



UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH

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BIODIVERSITY POLICY AND ACTION PLAN

2022 - 2027

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Introduction

The University of Plymouth operates from several locations in Devon and Cornwall. Two primary locations are included within the scope of this plan – the main city campus and the John Bull Building/Derriford Research Facility (JBB/DRF). The University is committed to sustainable development, through research and education, and biodiversity must be fully incorporated into both the staff and students' learning and experience. This also contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically: Life on Land (15).

Main campus

This is an intensely occupied and compact urban campus, with dense development. The buildings have been constructed with different architectural styles, indicative of the periods of campus development, from Victorian school buildings through to 21st century buildings. The University's gardens and historic reservoir and park form a key public space within the campus and the city as a whole. The main campus has Trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders.

A 10 year masterplan is being delivered, to create a first-class campus. This includes the development of new teaching, learning, research, social and green spaces, as well as the maintenance and refurbishment of existing space as the University seeks to enhance the sense of place and the public realm, improve navigability and promote sustainability values and net zero carbon goals.

John Bull Building/Derriford Research Facility (JBB/DRF)

This site is to the north of the city, next to the University Hospital at Derriford. The buildings are set in parkland, with mature trees and shrubs. The grounds contain woodland, an orchard, scrub as well as areas with shrubs and other plants. The Peninsula School of Dentistry sits within the landscaped area that is the responsibility of the University grounds and landscape maintenance. The site is directly adjacent to the Bircham Valley Reserve.

Further detail can be found in the [Landscaping Management Plan](#).

Strategy

Work undertaken within this plan will also bring indirect benefits in relation to the University's 2030 Strategy and to the Carbon Strategy, whose vision is to deliver excellent interdisciplinary research, experiential education and civic engagement whilst reducing the University's negative impact on the environment and responding to the climate emergency through delivering net zero emissions from scope 1 & 2 by 2025 and moving towards net zero emissions including scope 3 by 2030–50.

Where possible the Biodiversity Working Group will investigate external grants and opportunities to help progress this plan; however internal funding will predominantly fund this action plan.

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this Biodiversity Plan is to contribute towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically:

- Clean Water and Sanitation (6)
- Sustainable Cities and Communities (11)
- Climate Action (13)

- Life Below Water (14)
- Life on Land (15)
- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (16)
- Partnership for the Goals (17)

The Action Plan follows these objectives:

1. Measure biodiversity at both Main Campus and DRF/JBB locations, to understand the baseline (and subsequent year) levels and report these figures on an annual basis to SAG
2. Manage, protect and increase biodiversity across the two locations measurable by the annual report, and consider options to create new opportunities for nature within the estate by 2027
3. Find the baseline of and subsequently measure the formal use on an annual basis for biodiversity education and engagement across the two locations, utilising the outdoor spaces for formal and informal learning by students and staff
4. Incorporate consideration of biodiversity impacts and practices into development strategies, design and materials purchasing to protect green spaces and biodiversity levels to improve on business as usual by 2027

Links to other policies

The action plan directly supports the University’s ‘Strategy 2030: a future of excellence’, particularly in addressing the ambition to achieve resilience, sustainability and effectiveness. Other relevant plans and strategies for sustainability include:

- Carbon Strategy and Management Plan
- Environmental Policy
- Estate and Facilities Campus Strategies
- Green Flag for Drake’s Place
- ISO 14001:2015
- Landscaping Management Plan
- Waste Plan

Governance

The University Executive Group has overall responsibility for the delivery of the Biodiversity Plan. Delegated responsibility for achieving this plan is with the Biodiversity Working Group reporting to the Sustainability Advisory Group (SAG). This group brings together representatives from across the University including professional services, research and teaching and learning.



Responsibilities

Staff and Students

Engage and support delivery of the plan.

Sustainability Advisory Group

Agree the biodiversity plan and review actions within the annual report and plan provided by Biodiversity Working Group. Report progress into the University Executive Group.

Head of Facilities & Student Accommodation

Lead on delivery actions within the Biodiversity Plan including management of grounds maintenance across the University.

Head of Sustainability

Support the Head of Facilities & Student Accommodation where necessary to achieve the Biodiversity Plan.

Biodiversity Working Group

The Working Group has been set up to oversee the scope and delivery of biodiversity activities on University grounds, feeding into work on landscaping and maintenance. The chair ensures an annual update of actions to SAG.

Centre for Sustainable Futures

Help promote and engage in education benefiting this plan.

Sustainable Earth Institute

Help promote and engage in research benefiting this plan.

Grounds Maintenance Contractor

Work in accordance with the Landscaping Management Plan and contract agreements and be aware of the trees subject to Tree Protection Orders.

Scope

The plan covers the University premises and activities at the Main Campus and John Bull / Derriford Research Facility.

Performance to date

Progress of this plan will be reported to the Sustainability Advisory Group on an annual basis.

Data relating to this plan will be captured in an annual report that is reviewed via SAG. Our landscaping contractor, staff and students may contribute to data collected.

Action	Year completed
Establishment of a Biodiversity Working Group with cross institutional representation, including staff and students, that reports key recommendations and points of action to the University's Sustainability Advisory Group	2022
Glanville Street remodeling including green roofs on cycle storage	2022
Grounds maintenance requirement to avoid use of peat based products	2022
Grounds maintenance prohibited to spray to control weed growth in planted areas	2022
Improved landscaping facing Coburg Street	2021
Introduction of green walls for Sustainability Hub and green roof at Peninsula Dentistry Unit	2019
Increase numbers of planters on campus	2019
Introduce bee keeping on campus	2015
Drake's Place Gardens and Reservoir first wins Green Flag	2015

The last species list created was in 2005 and consisted of 237 species. This can be found in the appendix 4. This list only contains flora and includes all the cultivated plants.

Biodiversity Action Plan

Objective	Action	Measurement	SDG	Responsibility	Date
Measure biodiversity at both Main Campus and DRF/JBB locations, to understand the baseline (and subsequent year) levels and report these figures on an annual basis to SAG	Understand the baseline for number of flora and fauna species in 2022 for main campus and JBB/DRF Try to produce a revised list based on only non-cultivated plants from 2005 and compare this to the 2022 list. Agree targets for increasing biodiversity once baseline established	Report with findings	15	E&F / Biodiversity Working Group	2022-23
	Understand the baseline for number of flora and fauna species in 2022 for reservoir both within and the immediate surroundings	Report with findings	14	E&F / Biodiversity Working Group	2022-23
	Investigate methodologies to understand carbon held in existing flora on campus	Report creation	15	Biodiversity Working Group / CSF / SEI	2023-24
	Creation of green space where existing Brunel building is situated	m ² green space increase from 2022/23 baseline	11, 15	E&F / Biodiversity Working Group	2025
	Carry out a survey every two years (including students where possible) to measure across our land and reservoir: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number and species of flora and fauna The amount of green space (m²) The levels of freshwater ecology in the reservoir 	Report with findings	14, 15	Biodiversity Working Group	Two years after the initial baseline survey
	Follow Landscaping Management Plan actions (section 5.10)	Minutes and comments on report by SAG	15	Biodiversity Working Group / Grounds Maintenance	Ongoing
	Produce an annual Biodiversity Plan review at the Biodiversity Working Group for review at the Sustainability Advisory Group	Minutes and comments on report by SAG	16	Biodiversity Working Group / SAG	Annual

Manage, protect and increase biodiversity across the two locations measurable by the annual report, and consider options to create new opportunities for nature within the estate by 2027	Create a process with the Biodiversity Working Group to ensure space identified for growing by outside members can be communicated to optimise current planting space	Minutes of Biodiversity Working Group meetings	16	Biodiversity Working Group	2022-23
	Select plant species and wildflowers to provide habitat for insects and attract pollinators	Change in 22/23 baseline	15	Biodiversity Working Group	2022-23
	Select low water requirement flora species for exposed planters to ensure potential drought tolerance	Minutes of Biodiversity Working Group meetings	13, 15	Biodiversity Working Group / Grounds Maintenance	2022-23
	Plant perennials as a basis of display in raised planters and supplement with annual bedding to provide colour, with a preference for species that support native fauna, with engagement with students where possible.	Visual change	11, 15	Biodiversity Working Group / Grounds Maintenance	Ongoing
	Investigate into further green roofed cycle stores for extra planting space	Report with findings	15	Biodiversity Working Group	2023-24
	Revamp the physic garden post COVID and Portland Villa roofing work	Visual change	11, 15	Biodiversity Working Group	2023-24
	Report on incidents, invasive species, building works etc that may have a detrimental impact on biodiversity. Review any such incidents to find mitigations and/or learning points, seeking input from specialists as appropriate	Report	15	E&F/Working Group	Ongoing
Find the baseline of and subsequently measure the formal use on an annual basis for biodiversity education and engagement across the two locations, utilising the outdoor spaces for formal and informal learning by students and staff	Promote the sustainable education use of the Physic Garden, Skardon Garden, Drakes Place, Sustainability Hub and other campus spaces for academic courses and informal learning by staff, students and community members	Evidence of communication	11	Biodiversity Working Group / CSF / SEI	Ongoing
	Advertise Student Project and/or placement opportunities and recruit academics to lead students on monitoring species as part of baseline and ongoing monitoring	Evidence of Student Projects	11	Biodiversity Working Group / CSF/UPSU	Ongoing
	Undertake accommodation event(s) for students linked with gardening and biodiversity on campus	Evidence of events	11	Facilities/ Biodiversity Working Group	2023-24
	Investigate use of Marjorie Blamey archive of drawings for improved information and displays around campus.	Visual change	11	Biodiversity Working Group	2023-24

	Consider opportunities to engage with PCC and others to incorporate campus and JBB/DRF into wider work on green spaces in the city	Report	17	E&F	Ongoing
Incorporate consideration of biodiversity impacts and practices into development strategies, design and materials purchasing to protect green spaces and biodiversity levels to improve on business as usual by 2027	Work with procurement to identify appropriate sustainability labels to be incorporated into procurement guidance	Evidence of improved guidance	16	Biodiversity Working Group / Procurement	2022-23
	Work with procurement to identify appropriate tender questions related to ensure biodiversity impacts are considered within larger spends	Evidence of improved guidance	16	Biodiversity Working Group / Procurement	2023-24
	Maintain Green Flag status for Drake's Place	Approved submissions	15	Biodiversity Working Group / Grounds Maintenance	Ongoing

Future Projects

Based on historical actions, there is a large opportunity to improve upon our data to date, which is reflected in the action plan. By 2027 we aim to have a robust system in place to track our improvements more accurately.

List of Species on Campus (recorded in 2005)

Note, this includes plant species planted on site

A1 - Drakes Place and Reservoir

Acer campestre

Acer palmatum atropurpureum

Acer palmatum ssp.

Acer psuedoplatanus

Achillea millefolium

Aesculus hippocastanum

Bellis perennis

Bergenia purpurascens

Betula sp.

Buddleja davidii

Carpinus betulus

Centranthus ruber

Cerastium fontanum

Chenopodium album

Conzya canadensis

Corylus avellana

Cotoneaster horizontalis

Cotoneaster sp.

Epilobium montanum

Erica sp.

Erythrosperma sp.

Escallonia sp.

Fagus sylvatica

Fatsia japonica

Fraxinus excelsior

Fushia magellanica

Geranium pratense

Physospermum cornubiense

Pieris echioides

Plantago lanceolata

Plantago major

Platanus x hispanica

Poa annua

Polygonum auiculare

Polystichum setiferum

Polystichum setiferum var. proliferum

Privet

Prunella vulgaris

Prunus domestica

Pyracantha coccinea

Ranunculus bulbosus

Ranunculus repens

Rubus fruticosus agg

Rumex obtusifolius

Sagina procumbens

Salix matsudana "tortuosa"

Sasa palmata

Scrophularia nodosa

Senecio vulgaris

Silene dioica

Sonchus oleraceus

Sorbus aucuparia

Stachys byzantine

Stachys sylvatica

Geranium robertianum
Hebe recurva
Hebe x franciscana
Hosta siboldii
Hydrangea anomala petiolaris
Hypericum andrusaemum
Iris sp.
Juniperus sp.
Linaria purpurea
Mellisa officinarum
Persicaria affinis

A2 - Halls of Residence (Student Village site)

Acer pseudoplatanus var.
Acer sp.
Alnus cordata
Berberis dawinii
Berberis sp.
Berberis thunbergia
Buxus sempervirens
Callistemon citrimus
Choisya ternate
Conzuya canadensis
Cotoneaster franchetii
Cotoneaster horizontalis
Cotoneaster salicifolius
Cotoneaster sp.
Cotoneaster sp.
Elaeagnus sp.
Epilobium sp.
Equisetum arvense
Escallonia sp.
Geum Urbanum

Stellaria media
Symbolaria muralis
Taraxacum officinale
Trifolium repens
Urtica urens
Viburnum sp.
Vinca minor
Viola riviniana
Wisteria sinensis
Yucca gloriosa

Ilex aquifolium "varigata"
Lonicera nitida
Mahonia X media var.
Oleaceae sp.
Pastinaca sativa
Peony officinalis
Phormium tenax
Phormium tenax "Rainbow Warrior"
Phormium tenax purpurea
Polystichum aculeatum
Prunus sp.
Rhus typhina
Ribes sanguineum
Rosmarinus officinalis
Senecio cineraria
Sorbus aria
Sorbus sp.
Synphorapcarpus albus
Tamarix ramosissima

Hebe var.
Hebe X franciscana "varigata"
Hedera helix var.
Holcus mollis var. "albobariegatus"
Hypericum sp.
Hypericum tetrapterum
Ilex aquifolium

A3 – Campus Walls

Asplenium trichomanes
Asplenium ruta-muraira
Asplenium adiantum-nigrum
Phyllitis scolopendrium
Ceterach officinarum
Bryum capillare
Tortula muralis
Fissidens adianthoides
Ceratodon purpurescens
Anaptychia ciliaris
Caloplaca flavescens
Cladonia impexa
Cladonia fimbriata
Caloplaca marina
Caloplaca Saxicola
Caloplaca thalincola
Diploicia canescens
Hypogymnia physodes

A4 – Trees

Abies sp.
Acer campestre
Acer grosser
Acer griseum

Tilia X europaea
Viburnum davidii
Viburnum sp.
Viburnum tinus
Vicia cracca
Virginia Creeper
Weigela florida var.

Lecanora calcarean
Lecanora dispersa
Ochrolechia parella
Parmelia caperata
Parmelia subrudecta
Physcia adsensens
Tephromela atra
Umbilicaria polyphylla
Usnea ceratina
Xanthoria parietina
Cymbalaria muralis
Linaria purpurea
Centranthus ruber
Taraxacum officinale
Umbilicus rupestris
Hedera helix
Campanula poscharskyana
Geranium robertianum

Griselinia littoralis
Ilex aquifolium
Laurus nobilis
Ligustrum lucidum

Acer palmatum var.
Acer platanoides
Acer platanoides var.
Acer pseudoplatanus
Acer pseudoplatanus var. *Variegata*
Acer saccharum
Acer saccharum var.
Aesculus hippocastanum
Alnus cordata
Alnus cordata var.
Alnus glutinosa
Betula pendula
Betula pendula var.
Betula pendula pendula
Betula nigra
Betula utilis var. '*Jacquemontii*'
Carpinus betulus
Cedrus atlantica f. *glauca*
Cordyline australis
Cordyline australis var.
Coryllis avellana
Crataegus sp.
Cupressocyparis leylandii
Cupressocyparis leylandii var.
"*Naylor's Blue*"
Eucalyptus gunnii
Fagus sylvatica
Fagus sylvatica var. (*Fastigiata*)
Fagus sylvatica var. (*Purpurea*)

Magnolia sp.
Malus domestica
Fraxinus excelsior
Ginkgo biloba
Pinus mugo
Pittosporum tenuifolium
Pittosporum tenuifolium var.
Platanus x hispanica
Prunus cerasifera var.
Prunus domestica
Prunus dulcis
Prunus sp.
Prunus subhirtella var.
Quercus ilex
Quercus palustris
Quercus robur
Rhus typhina
Robinia pseudoacacia
Taxus baccata
Salix babylonica
Salix tortuosa
Sambucus nigra
Sorbus aria
Sorbus aucuparia
Sorbus sp.
Tilia cordata
Tilia x europea
Trachycarpus fortunei
Viburnum sp.



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**If you have any questions relating to the content of this report,
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