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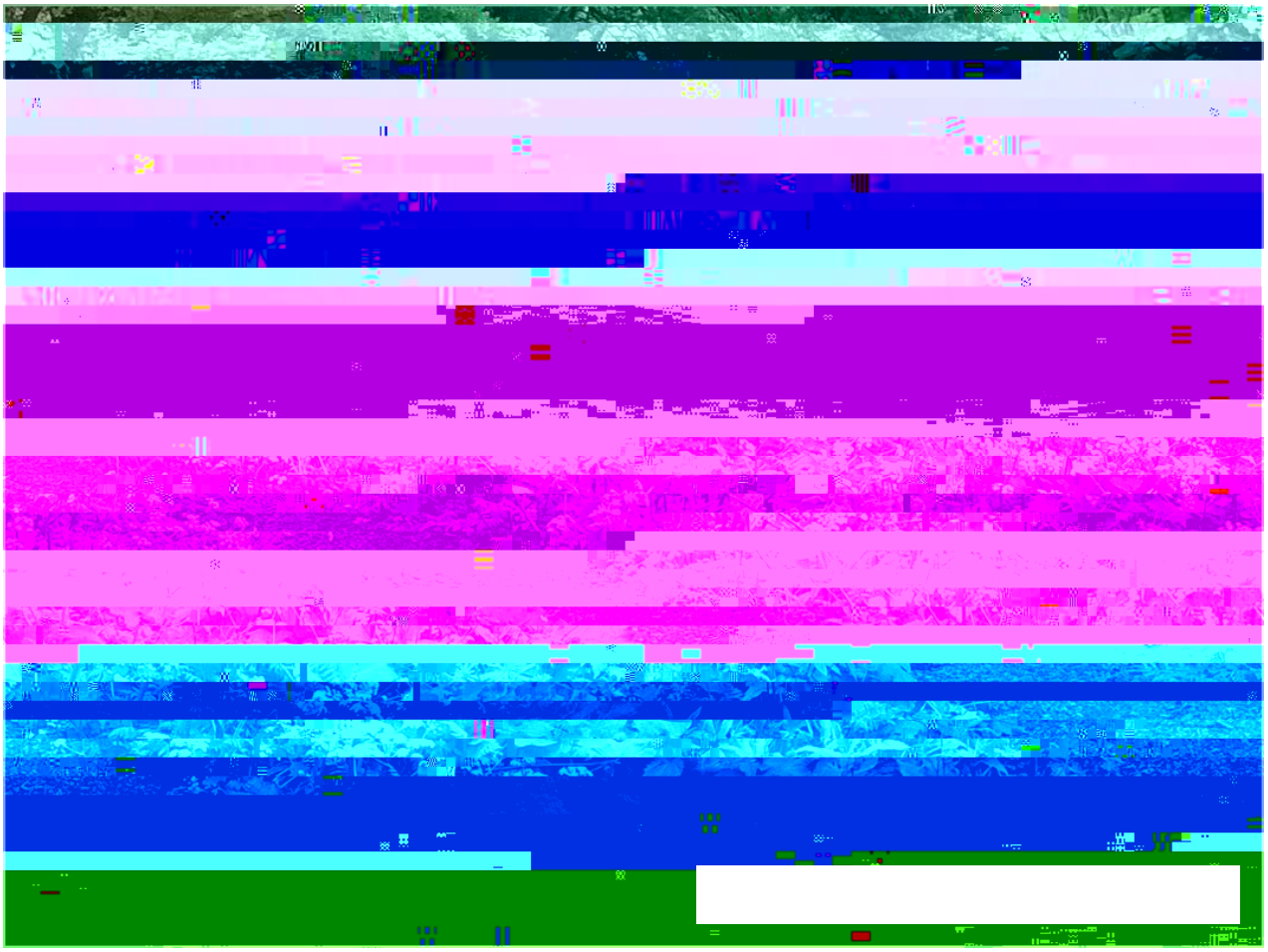


Introduction

The University of Sussex is a leading higher education and research institution near Brighton, in the south of England. Sussex was the first of the new wave of UK universities founded in the 1960's, receiving its Royal Charter in 1961.

To manage and maintain the campus, the Sussex Estates and Facilities LLP partnership partnership was created, marking an exciting new chapter in the delivery of the University's estates and facilities management (EFM) services. The partnership aims to improve the campus experience for students and all campus users, develop staff and their careers, and make the University of Sussex the shining example of EFM in the university sector.

General Information

Location

Grasslands

The campus has several grassland parcels that are managed in various ways including Passive rewilding and low management elements of chalk grassland, tussocky grassland with tall herbs and ruderal vegetation.

There are also several amenity lawns scattered throughout the campus (teaching and residential buildings). The various management regimes for grasslands are shown on the 'Biodiversity Management' map (

Approximately 80% of the UKs chalk grassland habitat has been lost since the Second World War, making the chalk grasslands of the South Downs some of the rarest habitat in the UK. Examples of this habitat type can be found on the campus; for example, there are remnants of chalk grassland on the steep slopes opposite Swanborough East and there is an expanse of the habitat to the north- west of the campus (Jubilee Woodland).

can support a diversity of rare flora and fauna, including the Adonis blue butterfly and its food plant, Horseshoe vetch. Estimates suggest that 60% of the UK's butterfly species can be found on the chalk grasslands of the South Downs. Chalk grasslands cover 4% of the South Downs National Park, but more than a third of the sites are less than a hectare in extent; this makes efforts to restore chalk grassland habitat particularly important.

Our new student residential buildings have been constructed on the East Slope.

Excavated soil and chalk rubble was translocated over land on the West Slope to create a new area of chalk grassland; this phase of the work was completed in the summer of 2019, with the first plants flowering in the spring and summer of 2020.

The area currently consists of species-poor and semi-improved grassland. The excavated soil was sown with a mix of wildflower seeds that are appropriate to the habitat.

With some of the seed being sourced from nearby chalk grasslands. The creation of this habitat will bring biodiversity benefits to this part of the campus; chalk grasslands support intricate plant communities and many of the species found there are specialists that are directly dependent on the campus habitat.

on the campus are known to support rare wildflowers. Smaller patches of wildflower meadow (along Sciences Park Road and the eastern edge of car park one) support pyramidal orchid and the white helleborine. Other areas of wildflower meadow provide a unique mix of species; for example, the meadow outside the Attenborough Centre contains annuals such as toadflax and cornflower. Up to 40 species of wildflower have been recorded in the meadow areas here; as well as having a strong visual impact, the wildflowers are hugely beneficial to pollinating insects.

are those that are regularly mown and intensively managed (e.g., lawns, recreational grounds and playing fields). Because of frequent and intensive management, the biodiversity value of amenity grassland tends to be low; for example, these grasslands typically support a low number of wildflower species and lack habitat diversity and structure.

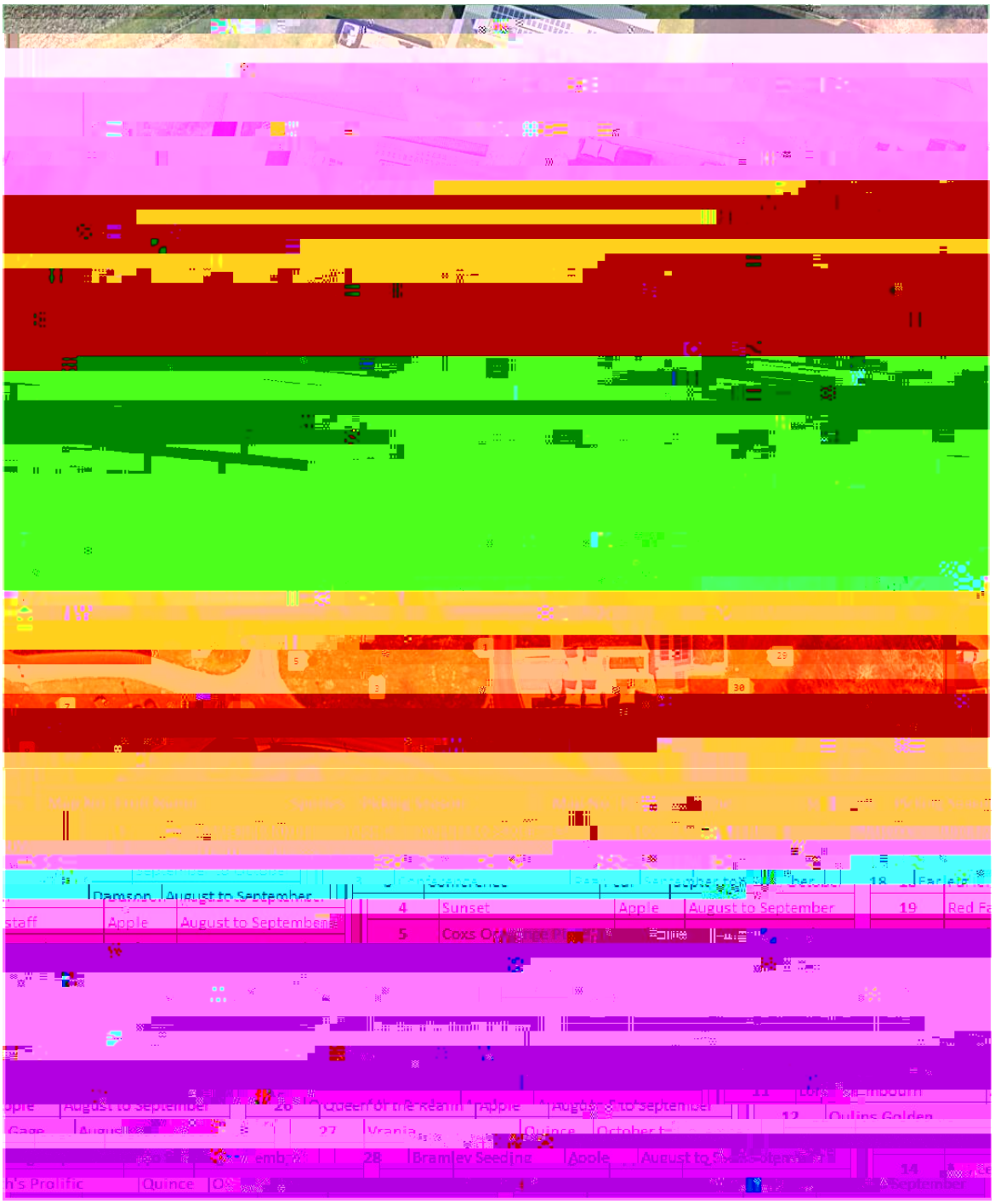
We manage our amenity grasslands to provide several benefits for biodiversity without losing recreational value. Our amenity grassland that borders other habitat types (e.g., woodland or scrub) is of particular value; for example, grass that is short (~5 – 15cm), tussock and damp provide ideal

1) Installing interpretation materials across the site in 2022 has promoted the wildlife value of the grassland areas and explained the reasons behind the various management regimes to staff, students, and visitors, for example along the boundary walk and on information lecterns,

Alternatively, you can continue with the boundary walk by going straight ahead up a winding and

Fruit Tree Planting Project 2022-2025

Supporting biodiversity within our arboricultural arena is high on our environmental planning list of objectives, particularly when supporting our social insects and pollinators.



On the 1st of December 2022 we planted 30 fruit trees within the Northfields accommodation estate to create a natural corridor between our existing woodland cops and neighbouring farmland, increasing the social insect activity.

Regular inspection and maintenance has ensured that all trees have established, and expectation is high for 2025 fruiting and increased pollinator activity

Grounds Maintenance Service Line 2024

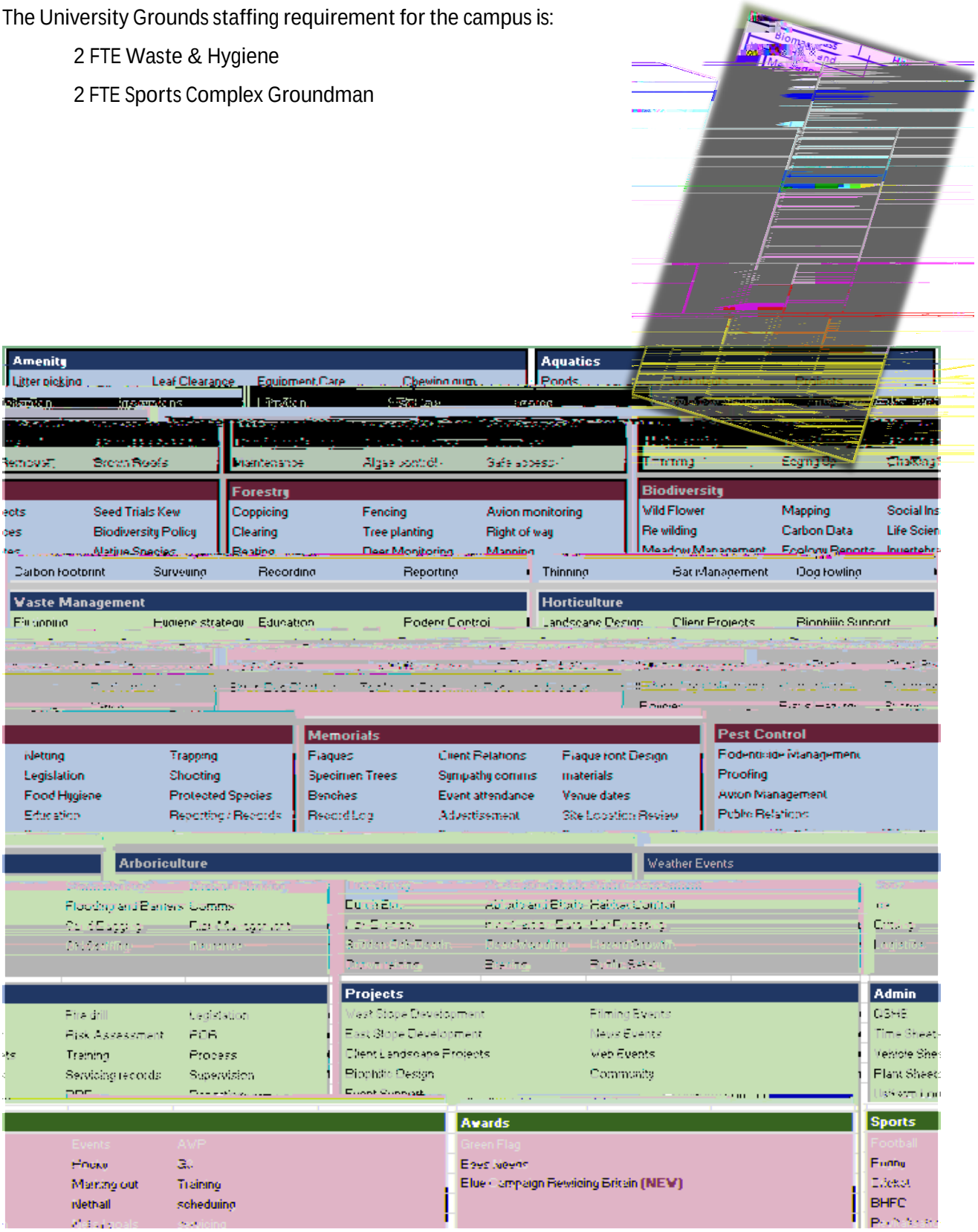
Our campus grounds cover a footprint that includes a biomass.

The amenity lawn area alone is equal to

The University Grounds staffing requirement for the campus is:

2 FTE Waste & Hygiene

2 FTE Sports Complex Groundman



Grounds Maintenance Schedule 2024

Grounds Maintenance is delivered using a planned yearly schedule ensuring a consistent standard of service.

The schedule is revised yearly by the Grounds Manager and staff to support University core service variations such as Exams, Events, Open days, and VIP Visits.

This also includes a reactive attendance requirement.

Grass Cutting and Seeding

We generally manage amenity lawn to a height of not more than 50mm, however adjustments are implemented depending on nutritional needs of some plant species, example, clippings are left on the grass to replace nutrients in some areas and cut and collected in others to ensure wild species (such as orchids) are allowed to grow.

Our priority is the clearance of main roads and paths across campus to allow access and keep everybody safe and informed as far as is reasonably practicable to do so.

To allow these routes to be cleared some areas of the campus are off limits after periods of heavy snowfall or very low temperatures, closed paths, steps and car parks are marked by barriers and signs. Advice on our campus weather event process is available for review via University HSO.

campus

Pest Control

Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)

Sussex Estates and Facilities provide self-delivery of the planned and reactive Pest Control Service for the University of Sussex grounds and properties, using modern equipment and methods, 24 hours a day.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is our sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health and environmental risks.

The University of Sussexhas seen a dramatic decrease of rodent activity from the conception of

Record Keeping and Public Access to Information

We maintain records

Hygiene Inspections

The inspections are undertaken by our in-house SEF BPCA qualified staff that have extensive industry experience; this type of inspection is not to be confused with a Local Authority enforced public health inspection.

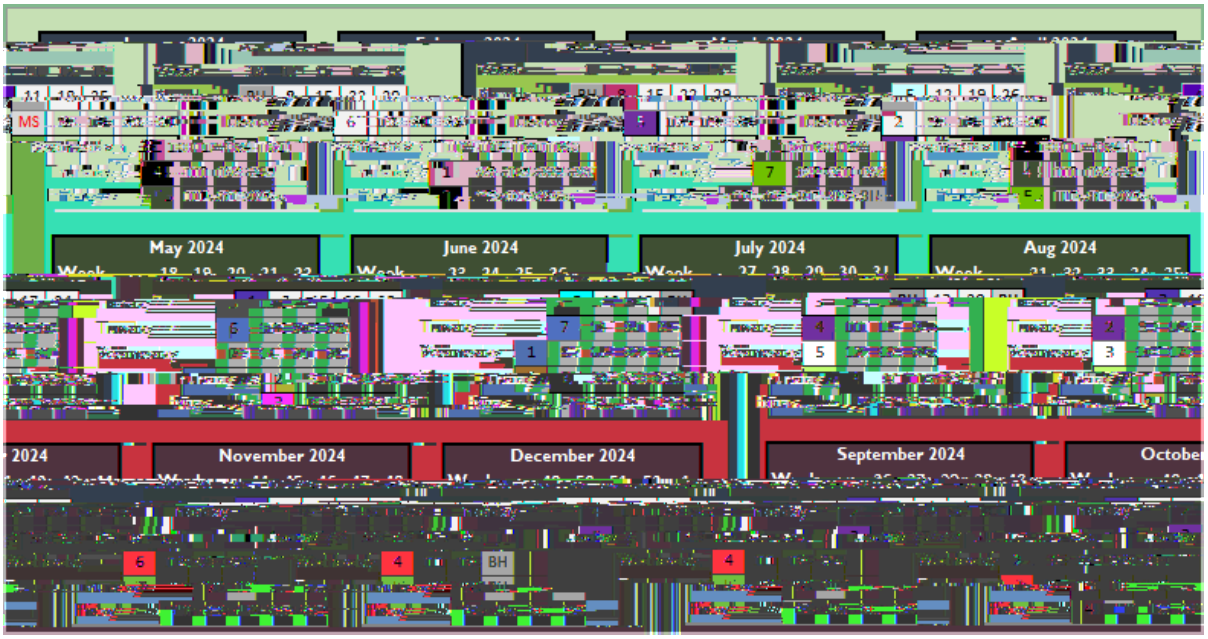
All our campus catering outlets are issued with our Pest Control Folder containing contact details for their pest control technician and other important documentation, specific to their needs, such as;

1) Attendance Record
2) Monthly report sheet / Recommendations
3) Rodenticide Insecticide application (COSHH Sheet)
4) Risk Assessment
5) Product Data Sheets

Adequate procedures to control pests within our campus are in place and include.

1) Proofing of entrances and other entrance points
2) Insect screens

Catering Outlet - inspection Schedule 2024



Sussex in Transition

Sussex in Transition

Environmental Sustainability

Aerobic Digester

Our campus was the first University in the UK to install an aerobic digester, successfully reducing our food waste production by 70%.

We use the enriched fertilizer that has been generated within our horticultural projects such as the SU Allotment Group (Roots), the forest fruit garden and within our core grounds maintenance service line.

Solar Energy

Our solar energy infrastructure is the largest of its kind within the UK higher education and boasts over 3,000 panels, halving our carbon emissions and one of the core attributes within our journey, to become the

Health and Safety

The Landscape Services Co-Ordinator/Grounds Manager has the responsibility for ensuring safe working practices within the Landscape Services Team; Risk Assessments and safe working practices are in place and are reviewed regularly. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Assessments are recorded and updated as required.

The University Health and Safety Management Team have developed their own health and safety policy and procedures. All necessary precautions are taken to ensure that the grounds can be used with minimal risk of accident or injury.

Since 1961 more trees have been planted. In 2012 a new woodland was planted, which includes 2,500 mixed trees, to celebrate both the University's 50th anniversary and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and as stated in 4. Community Engagement more trees have been planted in 2016.

Further plans are also being put together for more greenspace – including a new 'Great Court' on the east side of the campus and new public square in the north of the campus which will echo Fulton Square (Library Square).

In addition, a ground-breakin

Biodiversity Management Map