

Biodiversity Offsetting

GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES

How to approach biodiversity offsetting in your local authority.

How will your local authority benefit from being involved?

- Provides a clear commitment to your statutory duty to achieve no-net loss, etc.
- The key decisions – on the planning permission itself and on which receptor sites will benefit from Conservation Credit funding – are retained by you.
- Use of the Defra metric will provide a transparent and auditable approach to evaluating the impacts upon wildlife, and improve the identification of suitable mitigation and compensation through the planning system.
- Thus, you can ensure that the community impacted by development is being compensated for at landscape-scale receptor sites.
- Reduced burden on staff time and resources, both short-term (ecological input to planning decisions) and long-term (discharged management of offset compliance and delivery).
- Environmental recovery creates green jobs.
- Economic incentive for local landowners to protect, enhance and create natural resources.
- More predictable, accountable and coherent environmental outcomes.
- Larger-scale, higher quality conservation site delivery through pooled contributions.
- Creates funds for long-term environmental management.

Why will developers be interested in this voluntary scheme?

- Saves them time and money by providing a simple, streamlined and secure process.
- Provides greater clarity in the planning system.
- Provides predictable costs and outcomes that aid future project planning.
- Long-term liability for mitigation delivery discharged.
- No long-term management costs and liabilities.
- The chance to be part of an innovative national scheme.

How does it work - what's the process?

- If there is interest within your local authority to trial biodiversity offsetting, begin explaining the benefits to developers and encourage uptake.
- Contact the Environment Bank (details below) if you need more information and/or to log your interest or a particular development. *Trialing biodiversity offsetting is still voluntary - developers only need take part if they wish to do so.*
- If both developer and planning authority are happy that offsetting could be a solution to environmental compensation in a planning application, then The Environment Bank will assess the development's impact, calculate the offset requirement in Conservation Credits and provide the developer with an offset report.
- The Environment Bank will then match suitable receptor sites to the offset requirement and broker a purchase of Conservation Credits. Your authority will have a part in pre-approving the receptor site that is chosen to meet the offset requirement.
- Using legal agreements, the sale will be facilitated and you will be provided with a Letter of Sale and Credit Certificate to confirm that the offset has been secured.

The next step...

For more information or to register interest from your authority or a developer, please contact:

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