

ARUP

CIEEM Ireland Conference 2020

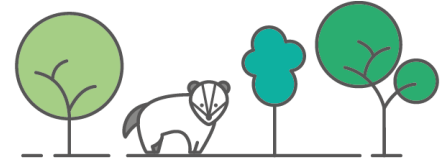
Biodiversity Net Gain

Donncha Madden





1. Biodiversity Net Gain in Northern Ireland
2. How are Local Authorities considering BNG
3. Case Studies



Valuing Nature: A biodiversity strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020

“consider the outcomes of the consultation on Biodiversity Offsetting carried out by Defra and decide on the way forward in Northern Ireland”

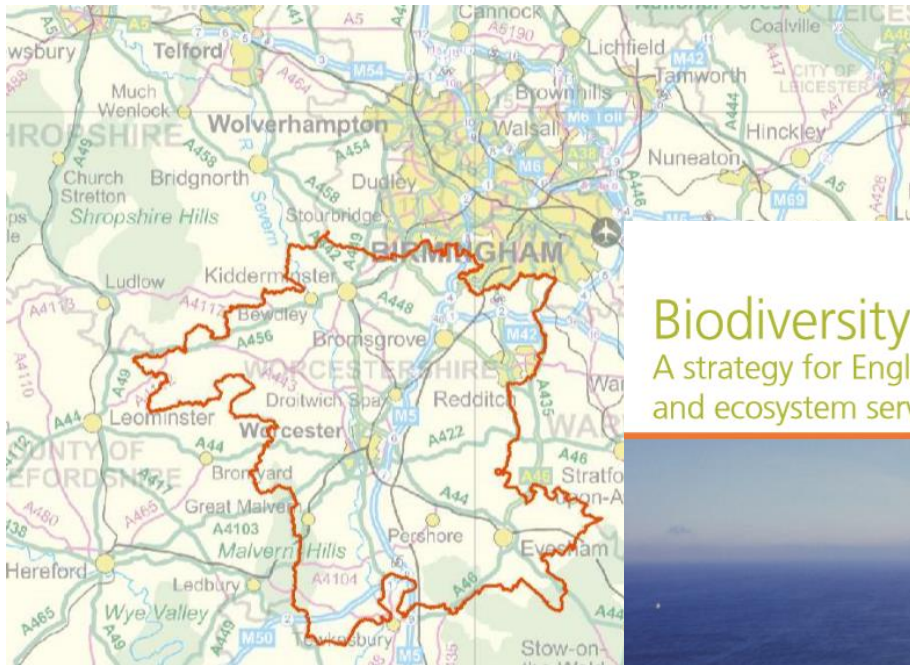
Strategic Planning Policy for Northern Ireland (SPPS) and Planning Policy Statement 2: Natural Heritage

“planning policies of this statement....must have regard to any strategy designated for the conservation of biodiversity”

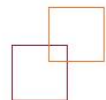
Wildlife and Natural Environment Act 2011

“it is the duty of every public body in exercising any functions to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions”

- **Biodiversity net gain to be a condition of planning permission in England from 2022**
- **Local Authority have varying approaches throughout Ireland, North and South**



Biodiversity 2020:
A strategy for England's wildlife
and ecosystem services



- *Expect proposed developments to deliver measurable net gains in biodiversity [...] designed to support the delivery of the identified biodiversity network*
- *Impact assessments and evidence of biodiversity net gain must use the DEFRA biodiversity metric*
- *The existing green infrastructure network will be safeguarded from inappropriate development*
- *Within the identified key strategic development corridors it is expected that masterplanning for all major developments will be informed by the Green Infrastructure Concept Plans*

Council Example from Northern Ireland– Derry City and Strabane District Council



- ... the delivery of new homes, jobs, infrastructure and community facilities must comply with the LDP's Growth and Spatial Strategy, which requires: iv development to prevent the significant loss of biodiversity and promote biodiversity net gain....
- Development should accord with the principles of the protection and enhancement of the natural environment v where possible, developments will be expected to include suitable measures to contribute positively to overall biodiversity net gain in the District or to mitigate harm caused by development through measures including additional and compensatory tree planting.

County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024

Part A: The Strategic Plan

Part B: Objectives and Policies of the Plan



June 2018

- *ED-P-14: It is a policy of the Council that any proposal for economic development use, in addition to other policy provisions of this Plan, will be required to meet all the following criteria; ... (k) The site layout, building design, associated infrastructure and landscaping arrangements are of high quality and assist the promotion of sustainability and biodiversity;*
- *NH-O-1: To protect, sustainably manage and enhance the rich biodiversity of County Donegal for present and future generations.*
- *NH-O-10: To maintain and restore ecosystems and to conserve valuable or threatened habitats and species in order to prevent further loss of biodiversity and to meet the EU's target to halt biodiversity loss by 2020 through the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy (2011) or as updated.*
- *NH-P-5: It is a policy of the Council to require consideration of the impact of potential development on habitats of natural value that are key features of the County's ecological network and to incorporate appropriate mitigating biodiversity measures into development proposals.*



- Black Park Local Nature Reserve
- TPOs
- Ancient woodland (The Clump)
- Reptile
- Badger
- Bats
- Birds

Environmental Statement

*“Not less than 2.4 hectares of green roofs will be provided within the scheme. The buildings with largest unbroken roofs or those roofs closely grouped together will be utilised and planted with tussock-type species rich grassland. These will be designed to support skylark *Alauda arvensis* (but would also provide valuable habitats for a wide range of species).”*

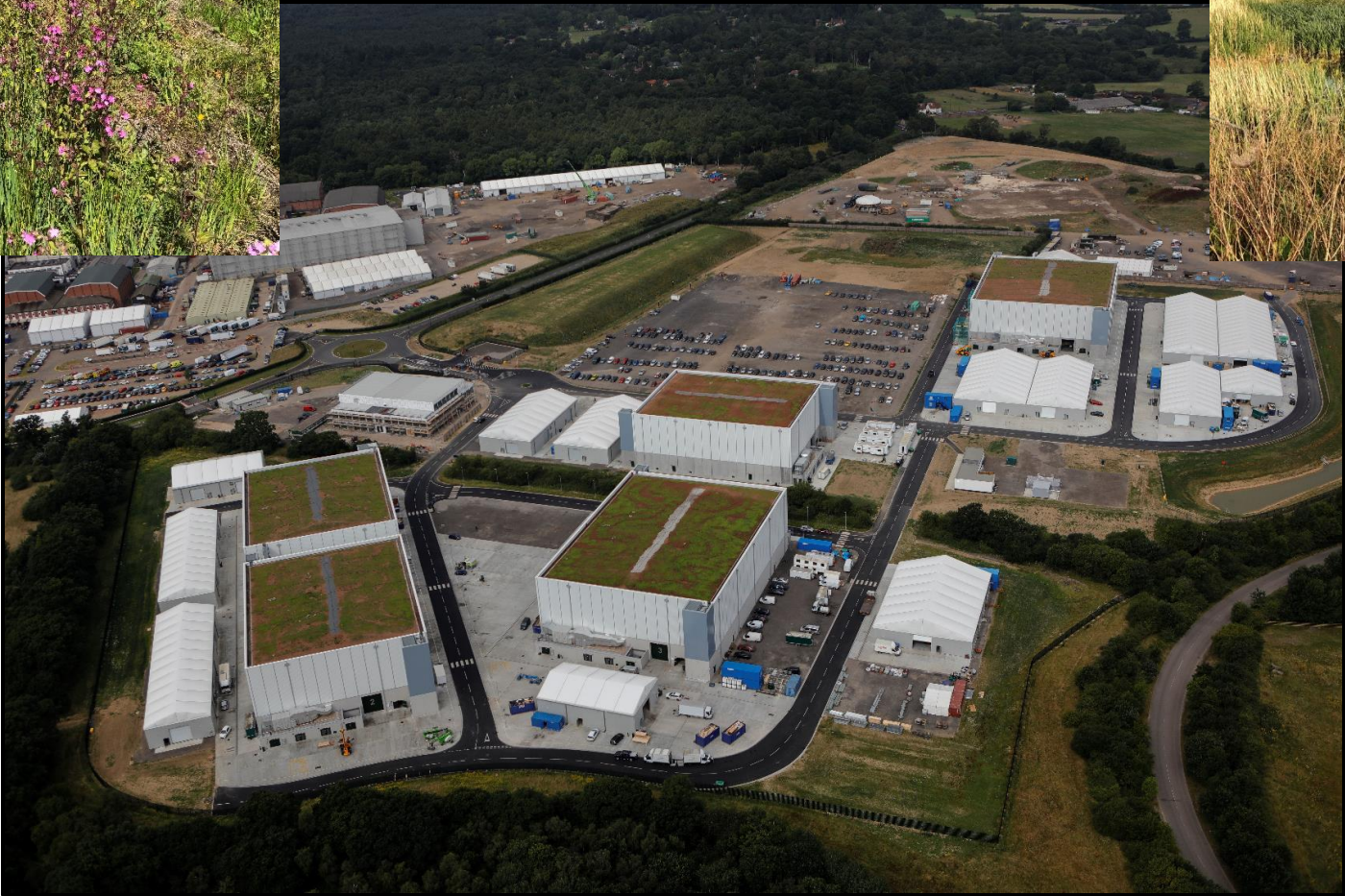
“Fields F9 and F10, to the south and south east of The Clump, would be enhanced specifically for skylarks with the provision of species rich tussocky grassland with heathland characteristics and scrub.”

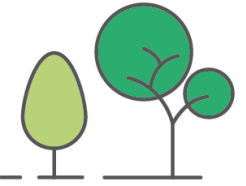


Condition 11 – The first reserved matters application submitted shall include an ecological management plan in respect of the site covering a period of not less than 25 years

Condition 12 - The first reserved matters application submitted shall include an ecological monitoring plan in respect of the site

Case study 1 from England – Pinewood Studios





Client: IAMP LLP

Sunderland

NSIP

170ha

Release from Green
Belt

Area Action Plan

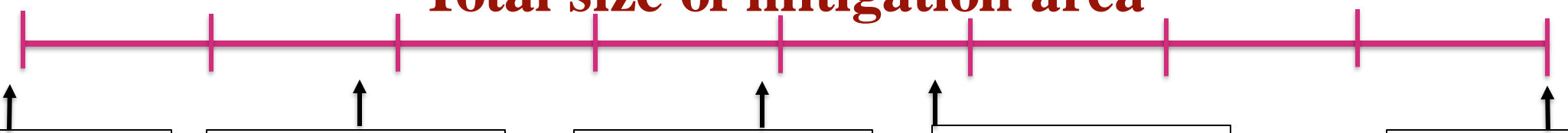


- Lack of scheme design at policy level
- Account for existing value of mitigation area
- Narrowing down a broad range to minimise land-take required
- Accounting for farmland birds
- Public examination



Range = 49.8 to 127.3ha

Total size of mitigation area



49.8ha
(100% ponds)

**Minimum
for NNL
= Realistic?**

66ha
(45% grass
30% scrub
15% MG
10% ponds)

**Ecologically
viable min
for NNL
= Birds?**

88ha
(50% grass
15% MG
20% scrub
12% arable
2% ponds
1% wood)

**Min. incl.
skylark = NNL**

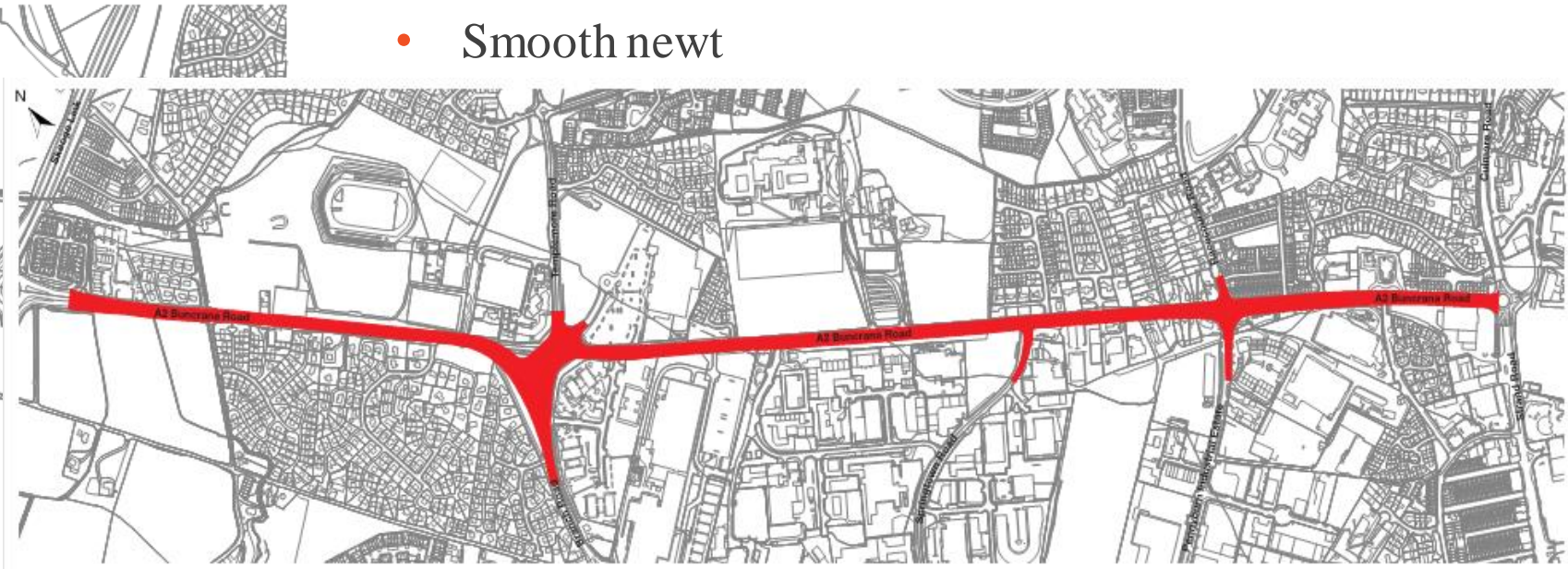
96.8ha
(50% grass
15% MG
20% scrub
12% arable
2% ponds
1% wood)

**Min. incl. skylark
= 10% Net Gain**

127.3ha
(100% wood)

Case study from Northern Ireland – A2 Road Scheme Derry

- 4.5 km urban to semi-urban scheme
- Treelines, hedgerows, mixed planted woodland, and agricultural grassland
- Red squirrel
- Smooth newt



LEGEND

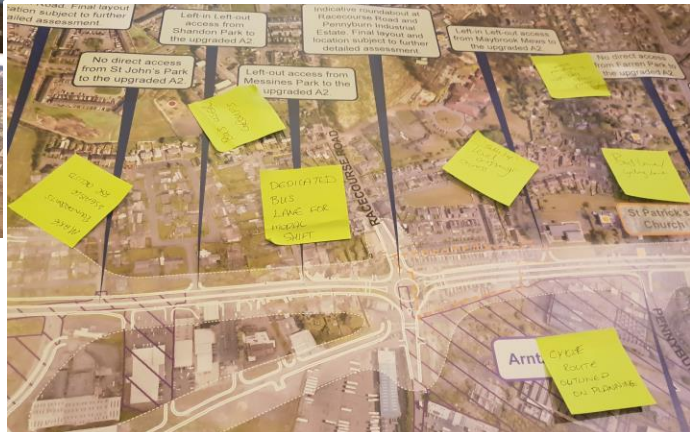
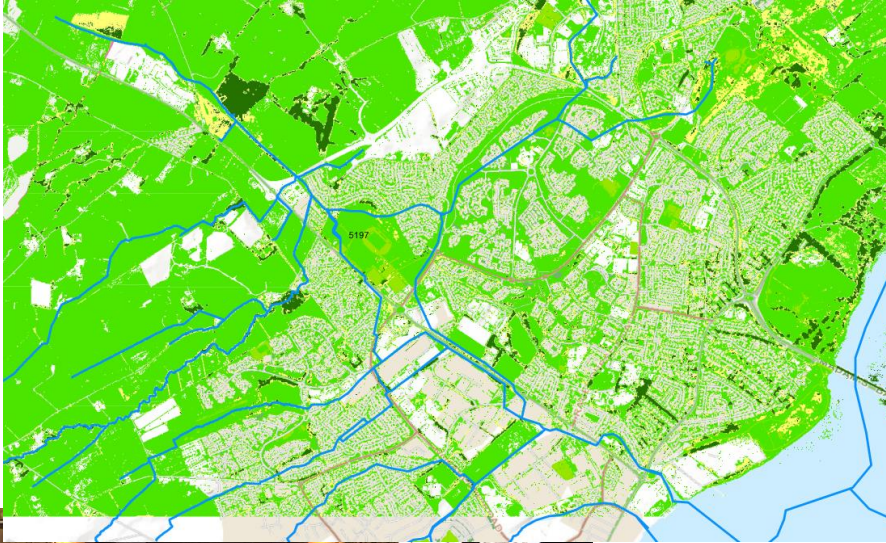
- Red Route
- Navy Route
- Sub Option 1
- Sub Option 2
- Sub Option 3
- Sub Option 4

Urban Placemaking Vision

To create a modern, vibrant and multi-functional boulevard along a key gateway corridor leading to the City of Derry



Case study from Northern Ireland– A2 Road Scheme Derry



- Currently calculating the baseline
- BNG likely very difficult to achieve adhering to the Defra metric
- Adaptation to local circumstances likely required to ensure maintenance of connectivity for mobile species
- Importance of multi-disciplinary approach
- Biodiversity key design which needs to be considered early
- Dealing with the urban, per-urban and rural areas, the opportunities for gain might be greatest in the rural areas
- Meeting loss close to those communities who feel it
- Notes of Caution

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Thank you & questions

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