Evolving the Ecology Category in BREEAM UK Non-Domestic New Construction

This factsheet provides a general background on the BREEAM UK Non-Domestic New Construction scheme, its key stakeholders and how it specifically relates to Ecology and, where relevant, landscape. It includes an overview of Ecology in BREEAM including a background on recent development work to evolve this category including development and implementation of BREEAM UK’s Strategic Ecology Framework (SEF).

Ecology in BREEAM
Ecology is one of a series of key categories included across the BREEAM family of schemes, which relate to master planning, infrastructure and buildings. The Ecology category encourages project teams to identify ecologically valuable features and opportunities to protect and enhance habitats, and to mitigate unavoidable impacts. It also seeks to improve long term biodiversity management practices and strategies for assessed sites and associated areas.

Responding to developments in Ecological Best Practice
Developments in recent years of best practice for evaluating, protecting and enhancing ecological features were recognised. In addition, evolving policy areas such as natural capital, and ecosystem services led BRE’s BREEAM team have worked with a wide range of stakeholders to understand how to move forward development of the Ecology category. This has included the UK Green Building Council, professional bodies including the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and the Landscape Institute; and a range of consultants, developers, designers, constructors, managers and policy makers.

The output – A Strategic Ecology Framework for BREEAM UK
The overall objective was to identify a consistent strategic framework for evaluating Ecology related issues across BREEAM. The output was the BREEAM UK Strategic Ecology Framework published in 2016 to enable those working in the built environment to better understand the basis of BREEAM evaluations, and to take account of this in their future planning. The SEF is available at www.BREEAM.com/sef.

Evolving the BREEAM UK New Construction Ecology category: your opportunity to help shape the content
We are in the process of applying the SEF to the update / development of the BREEAM UK Non-Domestic New Construction scheme. An advisory group made of up Ecologists and Landscape Architects has been inputting into the application process. We are seeking and encouraging input from a wide range of stakeholders who are involved in planning, delivering or maintaining Ecology related aspects on existing buildings. The updated Ecology section for UK New Construction will be available for public consultation from September 2017 onwards available on www.breeam.com/sef.
**Scheme Name**  
BREEAM UK Non Domestic New Construction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lifecycle Stage</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Geographical Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Construction</td>
<td>Non Domestic</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Current development/operational status**  
Live scheme in operation (BREEAM UK NC 2014)

**Next projected update**  
2016/17 (Go live 2018)

**Scheme focus / scope e.g. typical developments types etc.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key = Project type: Project subtype, Project sub type etc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All new non-domestic buildings at the design and construction stages. Types covered include offices, industrial, retail, education, healthcare, prisons, law courts, Multi-residential accommodation/ Supported living facilities, leisure, domestic residential accommodation (hotels, boarding schools etc.) and other bespoke building types. ‘New Construction’ is defined as development that results in a new standalone structure, or new extension to an existing structure, which will come into operation or use for the first time upon completion of the works.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key stakeholders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clients / specifiers</th>
<th>Occupiers / users</th>
<th>Delivery team</th>
<th>Management and Maintenance</th>
<th>Indication of those impacted by the development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Government departments  
- Local government  
- Public bodies  
- Commercial organisations  
- Developers | - General public, in particular the local community  
- Associated building occupants (office, retail etc. staff) | - Design manager  
- Architect  
- Engineers  
- Contractor  
- Project manager | - Public bodies  
- Local authority  
- Owner  
- Landlord  
- Facilities team | - General public, in particular the local community |

**Ecology specific features / consideration to scheme application**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevance of Ecology / Landscape</th>
<th>Scope to influence Ecology/Landscape</th>
<th>Risks to Ecology</th>
<th>Opportunities for Ecology</th>
<th>Barriers to Ecology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Very relevant: Protection of existing features (where present) and design and specification of ecological enhancement measures and landscaping. (Scale, scope and location of project will dictate applicability of individual criteria). | High scope of influence  
New construction provides the greatest flexibility and scope relating to choice of: -Site (dependant on procurement route), -site layout  
-Able to influence management of construction processes  
Scope for influence will vary dependant on scale of project large/small, complex/simple. | -Not seen as a high priority – value engineering  
-Lack of knowledge  
-Inadequate future planning  
-Limited space to provide enhancement (dependant on location)  
-Recognition that all development causes disruption and loss of Ecology.  
-Ecological value takes time to develop so requires management by others | -Regeneration of locations with low ecological value  
-Protection of existing ecological features  
-Enhancement of existing Ecology on and around the site  
-Creating better connectivity with adjacent areas  
-Supplementing existing habitats  
-Opportunities for user benefits from ecological value (i.e. Ecosystem services)  
-Larger sites required to consider under planning regulations (EIA etc) | -Lack of knowledge on when impacts occur and when/who to consult with  
-No clear responsible person  
-Costs – in terms of consultation fees, implementation and ongoing management  
-Time  
-Fragmentation between design, construction and future management i.e. lack of handover  
-Late appointment of Ecology specific professionals  
-Brief preparation is often based on limited economic/functional factors and excludes Ecology. |