Implementing BREEAM UKs Strategic Ecology Framework: championing an integrated, cross sectorial approach

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What is BREEAM?

- The world’s longest established and most widely used environmental assessment method for buildings, master planning and infrastructure
- Launched in 1990 (First Offices, then Industrial, Retail etc…)
- Process and outcome focused
- Robust, evidence based criteria
- Drives innovation and standards above the regulatory minimum
- Voluntary method
- Credible label showcasing CSR
- A family of schemes covering the majority of building lifecycle stages
BREEAM around the world...
BREEAMs overarching Aim

BREEAM assesses, rewards and encourages environmental, social and economic sustainability throughout the built environment. The BREEAM schemes:

- encourage continuous performance improvement and innovation by setting a broad range of scientifically rigorous requirements that go beyond current regulations and practice,

- empower those who own, commission, deliver, manage or use buildings, infrastructure or communities to achieve their sustainability aspirations,

- build confidence by providing independent certification that give value and wider benefits to individuals, business, society and the environment.
BREEAM scope

BREEAM scheme by built environment lifecycle stages
Ecology in BREEAM

– Ecology is one of a series of key categories included across the BREEAM family of schemes

– Added in 1993. Coverage has evolved the aims of the issues and assessment criteria have remained broadly consistent since 1998

– Encourages project teams to identify ecologically valuable features and opportunities;
  • to protect and enhance habitats,
  • to mitigate unavoidable impacts

– Seeks to improve long term biodiversity management practices and strategies for assessed sites and associated areas.
What is the Strategic Ecology Framework?

Evolution of BREEAM

Environment ➔ Sustainability
The Strategic Ecology Framework

– A response to changes in best practice, key policy areas in development and feedback received

– Published 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.

– Sets out a common basis on which appropriate ecology related scheme assessment criteria will be developed

– Aims to ensure a fair and balanced framework for evaluating ecological impact, mitigation issues and enhancement issues across the BREEAM family of schemes
The Strategic Ecology Framework

Strategic Ecology Framework

Continual review and update process

Scheme development

Scheme specific update and criteria development
A Cross Sectorial Approach..
Implementing the SEF - Stage 1

SEF Implementation Advisory Group set up and working group meeting (focus on Ecology and Landscape)

- Ecologists central to the implementation process
- Acknowledgement by members of both disciplines that dialogue with landscape architects essential to ensure successful long term outcomes
- Two day workshop held in London with Ecologists and Landscape Architects last year and set up of the SEF Implementation advisory group
- Views and advice gathered on how the SEF should be implemented in the BREEAM family of schemes and future strategic direction
Implementing the SEF - Stage 2

SEF implementation - ecology links to wider sustainability activities including landscape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape</th>
<th>Health &amp; Wellbeing</th>
<th>Resilience</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. Landscape design</td>
<td>i. Recreational space</td>
<td>i. Climate change mitigation</td>
<td>i. Community and end-user involvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>ii. Heritage and local character</td>
<td>ii. Water quality</td>
<td>ii. Surface water run off</td>
<td>ii. Pest control</td>
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<td></td>
<td>iv. Air quality control</td>
<td>iv. Climate–sensitive urban design</td>
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<td>v. Light pollution control measures</td>
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- Aims to promote and maximise opportunities to align or integrate with wider sustainability activities
- Links to specification decisions, promoting a joined up approach, longer term benefit for development and society
- SEF implementation advisory group will be expanded to include more specialists as needed
Implementing the SEF - Stage 3

SEF implementation – practical application considerations and wider stakeholder involvement

- Specification decisions and links to other areas (users, project team, other specialists etc.)
- Monitoring, review and handover considerations in achieving a successful outcome
- Consultation of methodology / guidance with key stakeholders in the BREEAM assessment process (contractors, facilities managers, design team members, Assessors, AP’s etc.), BREEAM representatives, AG etc.
Your opportunity to input

– Stage 3 is your opportunity to contribute to the implementation process

– Ecology category separated out from schemes documents

– Tailored consultation to be run over the summer covering all UK BREEAM schemes

– CIEEM kept up to date with progress and consultation release

– We encourage and welcome input
Where we are now:
SEF development Complete
SEF implementation On-going

Key activities and timescales

- Ecologists
- Landscape Architects

SEF Implementation Guidance / Methodology timeline

- Wider sustainability considerations
  - H&WB,
  - Resilience,
  - Green Infrastructure
  - Etc.

BREEAM Stakeholders
- Application,
- Feasibility
- Costs
- Etc.

Dec 2016

May 2017

June 2017

July 2017 onwards

Scheme development and SEF Implementation ongoing

Refinement and development on wards
Questions
Thank you
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