



Biodiversity Policy

Estates / May 2023

Biodiversity policy

Introduction

The Open University (OU) is committed to a sustainable estate by conserving and improving biodiversity across all areas of the national estate. This includes working towards our Net Zero Carbon commitment whilst also maintaining our green spaces to promote biodiversity and habitat improvements.

Scope

The OU operates sites across the four nations, England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The Biodiversity policy applies to all OU sites.

Objectives

The Open University recognises and accepts its ethical and legal responsibilities in the stewardship of biodiversity, both on our land holdings and where our activities may have an impact.

The University will take action, whilst continuing to ensure that business objectives are being met to:

- Comply with relevant legislation and statutory codes of practice.
- Assess the biodiversity implications of new or emerging legislation to ensure that business operations align with new standards.
- Manage our land and water holdings to conserve and, where reasonably practicable, enhance biodiversity.
- Plan and manage our grounds and gardens activities to avoid loss and where possible improve biodiversity.
- When commissioning and undertaking projects (including capital works schemes, other projects and maintenance schemes) likely to result in disturbance or other impact to land and/or water, endeavour to avoid damaging wild species and their habitats and,

where appropriate, create opportunities for biodiversity enhancement.

- Collect and use significant biodiversity information, to inform planning and operational activities.
- A Green Spaces & Habitat Plan and Tree Management Plan are in place to help meet these objectives.
- Engage with staff, students and the local community through the Go Green programme and provide volunteering, educational and academic opportunities to be involved.

Linked policies, strategies and plans

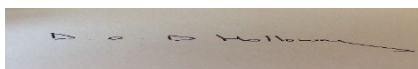
Policies, strategies, and plans linked to the Biodiversity policy include:

- Grounds Management Plan
- Tree Management Plan
- Environmental Sustainability Policy
- Net Zero Carbon 2030 Policy and Net Zero 2030 Plan
- Waste and Resource Policy and Management Plan
- Sustainable Food and Catering Policy
- Water Policy

Monitoring and review

The Biodiversity Policy is owned by OU Estates. The policy will be reviewed annually, and targets reported to the OU Executive Sustainability Steering committee.

Signed By

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'Dorian Holloway'.

Dorian Holloway, Director of Estates
Next review date: May 2024