



Implementation of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain – one year on

February 2025

This briefing is on behalf of nature and animal welfare coalition Wildlife and Countryside Link ([Link](#)) and explores the implementation of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain, including the ambitions of local authorities to exceed 10% Biodiversity Net Gain.

CORRECTION: Please note that our original research stated that the BNG Register contained 609ha of offsite BNG habitat creation or enhancement via Local Authorities or 984ha offsite (if including ecology companies). Since our data was collected in December 2024 and January 2025, this has slightly increased to 680ha for Local Authority off-site BNG habitat or 1220ha (when including ecology companies) as of 6th February 2025. We have acknowledged and changed these figures throughout our briefing.

This does not substantially change the results, still showing a notable shortfall for BNG habitat delivery compared to Defra impact assessment estimates. When combined with the best available data for onsite BNG habitat creation/enhancement of 93ha* the updated figures showing a shortfall of BNG habitat delivery of around 86% (if looking at Local Authority data only) or 78% if including ecology companies, when compared to Defra median estimates.

*NB we acknowledge that the 93ha reported by Local Authorities via FOIs is a likely under-reporting. But with no official monitoring of onsite gains by Government this is the best data available. This likely under-reporting shows that Local Authorities are not collating this data in any meaningful way identifying a major monitoring gap. This has repercussions for enforcement and delivery, and the ability of the Government to accurately assess the scheme's success.



Executive summary

In February 2024 Link reported that just 2 local authorities had adopted policies and 18 authorities have draft policies that require developers to achieve more than 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). Now, nearly 12 months after BNG became mandatory for major developments, Link reveals that:

- 4 local authorities (Guildford Borough Council, Maidstone Borough Council, Mole Valley Council & Worthing Borough Council) have adopted policies that require more than the minimum mandatory 10% net gain.
- 30 local authorities have upcoming policies which, if adopted, will require more than the minimum mandatory 10% net gain. 11 of which were not identified as doing so in our last report.
- Since our last report just 2 authorities have decreased their ambitions (Birmingham City Council and London Borough of Richmond).
- As of February 2025, 1219.78ha of land has been secured as habitat banks to deliver offsite net gain. 680.17ha of had has been registered from a total of 16 authorities, and a further 786.26ha of offsite habitat has been proposed by 6 councils.

One year of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a planning policy developed as part of the Environment Act 2021 which intends to ensure that development improves biodiversity overall by raising the habitat value by 10% at a minimum. The policy became mandatory for all major developments on 12 February 2024 and for small sites on 2 April 2024. There is a long history of development harming nature, and this policy has the potential to change that - if done well. Nearly 12 months into BNG there are still improvements to be made to the process. In particular, the Government should reduce loopholes and exemptions to mandatory BNG applying and increase the monitoring, enforcement, and ambition of BNG. Nature minister Mary Creagh told the Environmental Audit Committee on 18 December that BNG is under active review.¹ Link recently published suggested policy changes to improve the success of the BNG policy, none of which require statutory legislation.²

¹ <https://www.endsreport.com/article/1900433/biodiversity-net-gain-active-review-says-nature-minister>

² https://www.wcl.org.uk/docs/Fixing_Biodiversity_Net_Gain_September_24.pdf



Local planning authorities are able to adopt their own BNG planning policy to require a higher minimum percentage of net gain above the national 10%. They may choose to do so in order to achieve greater levels of nature recovery in their area. 10% net gain has been identified by the original BNG 2018 impact assessment as the *'lowest level of net gain that the department could confidently expect to deliver genuine net gain, or at least no net loss, of biodiversity and thereby meet its policy objectives.'*³

Higher levels of uplift would create more habitat for nature and contribute to the Environment Act targets to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030. Disappointingly though, the BNG Planning Guidance was updated by the previous Government in May 2024 with strong wording to discourage authorities from pursuing a higher net gain percentage. The advice now reads: *'Plan-makers should not seek a higher percentage than the statutory objective of 10% biodiversity net gain, either on an area-wide basis or for specific allocations for development unless justified.'*⁴

While this guidance does not prevent authorities from seeking to adopt a higher local net gain level, its direction does squash ambition and sets a high bar for the evidence required to justify a higher local level of net gain, including local need for a higher percentage and of low impacts on viability for development. Even when this evidence is supplied, a planning inspector can still decline the policy before it is adopted, which we report to be the case in the London Borough of Richmond.

Changes to local authority BNG policies since the 2024 report

Raised local ambitions

In February 2024⁵ Link reported that only Guildford Borough Council and Worthing Borough Council had adopted policies to require developments reach a higher net gain percentage than the national minimum of 10%. Since then, Maidstone and Mole Valley have joined the high achievers and are also requiring 20% to all development. See Table 1 for full policy details. 30 local authorities (see Table 2) now have draft policies which, if adopted, would require higher net gain. Time will tell if these policies are successfully adopted. This is a welcome improvement to the 18 authorities with draft policies identified in our previous assessment.

³ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5da5d695ed915d17b4f13f63/net-gain-ia.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain>

⁵ https://www.wcl.org.uk/docs/Biodiversity_Net_Gain_progress_report_7.2.2024.pdf



Decreased net gain percentages in local policies

On the other hand, 2 councils, Birmingham City Council and the London Borough of Richmond, have decreased their aspirational draft net gain policies from 20%.

Birmingham City Council previously reported that they were considering adopting a 20% net gain policy. Now they have reduced this and will be seeking the national minimum, citing that *'early indications from proposals of either 15% or 20% BNG requirements have resulted in these being dismissed and just the mandatory 10% will be required.'*

In 2023 the London Borough of Richmond submitted a draft policy to the planning inspector requiring *'a measurable 20% net gain for biodiversity for the following development proposals:*

- *small-scale householder applications which increase the footprint and/or floorspace of the existing dwelling;*
- *all development proposals, including conversions or changes of use, that result in 1 dwelling unit or more;*
- *non-residential development proposals which increase the footprint and/or floorspace.'*

Richmond has now reverted back to the national minimum net gain after the planning inspector did not accept this policy in the draft local plan.

Additional challenges for local authorities

In 2023 Elmbridge Borough Council had proposed a policy to achieve 20% BNG but they have been met with new challenges since they were last approached. They were denied an extension to their local plan timeline, meaning that they must create a new plan beginning a new process expected to take 3-4 years and cost the council £1 million.⁶

West Oxfordshire District Council are still seeking 25% net gain in their Salt Cross Garden Village area, as they were in 2023. While this net gain policy was considered to be justified, unfortunately their wider draft plan did not pass inspection. The wider Council are not at a stage in their local plan review to specify a net gain percentage, but they will consider whether a higher target can be justified through evidence.

⁶ <https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/news/2024/elmbridge-draft-local-plan-examination-public-update>



How much land has been improved or secured as part of BNG (as of October 2024)

As part of this research, Link also asked local authorities about how much land they had secured for biodiversity enhancement or creation as part of BNG. The data provided by local authorities was supplemented by the offsite biodiversity register.

The Defra user guide for the Statutory Biodiversity Metric defines:

- onsite net gain as all land within a red line boundary of a development
- offsite net gain as land outside of the on-site boundary, which is dedicated to habitat interventions (habitat enhancement or creation), regardless of proximity or ownership.

Offsite habitat banks (secured)

At least 680.17 ha has been secured through habitat banks for BNG offsite delivery from a total of 15 authorities. The 15 authorities are: Bath and Northeast Somerset 70ha, Buckinghamshire 47ha, Chesterfield 24ha, Coventry 41ha, East Cambridge 21ha, Elmbridge 15ha, Exeter 3ha, Isle of Wight 37ha, Mid Devon 60ha, North Devon 29ha, Northumberland 5ha, South Cambridgeshire 117ha, South Kesteven 65ha, South Norfolk 25ha, South Oxfordshire 17ha, Vale of Wight Horse 32ha and Wigan 71ha.

Offsite habitat banks (proposed)

At least 786.26ha of offsite habitat has been proposed, but not yet legally secured, by 6 councils. These 6 authorities are: Gravesham 65ha, Plymouth 109ha, Sandwell 264ha, Sevenoaks 0.02ha, Telford and Wrekin 130ha, Warwickshire 218ha.

Onsite

At least 92.97ha has been secured onsite for BNG from a total of 10 authorities, of which Chichester accounts for 88%. The ten authorities are: Buckingham 0.1ha, Chichester 73.8ha, Coventry 0.4ha, East Suffolk 0.27ha, Forest of Dean 1.43ha, London Borough of Redbridge 3.1ha, Rushmoor 4.4ha, Sevenoaks 0.19ha, Vale of White Horse 0.21ha, Wealdon 0.06ha, and West Oxfordshire 9ha.

All secured offsite net gain is recorded and is publicly accessible on the net gain register⁷, however there is currently no simple way to monitor how much onsite net gain has been created across the country. The data about onsite gain obtained for this research was done through individually requesting the information from local authorities. Data on onsite net gain

⁷ <https://environment.data.gov.uk/biodiversity-net-gain>



may be available as part of individual planning applications, but there is no single or integrated way to monitor onsite delivery of BNG. The reality may be onsite gain is higher than what has been reported by authorities. A public record of onsite net gain would allow for consistent and transparent monitoring of the success of net gain.

It is not surprising that more hectares of land have been secured or proposed for BNG offsite than onsite, but the results indicate that there is an extreme preference for offsite net gain as 7x more gains have been secured offsite than onsite, and a total of 16x more gains have been either proposed or secured offsite than onsite. This finding is in line with a study of early adopters of BNG.⁸

To ensure that BNG actually delivers results for nature in reality, there must be serious consideration and resource given to enforcement. Even with planning systems in place outside of BNG designed with the best intentions to mitigate nature loss, this is rarely the case on the ground and often still results in significant nature loss. For example, Wild Justice have identified high rates of non-compliance by developers across the board.⁹ Despite conditions for ecological mitigation and enhancement forming a legally binding condition of planning permission, they found in reality just 53% of these conditions to be met. When they excluded tree planting from their measurement, they found the rate of compliance fell even lower to just 34%. Compliance with BNG is likely to follow the same pattern as there has been no additional funding from DEFRA to support authorities to enforce delivery of net gain. They recommend that adequate additional resource to be given to and delivered by Local Planning Authorities to fund trained ecologists to monitor and enforce compliance for ecological mitigation and enhancement.

The 680 ha of habitat creation onsite and 93 ha onsite that Local Authorities reported on via BNG in the last year represents only 49.8% of the lowest estimate, 13% of the mid-estimate of 5,428 hectares and 0.05% of the ambitious estimate - leaving a major shortfall on what Defra estimated was likely to be generated annually by BNG at just half the minimum amount of habitat expected to be delivered per year.¹⁰

⁸ zu Ermgassen, S. O. S. E., Marsh, S., Ryland, K., Church, E., Marsh, R., Bull, J. W. (2021). 'Exploring the ecological outcomes of mandatory biodiversity net gain using evidence from early-adopter jurisdictions in England. *Conservation Letters*'. <https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12820>

⁹ <https://wildjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Wild-Justice-Lost-Nature-Report.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5da5d695ed915d17b4f13f63/net-gain-ia.pdf> Natural England calculated Biodiversity Net Gain cost-benefit scenarios in its BNG impact assessment including the annual amount of habitat creation expected (p53).



Extending BNG to major infrastructure projects

BNG will apply to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) from November 2025, bringing the opportunity for greater levels of habitat creation. It is vital that Government take advantage of the time between now and November to assess the improvements needed to be made to net gain, learning from the application of mandatory BNG to residential development, publish a consultation and remedy the system before it applies to NSIPs.

An especially important consideration is a decision made by the previous Government to allow developers who achieve more than the minimum required gain onsite to sell their excess gains on to any other development or count them towards the BNG score of another of their own developments elsewhere.¹¹ Allowing the selling of excess units could result in a cap in the ambition for nature recovery in some areas, particularly when big developments with high net gain conditions such as solar farms for example choose to sell the excess gains to be realised elsewhere, removing the additional contribution to nature recovery. It effectively limits BNG to 10% gain even when it proves to be very feasible to achieve higher goals for nature, undermining developer and local authority ambition to deliver more.¹²

The principle of biodiversity net gain is vitally important: not only should developers be responsible for avoiding, mitigating and compensating for the damage they cause to nature, but they should also play a part in our national ambition to halt and reverse the decline of wildlife. With improvements, net gain could become a central tool for nature recovery.

Recommendations for Defra and MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)

1. Reassess the 10% gain requirement and update the BNG Planning Practice Guidance to encourage rather than dissuade local authorities to go beyond the 10% minimum, with a view to legislating to increasing minimum gain requirements if 10% is not environmentally sufficient for the scale of nature recovery required.
2. Reverse the decision of the previous Government to allow the selling of excess onsite units to another development.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-on-site-biodiversity-gains-as-a-developer#selling-excess-on-site-gains>

¹² <https://wcl.org.uk/docs/Link%20-%20Harrison%20-%20BNG%20-%202023.08.23.pdf>



3. Require authorities to register onsite net gain in a collective and publicly accessible register, akin to the existing and very useful offsite register.
4. Ensure sufficient monitoring and enforcement of onsite and offsite biodiversity unit delivery by ensuring local planning authorities have the resources to conduct monitoring and enforcement and by clarifying enforcement guidance for local planning authorities to make clear not delivering BNG constitutes an enforceable matter.
5. Consult as soon as possible on expanding the list of irreplaceable habitats in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), to ensure that all such habitats are not included within BNG calculations to protect them from harm by development and publish guidance on bespoke compensation for these irreplaceable habitats.
6. Government must guarantee that [proposed planning reforms](#), that aim to speed up planning through an off-site nature fund, do not remove protections for irreplaceable wildlife and will deliver off-site nature compensation far more effectively than BNG has to-date.
7. Boost nature through the Planning and Infrastructure Bill by enhancing the size and condition of protected nature sites, increasing nature powers and resources for National Parks and National Landscape Authorities, and banning damaging fishing and industrial activity in Marine Protected Areas.

Table 1: Local authorities requiring BNG above 10% (adopted policies)

Local authority	BNG percentage adopted	Adopted Policy	Adopted Policy Document
Guildford Borough Council	20%	Qualifying development proposals are required to achieve a biodiversity net gain of at least 20 per cent, or the advised national minimum amount, whichever is greater, measured using the national biodiversity net gain calculation methodology. Where previously developed land is exempt from BNG but supports at least one protected or priority species population or habitat, or an assemblage of species with an otherwise demonstrably high biodiversity value, a measurable 20% BNG will be required.	The Local Plan Development Management Policies, p.40. Adopted March 2023
Mole Valley Council	20%	To implement the general biodiversity gain condition, a Biodiversity Gain Plan demonstrating a biodiversity net gain of at least 20% must be approved before development commences.	Local Plan, Policy EN9: Natural Assets, p.88. (Adopted 15 th October 2025)
Maidstone Borough Council	20%	Developments will be expected to deliver a minimum of 20% biodiversity net gain as measured using the latest Natural England Biodiversity metric. Where 20% biodiversity net gain is demonstrated not to be financially viable, together with other policy costs, then the statutory minimum net gain provision will be secured.	Local Plan Review 2021 – 2038, p.196 & 197 (adopted March 2024)
Worthing Borough Council	10% or 20% on previously developed sites.	New developments (excluding change of use and householder) should provide a minimum of 10% net gain for biodiversity - where possible this should be onsite. Where it is achievable, a 20%+ onsite net gain is encouraged and is required for development on previously developed sites.	Local Plan 2020- 2036, p.161. Adopted March 2023

Table 2: Local authorities with draft emerging policies for BNG above 10%

Local authority	Draft BNG percentage	Draft Policy	Draft policy Document
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	30% or 2.5BU/hectare (whichever is higher)	The BNG benchmark is a minimum 2.5 biodiversity unit (BU) per hectare or 30% gain (whichever is higher) in habitat value for wildlife compared with the pre-development baseline, calculated using an appropriate Biodiversity Metric and secured in perpetuity (at least 30 years)	Reg 19 2024 Draft Policy BO4, p.326

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	30%	Developments will be required to deliver a minimum of 30% Biodiversity Net Gain.	Reg 18 2023 Draft Policy KN3 – Biodiversity
London Borough of Enfield	20%	The Enfield Local Plan, once adopted, will require a higher requirement of 20% net gain to support the authority’s ambitious nature recovery plans	Reg 24 Submitted for Examination Nov 2024, Enfield Local Plan,
Wiltshire Council	20%	Required development to achieve a minimum of 20% biodiversity net gain, or higher as stipulated in national legislation and/or policy or supplementary guidance, over the pre-development biodiversity value as measured by the latest Biodiversity Metric	Reg 19, submitted for independent examination November 2024. Policy 89
London Borough of Ealing	20%	Development proposals should achieve a biodiversity net gain of at least 20 per cent, or the advised national minimum amount whichever is greater.	Reg 19 local plan, 2024, policy G6, p.471
Uttlesford District Council	20%	Development proposals will be required to demonstrate a minimum of 20% Biodiversity Net Gain calculated using the most recent Statutory Metric.	Reg 19, Draft core policy 40: Biodiversity and Nature Recovery, p.205
Vale of White Horse & South Oxfordshire District Council	20%	Development in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse must deliver at least a 20% biodiversity net gain, unless the development is not subject to the statutory framework for biodiversity net gain.	Reg 19. Joint Local Plan Pre-submission publication version p. 324. Submitted to Inspector 9 December 2024
Canterbury City Council	20%	Development across the district will need to incorporate measures to deliver a minimum 20% biodiversity net gain in line with Policy DS21, having regard to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and/or Nature Recovery Networks	Reg 18 March 2024 Draft Policy DS21, p. 196
Forest of Dean District Council	20%	Overall development must provide an assessment of biodiversity of a site prior to development and demonstrate a net gain of at least 20%.	Reg 18 Draft local plan, July 2024, p.23
Rother District Council	20%	All qualifying development proposals must deliver at least a 20% measurable biodiversity net gain attributable to the development.	Reg 18, Draft local plan April 2024. Policy GTC8 BNG, p. 53
East Devon	20%	Where permanent or long-term temporary habitat loss or direct reduction of habitat condition is identified, suitable biodiversity net gain of at least 20% is proposed, which should be ecologically relevant and connected to the site affected as to not result in a net reduction of site condition.	Reg 18 2022 Draft Policy 87 - Biodiversity Net Gain

Sevenoaks District Council	20%	All proposals for new development (qualifying development), which are not exempted through regulations, must provide 20% biodiversity net gain.	Reg 18 2022 Draft Policy BW2
Swale	20%	Swale is keen to be a vanguard for the emerging biodiversity net gain policy in new developments and our evidence shows that we can achieve 20% rather than the 10% in emerging Government guidance. Unless exempt, provide a minimum 20% net gain in biodiversity against a pre-development baseline.	Reg 19 2021 Draft local plan review (no policies since)
Surrey Heath Borough Council	20%	Policy E3 aims to ensure the new development delivers biodiversity net gains in the borough. The policy achieves this by setting out a minimum requirement for 20% net gains and setting out how this should be delivered as part of development proposals.	Reg 18 2022 Draft Local Plan Policy E3 Biodiversity Net Gain
Wealden District Council	20%	Qualifying development proposals are required to deliver a minimum overall net gain in biodiversity of 20% above the ecological baseline.	Reg 18 Draft local plan, p.149
Greater Cambridge	20%	The policy will require development to achieve a minimum 20% biodiversity net gain.	Reg 18, First Proposals (Preferred Options) consultation 2021, p.178
London Borough of Sutton	20%	Preferred Option 1: Set a 20% BNG target for all development sites within the borough	Reg 18 Issues and preferred options consultation, July 2024. P. 228
Swindon Borough Council	20%	Draft local plan is 20% BNG	
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	20%	In our draft Local Plan a policy requests 20% BNG, however this had not yet been subject to public consultation.	
London Borough of Harrow	15% or 2 BU/Hectare	All major and minor development proposals must be supported by a proportionate Biodiversity Net-Gain Plan (BGP) which clearly identifies how the development will minimise harm and maximise biodiversity gain. Proposals will be required to demonstrate a. A minimum of 2 biodiversity units per hectare; or b. A minimum net uplift in biodiversity unit value of 15%, whichever is greater; and c. A minimum of one biodiversity enhancement per residential dwelling; and d. Details surrounding the delivery, monitoring and maintenance of BNG units, whether wholly on-site, or utilising locally strategic off-setting location(s).	Reg 19, Local Plan 2021-2041, Nov 2024, p.232

Horsham District Council	12%	The policy requires the provision of 12% biodiversity net gain as part of any 'relevant development' as laid out in Regulations	Reg 19, Horsham District Local Plan, p.70
Mid Sussex District Council	20% for significant sites	A minimum percentage of biodiversity net gain of 20% will be required for Significant Sites and for the Significant Sites allocations in this Plan DPSC1 – DPSC3	Reg 19 2024 Draft Policy DPN2 – Biodiversity Net Gain
Cherwell District Council	20% within core areas of the NRN	Development will be required to demonstrate a minimum of 10% net gain in biodiversity. At least 20% biodiversity net gain will be sought in the Nature recovery Network Core and recovery zones, and new urban extensions will be required to achieve 20% biodiversity net gain.	Reg 18 2023 Cherwell Local Plan Review Core Policy 12 - Biodiversity Net Gain
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	20% on major developments	All major development proposals must deliver at least a 20% measurable biodiversity net gain attributable to the development. An exception to 20% biodiversity net gain provision includes brownfield sites and areas within the Development Limits of Great Yarmouth, Gorleston-on-Sea, Bradwell and Caister-on-Sea. Development within these areas and minor development will be expected to achieve the statutory biodiversity net gain (10%) where applicable.	Reg 19, Pre-submission local plan, December 2024, p.309
Herefordshire Council	20% on strategic sites	Achieve a minimum of 20% biodiversity net gain on strategic sites allocated in the Local and Neighbourhood Development Plans. All other residential development sites are expected to achieve a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain.	Reg 18 Draft local Plan Marhc 2024, p.33
Portsmouth City Council	20% in City Centre North, Lakeside and Somer's Orchard	Development proposals within the strategic sites of Portsmouth City Centre and Lakeside and the allocation site of Somers Orchard will be permitted where they demonstrate a 20% net gain for biodiversity accounted for in a biodiversity net gain plan	Reg 19 Pre-Submission Local Plan July 2024
Wokingham	20% for Loddon Garden Village only	Development proposals should devise and implement a comprehensive ecological strategy that achieves a measurable biodiversity net gain of at least 20%.	Reg 19 Proposed submission plan, November 2024 P.80
West Oxfordshire District Council	25% for Salt Cross Garden Village only	Development at Salt Cross will be required to demonstrate an overall biodiversity net gain of 25%.	Examination of Salt Cross Action Plan
Chelmsford Borough Council	20% for the garden community only	The garden community developments will be required to deliver 20% Biodiversity Net Gain, other qualifying new development will be required to deliver a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain.	Reg 18, Preferred options, May 2024.
Sheffield City Council	May require over 10% conditionally	BNG in excess of 10% may be required where: there is a particular ecological need in that location based on evidence in a biodiversity/nature recovery action plan or as part of the Local Nature Recovery Network mapping; or there is evidence of rare/protected species within, or close to, the development site; or the site starts with very low or nil existing biodiversity value'	Reg 22, The Sheffield Plan: Our City, Our Future, Submitted to inspector, 2023



Appendix: Method

A Freedom of Information request was submitted to all 317 local authorities in England in October 2024 asking for:

- 1) any policies for BNG made since February 2024
- 2) how many hectares of land for BNG has been secured onsite and;
- 3) how many hectares of land for BNG has been secured offsite.

28 authorities did not respond to the request.

The data for the number of hectares of offsite net gain was supplemented with additional data from the biodiversity gain register, ~~downloaded for all local authorities on 19th in~~ December 2024 and January 2025, and corrected on 6th February 2025.⁶ In addition to the habitat banks purchased local authorities on the biodiversity net gain register, two private companies had also registered habitat banks at that time. RSK Biocensus Limited, an ecology consultancy, secured a total of 432.68ha of land and Harry Ferguson Holdings secured 32.55ha, bringing the total of secured offsite net gain to 1219.78ha in February 2025.

Wildlife and Countryside Link (Link) is the largest nature coalition in England, bringing together 86 organisations to campaign for nature, climate, animal welfare and a healthy environment for everyone. Wildlife and Countryside Link is a registered charity number 1107460 and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales number 3889519.

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