

BIODIVERSITY GUIDANCE

In January 2020 VINCI Group defined its ambitious **environmental strategy** to improve our environmental performance in three areas: greenhouse gas emissions, resource preservation by developing the circular economy and **conservation of natural environments**.

We should also continuously offer or include solutions with environmental value added in line with our Code of Ethics and Conduct. **Just make sure to involve our customer as part of the decision process.**

This document provides some easy, low cost (or even cost saving) ideas on what you could implement to support and improve biodiversity. Everything detailed here is really straightforward and could be done as part of a **SOMAD day** or in conjunction with a local school, charity or **community project**.

RESPECT & PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

IN OUR HANDS



WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity is the **variety** of plants, animals, micro-organisms, habitats and ecological systems. Healthy and biodiverse ecosystems provide a wide range of benefits that support our **economic and social wellbeing**.

Economic and social development is simply not sustainable if it is achieved by diminishing biodiversity.



BAT BOX

Integrating a bat box into your project can provide an ideal roosting site for this protected species.



- ▶ Bat boxes should be placed as close to the eaves or a gable apex as possible, at least 4 metres off the ground and away from windows, door and wall climbing plants.
- ▶ Bats often use tree lines or hedgerows for navigation, so placing a box near these features will encourage them to roost there.
- ▶ Boxes must be sheltered from strong winds and exposed to the sun for at least part of the day, so a south or south west facing wall is ideal.

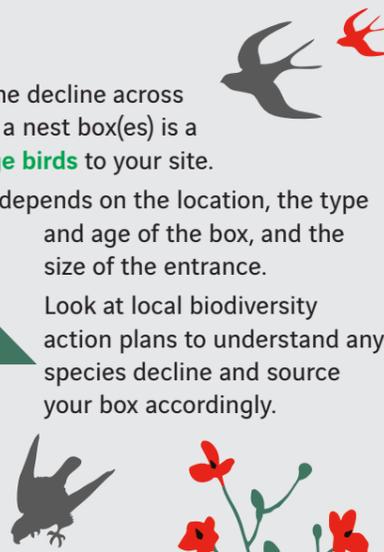
Although be aware that the customer may not want to encourage bats to their property.

BIRD BOX

Nesting sites are on the decline across the country. Providing a nest box(es) is a great way to **encourage birds** to your site.

The species attracted depends on the location, the type and age of the box, and the size of the entrance.

Look at local biodiversity action plans to understand any species decline and source your box accordingly.



INSECT HOTEL

An insect or bug hotel (also known as a wildlife hotel or stack) can provide shelter for anything from insects to hedgehogs and toads. Many pollinators such as butterflies, moths, ladybirds and solitary bees do not live in colonies and must find a warm, dry space to build their nests or to hibernate during the winter.

Why not involve our supply chain partners? Could they help us to build a bug hotel or donate some materials?



WILDFLOWER AREAS

Planting wildflowers and native pollinator plants creates an eco-friendly area that will **attract birds and pollinators**.

Plus, it's more cost-effective due to low-maintenance requirements.

Make sure to agree reduced management with our customer to ensure this doesn't impact on our contractual arrangements.



GROUND MAINTENANCE

Grounds maintenance practices can be altered to protect habitats, biodiversity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. **Mow lawns less often. Avoid using fertilizers and pesticides.**

Bees in particular can be sensitive to both organic and chemical pesticides and fertilizer runoff into the surrounding waterways also causes problems for our ecosystems. Excess fertilizer in water systems can lead to algae blooms, which in turn consumes the oxygen in the water and blocks sunlight from underwater plants, making it impossible for aquatic life to survive.

Why not create a closed loop recycling system by **composting your green waste** and reusing it on site or maybe donate it?

Make sure to consider the location of the compost heap in relation to neighbours and water sources.



OTHER IDEAS

- ▶ Plant **native trees** and/or hedgerows.
- ▶ Get everyone involved and create a staff or community **allotment**.
- ▶ Become involved in your local **Bee Keepers Association**. Our Welsh Government contract has established five healthy hives in three apiaries [locations], encouraged using many of the ideas mentioned within the Wildflower and Ground Maintenance sections.
- ▶ Be aware of **invasive non-native** species such as Japanese knotweed, Giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam and even Rhododendrons. These often require control or removal to encourage local, native species to thrive.

To find out more about the threatened or rapidly declining habitats and species in the UK and get detailed plans for their conservation refer to your local/regional **Biodiversity Action Plans**.

Finally, always adhere to the **Ecology Survey and Mitigation Calendar** which can be found in the Mandatory Environmental Standard 10: Wildlife, Archaeology and Invasive Species.



GET INVOLVED

Record all your biodiversity improvements as part of the monthly **Social Value Framework** return.

For further support and guidance contact:

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