

North Yorkshire Council Biodiversity Report 2024 - 2025



Contents

1. Introduction	4
1.1 Background.	4
1.2 Report scope	5
2. NYC policies, objectives and actions to meet our biodiversity duty	6
2.1 Council-wide commitments	6
2.2 Biodiversity Partnership working	7
3. How we have considered other strategies	9
3.1 North Yorkshire and York (LNRS)	9
3.2 National Landscape Management Plans	9
4. Our Future Actions Over Five Years	11
5. Biodiversity Net Gain	11
5.1 Actions taken by NYC to meet BNG obligations.	11
5.1.1 Actions taken to meet Post-Mandatory BNG obligations	13
5.2 Biodiversity gains from approved biodiversity gain plans.	17
5.3 Delivering BNG Priorities	22
6. Appendices	25
6.1 Appendix A: Future Actions Over Five Years.	25



1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Environment Act 2021 introduced a strengthened 'biodiversity duty' which requires all public authorities in England to consider what action they can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The Environment Act 2021 places a legal requirement on authorities to report on biodiversity outcomes, including Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

As a public and local planning authority, North Yorkshire Council (NYC) must:

1. Consider what we can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on its consideration.
3. Act to deliver the policies and achieve its biodiversity objectives.

The action that NYC takes for biodiversity will contribute to national goals and targets for nature restoration. The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP25), published in December 2025, sets out the government vision to restoring nature by creating a network of bigger, better and more resilient habitats to help nature thrive.

The government has committed to:

- Progressing 30by30 on land and sea in England
- Conserving and recovering plants, animals and fungi
- Achieving clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas

The goal outcomes in turn support the following impacts:

- Increased proportion of wildlife-rich habitat that is well managed for the long-term.
- Thriving nature in Protected Landscapes, that is protected for future generations.
Protected Landscapes are carbon sinks and help deliver statutory nature targets and 30by30
- Thriving and resilient wildlife, plants and fungi
- A food production system that supports nature recovery
- Improvement to Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services (secondary impact)

1.2 Report scope

This report outlines our approach to protecting biodiversity and how we intend to meet our Biodiversity reporting duties. These duties contribute both the interim and statutory Environment Act targets and commitments.

This report covers the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. Once published, as part of our on-going commitment to improve the level of detail we include in future reports, we will be working with the other council directorates to understand their commitment and actions to meeting with the biodiversity duties.

For each future reconsideration of actions that have been, and can be, taken for biodiversity, must be published within a 5-year reporting cycle and within 12 weeks of the reporting period end date. The next formal report will be published before 1st April 2030.

However, over the next five years we have committed to updating the report on an annual basis as well as producing an interim review at year 3, in 2028. The report covers the following aspects:

- NYC's biodiversity related policies, objectives and actions which will help the council meet its Biodiversity Duty.
- What other biodiversity-led strategies, including the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), have been considered.
- How NYC plans to fulfil the biodiversity duty over the 5 years following the end of this reporting period.
- A summary of the actions NYC has taken to meet the BNG obligations.
- Details of biodiversity gains resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans.
- A summary of how NYC plans to meet the BNG obligations in the next reporting period.



Image credit: Colin Aldred

2. NYC policies, objectives and actions to meet our biodiversity duty

2.1 Council-wide commitments

The Council Plan 2025-2029 contains a consistent commitment to harnessing North Yorkshire's natural capital – its landscapes, ecosystems, green spaces, rivers and coastlines – as a foundation for community wellbeing and economic prosperity.

The Sustainable and Connected Places ambition in the Council Plan 2025-2029 sets out how North Yorkshire will become a more environmentally sustainable, climate-resilient, and well-connected county, with strong links to nature recovery and the protection of biodiversity. This ambition includes:

- Building a low-carbon, climate-resilient county
- Using and enhancing natural capital as a core asset
- Integrating biodiversity protection into planning and infrastructure decisions
- Strengthening habitat networks through sustainable land use and green infrastructure
- Supporting the integration of active transport with nature recovery objectives as part of place-based planning that aims to respect the area's landscapes and ecological sensitivities.

All of this contributes to the wider vision of ensuring that North Yorkshire's people and places thrive in balance with the natural environment.

Similarly, the NYC Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030 sets out how thriving nature and biodiversity is key to the council's response to the climate emergency. 'Supporting nature' is one of the Strategy's four key themes and is fundamental to the council's vision of a sustainable North Yorkshire that is prepared for climate impacts. The Strategy includes a commitment to:

- Protect, enhance, and link important nature sites and corridors
- Develop strong forward plans and community partnerships for nature
- Prioritise nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Improve greenspace management on NYC land and support others to do likewise on their land
- Work in partnership to support tree planting at scale
- Support nature through economic growth

2.2 Biodiversity Partnership working

North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership

The Local Nature Partnership (LNP) works to promote nature recovery to as many communities and sectors as possible, exploring how nature can be a solution to issues and unlock new investment into our natural assets. The Council hosts the North Yorkshire and York LNP Development Officer and is the accountable body for the LNP.

The LNP has been supporting NYC with developing the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) over the last two and a half years and has been leading on proposals for the transition to delivery phase in 2026. This will include understanding how the range of council functions can be captured in LNRS reporting, and ensuring the strategy is embedded in local decision making, for example, through the developing local plan.

The LNP has also been supporting the work of the York and North Yorkshire Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC) programme, funded by Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) and supported by the Environment Agency. The programme explored the nature markets and private investment opportunities for North Yorkshire, and engaged with other partners such as Nature North, the Ecosystems Knowledge Network and the National Parks Partnership.

Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership

The Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership (YMNP) brings organisations together to share expertise, skills and local knowledge for the benefit of our important marine and coastal environment.

The council sits on the board to help direct the work of the partnership, and officers support implementation of YMNP projects in coastal locations such as Staithes and Scarborough, such as the Concrete Coast Project.

Dales to Vales Rivers Network

This catchment partnership leads on activities to enhance the water environment of the Yorkshire Derwent, for the benefit of people and nature. The council is represented on its board to help direct partnership activity, including linking with wider nature and flood resilience discussions.



Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Partnership

This catchment partnership leads on activities to enhance the water environment of the River Tees, for the benefit of people and nature. The council is part of the River Leven sub catchment working group to help direct partnership activity, including linking with wider nature discussions.

White Rose Forest Partnership

The White Rose Forest (WRF) is the Community Forest for North and West Yorkshire and the largest of England's Community Forests. It is not a single forest, but a partnership and network of all trees, woods, and forests across the region – from street trees to farmland woodlands.

The WRF is a collaborative partnership made up of:

- Local authorities and combined authorities
- National Park authorities and National Landscapes organisations
- Defra bodies
- Local and regional charities
- Businesses and community groups

These organisations work together to deliver large-scale tree planting, woodland management, nature recovery, and climate resilience projects.

The WRF Partnership contributes to biodiversity recovery across North and West Yorkshire through a combination of woodland expansion, ecological restoration, improved habitat connectivity, and long-term sustainable management.



Image credit: Woodland Trust

3. How we have considered other strategies

This section summarises how we have taken into account the North Yorkshire and York LNRS, the Nidderdale Protected Landscapes Management Plan, and the Howardian Hills Protected Landscapes Management Plan.

3.1 North Yorkshire and York LNRS

LNRS are statutory plans that play a crucial role in delivering the Biodiversity Duty by providing a structured approach to identifying and prioritising areas for nature recovery. The LNRS includes a local habitat map and a set of strategic priorities and measures (actions) for enhancing biodiversity and wider benefits from nature. The LNRS is also used to guide the delivery of BNG by determining the strategic significance multiplier within the biodiversity metric, which incentivises alignment with the local LNRS.

LNRS are prepared by Responsible Authorities (RAs) and cover the whole of England. In 2023, Defra appointed NYC as the RA for the North Yorkshire and York LNRS. Following two and a half years of engagement and development with key stakeholders, the LNRS was published on the 18th of February 2026. NYC will remain the RA as the LNRS transitions into delivery and will be instructed by Defra to review and refresh the LNRS in 3-10 years from the date of publication.

Defra has yet to formalise guidance on monitoring and reporting for the LNRS although an update is expected during spring 2026.

3.2 National Landscape Management Plans

The preparation and review of National Landscape Management Plans is a statutory requirement as set out in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The relevant local authority/authorities have a responsibility to ensure that a current five-year Management Plan is in place. NYC is the relevant local authority for the Howardian Hills National Landscape (HHNL) and Nidderdale National Landscape (NNL). NYC also acts as host authority for the National Landscape staff teams whose role involves delivering conservation work and convening other partners. Each National Landscape has a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), which provides advice and oversight, including advising on the preparation and implementation of a Management Plan for their area.

During 2025, new HHNL and NNL Management Plans were developed by the staff teams, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, including officers from across different services in NYC. Although each National Landscape and the related statutory responsibilities are common to all National Landscapes, each Management Plan is based on the individual landscape, character, special qualities, management aims and stakeholder input. The Management Plans were both adopted by the NYC Executive in December 2025.

The NNL Management Plan includes objectives across 6 main themes:

- Climate (6 objectives)
- Nature recovery (6 objectives)
- Living and working (6 objectives)
- Understanding and enjoyment (6 objectives)
- Heritage and historic environment (4 objectives)
- Landscape (6 objectives).

Each objective identifies Delivery Organisations who will take a leadership role in helping to deliver that aspect of the Management Plan. These different contributions are captured via a delivery framework that will be coordinated by the NNL staff team. NYC services covering Environment, Housing, Planning, Localities, Passenger Transport, Public Rights of Way and Tourism are part of this delivery framework.

The HHNL has 6 themes and associated objectives, supported by a delivery plan:

- Climate (9 objectives)
- Natural Environment (19 objectives)
- Historic Environment (11 objectives)
- Built Environment (17 objectives)
- Living and Working (11 objectives)
- Visiting (15 objectives)



4. Our Future Actions Over Five Years

Please refer to Appendix A for further details.

5. Biodiversity Net Gain

5.1 Actions taken by NYC to meet BNG obligations

Pre-mandatory BNG activities

NYC became a new unitary authority on 1 April 2023, following Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), bringing together eight legacy authorities (seven lower-tier authorities and one county council). A new Local Plan is in preparation for NYC but until completion the legacy Local Plans remain pertinent to determination of planning applications. Some legacy plans also had pre-mandatory BNG or biodiversity policies as summarised in table 1.

Table 1 – Summary of legacy Local Plans Period covered by the plan Relevant policies Summary of policy on BNG

	Period covered by the plan	Relevant policies	Summary of policy on BNG
Craven Local Plan	2012 - 2032 (Adopted Nov 2019)	ENV1 Countryside and Landscape, ENV4 Biodiversity, ENV5 Green Infrastructure	ENV4 a: 'Wherever possible, development will make a positive contribution towards achieving a net gain in biodiversity'. ENV4 b: '... achieve benefits in biodiversity that are equal to, or where possible exceed, the biodiversity value of the site prior to development.' Expresses a preference for onsite BNG, but if off-site it should be as close to the site as possible.
Hambleton Local Plan	2022 - 2036 (Adopted Feb 2022)	E3 The Natural Environment, E4 Green Infrastructure, E6 Protected Landscapes, E7 Hambleton's Landscapes	E3: 'All development will be expected to demonstrate the delivery of a net gain for biodiversity.' 'The latest DEFRA guidance and relevant tool should be used to demonstrate compliance with the policy.'

	Period covered by the plan	Relevant policies	Summary of policy on BNG
Harrogate Local Plan	2014 - 2035 (Adopted Mar 2020)	NE3 Protecting the Local Environment	NE3: '...Requiring proposals for major developments to avoid any net loss of biodiversity and supporting schemes which achieve a net gain.' The SPD specifies 'DEFRA Metric 2.0 or subsequent updates'
Richmondshire Local Plan	2012 - 2028 (Adopted Dec 2014)	CP4 Supporting Sites for Development, CP12 Conserving and Enhancing Environmental and Historic Assets	CP12: Major applications are asked to maintain and enhance biodiversity. BNG is not explicitly specified in Local Plan.
Ryedale Local Plan	2012 - 2027 (Adopted Sep 2013)	Policy SP13 Landscapes, Policy SP14 Biodiversity, Policy SP15 Green Infrastructure Networks	SP14: 'Requires a net gain in biodiversity to be provided as part of new development schemes'.
Scarborough Local Plan	2011 - 2032 (Adopted 2017)	ENV5 Environment	ENV5: 'Proposals should respond positively and seek opportunities for the enhancement of species, habitats or other assets thereby resulting in a net gain in biodiversity...'
Selby Local Plan	Core strategy adopted 2013 (plus Selby Local Plan for allocations site policies) new plan is not sufficiently advanced for the purposes of decision making.	SP18 Protecting and Enhancing the Environment	Ensuring development seeks to produce a net gain in biodiversity by designing-in wildlife and retaining the natural interest of a site where appropriate.
North Yorkshire County Council – Minerals and Waste Local Plan	2015 - 2030 (Adopted Feb 2022), created jointly with the City of York Council and North York Moors National Park Authority.	D05 Minerals and waste development in the Green Belt, D07 Biodiversity and geodiversity, D08 Historic environment, D09 Water environment	D07, 6: 'proposals should seek to contribute positively towards the delivery of agreed biodiversity and/or geodiversity objectives... with the aim of achieving net gains for biodiversity or geodiversity and supporting the development of resilient ecological networks.'

Growth of permanent Ecology team related to BNG

The council's in-house team of Planning Ecologists has grown substantially since 2023, significantly influenced by the additional burdens of BNG. The legacy authorities going into the local government re-organisation (LGR) employed an aggregate of 4.6 FTE ecology officers. Just before LGR, and anticipating the advent of BNG, the authorities pooled their 'BNG burdens' funding from Defra to employ a temporary full-time BNG Officer. This post ran from Jan 2023 (three months before LGR) until June 2024, after which point the officer became a substantive Principal Ecologist post in the new unitary planning service structure. This 1 FTE officer is still largely dedicated to BNG work.

From mid-2023 to January 2026 the team has grown further to meet additional demands on the service, reaching its present level of 4 FTE Ecologists, 4FTE Principal Ecologists and an Ecology Manager. The ecology team sits within the Planning Policy and Place Service in the new unitary council which, alongside Development Management, is part of the Directorate of Community Development.

5.1.1 Actions taken to meet Post-Mandatory BNG obligations

BNG became mandatory on 12th February 2024 for major development and 2nd April 2024 for non-major development. As the largest LPA in England by land area, North Yorkshire processes around 6,000 planning applications annually, of which approximately 500 were expected to be liable to mandatory BNG. The first mandatory BNG cases to reach discharge of Biodiversity Gain Plan stage were predominantly smaller developments due to the natural lag time for the largest major developments, such as housing schemes and employment sites, which will be in the planning pipeline for months or years.

Development Management preparation and training for BNG

Due to our large scale, NYC has around 130 officers working in Development Management and Enforcement and over 70 Planning Technical Support staff. Coordinating these staff is a challenge, especially because of the dispersed geography and widely differing processes and structures of the legacy council planning services. Prior to the BNG regulations coming into force there was both in-house and externally commissioned training for all officers in Development Management (DM) to prepare for BNG. Further self-serve resources, such as internal DM guidance notes on BNG were provided in a shared training folder accessible to all staff.

Since February 2024, the Ecology team has run a regular one-hour BNG surgery, operating as a drop-in webinar available to all DM and planning support officers. This began weekly in the first year of BNG and continues to run fortnightly. The surgery offers an informal route for rapid diagnosis of BNG errors and validation issues, interpretation of government guidance, debate about emerging council process and policy for BNG and informal training.



Image credit: Gareth Atkinson

Council officers, principally from the Ecology team, have played an active and leading part in national networks on BNG since 2023/4, including the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) BNG forum for LPAs, operating through regular online drop-ins and training webinars, and the online discussion forum of the Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE). The BNG Officer has presented in webinars on BNG topics, sharing the experiences and learnings from North Yorkshire with planning authorities nationwide.



Image credit: Allan Drewitt

Development Management systems and performance

The Unitary authority is in transition to a new unified planning software system, using Idox Uniform. This major IT unification project, called One Uniform, is a complex multi-year project. Until then, several different legacy systems are still operating independently and do not inter-communicate. These include versions of Uniform and Mastergov (development management); Civica, NEC and Idox DMS (document management systems) and Exacom (for recording contributions through Community Infrastructure Levy and section 106 agreements).

The One Uniform project is expected to align all the systems by the end of 2026, with legacy systems being transferred sequentially a few months apart. Extracting data from the differing systems is difficult. A new software system called Mycelia, designed specifically for BNG, has been procured and is in testing and training while the One Uniform unification project is completed. Mycelia will greatly facilitate the reporting and monitoring of BNG cases in subsequent Biodiversity Duty reports.

As of December 2025, over 660 planning cases requiring BNG were present in the council's Mycelia system. Only a very small proportion had reached discharge of gain plan stage by 31st March 2025. At present the BNG cases loaded into Mycelia do not give a complete picture of the BNG-applicable cases and some data are missing as they were created during testing and training. Two fully complete, discharged BGP cases in Mycelia have been included in this report.

From the legacy Uniform systems, a set of more general summary statistics have been drawn together, reflecting the best available data we can audit from our transitioning planning software systems.

Establishment of BNG Monitoring Fees

NYC published its first calculator for BNG Monitoring Fees in Feb 2024, benchmarked to other LPA's fees at that time, which gives a scale of fees for the council's oversight of BNG agreements. A single one-off fee is levied when the 30-year monitoring period starts. Fees vary depending on the area of the habitats to be monitored (small, medium, large) and the difficulty score for creating them (low, medium, high). The current fees, for 2025/26 start at £2,855 up to £10,515.

Table 2 - Current scale of BNG monitoring fees
(from 1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026)

Monitoring Fees standard look-up table			
	Technical Difficulty:		
Size:	Low	Medium	High
Small (0 to 5ha)	£2,855	£3,440	£4,040
Medium (>5 to 20ha)	£3,920	£4,505	£4,995
Large (>20 to 40ha)	£6,910	£8,080	£10,515
Greater than 40ha	Pro rata by area	Pro rata by area	Pro rata by area

The fee represents the council's costs over the full term of the agreement, including reviewing the monitoring reports submitted, visiting the site where necessary and working with the site owner to agree remedial measures if required. Establishing a scale of fees early in onset of BNG enabled the council to anticipate a revenue that could support the expansion of the ecology team. Indeed, the fees being agreed after LGR, but shortly before the Planning Service structure was decided, the projected fees enabled the Head of Service to justify two further positions in the permanent ecology team.

Supporting the private habitat banking market

The Council recognised early on that LPAs had a discretionary but crucial role in the establishment of the new private habitat banking market. We elected to use Section 106 agreements rather than conservation covenants, as a more established legal process for the council. By exercising choice and quality standards when entering agreements to regulate habitat bank sites, the council can influence the supply side of the market including to some extent the location and type of Biodiversity Units (BU) available and the competence of the site management and quality of ecological monitoring.

Realising that Responsible Bodies may take some time to become operational the council worked in earnest with a number of providers to establish registered sites. As a result, North Yorkshire benefits from some of the earliest-registered habitat banks and the experiences we shared with the PAS forum for BNG helped other councils to develop their understanding and their systems.

As of December 2025, the council had signed Section 106 agreements with five habitat bank sites, with more in development. (We are aware of at least five other banks at present, regulated by third party Responsible Bodies and a similar number working towards a Section 106 with us.) The council will continue to work with providers with the objective of supporting a diverse, competitive market for offsite BNG across North Yorkshire, with a range of local and national providers operating different delivery models. This will support developers in our region giving them choice and competitive pricing. The summary table below shows the sites secured by Section 106 with the council, (three registered and two awaiting their BGS numbers) but collectively they cover 113 hectares and, at a conservative estimate, their market value is £17.5million at current prices (Assuming 26k per BU). The non-NYC banks, by the same estimates amount to a further £15million.

Table 3 – Summary of habitat banks secured by council Section 106 agreements

Provider	Site name BGS	Location (postcode/ settlement)	Size (ha)	Indicative yield (ABU)	Status
Environment Bank	Harr11 High Braythorn Farm BGS-140225001	Harrogate (Stainburn)	33	230	Secured & Registered
Carbon Mark	Tunstall Farm BGS-040825002	Stokesley	26	148	Secured & Registered
Swinton Estate	Van Diemans and Badger Farm BGS-140425001	Masham	9	60	Secured & Registered
Denton Estate	Regen site BGS number awaited	Ilkley	13	126	s106
Denton Estate	Haymeadow site BGS number awaited	Ilkley	31	109	s106
Totals			113	672	
Market value estimate		(£) 17,481,880			

Defining Habitats of Strategic Significance

The Ecology team commissioned a bespoke mapping project from the Local Environmental Record Centre, to serve as an interim strategy for the purposes of Strategic Significance in BNG metrics. We used some of our Defra Burdens grant for this work. This enabled us to quickly replace the confusing and varied interpretations of Strategic Significance, where metric assessors were looking to use supplementary planning documents, old LBAPs, or other documents to define Significance. The interim mapping built upon a pre-mandatory mapping methodology by Harrogate Borough Council for Strategic Significance. It remained in use until it was superseded by the publication of the LNRS in February 2026. The fact that the same Record Centre team produced both the interim map and the LNRS map meant that the early work directly supported the LNRS mapping process.



5.2 Biodiversity gains from approved biodiversity gain plans

Note: the data provided here on biodiversity gains from BGPs covers a different period than the period for this Biodiversity Duty report. The report covers the period 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025. However, since mandatory BNG came into effect on 12th Feb 2024 and since this is the first ever Biodiversity Duty Report of the council (and the first reporting of Biodiversity Gain Plans) the information below covers the period 12th Feb 2024 – 31st Mar 2025. Subsequent Biodiversity Duty reports will regularise the reporting period for BGPs.

As described in the previous section 4.1, the council's planning systems are still in transition. It has not been possible to collate a comprehensive analysis of gain plans without incurring very significant officer time on manual look-ups, case-by-case. In any event only a small proportion have reached discharge of gain plan stage by the end of the period.

From the legacy Uniform systems, a set of more general summary statistics have been drawn together, which reflect current best available data.

Table 4 - BGPs Summary from Uniform

	Application Type	Biodiversity Units (Area)	Biodiversity Units (Hedge-rows)	Biodiversity Units (Water-course)	Decision	Date Decided	Address
HGTCZ24/02323/DISCON	Discharge of Conditions	15%			Permitted - Discharge	11/11/24	Hedge Nook Farm, Kirkby Malzeard, North Yorkshire
CRAZA24/26391/CND	Discharge of Conditions				Permitted - Discharge	13/12/24	Warley Wise Farm, Cowling, Keighley, North Yorkshire BD22 0LL
HGTCZ24/04105/DISCON	Discharge of Conditions				Permitted - Discharge	31/01/25	Hawthorn Cottage, Moorcock Lane, Darley, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 2QL
SCAFZ24/09149/COND	Discharge of Conditions				Decided	06/03/25	Folkton Wold Farm, Flixton, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO11 3UJ
ZEA24/26195/FUL	Discharge of Conditions	59%		2446%	Permitted - Discharge	28/03/25	Stoneley Barn, Mewith Lane, Mewith, Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7AX
ZGZ025/1274/DOC	Approval of Details				Approved with condition	23/12/25	The Community Centre, Foxhill Lane, Brayton YO8 9EL
ZEA24/09422/COND	Condition Variation / Approval				Decided	05/02/25	Black Bull Caravan Park, Malton Road, Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 8EA

	Application Type	Biodiversity Units (Area)	Biodiversity Units (Hedge-rows)	Biodiversity Units (Water-course)	Decision	Date Decided	Address
ZD25/00009/DIS	Discharge				Permitted	12/02/25	Westfield Farm, Patrick Brompton, Bedale, North Yorkshire DL8 1PP
ZB24/00433/DCN	Details of Conditions				Permitted	20/05/24	Lamb Hill, Exelby, Bedale, North Yorkshire DL8 2HQ
ZB24/00683/DCN	Details of Conditions				Permitted	19/07/24	Part OS Field 0004, Flawith, North Yorkshire
ZB24/00962/DCN	Details of Conditions				Permitted	18/09/24	Land North and West of Mowbray Houses, Carlton Road, Carlton Miniott, North Yorkshire
ZB24/00395/DCN	Details of Conditions				Permitted	29/07/24	New Farm Bungalow, Newton on Ouse, York YO30 2DQ
ZB24/00444/DCN01	Details of Conditions				Permitted	21/02/24	Village Farm, Main Street, West Tanfield, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 5JJ
ZB24/00352/DCN	Details of Conditions				Permitted	24/01/25	The Old Rectory, The Green, Kirklington, Bedale, North Yorkshire DL8 2NB
Total BGPs		14					

Table 5 - BGPs Summary from Mycelia (from 12th February 2024 - 31st March 2025)

Total Biodiversity Gain Plans in Mycelia	
Total no. of BGPs in the reporting period	2
Total no. of BGPs through on-site units only	2

ZE25/00293/COND Main Street, Allerston, North Yorkshire, land at 487779 482501, Creation of 7no. Wildlife ponds and associated spoil spreading: Discharge of Condition 03 and the deemed biodiversity gain condition (Informative 01) of approval ZE24/09979/FUL dated 05.03.25

CRAZA25/26757/CND Stoneley Barn, Mewith Lane, Mewith, Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7AX Proposed 2 no. camping pods and access (part retrospective). Discharge of conditions no 3 (Mandatory BNG), 5 (Outdoor Lighting), 6 (Disabled Access) and 7 (Landscaping) of ZA24/26195/FUL date 10.09.24

**Table 6 - Partial BGP analysis breakdown from Mycelia BGPs
(from 12th February 2024 - 31st March 2025)**

Overall expected gains and losses across all biodiversity gain plans approved in the reporting period				
ID	Overall expected gains and losses	Area habitat	Hedgerow	Watercourse
A	Total number of pre-development biodiversity units approved on-site	1.31	0.00	0.00
B	Total number of post-development biodiversity units approved on-site	1.91	0.10	0.00
C	Total net unit change in biodiversity units, on-site	0.59	0.10	0.00
D	Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, on-site	45.31	2446.45	0.00
E	Total number of baseline biodiversity units approved off-site	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	Total number of post intervention biodiversity units approved off-site	0.00	0.00	0.00
G	Total net unit change in biodiversity units off-site	0.00	0.00	0.00
H	Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units off-site	0.00	0.00	0.00
I	Total number of biodiversity units offset using statutory credits	0.00	0.00	0.00
J	Total net unit change in biodiversity units including any units offset using credits	0.59	0.10	0.00
K	Average percentage (%) change (including statutory credits)	45.31	2446.45	0.00

Composition of biodiversity gains - areas							
ID	Habitat Type - Area	Total biodiversity units at baseline	Total hectares at baseline	Total biodiversity units post-development	Total hectares - post-development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in hectares
A	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B	Grassland	1.27	0.39	1.38	0.37	0.11	-0.02
C	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.01
D	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.03	0.24	0.03

Composition of biodiversity gains - areas							
E	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G	Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
H	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
J	Coastal saltmarsh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
K	Rocky shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
L	Coastal lagoons	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
M	Intertidal hard structures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
N	Watercourse footprint	Not applicable	0.00	Not applicable	0.00	Not applicable	0.00
O	Individual trees	0.04	0.00	0.25	0.07	0.21	0.07
	Total	1.31	0.40	1.91	0.49	0.59	0.09



Image credit: Tris Terry

Composition of biodiversity gains - hedgerows and lines of trees							
ID	Habitat Type - hedgerows and lines of trees	Total bio-diversity units at baseline	Total kilo-metres at baseline	Total biodiversity units post-development	Total kilo-metres - post-development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in kilo-metres
A	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C	Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
D	Native hedgerow with trees- associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E	Species-rich native hedgerow	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
G	Native hedgerow with trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
H	Ecologically valuable line of trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I	Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
J	Native hedgerow	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
K	Line of trees	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.05	0.10	0.05
L	Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
M	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.05	0.10	0.05

Composition of biodiversity gains - watercourses							
ID	Habitat Type - watercourse	Total bio-diversity units at baseline	Total kilometres at baseline	Total biodiversity units post-development	Total kilometres - post-development	Net change in biodiversity units	Net change in kilometres
A	Priority habitat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B	Other rivers and streams	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C	Ditches	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
D	Canals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E	Culvert	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

5.3 Delivering BNG Priorities

Ongoing training

The Ecology team in Planning Policy and Place continues to lead on internal training for DM officers and provides regular informal support through the Surgery.

Team members attend further training offered by PAS, Defra, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and others to keep abreast of changes to the regime and updates to BNG guidance.

Ongoing recruitment

The Ecology team has grown to meet the demand on Planning Ecology, in large part arising from BNG. We will continue to monitor workloads and staffing and endeavour to use income from BNG Monitoring Fees to build capacity further. We are looking at capacity issues in related teams, such as Legal Planning team and Enforcement.

Software systems development

We will continue to invest in the upgrade and unification of planning systems and in training of officers who use them. Mycelia will be formally adopted as a monitoring system for BNG cases, enabling more streamlined ecological oversight of developer commitments, better data analysis and more efficient enforcement in coming years.

Monitoring and enforcement

Working with the enforcement arm of the planning service we will integrate BNG into the overall enforcement strategy for the planning service, balancing available resource with priority of need and what is in the public interest to pursue. We acknowledge this is an evolving field across England and will engage actively in conversations with other LPAs on enforcement approaches.

Offsite habitat markets

The council will continue to play a role in supporting the development of a robust, competitive, local marketplace for offsite BNG in North Yorkshire, influencing where we can the geographical spread, the diversity of providers and the quality of habitat proposals in strong alignment with the LNRS.

Habitat bank regulation service

The planning service expects to launch its formal habitat bank regulation service in April 2026. This will bring into focus the selection criteria and strong vetting procedures for habitat banking proposers and set out our service standards and application fees.

Habitat banks on council land

The Environment Directorate, working with the Ecology team will explore options for creating habitat banks on the council land estate. Potential benefits include the ability to generate 'home-grown' Biodiversity Units for the council's own development needs, commercial income from selling to the offsite market and supporting countryside management project aspirations. We will identify and progress a series of pilot sites to test proof of concept, exploring feasibility, costs, potential income, corporate financial structures and legal aspects. We will explore the benefits for the council's wider purposes, such as public health and well-being, climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Links with LNRS, Natural Capital and Climate Change

The Ecology team will work with colleagues in the Environment Directorate, which encompasses for example Nature Recovery, Natural Capital, Climate Strategy and Parks and Grounds. We will liaise regularly and explore opportunities for shared objectives such as developing the habitat banking service and private investment in nature recovery projects.

Communications and developer support

We will establish ways to support developers, planning agents and commercial ecology consultancies to understand BNG and the council's approach streamlining applications and facilitate planning approvals. One approach is to set up a developer and agent forum for two-way dialogue on emerging BNG issues, managing transitions in the mandatory regime and building stronger relationships between planning ecology and commercial ecology consultants.

We will expand and develop content on the council website to explain BNG for the general public, landowners and planning professionals, working with the council's central communications team for external comms as appropriate. The council will also develop and publish a range of guidance notes on BNG for relevant audiences along with internal briefings for staff and elected members to support understanding of BNG.





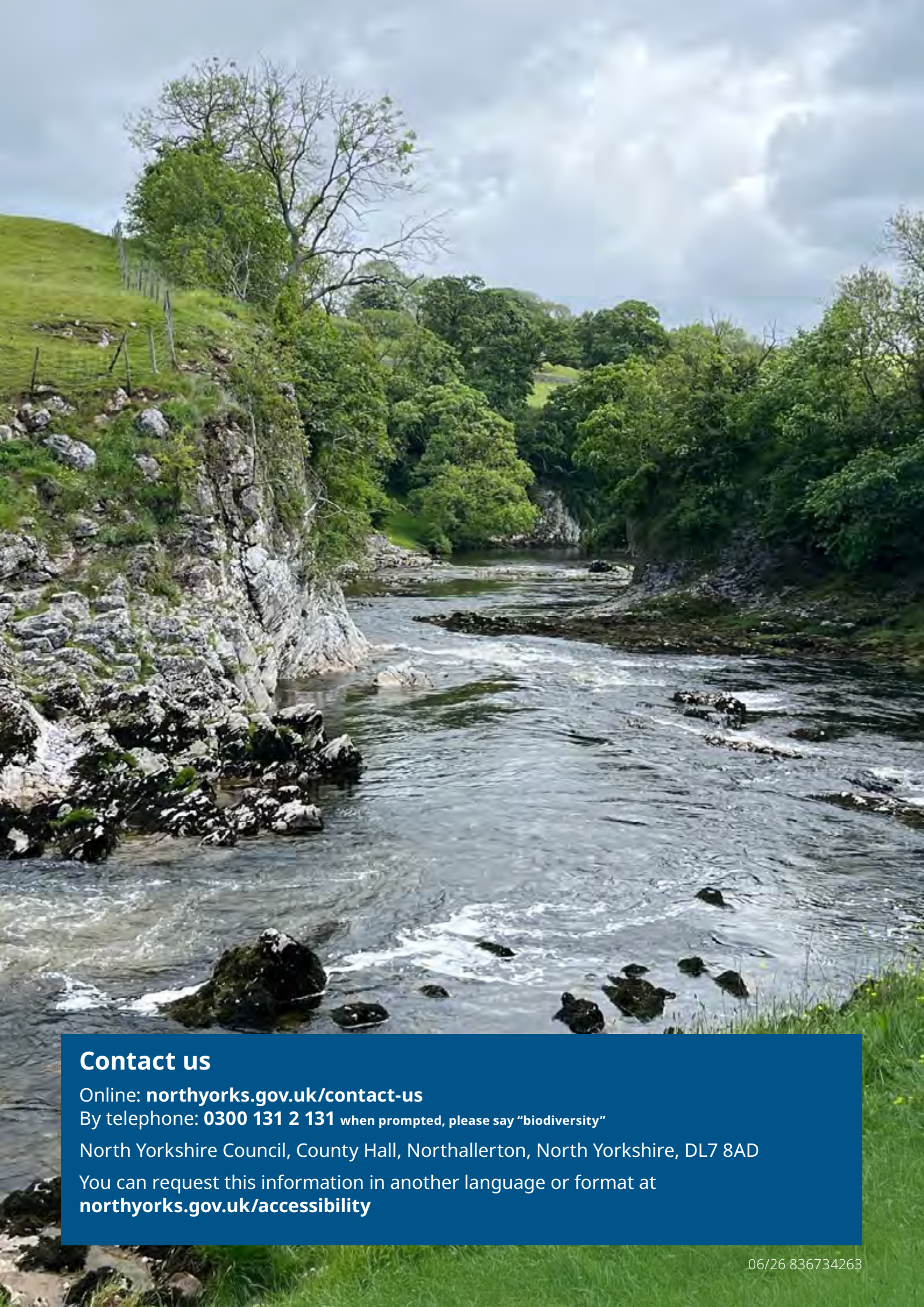
6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix A: Future Actions Over Five Years

Action Code	Proposed action	Service lead
Land and property management		
4.1	To consider how we manage our land to include more green and blue spaces to help improve the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. Council landholdings include allotments, cemeteries, parks and sports fields, schools, amenity spaces, communal gardens, roadside verges, farms, rights of way and access routes. To review management policies for all landholdings and consider how it will determine the current biodiversity value and monitor success of any changes to management.	Estates, Parks & Countryside
Council processes and policies		
4.2	Protected sites To review the council's landholding against statutory designated protected sites and determine if management plans are in place. Address any gaps to ensure all sites have plans in place as soon as possible • sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) • special areas of conservation or special protection areas (SAC or SPA) • national nature reserves (NNR) • local nature reserves and local sites (LNRs and SINCs) • Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance)	Planning, Environment & Sustainability
4.3	Protected Landscapes Help to develop and implement management plans for Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks and National Landscapes in North Yorkshire which includes Nidderdale, Howardian Hills, Forest of Bowland and the newly emerging Yorkshire Wolds. To review Farming in Protected Landscapes grant application process to ensure biodiversity objectives form part of the decision-making process.	Environment & Sustainability

4.4	Review wider council policies and processes To consider how wider policies may affect biodiversity and seek to review and improve outcomes. Policies for the following areas of interest may be considered: • transport – support sustainable travel to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality • waste – review waste management and recycling processes to reduce water pollution and air pollution from waste transport and landfill • water – improve water efficiency to reduce the effect water abstraction can have on sensitive habitats and species • procurement – buy sustainable materials and supplies to reduce the demand on natural resources • light – make sure the design of artificial lighting minimises effects on nature. To broaden the evidence base and developing biodiversity policies in relation to the council's capital and maintenance works.	All services
4.5	Ecological mapping To progress and manage the council's use of spatial mapping and ecological data including: • develop our internal GIS mapping systems, integrating cross-service geo-spatial data, for example planning, estates, parks and grounds and natural capital. • Develop public-facing mapping systems for customers to self-serve geo-spatial information they may require. • to ensure that biological records are submitted to the LERC as standard, including planning ecology data, habitat bank monitoring reports and coastal monitoring. • to introduce a requirement for BNG planning applications and habitat banks to submit site boundaries as GIS layers to upload to council systems	All Services
4.6	Local Nature Recovery Strategy The LNRS has identified 180 measures (actions) involving improvements to habitats across seven categories (farmland, upland, grassland, woodland, water and wetlands, urban, and coast) that are intended to reverse the decline of biodiversity and deliver many wider benefits from nature including flood protection and health and wellbeing for people. It is expected that the measures (actions) will be delivered through various channels including: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), agri-environment schemes, local investment in natural capital (LINC) and the Local Plan process. Key partners in delivery will include landowners, land managers and farmers; other local authority disciplines; Protected Landscape organisations; NGOs; developers and planners; investors; parish councils, community groups and residents.	Environment & Sustainability, Planning,
4.7	Natural Capital To facilitate the growth of the offsite BNG market and ensure that habitat banking regulation process is flexible to novel public-private finance models or business structures.	Environment & Sustainability

Planning Services and Biodiversity Net Gain		
4.8	Planning policy To ensure that policies are in place to protect biodiversity making clear links with other Local Plan objectives including climate change, green and blue infrastructure (GBI), health and wellbeing and flood management. To consider how specific allocations, such as New Settlements or master-planned development can raise standards of GBI in public realm for instance by raising the BNG requirement above 10% or a presumption toward on-site BNG or multi-functional Sustainable Urban Drainages. To ensure that planning orders, notices, and consents, including Land Drainage Consents, Public Rights of Way Orders, Hedgerow Removal Notices, and Tree Preservation Orders are being managed and utilised effectively to protect biodiversity.	Planning, Environment & Sustainability
4.9	BNG To develop proportionate approaches to enforcement of on-site BNG, working with developers and their management companies to ensure best outcomes for biodiversity To explore novel approaches to safeguard long-term outcomes for on-site BNG, for example through stakeholder engagement and education projects and community environment groups for new large-scale developments.	Planning, Environment & Sustainability
Educate, advise and raise awareness		
4.10	Increase understanding of biodiversity and why it's important to conserve and enhance. This can encourage land managers, businesses and the general public to take action to benefit biodiversity. Policies, objectives and actions, could include: • involving the public in biodiversity improvement projects • featuring biodiversity in public and internal communications • using libraries and museums to raise awareness of biodiversity • providing information boards in green spaces and offering guided walks • including biodiversity actions in advice for internal and external clients and service users • educating staff on the biodiversity actions and why they matter • raising awareness of how gardens can support biodiversity • supporting local naturalist societies with activities, such as biological recording and conservation site management • supporting new or established community nature groups, including parish green groups, community greenspace or 'bloom' groups and biodiversity initiatives led by larger businesses.	All services & Biodiversity partnerships



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