

# Ecology and Biodiversity policy

## Introduction

Our purpose is: *'Making sustainable living a reality, building strong communities'*.

The Group is determined to be the leading sustainable national housebuilder. We believe that fundamental to building quality homes is building a positive environmental, social and economic legacy for future generations.

Sustainability presents opportunities for business prosperity and growth, encourages innovation and resilience, and improves our products and customer experience.

We are committed to:

- Creating a legacy of resilient landscapes and communities, delivering net gains for biodiversity and contributing to the conservation of local biodiversity priorities.
- Avoid and minimise any negative environmental impacts of our operations and seek to implement this through our supply chain.
- Achieving biodiversity gains in line with current regulations.

## Objectives

- Ensure at the earliest stages of the development life cycle that we create a legacy of resilient landscapes and communities, delivering net gains for biodiversity and contributing to the conservation of local biodiversity priorities.
- Promote opportunities to enhance health and well-being benefits for people through our biodiversity and landscaping initiatives.

## Policy

The Group will:

- Comply with ecological legislation, national planning policy and apply best practice to protect and enhance the environment we operate in.
- Identify and manage ecological aspects of our developments from the time of land purchase through development and handover to the communities we create.
- Ensure that developments where we seek planning permission develop and implement a strategic approach to delivering real net gains for biodiversity.
- Ensure all our operating Divisions follow our guidance contained in our Group Standards and guidance.
- Work with and support organisations that specialise in ecology to help further our approach to adapting, managing and enhancing natural capital.
- Enhance awareness amongst our employees, customers and other stakeholders (e.g. landowners, local authorities, consultants and contractors) as to how our developments are designed and the benefits for people and biodiversity.

**This policy is reviewed annually and is approved by the Group Board. It is communicated to key stakeholders and is available on our website.**

**David Thomas**  
**Chief Executive**  
**22 October 2024**

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