



Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) – Submission for the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan Examination- Supplementary Questions

MATTER 4 Development Management Policies

Issue: Whether the development management policies are consistent with national policy, effective and otherwise sound.

Policy DM4

50 Should Policy DM4 and the supporting text in paragraph 5.56 require net gains in biodiversity?

It is NWT's view that this addition would be helpful to ensure clarity of approach and consistency with national policy; with the current and emerging policy on net gain in the Environment Act, and the aims of the 25 Year Environment Plan. But it is also important to recognise that **maximising** biodiversity gain is fundamental to this Plan as it currently stands, as is stated in SP2. The MPA has developed the biodiversity-led approach to this Plan with NWT over several years, and we commend the MPA for taking this far-sighted approach, with which national policy is now catching up. NWT are therefore keen to ensure that the need to deliver net gain is clear, but any national target in the Environment Act is a minimum, as such a target (as currently being discussed nationally) would, in fact weaken this Plan's intention to "maximise biodiversity gain".

This approach would be consistent with our current discussions with the LPAs and NCC about developing a Countywide Biodiversity Net Gain Framework, where any national target will be a minimum requirement, but there will be an aim for more ambitious delivery through the planning system at all levels, to a shared vision for delivering NRN across the County.

Policy DM12

52 The wording of paragraphs 5.135 and 5.136 would appear to allow some latitude in determining whether extended aftercare periods are necessary and in using planning agreements to secure aftercare provisions. This would not be consistent with the requirements of Policy DM12 part (5).

NWT agree strongly with the Inspector's proposed changes to the wording of these paragraphs, which would remove caveats that give us concern over interpretation and consistent application.