



University
of Exeter

Sustainability University of Exeter

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10/9/2026

U3A – University of the Third Age

Sustainability Team

- Professional Services
- 20 staff members
- Work in conjunction with other teams

Working on various areas including:

- Carbon and Energy
- Circular Economy
- Travel and Transport
- Nature and Biodiversity
- Sustainable Living & Education
- Reporting, Benchmarking and Data
- Communications & Engagement



STRATEGY 2030

Sustainability Strategy (in development)

Nature Positive Strategy

Climate Strategy

Strategies and policies that contribute to delivering our Nature Positive and Climate strategies:

Sustainable
Transport
Strategy and
Travel Policy

Circular Economy
Strategy

Infrastructure
Decarbonisation
Masterplan

Sustainable Food
Policy and
Action Plan

Responsible
Procurement
Strategy

Sustainability
Communication
& Engagement
Strategy

Investment Policy

Technical Strategy

Research & Impact
Strategy

AI Policy and
Strategy

Global
Strategy

Education Strategy
and C4C

Faculty and Professional Services Sustainability Plans

Strategies and policies

- These are backed up with action plans and available on our website

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/about/sustainability/policy/strategiespoliciesandstandards/>



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CLIMATE STRATEGY

OUR OBJECTIVES

Achieve net zero with a focus on reducing our scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions at source and only use insetting for dealing with residual emissions (maximum 10%)

Be a regional, national and international leader in decarbonisation and support delivery of our Strategy 2030 commitment 'to lead meaningful action against the climate emergency and ecological crisis'

Foster a whole-institution approach, harnessing the expertise, skills, ideas and experience of our University community

Seek progress through partnerships, recognising the strength and value of collaboration in addressing global challenges

OUR TARGETS

Near-term target

To reduce emissions by 26% by 2030 from a 23/24 baseline for all scope 1,2 and 3 categories, with the exception of international student out-of-term travel

Long-term target

To reduce absolute emissions across all scopes, including international student out-of-term travel, by at least 90% by 2050 and use insetting to achieve the balance to net zero

Climate and carbon reduction

- Air source heat pumps at Cornwall House
- Solar PV arrays on building roofs and carparks
- Wind turbines (Penryn)





Metering improvements

The first phase of the metering improvement works – which included a metering survey – has been completed. The outcomes will inform the next phase, which will involve **metering replacements and commissioning**. The overall aim is to enhance real-time data availability and enable better monitoring of our consumption.

In parallel, most high-voltage substations have recently undergone upgrades, with building-level meters also fitted within the substations. In addition, **half-hourly electricity data at building level** is now available for the majority of our buildings, improving visibility and monitoring across our sites.



Energy savings

We have achieved significant energy savings this year, with notable reductions in both gas and electricity consumption during 2024/25 compared to the previous year. **Gas consumption has reduced by 2%** compared to the previous year.

LED lighting replacements

Our lighting replacement programme with LED luminaires is continuing to deliver energy savings and is planned for completion in 2029 when the programme will deliver a total annual **carbon saving of 650 tonnes each year**.



Additional PV installation

This year, we have **increased our overall annual solar generated energy supply to over 2,760 MWh**, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and supporting our net zero targets.

The installation of the solar panels on the Physics Building completed in March 2025 and is expected to generate **430 MWh of clean energy per year** (equivalent to providing energy to over 90 domestic households) and **saving 90 tonnes of CO₂ per year**.

In May 2025, we completed installations on two additional buildings: Richards Building (St Luke's) and Holland Hall.

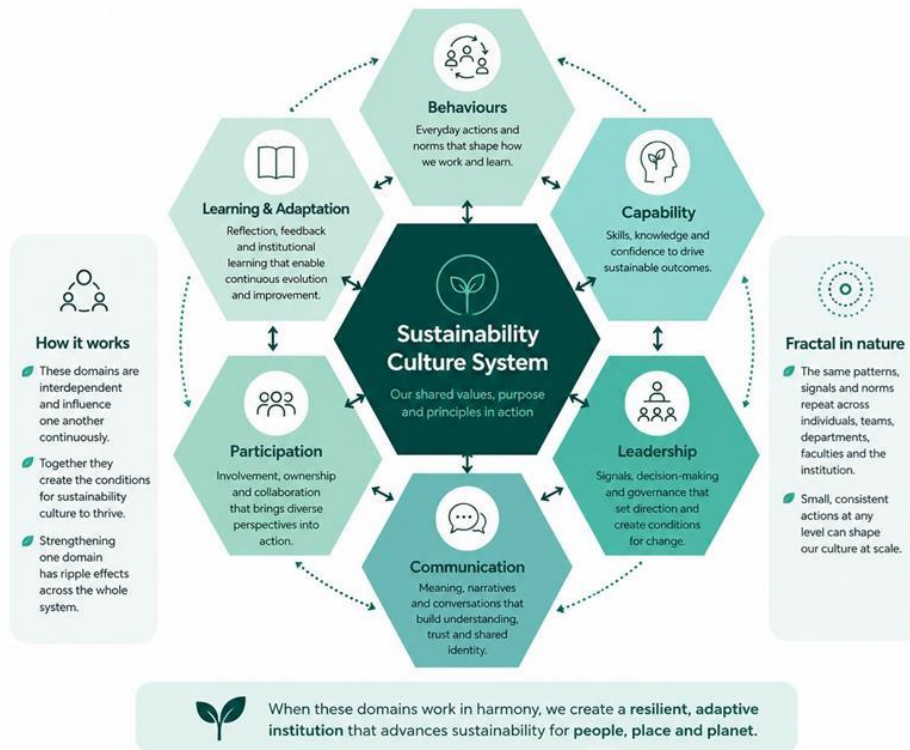
More installations are planned for 2025/26.

Engagement and culture change

- Threaded throughout all we do
- **Culture Change Task and Finish group**
- Student focus groups
- **Green Seeds** – student led informal sustainability discussion sessions

The Sustainability Culture System

An integrated system of connected domains that shape and reinforce sustainability culture across the University.





Comms & Engagement

A growing Instagram account -

@uoesustainability where we promote out events, activities and those happening in the local community + Eventbrite (scan QR code)

Sustainability Student Focus Group now set up with 10 selected students to give us feedback on our activities at 3 sessions throughout the academic year

Development of **an interactive sustainability guide** on our website -
<https://digital.exeter.ac.uk/climate-companion-pack/>



Edit Profile

View archive



Freshers 25



G.Consultants



SDGs



GRI



Our favs



Tips



New



Currently, most of what we consume flows through a linear 'take, make, waste' economy, in which products and materials are made, used and then thrown away.

A recycling economy still follows a linear path but incorporates recycling at the end-of-life stage. Materials are recovered and reused to some extent but not fully addressing resource extraction and product design.

A circular economy, by contrast, focuses on **regeneration, restoration and re-use** at all stages of a resource's life cycle. The waste generated by a linear economy is designed out from the start.

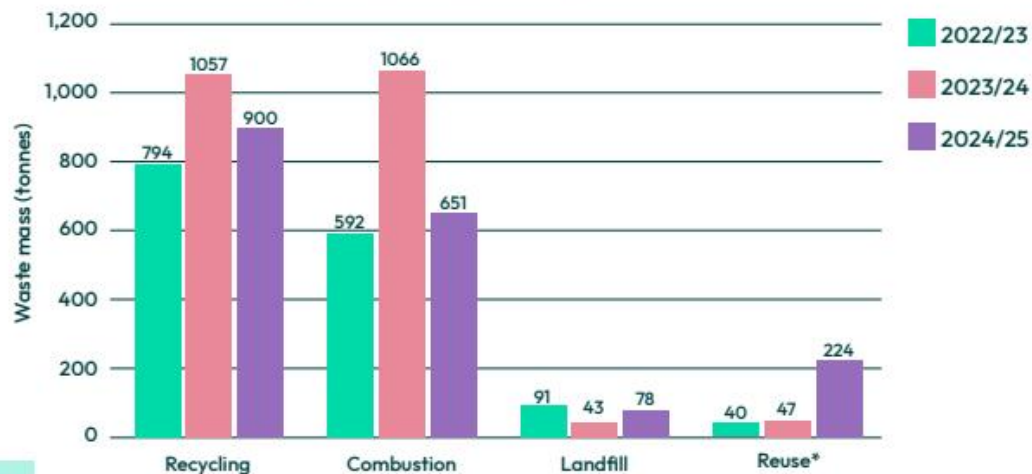


ECCE Community of Practice.



embedding circular economy thinking into core University functions. The event brought together staff from estates, procurement, research, operations and education to explore how UoE can lead by example in designing out waste, keeping materials in use and creating regenerative systems.

Figure 5: Waste by weight (tonnes) covering Streatham, St Luke's and Penryn – 22/23 vs 23/24 vs 24/25



* Incomplete Penryn data.

Circular Economy



[Circular Economy and Sustainable Resource Management Strategy](#)



Repair Café – open to students, staff and community members to get things fixed and reduce the demand for new items. Next event: October 2026.

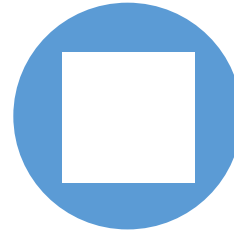


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Questions? Email Meg
(m.haslam@exeter.ac.uk)



Gift it Reuse it – scheme based in halls of residence which collects donations from departing students and redistributes them to incoming students for free



WARPit (Waste Action Reuse Portal) (for staff & students) – an online portal which allows exchanging of unwanted items (e.g. office furniture) for free between those at the University



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Gift it Reuse it

	2024	2025
Number of items	8,554	15,030
Total weight of items in kg	1,623	3,530
CO2 emissions equivalent (CO2e) saved	10kg	16kg
Cost savings for students (estimate)	£15,000 - 20,000	£30,000-£40,000





Repair Café

2025-26 Round-up



4

events
between Nov
2025 and
June 2026

Funded by the

Sustainability
PROJECTS FUND

+250 attendees
across all
events



573 worth of items
prevented from
becoming waste
kg



The **Repair Café** is about **extending** the life of products, **reducing reliance on single-use** items and **reconnecting** people with the **value** of what they own.



But these events are as much about **connection** as they are about repair. Volunteers **share skills** with students, conversations spark between strangers and people leave not just with fixed items but with **new knowledge**.

Travel and transport

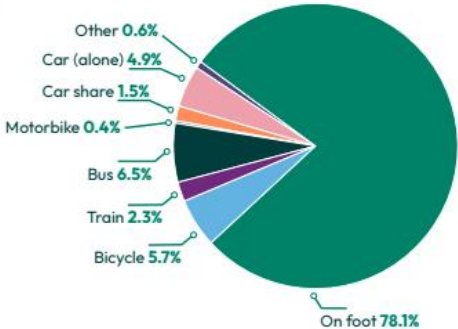


With 30,000 students and 6,000 staff, our travel emissions are a significant part of our overall footprint.

Our Sustainable Transport Strategy 2024–2030 encourages the use of **environmentally responsible transport options** for commuting. Complementing this, the University's Travel Policy integrates sustainability into decision-making for business travel and applies to all staff and students undertaking travel for work or study purposes.

Student modal splits:

Figure 6: Student travel modal split – Streatham / St Luke's 2024/25.

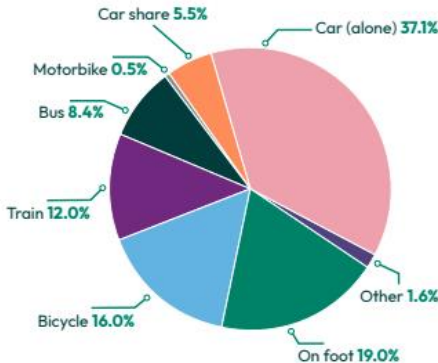


Annual travel surveys

Our annual travel surveys provide valuable data and insights on commuting behaviours across our three campuses and play a crucial role in informing decision-making. In the 2024/25 surveys, we collected **1,231 responses from staff and 883 from students** across Streatham, St Luke's and Penryn campuses. This was a joint survey with Falmouth University. You can find the commuting emissions data in the appendix.

Staff modal splits:

Figure 7: Staff travel modal split – Streatham / St Luke's 2024/25.





Bike infrastructure and initiatives

An external consultant has been commissioned to review sustainable transport infrastructure across the Exeter campuses, including improved cycle and pedestrian permeability, bike parking and charging stations for e-bikes, scooters and cargo bikes.

Innovation Centre Phase 2

As part of the ADA project at the Innovation Centre, **four new showers** were installed, along with two heat pump condensation **drying cabinets** and **33 lockers**.

Bike repair stations

The first **three bicycle repair stations** have been installed in front of Amory, Geoffrey Pope (Streatham) and Staff House (St Luke's).

Dr Bike

In 2024/25, **238 bikes were checked at 13 Dr Bike events** organised with Saddles and Paddles on both Streatham and St Luke's campuses.

New cycle shelters

By November 2025 new cycle shelters will be installed on Streatham Campus (Northcote House, Old Library, Geoffrey Pope, Laver Building) with the creation of **50 new covered cycle parking spaces** in areas with high demand.

Active Devon

Active Devon have started offering  **active devon** **free cycle confidence sessions** on campus. Bikes and helmets can be borrowed and instructors tailor each session to the attendee's personal goals. 45 people have attended so far and monthly sessions are being organised for 2025/26.

Abandoned bikes

Over **70 abandoned bicycles have been donated to Ride On** weighing around 1 tonne and saving up to 8.6 tonnes of CO₂ being produced. They will be repaired and resold at affordable prices.

Liftshare – car sharers travelled 89,000 miles:



Public transport

Line 4 and UNI night bus

In 2024/25, the Stagecoach Line 4 bus **carried 523,000 passengers**, a 270% increase compared to 2022/23 and 230% compared to 2023/24. Since September 2024, University staff have been able to benefit from free intercampus business travel on Lines 4/4A, Monday–Friday, 7:00–19:00, as well as free travel from St David's railway station. The new UNI bus night service, running three nights a week during term time, was extended to connect the Duryard and Birks Grange residences with St David's Station and Exeter city centre.

Car share

Liftshare



In March 2025, the **new Mobilityways app** was launched to make the Liftshare platform easier to use.

In 2024/25, 127 members of the car sharing community made **6,800 shared journeys**, travelling 89,000 miles and saving around 17.5 tonnes of CO₂. There were **100 new members** and 20 new teams created.

Car club

An agreement has been drawn up with Devon County Council to arrange parking for the bike club and car club on University campuses in Exeter. The **car club provider has been identified**. The bike club tender did not receive any bids despite considerable interest.

Sustainability Annual Report 2024/25

Food & Drink



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Food and Drink

Sustainability
Report 2024/25



REPORT

4597 litre
reduction in dairy
milk use compared
with last year.

Check out our annual
report summary
videos on Instagram

Nearly half of all
hot drinks - 46.4% -
were served in
reusable cups



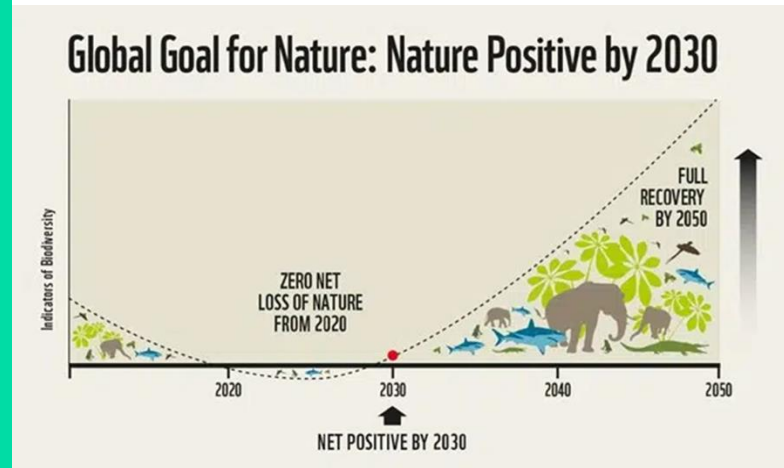
INSTA

Becoming a nature positive University

Nature Positive means halting and reversing nature loss so that species and ecosystems start to recover.

- In response to -
 - **Global biodiversity loss**, driven by changing use of sea and land, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution and invasive non-native species (IPBES)
 - Enshrined in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022)... “we need to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss”

Global goal for nature -
“Nature positive - More nature in the world in 2030 than in 2020”



Nature Positive Universities Alliance



[Study](#) [Research](#) [Business](#) [Alumni and supporters](#) [Our departments](#) [Visiting us](#) [About us](#)

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News

[News archive](#)

Exeter joins new Nature Positive Universities Alliance

The University of Exeter is among the members of the new [Nature Positive Universities Alliance](#), launched today at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal.

Announced by the University of Oxford and UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the alliance is a global network of universities that have made an official pledge to work towards a "nature positive" goal.

All members aim to halt, prevent and reverse nature loss through addressing their own impacts and restoring ecosystems harmed by their activities.

This push is part of the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#), a movement to avert climate catastrophe and mass extinction.



Reed Hall Arboretum. Credit Vikki Price.

- Restoring species and ecosystems that have been harmed by the impacts of a university and its activities and enhancing the university's positive impacts on nature.
- **Nature Positive Pledge** – we must have a baseline, smart targets, and report annually and publicly

Our Nature Positive Strategy



- 1) **Improve the biodiversity value of University Campuses** by maintaining a sustainable and well-connected ecosystem with viable wildlife populations on university landholdings and reduce impacts of estates operations and capital projects on biodiversity.
- 2) **Increase the natural capital* value of University campuses** and areas we can influence.
- 3) **Increase how we engage/connect people with nature** (via teaching, volunteering, research).
- 4) **Provide positive benefits** to staff, students and local communities as a result of nature-based interventions.**
- 5) **Reduce the impact of our operations, supply chain and global activities** on biodiversity and the environment.



**Natural capital is the stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources (geology, soil, air, water and living organisms) that combine to yield a flow of benefits to people*

***Nature-based interventions or solutions – working with nature to address societal challenges and provide solutions which benefit both nature and people*

Nature Positive – Action Plan

Grounds and
their
Maintenance

Built and
Grounds

Operations

Teaching
and
Research

Engagement

Monitoring



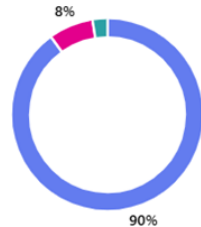


Trial of red lighting

- Next to some bat roosts of bat species known to be light sensitive
- Red is generally considered the lowest impact light colour for bats
- **Survey online since March 2025**
- 40 responses

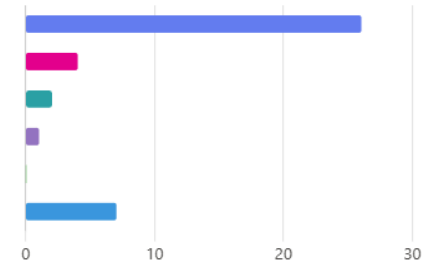
8. Do you support the University installing more wildlife friendly red lighting on footpaths on campus?

• Yes I support	36
• No I don't support	3
• I don't know	1



4. How safe do you feel using the footpath with the new red lighting?

• Very safe	26
• Somewhat safe	4
• Neither safe nor unsafe	2
• Somewhat unsafe	1
• Very unsafe	0
• Don't know	7



Mowing mosaics and enhancing grassland



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Lower Hoopern Valley - Our aims for the Valley

- Enhancing biodiversity and 'environmental services', such as helping reduce water run-off and improve water quality.
- Improve access, education opportunities and engagement with our local community.
- Provide a place for research.
- Carbon sequestration (planting some habitats which store carbon such as trees and hedges).

Questions? Contact Ros (r.shaw@exeter.ac.uk).



Access enhancements



New foot bridge over existing culvert of unknown safety



New fully accessible 200m path, accessed from Prince of Wales Road



Lockable noticeboards, so we can keep people updated

Questions? Contact Ros (r.shaw@exeter.ac.uk)



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What's been going on in the Valley

Biodiversity enhancements



- Two new hedges planted with University colleagues, students and local community
- Trees planted into bramble patches to enhance scrub diversity.
- Trees surviving well despite the dry summer!
 - 85% alive alongside cycle path near Velwell Road
 - ~90% alive alongside Prince of Wales Road



Nature-based flood management

Biodiversity enhancements

- We worked with the Environment Agency, Centre for Resilient Environment, Waste and Water (CREWW), UoE Grounds Team and UoE Estates
- Installed 20 leaky dams and woody flow spreaders, plus woody chevrons, gully stuffing in September 2025
- Wood used was from campus or from taking down low relatively biodiversity value trees next to the brook – which also helps reduce shading



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwXvfchv57Q>



Biodiversity monitoring

Citizen science schemes – 2025 results

- RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch – 12 species of bird
- Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count – 403 butterflies
- UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme – 420 butterflies from 17 species
- Bumblebee Conservation Trust's BeeWalk – 100 bees from 11 species

Expert led surveys

- Dormouse survey
 - New record in the north of campus

Sustainability at the
University of Exeter
EventBrite



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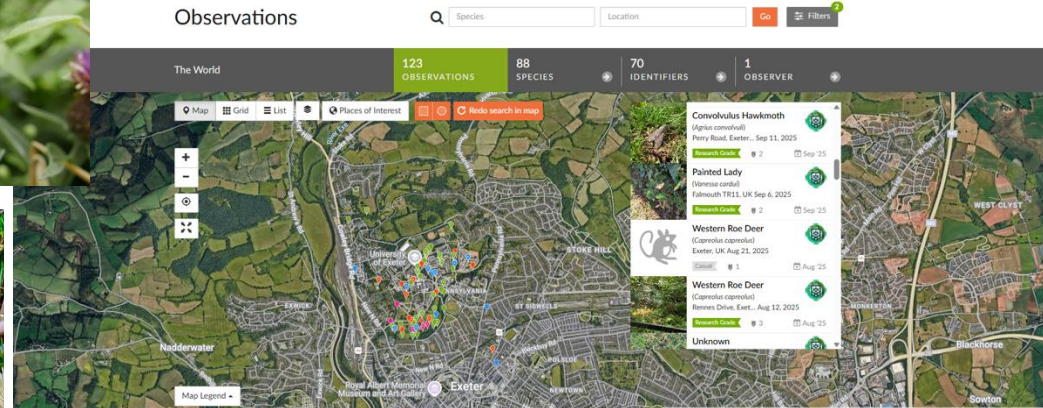
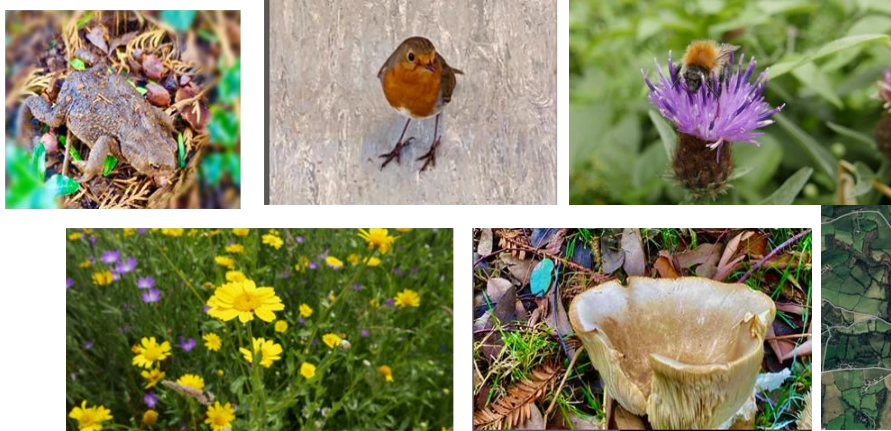
Start using iNaturalist

- Help the University track its biodiversity and impact
- Identify any wildlife you see on campus or round our sports pitches – or get help with things you don't know
- Download the free app on iOS or Android
- Make observations by taking or adding photos
- Join the campus biodiversity project



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Join our project here
Or search on iNaturalist:
**Wild on Campus – Exeter
Campuses Biodiversity**



Engaging people with nature and biodiversity monitoring

City Nature Challenge 2026!

A global biodiversity recording event – we entered Exeter for the first time

Working with
partners and
supporters across
Exeter, 24th -27th April

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE IS ORGANIZED BY



CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES



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FRIENDS OF HOOPER VALLEY
SUSTAINING NATURE BUILDING COMMUNITY



DEVON
BAT
GROUP



Exeter
City Council



Devon
Wildlife Trust



National
Trust



Devon Wildlife
Consultants



Met Office

South West Lichen Group

145 attendees
across 22 events

Organising group of 5
(4 from UoE)

504 species recorded
in 1533 observations



FUTURE PLANS!

City Nature Challenge 20207

**30th April – 3rd May
2027**

Please share with
anyone who might like
to run a biodiversity
recording event – you
can be a formal partner
organisation (and an
organisation can be an
individual)– or just run
one!

sustainability@exeter.ac.uk
or
r.shaw@exeter.ac.uk



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Get in touch anytime

Keep an eye on the website



<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/about/sustainability/>

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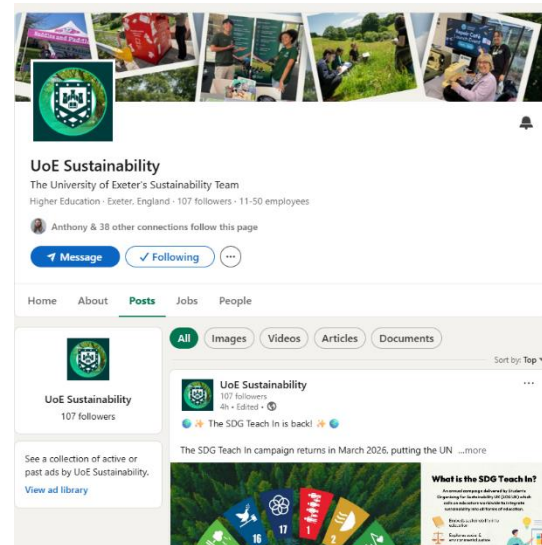
sustainability@exeter.ac.uk

Meg – m.haslam@exeter.ac.uk

Ros – r.shaw@exeter.ac.uk

repaircafe@Exeter.ac.uk – email

if you want to come along and
get something repaired or want
to volunteer as a repairer!



Thank you
Any questions?



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