



HOW TO LIVE MORE SUSTAINABLY AT DICKENS GATE

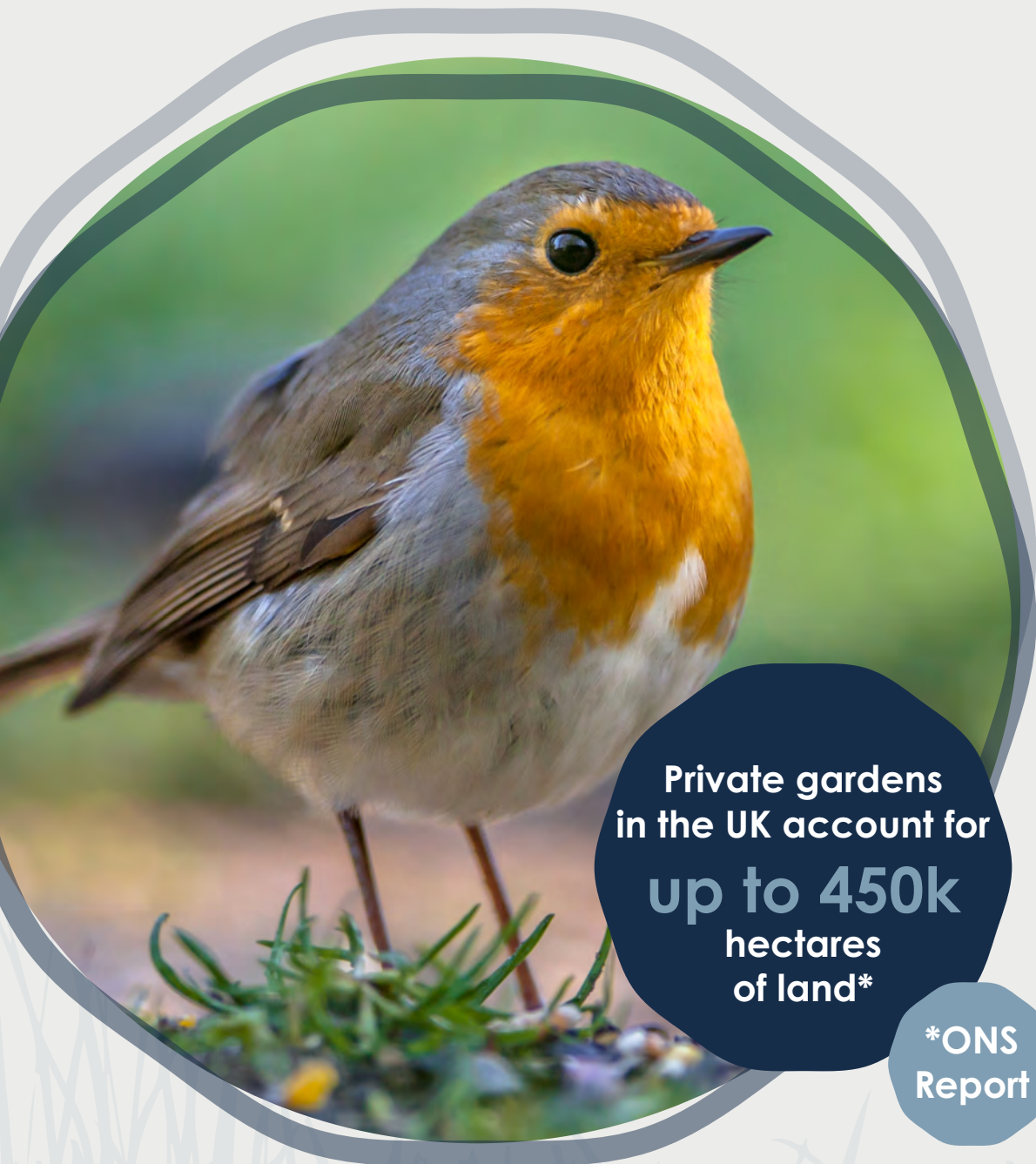
Discover our [online guide](#) to your new community spaces and tips on how you can live more sustainably.



DAVID WILSON HOMES
WHERE QUALITY LIVES



dwh.co.uk



Private gardens
in the UK account for
up to 450k
hectares
of land*

*ONS
Report

LIVE SUSTAINABLY GUIDE

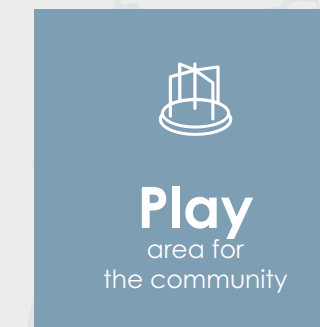
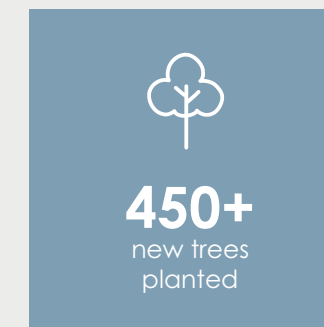
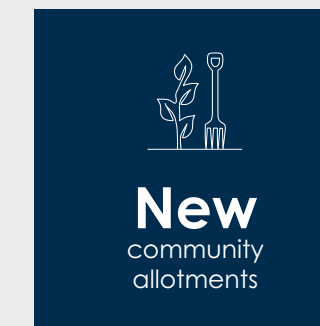


Our Practical Guide

You'll discover the habitats we're already creating in the community spaces across Dickens Gate.

We've also put together this handy online guide with plenty of practical ideas on how to use your garden space, to support wildlife and nature.

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY



Learn

We've got tips on how a water butt and compost bin in your own garden can help to support a more sustainable home.

NATURE FRIENDLY PLAN

At Dickens Gate you'll find plenty of nature friendly features, which aim to encourage wildlife with habitat creating, and help to build an environmentally conscious community.

KEY

Wildlife Protection Area
(Not accessible to general public)

Wildlife Corridor
(Habitat connecting wildlife populations)

Species-Rich Grassland
(Grassy habitat with wildflowers)

Bird Box
(Protection from the elements for nesting birds)

Bat Box
(A safe haven for the local bat population)

Great Crested Newt Hibernacula
(To support conservation of local GCN wildlife)

Proposed Development

Allotments

Pond

Public Open Space

Village Green

LIVE SUSTAINABLY GUIDE

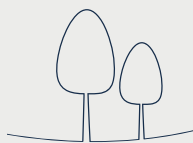
450+
new trees &
4000+
saplings
planted

Here is what will be planted:

Avenues -	<i>Tilia Cordata, Carpinus Betulus (Fastigiata).</i>
Wildlife Areas -	<i>Alnus Glutinosa, Betula Pendula, Crataegus Monogyna, Acer Campestre, Quercus Robur, Populus Tremula.</i>
Streetscape -	<i>Betula Pendula, Sorbus (Joseph Rock), Crataegus Persimilis (Prunifolia), Pyrus Calleryana (Chanticleer), Sorbus Intermedia, Prunus Avium (Plena).</i>
Orchard -	<i>Corylus Avellana, Malus (Butterball), Malus (Evereste), Malus (John Downie), Malus (Red Sentinel).</i>

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5.



Community Open Spaces

There are plenty of community open spaces at Dickens Gate, including a village green. These offer endless opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors and live in harmony with nature.

30%
of the
development
is an open
space

We're providing open spaces for everyone to enjoy, including:

2 open space areas,
allotments,
a central play area,
a village green

Top Tips

Community open spaces are for you to get closer to nature, include a village green, allotments and recreational areas. If you'd like to get involved with your local community, here is how:



Community Spaces

- Enjoy the great outdoors and get closer to nature - a proven way to reduce stress and clear the mind.
- Look for ways to get involved in the community spaces, and help to encourage future nature habitat building.
- Be considerate of others so everyone can enjoy the spaces. Why not plan something which the whole community can get involved with, like planting new trees or flowers?
- Look after recreational areas and take litter home.

Get involved

Considering an allotment?

Here is what to check:

Plots	Allotment plots are usually available in full or half plots, with a full plot allowing 10 rods (approx size 250 sq m/300 sq yd).
Facilities	Check for other facilities such as storage sheds, water sources, and toilets.
Limitations	Be aware of any limitations on a lease, with regards to the erection of polytunnels, sheds or a greenhouse, for example.
Soil	Check the type of soil available on the plot, and whether this matches what you intend to grow.



Attracts new insect, bird and mammal habitats



Scented plants and wildflowers

Grassland wildflower turfs and scented plants both offer a great attraction for pollinating bees, and other invertebrates such as bees, butterflies and spiders.

Scented plants offer a relaxing experience with new smells and scents all year round.

Top Tips

A variety of plants and flowers enrich garden spaces and provide a place to relax and unwind. There are plenty of wildflower and planted areas to enjoy at Dickens Gate. However, if you'd like to plant your own in your garden, here is how:



Plan in January

Wildflower Turfs

- You can find wildflower turfs from a number of local suppliers - some with species more tolerant of frequent mowing.
- As flowers begin to fade in August, you'll notice it's time for ornamental grasses to take centre stage.
- August is also good if you've planted fruit bushes - birds will be tempted by raspberries and gooseberries at that time of year.
- Wildflower turfs are inexpensive and enrich a garden with new colours and smells.

When to Plant

January	January is a great time of year to plan your garden spaces, as you'll see it in a bare state. Take a look at your garden layout and think about how you can make enhancements to the areas of the garden you spend the most time in.
June	June is perfect for planting hanging flowers, which will attract plenty of bees into the garden during the Summer months.
December	In December, shrubs like <i>Lonicera Fragrantissima</i> offer beautiful scents to enjoy during Winter. <i>Sarcococca Hookeriana</i> , also known as Christmas Box, is a great addition to your Winter borders.



Birds consume weed seeds which prevent weeds from growing



Bird & Bat Habitats

Bird and bat boxes provide nesting opportunities for a range of species, and are installed as high as possible and away from natural light, as well as in different positions. This encourages wildlife habitats from a range of conditions.



Build your own

Bird & Bat Habitats

- Both birds and bats should have access to hedgerows.
- Try to ensure boxes are sheltered from winds and are placed further away from streets or home security lights.
- Use a wire mesh feeder for peanuts and seed feeders for all other foods.
- Food placed just off the ground will encourage ground-feeding species such as robins and dunnocks.
- Grated cheese attracts smaller birds such as a wren.
- Sunflower seeds, lard and beef suet, cooked rice and uncooked oats are also great food sources.

Top Tips

We'll be installing a number of bird and bat boxes at Dickens Gate, to encourage habitat building within the area and support local wildlife. If you'd like to buy or build your own habitats, we've put together some options:

Building your own

If you decide to build your own, opt for a simple box design. Ensure you have the right size entry hole for the type of bird species:

Blue, coal and marsh tits	27mm
Tree sparrow	28mm
House sparrow	29mm
Great tits	30mm
Nuthatch, pied flycatcher	32mm



Biodiversity & Pond Habitats

Ponds are hot spots for a biodiverse garden. They entice plenty of wildlife due to its drinking source, and act as a relaxing area for unwinding and simply watching nature thrive.

In the last decade, 70% of garden ponds have disappeared

Top Tips

There are a number of carefully considered ponds and biodiversity areas across Dickens Gate, which will help to attract wildlife such as; toads, frogs, dragonflies, water beetles, and bird species.
If you'd like to build your own, we've put together some options:



Garden Ponds

- Position your pond in a sunny spot within your garden.
- In your pond, make sure you include aquatic plants to offer places to shelter under water.
- Don't use tap water in the pond as this could cause more algae to grow.
- Frame the edges of your pond with large pebbles and loose gravel, which will allow wildlife to enter and leave the pond easily.
- If you don't want a pond, you could leave out an old washing up bowl with water, and see what nature you attract.

Support local wildlife

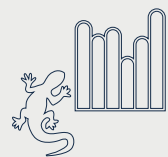
Building your own

If you decide to build your own, we've put together some tips to create the ideal addition to your garden:

Shape	To allow wildlife to enter the pond, try to have a shallow slope at one end.
Plastic-free	Try to avoid plastic and fibre-glass liners, and opt for eco-friendly alternatives such as 'puddled' clay.
Size	This is not important, as even a small pond will be a wildlife haven.
Position	Try to position the pond with some shade coverage and some full sun.



GCN help control aquatic insect and mosquito populations*



Great Crested Newt (GCN) Hibernacula

Also known as the 'warty newt', these amphibians play an important role in freshwater and woodland habitats by cycling nutrients.

We comply with our Natural England license to closely monitor GCN populations.

The newts hibernate in log piles buried around the site, and use the ponds to breed.

*Source: Wildlife Trusts
(<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/amphibians/great-crested-newt>)

Top Tips

Our provisions continue to support the conservation of the [Great Crested Newt](#) population, in accordance with our Natural England license, and includes the installation of over 17 [dead wood hibernacula](#), 3 of which located near ponds. If you'd like to create an amphibian friendly garden, we've put together some ideas:



Great Crested Newts (GCN)

- Usually spotted between March and October.
- Habitats include grassland, freshwater and woodland areas.
- They can be identified as grey-brown with an orange belly. Males have a smooth crest along their back.
- Newts eat insects such as worms, tadpoles, caterpillars and slugs.
- They are most active at night.
- Great Crested Newts are a European protected specials, and licenses need to be obtained to avoid damaging habitats. *
- There are specific Great Crested Newt hibernacula installed at Dickens Gate, as well as carefully considered wildlife corridors.

Help to Protect Habitats

*Source: Gov UK
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/great-crested-newts-protection-surveys-and-licences>

Create an amphibian friendly garden

It is likely you will not need a license for standard garden pond management*, but care must be taken to preserve GCN habitats. Here are some ideas on how to attract newts to your garden:

Ponds & Water Features	Build a pond in your garden. Take time to consider shape and size, including access for nature. Avoid adding fish as these will eat spawn. If you don't want a pond, then a water feature will also help.
Dead Wood & Compost	Newts forage, shelter and hibernate on land. Creating a pile of leaves, compost or dead wood logs (also known as a hibernacula) will attract nature and provide a safe space all year round.



A common poppy or foxglove are top bee friendly flowers



Bee-Friendly Areas & Planting

Bees provide essential pollination of many garden and wild flowers by moving from flower to flower.

Bee friendly planting provides a natural food source for bees, whilst also helping to preserve biodiversity, and protect the environment.

Top Tips

Wildlife protected areas at Dickens Gate are ideal havens for bees, insects, fungi and reptiles all year round, and support natural ecosystems to thrive. If you'd like to create your own, we've put together some options:



Use herbs to attract insects

Bee Friendly Areas

- A cornfield annual bed provides a rich source of nectar for bees and will attract many pollinating bees, insects and butterflies too.
- Sow the cornfield bed in autumn or early spring for best results.
- Corncockle, Poppy and Cornflower are among the few beautiful and colourful flowers that will grow, and take up very little room in your garden.
- Consider a bee box - available at local garden centres.
- Provide native ornamental plants which provide a nectar flow all year round, to support the local bee population.

Create your own

If you decide to create your own bee friendly area in your garden, here are some flowers to consider:

Early Season	English bluebell - <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> Primrose - <i>Primula vulgaris</i> Alyssum - <i>Alyssum montanum</i>
Mid Season	Lavender - <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> Wallflower - <i>Erysimum cheiri</i> Heather - <i>Erica cinerea</i>
Late Season	French marigold - <i>Tagetes patula</i> Red valerian - <i>Centranthus ruber</i> Common sunflower - <i>Helianthus annuus</i>



An environmentally-friendly way to water your plants or fill your pond



Water Butt & Compost Bins

Water butts and compost bins help to create a more sustainable environment by re-using instead of consuming.

There are a range of recycled plastic, and plastic-free options available.

Top Tips

Consider ways to be more environmentally friendly in your garden. If you'd like to buy your own, we've put together some options:



Go plastic-free

Water Butts & Compost Bins

- Water butts collect rainwater from a downpipe and provides an environmentally friendly way to water your plants or top up your pond.
- Take a trip to your local garden centre, where you will find a number of options available, including size, shape and colour.
- Keep an eye on your water butt regularly, and if it gets full disconnect the pipe, removing any surplus water periodically.
- **Compost bins** - If you choose to go eco-friendly, look for open-slatted timber, and FSC certified to minimise deforestation.
- Ensure the compost bin you use is sturdy and well-ventilated.

Buy your own

If you decide to buy a compost bin and water butt, here are some tips to consider:

Size	Select the best option for your garden which will not stand out, but will also store a good amount of water or compost.
Material	Whilst plastic options are durable and cost effective, try to buy either a recycled plastic or plastic-free one.
Position	A water butt should be positioned close to a downpipe, to collect water. Ensure a compost bin is located in a shaded or part shaded area.



57%
cheaper to
run than
a traditional
home*



Energy Efficient New Homes

Our homes are carefully designed with the newest energy efficient technologies, to support a more environmentally friendly and cost effective home ownership.

*Source: Zero Carbon Hub and NHBC Foundation Report November 2013
(<https://www.zerocarbonhub.org/news/annual-household-energy-spend>)

Top Tips

Expert design considerations and high quality workmanship ensure every aspect of energy efficiency has been taken care of. This includes improved soundproofing, insulated external doors, as well as efficient appliances and heating systems. If you'd like to live in a more energy efficient way, we've put together some tips:



Conscious Energy Saving

Energy Efficient Living

- Choose appliances which have a rating of A/A+ to ensure they are the most energy or water efficient.
- Replace old incandescent lighting with LED alternatives, which can reduce overall consumption and costs by up to 80%.
- Whilst our homes have water saving fixtures, take showers instead of a bath to further minimise water wastage.
- When boiling a kettle for a cup of tea or coffee, try to boil only the water required.
- Switch off appliances or lights when they are not in use, and use smart appliances to monitor use, to see what can be saved.

Responsibly Sourced Materials

We carefully monitor who we use as suppliers, with many working towards ISO14001 - the world's most popular standard for environmental management. We also focus on:

Impact	As a responsible housebuilder, we always try to minimise our impact on the local and wider environment. This includes being careful and considerate with nature.
Materials	Our timber is responsibly sourced, FSC or PEFC approved, minimising deforestation.
Waste	Thanks to our waste management plan, some 95% of our construction waste is recycled.

FSC : Forestry Stewardship Council
PEFC: Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification

Information within this booklet has been compiled with help from
RSPB, RHS, Forest Research and Wildlife Trust websites.



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