



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow



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University of Strathclyde

Biodiversity Policy

Version Control Log:

Version	Date	Description	Author	Approval
1.0	Sep 2019	Original policy drafted	Sustainable Strathclyde	
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**THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES
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OF THE YEAR
2012 & 2019**

Times Higher Education

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OF THE YEAR
2024 RUNNER-UP**

Daily Mail University of the Year Awards

**SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR
2024**

Daily Mail University of the Year Awards

Biodiversity Policy

1 Introduction

The University of Strathclyde recognises that our land and property assets encompass a range of habitats and species, with opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

We are committed to actively enhancing and promoting biodiversity on our grounds. Benefits include supporting biodiversity in our local neighbourhoods and region, enhancing the health and well-being of our staff, students, visitors and the wider community.

This policy will build upon established initiatives such as incorporating biodiversity learning in our teaching and research programmes and our cross disciplinary work.

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 placed a duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity within their premises. Our duties are further defined under the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 which requires us to report on progress to the Scottish Government. More recent legislation, such as the Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4), sets out new requirements that all development will contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including where relevant restoring degraded habitats.

In 2022, Scottish Government released their 'Biodiversity strategy to 2045: tackling the nature emergency', which sets out a vision for halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and reversing declines by 2045. The University of Strathclyde is actively supporting this aim and adheres to all legislation and reporting requirements.

2 Our objectives

For the University of Strathclyde, actively managing biodiversity means:

1. Developing and maintaining an up-to-date list of species and habitats through the continued commissioning and periodic review of biodiversity surveys of key land holdings.
2. Understanding our biodiversity and habitats including pre-development surveys.
3. Conserving and enhancing existing habitats, and creating new habitats where feasible/appropriate. This includes replacing any trees that are removed on a 3 for 1 basis.
4. Maintaining excellent grounds management practices by landscape staff and contractors. This includes ensuring that there are no invasive species across our estate and where detected they are removed and controlled in an appropriate manner in line with guidance and legislation.

5. Keeping ecological enhancement opportunities at the forefront of decision making relating to major refurbishments and new capital project investments.
6. Meeting or exceeding the requirements of legislation regarding biodiversity, and actively working to pre-empt potential upcoming legislation, such as Biodiversity Net Gain requirements for new developments.
7. Enhancing staff, student and the local community involvement in biodiversity issues where appropriate. This includes the various areas of gardens and grounds where community can grow food and enjoy gardening.
8. Continuing to promote healthy living and well-being through use of outdoor amenity areas.
9. Seeking funding and grants to facilitate our biodiversity aims.
10. Developing relations with neighbours and interested parties and sharing knowledge and resources relating to biodiversity.

3 Current progress

We have a Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the John Anderson Campus, the playing fields at Stepps and Ross Priory, and budget has been secured for updated surveys in 2024-25. This information is enabling the University to understand the nature of existing habitats and potential future enhancement opportunities.

4 Next steps

The next steps will include developing an implementation plan that will embed awareness and learning of biodiversity throughout the University. This will enhance partnerships throughout the University, and with the wider community, encouraging a cross-disciplinary and strategic approach moving forward.

Furthermore, there are a number of projects in the pipeline that will enhance biodiversity across the University estate. These include:

- Heart of the Campus: Funding has been secured and work to relandscape and enhance Rottenrow Gardens, which will have numerous benefits for the University, including improvement in biodiversity. Further information can be found here: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/whystrathclyde/campusupdate/heartofthecampus/>
- Green Walls: Funding has been secured and work begun to create a number of external green walls around the JA Campus, aligning with both the University's and Glasgow City Council's aims to improve biodiversity and create green corridors.
- Ross Priory Solar Array: Planning is in progress to construct a large solar array at the University's Ross Priory estate. As part of these plans, there will be a focus on improving biodiversity through creation of wild meadows and removal of invasive species.

All new biodiversity projects will consider social engagement aspects, and where possible students, staff and local populations will be encouraged to both use these new spaces, and actively support their maintenance. Discussions are ongoing with organisations, including NatureScot, to provide training and support for volunteers so that they can undertake ecological surveys, carry out biodiversity themed citizen science outreach programmes, and help to maintain their green spaces.