



**Blackwell Park  
Ltd**



# **Biodiversity net gain –**

Opportunities and challenges as envisioned by practitioners from the planning sector



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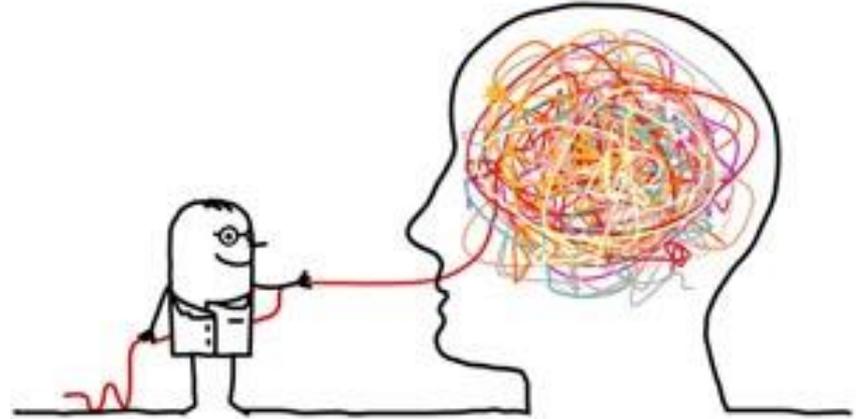
## **Background and aim**

Understanding how the planning system works straight from practitioners

What makes projects fail under the current planning system?  
What are the opportunities that BNG brings?

## 2 Study design

- 20 semi-structured interviews
- Participant selection – representative of the full spectrum of the planning industry
- Average interview length: 60 min
- Analysis type: inductive, qualitative content analysis



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## Results

Biodiversity conservation is not a priority yet, but it is increasingly recognised as one



## Results overview

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What are the factors that prevent biodiversity to take a central stage?

What are the drivers of change?

What are the benefits of the implementation of the policy?

What are the main challenges to its implementation?

What are the role that the communities can play to deliver net gain?

Future of the policy and Environmental Net Gain



## Results overview

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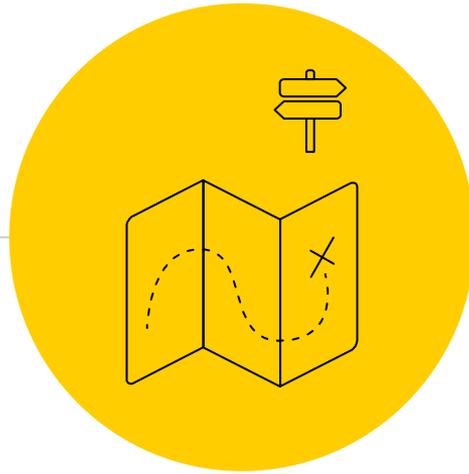
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# Strategic vision

Delivery of net gain based on a local biodiversity strategy that identifies what are the local needs and biodiversity opportunities

# Strategic vision

*To guide the delivery of gains and the avoidance of impacts*



## The goal

Deliver biodiversity gains where there are **required, appropriate and feasible**, attending to the environmental context and the community's needs

## Multiple agendas:

- Environmental context: biodiversity priorities, geology, water flow, connectivity
- Communities needs: housing projections and social contexts
- Developers' inputs and viability of developments



## Onsite delivery

Net gain is delivered within the development boundary  
Social justice  
Visible benefits of development by local communities

VS

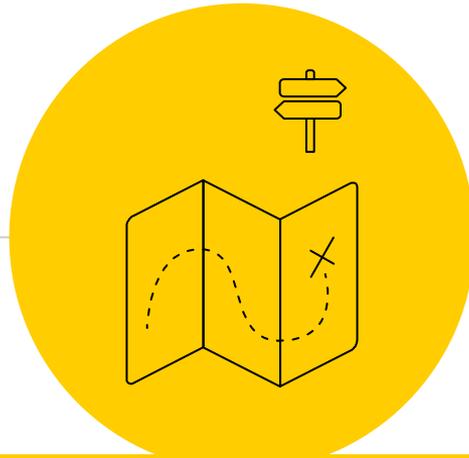
## Offsite delivery

Gains are delivered off-site, usually rural areas  
More value for money  
Opportunity to increase ecological connectivity at larger scales

*"BNG is such an opportunity if someone grabs hold of it strategically, and properly thinks about what wants to be achieved, and then feeds that down to the local authority decision-makers, so that they can make sure that what's coming up from the grassroots reflects that bigger picture. Otherwise it would just be uncoordinated mayhem."*



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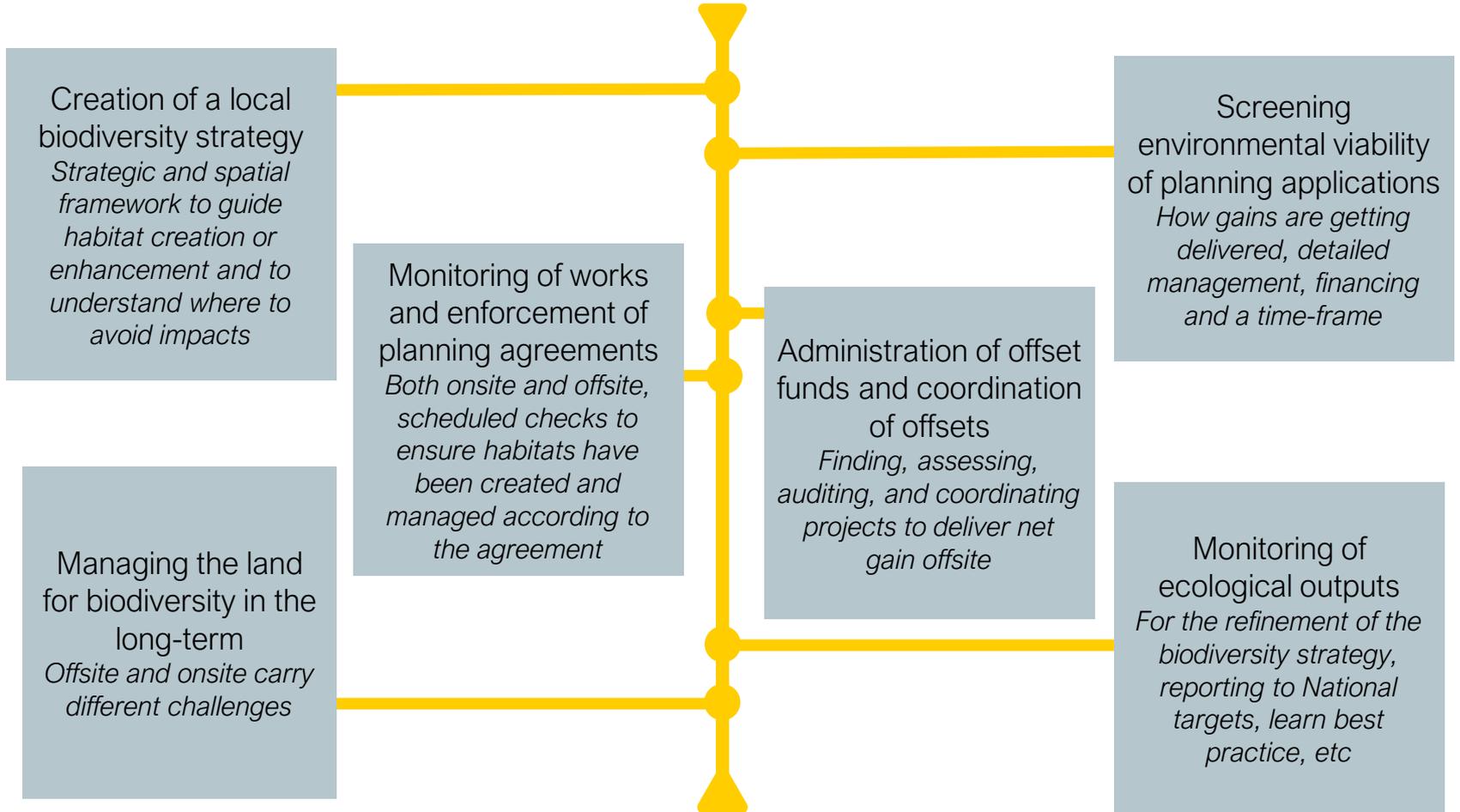


# **Long-term responsibilities**

Redefinition of roles within the planning system,  
based on 'who is best suited' to undertake them

# Long-term responsibilities

Identification of roles to be undertaken under BNG





## Take home message

**The BNG  
paradigm  
may bring  
multiple  
opportunities**

**Would need  
to consider  
new roles  
under this  
new policy**

**Delivery of  
gains should  
aim for the  
bigger  
picture**



# Thanks!

*Any* **questions?**

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