



OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL  
NATURE PARTNERSHIP

# Can we realise the promise of Biodiversity Net Gain?

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# Structure of presentation

- 1) BNG 101
- 2) Oxfordshire's BNG experience
- 3) Mythbusting
- 4) BNG & FPM
- 5) Other private finance opportunities

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Biodiversity net gain is an approach to development and land management that leaves biodiversity in a measurably better state than before

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Part 6 of the Environment Act will (likely) come into force in November 2023

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Will make 10% biodiversity net gain mandatory for all TCPA development (some exceptions)

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The developer will need to create habitat or purchase units to deliver a minimum of 10% BNG

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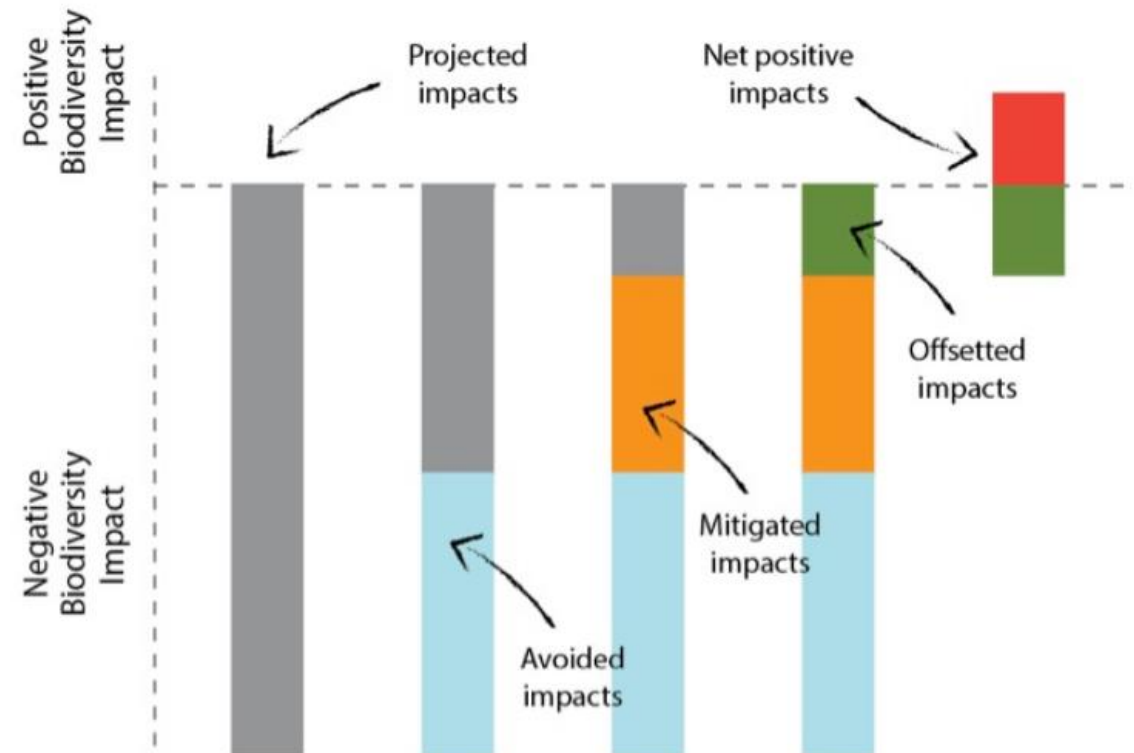
DEFRA Metric 4.0 used to calculate habitat loss, and required gain

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Environment Act 2021

### Steps in the Mitigation Hierarchy



# Mechanisms for Delivery of Mandatory BNG



## On-site (units)

Potentially in full or combination



Habitat creation or enhancement; landscaping or green infrastructure

## Off-site (units)



New habitat creation or enhancement on land holdings or via habitat banks

## Statutory Credits

Only if units not available



Landscape-scale strategic habitat creation delivering nature-based solutions

# Oxfordshire's BNG history



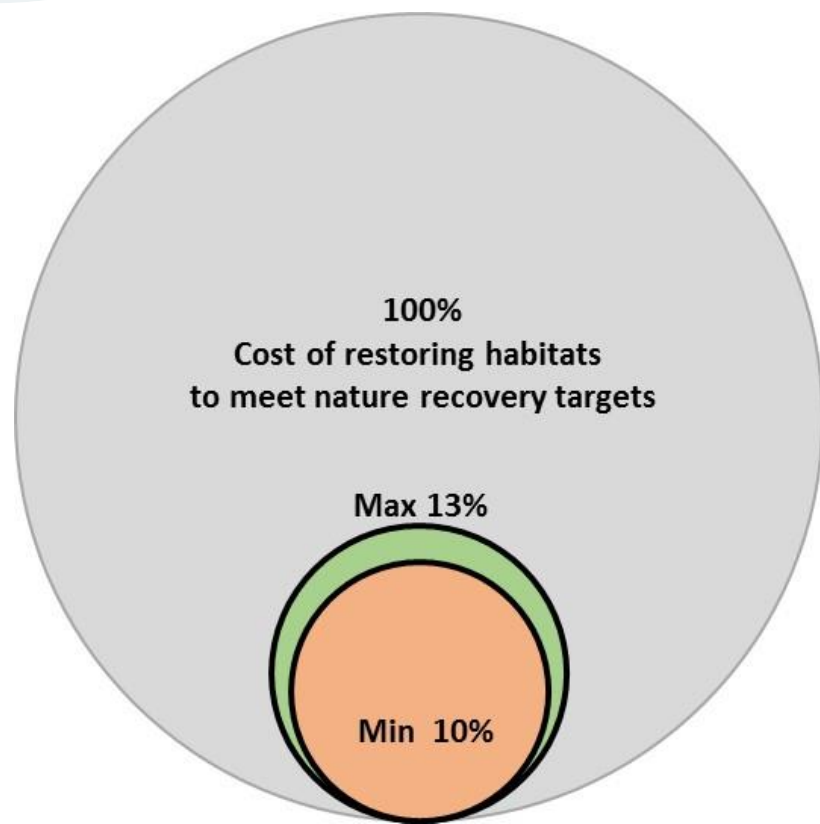
- 2013 – date of Oxfordshire's UK-first biodiversity offset (a transaction between the Earth Trust and the Environment Bank)
- £800,000 – total value of biodiversity offsets managed by TOE since the policy's birth
- LPA used National Planning Policy Framework to ask for (not require) 10%
- Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment has been central to the development of the policy and offset market
- Most recent offset was Duxford, expanding BBOWT's Chimney Meadows nature reserve

# Competing Priorities?

- DEFRA metric has the following prioritisation:
  - Onsite biodiversity
  - Offset proximity to development
  - Offset strategically located
- What is the purpose of the policy?
  - Nature recovery?
  - Urban green infrastructure for health and wellbeing and placemaking?

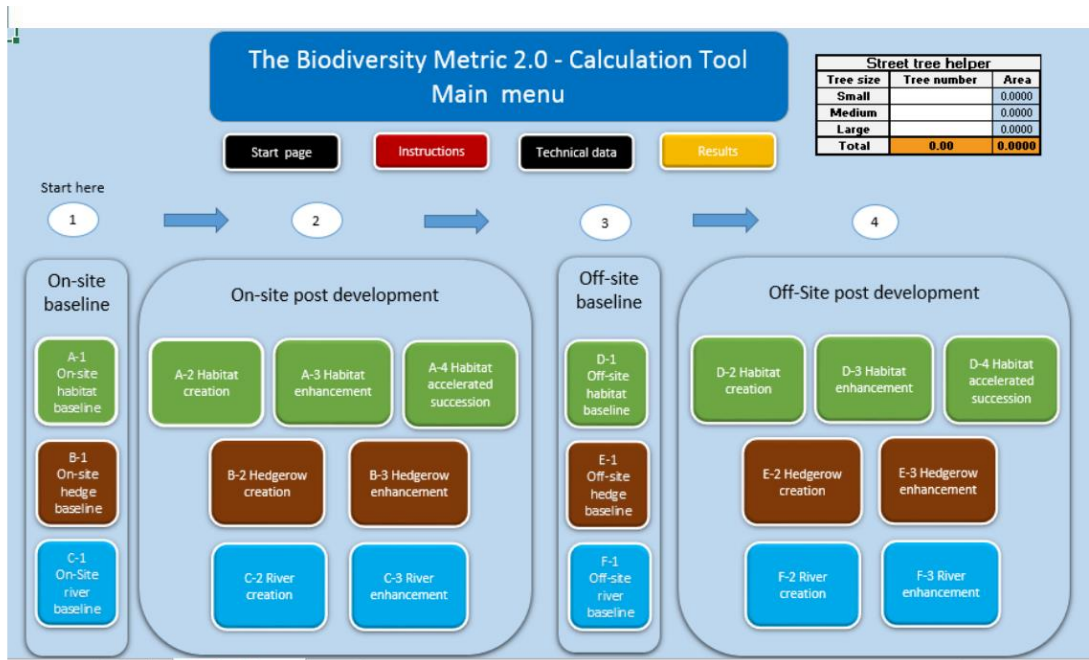


# Realistic potential



- Research shows that offsite BNG in Oxfordshire can contribute a maximum of £100m towards Oxfordshire's nature recovery targets
- This would rise significantly if Local Authorities adopt policies requiring more than 10% - eg 20% net gain
- Extent to which floodplain meadows can benefit from this is governed by:
  - the priority it's given within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)
  - what sites come forward

# Floodplain Meadows and DEFRA metric 4.0



Floodplain meadows are treated as very high distinctiveness habitats

Loss of fpm is not included within the metric, so bespoke mitigation is required

Creation of new fpm is treated with caution by the metric – not highly rewarded

Higher scores generated by creating lower quality grassland habitat

Balance between ensuring realistic promises are made by developers, and incentivising high quality habitat





## Other forms of nature finance

- Carbon sequestration
  - Emergent area of funding for habitats other than trees and peat. Work on a soil carbon code is taking place locally. OLNP coordinating some of this work.
- Nutrient Neutrality (although not in Oxon)
- Flood risk funding?
- Voluntary biodiversity credits?

All fits under OLNP's draft Nature Finance Strategy