

Biodiversity Policy

Biodiversity possesses not only an intrinsic value but also provides an essential resource to humankind as a result of its economic, aesthetic and recreational values. It is therefore necessary to preserve and enhance biodiversity at all levels in order to combat the effects of human activities which have caused global biodiversity to decline at an alarming rate.

Newcastle University's commitment to environmental sustainability is reflected in the University's Vision '2021' where it is highlighted as a specific institutional strategic objective. It is supported by the Environmental Sustainability Policy and Action Plan which commits the University to grow and develop in a sustainable manner; the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity on the University estate is identified as a high priority objective.

Commitments:

- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and obligations
- Identify, maintain and enhance biodiversity across the University estate

Objectives:

- Implement appropriate practical initiatives aiming to enhance biodiversity across the estate
- Raise awareness of the biodiversity found on the estate and, where possible, use this as an educational resource for all
- Identify the potential direct and indirect impacts of our activities on biodiversity, assess the risks and take measures to minimise negative impacts and promote positive actions
- Integrate biodiversity considerations into our activities and developments
- To consider the impacts and opportunities for enhancement of biodiversity when planning building refurbishments, new building designs and all other construction activities
- Set biodiversity targets and report on biodiversity performance towards achieving set targets
- Engage with local communities, NGOs and our suppliers in order to enhance our opportunities to support biodiversity
- Maintain a Biodiversity Working Group to increase coordination, engagement and awareness of biodiversity on the University estate
- Communicate this policy to all members of the university (staff and students) and engage with them all in order to enhance biodiversity and integrate it fully into university life

Newcastle University is based on a traditional 45 acre campus, close to the city centre, with a number of additional satellite sites. We recognise that such a variety of locations offer us

valuable resources in our continuing drive to enhance biodiversity for not only the benefit of staff and students, but also the wider community.

We continue to explore opportunities to improve biodiversity across the estate and expand our range of initiatives. We intend to demonstrate our commitment to biodiversity by becoming a leader in this field and further developing this resource as a learning provision for all.

Zoe Webb, Biodiversity Coordinator

Endorsed by University Biodiversity Working Group and the Environmental Sustainability Committee, January 2012.