

NPI Name: Solitary bee box

NPI Code: SBO

NPI Payment: Year 1: £30.00 per box

NPI Aim(s): To facilitate remedial management of targeted sites and provide breeding opportunities for the declining bee population.

Scheme Applicability: Wider – EFS(W) Higher – EFS(H) Group – EFS(G)

This NPI is: Permanent Rotational

NPI Description and Outcome: This NPI is eligible where it will maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of targeted sites and is included in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). 'Solitary bee boxes' will provide nesting sites for the bee population and facilitate implementation of the ssRMP.

Number Permitted: **Minimum** 1 **Maximum** Not Applicable*

*DAERA reserves the right to limit a Higher Level agreement value where it considers appropriate to ensure value for money.

Requirements and Controls:

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type ¹		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
SBO1C	All 'Solitary bee boxes' must be erected by the end of Year 1.	✓		✓
SBO2C	New 'Solitary bee boxes' must be used.	✓		✓
SBO3C	The claimed number of 'Solitary bee boxes' must be erected in the fields(s) where they have been approved.	✓		✓
SBO4C	The claimed number of 'Solitary bee boxes' must be erected to the Specification outlined below.			✓
SBO5C	Field records must be kept detailing number, location and date erected for each 'Solitary bee box'.	✓		✓

¹ The possible control types for each requirement may be:

'Admin' – administrative checks, 'CwRS' – Control with Remote Sensing, 'OTSC' – On-the-Spot Check

Specification:

The 'Solitary bee box' must:

- have an open front but a back must be present;
- be weatherproof with small drainage holes in the floor;
- be made of untreated wood, if constructed using timber;
- contain at least four compartments containing drilled hardwood blocks (holes mixed diameters 5 - 12 mm) and/or sections of bamboo stem and /or paper drinking straws; and
- be erected and maintained as detailed in the ssRMP for EFS(H) sites.

Further Advice:

The box should ideally be at least 500 mm x 500 mm x 200 mm.

Boxes should be located in a dry, sunny and sheltered position close to a pollen and nectar forage area.

Do not attach 'Solitary bee boxes' to electricity poles. 'Solitary bee boxes' should be attached to a building, tree or free standing post at least 50 centimetres above the ground. When attaching to a tree, use a strap.

Place a different material in each compartment if possible.