

Appendix K – Potential Biodiversity Net Gain delivery mechanism for site selection and implementation in South Staffordshire District

This methodology has been created in order to prioritise site selection in response to biodiversity net gain offsetting in the event of being unable to adequately achieve mitigation within the footprint of a potential development site.

A tiered approach was determined to be most appropriate for the potential selection of receptor sites. 3 tiers were identified with a descending order of perceived achievability, tier 1 being those sites with a higher achievability and more preferential in terms of their existing designation and biodiversity with tiers 2 and 3 decreasing in both preference and potential achievability.

Within each of the tiers are sites as follows

Tier 1

Publicly owned land for example green spaces and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).

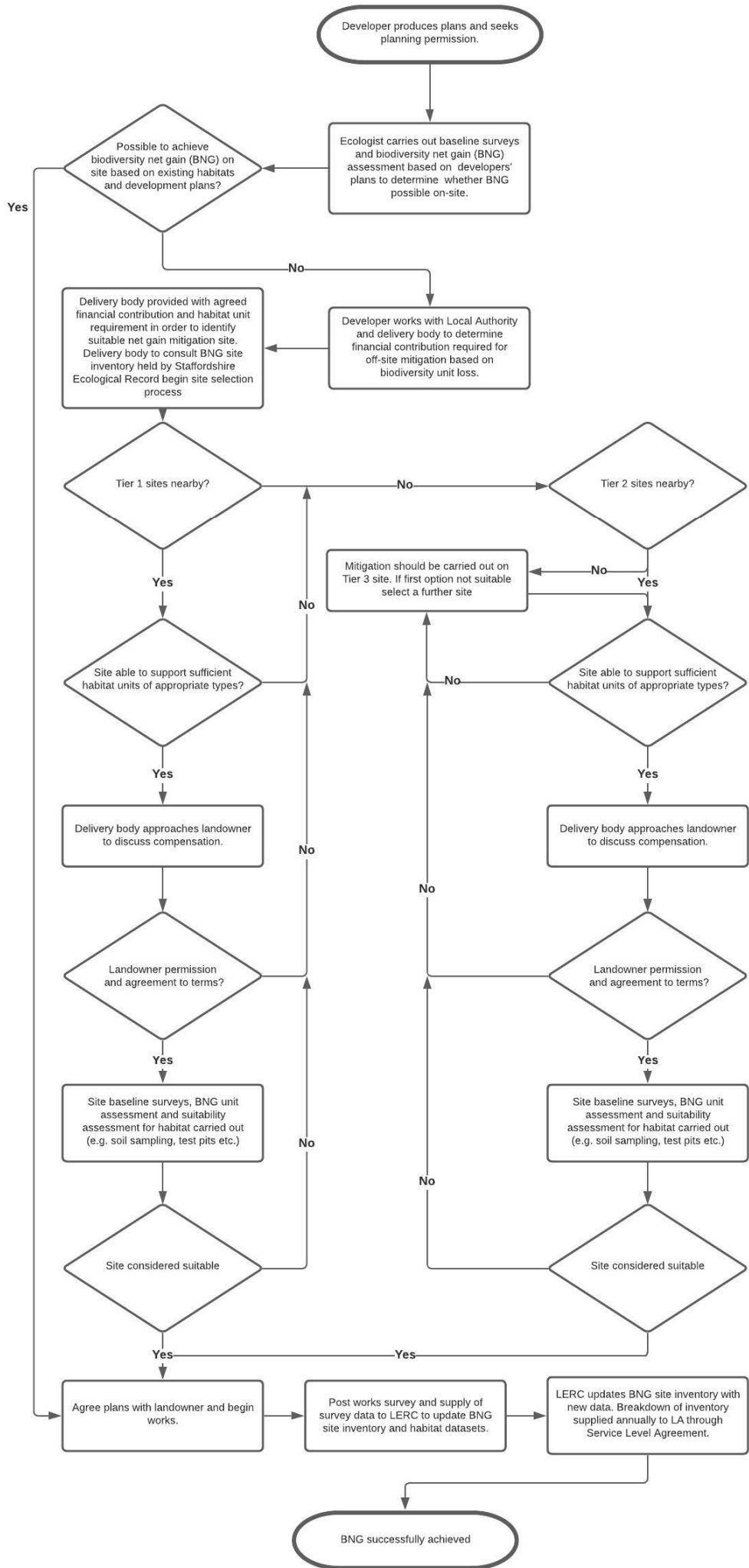
Tier 2

Sites owned or managed by Non-Governmental Organisations for the purposes of nature conservation.

Tier3

Designated nature conservation sites including Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and biological and geological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These sites are mostly in private ownership and are included based on their nature conservation status but are assigned to tier 3 as achievability will depend upon consent from the relevant landowners.

A diagram to illustrate the ideal stages in delivering biodiversity net gain in sites across the district can be found below.



Rationale

The mapping process has aimed to identify at least one tier 1 biodiversity net gain site within a 10km radius of existing defined settlements within the district and one within each of South Staffordshire District Councils 'Housing Sub- Market Areas'. By having potential allocation sites within a relatively close proximity, habitats created as a result of compensation will contribute better to overall habitat connectivity as a replacement for those which have been lost as they have been recreated close to their original location.

The offsetting inventory site map is neither definitive nor exhaustive, sites identified are based on broad scale desk based selection and are not confirmation that habitat creation or enhancements can or will be achieved at these sites and at this stage are purely speculative. It is likely that there are more sites whether in public or private ownership which have not yet been realised as part of this assessment methodology.

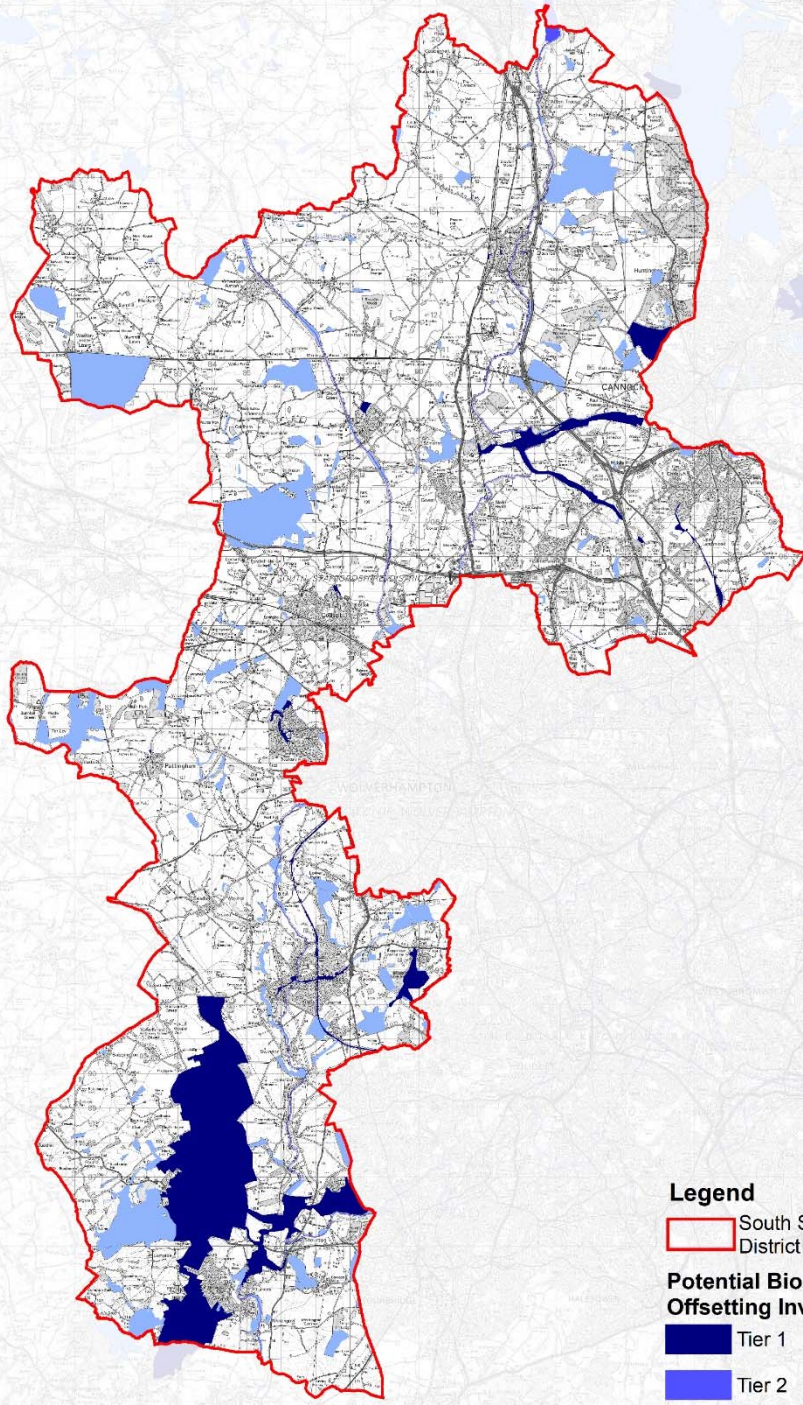
It is important to stress that identification of these inventory sites does not affect statutory obligations to existing planning policy, the biodiversity mitigation hierarchy or consideration of existing biodiversity within development. The mitigation hierarchy must still be used in respect of habitats and species present on any site where habitat loss is likely and off-site mitigation should be a last resort if existing biodiversity cannot be retained or net gains cannot be achieved on site.

Whilst the inventory represents possible areas where off-site habitat offsetting mitigation could possibly be achieved, any habitats created, restored or enhanced must fall in line with what is shown in the habitat connectivity opportunity maps i.e. the most appropriate habitats in the best places to benefit habitat connectivity.




**Staffordshire
Wildlife Trust**

South Staffordshire Biodiversity Net Gain potential project areas

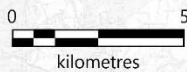


Legend

 South Staffordshire District

Potential Biodiversity Offsetting Inventory areas

-  Tier 1
-  Tier 2
-  Tier 3



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