

BUILDINGS: Sustainable Development

Sustainable development means keeping development (buildings and infrastructure) within sustainable levels. 'Sustainable levels' means keeping a balance between the needs of the development and the needs of the Earth, now and in the future. By doing this we are protecting the needs and resources of both the environment and the population in the longer term.

Why we build

In 1801 the population of England was 9 million. By 2001, only 200 years later it had increased dramatically to almost 50 million - that's 455%! The population is predicted to soar to 65 million within the next ten years, and by 2031 it is expected to be over 70 million. This huge increase in population will mean a greater need for homes, schools and places to work. Building developments not only impact on the green space available in our communities but the construction methods used and the energy needed to run and maintain the buildings can also affect the environment.

Types of buildings

Buildings take many forms depending on what they're used for and where and when they were built.

Examples of building purposes include:

- **Business:** Offices, factories and other places of work
- **Health, safety and governance:** Police, fire and ambulance stations, as well as council and government buildings
- **Education:** Nurseries, schools, colleges and universities
- **Tourist attractions:** Places of historical interest, such as stately homes and landmarks
- **Leisure and sport:** Leisure and shopping centres, sport stadiums, concert halls, gyms, nightclubs and cinemas
- **Defense:** Military bases, forts and castles
- **Worship:** Churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and any other buildings of worship
- **Housing:** Houses (detached, semi or terraced), maisonettes, flats, bungalows, farmhouses and cottages.



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BUILDINGS: Sustainable Development cont'd

Old, new, redeveloped and eco-buildings

Buildings and other developments do not always need to be built from scratch. The Millennium Dome in London was originally built as a tourist attraction/museum, but has since been redeveloped as the O₂ arena, complete with restaurants and an indoor arena.

Older historic buildings can also be renovated so that the original features are preserved.

Eco-buildings are built carefully, so that the impact on the environment of the building process and final building is minimal.

Eco-buildings might include:

- electricity generated by solar and wind power
- materials that are produced by environmentally friendly methods
- low energy appliances fitted within them
- green areas for growing plants, fruits and vegetables, as well as a compost area
- good waste and water management.



Did you know?

- The total number of new builds in England in 2008 (private and public sector) was 149,238.
- In 2008, the National House Building Society received 106,894 applications to develop new homes.