

OP 8.1.5 – Grounds Management and Biodiversity

Author: Sustainability Manager/Grounds Manager	Approved by: Julian Greaves
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Version Control

Version number	<i>Purpose/change</i>	<i>Name and job title</i>	<i>Date</i> (DD/MM/YYYY)
V2015:1.0	Integrated into 2015 standard	Julian Greaves – Sustainability Manager	29/08/17

PROCEDURE:**PURPOSE:**

- To describe grounds management works, and the actions taken to ensure that biodiversity is protected in the course of grounds management work

METHOD:**Grounds Management**

- The Grounds Manager is responsible for overseeing all gardening and grounds maintenance work at Newton Park, Sion Hill, Corsham Court and other satellite sites, including litter clearance and fertiliser application.
- The use of pesticides and herbicides is carried out by contractors or Grounds Staff in accordance with the requirements of relevant legislation and guidance documents. Only products on the Approved Products List are used. Any unused product or empty containers provided by contractors are removed by the contractors. Any unused product or empty containers from staff use are treated as hazardous waste and disposed of according to Hazardous Waste Procedure 8.1.8
- Refuelling of grounds machinery at Newton Park and Corsham Court is carried out by Grounds Staff according to Operational Procedure 8.1.13
- When required, onsite pest control is carried out by a competent contractor to tackle issues such as fly infestations, wasp nests, mice, rats, moles and squirrels.
- Monitoring and control of water levels the upper lake at Newton Park, in accordance with the Reservoir Act 1975 is the responsibility of the Grounds Manager. Water levels are monitored via an automated system, which provides an alarm if levels become too high.
- Horticultural arisings are generally disposed of in a green-waste skip. However, some small-scale on-site composting is undertaken, except for invasive species or diseased plant material which are burned under an EA Exemption, or disposed of in accordance with relevant legislations.
- Prevention of invasive species spread and control of pests and diseases by ensuring local provenance of stock and health check of plants
- Road and pathway gritting is carried out by a third-party contractor (holding ISO14001), according to minimum temperature thresholds

Protecting and Promoting Biodiversity:

- A comprehensive biodiversity and landscape habitat management plan is in place for the main Newton Park campus, which has been prepared and is managed by Nicholas Pearson Associates (NPA).
- Implementation is co-ordinated between NPA and the Grounds Manager, using external expertise where appropriate
- An annual monitoring report is provided to the University by NPA to demonstrate progress
- Records of ecological assessments are kept by NPA and are available to the University upon request
- In addition, some areas of land at Newton Park have been set aside for the School of Society Enterprise and Environment (SSEE) to further enhance biodiversity through less invasive management techniques. The SSEE Technical Demonstrator is responsible for managing these areas of land
- Protected species on site are managed to ensure they, their habitats and food sources are sustained and any activity does not adversely affect them, using external expertise where appropriate

EFFECTS & ACTIONS ON NON-CONFORMANCE:

If this procedure is not applied it may result in:

- a failure to protect and improve the University's biodiversity
- a failure to keep BSU sites tidy and litter free
- a possible breach of relevant environmental legislation
- a non-conformance with clauses of the ISO 14001 standard.

Departures from this procedure are addressed using procedure 10.2 Nonconformity, corrective action & preventive action.