The Twig Group has worked with South East Water undertaking ecological clearance and reinstatement works on private land and operational sites throughout Kent, Sussex and Hampshire. Twig has assisted in the delivery of SEW schemes for eight years and the company provides a responsible and expedient service, communicating well with both contractors and landowners.

"South East Water"
Since the Twig Group was established in 2002 it has built a comprehensive portfolio within the ecological contracting and grounds maintenance sector.

Twig is able to provide outstanding service and advice to all of its clients, whether that be complex ecologically sensitive activities or multi-site grounds maintenance.

Twig carries ISO 9001/14001, CHAS, Construction online accreditation and is proud to be BALI registered.
Twig’s service offering:

Ecological contracting
Consultancy, species surveys and supervision, vegetation clearance, arboriculture, land reinstatement, fencing and weed control.

Grounds maintenance
Grass and hedge cutting, border maintenance, leaf blowing, sports pitch management, winter services including preventative gritting and snow clearance.

Solar farms
Consultancy and site preparation including ecological surveys, seeding, planting, mowing and spraying.
Twig provides a complete range of ecological landscaping services, working with ecologists and directly with clients. We principally undertake the physical aspects of ecological mitigation plans for development and associated habitat creation or enhancement. We get involved in all stages of a project, from consultation to the initial site clearance through to final landscaping, building relationships with ground workers and other contractors to ensure the maximum effectiveness of the measures we help to implement.

Our staff are all ecologically trained with specialisms across the full range of European Protected Species.

As an abiding principle, Twig strives to minimise the environmental impact of works we undertake. One of our advantages is our adaptability to tailor our methods to the specific requirements of the site. For example, we will forego the use of large machinery, if not appropriate, and rely on muscle power to get a job done where this reduces potential damage to resident species. In all cases the solutions we deliver are commercially viable and considered.
OUR RANGE OF SERVICES INCLUDE:

- CONSULTATION
- EUROPEAN PROTECTED SPECIES (EPS) HANDLING
- ECOLOGICAL MITIGATION
- VEGETATION CLEARANCE
- LAND REINSTATEMENT
- HABITAT ENHANCEMENT
- ECOLOGICAL FENCING
- INVASIVE WEED CONTROL
- ARBORICULTURAL REMEDIAL WORK
Twig was tasked with the vegetation clearance and ecological works for a 5km multi-million pound pipeline for South East Water through Swinley Forest. Timelines were exceptionally tight and detailed planning was required with the clients, landowners and ecologists. Failing to meet the seasonal hibernation time restraints would have caused significant timing and cost issues for our client. In just three weeks, Twig cleared four large newt-fenced areas and over 4km of soft vegetation, fallen timber, all by hand and under the supervision of licensed ecologists. In total, approximately 1000 m³ of material was cut and cleared by hand.

**Industry expertise**
Utility companies, construction companies, civil engineers, house builders, developers and environmental and ecological consultancies as well as prestigious estates, country parks and landowners.
In the highest risk areas our work included hand and mechanical examination of the forest floor, exposing areas where reptiles may be seeking refuge. Twig worked under extreme pressure, focusing on the common objective with its clients and ecologists, coordinating its own teams, sub-contractors and an array of stakeholders from Crown Estates to the MoD.

All pre-construction ecological trapping and mitigation work was successfully undertaken and completed and, as summed up by South East Water: “A fantastic achievement, and only possible due to the hard work and cooperation between all of the teams involved. Well done to all.”
GROOMBRIDGE

Along a 4km scheme, Twig cleared woodland and hedges in preparation for ecological mitigation. The project required effective communication, working with land agents and landowners, installing stock and post-and-rail fencing as required. Twig undertook a sixty-day ecological ‘trap-out’ of the easements in association with South East Water’s ecological team. Traps and refugia were laid out at regulation intervals, inspected, and at the end of the extended period, closed and removed. Once the easements had been cleared of reptiles, Twig ground out stumps along the 4km scheme before mowing the easement prior to top-soil removal.
The Twig Group was tasked with the sensitive vegetation clearance of three key fields before work started on the creation of Junction 10a on the M20 motorway at Ashford. This work was completed on behalf of Vinci, as part of a joint venture with Taylor Woodrow, for the Highways Agency. The sensitive vegetation clearance was planned and inspected by Jacobs, assisted by our in-house Natural England licence holders.

The fields were initially cut to 150mm then raked off by hand. The remaining vegetation was then carefully reduced using strimmers, as part of the habitat manipulation process.
Part of a new 6.4km water main at Friston passed through Friston Forest, an area known to support dormice. With construction traffic excavating trenches and using the woodland rides, dormice would be stopped from freely moving through the woodland.

A series of dormouse bridges was constructed to create connectivity within the wood by crossing the woodland rides. These bridges were constructed to be high enough for excavators to pass underneath and provide protection from predators when dormice crossed within them. These will be left in place whilst vegetation regrows and the woodland canopy connectivity re-establishes itself.
The Twig Group successfully secured the landscaping contract for the 230 acre site at Thanet Earth. The contract involved the establishment of 15,000 trees and shrubs and 75 hectares of grass, providing habitat for many indigenous species in decline and contributing to the biodiversity action plan for chalk grassland.

We maintained the site and worked with butterfly specialists and Thanet Earth to improve the diversity of grass and flower species.

"Twig’s proactive approach and level of coordination undertaking this project has given me total confidence in their ability."

Chris Whitehead Collett - Operations Manager of Thanet Earth
STANMORE COUNTRY PARK

Twig landscaped the 70-acre extension to Stanmore Country Park, North West London. Wood Farm was a challenging but unique site, surrounded by woodland, with spectacular views of the capital. Twig was awarded the contract to transform this inaccessible area of former inert landfill site, farmland and scrub into a haven for the public and wildlife alike.
The transformation included clearing vegetation, tree work, fencing, gate installation, as well as the seeding of grass and wildflowers. Twig installed all-weather paths to enable pedestrian and wheelchair access into the country park, along with a cattle grid and car park formation.

Ahead of the tree and shrub planting, Twig installed a ha ha gabion wall and supplied and spread 3000 tonnes of topsoil prior to seeding.

Throughout the park there are access points that required kissing and pedestrian gates. Multiple benches and cycle racks were also installed.
Twig arrived at Leybourne to undertake clearance of a water pipeline easement through our country park. They were polite, courteous, communicative, and most importantly, knowledgeable in all aspects of the management of our flora and fauna. In post-construction, they worked hard reinstating our country park and the results were spectacular.

Ben Jarvis, Head Ranger, Leybourne Lakes Country Park
The Twig Group has now worked on 22 of Redrow homes’ Southeast sites, using its ecological expertise to assist Redrow in creating wildlife-friendly, sympathetic developments. At Crown Quay, Sittingbourne, we undertook sensitive clearance of vegetation after this former industrial estate had been earmarked for 400 homes. Twig collaborated with Aspect Ecology to undertake bat inspections as well as trapping reptiles within this sensitive habitat and relocating them.

At Walnut Tree Farm, on the Isle of Grain, Twig undertook all of the necessary ecological surveys at this site close to the RSPB’s North Hill reserve. The site has been earmarked for 100 homes. Surveys included: Great Crested Newts; overwintering and breeding birds as well as reptile and bat surveys. Twig will be undertaking a wide range of works to protect wildlife both on and around the site, including the clearance of undesirable plant species. On completion of the development, Twig will be involved with the ongoing monitoring of wildlife and the habitats they have created. A true ‘start to finish’ service from Twig.
Locally sourced chestnut post-and-three-rail fencing

Wherever possible Twig sources materials locally to support small businesses. Chestnut post-and-rail production is a prime example of a process that is in decline and one that needs to be supported in order to maintain coppice woodlands for future generations.
 Twig offers a full grounds maintenance service for medium to large-scale projects whether that be at single or multiple sites across the UK. Using the very best technology available and with highly trained personnel, our grounds maintenance teams draw on Twig’s reputation for creating outstanding landscapes and producing beautifully maintained spaces.

Twig employs individuals who really care and take ownership of their work. This positive and caring attitude means that we are an extra pair of eyes on the ground and will highlight other issues noticed whilst carrying out our duties. This builds trust and increases the sense of partnership with many of our clients.

Twig regularly comply with short response times and understand the importance of a rapid response to issues that can occur on site, such as fallen trees, fences or simply making a site look its best before an important client visit.
OUR RANGE OF SERVICES INCLUDE:

- GRASS CUTTING
- HEDGE CUTTING
- WEED CONTROL – SPRAYING, BORDER MAINTENANCE
- WINTER SERVICES – GRITTING, SNOW CLEARANCE
- ARBORICULTURAL SURVEYS
- TREE SURGERY
- LINE PAINTING
INDUSTRY EXPERTISE

We deliver tailored results and enduring value across all industry sectors, including:

- EDUCATION
- EMERGENCY SERVICES
- HEALTHCARE
- HISTORIC PROPERTIES
- OFFICES AND INDUSTRIAL
- PUBLIC SECTOR
- RETAIL
- SOCIAL HOUSING
- SPORTS, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY
- UTILITIES

Whether you invest in immaculately presented lawns to impress millions of visitors or have an industrial estate where maintenance is a necessary expense to the business, Twig provides fit-for-purpose solutions.
Twig provides a comprehensive range of landscape maintenance services including:

- Grass Cutting
- Hedge Cutting
- Border Maintenance
- Weed Control
- Annual Tree Safety Surveys
- Remedial Tree Works
- Leaf Collection
- Preventative Gritting and Snow Clearance

Twig provides a mixture of these services to more than 200 KCC properties across the west of Kent on both reactive and planned-for bases.
I’m really pleased with the works your guys have done so far. They are a very helpful bunch of lads – nothing was too much for them.

Stephen Grace – Building Fabric Supervisor

ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S HOSPITAL

Twig maintains the grounds of this world-class hospital in the centre of the City of London, testing our ability to consistently deliver a high-class service in an extremely challenging environment.
KIER
Twig has engaged with Kier to undertake a series of tree safety surveys throughout East Kent. Tree Safety Surveys undertaken by Twig are to British Standard, BS5837:2012 and are undertaken to assess the potential hazard to people or structures. Tree survey data is recorded using a Trimble GPS hand-held device and transposed on to schedules and plans as part of the comprehensive report.

GEN 2
As part of a continuing relationship with Kent County Council and its property services, Gen 2, Twig has continued to undertake ecological clearance, fencing, and grounds maintenance. At Meopham Library, built by Kier on behalf of KCC, Twig undertook pre-construction preparation with a supervised ecological destructive search and vegetation clearance. Other works include the maintenance of disused assets whilst planning is being sought or the end use is decided.

Leaders in the field
SOLAR FARM LANDSCAPING & MAINTENANCE

Twig offers a complete solar farm reinstatement and maintenance programme. In conjunction with our clients, Twig is able to provide innovative, cost effective solutions to enable legal and planning compliances, reinstatement, maintenance and the promotion of environmental and ecological measures to advance corporate and social responsibility. Twig can undertake detailed environmental management plans and deliver those plans on the ground. As leaders in the field, Twig has the knowledge and skills amongst its teams to continually improve upon those plans to increase efficiency and savings for both installers and landowners.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

• SITE ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMPLIANCE APPRAISALS
• TREE AND HEDGE-PLANTING
• WILDFLOWER AND GRASS-SEEDING
• ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS
• MOWING IN AND AROUND THE SOLAR ARRAY USING SPECIALIST MACHINERY.
• HEDGE CUTTING AND SURROUNDING TREE WORKS/SURVEYS, ENABLING SITE SECURITY TO BE MAINTAINED
• IMPLEMENTATION OF A HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN, WHICH CAN INCLUDE THE PLANTING OF NATIVE WILDFLOWERS AND THE INSTALLATION OF BEEHIVES, REPTILE HABITATS AND BAT BOXES
• SPRAYING AND WEED CONTROL – BLANKET AND SPOT SPRAYING TO KEEP WEEDS UNDER CONTROL

Industry expertise
Utility companies, construction companies, solar developers, O & M contractors, solar hedge fund manager’s farmers and landowners.
Since starting work alongside Conergy two years ago, the Twig Group has built on its expertise and become a specialist in the field of ecological enhancement of solar energy sites. We are now looking at the development, maintenance and management of their entire portfolio across the UK. Work includes planting trees and adding ecologically friendly features to Conergy’s solar energy sites – to reduce the impact of such sites and increase biodiversity – as well as implementing ecological management plans.

Kevin McLelland, Operations & Maintenance Director UK from Conergy, said:

“We’ve been very pleased with the expertise offered by Twig Group as they have the ability to understand ecology, landscaping and compliance alongside business implications. Their advice has been invaluable and their work timely, which is why we have expanded our contract with them. They will now enhance, manage and maintain the rest of our sites to meet landscape and ecological objectives.”
Twig has been involved in tree and hedge planting as well as ongoing maintenance across 8 of Wirsol’s solar farms – from Kent to Cumbria. Planting work included the establishment of mixed native hedgerows and trees as well as naturalistic copses.

Across the various sites, Twig installed more than 50 bird boxes, 50 bat boxes as well as 30 reptile hibernacula. They also created a bespoke swift box which was elevated above the solar panels. After sensitively landscaping Wirsol’s sites, Twig has provided regular maintenance to ensure the successful establishment of hedgerows and trees, thriving habitats for native species as well as working to keep weeds in check.
Twig has worked with WElink on 4 of its UK solar farm sites, planting hedgerows, seeding wildflowers and providing ecological enhancements such as bird and bat boxes. Twig’s work not only improves biodiversity but also ensures that the sites meet planning objectives.

The largest of the sites in Scunthorpe provides 38MW of power and comprised five fields adjacent to a large industrial steel plant. The 189 acre site is one of the largest in the country and had been planted with grass and wildflowers. Approximately 22,000 trees and shrubs were planted during the winter of 2015/2016, further improving wildlife connectivity and enhancing the diversity of woodland already in the area.

It is planned that the Roanhead solar site in Cumbria will power 1950 homes. The existing field boundaries were retained and enhanced, with hedgerow planting to reinforce selected field margins. Ecological enhancements included barn owl, bird and bat boxes along with wildflower planting. The site will continue to be used for grazing.

At Pentre Farm, Llannon, the site covers 30 acres and generates 5.5MW of power in the Carmarthenshire countryside, providing power for 1200 homes. Twig’s work here included the planting of trees and shrubs and the seeding of wildflowers.

**Leaders in the field**
Twig undertook a program of weed spraying at this solar farm site that included the use of specialist equipment. This ensured that the risk of damage to the solar panels was minimised whilst significantly increasing efficiencies associated with the otherwise labour intensive spraying activity. Wix Lodge is a 64 acre site producing 15 megawatts of power.

Twig has bespoke compact equipment that enables the spraying of weeds, cultivation of the seedbed and seeding in between the PV rows. Twig manage the conservation measures to enhance environmental diversification.

Twig also has the specialist equipment to mow in-between the rows to keep the areas tidy and up to the expected standard of the site’s investors.