

## **Biodiversity Policy**

The University of Southampton is one of the top ten research-led Universities in the UK and offers first-class opportunities and facilities for study and research, in a stimulating working environment. The University is committed to maintaining, developing and optimally using our estate to create sustainable campus environments that provide the working, leisure and social spaces within which our staff and students can thrive (University Strategy, Vision 2020).

The University recognises the important role it has in managing the impact of its day-to-day operations on the environment and in promoting the principles of sustainable development in all its activities. The University aims to provide an attractive landscape for the benefit of both people and wildlife that is based on finding a balance between economic, social and environmental factors.

This Policy links to the University's framework for improving its environmental performance.

The University is committed to achieving environmental good practice and seeks continual improvement in all its activities by:

1. Managing the estate to maintain and, where possible, enhance and create habitats for the benefit of people and wildlife.
2. Complying with applicable legal and other requirements to protect designated habitats and protected species.
3. Implementing habitat management principles into the landscape maintenance programme to benefit wildlife and reduce costs.
4. Minimising the use of natural resources and seeking to minimise waste production.
5. Preventing pollution and minimising the use of chemicals to control targeted species.
6. Providing training and awareness for staff and students so they are aware of their responsibilities for helping to protect and to enhance green spaces for wildlife.
7. Working with contractors to minimise their impact on the environment.
8. Monitoring and reporting, as appropriate on habitat quality and wildlife population status.
9. Informing and involving staff, students and the local community in helping to protect and enhance habitats.
10. Working with other higher education establishments and key stakeholders to share good practice.

We will review this Policy regularly and ensure corrective and preventative actions have been taken to achieve continual improvement.



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