

# Biodiversity offsets

What are they  
and  
what might they be for?

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1. Context

2. What are biodiversity offsets?

3. No net loss and offsets

# Context

- Missed 2010 target to halt biodiversity loss
- New EU target and vision
- EU Nature Directives
  - Favourable status for species and habitats
- Climate change adaptation challenges

## Successes



# What are biodiversity offsets?



Actions that aim to:

- Compensate for residual, unavoidable harm to biodiversity
- Ensure no net loss of biodiversity
- Secure net gain where possible

# Offset types

TYPE	APPROACH	RESPONSIBILITY	BEFORE/AFTER DAMAGE?
<b>Developer-responsible</b>	Case by case	Developer	After
<b>Banking</b>	Aggregated	3 <sup>rd</sup> party	Before
<b>In-lieu fee</b>	Aggregated	3 <sup>rd</sup> party	After

# No net loss and offsets

Issues to address

# 'No net loss' and offsets

## UK experience

### MANDATORY

Natura 2000 sites

European  
protected species

### DISCRETIONARY

SSSIs

ASSIs

BAP species

BAP habitats

Local sites

All biodiversity

# Trading standards?

Like for like



Trading up – who decides?





# Some principles and challenges?

## PRINCIPLES?

- Additional conservation outcomes
- Sound science
- Set clear limits
- Long-term outcomes
- Stakeholder participation
- Regulation?

## CHALLENGES?

- What biodiversity?
- Define no net loss
- Define net gain
- What offset type(s)?
- Spatial location
- Robust standards
- Capacity, competence & co-operation

