

Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Banks

Background

Newark and Sherwood District Council has approached Council to raise awareness of a 'Call for sites – expressions of interest' exercise that they have recently launched. This is concerning the creation of Habitat Banks for the purpose of selling 'biodiversity units' as part of the mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain process within the district.

Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Banks

In accordance with new Environment Act 2021 legislation, large development projects in the district will now be required to deliver a minimum BNG improvement of 10%. This is calculated via a measurement framework that accounts for the size, quality and type of the habitat at the construction site.

The required BNG should be prioritised for delivery within the development site but if this is not feasible the shortfall must be provided at off-site locations referred to as Biodiversity Gain Sites, also known as habitat banks.

Full details can be accessed from Newark and Sherwood District Council website [BNG Habitat Banks – Call for Sites](#) webpage.

Recommendation

Council should consider if any land some parish councils might own land that they might be suitable for this purpose and whether to express an interest to N&SDC. The closing date for responses is 15 March 2024.