



**Let's
build
with nature
in mind.**

Our Biodiversity Strategy

Our biodiversity strategy

Launched in 2021, our sustainability strategy 'Let's Build Beyond' set out our plans to overcome the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and resource scarcity in the construction sector.



Our biodiversity strategy will help Wienerberger become a thriving net-zero emission, nature-positive business, providing products and services that address climate change and biodiversity loss to improve people's quality of life within the built environment.

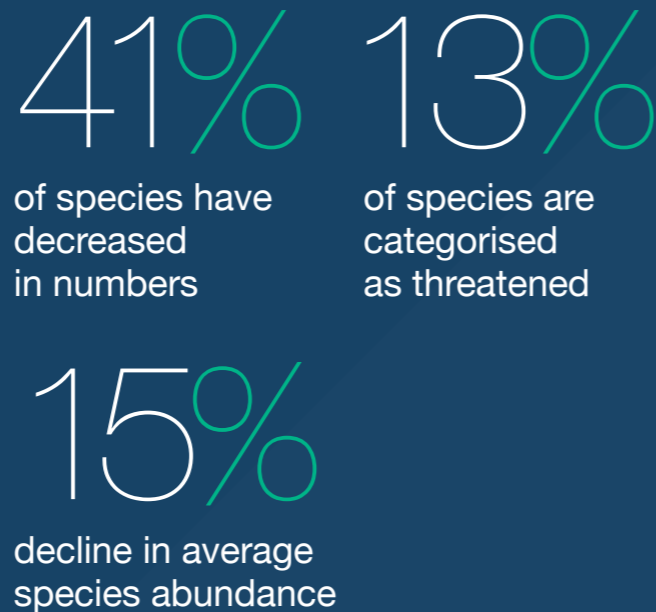
Stephanie Palmer
Head of Sustainability



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Since the 1970s, we have seen in the UK:



The main drivers of biodiversity loss in the UK* are:

- Land management
- Urbanisation
- Invasive species and disease
- Pollution
- Climate change

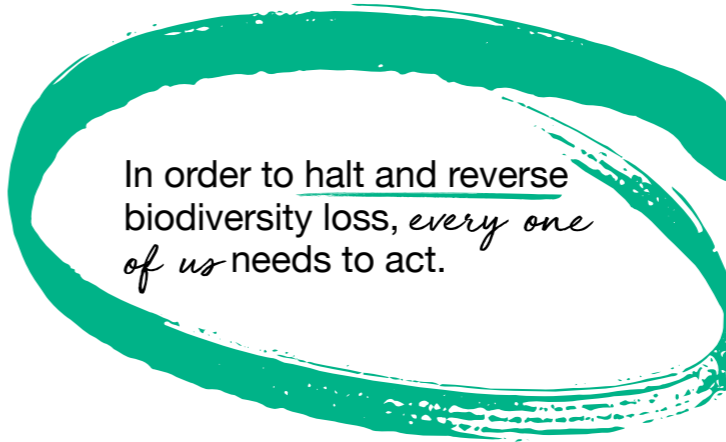
*The UK State of Nature Report (2019)

What is biodiversity?

"Biodiversity" describes the variety of life, both between individuals and between different species – all the animals, plants, birds, insects, reptiles, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria, that make up our natural world. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life.

Why is biodiversity important?

Biodiversity underpins ecosystem services which provide everything we need to survive: food, clean water, medicine, and shelter. However, as we humans put growing pressure on the planet by consuming ever more resources, we risk upsetting the balance of ecosystems, losing biodiversity, and accelerating the climate crisis.



Why do we need a biodiversity strategy?

Wienerberger's operations inherently rely on and impact upon nature. By minimising these impacts, we can play our part in halting biodiversity loss. Within this strategy we include actions that intend to go beyond that: actively promoting biodiversity across our land assets and in the construction sector through the product and services we provide.

Without collective action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, global supply chains will become more volatile, and reduced access to nature will negatively affect people's health and wellbeing. It is in our interest, both as a company and as individuals, to promote biodiversity.

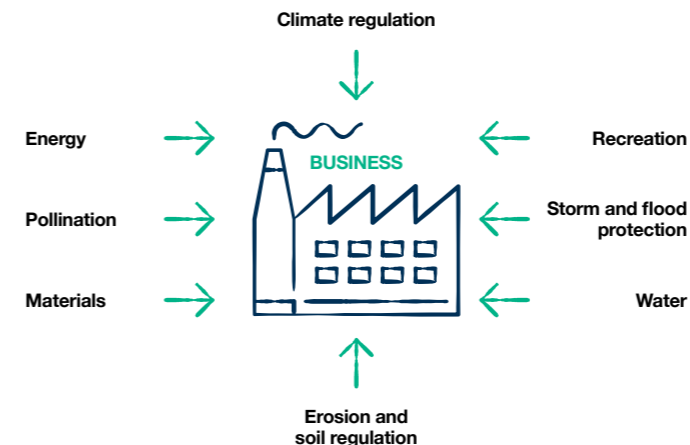
Our biodiversity strategy will help Wienerberger to:

- Demonstrate a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain, averaged across our land assets.
- Create products and services that promote biodiversity in the built environment.
- Improve people's health and wellbeing through engagement with nature.
- Enable better decision making by sharing our ecological data, for example with local authorities and charities.

Our biodiversity strategy redefines our approach to land management in the UK and Ireland, giving us new opportunities to engage our people and our communities with nature. It also places an increased emphasis on developing products and services that promote biodiversity in the built environment.

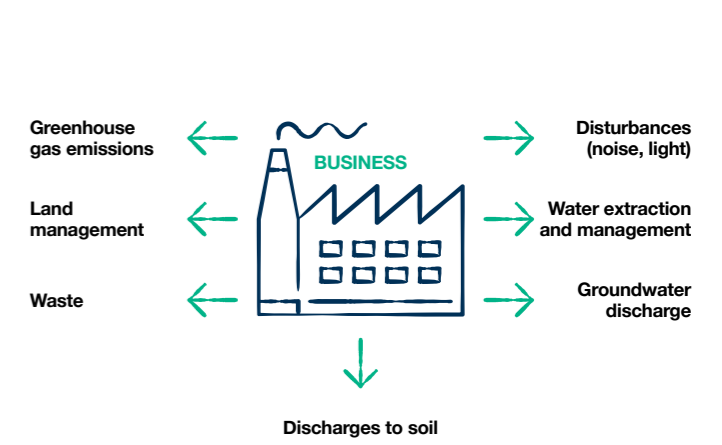
Our work depends on biodiversity

Wienerberger benefits from many ecosystem services. For example, we rely on natural resources like clay, sand and water, as well as energy, to manufacture our products and provide our services.



Our work impacts biodiversity and ecosystems

Those same ecosystem services help to mitigate the impacts of our operations. For example, the emissions from our factories and offices that have an adverse effect on the environment.



Introducing our biodiversity strategy

Responding to nature-related risks and opportunities requires broad action, integrating environmental, social and technical aspects. We have identified five themes for action within our biodiversity strategy, each theme has an action plan to promote biodiversity and metrics to record progress.

These five themes are:

- Improving our land assets
- Developing products and services
- Enhancing the wellbeing of our people and communities
- Building partnerships
- Sharing data and information

Our biodiversity strategy redefines our approach to land management in the UK and Ireland, giving us new opportunities to engage our people and our communities with nature. It also places an increased emphasis on developing products and services that promote biodiversity in the built environment.

Our biodiversity strategy delivers on a commitment made within Let's Build Beyond. It explains how we will promote biodiversity across our land assets and within the built environment. We encourage our people, our partners and our communities to join us.



We developed our biodiversity strategy using the LEAP framework.

This process required us to:



Locate
interfaces with nature



Evaluate
dependencies and impacts



Assess
risks and opportunities



Prepare
to respond and report on nature-related risks and opportunities

Source: Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures (2022)"

Improving our land assets

We will manage our land assets with the aim of creating valuable habitats and promoting regional biodiversity by increasing connectivity with other biodiverse sites. Managing our land assets is central to our strategy.

Why is this important?

Human activities are causing major changes in ecosystems across the globe leading to biodiversity loss.

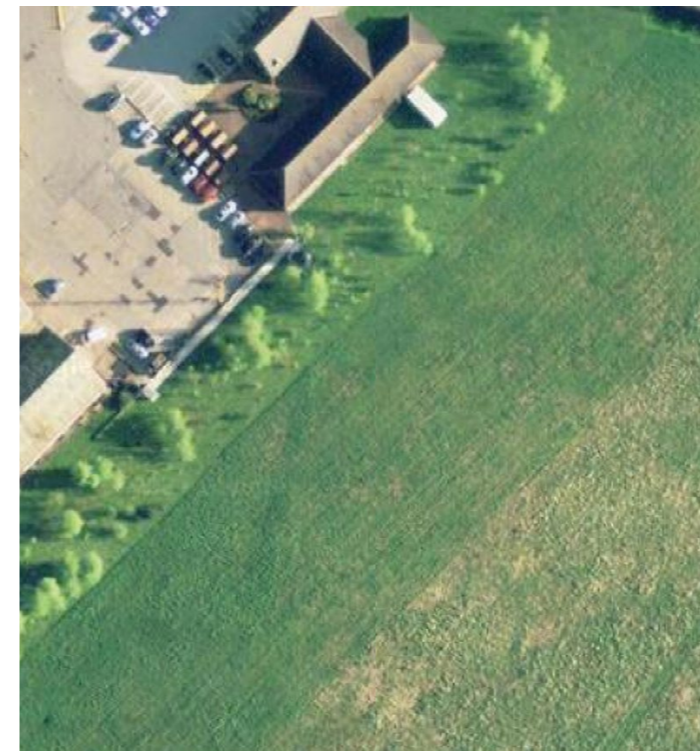
Our ambition for 2030:

We will use the Biodiversity Net Gain metric to demonstrate a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain is achieved or in progress, when averaged across our land assets, compared to a 2022 baseline.

Making this happen

- Every Wienerberger manufacturing site will have a Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan. These plans will detail all the actions we will take to achieve an average 10% Biodiversity Net Gain alongside other vital ecological information. By 2030 each site should demonstrate improvement within its Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan, contributing to the overall target.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) will be used to inform habitat creation and enhancement. This will empower us to make the right interventions in the right places and enhance connectivity with other biodiverse sites.
- We will calculate Ecological Value Scores using the LEFT tool for our existing sites and any land we intend to purchase. This will capture both the ecological value of the site and the surrounding area, and the results will inform our Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan for the site.

Extract from the Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan for Wienerberger's Sandtoft tileworks



41% of species
have decreased
in numbers



What is Biodiversity Net Gain and how will Wienerberger apply it?

Biodiversity Net Gain is an approach to development and land management, that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. The UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, published in 2018, includes the ambition to mainstream the use of existing Biodiversity Net Gain within the planning system. A mandatory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain for new developments in England was introduced through the Environment Act (2021) and is expected to come into force in November 2023.

Biodiversity Net Gain is calculated using the biodiversity metric, developed by Natural England. Wienerberger intends to apply this widely recognised metric to measure biodiversity improvements, aiming to achieve at least a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain across its land assets. This is not a legal requirement (Biodiversity Net Gain applies to new developments only) however Wienerberger believes the biodiversity metric represents the best-practice method to demonstrate biodiversity promotion.

Developing products and services

Wienerberger's nature-positive approach will consider the biodiversity impact of the company's products across the whole lifecycle: from raw material sourcing, through the benefits in use, to end-of-life stage.

Why is this important?

By carefully curating our products and services, Wienerberger can amplify positive impacts upstream and downstream of our business.

Our ambition for 2030:

Our products and services will improve people's quality of life, promoting biodiversity and the efficient use of energy and water in the built environment.

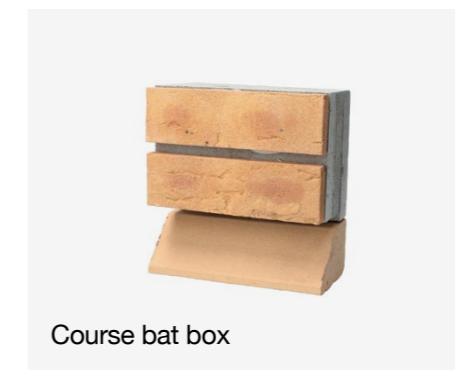
Making this happen

- We have updated internal product development scorecards to favour product concepts that improve outcomes for biodiversity.
- We have partnered with experienced ecologists to inform product design.
- We continue to respond to our customers' needs with new products and services, including an expansion of the Eco-Habitat product range.
- A bioscope assessment will be used to calculate an ecological footprint score for each product category.

Examples of Wienerberger's Eco-Habitat products



Terraced sparrow box



Course bat box



Hedgehog box



Bat access clay tile



Premium starling nest box



Bug brick

Enhancing the wellbeing of our people and communities

Good health and wellbeing is a fundamental human right, it is also a UN Sustainable Development Goal, and our biodiversity strategy can improve wellbeing outcomes for both our employees and communities.

Why is this important?

Time spent in nature can not only produce positive health outcomes, it provides the opportunity to develop a connection with the natural world and cultivate care for it. By creating more advocates for nature conservation, we scale the impact of this biodiversity strategy.

Our ambition for 2030:

1. We will be able to demonstrate high levels of mental and physical wellbeing amongst employees, evidenced by our H&S reports and biannual employee surveys.
2. We will be able to demonstrate that Wienerberger adds value for communities through our social value statement.

Wienerberger's Biodiversity Ambassadors



Making this happen

- We will encourage employees to utilise green spaces during their working day. Where practical we will include a nature trail in each manufacturing site's Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan.
- We will establish a network of Biodiversity Ambassadors who will become key activators for their teams, engaging other employees and conducting simple ecology surveys.
- We will explore opportunities for biodiversity-related community initiatives on site and support initiatives in the community.

Biodiversity Ambassador responsibilities include:

- Undertaking annual monitoring surveys of species on site.
- Engaging colleagues with biodiversity-related information and educational initiatives.
- Providing a voice for biodiversity within their team/site.

Building partnerships

We are partnering with other organisations to combine different skills, experience, and assets to solve complex problems and maximise the positive impact our biodiversity strategy will have. Our partnerships span science, product innovation, education, and advocacy.

Why is this important?

Organisations must work together to affect the level of change required to reverse biodiversity loss.

Our ambition for 2030:

We will have curated a network of trusted partners to tackle biodiversity loss.

Making this happen

- Through our parent company Wienerberger AG, we have signed Business for Nature's Call to Action. Under this commitment we will advocate for biodiversity promotion through policy consultation responses, industry forums and other relevant opportunities.
- We will grow our existing partnerships, such as those with local Wildlife Trusts and the RSPB, to benefit biodiversity at our manufacturing and office sites.

About Business for Nature's Call to Action

The Call to Action was launched by Business for Nature, a global coalition of businesses. Through the Call to Action, organisations formally recognise that nature is everyone's business. We acknowledge that healthy societies, resilient economies and thriving businesses rely on nature. These organisations are calling on governments to adopt policies now to reverse nature loss in this decade. Joining the Call to Action is a commitment to work together to protect, restore and sustainably use our natural resources.

In March 2022 Wienerberger UK & Ireland joined the Call to Action through its parent company, Wienerberger AG, strengthening our commitment to biodiversity promotion.



Sharing data and information

Wienerberger's biodiversity strategy will result in an increase in both the quality and quantity of data that we collect and store.

Why is this important?

By sharing our data and information with others Wienerberger can assist other conservation initiatives, helping to close knowledge gaps on species abundance and habitat condition.

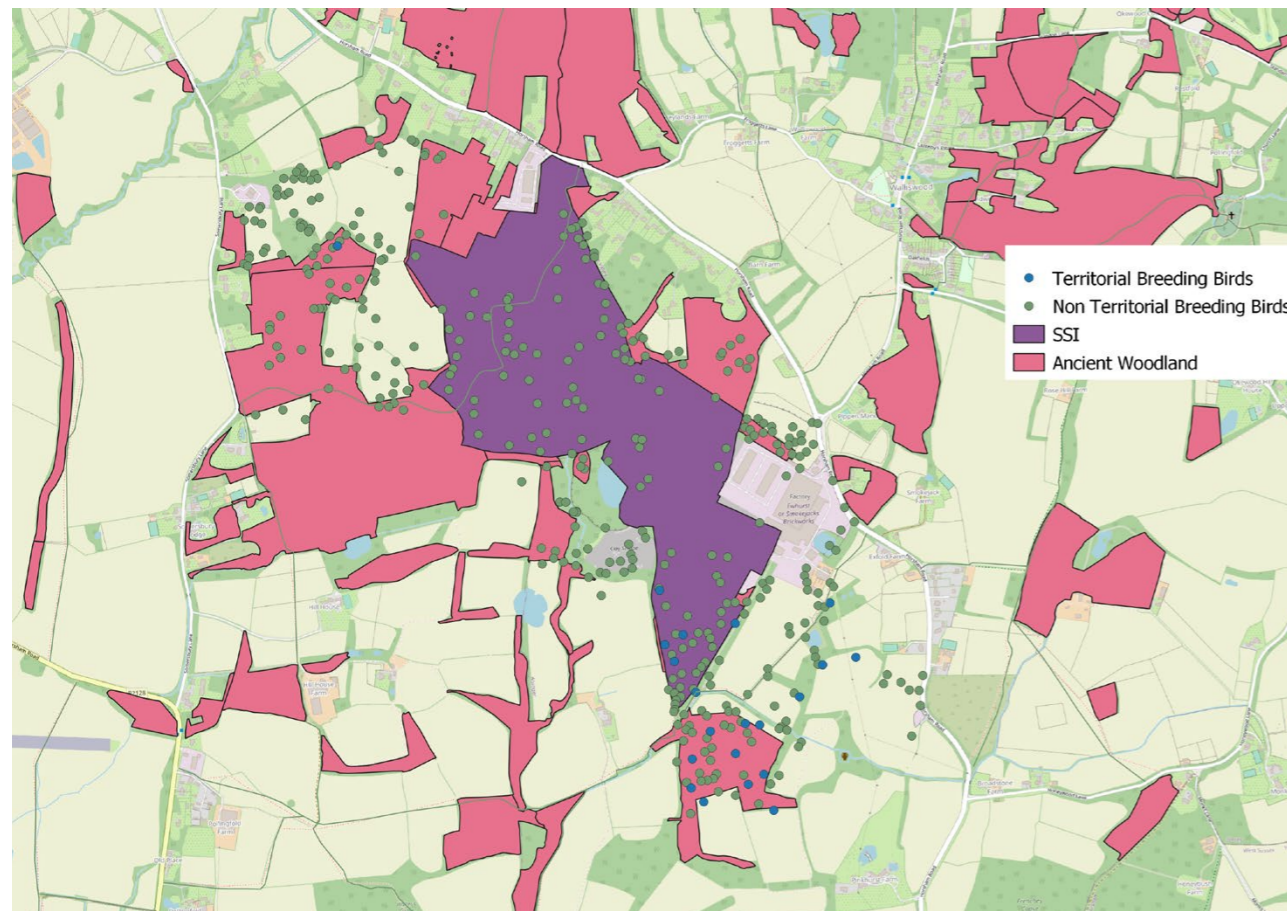
Our ambition for 2030:

Our biodiversity data is reliable and consistently curated, it is stored in accessible repositories for our people and is shared with relevant Record Centres for the benefit of our partners and our communities.

Making this happen

- We will share habitat and species records with relevant Record Centres to improve local and regional datasets.
- We will digitise our ecological records and our Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plans, making them easy for our people to access and use for decision making.
- We will maintain accurate land cover and habitat data for all our land assets. This will enable us to demonstrate Biodiversity Net Gain and improve our processes for monitoring the condition of known biodiverse areas.

Example ecology dataset for Ewhurst Brick and Tileworks, Surrey, England



Moving *beyond* today...

We will keep you updated on our collective progress with routine reports supplemented by case studies and news articles, sharing how our product portfolio is evolving and celebrating the partnerships we have formed.

The most incredible thing about biodiversity is its resilience. Nature will gradually recover if we allow it, and this process can be accelerated with well-designed interventions and careful attention. So let's work together to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in the UK and Ireland, in turn delivering on our sustainability commitments in Let's Build Beyond.

If you are interested in collaborating with us, please get in touch using contact details overleaf.



Let's build with nature in mind.

Our Biodiversity Strategy

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Wienerberger UK supports and enables the construction industry to create a better future for the built environment. We do this by providing outstanding, sustainable building solutions, long-lasting partnerships and exceptional, enduring careers.

Together we are future-building.

