

Ecosystem Services

Biodiversity Action Plan

2025 – 2026
Estates & Facilities

Interim Statement



Background

Protecting ecosystem services and interlinking biodiversity is key to the survival of life on Earth. However, human interferences are placing the survival of species around the world at risk, and with it tipping our own growth into an imbalance.

When our Plan was first published in 2020, the latest UK State of Nature Report at the time (2019) reported an average decline in species abundance of 13% since 1970. Now, and the 2023 edition as reported a 17% decline. More species remain in decline that witness positive trends, though there has been a 1% increase in those numbers from the 2023 figures.

The UK is witnessing the same alarming trends as other parts of the World with the biodiversity crisis, with similar emergency announcements to that of the climate; Butterfly Conservation announced a butterfly emergency in 2024 following the lowest numbers in 14 years.

At Greenwich we are fortunate to have three campuses, balanced in urban and natural landscapes. Our natural landscapes provide opportunities for students, staff and visitors to enjoy benefits arising from biodiversity and ecosystem services. We also take our responsibilities seriously. We remain set to 'lead by example', showing how education and best practice can be successfully implemented for human and biological improvement.

25-26 Interim Statement

The 2020-2025 Action Plan, split into four areas, the objectives moved away from the traditional 'biodiversity' format and expanded into wider ecosystem services with assessing impact and opportunity.

Habitat & Species	
HO1	To maintain & enhance the biological diversity of campus natural land
HO2	To balance the conservation opportunity with amenity needs
Setting up the Greenwich Monitoring Scheme	
MO1	To develop a system of monitoring the success
Student, Employee & External Engagement	
E01	To integrate biodiversity into University life (students & staff)
E02	To maintain areas of natural land for educational purposes
E03	To provide suitable training to associated grounds & estates staff
Accounting for Biodiversity in Developments	
NO1	To integrate biodiversity net gain across our capital projects (including designs to & not already to BREEAM standard)

In 2025, it was announced that the University's of Greenwich and Kent would be merging on 1st August 2026, forming the London and South East (LASE) University Group. This move will bring multiple opportunities, for biodiversity and ecosystem services this will allow both institutions to share and align best practice. University of Kent's Canterbury campus hosts a diverse variety of habitat, including an estimated 40 acres of majority broadleaf ancient woodland split across three main wooded areas.

The publication of the 2025-2030 plan from the University of Greenwich will now be the winter of 2026, allowing greater time for review, alignment of best practice and in acknowledgement that the Kent Action Plan 2025-2030 was launched prior to the announcement.

The aims and objectives of Greenwich's natural estate therefore remain the same as the 2020-2025 plan, until the new edition is published.