



Biodiversity Policy

Purpose

This Biodiversity policy sets out the Programme's ambition to deliver a net gain in biodiversity by increasing the area and functionality of greenspaces and improving the quality of biodiversity. This policy is part of a suite of Sustainability policies that support the Programme's Vision and Goals.

Biodiversity is declining globally at an unprecedented pace, with the rate of species extinction accelerating. This is driven largely by the exploitation of natural resources and climate emergency as highlighted by the United Nations, World Wide Fund for Nature and other international bodies. The Programme presents an opportunity to address this decline by enhancing biodiversity within the heritage context and into the regions through the supply chain.

Principles

Biodiversity commitments on the Programme will be realised by:

- Championing the Programme's biodiversity ambition through leadership, exemplar design and innovative solutions that promote wellbeing
- Demonstrating the wider benefits of enhancing the quality of biodiversity generated by the Programme and raising public awareness of its importance
- Integrating urban greening considerations into the design process from the outset and promoting habitats and species of local significance
- Embedding green infrastructure design and planning solutions that improve climate resilience through water attenuation systems such as sustainable urban drainage
- Minimising water consumption through drought resistant planting, and retention and re-use design solutions
- Setting site-specific targets to deliver net gain in biodiversity using appropriate guidance and standards as a minimum
- Fostering innovative biodiversity enhancements by collaborating with the design team, supply chain, and contractors

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains effective and will be communicated and made available to interested parties and the supply chain.

Matt White

R&R Programme
Director

September 2020