



“It’s Our Environment”

Biodiversity - SMART Targets

1. Introduction “It’s Our Environment”

The Arts University College at Bournemouth is situated within the Poole & Bournemouth conurbation of Dorset. The University College recognises that ‘Our Environment’ offer’s valuable resources for wildlife and is committed to continuous improvement in the management of all of its environmental aspects and impacts, including biodiversity management. Our campus is located close to Talbot Heath, one of a number of urban heaths within Dorset which the conurbation is blessed, and is home to some rare wildlife. Dartford warblers occupy the gorse while numerous reptiles, such as the sand lizard, live in the ferns. It’s a unique and wonderful wild space enjoyed by those that live and work nearby. Other local sites of environmental interest are Talbot Woods linking down to the Bourne River and The Lower Gardens Bournemouth, and of course Bournemouth Beach & Poole Harbour. Further afield are sites of World Heritage Status including the Jurassic Coastline and The New Forest a playground for William the Conqueror and is home to wild ponies and other specie’s such 3 species Eurasian (indigenous to UK) Asian Short Claw and North American River otter; European wolf, 12 species of owls, squirrels, rabbits, badgers, foxes and deer. Other mammals to be seen are polecats, mink, pine martens and highly endangered Scottish wildcat, lynx, wallaby and wild boar. There is also an abundance of Flora and Fauna present including bluebells, foxgloves, gorse and heather to name a few.

2. What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity includes all living organisms and the ecosystems in which they occur. Abundance and diversity of ecosystems, species, genes and the interactions between them are a key part of biodiversity. Together they ensure the continuance of life by producing oxygen, fresh water and other resources that are essential for our long-term survival.

The University College recognises its statutory obligation to have due regard for the conservation of biodiversity in the exercise of its functions and is therefore committed to maintaining, enhancing and where possible creating new habitats on campus.

3. Aims

- To conserve the range of habitats and species across the University College campus.
- To enhance the range of habitats and species across the University College campus.
- To create new habitats and attract new species to the University College campus.
- To involve the students and staff of University College through volunteering and academic opportunities.

- To educate students and staff on the value of biodiversity and to ensure that they are aware of the conservation work that is undertaken by the University College.

4. Our Environmental Policy

Our Environmental Policy confirms our commitment to implementing best environmental practice, which is demonstrated through establishing and supporting continuous improvement by setting clear measurable environmental performance smart targets, specially related to biodiversity.

5. What are SMART Targets

Most of us are aware of the acronym **SMART** however what do they stand for and mean:-

S – Specific – What is the task to be done and what are the details?

M – Measurable – What can be evidenced to show the task completed, what will change?

A – Achievable – Is the task achievable, do we have the resources?

R – Relevant – Why is the task important and is it adding value?

T – Time Bound – When should we complete this by, how often should it be done?

6. AUCB's Biodiversity SMART Targets

The University College will therefore aim to:

- Comply and where practicable exceed with all relevant EU and UK environmental legislation.
- Promote and raise awareness of biodiversity practices within our Environment Week by 2013.
- Reduce practices such as use of aerosols and paints sprays that will have an impact on bio diverse areas by 2013.
- With support of the Student Union develop a community garden by our campus Halls of Residence to provide a sense of pride and ownership by students in our biodiversity programme by 2015.
- Increase provision of bird boxes, and bird feeders and other facilities on campus to increase local bird population and increase other wildlife and species to the campus by 2013.
- Minimise the impact on biodiversity from grounds maintenance and landscaping work by planting native species of trees, shrubs and wildflowers to assist with native wildlife conservation by 2015.
- Consider and introduce into new build projects and refurbishments additional green roofs which as well as being visually attractive provide a valuable habitat for invertebrates, reduce urban storm water runoff and can also extend the life of a roof by 2015.
- Increase the number of flora and fauna species on campus by 20% to enable bio diverse areas to flourish through managed landscaping improvements by 2015.
- Work with designers and contractors to improve biodiversity management practices within future capital projects by 2014.
- review the Biodiversity SMART Targets annually