

Title:	Biodiversity Policy
Keywords:	Biodiversity, Environment, Ecological, Campus
Description:	A Policy detailing the importance of Biodiversity at BU
Owner:	Sustainability Manager
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Approved by:	Sustainability Committee
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Biodiversity Policy

1. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 This policy and related procedures is applicable to any member of BU staff, students, external contractors and other relevant stakeholders.
- 1.2 This policy and related procedures relate to any Bournemouth University activity that could positively or negatively impact on ecosystems and biodiversity either within the University estate or beyond its boundaries and may require action to be taken to reduce any negative impacts where practicable.
- 1.3 This policy guides our community effort to maintain and enhance ecosystems and biodiversity.

2. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Sustainability Committee has overall responsibility for implementation and monitoring of this policy. Day to day responsibility lies with the Sustainability Team and Maintenance Services Manager.

3. LINKS TO OTHER BU DOCUMENTS

- 3.1 Bournemouth University Sustainability Policy
- 3.2 Bournemouth University Environmental and Energy Management System (EEMS)
- 3.3 Climate and Ecological Crisis Action Plan (CECAP)
- 3.4 Bournemouth University Sustainable Construction Policy
- 3.5 Bournemouth University Estates Development Framework
- 3.6 Bournemouth University Design Standards

Policy

4. Overview

- 4.1 Bournemouth University is a large and complex organisation and is committed to maintaining and wherever possible, enhancing, the quality of this environment, both for people who live and work in the University and for the wider community.

The vision of Bournemouth University's Climate and Ecological Crisis Action Plan (CECAP) is "a BU community that recognises the need to live in harmony with the natural world to protect the survival and wellbeing of all communities and takes action to enrich society for the benefit of people and planet."

One of the five CECAP themes is 'Caring for our Ecosystems' where we invest in nature-based solutions to help mitigate and adapt to the crisis and cultivate in our community an appreciation and connection with nature, so we can take stronger action to protect it.'

The University recognises that its operations have the potential to impact on biodiversity both directly and indirectly and that it has a responsibility to manage these impacts. The University also recognises its statutory obligation to have due regard for the conservation of biodiversity in the exercise of its functions and is therefore committed to maintaining, enhancing and, where possible, creating new habitats on campus.

4.2 **Legislation & Environmental Management Systems**

- Comply with all biodiversity compliance obligations.
- The Biodiversity Policy forms part of the BU EEMS which is certified to Eco-Campus Platinum and ISO 14001:2015.
- This Policy forms part of BU's contribution to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

4.3 **Operational & Estates Development**

- Minimise the impact on habitats and biodiversity from grounds maintenance and landscaping work and prevent pollution by restricting the use of pesticides to a minimum.
- Seek to create, maintain and enhance habitats to encourage both plants and animals, where possible.
- Minimise the impact on biodiversity from development works and, where possible, install nature based solutions and seek a net increase in ecological value through project design and delivery.

- Ensure ecological surveys are completed prior to, and post completion of, building work and the results are documented. Work with stakeholders to improve habitat and biodiversity management practices.
- Seek opportunities to cultivate an awareness of and connection with nature within our community through the management of our estate.
- Identify the risks of and, where possible, reduce the impact of alien species on Campus.
- Encourage landscapes to minimise water usage on campus.

4.4 **Training**

- Provide training for staff to ensure contractors are able to meet the requirements of the Biodiversity and Sustainability Policies.
- Ensure all contractors are provided with a copy of the BU Design Standards which reference the Biodiversity Policy.

4.5 **Monitoring and reporting**

- Implement mechanisms for monitoring habitats and biodiversity on campus wherever possible.
- Actively encourage student-led monitoring projects at species level on campus.
- Review and update the Biodiversity actions (EEMS Objectives Register) and the CECAP 'Nature' actions with the Biodiversity Group at least once every six months.
- Seek to identify, monitor and protect any IUCN Red Listed species and national conservation list species with habitats in areas affected by BU operations

4.5 **Communication, Education, Research & Stakeholder Engagement**

- Raise awareness of staff and students about the climate and ecological crisis and what measures they can take to help mitigate the major loss of biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Seek to support research projects and education opportunities that will conserve and, where possible, enhance habitats and biodiversity on campus.
- Actively seek opportunities to use the estate as a Living Lab to link landscape management to education and research.
- Encourage staff and students to connect with nature.

- Incorporate nature into education and research, to further the understanding of both our place in nature, our reliance on its health, and how we can enhance it.
- Encourage and support BU participation and contribution (research, development, good practices, and policy/procedures) at relevant national and international forums.
- Work in partnership with environmental groups, local authorities and environmental charities to share research and knowledge and improve biodiversity management practices.

4.6 **Investments**

- Consider the impacts and co-benefits for nature when making investments that offset carbon emissions.

4.7 **Review**

- Review and publish the Biodiversity Policy on an annual basis.

Procedures

5. **Procedures**

5.1. None

General

6. **REFERENCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION**

6.1 This policy is delivered by the actions identified in EcoCampus Register of Objectives.

7 **APPENDICES**

7.1 None

10. SIGNATURE

Stuart Laird
Director of Estates
September 2021