



(Viewfield Lane Community Garden)



(Rear of Fraser Building)

Version Control

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Introduction

The University of Glasgow has inherited, acquired and developed a rich heritage of plant and animal life at the various semi-natural and landscaped sites it occupies.

It is the University's on going responsibility to protect and enhance this heritage, for both its intrinsic value and for the wider benefits that healthy ecosystems can provide; breathable air, potable water and fertile soils. In addition, we recognise the importance of access to green spaces, with regard to the general wellbeing of our staff, students and the local community.

This Strategy describes in broad terms what our approach to campus biodiversity management will be. We will be guided by the following principles:

- Encouraging a whole-of-institution approach
- Respecting the environment
- Becoming a positive force in the marketplace
- Building knowledge and sharing best practice
- Supporting people and communities

The associated action plan provides a detailed description of the steps that we will take in the next 12 months in to improve campus biodiversity. We will undertake to update the action plan on an annual basis.

Dr David Duncan and Prof Jaime Toney
Co-Chairs; Sustainability Working Group

Vision

“An effectively managed estate that operates according to the principles of environmental best practice, and that provides a range of biodiverse habitats, along with accessible green spaces for our staff and students”

“A University community that appreciates the importance of biodiversity”

Mission

“To increase the area of biodiversity-rich habitat types across our various campus locations”

Context

University Strategy (World Changing Glasgow 2025)

- Actively adopt and advance the United Nations' Sustainability Development Goals (note SDG 14 'Life below water' and SDG 15 'Life on Land')
- Create greener, healthier, and more sustainable campuses within our communities
- Evolve our operations and ways of working to meet our commitment of being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030

UofG Climate Change Strategy – Glasgow Green (2020)

- Engage and empower our community; we will ensure that the climate emergency is placed at the heart of what we do over the next 20 years. We will strive ensure a whole-of-institution approach to sustainability
- Promoting efficiency; our estate and infrastructure will be optimally organised to reduce our carbon footprint and minimise harm to the environment
- Undertake continuous improvement initiatives; we will take forward a range of initiatives which help us contribute to the wider sustainability agenda

UofG Estates Strategy (for 2025)

- Ensure sustainability is at the centre of all our projects
- Engage staff and students in our environmental actions

UofG Climate Change Adaptation Plan

- Importance of green corridors, planting for increased shading and planting to reduce pluvial run-off

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act, 2004

- Public bodies and office-holders must act to further the conservation of biodiversity

Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act, 2011

- Public bodies must publish a biodiversity report every three years

Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Glasgow

- Protect and enhance key habitats and species in the City and raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity

Biodiversity action plan for 2022/2023

This action plan has been developed with the use of information contained within several previous studies of the Estate; tree, habitat and fauna surveys that were carried out either by consultants or by our students, as part of their ongoing studies. Of particular use in this regard were the Phase-I habitat studies of the Gilmorehill and Garscube campuses (Archer, Brown & Rae, 2015) and a dissertation entitled 'Assessing and identifying improvements to enhance biodiversity at the University of Glasgow' (Morris, 2017).

The specific actions and outcomes for 2021/22 that will help deliver the five-year biodiversity strategy are detailed below.

Progress against each action is categorised as being either red, amber or green.

	No progress /unlikely to be completed within the 2022/2023 year cycle.
	Limited Progress and likely to over run into 2023/2024 year cycle.
	Progress made and on target for completion within 2022/2023 year cycle.
	Noted as closed or in planning stage.

1.0 Whole-of-institution approach

Objective	KPI	What does good look like?	Owner	RAG status
Expand the membership of the Biodiversity Working Group to include a broader range of academic staff, by Oct'22	Number of academic staff contributing to the Biodiversity Working Group	Academic and professional services staff working in tandem to improve the biodiversity of our estate	SW	
Share results of survey work carried out on campus by students over the past 5-year period, by Dec '22	Survey work published	Survey results available on University's sustainability webpages	SW	
Ensure effective interaction between the Biodiversity Working Group and the core University activities of Teaching and Research, Sept '23	Number of student research projects focused on institutional biodiversity; institutional biodiversity as an example within teaching courses.	Regular availability of campus-focused biodiversity research projects; appearance of institutional biodiversity action plans in learning outcomes.	SW	
In accordance with requirements under the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act, 2011 a UofG biodiversity report will be published, by Dec '22	Biodiversity report available on University's sustainability webpages	The University publishes a biodiversity report every three years, highlighting progress made	SM	

Re-launch the i-naturalist project to encourage staff/student (citizen science) mapping of flora & fauna on campus, by July '22	Number of different species identified by staff/students on campus using the i-naturalist app	Staff/students are engaged and participate in campus species mapping	GUEST biodiversity promoter	
Consistent use of GUEST social media channels to publicise on campus biodiversity projects and events to staff/students, ongoing	Number of social media posts that relate to biodiversity	Staff/students are informed about biodiversity work on the campus	GUEST biodiversity promoter	

2.0 Respecting the environment

Objective	KPI	What does good look like?	Owner	Progress
Re-establish gardens after refurb works at various locations at Gilmorehill and Garscube estate including University Gardens, Oakfield Ave, and principals lodge, by October '22	250m ² of shrubs and herbaceous perennials planted	Shrub beds contain wide variety of native plant species to support biodiversity	SMcA	
Additional 200m ² of nectar rich bulb mix planted on Gilmorehill campus, by Oct '22	200m ² of nectar rich bulb mix planted	Lawn areas support increasing numbers of pollinators	SMcA	
Re-sow annual wildflower seed mix at various Gilmorehill locations (Fraser Building, University Gardens & Hetherington Building) by May '22	100m ² of wildflower seed mix planted on Gilmorehill campus	Lawn areas support increasing numbers of pollinators	SMcA	
Rear of Security Building on Garscube estate replanted with shrubs, by Nov '23	100m ² of mixed large shrubs planted	Marginal areas on campus support biodiversity	SMcA	
Additional 300m ² of nectar rich bulb mix planted around Garscube campus, by Oct '23	300m ² of nectar rich bulb mix planted	Lawn areas support increasing numbers of pollinators	SMcA	
Yew tree and woodland shrubs planted (lawns area, riverside) on Garscube estate, by	Yew Tree and shrubs planted	Woodland areas on campus support biodiversity	SMcA	

Oct '22				
Wildflower earth instated at Home Farm entrance on Garscube estate by May '22	100 m ² of wildflower earth planted	Lawn areas support increasing numbers of pollinators	SMcA	
Wildflower earth instated at Small Animal Hospital on Garscube estate by May '22	50m ² of wildflower earth planted	Lawn areas support increasing numbers of pollinators	SMcA	
Carry out a review of current composting activities at our Garscube campus, by Nov '22	Expanded composting area on Garscube campus	Increased amount of composting carried out on site; reduced need to buy in topsoil	TB/SMcA	
Develop a Woodland Management Plan for the Garscube campus and investigate potential grant funding (Woodlands Improvement Grant for woods in and around towns) opportunities in order to fund improvements to our woodlands, by Oct '23	Woodland Management Plan developed Route to market established for woodland improvements	Additional funds secured for improvements to woodland areas on Garscube campus	GW/SMcA/SM	
Develop and deliver a tree planting scheme for marginal areas on the Cochno Farm estate, by Dec '22	16ha of native broadleaf woodland planted	Marginal areas on campus support biodiversity	SM	

3.0 Becoming a positive force in the marketplace

Objective	KPI	What does good look like?	Owner	Progress
Continue to prioritise local suppliers when purchasing plants and use Scottish- or UK-grown plants, where possible (ongoing)	% of total spend on plants through local suppliers and on Scottish/UK grown plants	Local suppliers are the first point of contact when ordering plants/shrubs/trees for the Estate	GW/SMcA	Ongoing
Pursue opportunities to develop partnership approaches to the development of high-quality carbon offsetting schemes in Scotland, by XXXX	Number of partnership schemes established	University working in partnership to develop high quality carbon offsetting scheme that deliver co-benefits such as biodiversity enhancement and climate resilience	SM	

Modify our site induction process to ensure that all contractors working on the estate do so in accordance with British Standard 5837 (Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction) and British Standard 42020 (Biodiversity; code of practice for planning and development), by Dec '22	Induction process refers explicitly to British Standard 5837 and British Standard 42020	Where planned works may impact on green spaces priority is given to preventing any adverse impacts, with any need for mitigating measures also considered	GW	
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4.0 Building knowledge and sharing best practice

Objective	KPI	What does good look like?	Owner	Progress
Tree condition survey carried out by independent surveyor every 3 years on Gilmorehill and Garscube estates	Tree surveys carried out with results stored on shared drive	Grounds team better understand tree health on the estate and can mitigate any H&S risks	GW/SMcA	
Ensure all project managers and Clerks of Works understand the need to comply with British Standard 5837 (Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction) and British Standard 42020 (Biodiversity; code of practice for planning and development), by Dec '22	Information provided to ensure Project Managers and Clerks of Works have working knowledge of British Standard 5837 British Standard 42020	Where planned works may impact on green spaces priority is given to preventing any adverse impacts, with any need for mitigating measures also considered	GW/SMcA	
Continue to support the work of the GUEST biodiversity promoter in maintaining the University Wildlife Garden, Mar'22-Mar'23	Grounds team share knowledge and experience with GUEST biodiversity staff	GUEST staff have a good understanding of the work required in order to maintain the Wildlife Garden	SMcA	Ongoing
Repeat Phase 1 habitat surveys of the Gilmorehill and Garscube campuses, either as a student research project or estates internship, by Aug'23	Areas of high biodiversity potential on our estate are highlighted and quantified	A greater proportion of our estate assessed as being of high biodiversity potential in the future	SW/SM	

Co-ordinate formal breeding bird surveys on Gilmorehill and Garscube campuses, Apr-Aug'22	Bird surveys carried out on annual basis	Improved understanding of bird life on our estate; opportunity for students to gain surveying experience	SW/SI (Biodiversity Working Group)	
Co-ordinate regular bat surveying on Gilmorehill and Garscube campuses, Mar-Oct'22	Bat surveys carried out on annual basis	Improved understanding of bat colonies on our estate; opportunity for students to gain surveying experience	SW (Biodiversity Working Group)	
Co-ordinate regular mammal surveying on Gilmorehill and Garscube campuses, Mar-Oct'22	Mammal surveys carried out on annual basis	Improved understanding of mammals on our estate; opportunity for students to gain surveying experience	SW (Biodiversity Working Group)	
Co-ordinate invertebrate surveying on Gilmorehill and Garscube campuses, Mar-Oct'22	Invertebrate surveys carried out on annual basis	Improved understanding of moth, butterfly and invertebrate colonies on our estate; opportunity for students to gain surveying experience	SW/GNHS (Biodiversity Working Group)	
Use the outcomes from surveys and student research projects to inform improvements in campus biodiversity management (ongoing)	Research findings incorporated into triennial biodiversity reports, including examples of management improvements	An archive of research outcomes and their management benefits	SW/SM/GW/S McA	
Contact Dr Michael Muir to discuss potential Estates support for Dumfries phenology garden, Aug 22	Grounds team understand nature of any additional support required	Dumfries phenology garden continues to be a valuable teaching resource	SM	

5.0 Impact on people and communities

Objective	KPI	What does good look like?	Owner	Progress
Support the regular GUEST-run gardening sessions at the Viewfield Lane Gardens and the Wildlife Garden; Mar'22 - Mar'23	Weekly gardening sessions run at the Viewfield Lane Gardens	Weekly lunchtime gardening sessions help promote Health & Wellbeing of staff & students	SMcA/SM	Ongoing
Investigate the potential to further expand the Viewfield Lane Community Gardens by Aug'22	Number of Community Garden spaces on campus	Increased capacity to run gardening sessions for staff & students	SM/GUEST	

Provide continuing support for the activities of the Beekeeping Society at the Viewfield Lane Gardens, and also at the Garscube estate (Paul Tran at Ian Botham Building and Andrew Braid at the Home Farm area)	Beekeeping Society allocated space in Viewfield Lane Gardens	Increased number of students have opportunity to develop beekeeping skills	SM	Ongoing
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