

## Biodiversity site survey and audit

Auditing your site before changes or plans are made, to incorporate biodiversity, will help to develop an appropriate plan.

- At a school level, staff and pupils can be involved – for example as part of an Eco- Schools Environmental audit  
<http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainable-development-education/eco-schools/seven-elements/environmental-review/>
- At a professional ecologist level this can be done in tandem with a BREEAM assessment.
- The EAUC [Biodiversity on Campus](#) guide has useful information and case studies. Although aimed specifically at higher and further education sites the principles are the same for many sites. Have a look at their [biodiversity plan](#) and [biodiversity survey](#) sections in particular.

### Use a site survey or audit to identify:

- Species and or habitats on site that should be safeguarded.
- Landscape, amenity (e.g. active play areas, parent waiting areas) and teaching use.
- Areas with potential to become more important through changes to management regime or by habitat creation. Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs), delivered through [Local Biodiversity Partnerships](#) in most local authority areas, can be valuable tools for actively involving local communities in the development and management of habitat networks.
- Species initiatives that could be undertaken (erection of nesting boxes, provision of food plants). Again LBAPs are valuable.
- Existing beneficial management practices.
- Existing detrimental management practices.
- Areas earmarked for development.

### Make a Biodiversity Action Plan

A biodiversity action plan can help you set long term objectives and develop an implementation programme that will:

- State what is needed to achieve the objectives
- Set targets and deadlines
- Agree responsibilities for staff, where appropriate
- Develop ways of monitoring the work
- Obtain institutional commitment to the plan at all levels
- Implement the plan
- Inform partners about progress ( local authority services/ contractor/ landscape architect, wider school community, school management, staff, pupils, grounds maintenance/ facilities managers)
- Review the plan regularly

The EAUC Biodiversity on Campus Guide has a range of helpful case studies within its sections [http://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/eauc\\_biodiversity\\_guide](http://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/eauc_biodiversity_guide) .