



University
of Exeter

Biodiversity Strategy St Luke's Campus 2023-2025

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The University of Exeter manages 4.65 hectares of land on the St Luke's Campus, as part of an overall asset of approximately 153 hectares of open space that supports a variety of habitats and associated biodiversity.



The site is managed to conserve and enhance the plants and habitats so that the landscape complements current buildings and is considered in future developments.

The management includes wildlife friendly techniques such as the provision of bug hotels and insect palaces at suitable campus locations.

St Luke's Campus is situated in the St Leonard's conservation area. The botanical interest and ecological value of the site is also monitored with reference to the St Luke's Masterplan derived in 2013. This recognises the use of buildings and open space within the context of an historic and botanically diverse landscape.

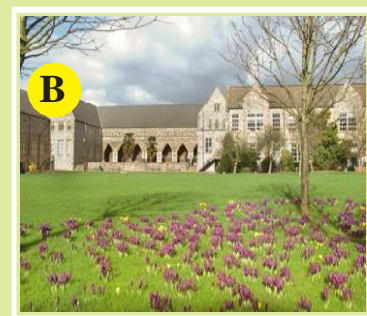
St Luke's Campus biodiversity map



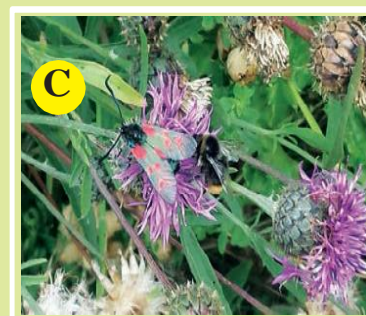
Guiding principles



Area A: Naturalised bulbs woodland planting, nectar plants and scrub



Area B: Naturalised bulbs and reduced cutting regime



Area C: Wildflower meadow planting

The Biodiversity Strategy represents a continuing commitment by the University, to preserving existing important habitats. It additionally commits, where the opportunity arises, to creating new sustainable habitats. A map of the St Luke's Campus has been annotated to indicate the priority areas for preserving and enhancing biodiversity, within the more general Estates Strategy.

1 Preserve and enhance existing landscapes and habitats

The following existing sites have been prioritised as they have important landscape and habitat value, which shall continue to be managed for species conservation:

- **College House/Baring Crescent (Area A)** – mixed woodland planting underplanted with naturalised bulbs, nectar rich plants and scrub border.
- **St Luke's Quad (Area B)** – semi-mature trees underplanted with naturalised spring bulbs.
- **College Rd/Medical School (Area C)** – wildflower meadows and nectar rich planting.

2 Identifying specialist measures to protect vulnerable species

- Plot known areas where badgers and foxes are active on the campus, to avoid disturbance.
- Continue to monitor bird populations on campus, with a view to preserving and enhancing habitats for red/amber list species.
- Continue to develop wildflower meadows and nectar rich planting to encourage pollinating insects.

- Modify strimming and mowing regimes to balance biodiversity with access and aesthetic demands.
- To continue to develop and deliver opportunities to enhance biodiversity, including developing sites for habitat piles, bug hotels and insect palaces in targeted areas of campus.

3 Zero green waste to landfill

- Continue to transport green waste to the Streatham Campus where green waste is stored, screened and re-used as a soil improver and mulch during landscape projects. This process is covered under licence agreement with the Environment Agency.

4 Work plans to incorporate sympathetic tree and hedgerow management

- Works will comply with the adopted arboriculture and hedgerow management principles of the University.
- Non-essential tree works will be avoided during the bird nesting season (April-September).
- Non-essential hedgerow works will be avoided during the bird nesting season.

5 New and upgraded planting schemes

- Will incorporate a range of plants, trees and shrubs that cover a wide range of flowering periods. The plants will be a balanced mix of deciduous and evergreen species that are native and adapted in the University microclimate.
- The aim of the planting schemes will be to enhance habitats, to encourage year round wildlife activity and introduce adaptability to cope with any impact of the effects of global warming.

6 Continue to review non-sustainable peat use

- Continue to use 0% peat in estate management practices
- Avoid the use of imported organic mulches.

7 Encourage engagement with biodiversity on our campuses

- Work with the Sustainability Team to encourage engagement with the University population and develop a wider cross-campus Biodiversity Strategy.
- Promote the campus outdoor areas as a Living Lab for research and study.



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