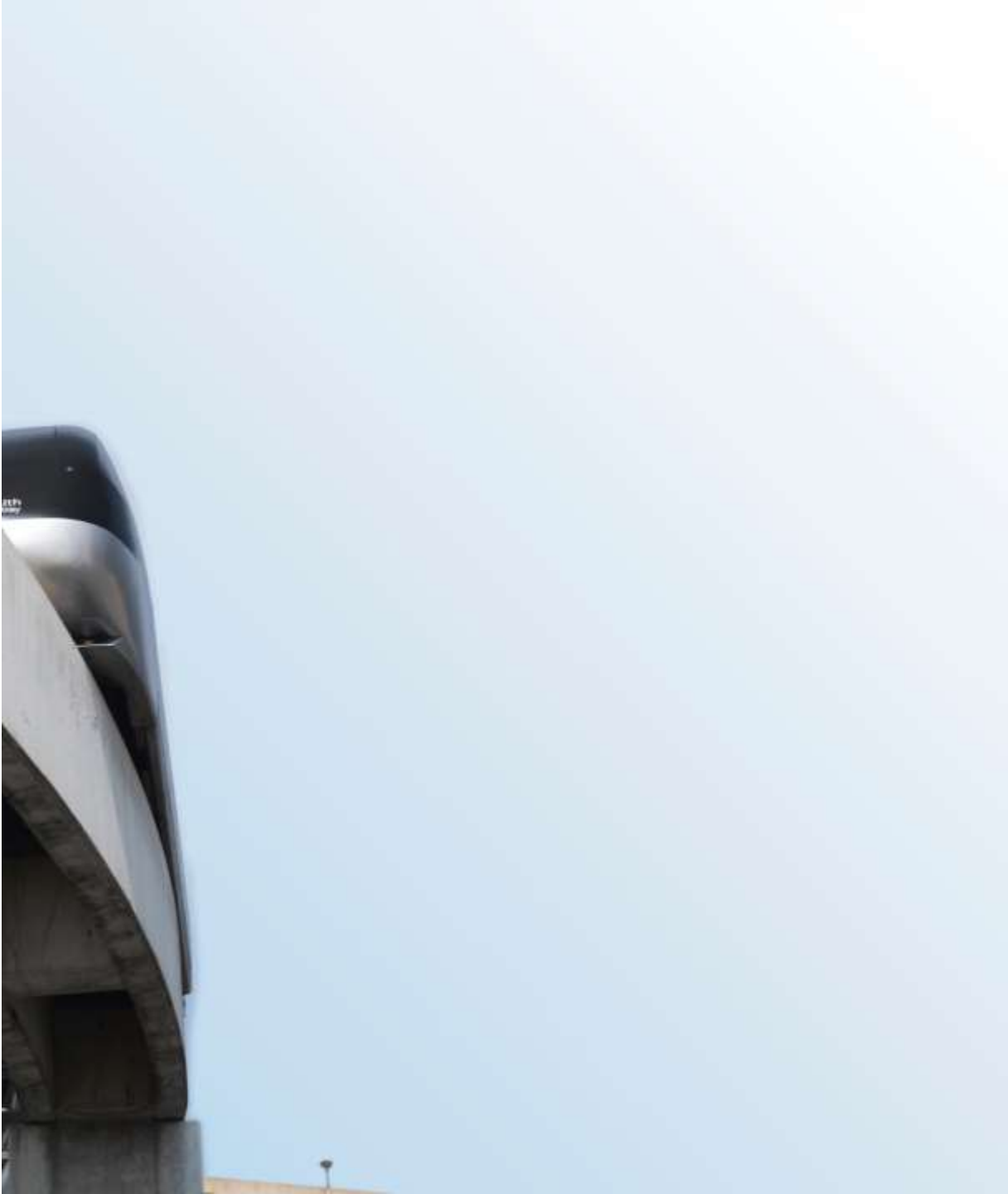
6. Collaboration to build an evidence base of the long term performance of biodiversity net gain developments.

There are good examples from across the UK.

But there is still work to be done to build a shared evidence base.



Summary



Hopefully we have covered.....

- Brief Intro to Biodiversity Net Gain
- WSP's White Paper & Recommendations
- What has happened since the Paper's publication?
- CIEEM, CIRIA and IEMA Good Practice Principles
- Case Studies





Thank you for listening!
Any questions?

For more information about our biodiversity services, or if you have any further questions, then please contact Tom or Laura:

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