



(Viewfield Lane Community Garden)



(Rear of Fraser Building)

Version Control

Version	2.2
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Issued	Spring '24 (action plan due for review Spring '25)

Introduction

The University of Glasgow has inherited, acquired and developed a rich heritage of plant and animal life at the various semi-natural and landscaped sites it occupies (see Appendices).

It is the University's on going responsibility to protect and enhance this heritage, for both its intrinsic value and for the wider benefits that healthy ecosystems can provide; breathable air, potable water and fertile soils. In addition, we recognise the importance of access to green spaces, with regard to the general wellbeing of our staff, students and the local community.

This Strategy describes in broad terms what our approach to campus biodiversity management will be. We will be guided by the following principles:

- Encouraging a whole-of-institution approach
- Respecting the environment
- Becoming a positive force in the marketplace
- Building knowledge and sharing best practice
- Supporting people and communities

The associated action plan provides a detailed description of the steps that we will take in the next 12 months in to improve campus biodiversity. We will undertake to update the action plan on an annual basis.

Dr David Duncan and Prof Jaime Toney
Co-Chairs; Sustainability Working Group

Vision

“An effectively managed estate that operates according to the principles of environmental best practice, and that provides a range of biodiverse habitats, along with accessible green spaces for our staff and students”

“A University community that appreciates the importance of biodiversity”

Mission

“To increase the area of biodiversity-rich habitat types across our various campus locations”

Context

University Strategy (World Changing Glasgow 2025)

- Actively adopt and advance the United Nations' Sustainability Development Goals (note SDG 14 'Life below water' and SDG 15 'Life on Land')
- Create greener, healthier, and more sustainable campuses within our communities
- Evolve our operations and ways of working to meet our commitment of being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030

UofG Climate Change Strategy – Glasgow Green (2020)

- Engage and empower our community; we will ensure that the climate emergency is placed at the heart of what we do over the next 20 years. We will strive ensure a whole-of-institution approach to sustainability
- Promoting efficiency; our estate and infrastructure will be optimally organised to reduce our carbon footprint and minimise harm to the environment
- Undertake continuous improvement initiatives; we will take forward a range of initiatives which help us contribute to the wider sustainability agenda

UofG Estates Strategy (for 2025)

- Ensure sustainability is at the centre of all our projects
- Engage staff and students in our environmental actions

UofG Climate Change Adaptation Plan

- Importance of green corridors, planting for increased shading and planting to reduce pluvial run-off

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act, 2004

- Public bodies and office-holders must act to further the conservation of biodiversity

Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act, 2011

- Public bodies must publish a biodiversity report every three years

Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Glasgow

- Protect and enhance key habitats and species in the City and raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity

Biodiversity action plan for 2024/2025

This action plan has been developed with the use of information contained within several previous studies of the Estate; tree, habitat and fauna surveys that were carried out either by consultants or by our students, as part of their ongoing studies.

The specific actions and outcomes for 2024/25 that will help deliver the biodiversity strategy are detailed below.

Progress against each action is categorised as being either red, amber or green.

	No progress /unlikely to be completed within the 2024/2025 year cycle.
	Limited Progress and likely to over run into 2024/2025 year cycle.
	Progress made and on target for completion within 2023/2024 year cycle.

1.0 Whole-of-institution approach

Objective	KPI	What does good look like?	Owner	RAG status
Share results of survey work carried out on campus by students over the past 5-year period, by Dec '24	Survey work published	Survey results available on University's sustainability webpages	SW	In progress
Ensure effective interaction between the Biodiversity Working Group and the core University activities of Teaching and Research, Sept '25	Number of student research projects focused on institutional biodiversity; institutional biodiversity as an example within teaching courses.	Regular availability of campus-focused biodiversity research projects; appearance of institutional biodiversity action plans in learning outcomes.	SW	In progress – gradual integration in to teaching at UG and PG level. 2A: Animal Biology, Evolution and Ecology course has introduced biodiversity monitoring as a practical exercise.
In accordance with requirements under the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act, 2011 a UofG biodiversity report will be published, by Dec'24	Biodiversity report available on University's sustainability webpages	The University publishes a biodiversity report every three years, highlighting progress made	SM	

<p>Deliver a citizen science project encouraging UofG community members to participate in biodiversity monitoring using the iNaturalist app, by July'24</p> <p>Note: there are currently iNaturalist projects set up for Gilmorehill, Garscube, Cochno and Rowardennan.</p> <p>https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/university-of-glasgow-biodiversity-cochno https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/university-of-glasgow-biodiversity-garscube https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/university-of-glasgow-biodiversity-scene https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/university-of-glasgow-biodiversity-gilmorehill</p>	<p>Number of different species identified by staff/students on campus using the i-naturalist app</p>	<p>Staff/students are engaged and participate in campus species mapping</p> <p>Observations facilitated by working in partnership with Mycology, Zoological, and Evergreens Societies, the Glasgow Science Festival (Bird Ringing) and by hosting de-stress walks</p>	<p>GUEST biodiversity promoter</p>	
<p>Consistent use of GUEST social media channels to publicise on campus biodiversity projects and events to staff/students, ongoing</p>	<p>Number of social media posts that relate to biodiversity</p>	<p>Staff/students are informed about biodiversity work on the campus</p>	<p>GUEST biodiversity promoter</p>	

2.0 Respecting the environment

Objective	KPI	What does good look like?	Owner	Progress
<p>Re-establish gardens after refurb works at various locations at Gilmorehill and Garscube estate including University Gardens, Oakfield Ave, and Principal's Lodge, by July'24</p>	<p>250m² of shrubs and herbaceous perennials planted</p>	<p>Shrub beds contain wide variety of native plant species to support biodiversity</p>	<p>SMcA/PB</p>	
<p>Rear of Security Building on Garscube estate replanted with shrubs, by July '24</p>	<p>100m² of mixed large shrubs planted</p>	<p>Marginal areas on campus support biodiversity</p>	<p>SMcA/PB</p>	
<p>Establish 50m² of woodland shrub bed (adjacent to pitch 9, Garscube), by May '24</p>	<p>50m² of woodland shrubs planted</p>	<p>Woodland areas on campus support biodiversity</p>	<p>SMcA/PB</p>	
<p>10,000 bulbs (snowdrops and bluebells) planted at Garscube (rear of Botham Building and Gatehouse), by May'24</p>	<p>Number of bulbs planted</p>	<p>Marginal areas on campus support biodiversity</p>	<p>SMcA/PB</p>	

10,000 bulbs (snowdrops and bluebells) planted at Gilmorehill (rear of Lilybank House and Prof Square), by May'24	Number of bulbs planted	Marginal areas on campus support biodiversity	SMcA/PB	
Install two high-quality trail cameras at peregrine falcon nesting site in Gilbert Scott Building, by July '24	Cameras installed	Cameras will provide invaluable data on nesting behaviour, prey choices, and potential threats	CE	
Removal of invasive species (Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam and Rhododendron Ponticum) on the Gilmorehill, Garscube and Cochno estates, by XXXX	Eradication programmes in place	Estate is free from Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam and Rhododendron Ponticum	SMcA/PB	
Deliver a Woodland Management Plan for the Garscube, Cochno and Rowardennan and investigate potential grant funding (Woodlands Improvement Grant for woods in and around towns) opportunities in order to fund improvements to our woodlands, by Dec'24	Woodland Management Plan developed Route to market established for woodland improvements	Additional funds secured for improvements to woodland areas on Garscube campus	SM/RY	
Establish flower beds with native plant species to provide habitat for local wildlife in the Wildlife Garden, Sept'24	10m ² planted	Marginal areas on campus support biodiversity	GUEST biodiversity promoter	

3.0 Becoming a positive force in the marketplace

Objective	KPI	What does good look like?	Owner	Progress
Continue to prioritise local suppliers when purchasing plants and use Scottish- or UK-grown plants, where possible (ongoing)	% of total spend on plants through local suppliers and on Scottish/UK grown plants	Local suppliers are the first point of contact when ordering plants/shrubs/trees for the Estate	SMcA/PB	

Carry out procurement exercise, secure finance approval and formally initiate partnership approaches to the development of high-quality carbon offsetting schemes in Scotland, by end of 2024	Number of partnership schemes established	University working in partnership to develop high quality carbon offsetting scheme that deliver co-benefits such as biodiversity enhancement and climate resilience	SM/R/Y/JG	
Ensure our site induction for contractors working on the estate covers British Standard 5837 (Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction) and British Standard 42020 (Biodiversity; code of practice for planning and development), ongoing	Induction process refers explicitly to British Standard 5837 and British Standard 42020	Where planned works may impact on green spaces priority is given to preventing any adverse impacts, with any need for mitigating measures also considered	SMcA/PB/GW	

4.0 Building knowledge and sharing best practice

Objective	KPI	What does good look like?	Owner	Progress
Tree condition survey for Garscube (by July 24) and Cochno (by July '25) carried out by independent surveyor	Tree surveys carried out with results stored on shared drive	Grounds team better understand tree health on the estate and can mitigate any H&S risks	SMcA/PB/GW	
Deliver feasibility studies for the installation of green roofs/walls on both the Gilmorehill and Garscube campuses, by Dec '24	Feasibility studies carried out	Options appraisal allows specific projects to be defined for capital investment	SM/R/Y	
Ensure all project managers and Clerks of Works understand the need to comply with British Standard 5837 (Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction) and British Standard 42020 (Biodiversity; code of practice for planning and development), ongoing	Information provided to ensure Project Managers and Clerks of Works have working knowledge of British Standard 5837 British Standard 42020	Where planned works may impact on green spaces priority is given to preventing any adverse impacts, with any need for mitigating measures also considered	SMcA/PB/GW	
Continue to support the work of the GUEST biodiversity promoter in	Grounds team share knowledge and experience	GUEST staff have a good understanding of the work required in order	SMcA	

maintaining the University Wildlife Garden, ongoing	with GUEST biodiversity staff	to maintain the Wildlife Garden		
<p>Develop GIS-based Biodiversity Masterplan for the UofG estate, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat of Phase 1 habitat surveys of the Gilmorehill, Garscube and Cochno campuses by a professional ecologist Incorporation of existing Estates tree survey data Incorporation of existing academic/ student flora/fauna survey data 	GIS- based Biodiversity Masterplan of UofG estate delivered	<p>Improved geo-spatial understanding of biodiversity on the existing estate.</p> <p>Helps to facilitate Estates in development planning</p> <p>Helps to further academic research and teaching</p>	SM/SMcA/PB/SW/Ry	
Co-ordinate formal breeding bird surveys on Gilmorehill and Garscube campuses, Apr-Aug'24	Bird surveys carried out on annual basis	Improved understanding of bird life on our estate; opportunity for students to gain surveying experience	SW (Biodiversity Working Group)	In planning stage
Co-ordinate regular bat surveying on Gilmorehill and Garscube campuses, Mar-Oct'24	Bat surveys carried out on annual basis	Improved understanding of bat colonies on our estate; opportunity for students to gain surveying experience	SW (Biodiversity Working Group)	In planning stage
Co-ordinate regular mammal surveying on Gilmorehill and Garscube campuses, Mar-Oct'24	Mammal surveys carried out on annual basis	Improved understanding of mammals on our estate; opportunity for students to gain surveying experience	SW (Biodiversity Working Group)	In planning stage
Co-ordinate invertebrate surveying on Gilmorehill and Garscube campuses, Mar-Oct'24	Invertebrate surveys carried out on annual basis	Improved understanding of moth, butterfly and invertebrate colonies on our estate; opportunity for students to gain surveying experience	SW/GNHS (Biodiversity Working Group)	In planning stage
Provide support to Dr Michael Muir for ongoing upkeep of the Dumfries phenology garden, spring '24	Grounds team understand nature of any additional support required	Dumfries phenology garden continues to be a valuable teaching resource	SMcA	Currently following up on a recent (Jan '24) request for

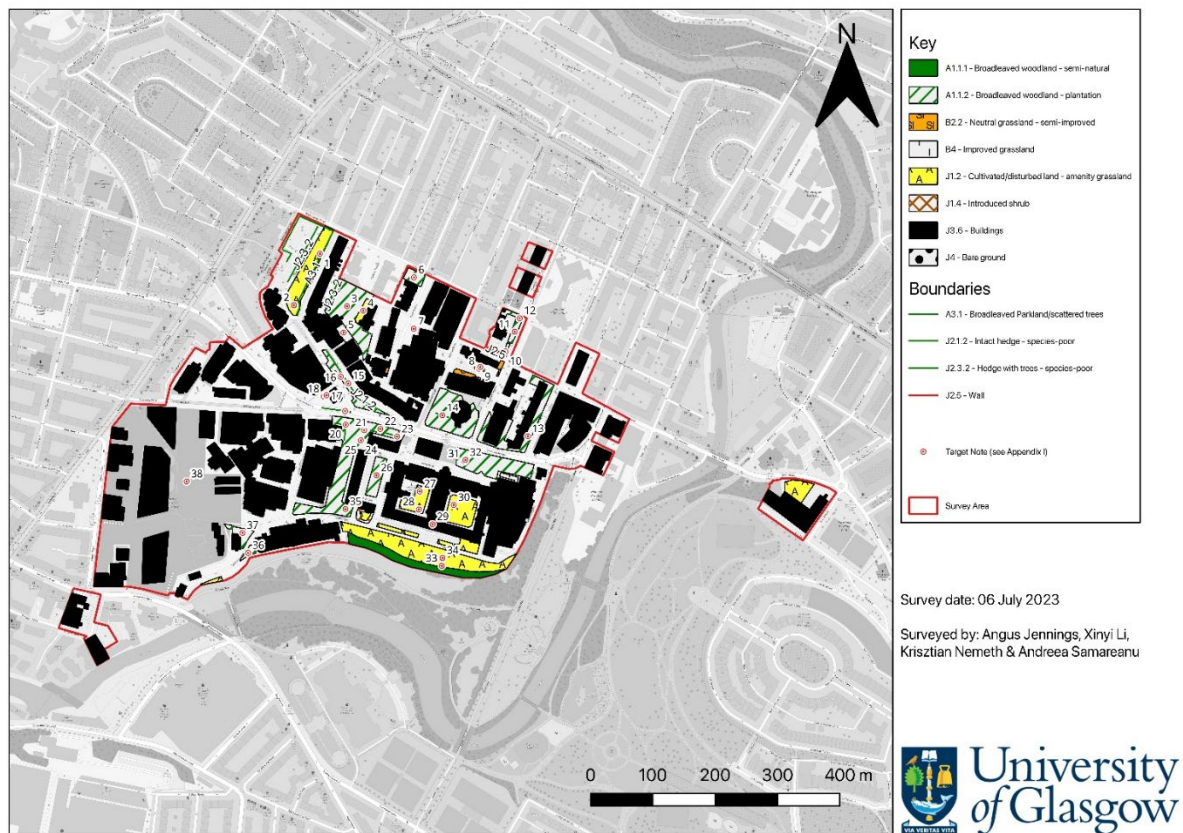
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5.0 Impact on people and communities

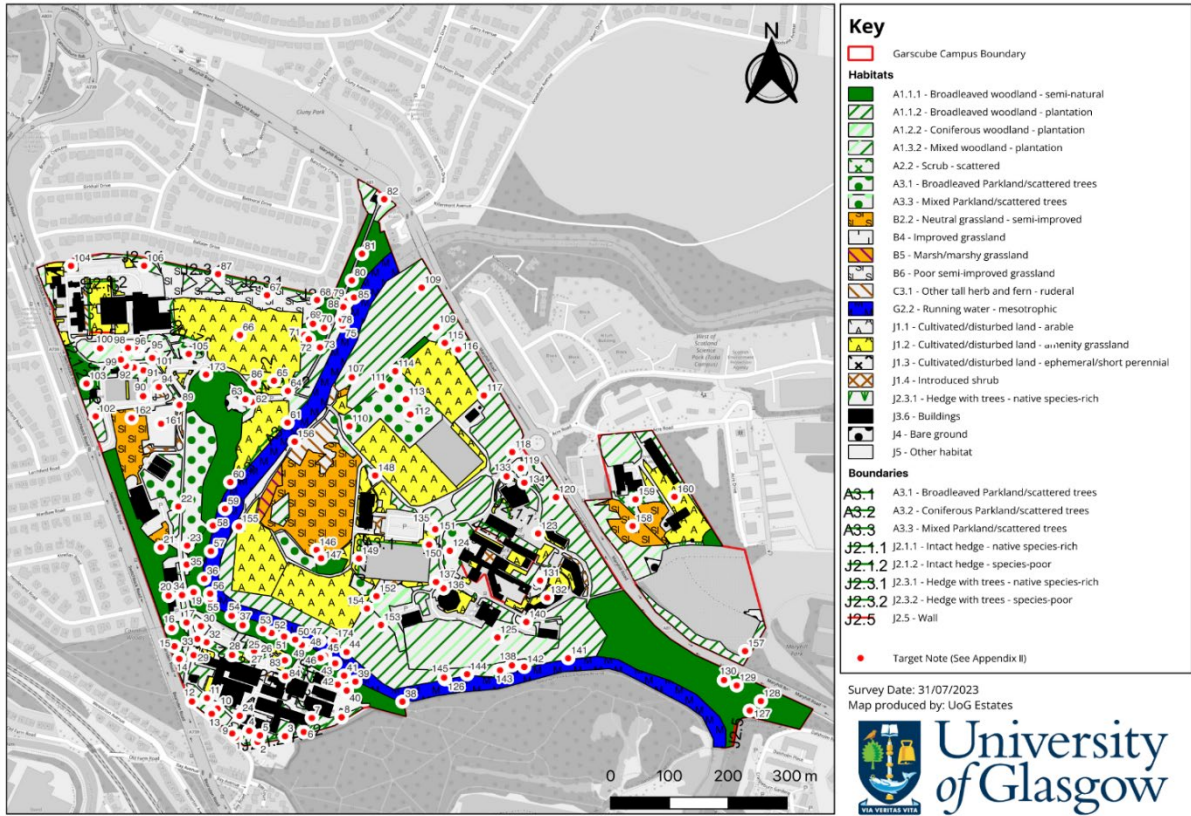
Objective	KPI	What does good look like?	Owner	Progress
Support the regular GUEST-run gardening sessions at the Viewfield Lane Gardens and the Wildlife Garden; ongoing	Weekly gardening sessions run at the Viewfield Lane Gardens	Weekly lunchtime gardening sessions help promote Health & Wellbeing of staff & students	SMcA	
Investigate the potential to further expand the Viewfield Lane Community Gardens by Aug'24	Number of Community Garden spaces on campus	Increased capacity to run gardening sessions for staff & students	SM/GUEST	
Deliver a workshop/seminar for students on various aspects of biodiversity, including species conservation and habitat preservation, by July'24	Number of workshops and seminars delivered	Students are informed about the importance of fostering biodiversity	GUEST biodiversity promoter	
Collaborate with Hillhead Primary school to organise educational programs, promoting biodiversity awareness among younger children, by July'24	School partnership in place	School children are informed about the importance of fostering biodiversity	GUEST biodiversity promoter SW/Stem ambassadors to help	
Provide ongoing support for current beekeeping activities on the Garscube estate (Paul Tran and Andrew Baird)	Beekeepers allocated space on the Garscube estate	Increased number of students have opportunity to develop beekeeping skills	SM/SMcA	.

Appendices

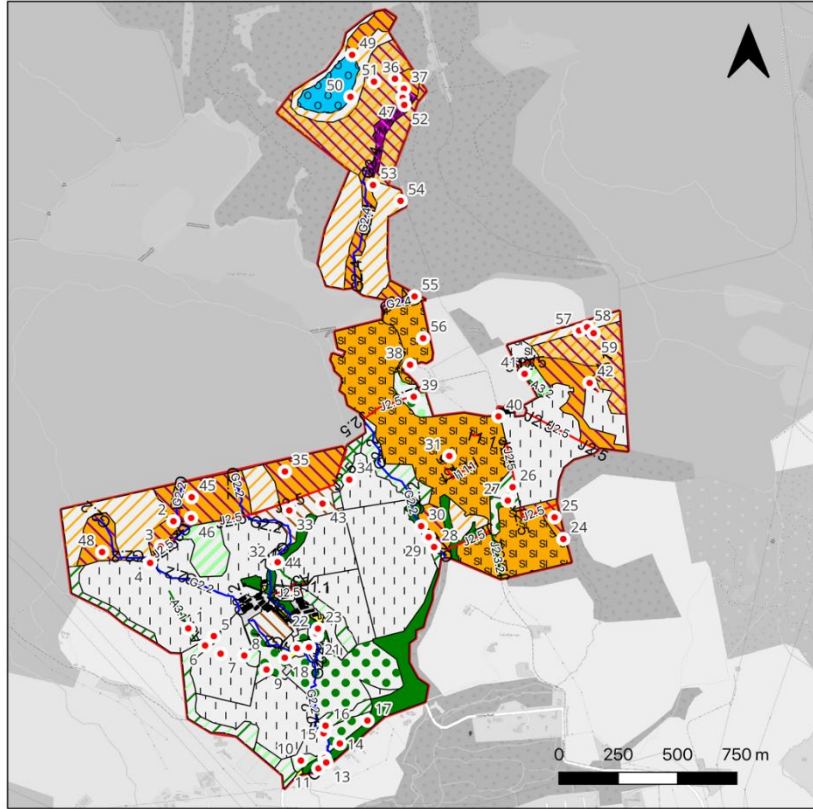
Appendix 1 – Phase 1 habitat survey summary for Gilmorehill



Appendix 2 – Phase 1 habitat survey summary for Garscube



Appendix 3 – Phase 1 habitat survey summary for Cochno



Key

Survey Area

Habitats

- A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
- A1.1.2 - Broadleaved woodland - plantation
- A1.2.2 - Coniferous woodland - plantation
- B1.3.2 - Mixed woodland - plantation
- A2.1 - Scrub - dense/continuous
- A3.1 - Broadleaved Parkland/scattered trees
- A3.2 - Coniferous Parkland/scattered trees
- A3.3 - Mixed Parkland/scattered trees
- B1.1 - Acid grassland - unimproved
- B2.2 - Neutral grassland - semi-improved
- B4 - Improved grassland
- B5 - Marsh/marshy grassland
- B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland
- C3.1 - Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
- D6 - Wet heath/acid grassland
- E3.1 - Fen - valley mire
- G1.3 - Standing water - oligotrophic
- G2.2 - Running water - mesotrophic
- J1.2 - Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland
- J3.6 - Buildings
- J5 - Other habitat

Boundaries

- A3.1 - Broadleaved Parkland/scattered trees
- A3.2 - Coniferous Parkland/scattered trees
- G2.2 - Running water - mesotrophic
- G2.4 - Running water - dystrophic
- I1.1.1 - Inland cliff - acid/neutral
- J2.3.2 - Hedge with trees - species-poor
- J2.5 - Wall

• Target Note (see Appendix III)

Survey date: 03/08/2023

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