

Enabling NPF4's Biodiversity Goals

Scotland's EIA Conference Workshop

12 October 2023



Introduction



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A joint crisis



**Create more wildlife-rich
habitats, or make
existing habitats better**





Scotland's future places will be net zero, **nature-positive** places that are designed to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, whilst protecting, recovering and restoring our environment.



NPF4 National Planning Policy

Policy 1

Tackling the climate and nature crises

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that addresses the global climate emergency and nature crisis.

Policy 2

Climate mitigation and adaptation

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that minimises emissions and adapts to the current and future impacts of climate change.

Policy 3

Biodiversity

To protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks.

Policy 3 Biodiversity

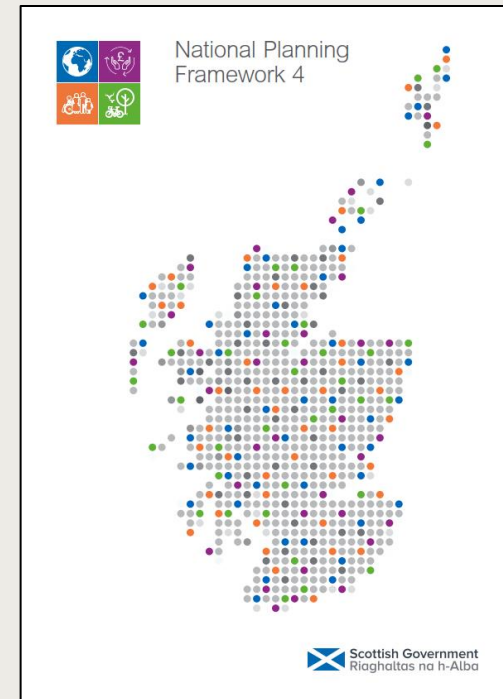
Policy 3: Biodiversity

To protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks.

Policy 3(b)

Proposals will demonstrate how they have met all of the following criteria:

- understanding of the existing characteristics of the site and its ecological context, including the presence of any irreplaceable habitats
- nature-based solutions have been integrated and made best use of where feasible
- negative effects fully mitigated prior to identifying enhancements
- significant biodiversity enhancements are provided, including nature networks and strengthening connectivity within and beyond the development, secured within a reasonable timescale, with reasonable certainty and including management and monitoring arrangements
- local community benefits of the biodiversity and/or nature networks are considered



4/2020

**Habitats sequester carbon
& act as carbon sinks in
the landscape**



4/2021

**Do biodiversity
enhancements payback
the carbon debt from
habitat clearance?**

Major Road Scheme

An aerial photograph of a complex road interchange with multiple overpasses and ramps. The image is in grayscale and serves as a background for the text. Two white rectangular boxes with black borders are overlaid on the image, one on the left and one on the right, containing text.

Before

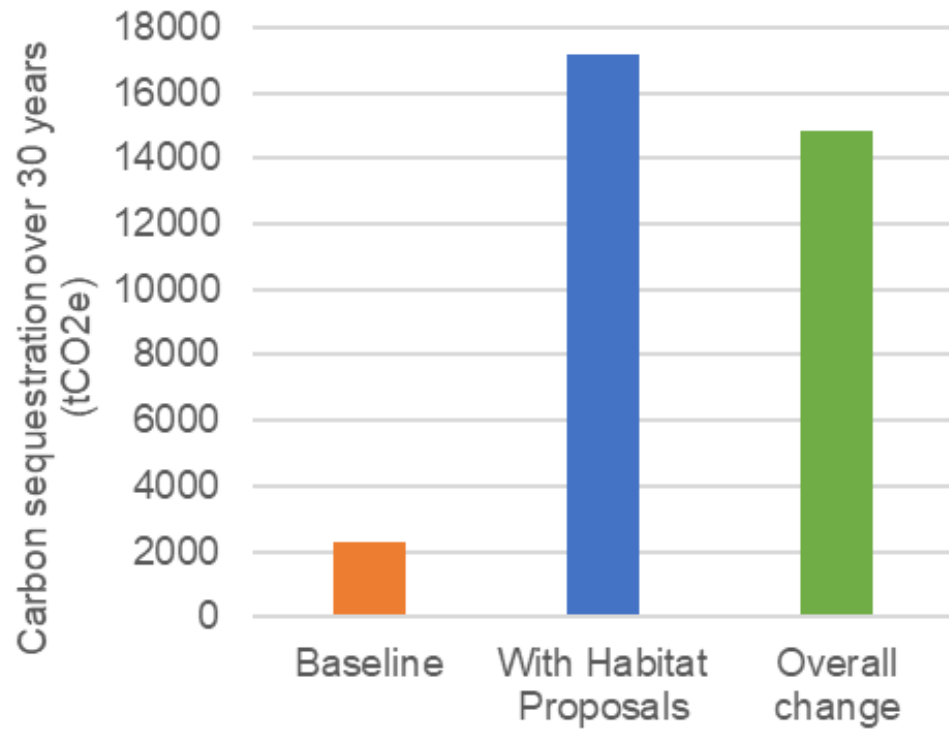
Large areas of intensive arable farming with smaller areas of woodland, scrub & grassland

Enhancement

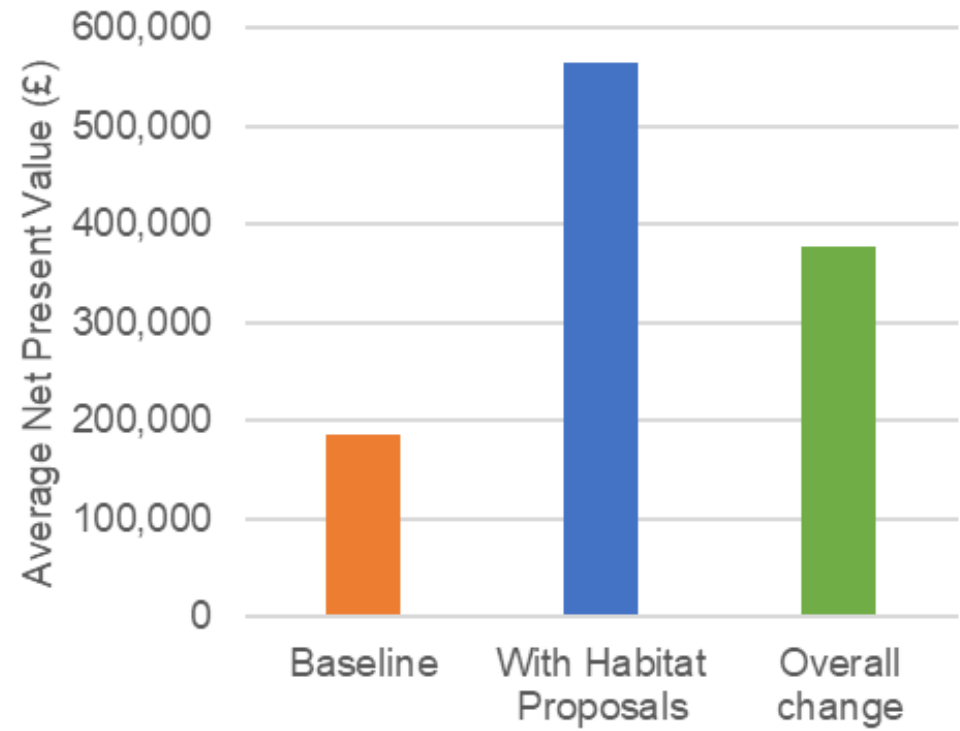
Woodland planting, scrub & grassland creation

Major Road Scheme

Impact of Habitat Proposals on Carbon Sequestration (tCO₂e) over 30 years
Case Study 1: Major Road Scheme



Impact of Habitat Proposals on Net Present Value of Carbon (£)
Case Study 1: Major Road Scheme



Small Urban Development

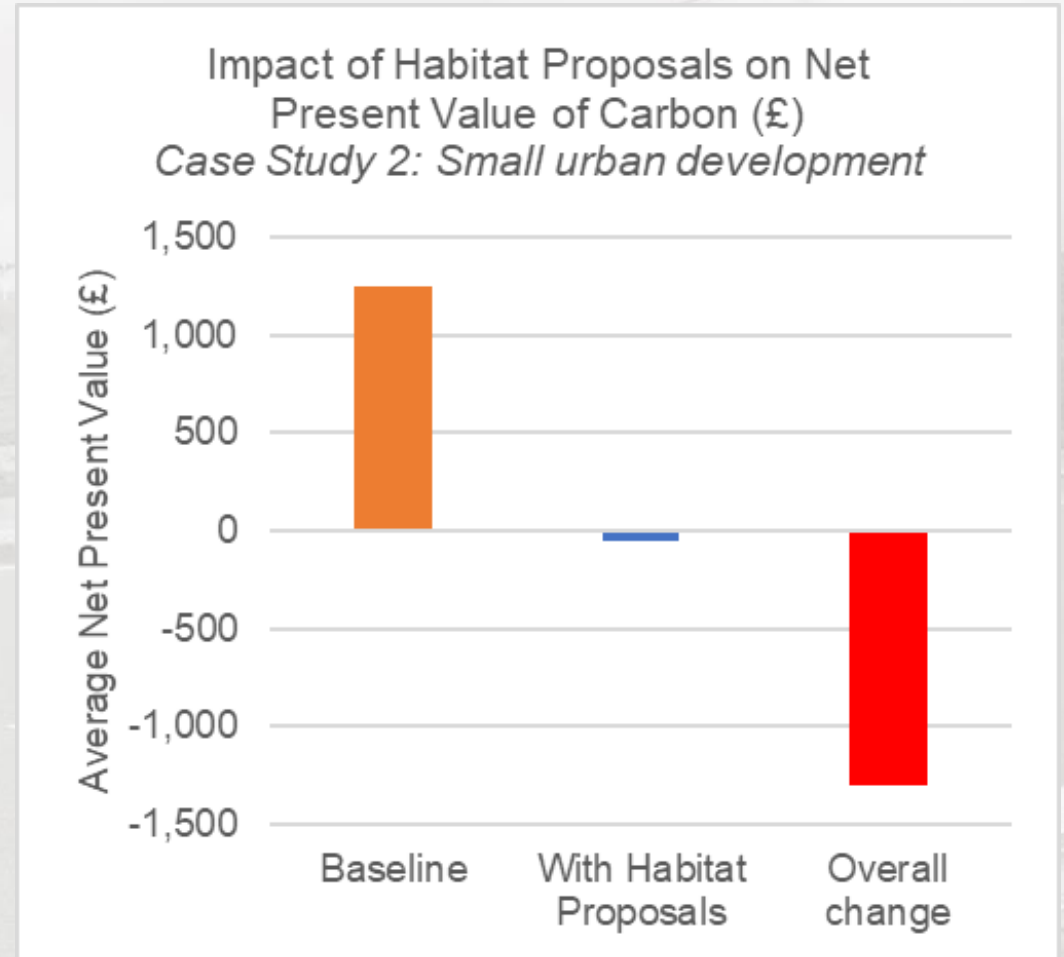
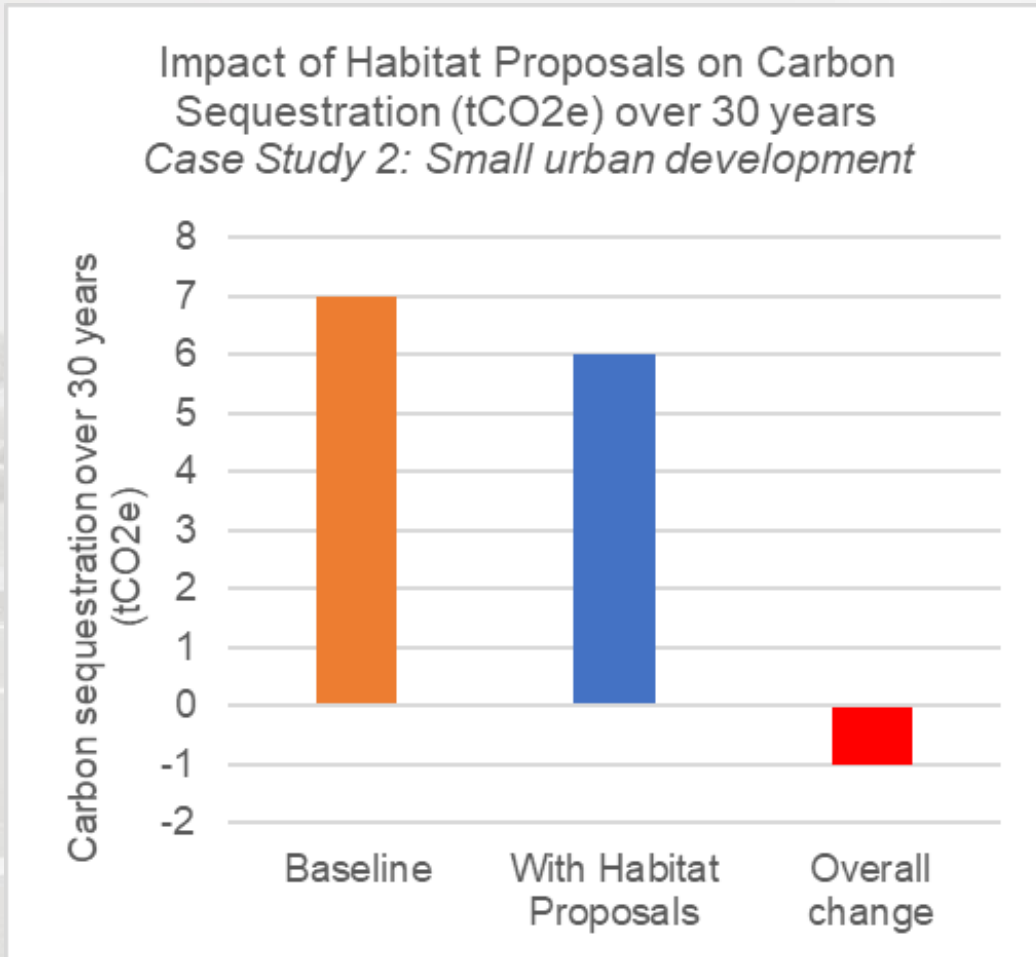
Before

Amenity grassland & urban planting

Enhancement

Grassland creation

Small Urban Development



Breakout Exercise

1

**Breakout
into 4
Groups
(Now)**

2

**Address
Group
Question
(15min)**

3

**Red dot the
top 3
issues
(5min)**

What if anything needs to be done differently – do established EIA processes, regulations, guidance and good practice help or hinder the delivery of NPF4's biodiversity goals?

How can the Environmental Report best evidence delivery of NPF4 policy 3(b), with biodiversity and nature networks in a “demonstrably better state than without intervention”?

Breakout Exercise

Address group question (15min)

Red dot the top 3 issues (5min)

5min remaining – please now ‘red dot’ your top 3 issues

What if anything needs to be done differently – do established EIA processes, regulations, guidance and good practice help or hinder the delivery of NPF4’s biodiversity goals?

- Group 1
- Group 2

How can the Environmental Report best evidence delivery of NPF4 policy 3(b), with biodiversity and nature networks in a “demonstrably better state than without intervention”?

- Group 3
- Group 4

M
MOTT
MACDONALD



Thank you

