# Biodiversity Guidelines

The following set of guidelines are to be used in all landscaping work taking place on Aston University’s main campus and Aston’s Recreation Centre. They are also to be taken into consideration for all grounds maintenance work.

The University will endeavour to:

* Seek to retain and improve existing vegetation and habitats where appropriate;
* Seek to protect and encourage mature trees on campus. Where trees need to be removed, overall numbers and size using native species will be replanted where possible;
* Ensure any trees moved for development works are either moved to another part of the campus or are replaced where possible;
* Consider the planting of additional trees;
* Consider the use of wildflower meadows and tapestry lawns in landscaping designs;
* Complete the necessary ecology surveys prior to any works commencing;
* Consider the potential for green walls (external and internal) or green roofs in new developments and refurbishments;
* Include areas of long grass in selected areas of the campus e.g. the edge of car parks;
* Select planting that is good for pollinators;
* Select edible species such as herbs and fruit trees;
* Encourage the use of native species;
* Maintain the lake to encourage a variety of species;
* Maintain dead wood in secluded areas of the campus, where possible and safe to do so, to create valuable habitats for invertebrates. Where trees need to be felled or monolithed, the preference should be for monolith (in suitable areas) so that the dead trunk can become a home for invertebrates;
* Check bird boxes on a routine basis and replace them if necessary, and
* Retain or increase wildlife corridors and hedgerows. Where hedgerows need to be removed, the overall size using native species will be replanted where possible.

Last reviewed and updated: 17/06/2021