



New digital series from CIOB highlights construction industry's role in tackling biodiversity crisis

News release, 7 October 2024 - The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) has marked World Habitat Day 2024 with the launch of an innovative digital series titled *The Nature of Building: Biodiversity & the Built Environment*.

Created in collaboration with Content With Purpose (CWP) the series examines the complex connection between construction and nature and the urgent need for the industry to address the rapidly worsening biodiversity crisis.

It celebrates some of the positive work already underway within the construction industry and uses short films, interviews and case studies to explore themes such as Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), adaptive reuse, and embodied biodiversity impact. It will also showcase sustainable approaches to material sourcing, new construction techniques, and the mitigation of environmental impacts to demonstrate how organisations can make a positive difference in ways which don't add significant costs and delays to projects.

Amanda Williams, FIEMA CEnv, Head of Environmental Sustainability at CIOB, said:

"It is vital that the construction industry adapts to reduce its impact on biodiversity and ultimately work towards nature positive outcomes. We know this will require innovation in a challenging context, but we can start by giving nature a seat at the table.

We hope our series will highlight what biodiversity is, why it's important, and how construction impacts on nature, as well as showing examples of best practice to demonstrate that we can meet society's needs for new housing and infrastructure, without sacrificing the natural world."

Findings from the State of Nature Report 2023 reveal nearly one in six species in the UK are at risk of extinction. Globally, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), around 1 million species globally are currently threatened with extinction due to human activities.

The series will feature insights from key figures, including:

- Amanda Williams, FIEMA CEnv, Head of Environmental Sustainability, CIOB
- Martin Baxter, FIEMA, CEnv, Deputy CEO, IEMA
- Sir John Armitt, CBE FREng FICE, Chair, National Infrastructure Commission
- Marco Lambertini, Conservation Specialist
- Dr Stephanie Wray, Director, NatureSpace
- Anusha Shar, CEng FICE Hon Prof Hon DEng, President, Institution of Civil Engineers
- Nigel Silcock, Director of Exubia

Leading organisations such as AtkinsRéalis, NatureSpace, Morgan Sindall Construction, Speedy Hire, CWSC, Birdlife International, Ibstock, Jewson, and Marsh Industries have all contributed to the CIOB series, displaying their commitment to integrating biodiversity considerations into construction projects.



Max Smith, Founder and Managing Director of Content With Purpose, said:

“We are thrilled to partner with CIOB on this vital project. This series showcases the innovative approaches already making a difference. Our goal is to highlight these efforts and inspire the industry to adopt nature-first strategies, ensuring that development goes hand in hand with environmental stewardship.”

To explore The Nature of Building series and learn how the construction industry is addressing the biodiversity crisis, visit thenatureofbuilding.ciob.org

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About CIOB

- The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) stands for the science, ethics and practice of built environments across the world.
- We have nearly 50,000 members worldwide and are the world's largest and most influential professional body for construction management and leadership.
- Everything we do is to improve the quality of life for those using and creating the built environment.
- We have a role in the management, leadership, education and development of our industry. For our members, guiding and educating them as they embark on their careers. For policymakers, defining the standards for all to meet. For the public, creating an environment they can live and work in safely, comfortably and confidently.

About Content With Purpose (CWP)

CWP is a strategic content creator that works in partnership with leading member bodies and associations; engaging professionals on their industries' role in creating a better tomorrow.

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