Title:	Biodiversity Policy
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Description:	A Policy detailing the importance of Biodiversity at BU
Owner:	Sustainability Manager
Version number:	**10**
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Approved by:	Sustainability Committee
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Due for review:	September 2023

Bournemouth University

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 actions to be taken to mitigate for potential negative impacts.

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 Maintenance Services Manager, Sustainability Manager and Estates Capital Development 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 Bournemouth University 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 Energy and Water Policy
3.7 Bournemouth University Design Standards

Policy

4.1 Overview

- Bournemouth University is a large and complex organisation and is committed to maintaining and, wherever possible, enhancing, the quality of the environment on its estates, both for people who study, 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 across its estates.

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 herbicides and pesticides and only using peat-free compost.
- Seek to continuously improve our landscape maintenance practices to maintain, enhance and restore habitats and ecological features as far as possible, with expert input and advice provided as required.

- Seek to create, maintain, enhance and restore habitats for the benefit of flora and fauna, as far as possible, including through designated sites for wildlife.
- All construction activity with an ecological impact should ensure no net loss of biodiversity occurs and, where possible, achieve a biodiversity net gain.
- Ensure ecological surveys and assessments are completed by suitable professional consultants to inform and facilitate building work 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 a strong awareness of and connection with nature within our community through the management of our estate.
- Reduce, control and, where necessary, eradicate invasive alien species on campus.
- Identify and implement measures to use water more efficiently on campus by incorporating drought-resistant habitats and nature-based solutions that have positive effects on the local hydrology systems.

4.4 Training

- Provide relevant training and guidance for staff and contractors to ensure they are able to meet the requirements of the Biodiversity Policy.
- Ensure all relevant contractors are provided with a copy and understanding of the BU Design Standards which references the Biodiversity Policy.

4.5 Monitoring and reporting

- Implement habitat and biodiversity monitoring on campus wherever possible using appropriate fieldwork and reporting methods. Review and evaluate the results of any monitoring work to inform adjustments to policy and/or landscape management strategies.
- Review and update the biodiversity actions (EEMS Objectives Register) and the CECAP ‘Nature’ actions with the Biodiversity Group at least once every six months.
- Identify, monitor and protect any habitats or species occurring on campus that are cited to be of national or international conservation importance, with reference made to recognised lists detailing conservation statuses and/or legal protection (e.g. UK BAP Priority Species and Habitats, Annex I and II of the EC Habitats Directive, the vascular plants red list for England, and protected species listed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as

amended)). Advice will be sought from professional consultant ecologists where required, especially in relation to protected species.

- Actively encourage student-led biodiversity monitoring projects on campus.
- Incorporate biodiversity monitoring into national recording schemes.

4.6 Communication, Education, Research & Stakeholder Engagement

- Raise awareness amongst staff and students about the climate and ecological crisis and provide advice and education on measures they can take to maintain, enhance and restore habitats and protect ecosystems.
- Support research projects and education opportunities related to nature conservation both on the university estate and in the local area.
- Support staff and students to connect with nature.
- Encourage and support BU participation and contribution to external research, development, good practices, and policy/procedures.
- Work in partnership with relevant environmental groups, local authorities and environmental charities to share research and knowledge and improve biodiversity management practices.

4.7 Investments

- When making investments that offset carbon emissions, choose projects that positively benefit nature.

4.8 Review

- Review, update 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 2022