
MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

OUR APPROACH TO SUPPORTING
NATURE'S RECOVERY



OUR VISION
2030
TRANSFORMING TOMORROW



Berkeley
Group

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NATURE AT THE HEART OF PLACEMAKING

We believe that new developments should add to nature, instead of taking away. So in 2016 we became the first homebuilder to commit to measurably increasing biodiversity on every new site we develop.

Delivering a biodiversity net gain across all new projects has evolved the way we design, build and look after new places.

The global pandemic reinforced this view and brought the link between nature and wellbeing into even sharper focus.

The needs of local wildlife are carefully considered alongside those of people, and we are now weaving more ambitious, varied and beautiful natural networks through our neighbourhoods.

Crucially, we look to connect these biodiverse landscapes with surrounding habitats, so they form part of wider nature recovery networks in which wildlife has room to roam and the conditions to thrive. In time this can help to reverse the decline in biodiversity across our towns and cities, while making them more resilient to the challenges of climate change.

So far our drive to enhance biodiversity has been warmly welcomed by the communities within and around our sites. They value and enjoy nature, and we firmly believe that access to a beautiful open landscape can enhance people's quality of life.

We are very proud to have led the industry on biodiversity net gain and laid the path for it to become a national legal requirement for all developments. We want to go further and are now developing a more challenging approach which will deliver a more valuable and holistic 'environmental net gain' on every project.

Ultimately, this will ensure that our projects leave behind a healthier and more sustainable environment for future generations to enjoy.

Rob Perrins

Chief Executive, Berkeley Group



Blue Recovery
Leaders Group



Kidbrooke Village, Greenwich



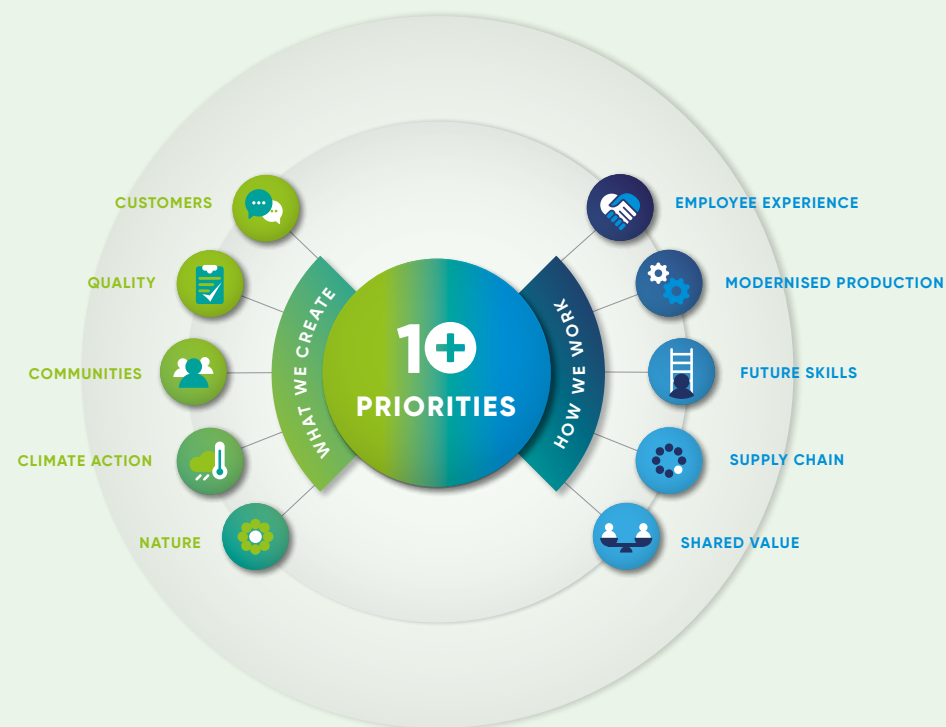
The Green Quarter, Ealing

OUR VISION 2030

Nature is one of ten strategic priorities within Berkeley's long-term business strategy, called Our Vision 2030.

It sets out a balanced and holistic approach to leading our business over the next decade. It will help us to be a world-class business, trusted to transform the most challenging sites into exceptional places and to maximise our positive impact on society, the economy and the natural world.

Find out more at
www.berkeleygroup.co.uk/ourvision



NATURE IN CRISIS

The natural environment has been severely damaged by human activity.

Biodiversity

Biological diversity is the variety of all life on earth, including all species of animals and plants, and the natural systems that support them.

- Global populations of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles have seen an average drop of 69% since 1970¹
- In the UK the numbers of farmland birds are estimated to have fallen by 55% since 1970, and woodland birds by 29%²
- Numbers of UK butterflies are down by 17% since 1970, and moths down by 25%²
- 5% of species in the UK are threatened with extinction²

Agriculture is the greatest cause of UK biodiversity loss. But urbanisation, including homebuilding, has contributed to this decline and has an important role to play in nature recovery.

Air Quality

- Air quality has improved significantly since the middle of the 20th century, but is still a major public health concern in some towns and cities
- Between 28,000 to 36,000 deaths are estimated to be attributable to air pollution across the UK³. Pollution in some areas breaches legal limits set for the protection of health⁴

The built environment sector has a duty to minimise air pollution from live construction operations and buildings in use.

New development can also support zero or low emission transport infrastructure, as well as limiting people's exposure to pollution through intelligent design and placemaking.

Water Resources

- The Environment Agency estimates that summer rainfall will decrease by approximately 15% by the 2050s in England and that south-east we will increasingly see temperatures above 35°C by 2100.⁵
- The UK experienced a long period of drought in 2022, which lasted for several months and into Winter.
- Thames Water forecasts that it will need an extra 1 billion litres of water every day for customers by 2075 to accommodate climate change and population growth.⁶
- Years of pollution from road run-off, sewer infrastructure problems, and poorly managed river infrastructure have left London's rivers in a poor state.⁷

New development can alleviate the pressure on water resources through the delivery of sustainable drainage infrastructure, rainwater harvesting systems and measures to reduce water use at source. Berkeley is currently undertaking a water neutrality trial at one of our London developments in partnership with Thames Water.

Flooding

- By 2050, summer temperatures in the UK could be up to 7.4°C hotter, with rainfall increasing up to 59%⁶
- The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment estimates that population living in areas of flood risk could have increased from 1.8 million to between 2.6 and 3.3 million by 2050⁸

New development can help to reduce flood risks through delivering nature-based sustainable drainage networks and enhanced flood defences and infrastructure.

¹ WWF: Living Planet Report 2022

² State of Nature Partnership: State of Nature Report 2019

³ Air pollution: applying All Our Health, Public Health England 2022

⁴ Mayor of London: London Environment Strategy 2018

⁵ Living Better with a Changing Climate, EA 2021

⁶ Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 - Thames Water 2022

⁷ Environment Agency: <https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/2020/09/25/the-flood-strategy-is-go/>

⁸ The Climate Change Committee: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/2020/05/04/>

BARNES WATERSIDE AND THE LONDON WETLAND CENTRE

The former concrete reservoirs were transformed into Barnes Waterside and the London Wetland Centre nature reserve.

Delivered in partnership with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Thames Water, Richmond Council and Berkeley.

Through regenerating large scale sites, Berkeley has an important role to play in restoring nature

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

Berkeley has made a commitment to deliver a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain on every new project, regardless of the site's context or former use.

Our aim is always to maximise the site's natural value and beauty, and the majority of our sites far exceed our 10% minimum threshold.

We aim to deliver the biodiversity increase within the site boundary, rather than paying for off-site nature enhancements, so the local community experiences the full long-term benefit of an enriched natural environment. This approach helps to meet the government target for everyone to live within 15 minutes' walk of green space or water.

Collaborative approach

All of our design teams include ecologists and landscape design experts who work with the other design team members to ensure a holistic approach to incorporating green and blue infrastructure, with the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity being central to our approach from the earliest stage.

Setting the baseline

At the start of each project ecologists measure the site's baseline biodiversity in accordance with the Natural England Biodiversity Metric.

Maximising the benefits

We then use the Biodiversity Metric to forecast and compare the biological value of different landscape designs and habitat enhancements. This helps us to make informed choices leading to a stronger and more sustainable ecosystem over the long term.

Long term management

We work with our project teams, landscape contractors and managing agents to ensure biodiversity gain is achieved and maintained for the long term.

We recognise the Berkeley Group's commitment to achieving a measurable net gain in biodiversity and welcome their positive contribution and continued support for an industry-wide approach.

Emma Howard Boyd, Chair, Environment Agency

NINE CONCEPTS FOR ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY

We have worked with leading ecologists and landscape architects to create nine overarching design concepts which help us to create nature-rich masterplans that deliver a measurable biodiversity net gain.

The nine concepts are considered in the earliest stages of planning as part of cross-disciplinary design discussions.

A unique approach for each site

It is not always necessary to apply all nine concepts to create a nature-rich, biodiverse place.

Every project is different and bespoke landscape and management strategies are created reflecting the characteristics of the site and its local context.

Find out more at
<https://www.berkeleygroup.co.uk/about-us/sustainability/nature>



Hartland Country Park, Fleet



Green Park Village, Reading

BLUE AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE GUIDANCE

Berkeley has developed a Code of Practice in partnership with Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) to help support us to deliver ambitious, beautiful and effective blue and green infrastructure into our developments. It demonstrates

how the key principles of sustainable water management can be integrated into the design of a neighbourhood and how this approach can bring sustainable benefits for both nature and people.



Kidbrooke Village, Greenwich

CASE STUDIES

Breakthrough Projects

Our understanding of nature-led placemaking has evolved over time and has been strongly influenced by three pioneering partnership projects.



Woodberry Down, Hackney

WOODBERRY DOWN, HACKNEY



At Woodberry Down we are working in partnership with the Woodberry Down Community Organisation, Hackney Council and Notting Hill Genesis to regenerate one of London's most deprived social housing estates.

As the masterplan evolved, we saw the opportunity to work with the London Wildlife Trust and Thames Water to transform the neighbouring East Stoke Newington Reservoir into the incredible Woodberry Wetlands Nature Reserve, which is now open to the public in perpetuity and directly connected to the Woodberry Down estate via a new bridge and boardwalk.

Site

64-acre post war housing estate and neighbouring reservoir

Homes

5,700 mixed-tenure homes

Landscape

15 acres of biodiverse parkland, playgrounds and wetland borders within the estate and the 26-acre Woodberry Wetlands immediately next door

EDENBROOK, FLEET



Berkeley is working in partnership with Hart District Council and Natural England to transform 146 acres of private farmland into a beautifully landscaped Hampshire village.

More than half of the site has become the 82-acre Edenbrook Country Park, which includes a mix of biodiverse meadows, ponds, wetlands and woodlands, all connected by a network of footpaths, boardwalks and cycle paths.

The park's waterways serve as both a sustainable drainage network and a valuable habitat for a range of bird and invertebrate species.

"A country park has been created which can be held up as an exemplar of good practice and inspired design."

Natural England

Site
146 acres of private farmland

Homes
600 mixed-tenure homes

Landscape
82-acre Country Park including wetland habitats, meadows and woodland. Electricity pylons replaced with underground cables to restore views



KIDBROOKE VILLAGE, GREENWICH



Kidbrooke Village is the demonstration site for our first net biodiversity gain strategy. Working in partnership with London Wildlife Trust, HTA Landscape Architecture and the Royal Borough of Greenwich, the project focused on rewilding the traditionally planted Cator Park.

We introduced a more valuable network of green infrastructure, creating wildflower meadows, grassland and wetland habitats.

Since the rewilding began the park has become a well-loved beauty spot and we partner with London Wildlife Trust to organise nature walks, school visits, family fun days and conservation volunteering.

The project is forecast to deliver a net biodiversity gain of more than 258% once it grows to full maturity.

"The site is the best example of a large-scale nature recovery network in a UK city."

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Site
270 acres, including the former Ferrier Estate

Homes
5,268 mixed-tenure homes

Forecast Biodiversity Gain
99% (Cator Park only)

Landscape
85 acres of biodiverse parkland, wetland, wildflower meadows, trees, nature trails and playgrounds

A NEW GENERATION OF NATURE-LED NEIGHBOURHOODS

Since launching our approach in 2017, Berkeley has designed 49 new neighbourhoods to deliver a measurable net biodiversity gain, the vast majority of which are being created from private brownfield sites.

Once complete, these projects will have created approximately 500 acres of new or measurably improved natural habitats, an area far greater than Hyde Park.

Grand Union, Brent



Former Use
22-acre former industrial estate

Homes
3,030 mixed-tenure homes

Landscape
Canal-side park, meadow, grassland, native planting waterways green and brown roofs

Forecast Biodiversity Gain
220%

Landscape Design Partners
Murdoch Wickham, AECOM and Turnstone Ecology

White City Living Phase One, Hammersmith & Fulham



Former Use
11-acre former warehousing site

Homes
2,372 mixed-tenure homes

Landscape
5-acre public park, more than 400 new trees, linear habitats, native planting and waterways

Forecast Biodiversity Gain
86% (phase one only)

Landscape Design Partners
London Wildlife Trust and Murdoch Wickham

The Green Quarter, Ealing



Former Use	Homes	Landscape	Forecast Biodiversity Gain	Landscape Design Partners
Redundant 88-acre former gasworks	3,750 mixed-tenure homes	42 acres of public space including wetlands, meadows and 2,500 new trees	75%	London Wildlife Trust

King's Road Park, Hammersmith & Fulham



Former Use	Homes	Landscape	Forecast Biodiversity Gain	Landscape Design Partners
Redundant 16-acre former gasworks	1,843 mixed-tenure homes	Six acres of public open space including biodiverse parkland	242%	Gillespies and Watermans

ENVIRONMENTAL NET GAIN

Berkeley is now expanding its approach to biodiversity net gain to include a more valuable and holistic environmental net gain on every site. Our aim is to achieve a measurable improvement in biodiversity, water security, flood protection and air quality.

The action plan on pages 26 and 27 outline the key steps in developing our approach.

Embedding the principle of environmental net gain within the development sector is central to the Government's 25-Year Environment Plan.

Having led the industry's adoption of biodiversity net gain, Berkeley is well placed to support and drive the adoption of this important environmental policy.



Leighwood Fields, Cranleigh



The rooftop chalk meadow at Goodman's Fields, Tower Hamlets, designed in partnership with London Wildlife Trust

ACTION PLAN

Achieving Biodiversity Net Gain

We will continue our established approach to biodiversity net gain on every site, ensuring each new development submitted for planning to a minimum 10% improvement in biodiversity within the site boundary.

We will begin to measure the area of land where habitat enhancements are implemented and ensure through upskilling our managing agents and landscape architects that it is managed successfully in the long term.

Broadening Our Approach To Environmental Net Gain

We will broaden our approach to cover wider aspects of the environment so that developments build on our strong approach to nature and begin to achieve

environmental net gain, covering flood protection, recreation and improved air and water quality.

OUR NATURE ACTION PLAN

1



Create a minimum net biodiversity gain of 10% on each of our new developments.

2



Partner with a water company to undertake a trial on water neutrality at a development scale.

3



Upskill our managing agents and landscaping partners to ensure biodiversity gain is maintained for the long term.

4



By 2025 we will implement an environmental net gain on at least one development.

5



Develop an overall approach for environmental net gain (including water, flooding and air quality).

TRACK RECORD



2000

Barnes Waterside and the London Wetland Centre nature reserve is complete, delivered in partnership with Thames Water, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and Richmond Council



2006

First planning consent granted for Edenbrook Country Park, Hart



2013

The 82-acre Edenbrook Country Park opens to the public, delivered in partnership with Hart District Council and Natural England



2016

Berkeley becomes the first homebuilder to commit to delivering a net biodiversity gain on every new site

Woodberry Wetlands opens, a project led by London Wildlife Trust in partnership with Berkeley



2018

Berkeley completes its first net biodiversity gain landscape at Cator Park, Kidbrooke Village

DEFRA consults on making net biodiversity gain mandatory for all developments, citing Berkeley's example



2019

Government introduces Draft Environment Bill, including plans to make net biodiversity gain mandatory for all new developments



2020

Cator Park, Kidbrooke Village wins the Sir David Attenborough Award for Enhancing Biodiversity at the Landscape Institute Awards



2021

Berkeley has now designed 49 developments now committed to biodiversity net gain, which together will create more than 500 acres of new or measurably improved natural habitats.

Berkeley starts to develop an approach to environmental net gain



2022

Berkeley partner with Thames Water to undertake a water neutrality trial on one site. Environment Act



2023

Berkeley, Natural England and Local Government Association hold joint Biodiversity Conference.

Under the Environment Act 2021, all planning permissions granted in England will have to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain from the autumn.





Proud members of the Berkeley Group:

Berkeley
Designed for life

St Edward
Designed for life

St George
Designed for life

St James
Designed for life

St Joseph
Designed for life

St William
Designed for life