

## Ecology & Biodiversity Policy

Sustainability is embedded both in our business also and the new homes that we build. Every new site that we acquire presents a unique opportunity to make a positive and lasting difference in terms of maintaining, enhancing or re-establishing an ecological balance. At a macro level, over 40% of our development activity is on land that has a former use.

Moreover, brownfield sites are often badly contaminated with little in the way of established biodiversity and ecology. The opportunity these sites present is how we can effectively re-engineer and re-energise the ecosystem and to do this in the most sustainable way possible.

No matter what the past history of a site may be, we start on a positive footing by looking at what natural resources and features can be retained and/or enhanced. Similarly, what species could reasonably be expected in the area and how these could be encouraged to re-colonise a site once it is substantially redeveloped. We engage specialists during due diligence on the majority of new site acquisitions to offer guidance on how we may build on the biodiversity and ecology attributes of a site and to morph these into the eventual design.

We have several examples of a successful approach to enhancing biodiversity, our most notable being the redevelopment of a heavily contaminated site that was also bisected by an existing, culverted river. The river was subsequently relocated to run at the base of an adjacent tree-lined escarpment, which in turn gave access to several wide-life corridors. As a result of reconstructing the river in open channel our work not only reinvigorated aquatic life but also provided access to recreational facilities for the wider community. However, undertaking such works is one thing, measuring success is another. An integral part of our policy therefore involves site visits, regular reviews through structured development meetings and an eventual sign-off with formal adoption by a designated vesting body/organisation, which can sometimes include the Woodland Trust.

This policy applies to the whole Miller Homes business.

Chris Endsor  
Chief Executive  
1st January 2016