

Biodiversity Policy



Summary

UPP acknowledges that our responsibility to biodiversity goes hand in hand with our commitment to sustainability and community well-being. This policy outlines our approach to conserving and enhancing biodiversity across our properties and collaborating with partner universities to drive best practices. By adhering to these principles and aligning our efforts with ISO 14001 standards, negative environmental impacts will be reduced.

SECTION A: Background & Objectives of the Policy

UPP acknowledges that our responsibility to biodiversity goes hand in hand with our commitment to sustainability and community well-being. This policy outlines our approach to conserving and enhancing biodiversity across our properties, achieving a quantified biodiversity net gain and collaborating with partner universities to drive best practice. By adhering to these principles and aligning our efforts with ISO 14001 standards, we aim to create a positive impact on the environment and contribute to a more sustainable future.

The policy objective is to promote best practice in the management of biodiversity impacts at UPP. This includes measures to reduce UPP's impact on the environment by measuring and developing plans to increase Biodiversity Net Gain. The policy will support the wider Environmental Sustainability Policy and Safety, Health and Environment Policy Statement.

SECTION B: Policy Details

1. Scope

The policy covers all UPP operations and capital project development.

2. Quantifying Biodiversity Net Gain

UPP acknowledge that understanding the current condition of biodiversity on our properties is crucial for effective conservation efforts. A biodiversity baseline was established in September 2023. Biodiversity projects are assessed using a quantifiable measure developed by Natural England. A periodic portfolio review is undertaken to review overall progress.

3. Setting quantifiable targets

The 2021/22 UPP ESG Report highlights UPP's ambition to ensure biodiversity net gain across our portfolio and set the quantifiable target of achieving biodiversity net gain across the portfolio. Setting such targets takes UPP beyond compliance and aims to ensure that we improve our environmental impact. Biodiversity net gain refers to the enhancement of biodiversity over and above what would have occurred without the development or operational impacts.

4. Collaboration with Partner Universities for Best Practice

Many UPP campuses have limited green space and working with partner universities will enable us to scale biodiversity net gain. UPP actively engage with partner universities to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and enhance our biodiversity conservation efforts. As credit can be gained for offsite improvements and gains, this should be recorded and reported.

5. Alignment to ISO 14001

UPP operates an environmental management system certified to ISO14001. The aspects and impacts register, which assesses impacts on the environment relating result from UPP's activities highlights biodiversity as significant. This policy and the activities conducted in relation to it underpin the delivery of mitigations to reduce this environmental impact. UPP commits to continually improve environmental impacts, including changes to the environment that effect biodiversity.

6. Accountability To This Policy

- 6.1. The Executive Director - Construction and Capital Programmes is the owner of the Policy.
- 6.2. The Director of Energy and Environmental Sustainability is responsible for the development and day-to-day implementation of the Policy.

7. Definitions

Biodiversity net gain	The term used for increasing the biodiversity value of a site and / or development from its baseline condition. It is also a metric tool to calculate the change in diversity described above.
ISO14001	ISO 14001 is an internationally agreed standard that sets out the requirements for an environmental management system. It helps organizations improve their environmental performance through more efficient use of resources and reduction of waste, gaining a competitive advantage and the trust of stakeholders.

SECTION C: Compliance

Specific requirements for quantification:

- All projects designed to improve biodiversity net gain should undergo a specific impact assessment using the Natural England metric.
- All new build projects should comply with the Environment Act 2021 and include measures to improve biodiversity net gain by 10%.

SECTION D: Further Information & Queries

1. Legislation/Regulation

The Environment Act 2021 requires:

“The biodiversity gain objective is met in relation to development for which planning permission is granted if the biodiversity value attributable to the development exceeds the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat by at least the relevant percentage.

The relevant percentage is 10%.”

2. Governance Review and Approval

The Policy Owner is responsible for reviewing this Policy every two years. Additional reviews may be triggered by major changes in corporate strategy and organisational changes. This version of the Policy remains effective until the Policy Owner circulates any updates to it.

Information	
Version Number:	Version 1.2
Version Approved:	September 2023
Purpose of Revision:	Addressing Policy Committee comments against first issue
Policy Author:	Director of Energy and Environmental Sustainability
Policy Sponsor:	Executive Director - Construction and Capital Programmes
Related Policies:	Sustainability Policy
Proposed Date of Next Review:	September 2025

SECTION E: Further Information & links

Document Title	Purpose of Appendix/Link
Sustainability Policy	https://upp-ltd.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/UPP-Sustainability-Policy.pdf
Safety, Health and Environment Policy Statement	https://upp-ltd.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/SHE-Policy-Statement-Reapproval-2022-v1.1.pdf