



Biodiversity Policy

Endorsed by Court 14 May 2012

The University of Edinburgh recognises that our owned and managed sites encompass a range of habitats and species, with many 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 taught masters programmes, our key research areas 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.

Our Objectives

For the University of Edinburgh, 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. Conserving and enhancing existing, and creating new, habitats
3. Maintaining excellent grounds management practices by Landscape staff and contractors
4. Keeping ecological enhancement opportunities at the forefront of decision making relating to major refurbishments and new capital project investments
5. Meeting or exceeding the requirements of legislation regarding biodiversity
6. Enhancing staff, students and the local community involvement in biodiversity issues where appropriate
7. Continuing to promote healthy living and well-being through use of outdoor amenity areas
8. Seeking funding and grants to facilitate our biodiversity aims and 9. Developing relations with neighbours and interested parties and sharing knowledge and resources relating to biodiversity.

Next Steps to be completed

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.

NB a website outlining ongoing activities will be maintained which bridges the practical and academic activities. Some of these are outlined in the attached briefing at Appendix A.

Example website www.ed.ac.uk/about/sustainability/on-campus/biodiversity/management