

Biodiversity Working Group

Regenerate the ecology of the campuses to mitigate biodiversity loss and the decline in ecosystem services, whilst supporting the use of our natural spaces for education, engagement, and wellbeing activities.

The Biodiversity Working Group (BWG) is a subgroup of the Sustainability Steering Group (SSG) providing strategic oversight, expertise and driving improvements for biodiversity monitoring, education, and habitat management.

The organisational arrangements are as follows:

- The working group is co-chaired by the Sustainability Coordinator and an academic staff member from the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology.
- The working group reports to the Sustainability Steering Group.
- The working group meets 4 times per year.
- The working group may invite non-members to attend a meeting to report on projects, discuss specific matters or provide additional expertise.
- Any items raised that would result in a change of usage of an external space will be taken to the External Spaces group for advice, comment, and permissions.
- Projects requiring communications support will be taken to the Sustainability Partnerships, Engagement and Student Experience (SPESE) sub-group.

Membership

The BWG consists of the following members:

- The Sustainability Coordinator (Co-chair)
- DICE Representative (Co-chair)
- The Head of Landscape and Grounds
- Assistant Director Estate Planning
- Up to three University staff members with expertise in biodiversity conservation, ecosystems, and/or landscape management
- Up to three student representatives who are on a relevant course or a member of a relevant student society

The terms of reference are to:

- Provide strategic oversight of the University's commitment to biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services embodied in its Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy.
- Oversee the development, implementation and periodic review of the University's Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy.
- Assess gaps in monitoring and surveying data for our campuses and seek opportunities to fill these.
- Pursue opportunities for embedding teaching and research in the use of our green space and how we inform our management choices.
- Assess different options for establishing a baseline for our campuses that provides us with a useful basis to build our work upon.
- Provide recommendations and advice to relevant colleagues where biodiversity may be impacted by projects on our campuses.
- Identifying opportunities to work in partnership, and/or engage the University and wider community in the importance of conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

Current Membership:

- Debi Adams – Kent Community Oasis Garden Coordinator, Sustainability Champion (Staff)
- Lee Ballard – Head of Landscape and Grounds (Staff)
- Jake Bicknell – Senior Lecturer, DICE (Staff)
- Charlotte Farmer – SAC (School of Anthropology and Conservation) Sustainability Working Group (Student)
- Helen Holland – Assistant Director Estate Planning (Staff)
- Sam Maddison – Conservation Society Committee (Student)
- Emily Mason, Sustainability Coordinator, Co-Chair (Staff)
- Bob Smith – Director of DICE (Staff)
- William Rowlandson – Senior Lecturer, SECL, Sustainability Champion (Staff)

Proposed dates for year one:

- Preliminary meeting: May 9th, 2024
- September 5th, 2024
- December 10th, 2024
- March 6th, 2025
- June 3rd, 2025