

## University of Lincoln Biodiversity Policy



### Introduction

The University of Lincoln has a wide range of habitats and landscapes as a part of its estate – from agricultural land to historic parkland to urban habitats. The variety of habitats means that the ecology of the estate needs to be carefully managed and monitored.

### Biodiversity Commitments

The University's Environment and Energy Policy includes a commitment to monitor and protect biodiversity. Specifically, the University commits to:

- Being an organisation that is Nature Positive, following the [Pledge](#) made as a founding member of the Nature Positive Universities Network in November 2022.
- Meeting the requirements of all relevant biodiversity legislation.
- Ensuring that important habitat areas within its land holdings are protected.
- Working in partnership with our neighbouring landowners to create connected biodiverse spaces, which include wildlife corridors.
- Using ecological surveys to identify projects that will enhance biodiversity, measuring biodiversity via habitat surveys to create a baseline.
- Minimising the use of herbicides to small areas and paths.
- Creating wildflower meadows at Riseholme and supporting the propagation of wildflower species with a Lincolnshire provenance.
- Consciously leaving areas to grow as wild, for example creating 'no-mow' areas, where appropriate to encourage and support wildlife.
- Supporting the siting of beehives on University land, to promote pollination.
- Promoting the ecological value of natural capital assets to staff and students and supporting them to use these resources for learning purposes.
- Maintaining the 'Hedgehog Friendly Campus' certification, which commits to designating areas for hedgehogs and other wildlife, surveying for their presence and creating habitats such as log piles.
- Checking or surveying for the presence of wildlife before landscaping or other works are carried out.

The University's Biodiversity Net Gain Working Group is responsible for developing Biodiversity Action Plans for all three campuses.

### Landscape Management

For new planting schemes, species from the Royal Horticultural Society's Pollinator-Friendly List and native tree species will be prioritised. Consideration will also be given to drought-resistant species as part of our Climate Adaptation measures.

The University's Grounds Management Procedure outlines specific processes surrounding landscape management in relation to biodiversity.

### Version Control

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

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