

# Biodiversity Action at Kent 24/25 Round Up

The Biodiversity Working Group have collated some highlights of biodiversity action from across the campus. The working group is made up of students and staff from across the University including operational, academic and professional services staff; and students representing societies and projects, such as the Conservation Society, Sustainability Working Group and the Kent Community Oasis Garden. The group works to bring together knowledge on wildlife, ecosystems, and our campus green spaces, to enhance the work we do collectively to support biodiversity and engage people with nature.

## Kent Community Oasis Garden

This year, thanks to the tenacity and enthusiasm of volunteers, KentCOG have continued to improve connectivity and create more diverse habitats across their site.

We know from DICE research that alongside the 3 native species of newts, the site has lots of different invertebrate species in and around its pond, which is also widely used by birds too.

17 volunteers have signed up as species observers on the KentCOG iNaturalist project which, as of June, has resulted in 817 observations recording 337 species on site.

KentCOG continues to engage, encourage and empower people in more biodiversity activities on site.

## Recording species diversity on the Canterbury Campus

This year we embarked on a mission to record as many species as possible that are found on campus. This work builds on our records collected at annual Bioblitz events and ongoing surveys carried out by DICE students and staff. So far we have recorded:

**1100 species**



## Sustainability Working Group

Amongst a whole range of sustainability themed activities, the student-led SWG also took part in the Big Hog Friendly Litter Pick Challenge and have been leading on pond restoration ideas for Keynes Pond on campus.



## Conservation Society

A huge congratulations to the Conservation Society who are winners of the best academic society 2024/25 at the University. The Conservation Society have brought together a year of social events, practical volunteering, taxa ID events and have led on the mass recording of species on iNaturalist.



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## Managing and enhancing the campus for biodiversity

The Landscape and Grounds team have had a busy year with a number of key and new projects happening across campus.

The team have been installing new high pollen and drought tolerant planting in some of the central beds. This has been alongside initiatives like No Mow May and reducing grass cutting across the board to maximise food availability for invertebrates, birds and small mammals. Some of these changes have led to a bumper year for orchids across campus!

A massive win this year was the start of a 2 year trial to remove herbicide usage across central campus, to reduce risk to wildlife, human health and to challenge people to rethink 'weeds'.

In amongst this work, they have continued the coppicing rotation in our woodlands, taken part in woodland survey training, and surveyed a lot of hedgerows to improve their connectivity and overall condition.

1875m of hedgerows surveyed

## Spatial Nature Planning (SNaP) Forum

Supported by the [E3 Sharing Space for Nature](#) initiative, the [Innovation Team](#) at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) delivered the first [Spatial Nature Planning \(SNaP\) Forum](#) at the University of Kent.

The event explored how a more systematic approach to spatial planning can help to deliver the best outcomes for people and nature in England.

The event collaborated with Kent Wildlife Trust who hosted a field trip to Blean Woods on their [Wilder Blean](#) project, giving participants the chance to explore the practical conservation landscape in Kent.



## Canterbury District Biodiversity Network

The University of Kent proudly hosted the Canterbury District Biodiversity Network, providing administration support, lecture theatre space and webspace for CDBN activities.

The network provide a forum for conservation organisations, civil society and local government to share information about local conservation projects and concerns, as well as provide a collaborative platform.





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## BioBlitz 2025

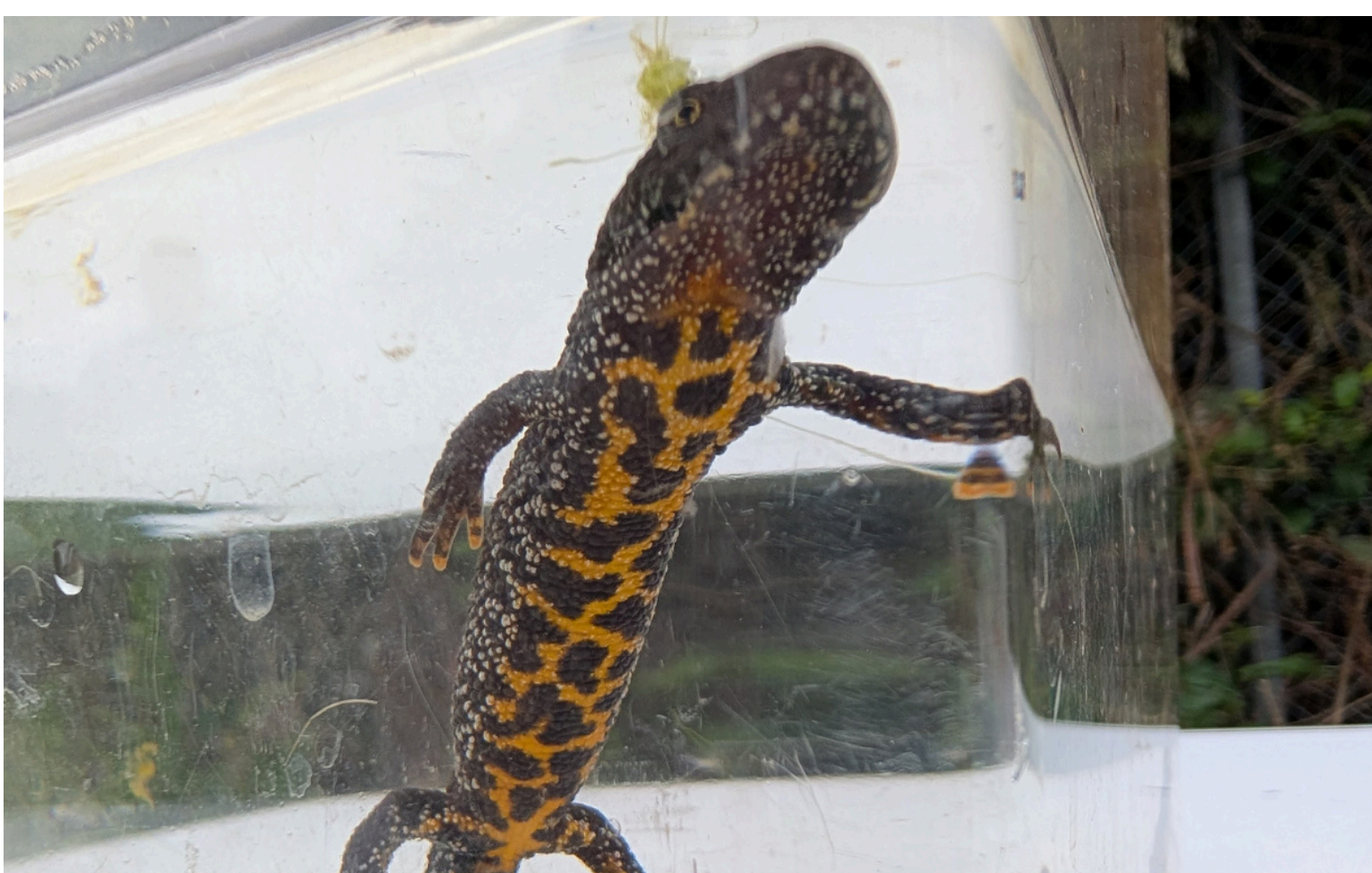
The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Bioblitz took place in May, with another incredible 24 hour period of citizen science on campus.

The main aim of the event is to record as many species of wildlife as possible on campus. But BioBlitz is more than just a scientific survey; it's a celebration of life in all its forms.

The event was an incredible showcase of our campus, its wildlife and most of all, our incredible students who engaged the local community with knowledge, skills and passion for nature.

This year 311 species were recorded in the 24 hour period.

## 22 Ancient Woodland Indicator Species



## Woodland Surveys

Ecological surveys of the woodlands on the Canterbury Campus are underway using the UK Habitat Classification and Woodland Condition Assessment methods.

Led by the DICE Innovation Team, results will inform habitat classification and woodland management. This is also being used as an opportunity to provide training and engage students and staff in the botanical diversity of our campus.

So far, we have recorded over 80 unique plant species, 22 of which are considered ancient woodland indicators. Meanwhile, our training sessions and surveys have involved 19 people with a wide range of different roles across the University.

## iNaturalist

Join our iNaturalist project and start recording campus species. Scan the QR code.



University of  
**Kent**

**Biodiversity  
Working  
Group**