



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

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QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Developed by Estates Directorate

## 1. Rationale

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Queen's University recognises that our extensive 100 acre estate contains a rich and diverse range of habitats and species. It is the University's ongoing responsibility to protect and enhance biodiversity on campus for the benefit of the whole University community, as well as the city of Belfast and the province beyond.

## 2. Policy Statement

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Biodiversity has intrinsic value and also provides an essential resource to humans as a result of its economic, aesthetic and recreational values. The University realises that protecting, enhancing and combatting the rate of decline of biodiversity is of utmost importance as it plays a crucial role in our health and wellbeing, both physical and mental. It also has a vital role in enhancing the quality of our lives and contributing to our economy and standard of living. We have a responsibility to ensure that our practices and human activities do not have a negative effect on the ecological systems that surround us.

## 3. Objectives

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The University is committed to actively promoting and actively managing biodiversity by:

- Meeting or exceeding legislation and statutory codes of practice in relation to biodiversity including management of invasive species.
- Collating information, via a range of survey techniques, to create campus-specific biodiversity information, to inform planning and operational activities.
- Maintaining excellent grounds management practices by staff and contractors
- Implementation of practical initiatives to protect and enhance biodiversity across the estate. This includes the creation of 'No mow' areas across the estate between April to September.
- Working with local environmental and conservation agencies and stakeholders to help ensure the successful integration of our respective biodiversity practices.
- Raising awareness of biodiversity management practices around campus and encourage volunteer participation in biodiversity events through the University sustainability network.
- Incorporating the protection and enhancement of biodiversity at Queen's within the University's teaching curriculum where appropriate.
- Maintaining our role as Supporters of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

#### 4. Procedures

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Further information on Biodiversity activities is available on the University website:

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/EstatesDirectorate/Services/SustainabilityatQueens/Biodiversity/>

#### 5. References

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- Noxious Weeds (Northern Ireland) Order SI 1977/52
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order SI 1985/171
- Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
- Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) SR 1995/380.(and amendments)
- Pesticides Act 1998

#### 6. Further Information

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The University's Environmental Manager

The University's Head Gardener

The University's Head Grounds-person