



North Norfolk District Council

Biodiversity Duty Report 2022 -2025

The first Biodiversity Duty Report of North Norfolk District Council that provides information about the Council's approach to conserving and enhancing biodiversity (2022-2025), including the actions carried out to meet biodiversity net gain obligations and details of biodiversity net gains resulting from biodiversity gain plans that have been approved between February 2024 – December 2025.

February 2026

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Biodiversity Duty Report 2022 -2025

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Glossary of Acronyms

Biodiversity Duty Report 2022 – 2025

Introduction

The statutory [Biodiversity Duty](#) was first introduced by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act in 2006 which required that:

‘Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of these functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity’.

In 2021 the Environment Act (Sections 102 and 103) strengthened this duty by amending Section 40 of NERC Act, requiring all public authorities in England to actively conserve and enhance biodiversity when exercising their functions.

As a public authority and local planning authority, the duty legally requires North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) to publish a Biodiversity Duty report that provides:

- A summary of the actions taken to comply with the biodiversity duty during the first reporting period.
- How the authority plans to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period.
- The actions the authority has carried out to meet Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).
- Details of BNG resulting, or expected to result, from approved biodiversity gain plans.
- How the authority plans to meet BNG obligations in the next reporting period.
- Any other information considered appropriate.

As the first consideration of the statutory Biodiversity Duty, Section 1 of the report sets out the Council’s approach to conserving and enhancing biodiversity within the reporting period, 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2025 in relation to its strategies, policies, objectives, and actions for biodiversity.

Section 2 reflects on the projects and actions that will continue to deliver direct and indirect biodiversity enhancements during the next three-year reporting period, 1 January 2026 – 31 December 2028, and Section 3 details the Council’s actions to meet biodiversity net gain obligations. These include evidence of the biodiversity net gains resulting from biodiversity gain plans that have been approved between 12 February 2024 – 31 December 2025. Finally, Section 4 considers the monitoring tools that have, and will continue to be, utilised to track and report on the Council’s relevant priorities, strategies and policies for the next reporting period (2026-2028).

To meet the statutory requirements, the Biodiversity Duty report must be published within 12 weeks of the reporting period’s end. Therefore, with a reporting period ending 31 December 2025, the Council’s publication deadline is **25 March 2026**.

Section 1: Policies, Objectives and Actions for biodiversity

The Council declared a climate emergency in April 2019, which has ensured that environmental considerations are at the heart of all service delivery. As a result of this declaration, the Council adopted its first Environmental Charter in May 2021 and its first Net Zero 2030 Strategy & Climate Action Plan in 2022. Both of these key documents have been updated in 2025, with the overarching objective of achieving Net Zero emissions across Council operations by 2030.

The importance of conserving and enhancing biodiversity has been recognised and incorporated across numerous corporate strategies, policies, partnerships, and actions during the first reporting period (2022-2025), which are summarised below.

1.1 The Council's Strategies, Policies and Objectives

Strategy/ Policy document	Summary of relevance to biodiversity
NNDC Corporate Plan (2023 to 2027)	Priority 1: Our Greener Future – ‘continue to work to create a cleaner, green and zero-carbon future for Norfolk’ and which includes, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and enhancing the special landscape and ecological value of North Norfolk whilst improving the biodiversity of the district. • Strengthening the ability for local communities to deliver on local environmental ambitions and priorities. • Continuing to pursue government and external funding for new green initiatives. • Identifying solutions to nutrient neutrality that will enable key watercourses to remain healthy ecosystems, whilst ensuring necessary development can take place.
Environmental Charter (November 2025)	Developed following community engagement, the Charter states the Council's commitment to action in light of the declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019. The Charter sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the steps that the Council is taking to achieve net-zero carbon emissions across its estate and operations by 2030. • what the Council will do as community leaders to meet the challenges of the climate change emergency across the district. • what local residents and businesses can do to address the climate emergency and help promote environmental excellence.
Decarbonisation Strategy (2025 – 2028) & supporting Decarbonisation Action Plan (June 25 – March 27) (November 2025)	The Strategy and supporting Action Plan outlines the steps the Council will take to reduce its emissions from its operations and estate by 2030, and the steps it will take to assist the reduction in wider community emissions within the district by 2045. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prioritising offsetting to take full advantage of the co-benefits of offsetting, including Nature-based Solutions (NbS), such as carbon sequestration through tree planting. • collaborate with developers and landowners, using the Council's Local Plan and legislation, regarding

	<p>Biodiversity Net Gain to maximise opportunities for decarbonisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with local and national environmental and wildlife groups to protect and enhance the special landscape of North Norfolk and its potential to sequester carbon in its peatland, saltmarsh, and other habitats.
<p>North Norfolk Local Plan 2024 – 2040 (December 2025)</p>	<p>The protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment and the valuing of green infrastructure form a strategic aim of the Local Plan that is embedded within many of the policies of the recently adopted North Norfolk Local Plan. The policies of particular relevance to biodiversity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy CC1 Delivering Climate Resilient Sustainable Growth. • Policy CC10 Biodiversity Net Gain. • Policy CC11 Green Infrastructure. • Policy CC12 Trees, Hedgerows & Woodland. • Policy ENV1 Norfolk Coast National Landscape. • Policy ENV2 Protection & Enhancement of Landscape & Settlement Character. • Policy ENV4 Biodiversity & Geodiversity. • Policy ENV5 Impacts on Internationally Designated Sites: Recreational Impact Avoidance & Mitigation Strategy (GIRAMS).
<p>Neighbourhood Plans</p>	<p>To date there are five made Neighbourhood Plans (NP) within the district: Blakeney (November 2023) Corpusty & Saxthorpe (April 2019), Holt (August 2023), Ryburgh (June 2021) and Wells-next-the-Sea (July 2024), which all include biodiversity related policies as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blakeney NP: Policy 11 - Biodiversity & Accessibility • Corpusty & Saxthorpe NP: Policy E2 – Protection and Enhancement of Local Biodiversity. • Holt NP: Policy HOLT3 - Green Infrastructure. • Ryburgh NP: Policy 9 - Ecological Network. • Wells-next-the-Sea NP: Local Green Spaces.

1.2 Partnership Strategies

The Council acts as a partner or stakeholder in a range of groups which contribute to conserving biodiversity, some of which prepare and produce strategies or guidance documents to support the statutory duties of the Council.

Strategy/ Partnership	Summary of relevance to biodiversity
<p>Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP)</p>	<p>An ongoing county wide collaboration of local authorities and other organisations established in 2020 with 3 strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop a sustainable energy plan to decarbonise energy supply for Norfolk and improve distribution of energy to citizens. •Reduce and conserve energy demand on the system through retrofitting of buildings through behaviour change, enabling fabric first and heating.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Enable greener sustainable transport solutions including a focus on behaviour change and using statutory powers where appropriate.
Norfolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) (October 2025) (Produced through collaboration of the Norfolk & Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership)	<p>The Council has participated in the production of the Norfolk LNRS as a Supporting Authority, with Norfolk County Council acting as the Responsible Authority.</p> <p>The Norfolk LNRS is comprised of a written statement of biodiversity priorities and a local habitat map, which identifies existing natural areas, and key locations and opportunities for potential enhancement, expansion, and improved habitat connectivity.</p>
Norfolk Green Infrastructure Recreational Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (GIRAMS)	<p>The Norfolk GIRAM strategy is a strategic approach that enables growth in the district by implementing the required mitigation to address adverse effects on the integrity of Habitats Sites arising from recreational disturbance caused by an increased level of recreational use on internationally designated habitat sites, particularly European sites, through growth from all qualifying development.</p>
Draft Norfolk Coast National Landscape (NL) Management Plan (2025-30) (produced by the Norfolk Coast Partnership)	<p>The draft Norfolk Coast NL Management Plan details a range of goals and targets including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature recovery - Restore or create at least 1,300 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats outside protected sites by 2030 (from a 2022 baseline). • Climate adaptation and mitigation - Increase the number of trees outside of woodland and woodland planted around The Wash and Norfolk coast, on an appropriate scale and in appropriate locations.
The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership (WNNMP)	<p>WNNMP has 23 partners, which include the local borough, district and county councils, non-departmental governmental bodies, internal drainage boards, ports, and environmental charities.</p> <p>The WNNMP manages and helps to deliver statutory duties to The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Protected Area (MPA) network by: working to protect, restore and enhance nature; mitigating key pressures and building resilience; and delivering lasting, integrated benefits for people and places through collaborative and innovative approaches.</p>
Air Quality Partnership Group	<p>A group involving regulatory and statutory bodies, councils and farmers/landowners to identify and raise awareness of air pollution issues in Norfolk and Suffolk, share knowledge and networking to target collaborative measures which can be carried out to improve air quality at a landscape scale.</p>
Norfolk County Wildlife Sites (CWS) Partnership	<p>Working group led by Norfolk Wildlife Trust to discuss CWS-related issues, policies and strategies.</p>

1.3 Delivered Actions for biodiversity 2022-2025.

Through implementation of the above Council and partnership strategies, the following projects/ actions have been delivered for nature over the reporting period. Many of the projects also

demonstrate the Council's partnership working and commitment to community and educational engagement opportunities, where participants can engage in activities such as tree planting and volunteer conservation days (Muddy Boots volunteers) at the Council's Country Parks.

Project/ Action	Services & Partners	Details & Outcome for biodiversity
110,000 Trees Project (2019 – 2023)	Sustainable Growth, Climate & Environment - working with environmental groups, volunteers, schools, and parishes.	Corporate strategy delivering the provision of 115,820 trees and hedge plants: more than one for every resident in the district. 37 native species of trees and shrubs were planted across 134 tree-planting projects in the district. Outcome: improvements to local biodiversity, providing vital food and shelter for thousands of different species and preventing soil erosion, improving soil quality for biodiversity.
Green space conservation at the Council offices	Sustainable Growth, Climate & Environment (in partnership with third party contractor)	First trialled in 2021/22, when the Council moved from the regular mowing of specific sites to a managed regrowth, including at the Council offices in Cromer. Outcome: bringing back pollinators, such as bees, to the small pockets of land where an increase in native wildflowers provides a range of benefits for local wildlife, the climate and the local community.
Green space conservation areas in North Norfolk	Sustainable Growth, Climate & Environment	Commenced from 2021/22, the project included giving pieces of land back to the 'wild'. Outcome: as above.
Community Miyawaki Forest Project (2022)	Sustainable Growth, Climate & Environment. In partnership with Norfolk County Council, Defra, Natural England and the Tree Council – working with local communities.	As part of the 110,000 Trees Project, Miyawaki Forests have been planted at three sites in the district: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warren Avenue, Fakenham • Acorn Road playing field, North Walsham • Cooper Road play area, Sheringham Each project site was split in two, with one half planted using the Miyawaki method and the other half planted using a typical woodland creation method. Outcome: improvement of biodiversity, reduced flooding, carbon sequestration and storage, improved resident health & wellbeing.
Community Miyawaki Forest Project (2023)	Sustainable Growth, Climate & Environment, working with local communities.	Following the success of the 2022 project, the Council worked with local communities to plant more Miyawaki Forests at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beeston Hall School • Warren Woods, Cromer • Hindringham The full site areas were planted using the Miyawaki method, resulting in faster and stronger growth across the entire plots.

		Outcome: improvement of biodiversity, reduced flooding, carbon sequestration and storage, improved resident health & wellbeing.
Muddy Boots Volunteer Groups at Sadlers Wood, Holt Country Park, Pretty Corner Woods (2021 onwards)	Environment & Leisure, Leisure & Localities Team	NNDC's rangers run volunteer conservation groups for people who would like to help with practical conservation management work, wildlife surveys and other site improvement projects. Outcome: improvements to habitats for wildlife and participants health and wellbeing benefits.
Tree planting opportunities (2020 - 2025)	Sustainable Growth, Climate & Environment, in partnership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 million Trees for Norfolk project (over 5 years)- Norfolk County Council <p>So far 682,924 trees and hedge plants have been planted across Norfolk, with 61,190 being planted in the North Norfolk district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Trees for Schools, councils, clubs and Community groups – Woodland Trust • Free Trees for Communities Across the UK – The Conservation Volunteers • Grant funding to support tree, hedgerow and orchard establishment – Tree Council <p>Outcome: the planting of native trees and creation/ restoration of woods play a central role in nature recovery.</p>
Green Futures: Youth Project (2025)	Environment & Leisure, Leisure & Localities Team, in partnership with North Norfolk Youth Advisory Board (YAB)	Delivery of various free activities at Holt Country Park, Pretty Corner Woods and Sadler's Wood held throughout the year for young people aged 11 to 19 (up to 25 for those with additional needs). Activities included: days with Rangers, woodland workshops, building bird boxes and bat boxes, creating habitats. As well as woodland talks on a wide range of flora and fauna. Outcome: multiple benefits relating to helping young people get outside, learning about nature, being active, and getting creative.
Community Eco-Learning Space at Holt Country Park (project in progress - completion Easter 2026)	Environment & Leisure, Leisure & Localities Team. Grant funded from Hornsea 3 Legacy Fund, (which supports environmentally focused projects that have a long-lasting impact on people and communities).	The building of the Eco-hub will provide a new indoor/outdoor eco-learning space within Holt Country Park. The building is being built from recycled materials, incorporates energy efficiency insulation, a sedum roof, and rainwater harvesting. The projected design will have outdoor gym equipment that will provide human-powered green energy to create usable electricity to charge devices and feed an on-site energy storage display unit, which will also power lighting. The indoor space will include a classroom for school groups, and volunteer groups.

		<p>The space can also be hired out to local community groups and for workshops. In addition, the facility will have learning stations to educate users on sustainability, environmental impact and local renewable energy production.</p> <p>Outcome: the Eco-hub will be used to support different types of eco-learning to schools, volunteers, community groups, and will also provide opportunities for young people with North Norfolk YAB.</p>
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Photo 1: Sheringham Miyawaki Forest



Photo 2: Cromer Miyawaki Forest

Section 2: Future Actions for biodiversity (2026-2028)

2.1 Continuing Corporate priorities for biodiversity

The next reporting period for the Biodiversity Duty has been set to cover three years, from 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2028. This timeframe is likely to extend beyond that of the forthcoming restructure of local authorities in Norfolk, after which the Council will no longer exist in its current form. Nevertheless, the functions the Council performs and the assets on which local communities rely, will remain.

Therefore, in the interim, the current NNDC Corporate Plan will continue to ensure the Council's pursuit of its corporate priorities, including those matters relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity detailed in Priority 1: Our Greener Future.

In addition, the Environmental Charter, updated in November 2025, sets out the next steps to achieve net zero carbon emissions across the Council's estate and operations by 2030. This includes a number of high-level partnership pledges that seek to conserve and enhance biodiversity:

- to partner with local groups to deliver energy and environmental schemes that deliver co-benefits for local communities,

- collaborate with developers and landowners, using the Council's Local Plan and legislation, regarding Biodiversity Net Gain to maximise opportunities for decarbonisation, and
- to partner with local landowners and custodians to protect and enhance the special landscape and ecological value of North Norfolk.

The Decarbonisation Strategy and associated Action Plan was also updated November 2025. The Strategy outlines the commitments, and high-level actions that are needed to reduce the Council's emissions from its operations and estate by 2030 and includes commitments to offsetting, carbon capture and land-use, where offsetting in North Norfolk will be prioritised to take full advantage of the co-benefits of offsetting, such as biodiversity enhancement.

2.2 Implementation of Local Plan policies

With the adoption of the new North Norfolk Local Plan in December 2025, the Council will be applying its robust policies relating to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment over the next reporting period. The most pertinent policies are highlighted at paragraph 1.1 above, and which include the requirements for:

- a minimum 10% BNG (Policy CC10),
- provision and enhancement of green infrastructure (Policy CC11),
- retention and provision of new trees and hedgerows and comparable replacement in exceptional circumstances (Policy CC12),
- the submission of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to demonstrate no adverse impacts from residential and tourist accommodation development on the River Wensum SAC, The Broads SAC and Broadland Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance) – nutrient neutrality (Policy CC13),
- furthering the purposes of the Norfolk Coast NL and The Broads in positively contributing to their conservation and enhancement of their special qualities (Policy ENV1),
- protection and enhancement of landscape and settlement character (Policy ENV2),
- incorporation of biodiversity enhancement features for wildlife, including for nests and roosts (Policy ENV4),
- contributions towards a scheme of avoidance and mitigation measures in accordance with the Norfolk GIRAMS to ensure no adverse impact on the integrity of European sites from recreational disturbance (Policy ENV5).

2.3 Implementation and delivery of nature recovery through the Norfolk LNRS

In complying with the strengthened duty set out in the Environment Act 2021, the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) confirms that all public authorities must “have regard” to any relevant LNRS. As informed by Defra, it is understood that the PPG is likely to be updated to ensure public authorities ‘take account of’ any relevant LNRS. As such, from adoption in October 2025, the Norfolk LNRS is a material consideration in the assessment of planning applications and is being utilised as an important source of information in relation to finding where off-site provision of biodiversity gain would be most beneficial in circumstances where it cannot be fully met on-site.

Therefore, the Norfolk LNRS will play a key role in channelling nature recovery going forward. The Strategy includes a description of the area covering the full range of Norfolk's habitats from its coast, farmland, woodland, grassland and heathland to its freshwater habitats and urban and built environment. It also identifies Norfolk's priorities and measures to guide recovery and enhancement of local species and habitats by highlighting specific habitat priorities, key species, habitat-based species assemblages and the environmental benefits of nature-based solutions (NbS) following the nature recovery principles.

The Local Habitat Map identifies existing natural areas and key locations and opportunities for potential enhancement, expansion and improved habitat connectivity. The mapped measures

also indicate where wider environmental benefits will be recognised using NbS delivering for example, flood risk mitigation and improved water quality. By mapping specific locations to take such actions, the Norfolk LNRS aims to drive delivery and funding towards achieving nature recovery in these areas.

The next stages will seek to develop and facilitate projects and initiatives that support the objectives of the LNRS. This will be ongoing over several years, where different projects will have their own timelines. In conjunction with its implementation, outcomes will be monitored on a periodic basis in order to review the strategy's effectiveness.

2.4 Forthcoming Species Conservation Strategies and Protected Site Strategies

The Nature Restoration Fund, as introduced by the Planning and Infrastructure Act, aims to accelerate the building of homes and infrastructure while diverting the impact into the recovery of protected sites and species.

In December 2025, Natural England (NE) gave notice of its intention to prepare a number of Environmental Delivery Plans (EDP) in 2026, where two will apply to the North Norfolk district. The first tranche of EDPs prepared will cover nutrient pollution from development, where one will be prepared for The Broads Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (including River Wensum SAC). The second tranche will be prepared for great crested newts, which is relevant to North Norfolk, being a place where the species is materially present.

Each EDP will set out the conservation measures that will be brought forward to materially outweigh the impact of the development on the environmental feature that the EDP covers. Once in place, developers will be able to pay the relevant nature restoration levy which will discharge the relevant environmental obligations covered by the EDP. Natural England will use this money to deliver the necessary conservation measures.

Whilst the full details regarding EDPs is still emerging, once formally agreed by the Secretary of State, they will provide an alternative way for developers to address and pay for impacts on protected sites and species.

Section 3: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) information

3.1 The actions carried out by the Council to meet Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) obligations

Established by the Environment Act 2021, qualifying development requirements include the delivery of a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The obligation has been effective since 12 February 2024 for major sites and as such, this report covers the period 12 February 2024 – 31 December 2025 with regard to BNG.

From 12 February 2024, the Council has been applying a mandatory BNG pre-commencement condition to all planning permissions relating to qualifying development. This data has been captured from the Uniform planning software and entered into BNG tracking software (Exacom).

The Council applies a standard 'BNG Implementation' condition, where appropriate, to secure the implementation of any approved Biodiversity Gain Plans (BGP) and Habitat Management & Monitoring Plans (HMMP). Where onsite gains are considered 'Significant', the Council seeks to secure a Council Monitoring Fee to reclaim costs for monitoring and enforcement action requirements over the 30-year BNG period.

The Council has worked proactively with a local landowner to setup a habitat bank which will deliver approximately 90 biodiversity units. Sale of these units is due to commence in early 2026.

3.2 Details of biodiversity gains resulting from biodiversity gain plans approved

During the reporting period, the Council considered and approved 56 planning applications which triggered mandatory BNG requirements, of which 10 discharge of condition applications had been submitted and approved securing BGPs.

Of the 10 BGPs currently approved, the delivery of BNG has been secured:

- Through on-site units only in 5 (50%) applications,
- Through off-site units only in 4 (40%) applications, and
- Through a combination of on-site and off-site units in 1 (10%) application.

The overall expected gains and losses across approved BGPs in the reporting period are shown below.

Overall Expected Gains/Losses	Total
Total number of pre-development biodiversity units approved on-site	10.28
Total number of post-development biodiversity units approved on-site	10.78
Total net unit change in biodiversity units, on-site	0.50
Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, on-site	4.86%
Total number of baseline biodiversity units approved offsite	0.53
Total number of post-intervention biodiversity units approved off-site	2.26
Total net unit change in biodiversity units, off-site	1.73
Average percentage (%) change in biodiversity units, off-site	326.42%
Total number of biodiversity units offset using statutory credits	0
Total net unit change in biodiversity units (including any units offset using credits)	0
Average percentage (%) change (including statutory credits)	0.00%

The area/length and biodiversity unit values for each habitat, hedgerow and watercourse type, both at baseline and post-development across both on-site and off-site delivery, are shown in the tables below.

Habitat Type - Area	Baseline		Post-Development		Net Change	
	Total units	Total hectares	Total units	Total hectares	Total units	Total hectares
Cropland	0.72	0.35	0.14	0.07	-0.58	-0.28
Grassland	2.29	1.01	2.63	0.78	0.34	-0.23
Heathland and Scrub	0.87	0.11	1.42	0.19	0.55	0.08
Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sparsely Vegetated Land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban	0.01	1.32	0.33	1.75	0.32	0.43
Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Woodland and Forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Coastal Saltmarsh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rocky Shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Coastal Lagoons	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal Hard Structures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Watercourse footprint	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Individual Trees	5.81	0.77	6.58	1.22	0.77	0.45
Total	9.70	3.56	11.10	4.01	1.40	0.46

Habitat Type – Hedgerows and Lines of Trees	Baseline		Post-Development		Net Change	
	Total units	Total kilometres	Total units	Total kilometres	Total units	Total kilometres
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.01	0.18	0.01
Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Species -rich native hedgerow	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Native hedgerow with trees	0.18	0.02	0.18	0.02	0.00	0.00
Ecologically valuable line of trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Native hedgerow	0.34	0.12	0.80	0.27	0.46	0.15
Line of trees	0.28	0.06	0.28	0.06	0.00	0.00
Line of trees associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.08	0.08	0.11	0.11	0.03	0.03
Total	0.88	0.28	1.55	0.47	0.67	0.19

Habitat Type – Watercourse	Baseline		Post-Development		Net Change	
	Total units	Total kilometres	Total units	Total kilometres	Total units	Total kilometres
Priority Habitat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Rivers and Streams	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ditches	0.24	0.05	0.39	0.05	0.15	0.00
Canals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Culverts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0.24	0.05	0.39	0.05	0.15	0.00

No BGPs were approved in the reporting period where the on-site change would negatively impact upon irreplaceable habitats.

All off-site units were purchased from habitat banks within the adjacent Local Planning Authority or National Character Area.

The first monitoring period (e.g. Year 1 or 2 after completion of habitat creation/enhancement works) is yet to have been reached for any of the BGPs approved in the reporting period where monitoring is required.

A total of 786 applications were submitted and approved within the BNG reporting period which were considered exempt from mandatory BNG under the Householder development (628 applications, 79.90% of total), *de minimis* (127 applications, 16.16% of total) and Self-build/custom housebuilding development (31 applications, 3.94% of total) exemption criteria. A number of additional applications were considered exempt under the temporary exemption for small sites, i.e. applications for minor developments submitted between 12th February and 2nd April, although this number is unknown due to not being logged as exempt for this reason through internal procedures at that time.

3.3 How the authority plans to meet BNG obligations in the next reporting period

To track, monitor and report on BNG data, the Council has licensed a specialist software package (Exacom), which will be used to collate data from other corporate systems, such as Uniform, to provide greater detail of BNG delivery in future Biodiversity Duty reports.

The new North Norfolk Local Plan (December 2025) contains a specific Policy CC10, Biodiversity Net Gain, which sets out the minimum 10% requirement over pre-development biodiversity value for qualifying development. The policy requires the submission of a supporting biodiversity net gain strategy, which must demonstrate that the mitigation hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation or compensation has been followed and, how a proposal complies with the biodiversity gain hierarchy. The policy is future proofed to allow for a higher requirement, if stipulated in successive national legislation.

The Council's Condition Monitoring Officer will monitor compliance with the general biodiversity gain condition and planning conditions on qualifying developments. Enforcement action will be taken where applicants do not seek to discharge the biodiversity gain condition prior to works commencing, or where there is non-compliance with approved details.

Section 4: Monitoring

4.1 Monitoring measures include:

- The Annual Monitoring Report- where Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal Indicators are published every year. Indicators include:
 - new and enhanced Green Infrastructure (GI),
 - contributions to the strategic mitigation package contained in GIRAMS,
 - provision of off-site BNG informed by the Norfolk LNRS,
 - the percentage of SSSIs in favourable, unfavourable or recovering condition,
 - the percentage of County Wildlife Sites in positive conservation management.
- Proactive monitoring and enforcement action alongside continued use of specialist software (currently Exacom), to track BNG delivery and monitor habitat changes over the statutory 30-year period.
- Alignment with governance structures and monitoring requirements through the Norfolk LNRS and wider Norfolk and Suffolk LNRS Partnership.
- The Miyawaki Forests continue to be monitored by the Tree Council to assess innovative ways to increase tree cover in towns and cities.

Taking into consideration the proposed timescales for Local Government Reorganisation, whereby North Norfolk District Council will be incorporated into a new unitary authority, it would be considered appropriate for the next reporting period to cover three years - from 1 January 2026 – 31 December 2028.

Glossary of Acronyms

- **BNG** – Biodiversity Net Gain
- **BGP** – Biodiversity Gain Plan
- **CWS** – County Wildlife Site
- **Defra** – Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- **EDP** – Environmental Delivery Plan
- **GI** – Green Infrastructure
- **GIRAMS** - Green Infrastructure Recreational Avoidance Mitigation Strategy
- **HMMP** – Habitat Management & Monitoring Plan
- **HRA** – Habitats Regulation Assessment
- **LNRS** – Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- **NbS** – Nature-based Solutions
- **NERC Act** - Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act
- **NL** – National Landscape
- **NNDC** – North Norfolk District Council
- **PPG** – Planning Practice Guidance
- **SAC** – Special Area of Conservation
- **SSSI** – Site of Special Scientific Interest

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