



# Biodiversity Policy

## POLICY COVERSHEET

### Key Details

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<i>Biodiversity Policy</i>
<b>DATE APPROVED</b>	<i>7<sup>th</sup> May 2025</i>
<b>APPROVING BODY</b>	<i>Academic Board</i>
<b>VERSION</b>	<i>A</i>
<b>PREVIOUS REVIEW DATES</b>	<i>New</i>
<b>NEXT REVIEW DATE</b>	<i>March 2027</i>
<b>OUTCOME OF EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	<i>* No major change</i>
<b>RELATED POLICIES / PROCEDURES / GUIDANCE</b>	<i>Sustainability Strategy Sustainability Engagement Strategy Carbon Management Plan 2024 - 2030 Environment and Sustainability Policy Water Management Policy Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment Policy Ecological Management Plan March 2024</i>
<b>IMPLEMENTATION DATE</b>	<i>May 2025</i>
<b>POLICY OWNER (JOB TITLE)</b>	<i>Head of Built Environment, Assistant Director Environment and Estates</i>
<b>UNIT / SERVICE</b>	<i>Environment, Estates and Sustainability</i>
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### Version Control

<b>VERSION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>REASON FOR CHANGE</b>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>May 2025</i>	<i>First version for UEG consideration</i>

## Policy Hub

For further information on policies:

- 1 You can go to the Secretariat pages on InSite at <https://outlookuwicac.sharepoint.com/sites/Secretariat>;
- 2 You can go to the Policy Hub at [cardiffmet.ac.uk/about/policyhub](http://cardiffmet.ac.uk/about/policyhub); or
- 3 Contact [policies@cardiffmet.ac.uk](mailto:policies@cardiffmet.ac.uk).

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# Biodiversity Policy

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

The policy sets how we are going to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience across Cardiff Metropolitan University's campuses, in compliance with the Section 6 Duty of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

### 1.2 Scope

Cardiff Metropolitan University is seeking to maintain and further enhance its sites for biodiversity at Llandaff, Cyncoed, Plas Gwyn and Alexander House campuses. An ecological walkover of each site was undertaken to determine the type and distribution of the baseline habitats on site and inform the production of an Ecological Management Plan (EMP), detailing how to implement appropriate ecological enhancements and management of the site for the benefit of biodiversity.

This Policy supports Sustainable Development Goals numbers 11, 13, 15,



### 1.3 Definitions

1.3.1 **Biodiversity** - short for biological diversity, is the variety of all living things and their interactions. Biodiversity changes over time as extinction occurs and new species evolve. Scientists often speak of three levels of diversity: species, genetic, and ecosystem diversity.

1.3.2 **Ecology** - the scientific study of the processes influencing natural life and habitats. Ecosystem: a natural environment which includes the flora (plants) and fauna (animals) that live and interact within that environment.

1.3.3 **Ecological Management Plan (EMP)** - site-specific document containing processes and instructions to manage a site and its operations in such a way so as to protect and enhance the biodiversity and ecology of the site and surrounding area completed in March 2024.

1.3.4 **Sustainable Development Goals SDG's** - The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals that were established in 2015 by the United Nations (UN). The goals are intended to create a more sustainable and equitable world by addressing global challenges.

1.3.5 **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** is a law that aims to improve the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of

Wales. The act's purpose is to ensure that actions meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- 1.3.6 **ISO 14001** The University activities have an impact on the environment, and we are committed to continual improvement of our Environmental Management System (EMS) and to exceed the requirements of ISO 14001. This is supported by the publication and reporting of smart objectives and priorities to deliver the EMS, Sustainability Strategy and Carbon Management Plan with sustainability themed policies.
- 1.3.7 **Carbon Net Zero** refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) that the University produces and the amount that's removed from the atmosphere. It can be achieved through a combination of emission reduction and emission removal.
- 1.3.8 **UKHab survey** - The UK Habitat Classification is a free-to-use, unified and comprehensive approach to classifying habitats, designed to provide a simple and robust approach to survey and monitoring for the 21st century.

## 2 Ecological enhancement and habitat management

- 2.1 The EMP for all sites, has provided recommendations that are in addition to the ongoing day to day environmental management of the external environments - for onsite ecological enhancement and habitat management, to enhance each site for biodiversity benefit.
- 2.2 In addition, recommendations have been provided for the management of the following habitats/features, Trees/woodland; Amenity grassland; and Invasive species.

## 3 Delivery of Ecological Management Plan

### 3.1 The University will: -

- 3.1.1 Determine costings and priorities for the delivery of the Ecological Management Plan
- 3.1.2 Continue to support the Natural Dye Garden on Llandaff Campus, the Enactus – orchard on Llandaff Campus and the Community Garden.
- 3.1.3 Offer staff and students the opportunity to utilise external space on campus for planting, growing and wildlife support.
- 3.1.4 Comply with all biodiversity relevant legislation
- 3.1.5 Arrange for Wildlife surveys to be conducted on Campus by staff and students or by local wildlife / community groups to record and monitor the effects of any enhancements.
- 3.1.6 Undertake an extended UK Habitat (UKHab) Classification survey at all four sites to record the main habitats present on site as an updated habitat survey to the extended Phase 1 surveys conducted by Thomson in 2013.

3.1.7 Undertake condition assessments of each on-site habitat parcel following a UKHab survey.

3.1.8 Work with our Grounds Contractor to deliver the EMP whilst considering all potential detrimental impacts on site biodiversity are minimised in line with the recommendations of the plan.

3.1.9 Offer staff and students to opportunity to support and get involved in the EMP delivery.

3.1.10 Review of the EMP in 2029.

3.1.11 Determine and document the implementation of the management schedule by month and site for enhancement options.

#### 4 Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 The policy applies to all employees (and contractors, as applicable) of Cardiff Metropolitan University.

4.2 The University will continually encourage members of the University staff and student community and other relevant stakeholders to engage with the policy in focus groups and by volunteering by posting the policy on the University webpages with appropriate contact details and opportunities.

#### 5 Related Policies and Procedures

5.1 This Policy forms part of and should be read in conjunction with the University's Sustainability Strategy, Sustainability Engagement Strategy, Environment and Sustainability Policy, Carbon Management Plan 2024- 2030, Construction and Refurbishment Policy and Sustainability Targets & Carbon Management Focus.

#### 6 Review and Approval

6.1 The policy owner will provide updates to the policy and associated Sustainability targets and Carbon Management focus to the Climate Action Working Group initially and then to the University Environment, Estates and Sustainability Committee.