

Botanic Garden

Durham University

Our Biodiversity Policy

Here at the Botanic Gardens, we are committed to supporting the University's new Biodiversity Action Plan. We have already undertaken several measures to promote and care for native plants and animals across our estate. Hence, we have created this document to not only showcase what we are already doing to promote biodiversity, but to also outline what we will be doing as of now and in the future. As an institution, we commit to the following:

Working within the University and with the wider Community to promote biodiversity



- 1) Work alongside University students, University staff, Friends of the Botanic Garden, Visitors, the local community and other stakeholders to promote and encourage Biodiversity
- 2) To positively promote environmental sustainability within the Botanic Gardens
- 3) Regularly review working practices to look for more sustainable ways of working
- 4) Work alongside and incorporate into our everyday work the principles of 'Durham University Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (2022-2032)'.

Managing grounds less intensively in a more beneficial manner for wildlife

- 1) In Native woods minimum management so as not to interfere with wildlife (leaving fallen trees to decay naturally), only felling unsafe trees or trees causing obstruction to pathways
- 2) 'No Mow May'. Taking part to give the chance for wildflowers to emerge and flower (Different grass lengths creates the greatest diversity within any area)
- 3) Being mindful of breeding seasons (e.g., Hedge cutting only September – March) checking hedges for nests and other wildlife before starting to cut
- 4) Only cutting pathways through certain areas of the garden to maintain habitats for insects and allow wildflowers to grow (Pinetum, Meadow & North American Arboretum).



Adopting Organic horticulture practices

- 1) Use organic fertilisers to feed lawns
- 2) Not to use pesticides within the garden, instead adopting manual weeding outdoors and biological controls in greenhouses
- 3) Reduce the overall use of chemicals on-site.

Utilising and practicing sustainable resource management

- 1) Use organic fertilisers to feed lawns
- 2) Not to use pesticides within the garden, instead adopting manual weeding outdoors and biological controls in greenhouses
- 3) Reduce the overall use of chemicals on-site.

Working for wildlife on our estate

- 1) Target removal of Non-Native Invasive species on site (Himalayan balsam, Rhododendron ponticum)
- 2) Monitor wildlife within the gardens on a regular basis (tracking cameras, social science, staff reporting developments while carrying out their daily tasks)
- 3) Maintain and improve numerous Bird, Owl Bat & hedgehog boxes onsite (with plans of where sited)
- 4) To protect & increase biodiversity on site in any other appropriate manner, including growing rare native plants.
- 5) To work with and implement the Universities' hedgehog Friendly Campus initiative where possible.

Signed



Peter Thomson

Botanic Garden Manager

