



Company / Organisation Name:	Sainsbury's
Team / Department:	Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability
Address:	33 Holborn, EC1N 2HT

Provisional title for project:

Understanding the opportunities to drive a net positive impact for biodiversity within a UK retailers direct operations

Short description of the problem that would be addressed by the project:

- Sainsbury's has committed that the impact of our operations will be net positive for biodiversity. That work includes complying with legislation such as the Environment Act 2021 (details below on Biodiversity net gain legislation), as well as working within our supply chains to ensure zero deforestation and water stewardship practices linked to our products.
 - [Biodiversity net gain | Local Government Association](#)
 - [Biodiversity metric: calculate the biodiversity net gain of a project or development - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
 - [The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 - JP039 \(nepubprod.appspot.com\)](#)
- Our store and logistics networks in the UK will have a proportionately small but important role to play when thinking about protecting and restoring biodiversity, relative to our wider supply chain footprint. The UK Government has an ambition to halt biodiversity loss by 2030 and achieving this will depend on local as well as national and global action.
- We are seeking to better understand the current state of biodiversity linked to our direct operations, including physical stores and logistics networks and the associated activities of recycling and waste.
- Biodiversity cannot be understood through a single lens and many aspects and data sets can be explored:
 - Nature conservation information on biodiversity i.e. status, threats and trends of species populations, ecosystems, genetic diversity
 - Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies such as artificial intelligence, satellite imagery and drones to detect land-use changes and monitor invasive species and diseases in ecosystems
 - Data sets including Tree Cover Loss (TCL) – Environmental Performance Index; Biodiversity and Habitat loss; IUCN Datasets; Biodiversity Intactness Index; Well Protected Areas; Landapp (UK)
- Our work to date in this area has varied but in the main has been limited; some of our stores have specific initiatives such as tree/vegetation planting in the car parks, bee hotels for solitary bees, and rainwater harvesting. These schemes have not always been strategically planned based on need, and we do not track the outcome of such initiatives on biodiversity as it has not been resource efficient to do so in all cases.
- However, we have the opportunity to understand where our efforts would be best placed to deliver more targeted interventions supporting biodiversity positive outcomes at this operational level. To do so we would like to:
 - Understand the state of biodiversity currently around our store and logistic depot locations e.g. through local authority assessments
 - Understand the Local Nature Recovery strategy or equivalent for each location, and the main initiatives operating in the geographical area
 - Understand whether the catchment area for any of these initiatives links to our supplier sites in the UK e.g. we may be purchasing products from growers or farmers nearby to stores and there may be an opportunity to work collaboratively to protect nature
 - Draw conclusions about the initiatives that could a) have the most material impact in the local area b) be implemented within our business operations (financially and operationally) c) might be the most appealing to customers
 - Understand how we could measure progress against any shortlisted initiatives

Short description of the data sources that would be used in the project, and how they would be used

- Spatial data on the direct location of our stores and depots to agree scope of sites to be reviewed (JS data)
- Spatial data on certain grower / farmer supplier locations in the UK (JS data)
- Data on state of biodiversity in the UK and in particular for local authority geographical areas (non JS data) to understand opportunities to set a baseline and identify biodiversity improvements
- Data on the soft landscaping used in our stores including car parks and where we have bee hotels for example (JS data – NB this may be limited)
- Data on customer awareness and appetite for biodiversity interventions linked to our stores (some info from JS, limited)
- Option to use free access software including satellite data to help determine a baseline for biodiversity health in any given area – there are various tools specific to the UK to measure biodiversity such as tree cover, water and air pollution, protected areas

Would any work by the student need to be carried out on site at the Company with the exception of supervisory meetings?

Store visits would be encouraged but not essential

Any issues of data confidentiality and IPR that would need to be resolved

Sainsbury's data relating to our suppliers / all data not accessible in the public domain

Essential skills

Problem solving; communication – verbal and written; data analysis

Desirable skills

Preferred degree programmes (if any)

Geography, Agronomy, Agriculture, Engineering, Sciences,

Preferred selection method

Support and training offered by the company

To be confirmed but likely induction, support by a day to day contact and a project manger for this project

Financial assistance offered by the company

The organisation will pay the honorarium (£500)

Any other comments