

THE UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity is an international, national and local issue. Biodiversity is the variation within and between species that make up the ecosystem and the complex habits that support and sustain human existence

The University of Greenwich has over 20,000 students and over 1,500 staff based across three campuses. The Greenwich Campus has a central London location in a predominantly urban environment but is also close to an area of known conservation value. Avery Hill Campus is in South East London and encompasses a significant area of green space adjacent to areas with known conservation value, and the Medway Campus is based in Kent in a predominantly urban environment near to the mouth of the River Medway. The wider estate also includes a site in the Dartford Marshes which provides a rich and distinct natural habitat.

The University recognises that our operations have the potential to impact on biodiversity both directly and indirectly and that we have a responsibility to manage these impacts.

The University commits to undertake the following:

1. Comply with all relevant UK, European and international legislation and statutory codes of practice and link this with our environmental management system.
2. Develop and implement biodiversity action plans at each of the campuses which will be reviewed regularly against the findings of ongoing habitat and species monitoring.
3. Manage our estate to conserve and, where possible, enhance natural habitats whilst continuing to conserve the estate's cultural heritage and amenity value.
4. Consider the impact and opportunity for ecological enhancement of any new building and undertake appropriate mitigation where disturbance of habitat or species is unavoidable.
5. Provide training for staff and ensure contractors are appropriately trained and meet the requirements of the University's Sustainability policy.
6. Educate and engage staff and students to increase awareness of the biodiversity on campuses and the importance of protecting and enhancing biodiversity, whilst engaging in health promoting activities.
7. Explore and develop the range of educational opportunities offered by the estate and promote these to the relevant departments
8. To work in partnership with environmental groups and local authorities, to share knowledge and resources.

This policy will be reviewed and implemented by the Biodiversity Steering Group, and will be reported on as part of the Sustainability reporting process which reports progress to the Resources Sub Committee and the University Court twice a year.

Approved by: Resources Sub Committee

Date: 27th January 2011