# Biodiversity Net Gain, Dr Julia Baker

Balfour Beatty

# In practice?

| | Ref | Broad Habitat | Habitat type | Area (hectares) | Distinctiveness | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | | | | | | |
| 11 | 1 | Woodland and forest | Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved | | Medium | 4 |
| 12 | 2 | | | | | |
| 13 | 3 | | | | | |
| 14 | 4 | | | | | |
| 15 | 5 | | | | | |
| 16 | 6 | | | | | |

Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; mixed
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; Young Trees planted
Woodland and forest - Upland birchwoods
Woodland and forest - Upland mixed ashwoods
Woodland and forest - Upland oakwood
Woodland and forest - Wet woodland
Woodland and forest - Wood-pasture and parkland

Start | Main Menu | A-1 Site Habitat Baseline | C-1 Site River Baseline | G-7 Rivers Data | Techr ...

**Environment Bill**

**Biodiversity Net Gain**

Good practice principles for development

# Check LPA requirements

LEEDS.GOV.UK

Achieving net gain for biodiversity - guidance for developers

Guide to

Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull

Biodiversity Offsetting

Biodiversity Impact Assessment Calculator v19.0

For Ecological Consultants

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

www.westoxon.gov.uk

Interim biodiversity net gain guidance for developers and ecological consultants

# Use the metric as early as possible!

Clearly state assumptions
then ground-truth later

Habitat map

# Avoid & Reduce

| Ref | Habitats and areas | | | Habitat distinctiveness | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Broad Habitat | Habitat type | Area (hectares) | Distinctiveness | Score |
| 1 | Urban | Urban - Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land | 0.5 | High | 6 |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | |

| Suggested action to address habitat losses |
|---|
| Same habitat required |

# Design innovations to avoid impacts

- Set BNG as a core deliverable from the start
- Use the metric as a decision-making tool
- Involve Contractors early

# A-1 Site Habitat Baseline

Condense / Show Columns

Condense / Show Rows

Main Menu

Instructions

| | Habitats and areas | | | Habitat distinctiveness | | Habitat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ref | Broad Habitat | Habitat type | Area (hectares) | Distinctiveness | Score | Condition |
| 1 | Grassland | Grassland - Lowland meadows | 2 | V.High | 8 | Poor |

| Suggested action to address habitat losses | Ecological baseline | Retention category biodiversity value | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total habitat units | Area retained | Area enhanced | Area succession | Baseline units retained | Baseline units enhance | Baseline units succession | Area lost | Units lost |
| Bespoke compensation likely to be required | Any Loss Unacceptable | | | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.00 | Unacceptable Loss |

# The Biodiversity Metric 2.0 - Calculation Tool

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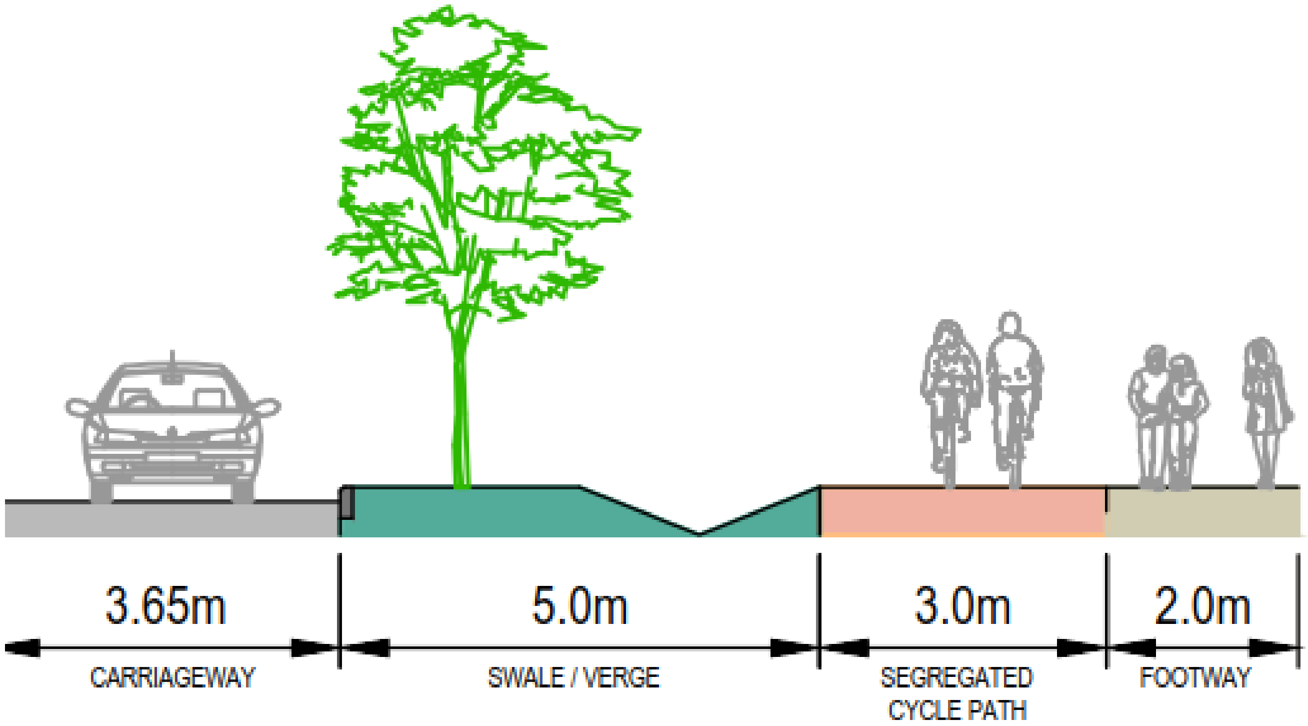
# Biodiversity Net Gain?

- More or better habitats
- Space

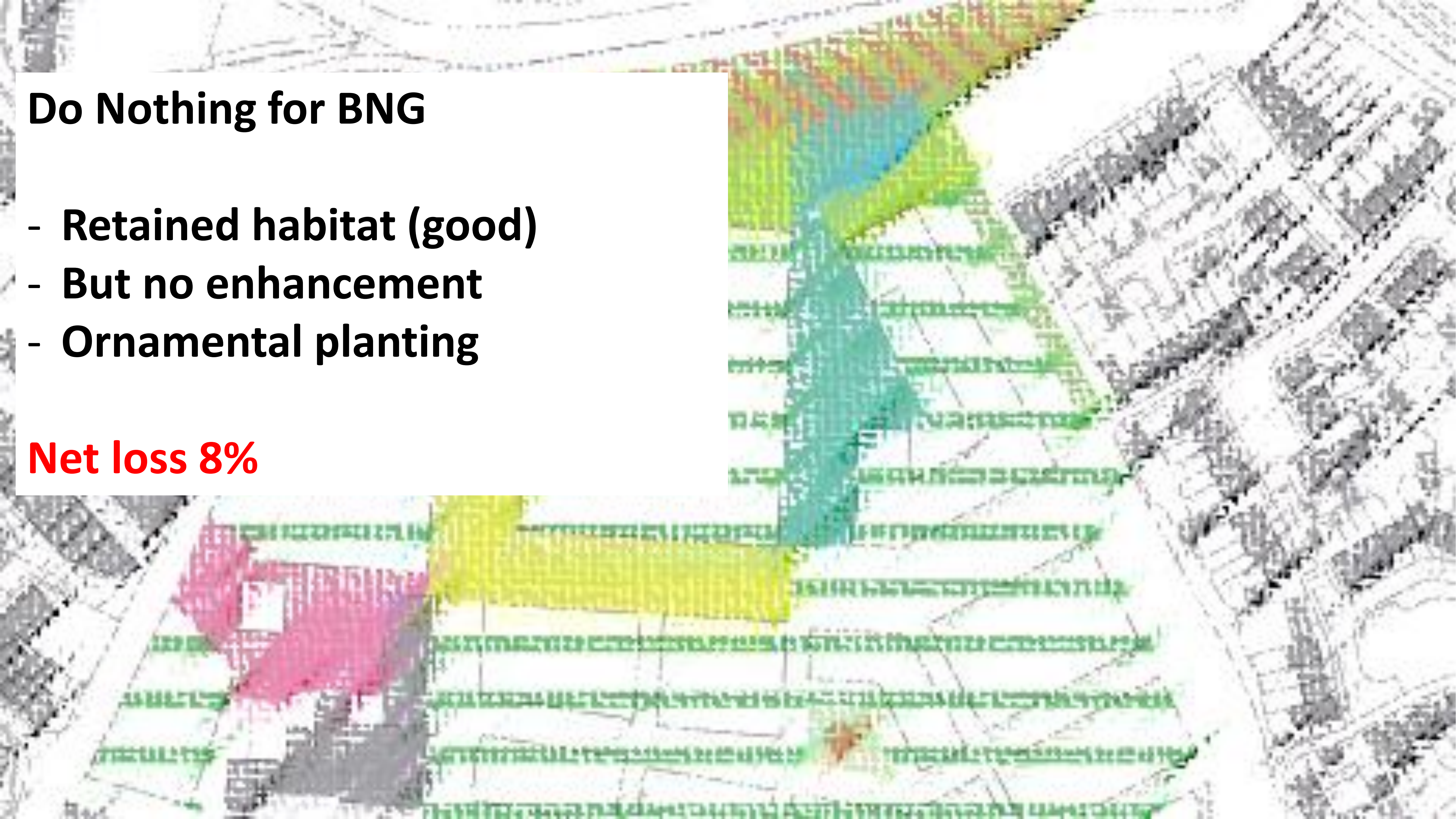


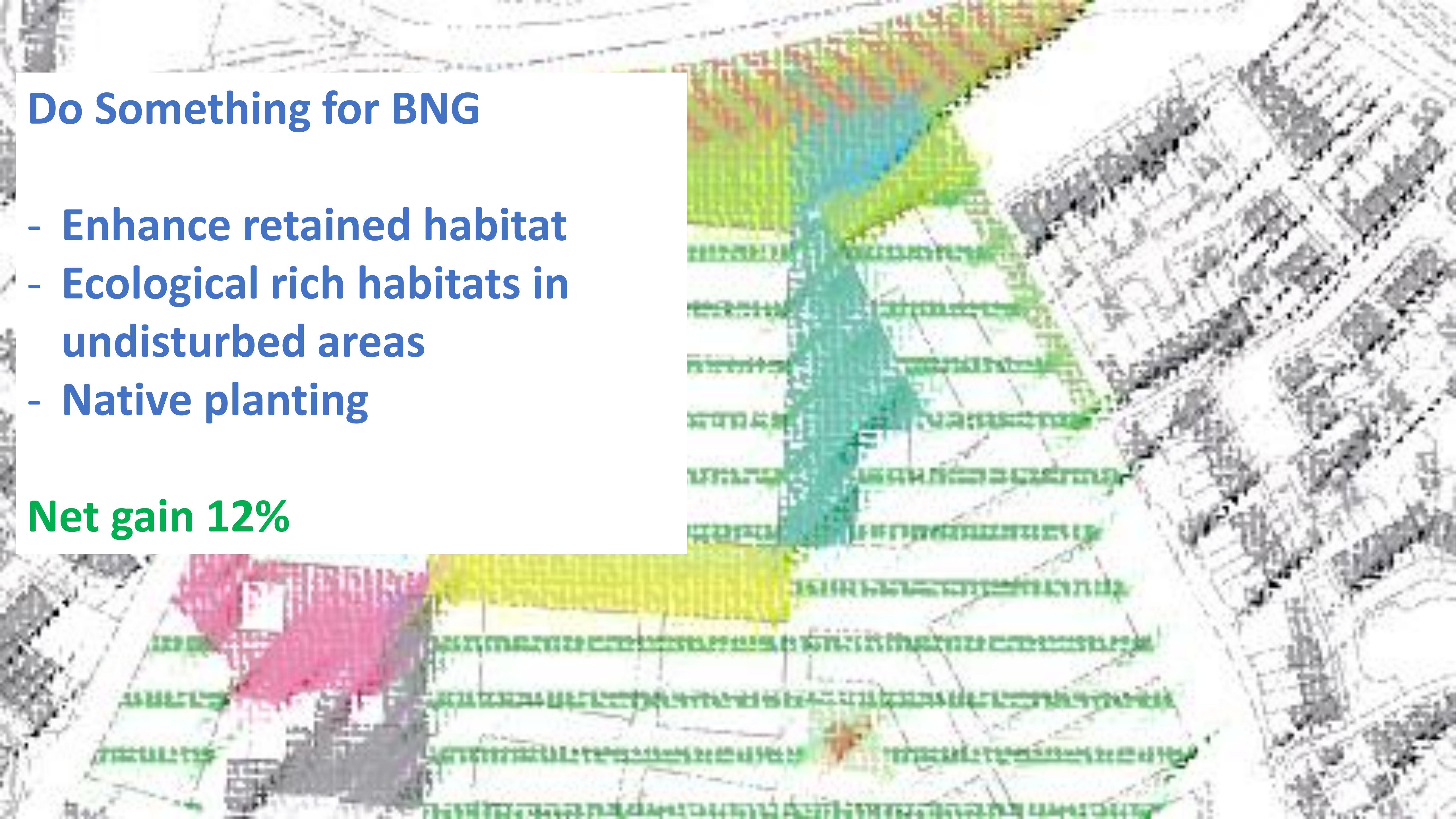
# Small changes can get big results

## Do Nothing for BNG

- **Retained habitat (good)**
- **But no enhancement**
- **Ornamental planting**

**Net loss 8%**

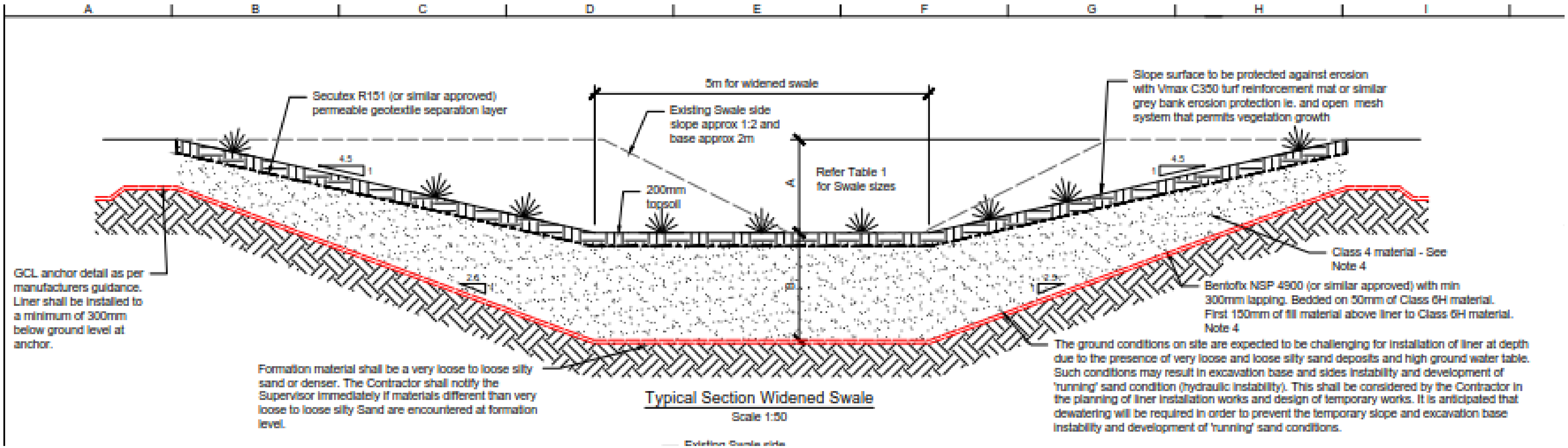




# Do Something for BNG

- Enhance retained habitat
- Ecological rich habitats in undisturbed areas
- Native planting

**Net gain 12%**




**Do Nothing**

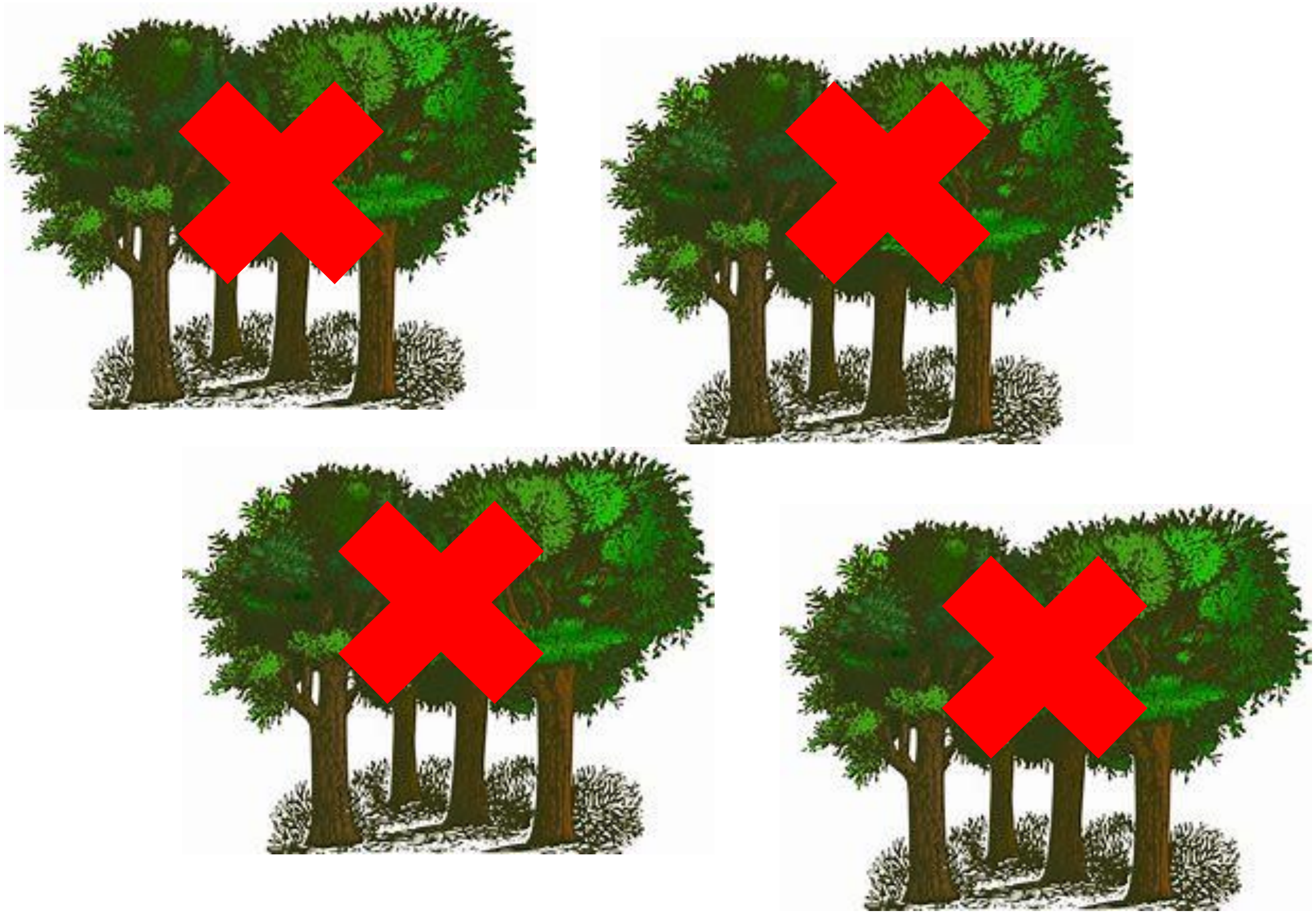
- Amenity wet grassland mix
- -8.5% units

**Do Something**

- Native species rich grassland mix
- +5% units
- No extra cost


It’s not all about units

It’s also about cover



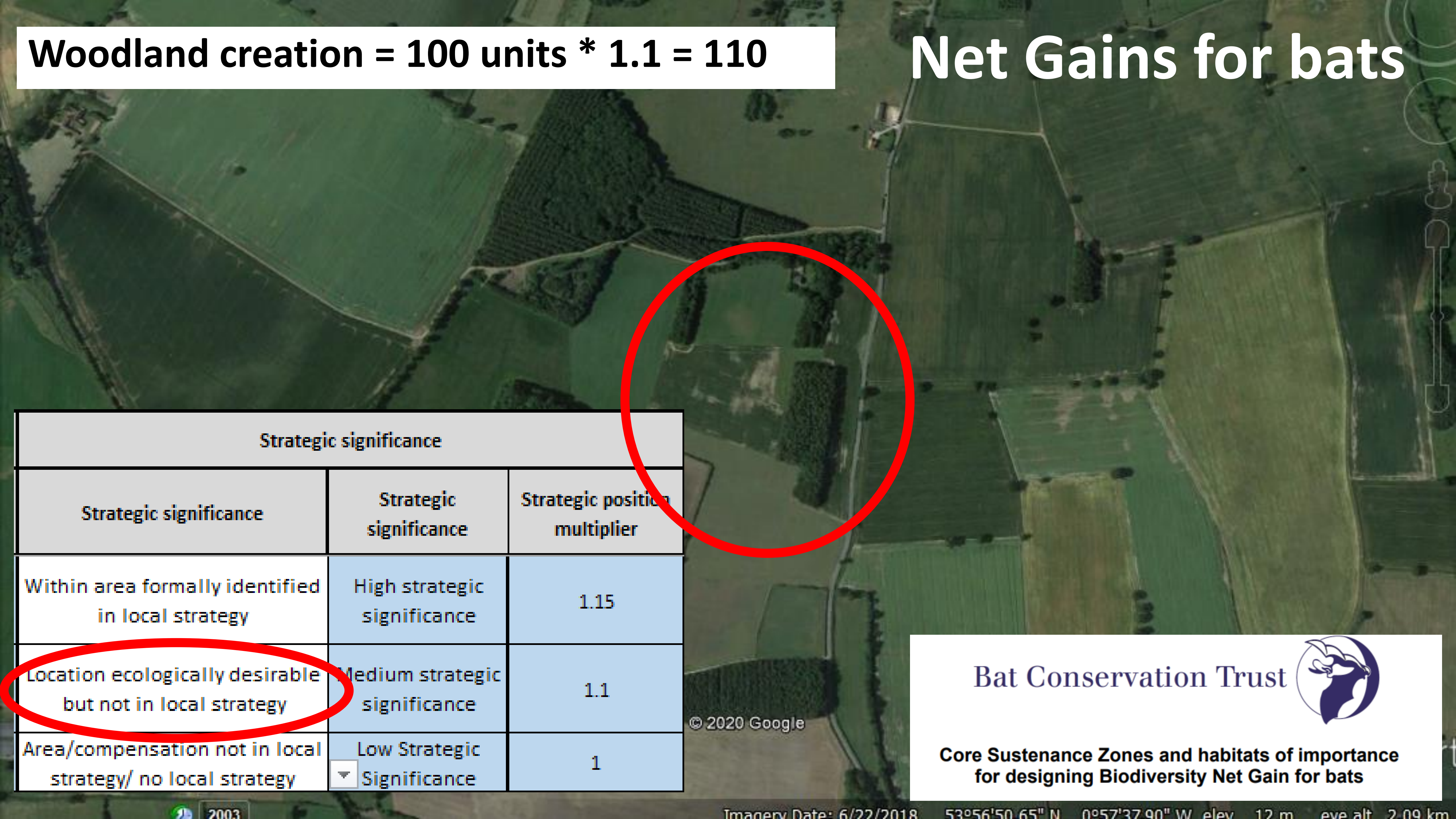
Check local biodiversity strategies as these often refer to habitat cover


It’s not all about 10%

It’s also about wildlife

# Woodland creation = 100 units * 1.1 = 110

# Net Gains for bats




| Strategic significance | | |
|---|---|---|
| Strategic significance | Strategic significance | Strategic position multiplier |
| Within area formally identified in local strategy | High strategic significance | 1.15 |
| Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy | Medium strategic significance | 1.1 |
| Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | Low Strategic Significance | 1 |

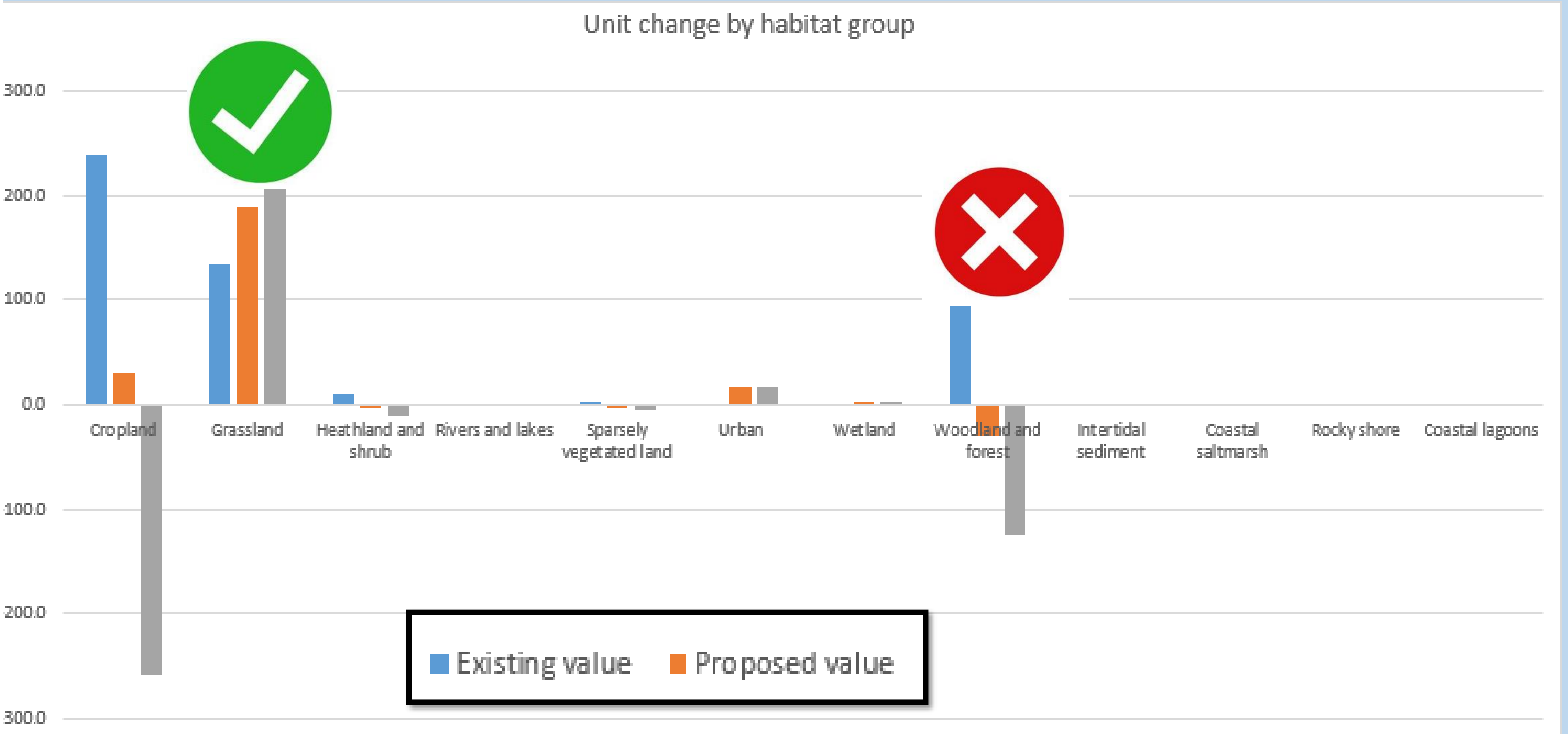
Bat Conservation Trust

**Core Sustenance Zones and habitats of importance for designing Biodiversity Net Gain for bats**

# Total net % change

(including all on-site & off-site habitat creation + retained habitats)

| *Habitat units* | 12.31% |
| --- | --- |



# Challenges?

- Demonstrate mitigation hierarchy
- Grassland gains mask woodland losses
- Unfeasible BNG designs
- Space for habitats

# The future?

- Mandatory BNG

- Covid19 shown the great value of green spaces

- BNG will underpin genuine sustainable development


CIEEM

Balfour Beatty

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD Department of Zoology

**Wild Business**

Enabling organisations to benefit from, and restore, wild spaces