







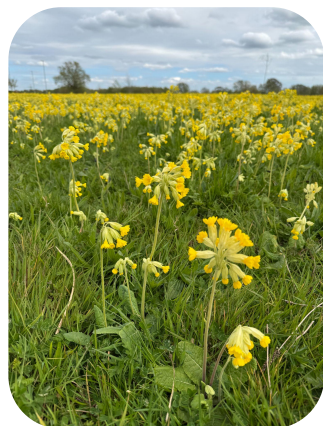
# Ecological Management Plan 2026-2035

## Summary






The new Ecological Management Plan provides inclusive, sustainable and actionable recommendations to enhance biodiversity, sustainability and wellbeing at the University. It goes beyond monitoring and management of biodiversity. It is a University commitment to considering the more-than-human impact of decision making on campus. By working together across teams and faculties to identify problems and opportunities, pool resources and co-create solutions, we can align our core activities of education and research with nature-positive decisions. This will not only benefit the whole University community, but will enhance York's USP and demonstrate our commitment as a University for the public good.

## Biodiversity monitoring and management

-  Enhance biodiversity habitat through measures including sensitive management of woodlands and hedgerows, reduced mowing and chemical usage and selected sowing of wildflowers in grassland areas.
-  Improve water quality of West Lake through floating wetlands, management of fish and aquatic macrophytes and increased aeration. Consider reprofiling the lake during Campus West redevelopment.
-  Consolidate identity of Campus East as a nature reserve and Campus West as a botanic garden, with improved connectivity throughout.
-  Establish and maintain regionally and nationally significant populations of target species, through (re)introductions and tailored conservation of species on campus.
-  Carry out regular biodiversity monitoring that is integrated into undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, training and research.
-  Sustainably curate and manage biodiversity data in a form that is accessible to staff and students to help deliver on our commitments to enhance biodiversity.



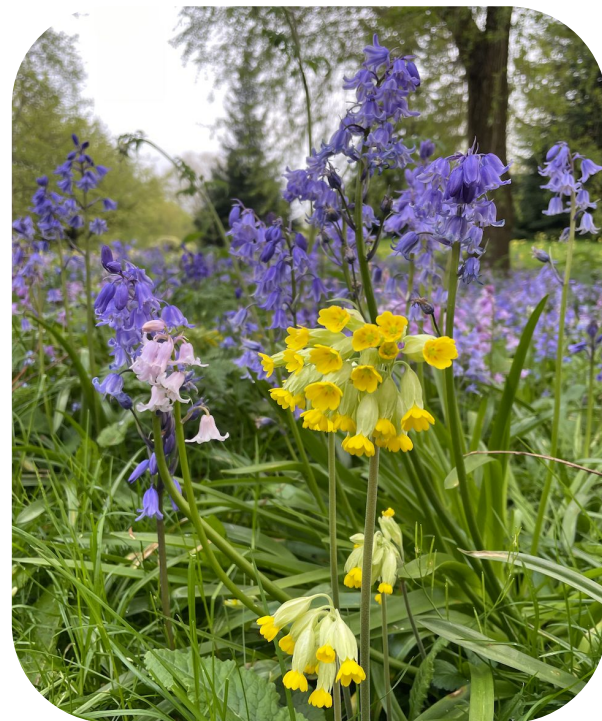
## Education, research and scholarship

-  Strengthen the identity of our campus as a living lab. Design teaching and learning that enhances the monitoring and management programme.
-  Explore expanding our range of taught MSc and CPD opportunities in the ecology and sustainability space. Embed ecological monitoring into undergraduate, postgraduate and CPD courses where possible.
-  Consciously develop a culture where outdoor teaching and research is embedded across all curricula (not just Environment and Geography and Biology).
-  Building on the success of the YEAR centre, develop more outdoor teaching, performance and social spaces to cater to a diversity of teaching, wellbeing and social needs.
-  Improve signage and information on biodiversity and campus management, to encourage campus users to connect with nature and understand the reasoning behind changes in management.

# Ecological Management Plan 2026-2035

## Wellbeing

- ♥ Increase diversity, usability and accessibility of campus green spaces via a range of outdoor teaching, meeting and event areas.
- ♥ Create biodiverse green routes through campus with biodiversity sensitive lighting, that enhance habitat connectivity but also user safety and accessibility.
- ♥ Nurture a culture of outdoor working and learning.
- ♥ Curate a range of opportunities for campus users to connect and engage with nature e.g. volunteering, tree, art and heritage trails.
- ♥ Engage the wider community with campus management. e.g. through tree planting, removal of alien species and biodiversity monitoring.



## A campus for the future

- ⇒ Regularly revisit, monitor and adapt plans for campus biodiversity management, tailored to changing financial conditions, and emerging opportunities.
- ⇒ Seek out opportunities for ambitious, inspired flagship projects e.g. walled garden renovation, garden bridge, community orchard, sensory gardens.
- ⇒ Work towards the campus as a model for sustainable living, aspirational thinking and biodiversity best practice:
  - Better integration of planning for built, blue and green environments through a campus management plan that considers indoor and outdoor spaces together.
  - Maximise opportunities to grow food on campus to improve social engagement as well as access to healthy food.
  - Improve recycling and composting facilities, reduce waste.
  - Rationalise and upgrade lighting to reduce impacts on biodiversity, save energy and enhance campus user safety.
  - Maximise impact and benefits of geothermal development e.g. heated outdoor pool, horticulture.
- ⇒ Maximise opportunities for local engagement and civic partnership, including exploring opportunities for greater volunteer engagement and revenue generation.
- ⇒ Cultivate York's USP as a biodiversity haven and centre of ecological and outdoor learning to support admissions and recruitment, and our reputation as a University for the Public Good.



Visit [tinyurl.com/UOYEMP](https://tinyurl.com/UOYEMP) to read the 2026-2035 Ecological Management Plan in full.



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