Context

- Ambitious economic and environmental goals
- Existing mechanisms for assessing impacts of plans and projects on biodiversity:
  - Applying mitigation hierarchy
  - Compensating for unavoidable impacts
  - Stricter protections for important biodiversity
Offsetting and the mitigation hierarchy

- **Avoid**
  - Clarity about the impacts of plans / projects
  - Exposes costs of impacts

- **Mitigate**
  - Effectiveness of mitigation
  - Sheds light on decision-making process

- **Compensate**
  - Sufficiency of compensation
  - Security of compensation
Timeline

- **2011**
  - NEWP sets out plans for biodiversity offsetting pilots

- **2012**
  - Six pilots launched
  - NPPF published

- **2013**
  - Green paper consultation
  - First offsets agreed

- **2014**
  - Pilots end and are evaluated