

- 8.6.22 Net gain should be delivered on site. Only in exceptional cases where this is not practicable will compensatory off site contributions be appropriate. In general, it is expected that biodiversity net gain can be achieved through good design of new development: features such as sustainable drainage or tree planting are requirements of other Local Plan policies so their use should not create additional costs to development. Use of the latest statutory biodiversity metric will be supported to evidence applications.
- 8.6.23 The requirement for biodiversity net gain is not expected to be a legal requirement until 2023. But the Whole Plan Viability Assessment 2022²¹ confirms that biodiversity net gain can be secured as part of a financially viable development. On that basis, and to reflect the multiple benefits to biodiversity, the natural environment and climate net gain brings, it will be introduced on adoption of this Plan.
- 8.6.24 Reflecting legislation a commuted sum equivalent to 30 years maintenance will be sought and should be accompanied by a management plan to ensure the continued protection of features. Further guidance will be set out in the Greening Bassetlaw SPD.

POLICY ST38: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

1. The Council will seek to protect and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity of Bassetlaw, including:

International Sites

- a) a proposal that may impact on a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar site and/or the Sherwood Forest ppSPA will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that there will be no adverse effects on their integrity, unless there are no alternative solutions and it is justified by an 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' assessment under the Habitats Regulations;
- b) any scheme within the 5km buffer zone of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA will require a project level 'shadow level' Habitats Regulations Assessment to ensure any significant adverse effects on the Sherwood Forest ppSPA are identified and appropriately mitigated;

National Designations

- c) a proposal (either individually or in combination with other developments) that may either directly or indirectly adversely impact a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserve (NNR) or ancient woodland and their buffer zones will be refused, other than in wholly exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh any harm to the special interest features of the asset. In such circumstances measures should be identified through an Ecological Impact Assessment to mitigate the adverse effects resulting from the development.
- d) proposals of 50 dwellings or more (which includes piecemeal planning applications for less than 50 dwellings within a wider site) that fall within the '10km Impact Risk Zone' of the Clumber Park SSSI will be required to demonstrate that appropriate consideration has been given to the development's impact upon the integrity of that

SSSI, including recreational impact. Where relevant, appropriate mitigation measures will be sought, which may include an appropriate design and layout on a development site to protect the integrity of the SSSI, and/or a financial contribution to help mitigate identified impacts at the Clumber Park SSSI.

Local Designations and Locally Important Ecological Features

- e) proposals having a direct or indirect adverse effect on a Local Nature Reserve, Local Wildlife Site or Local Geological Site and their buffer zones or other biodiversity/geodiversity asset, will only be supported where there are no reasonable alternatives; and the case for development clearly outweighs the need to safeguard the ecological, recreational and/or educational value of the site.
2. In all cases, where the principle of development is considered appropriate the mitigation hierarchy must be applied so that:
- firstly harm is avoided wherever possible; then
 - appropriate mitigation is provided to ensure no net loss or a net gain of priority habitat and local populations of priority species;
 - as a last resort, compensation is delivered to offset any residual damage to biodiversity;
 - they protect, restore, enhance and provide appropriate buffers around wildlife and geological features at a local and wider landscape-scale to deliver robust ecological networks, to help deliver priorities in the draft Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity Model for Bassetlaw and Idle Valley 2018¹⁶ or any successor;
 - they establish additional ecological links to the Nature Recovery Network.

Biodiversity Net Gain

3. In line with national legislation, all new development should make provision for net biodiversity gain on site, or where it can be demonstrated after following the mitigation hierarchy that this is not practicable, off site provision will be considered.
4. Management for a minimum of 30 years in accordance with a maintenance scheme will be sought to manage the biodiversity assets in the long term.



8.7 Trees, woodland and hedgerows

- 8.7.1 Trees and woodland have long been a part of Bassetlaw's heritage and landscape, going back to the time when Sherwood Forest had significant coverage of the District. Today, trees, whether individually or cumulatively, continue to play a vital role in the environmental quality of the District. They are a valuable resource, supporting biodiversity, contributing to air quality, mitigating the impacts of climate change and delivering wider natural capital and ecosystem service benefits – including the economic benefits of trees and woodland.