

		GROUP	
Policy Name	BIODIVERSITY POLICY	Date & Issue	0/01/2020 Issue 4
Approved	<i>Executive Committee</i>	Doc. Ref. No.	GRP-POL-20

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Countryside was founded in 1958 and is a leading UK home builder specialising in place making and urban regeneration. Our business is centred around two complementary divisions, Partnerships and Housebuilding. Our Partnerships Division specialises in urban regeneration of private and public sector land, delivering open market, private rented and affordable homes by working with local authorities, housing associations, private rental sector landlords and on occasion private landowners. The Division also operates two modular panel factories producing products for exclusive use within the business The Housebuilding Division, operating under Countryside and Millgate brands, develops sites that provide open market and affordable housing, on land owned or controlled by the Group. The Group operates across London, the South East, the North West, the Midlands and South Yorkshire.

In undertaking some of these activities, the Group recognises that it will have an impact on biodiversity and seeks to reduce negative impacts and identify opportunities for the enhancement of biodiversity.

To achieve this, the Group's vision, values and objectives are to:

Corporate

- Ensure that protection of biodiversity is a key indicator of environmental performance through all stages of development.
- Raise awareness within the Group and with those working on our behalf of the risks posed to species and habitats by our operations.
- Monitor changes in biodiversity, detailing habitats lost, protected, created and any associated gains or losses in species.
- Calculate the Biodiversity Net Gain for new projects

Land

- Undertake ecological assessments of all land acquisitions to identify existing biodiversity and opportunities for enhancement and improvement.

Planning and Design

- Ensure ecological protection and enhancement is incorporated into the planning, specification and design process.
- Develop landscape and building design so that it integrates with and enhances the surrounding natural environment.
- Incorporate pollen and nectar rich habitats into landscaping schemes.
- Work with NGOs, government and other interested parties to ensure that proposed ecological improvements are suitable for species and habitats targeted taking into consideration the site environment, surrounding infrastructure and local initiatives.

Construction

- Manage the construction process to ensure that impact on biodiversity on site and locally is minimised.
- Implement Biodiversity Management Plans and Tree Protection Plans when protected species have been identified as present on site or in the surrounding area.
- Comply fully with legislation regarding the protection of flora and fauna and ensure all personnel working on site are aware of their obligations.

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- Ensure any invasive species are identified and removed in accordance with legislative requirements.
- Limit the use of any pesticides or other substances that may have a detrimental effect on species or their habitats.

Post Construction.

- Produce a Long term Management Plan to ensure that landscaping and any ecological enhancements are managed and maintained in a way to best promote habitat protection and species enhancement.

Organisation

A member of the Executive Committee is Chairman of the Health Safety Environment and Quality Committee. The remit and constitution of the Committee shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

This Corporate Biodiversity Policy is regularly reviewed and supported by a number of issue specific policies and procedures. These can be viewed on the Corporate Website at <https://www.countrysideproperties.com/>