Viridor decided to participate in the Biodiversity Benchmarking Scheme (BB) to promote our environmental work on our closed landfill sites and to showcase the good work of our Aftercare Team. The benefits of the BB for Viridor are set out below:

- **Recognition:** The Biodiversity Benchmark would provide national recognition for our commitment to biodiversity and demonstrates that we are responsible land managers with biodiversity at the core of our organisation’s operations.

- **Responsibility:** The Biodiversity Benchmark provides a framework to allow us to develop or adapt systems to ensure continual biodiversity protection and enhancement on our land, enabling us to operate legal requirements and other commitments in a responsible way.

- **Reputation:** Achieving the Biodiversity Benchmark will enhance our reputation in the local community and with key stakeholders including customers, suppliers and shareholders.

- **Reporting:** The Biodiversity Benchmark contributes to environmental reporting and will strengthen Viridor’s overall environmental and sustainability credentials.

- **Rewarding:** Involving employees in the process of improving biodiversity performance and achieving the Biodiversity Benchmark boosts staff morale and motivation.

The BB has allowed us to promote the good work that our Aftercare team do and the dedication of our company and stakeholders to protect the environment. We are able to further engage in local liaisons with interest/volunteer groups to allow them access to areas which has previously had no public access but can now benefit from further environmental studies. These studies have improved Viridor’s understanding of the environment and how we as a company can utilise restored land for the benefit of our employees and other interested parties. The biodiversity benchmarking scheme has shown people outside of the company that Viridor are committed to safeguarding and increasing environmental enrichment.

Since commencement we have established presence of approximately 80% of our highlighted priority species to be found in our Biodiversity Action Plan. On two of our original 2009 BB awarded sites we have also had two terrific finds of:

- A Heath Bee Fly
- A Kent Black Arches Moth.

These rare finds are a great advertisement of Viridor’s work in the biodiversity field and the advancement of the habitats at our restored sites.

Viridor have stated in writing to shareholders and stakeholders that we aim to achieve 12 BB sites by 2020 and to retain accreditation across the all BB Sites. We also aim to enhance the BB on these sites to increase the network of habitats, enhancing the permeability of the landscape to wildlife.
“As part of Viridor’s ongoing commitment to the Biodiversity Benchmark Scheme I am pleased with the development of our site portfolio and the work completed by our Landfill and Aftercare team. I look forward to seeing the development of more sites and establishment of more priority species.”

Melanie Huggins, Head of Sustainability, Health and Wellbeing, Viridor