

How can net gains be secured from planning systems?

Are happy with the Status Quo?

- Consensus was that the current planning system could be doing more in terms of delivering biodiversity gain

What are the barriers to delivering net gains in biodiversity?

- Inconsistent approach by LPA's (often depends on having an ecologist who asks for the right things)
- Inconsistent performance by LPA's – developers don't know what to expect and what to do
- Lack of clarity around planning gain
- Lack of policy at the local level – not strong enough policies to make planning gain happen
- Councillors who are key in decision making don't understand the issues
- Lack of clarity on objectives
- Lack of understanding about biodiversity and opportunities
- Culture – LPA's don't see it as important
- PPS9 could be clearer about enhancement – not an either/or. (PINS could help here)
- Poor reporting and recording – not capturing success v. well (and benefits of planning gain) and poor data
- Lack of monitoring and enforcement by LPA's (of conditions attached to planning commissions)
- Evidence base lacking
- Too many applications for NE (and NGO's?) to screen – need better tools to help with this

How do we raise our game?

- Could have opportunity maps (for habitat restoration/creation) in Scotland as in England
- Respond to consultation on draft new consolidated PPS in England (e.g.'s of case studies) good/bad
- Capturing data from consultants
- Capturing examples of biodiversity net gain
- 'Encourage' planners to report in AMR's (Annual Monitoring Reports) on changes to habitats and species as a result of their planning decisions
- EIA process needs to improve further
- NGO's need to apply more pressure on developers

- Better habitats and species mapping – current and potential
- BAPs should have a statutory basis??
- Ecologists need to get involved more often in pre-application stage
- Utilise other peoples agendas to achieve biodiversity aims e.g. public health
- LBAPs must stipulate that consultants release data
- Website that captures data in accessible format

What is the biodiversity partnership's role?

- NGOs should be challenging more LPAs
- Should provide better education for planners in LPAs
- Need to develop a more strategic approach on planning gain reflecting landscape – scale approach e.g. losses in one place could be tolerated to deliver priority gains else where
- Influence CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) England Biodiversity Group should take this forward perhaps through towns, cities and development workstream
- Press for better guidance on securing net gain and examples. Again EBS workstreams could take this forward.
- Tie in biodiversity with climate change in terms of win/wins from planning gain