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Biodiversity – Guidance for businesses on managing the risks and opportunities

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Foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 28 February 2015. It was prepared by Technical Committee BDY/1, *Biodiversity management*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Use of this document

As a guide, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification or a code of practice and claims of compliance cannot be made to it.

Presentational conventions

The guidance in this standard is presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Any recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

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This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

Introduction

The sustainability of a business depends on the natural resources that support it, many of which are underpinned, directly or indirectly, by biodiversity (the variety of life on earth, i.e. the different animals, plants and micro-organisms, their genes and the ecosystems of which they are part).

Biodiversity in the UK and globally faces a wide range of threats, which can present challenges to businesses, for example in ensuring the security of their supply chains. However, there are also many opportunities for businesses to enhance biodiversity which can, in turn, benefit them, for example by enhancing their reputation. Early consideration of biodiversity can bring unforeseen business rewards.

There are already guides in existence that address mechanisms for indirectly benefiting biodiversity such as by addressing climate change and carbon emissions. There are also numerous guides specifically directed towards development or redevelopment of land and the steps that have to be undertaken to protect and, where possible, enhance biodiversity as a result of new developments and planning permissions.

This British Standard, however, aims to give guidance to businesses of all types and sizes on how they can incorporate biodiversity considerations into their day-to-day management systems to protect and enhance biodiversity through their regular operations in a way that contributes to business continuity.

1 Scope

This British Standard gives guidance for businesses on managing business risks and realizing opportunities in relation to biodiversity. It provides advice for businesses on how to co-exist with biodiversity in a mutually beneficial way, which can constitute one of the environmental aspects identified in their environmental management system, or can be addressed within their wider management systems or processes.

The standard gives guidance on biodiversity in relation to the following three areas:

- management of premises and facilities;
- management of day-to-day business operations;
- management of the supply chain.

The standard is applicable to businesses of all types and sizes. It is primarily intended for UK businesses, including those with an international supply chain, but can also be used by businesses outside the UK.

The standard sets out a four-step process for businesses to follow to enable them to make biodiversity improvements.

The standard does not give detailed advice regarding protected species and sites and it does not give detailed guidance on the information that has to be provided in a planning application. The standard also does not give detailed guidance for businesses heavily involved in land management or development, although some guidance is given in Clause 4.

NOTE 1 Detailed information on biodiversity in relation to planning applications is given in BS 42020.