Thameslink Programme

Delivering Network Rail’s first net positive biodiversity offset

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One of Europe’s busiest commuter routes

- Upgrade existing railway
- Mitigation hierarchy: full legal compliance
- Voluntary net gain target
- But
  - No standard measure of biodiversity
  - Constraints to railway planting
Executive Board commitment

- Numbers illustrated net gain roadmap

- Focus on end-goal:
  - Biodiversity Benefits Policy
  - Training staff & supply chain
  - On-site measures
  - Offsetting last resort
Grassroots collaboration

- Choice of offset provider critical
- Partnership with London Wildlife Trust & Lambeth Council

**Streatham Common Biodiversity Offsetting Project**

On behalf of Lambeth Council I am writing to confirm that we both welcome and support proposals to use Streatham Common as a receptor site for delivery of a pilot project to test the benefits of biodiversity offsetting, as part of a scheme involving a number of neighbouring Wildlife Trusts along the route of the Thameslink rail route between Bedford and Brighton.
## Make meaning of numbers

- Numbers are communication & management tools
- Effective only *after* understanding biodiversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Nature Conservation Value</th>
<th>Primary Ecological Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Green corridor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Rail-locked trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Limited green corridor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Limited green corridor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td>Very limited temporary wildlife shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Low/moderate</td>
<td>Some temporary wildlife shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td>Very limited temporary wildlife shelter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total biodiversity baseline units

Site B: a rail-locked area of silver birch trees
Biodiversity baseline units per hectare

Site B still highest number but Site F high

Units per hectare gives further understanding of what the numbers mean
Designing the offset

- Distance to Thameslink
- Diverse native woodland
- Designated nature reserve
- Contribute to a biodiversity strategy
- Increase connectivity
- Bring people closer to nature
- Timescale matching Thameslink build
- Thameslink involvement
- Additional
Restoring the Great North Wood

Streatham Common is a local nature reserve & public park
✓ enhancing for wildlife
✓ a net-gain for Thameslink
✓ increasing public enjoyment

An offset in perpetuity...BOMP
➢ Years 1 to 3: London Wildlife Trust
➢ Thereafter: Lambeth Council as land owners
Key messages

- Focus on the end goal
- Formalise no net loss / net gain
- Measure biodiversity as standard but ensure meaning
- Empower staff & supply chain
- Grassroots collaboration for offsets
- Secure wider benefits of an offset