

Biodiversity Objectives and KPIs 2012 – 2014

This document contains the biodiversity objectives for UWE. A Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan, due to be published in July 2012, will provide greater detail on specific actions and programmes. The overarching aim is to increase habitat and species diversity on the UWE estate.

The objectives contained in this document are derived from, and seek to compliment, the following:

- South Gloucestershire's Biodiversity Action Plan
- Bristol's Biodiversity Action Plan
- The UK National Biodiversity Action Plan
- Phase 1 Habitat Survey of UWE

Objectives

By August 2014 the University will:

Habitats

Woodland and Trees

- Seek to link wooded areas of the campus and neighbouring land through further tree planting or expansion of hedgerows
- Manage woodland areas to improve condition
- Coppicing of overcrowded woodland to open up the floor
- Trees will need to be felled in the delivery of the masterplan. A felled tree will be replaced with the same or similar species in another part of the campus.

Hedgerows

- To manage all existing hedgerows so as to maximise their wildlife benefit
- Any hedgerow lost to development will be replaced elsewhere on campus
- To ensure net gain of native hedgerow
- To improve the species richness of exiting hedgerows

Dry stone walls

- To manage and restore existing dry stone walls
- To explore opportunities through the masterplan to create new dry stone walls

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Meadows and Grasslands

- To introduce further native wildflower meadow land on the Frenchay Campus
- To leave uncut large areas of grassland to enable natural development of meadow
- Cut remaining grass areas no more than twice a week to encourage daisy and buttercup flowers

Orchards

- To plant an orchard on the Frenchay Campus

Water bodies

- To improve the condition of water bodies to be more wildlife beneficial
- Create new pond sites
- Monitor the condition of water bodies

Buildings, Structures and Hard Landscaping

- New build and landscaping to incorporate biodiversity within design

Flower beds

- Phase out the planting of annual bedding plants
- Introduce perennial nectar rich herbaceous borders

Other planting

- Plants are to be chosen based on their meeting most or all of the following criteria:
- Wildlife beneficial, native, drought tolerance, nectar rich, scented, disease resistance, maintenance requirements, seasonal variation/interest.

Artificial Habitats and Feeding Stations

- Introduce artificial habitats in the form of bird boxes, bat boxes, hedgehog homes.
- Artificial feeding limited to small birds only.

Species: Fauna

Bullfinch

- Identify existing bullfinch populations and / or ideal habitat locations
- Encourage through the planting of areas rich in berries and seeds
- Appropriate management of hedgerows

Dormouse

- Identify existing dormouse populations and / or ideal habitat locations
- Allow areas of hedge to remain uncut and reach over 3.5 metres in height
- Link hedgerows together

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- Enhance hedgerows with species attractive to dormouse, including hazel, honeysuckle,

Bats, in particular the lesser horseshoe bat

- Identify existing bat populations and / or ideal habitat locations
- Develop where appropriate bat feeding and roosting opportunities

Song thrush

- Identify existing song thrush populations and / or ideal habitat locations
- No use of slug pellets

Hedgehog

- Identify existing hedgehog populations and / or ideal habitat locations
- Encourage invertebrates
- Develop open compost sites, turned only in mid to late summer

Owls, in particular the Barn Owl

- Identify existing barn owl populations and / or ideal habitat locations
- Bait boxes not to contain 'second generation' poisons (warfarin resistance)

Slow-worm

- Identify existing slow-worm populations and / or ideal habitat locations
- Create suitable habitats including corrugated metal and compost sites

Bees

- Identify existing bee populations and / or ideal habitat locations
- Locate beehives on the Frenchay Campus

Species: Flora

- Seek to use native species where appropriate
- Develop demonstration gardens on Frenchay Campus to showcase different types of sustainable gardening

Communication and Engagement

- Increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity management amongst staff, students, visitors and our neighbours.
- Maximise opportunities within all biodiversity actions to engage staff and students.
- New biodiversity related developments to be designed to encourage access/use by staff, students and visitors
- Hold an annual Bioblitz event
- Hold monthly Biodiversity walks

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Biodiversity KPIs

- Total length of native hedgerows to have net increase of 25 meters annually
- Increase in diversity of fauna identified in annual bioblitz
- Increase the extent of nectar rich planting by 10% annually
- Increase the extent of artificial habitat creation by 10% annually
- Increase the extent of wildflower meadows by 10% annually
- Increase in recorded diversity of birdsong on campus



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