

# Biodiversity Strategy

February 2021

## Introduction

This Strategy defines St Mary’s University’s key Biodiversity objectives from 2020-2025.

## Current Position

The Biodiversity Policy paints a picture of where the University currently is with biodiversity and ongoing commitments. There are positive conditions and actions within the University environment that had not until the advent of the policy been noted as a whole.

## Responsibilities

Responsibility for implementing strategic objectives is set out below with overall responsibility falling to the Director of Estates and Campus Services.

## Strategic Objectives

### Trees, Shrubs, and General Planting

| **Strategic Objective** | **Success Indicators** | **Timescale** | **Owner** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Complete the independent triannual tree survey | Delivery of completed survey in electronic form | Due for delivery July 2020 – postponed due to COVID-19 - TBC | Grounds and Gardens Manager |
| Act on the recommendations of the tree survey to both address safety issues but also prolong the life and good health of the trees. | Update of tree works schedule against survey recommendations. | In line with recommended timeframes in the survey, varying from <3months up to 3years | Grounds and Gardens Manager |
| Replacement of young trees failed in heatwave of summer 2018 | Future tree survey indicating all failed trees replaced | Significant impact due by tree survey of 2023, Completion by tree survey of 2026 | Grounds and Gardens Manager |
| Introduce new plant species where possible when undertaking landscaping and include a mix of native and non-native species to support insects and wildlife | Include landscape plans in new developments  Choose flowering plants with good pollen and nectar over a prolonged season | Ongoing | Estates Projects Team  Grounds and Gardens Manager |
| Investigate the potential for propagation on site from cuttings | Utilise the greenhouse for the Grounds Team to take some cuttings and grow them to young plants suitable for planting out on site. |  | Grounds and Gardens Manager |

### Woodland Management

| **Strategic Objective** | **Success Indicators** | **Timescale** | **Owner** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Segregate the area of woodland where low intervention management takes place and protect it from being disturbed | Seal access points to the area from persons with appropriate fencing and/or additional planting | Ongoing | Grounds and Gardens Manager |
| Retain log piles as an alternative to insect hotels and review how to protect them from disturbance | Add large logs that are unmanageable for people to move. | When available from work taking place | Grounds and Gardens Manager |

### Wildflower Meadows and Green Roof

| **Strategic Objective** | **Success Indicators** | **Timescale** | **Owner** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Continuation of meadow care programme for the perennial meadow | Record of perennial meadow care regime each year | Annually | Grounds and Gardens Manager |
| Enhancement of the perennial meadow with new plants or bulbs | Record of perennial meadow additional work | Reviewed annually for appropriate works during planning of maintenance regime | Grounds and Gardens Manager |
| Continuation of sowing of the annual meadow | Record of annual meadow sown in spring each year | Annually | Grounds and Gardens Manager |
| Continuation of green roof maintenance regime | Record/Report on condition of Green Roof | Annually | Grounds and Gardens Manager |

### Pesticides and Herbicides

| **Strategic Objective** | **Success Indicators** | **Timescale** | **Owner** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Increased use of alternatives to herbicides on hard surfaces through greater use of weed burner and other alternatives to herbicides | Lower chemical volume application records | Annually | Grounds and Gardens Manager |
| Reduced use of herbicides on hard surfaces through improved quality of roads and paths | Project and maintenance work records | Annually | Maintenance Manager  Estates Projects Team |
| Reduced use of selective herbicides on sports pitches through improved management practices such as intervention prior to undesirable species in sports turf going to seed and targeted applications | Lower chemical volume application records | Annually | Grounds and Gardens Manager |

### Wildlife

| **Strategic Objective** | **Success Indicators** | **Timescale** | **Owner** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| To ensure the bird box cleaning regime is ongoing and recorded. | Record of cleaning regime | Annually | Maintenance Helpdesk |

### Waste

| **Strategic Objective** | **Success Indicators** | **Timescale** | **Owner** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Increase the on-site shredding of green waste at the point of pruning | Reduced need for hired shredding equipment to deal with volume of stored green waste in one location | Annually | Grounds and Gardens Manager |
| Reduce and remove small items of disposable plastics recognised to blight the environment such as straws and sachets or fragmented plastic and polystyrene packaging | Removal of individual items of problem waste from availability/use on site directly from available from University facilities. | Winter 2021 | Catering and bar Managers |

### Education

| **Strategic Objective** | **Success Indicators** | **Timescale** | **Owner** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Re-introduction of the Sustainability Group chaired by a PVC or the COO | Re-introduction of a sustainability group and panel members to advance both sustainability and biodiversity dialogue and issues | Summer 2021 | Chief Operating Officer |
| Investigate the feasibility of greater inclusion of biodiversity within course content | Dialogue on the subject of formally introducing and recognising biodiversity in respect of course content when engaging in action plans for UG and PGCE courses | Autumn 2021 | Deputy Provost |
| Publishing of Sustainability and Biodiversity Policies on the intranet internally and externally. | Completion, approval and publishing of policies and action plans for Sustainability and Biodiversity | Spring 2021 | PVC, Global Engagement |

### Campus Development

| **Strategic Objective** | **Success Indicators** | **Timescale** | **Owner** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ensure future developments on campus do not negatively impact biodiversity and ideally enhance it. | Sustainability and Biodiversity embedded in the Estates Strategy  Sustainability and Biodiversity aspect and aims targets included in new projects | Ongoing | Director of Estate and Campus Services |