



BANGOR UNIVERSITY BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Introduction

Biological diversity is the variety of life on Earth (plants and animals) at the ecosystem, species and genetic levels. Biodiversity is essential for healthy ecosystem functioning and is directly valuable to human society for economic and cultural reasons. Biodiversity is declining worldwide and in Wales¹ and must be conserved and enhanced to provide a sound basis for human survival and progress.

As a prominent institution for teaching and research in the environmental sciences, and with a campus containing significant biodiversity resources, Bangor University will take a lead in promoting biodiversity conservation and improvement on its own estate, and more widely wherever possible.

This Policy supports the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and Bangor University's commitment to the Well Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The Policy also aligns with the University's Strategic Plan 2015-2020, our Sustainable Development Policy and our Environmental Management System (ISO 14001 and Green Dragon Level 5).

This Biodiversity Policy applies to staff, students, contractors and other stakeholders working on University property. Responsibility for implementing and monitoring this Policy lies with the Environmental Manager and the Sustainability Lab working in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and reporting to the Sustainability Task Group.

Aim of the Biodiversity Policy

Bangor University campus (346ha) comprises a mix of urban (Bangor city) and semi-rural habitats (e.g. Henfaes Farm and Treborth Botanic Garden) with their associated flora and fauna. Micro-habitats include walls and roofs of buildings, ornamental and amenity areas, ponds, roads, pathways and parking areas etc. All these habitats hold varying degrees of educational, social, cultural, recreational and environmental value for University students, staff and the wider community. **The aim of this Policy is to promote the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity in all campus habitats, and to integrate the needs of biodiversity throughout the operations of the University and in the conduct of its business.**

This Policy provides working principles. Detailed recommendations and courses of action will be laid out in the University's Biodiversity Action Plan.

Objectives of the Biodiversity Policy

¹ The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) Wales 2016

Compliance

- Ensure compliance with statutory biodiversity obligations and alignment with other University policies. Where possible set and achieve our own higher standards in line with the continuous improvement principles of the University's ISO 14001 and Green Dragon Level 5 certifications.

Protection and enhancement

- Protect and enhance biodiversity on the University estate by the application of environmentally friendly management techniques
- Avoid or limit the use of environmentally-damaging substances, materials and processes, e.g. by minimising the use of pesticides
- Plant native herbs, shrubs and trees wherever possible and provide habitat for animals, e.g. nesting sites, 'bug hotels', pollinator plants etc.
- Take into account biodiversity needs, including pollution prevention, in investments, procurement, planning and design, new-build and construction, servicing and maintenance
- Create new greenspace where possible and ensure ecological connectivity both on campus and by linking to the external green space network
- Use biodiversity to promote healthy living and well-being through enhancement and use of species-rich outdoor amenity areas

Mitigation

- Minimise the impacts of University functioning and developments on biodiversity, by consideration of alternatives, applying mitigation measures and compensating for modifying effects.

Monitoring and Assessment

- Conduct species and habitat surveys to establish a baseline for the University's biodiversity status. Repeat to establish trends and report regularly. Set targets for improvements. Use this data as an educational resource.

Communication

- Raise awareness of biodiversity conservation internally among staff and students in order to mainstream biodiversity thinking in decision-making at all levels. Communicate the University's work in this area to external audiences so as to raise and enhance the University's profile, with benefits for public image, professional esteem and student recruitment.

Partnerships

- Use the deep pool of staff and student expertise to assist with biodiversity assessment and conservation action. Access external funding for biodiversity and natural resources management, and partner with relevant external bodies including volunteer groups to deliver biodiversity enhancements.

Action Plan

- Prepare and apply a detailed, participatory Plan to provide best practice guidelines for the University's biodiversity action, and to programme and steer interventions. Refer to urban

ecology principles and employ a dynamic and adaptive approach so as to ensure flexibility and resilience. Review policy and the Action Plan regularly.

Biodiversity Working Group

- A representative Biodiversity Working Group will coordinate the University's action for biodiversity on campus, and with external stakeholders as appropriate.

Application of this Policy will assist the University to become a model of institutional best practice in biodiversity conservation across its remit of teaching, research, public outreach, management and administration. With its location in the North West Wales region of high environmental quality and its history of training and research in wise natural resources management, Bangor University is well-placed to contribute to biodiversity gains in Wales, and to provide species-rich spaces for education and enjoyment.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Shepherd', written in a cursive style.

Professor David Shepherd, Deputy Vice-chancellor

Date: September 2016