

Biodiversity Net Gain – A London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames approach to defining a ‘significant’ offset

Following the publication by DEFRA of the secondary legislation, which provides the detail for the biodiversity net gain framework, only biodiversity offsets which are considered to be ‘significant’ require the production of a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) which will outline how the land will be managed over at least 30 years, and the subsequent undertaking of periodic monitoring and reporting on the status of the offset.

The secondary legislation offers no national statutory definition of what constitutes a ‘significant’ offset. At London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, this will ultimately be determined at the discretion of the Local Authority’s Ecology Policy and Planning Officer on a case-by-case basis, but taking into account factors including, but not limited to:

