



Biodiversity Action Plan

2025/26 – 2030/31

Approved by: Biodiversity Committee

Date of approval: May 2026

To be reviewed annually. Due for review: May 2027





Introduction

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth, including plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms. These ecosystems provide essential services such as clean air, water, food production and climate regulation. However, biodiversity is declining globally due to factors including climate change, land-use change, pollution and habitat loss.

At Bournemouth University (BU), we recognise our responsibility to protect and enhance biodiversity across our campuses. This Biodiversity Action Plan (2025/26–2030/31) sets out a framework to manage and improve biodiversity, building on the following institutional, local and national commitments:

- BU's ISO14001 EcoCampus certified Environmental and Energy Management System
- BU's Biodiversity Policy
- BU's Climate & Ecological Crisis Action Plan ([CECAP](#))
- BU's commitment to become a Nature Positive University
- The [BU2035](#) strategy
- The [Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) (2025), which sets out 13 nature recovery priorities to ensure that nature in Dorset is recovering, thriving, resilient and can be enjoyed by all. We intend to support this strategy through the delivery of this Biodiversity Action Plan.

This plan identifies practical actions to improve habitats, increase species diversity and encourage engagement with nature across BU's campuses.



Our Biodiversity Vision and Goals

Our sustainability vision is a community that recognises the need to live in harmony with the natural world to protect the survival and well-being of all communities and take action to enrich society for the benefit of people and the planet. This Biodiversity Action Plan focuses on delivering the three goals of our CECAP:

Goal 1

Identify opportunities to support nature

Goal 2

Encourage students and staff to connect with nature

Goal 3

Incorporate nature into education and research



Our Biodiversity Baseline

In 2022, we had a full Phase 1 ecological survey completed by an external consultant of our campuses. The recommendations from this survey, which are summarised on this page, have been used to develop this Biodiversity Action Plan.



Talbot Campus

- Enhance and better utilise the rooftop spaces on our buildings
- Introduce specific management regimes for existing areas of grassland
- Improve and maintain existing ornamental planting
- Trial heathland creation and restoration in specific, suitable locations
- Increase native hedgerow planting
- Extend and enhance existing woodland habitat
- Incorporate more broad-leaved tree planting on site in suitable locations
- Re-locate existing bird and bat boxes to more optimal locations

Lansdowne Campus

- Enhance and better utilise the rooftop spaces on our three buildings at the site
- Enhance and extend the existing ornamental planting
- Incorporate a greater level of broad-leaved tree planting
- Increase native hedgerow planting
- Use hard standing features such as walls and fencing for trellising to support climbing plants

Chapel Gate

- Include additional areas of rough grassland around the peripheries of the sports pitches
- Place additional controls on fertiliser usage on site
- Introduce alternative methods for processing grass cuttings
- Increase rich native hedgerow planting along the southern boundaries of the site, incorporating existing scattered scrub and trees
- Enhance and extend existing semi-natural broadleaved woodland habitat
- Restore acidic oak and birch woodland habitat within the plantation woodland areas
- Plant scattered pedunculate oak trees alongside the eastern boundaries of the site
- Improve on-site storage and tackle issues with scattered debris
- Install roosting features for bats and nesting features for birds
- Install log and brushwood piles and loggeries

Goal 1) Identify opportunities to support nature

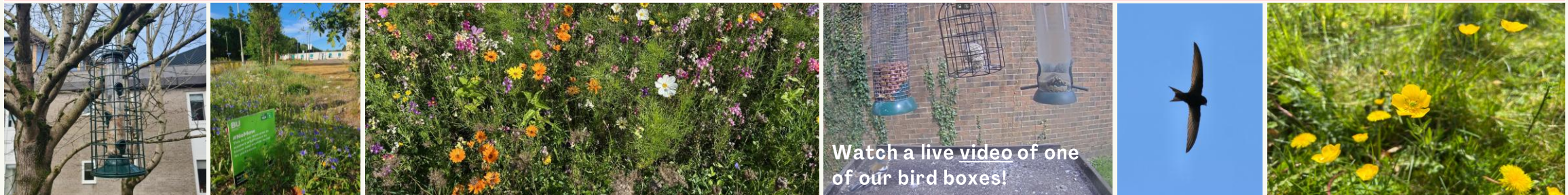
Focus Area	Objective	Action(s)	Indicator(s)	Baseline (2024/25)
Overall	Increase the number of different species on campus	Implement the actions identified in this Biodiversity Action Plan	Number of species recorded	238 species through iNaturalist 25 indoor species identified at Talbot and Lansdowne
Tree Planting	Achieve a net increase in the number of trees to improve habitat availability and climate resilience	Plant additional trees across all campuses	Total number of trees	211 trees were counted on Talbot Campus in 2024 as part of a tree mapping activity
		Ensure that new trees are native, climate resilient, and suited to their location	Number of new trees planted this year	5 new Rowan trees were planted in the 2024-25 academic year
		Maintain and monitor existing trees	Number of tree species	43 identified on Talbot Campus in 2024 as part of a tree mapping activity
		Allow and support natural regeneration of trees where appropriate	% of newly planted trees that are native and climate-resilient	100%



The recommendations from the survey have been organised into delivery actions with progress indicators. Much work has already been carried out under BU's Biodiversity Policy, and this plan identifies our next steps.

Goal 1) Identify opportunities to support nature

Focus Area	Objective	Action(s)	Indicator(s)	Baseline (2024/25)
Wildflowers	Expand and manage wildflower areas to support pollinators and community well-being	Increase wildflower areas Use native wildflower seed mixtures that are suitable for local ecosystems Increase the diversity of wildflower species to promote biodiversity	Area (m ²) of campus sown with wildflowers	1,408m ² at Talbot Campus
			Number of wildflower species	No data. We will look to count the number of wildflower species for 2025/26.
			% of wildflower species that are native	100%
Supporting wildlife	Increase nesting and feeding opportunities for local wildlife	Maintain bird and bat boxes and install additional features where appropriate Continue to provide bird feeders across campus Monitor bird populations through surveys	Number of roosting features and feeders	9 bat boxes 10 swift boxes on Talbot Campus 4 bird boxes on Talbot Campus 3 bird boxes at Chapel Gate 2 badger boxes 12 bird feeders
			Number of recorded bird species	6 bird species (data taken from iNaturalist)



Watch a [live video](#) of one of our bird boxes!

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Grasslands	Improve the ecological value of our grassland areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convert selected amenity grassland areas into rough grassland habitats Take part initiatives including No Mow May to support pollinators Implement site-specific mowing regimes 	% of campus green space managed as rough grassland	30% at Talbot Campus 80% at Chapel Gate 0% at Lansdowne Campus These percentages are estimates.
Hedgerows	Improve ecological connectivity between habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend existing hedgerows and plant new hedgerows along campus boundaries Enhance woodland and grassland areas by integrating new hedgerows where suitable Ensure all new hedgerows are native and climate resilient 	Total length of hedgerows % of new hedgerows that are native and climate resilient	1272m at Talbot Campus (this includes Wallisdown Road woodland) No new hedgerows planted in 2024-25



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Goal 1) Identify opportunities to support nature

Focus Area	Objective	Action(s)	Indicator(s)	Baseline (2024/25)
Ornamental planting	Improve the ecological value of our landscaped areas	Introduce both pollinator-friendly and sensory species into existing planters	Number of ornamental planters and features	69 planters at Talbot Campus 231 planters at Lansdowne Campus
		Improve and maintain soil quality through composting and mulching		
Climate resilience	Implement nature-based solutions that promote biodiversity and improve climate resilience	Incorporate biodiversity features such as bug hotels and loggeries	% of campus water usage from rainwater harvesting	1 onsite composter 2 bug hotels
		Implement a management regime		
		Maintain and monitor our blue-green infrastructure, including green roofs, sustainable drainage systems, trees, rainwater harvesting systems, water butts and micro-ponds		
		Look for opportunities to install additional blue-green infrastructure	Number of blue-green infrastructure features on campus	3 green roofs (Student Centre, Fusion Building, and the Cycle Hub) 4 water butts 3 microponds



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Goal 1) Identify opportunities to support nature

Focus Area	Objective	Action(s)	Indicator(s)	Baseline (2024/25)
Procurement and supply chains	Reduce our biodiversity impact within our supply chain	<p>Work with our suppliers to support them in reducing their ecological impact</p> <p>Work with our procurement team to embed nature-positive commitments into tender documentation and contracts where possible</p>	Number of BU suppliers engaged with nature-positive practices	1 – Chartwells (catering). BU’s Sustainable & Ethical Food Policy recognises that “ <i>food and drink has major environmental and social impacts</i> ” and commits our caterers to “ <i>minimise harmful effects of food</i> ”.
Herbicide reduction	Reduce the amount of herbicide we use for estate management of weeds	<p>Continue to limit herbicide usage to essential applications only</p> <p>Explore alternative weed management approaches</p> <p>Monitor and report on herbicide volumes annually</p>	Volume (l ³) of herbicide used annually	We will look to record the volume of herbicide used for 2025/26.



The recommendations from the survey have been organised into delivery actions with progress indicators. Much work has already been carried out under BU’s Biodiversity Policy, and this plan identifies our next steps.

Goal 2) Encourage students and staff to connect with nature

Focus Area	Objective	Action(s)	Indicator(s)	Baseline (2024/25)
Nature connection	Continue to promote existing and new nature connection projects	The SUBU Community Garden and local food-growing projects	Number of iNaturalist users	157
		Litter picks and other nature-themed volunteering opportunities BioBlitz events to record species on campus using iNaturalist The Wildlife Conservation Society Nature connection sessions at our Chapel Gate sports campus Green space on campus for socialising outdoors	Number of students engaged in nature-themed volunteering activity	140 students applied for nature-themed volunteering activities through the Students' Union Volunteer Hub.



At BU, we recognise the role nature plays in supporting the well-being of our students, staff, and community members. We have a number of practical projects already happening that we will continue to support and promote to our community.

Goal 3) Incorporate nature into education and research

Focus Area	Objective	Action(s)	Indicator(s)	Baseline (2024/25)
Research and Education	Contribute to biodiversity through the research we produce and the education we provide	Integrate the climate & ecological crisis into the curriculum across all courses	% of programmes that align to the climate & ecological crisis at every level	69%
		Encourage Living Lab student research projects using the campus environment		
		Support students to undertake placements and work experience with environmental organisations	Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Rankings score for research outputs for SDGs 14 & 15	SDG 14: Life Below Water 64.3
		Support academic staff to deliver research in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way through the Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice		SDG 15: Life on Land 82.6
Increase research outputs that address biodiversity				



As a university, we have the ability to contribute to biodiversity through the research we produce, and our ability to empower students through education to take action for nature beyond BU. Our CECAP Education for Sustainable Development aim is for 100% of our programmes to align to the climate and ecological crisis at every level of study by 2030/31.

Governance, monitoring and reporting

The implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan is overseen by the Biodiversity Committee, comprised of BU students, professional and academic staff, and our Students' Union. This committee reports to the Sustainability Committee.

Biodiversity monitoring and reporting is important for helping us to manage our ecosystems optimally. In 2025, BU joined the Campus Biodiversity Network, connecting universities worldwide that monitor campus biodiversity. Our campuses have been mapped so students, staff and visitors can engage in 'citizen-science' and record species using the iNaturalist app.

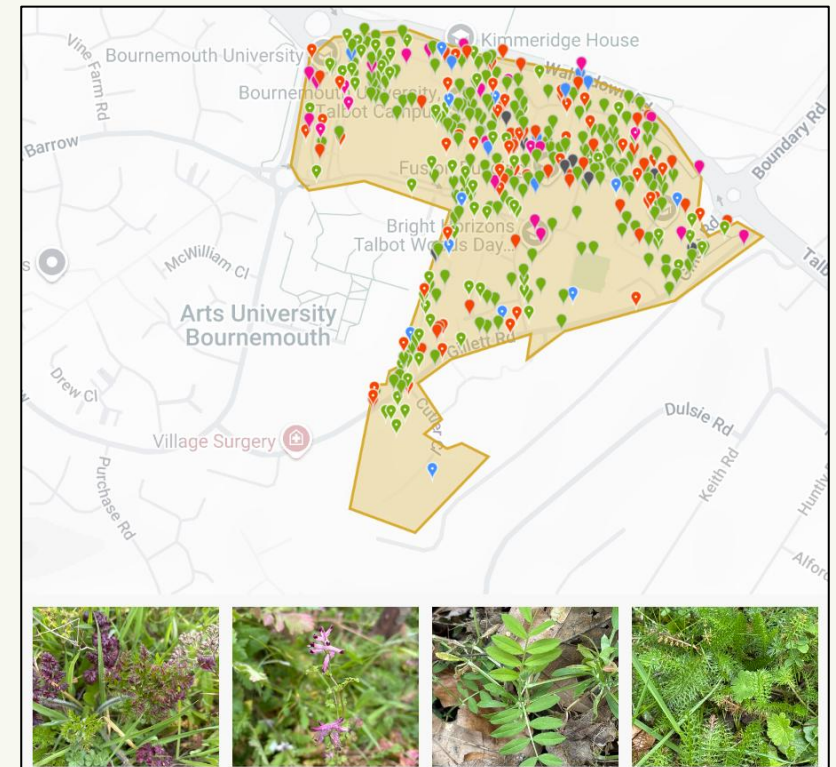
You can explore our campus biodiversity [here](#).

Actions:

- Establish a process for conducting annual surveys to collect the data for the indicators included in this plan
- Track and evaluate the indicators identified in this Biodiversity Action Plan, and report on progress
- Increase and promote citizen science opportunities to support with species monitoring



campus
biodiversity
network



Conclusion



This Biodiversity Action Plan provides a clear and practical framework for protecting and enhancing biodiversity across Bournemouth University's campuses from 2025/26 to 2030/31. By actively seeking opportunities to support biodiversity, integrating it into our education, research, and engagement activities, and setting measurable targets to track progress, BU is taking a proactive role in addressing the climate and ecological crisis.

Progress against this plan will be reviewed and reported annually to ensure accountability and continuous improvement. By working together, we can ensure our campuses not only support nature but also inspire and empower our community to value and protect it for future generations.

Find out more about BU's commitment to sustainability on our website www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/sustainability

Contact us at sustainability@bournemouth.ac.uk

