

10. WILDLIFE

Key Principles

- **Development proposals should actively seek to enrich biodiversity in and around development sites.** SG07 Biodiversity and Development provides a detailed guide on the ways to support biodiversity.
- **Site audits, survey work, and an understanding of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan** is important. This will highlight opportunities for both protection and enhancement.
- **Existing habitats should be treated as important assets, and integrated into the landscape design.** The 5 stage approach outlined in SG07 - protect, enhance, mitigate, compensate and manage - should be followed.
- **Opportunities to create new habitat within open space, SUDS areas and planting should be maximised.** Landscape treatments, species and management regimes should be chosen to encourage wildlife.
- **Designs should provide for wildlife corridors, buffers and 'stepping stones'** that allow routes for species movement and migration.

Relevant LDP Policies

- PE13 Green and Blue Network
- PE17 Open Space and New Development
- PE18 Landscape
- PE19 Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- PE20 Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows
- PE22 The Water Environment



Good Practice

Hierarchy of biodiversity conservation: The five stage approach to biodiversity conservation provides the basis for ensuring that wildlife is properly considered within site planning. Images: SG07 Biodiversity and Development



Overall Aim:

To ensure that species, habitats, sites and networks that are of national or local ecological importance are protected and that our wider biodiversity is maintained and enhanced.

Biodiversity Objectives:

Protect	Protect our existing ecologically important species, habitats, sites and habitat networks before, during and after development.
Enhance	Pursue opportunities to improve the ecological value of all or part of the development site. Creating quality green infrastructure benefits people as well as biodiversity. Consider aiming for Biodiversity Net Gain.
Mitigate	Minimise negative impacts on biodiversity through appropriate mitigation measures.
Compensate	Provide compensatory biodiversity creation or enhancement, where development is permitted and negative impacts on key biodiversity features cannot be avoided.
Manage/ Maintain	Ensure the long-term protection and quality of environmental features through appropriate design and the development and implementation of biodiversity management plans, where necessary.

Initial site audit: The audit can help identify opportunities and constraints for biodiversity at an early stage. Image: SG07 Biodiversity and Development



Opportunities for New Habitat Creation within Development Sites

Woodland: Structure planting and parkland trees in open space provide opportunities for creating an attractive woodland habitat, supporting a wide variety of species from birds to butterflies. Images: The Helix



Opportunities for New Habitat Creation within Development Sites

Wetland: SUDS and surface water management provide ideal opportunities for wetland creation, but features must be carefully designed to support biodiversity. Image: The Helix



Hedgerows: Hedgerows are valuable resource for wildlife, providing habitats for nesting and feeding. They can also function as movement corridors for small animals. Image: The Helix



Wildflower meadow: Grassland that is not needed for active play can be given over to wildflower meadow, bringing colour and variety to otherwise sterile spaces, supporting pollinating insects and reducing maintenance costs. Image: Westquarter Glen, Laurieston, Falkirk

