



Sustainable Construction

Gardens and Landscaping

A landscape plan, which demonstrates an acceptable measure of environmental consideration, will usually be a condition of planning consent. Good practice would be to design your landscaping at the same time as you plan and design your development. A well designed garden will not only provide you with a recreational space, but it can increase your self sufficiency and provide wildlife habitats at the same time.



Consider carefully the plants that will be best suited to your garden. Plants provide visual interest and shelter whilst helping to purify the air around your house.



Consider the needs of wildlife when planning your garden. Provide a diversity of habitats and a variety of native trees, shrubs and other plants to provide food all year round. Evergreens such as holly provide weather protection all year round.



A pond or wetland area, no matter how small, is one of the most important ecological assets within a garden.



Add to your self-sufficiency and the wildlife in your garden by planting vegetables, herbs and fruit bushes or trees.



Retain existing trees and hedgerow boundaries where possible, as they provide important habitat corridors for birds and small mammals.



Install a water butt to harvest rainwater for garden irrigation.



Include a composting system in your garden to provide a constant supply of free organic fertiliser.



Avoid using chemical pesticides, herbicides and inorganic fertilisers – instead, by providing a diversity of plants and habitats in your garden, you will have the basis for successful biological control of many pest species.



Where possible, consider installing bird and bat boxes at various locations within your garden or against the walls of your house.



For decking and other garden furniture and features, choose locally sourced timber where possible. At least be sure the timber has come from sustainably managed woodlands and is approved by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).



Use natural, non-toxic wood preservatives, paints and stains for garden furniture.

These are guidance notes only and should not be taken as rules. In order to minimise the impact on the environment and maximise the benefits to yourselves and the wildlife in your garden, it is recommended that you seek further professional guidance.

For further information contact:

Ecos Trust

Great Bow Wharf, Bow Street, Langport, Somerset, TA10 9PN

Tel: 01458 259400, Fax: 01458 253401

Email: admin@ecostrust.org.uk

Website: www.ecostrust.org.uk