



Nottingham Trent  
University

Brackenhurst Campus

# Landscape Management Plan

---

Date: January 2026

Version: 01  
Date: 22/02/13

Author: ST

---

Version: 02  
Date: 31/01/14

Author: CPH

---

Version: 03  
Date: 30/01/15

Author: CPH

---

Version: 04  
Date: 29/01/16

Author: SB

---

Version: 05  
Date: 19/01/17

Author: ZT

---

Version: 06  
Date: 26/01/18

Author: KDM

---

Version: 07  
Date: 28/01/19

Author: OH

---

Version: 08  
Date: 29/01/20

Author: HT

---

Version: 09  
Date: 10/02/22

Author: SR

Version: 10  
Date: 31/01/24

Author: JM

---

Version: 11  
Date: 01/12/25

Author: JM

---

## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Introduction and Background.....                                 | 5  |
| 1.1. Location.....  | 6  |
| 1.2. Current Use.....   | 7  |
| 1.3. History.....   | 7  |
| 1.4. The Gardens and Grounds.....                                   | 8  |
| 1.5. Home Farm.....   | 12 |
| 1.6. Outdoor Classroom.....   | 12 |
| 1.7. Hedgerows.....   | 13 |
| 1.8. Campus Development and Sustainable Infrastructure.....         | 13 |
| 1.9. Biodiversity Commitment at NTU.....                            | 14 |
| 2. A Welcoming Place.....   | 16 |
| 2.1. Good and Safe Access.....                                      | 17 |
| 2.2. Signage.....   | 17 |
| 2.3. Equal Access for All.....                                      | 18 |
| 3. Health, Safety and Security.....                                 | 19 |
| 3.1. Appropriate Provision of Quality Facilities and Equipment..... | 20 |
| 3.2. Safe Equipment and Facilities.....                             | 20 |
| 3.3. Personal Security.....   | 22 |
| 3.4. Health and Safety.....   | 22 |
| 3.5. Accident and Incident Reporting.....                           | 22 |
| 3.6. Dog Fouling.....   | 25 |
| 3.7. Working Hours.....   | 25 |
| 4. Cleanliness and Maintenance.....                                 | 26 |
| 4.1. Litter and Waste Management.....                               | 27 |
| 4.2. Horticultural Maintenance.....                                 | 27 |
| 4.3. Tree Maintenance.....  | 28 |
| 4.4. Hedgerow Management.....                                       | 30 |
| 4.5. Building and Infrastructure Maintenance.....                   | 30 |
| 4.6. Equipment Maintenance.....                                     | 30 |
| 4.7. Maintenance Planning.....                                      | 30 |
| 5. Environmental Management.....                                    | 31 |
| 5.1. Managing Environmental Impacts.....                            | 32 |
| 5.2. ISO 14001.....   | 32 |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 5.3. Pesticides and Herbicides .....                             | 32 |
| 5.4. Composting and Elimination of Pesticide Use .....           | 33 |
| 5.5. Nottingham City Transport (NCT) Number 26 .....             | 33 |
| 5.6. Cycling.....  | 33 |
| 5.7. Electric Vehicles.....                                      | 34 |
| 5.8. Solar Photovoltaic Panels (PV) .....                        | 34 |
| 5.9. Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Plant .....                   | 34 |
| 5.10. Biomass Boiler .....                                       | 34 |
| 5.12. Environmental Management Review Committee.....             | 34 |
| 5.13. Engagement .....   | 35 |
| 5.14. Climate Change and Adaptation .....                        | 35 |
| 6. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage .....                    | 36 |
| 6.1. Management of Natural Features, Wild Fauna, and Flora ..... | 37 |
| 6.2. Water Conservation .....                                    | 39 |
| 6.3. Planting Policy .....                                       | 41 |
| 6.4. Conservation of Landscape Features.....                     | 41 |
| 6.6. Heritage Conservation .....                                 | 43 |
| 6.7. Rose Garden Pergolas.....                                   | 44 |
| 6.8. Gatehouse Wall .....  | 44 |
| 6.9. Gates to Walled Garden.....                                 | 44 |
| 6.10. Bramley Apple Tree .....                                   | 45 |
| 7. Community Involvement .....                                   | 47 |
| 7.1. Community Events.....                                       | 47 |
| 7.2. Flower Pod.....   | 49 |
| 7.3. Hedgehog Friendly Campus (HFC).....                         | 50 |
| 7.4. Community Access .....                                      | 50 |
| 7.5. Conferences, Catering and Room Hire .....                   | 51 |
| 7.6. Sports Facilities.....                                      | 51 |
| 8.1. Marketing and Promotion .....                               | 53 |
| 8.2. Communication Channels .....                                | 53 |
| 8.3. Educational and Interpretational Information .....          | 53 |
| 9. Management .....  | 55 |
| 9.1. Management Structure.....                                   | 55 |
| 9.2. Project Funding.....  | 55 |
| 9.3. Management Priorities .....                                 | 55 |
| Appendices .....   | 57 |

Appendix A – Sample Maintenance Plan ..... 57  
Appendix B – Implementation Plan ..... 60  
Appendix C – Brackenhurst Habitat Map ..... 61  
Appendix D – Brackenhurst Campus Map of Access ..... 70



## Section 1: Introduction and Background

# 1. Introduction and Background

## 1.1. Location

Nottingham Trent University's Brackenhurst Campus is a picturesque 200-hectare rural estate in Nottinghamshire, situated just south of the historic town of Southwell. The estate features a blend of academic buildings and infrastructure, alongside expansive farmland, tranquil woodlands, and beautifully maintained gardens.

### 1.1.1. Getting There by Road

- From the M1 motorway, take any of the Nottingham exits (Junctions 24, 25, or 26). Travel through Nottingham city centre and follow the A612 towards Southwell.
- From the A1, exit at Newark and follow signs for Southwell. Brackenhurst is located approximately one mile beyond Southwell on the A612.

### 1.1.2. Public Transport

Brackenhurst is served by Nottingham City Transport's Pathfinder 26 bus route, which connects Nottingham city centre with Southwell. Buses depart every 30 minutes, with an average journey time of around 40 minutes.



2025 Map of Brackenhurst Campus

## 1.2. Current Use

Brackenhurst Campus has been a centre for land-based education for over 60 years, maintaining the character of its historic house, gardens, grounds, and parkland throughout. Originally a Farm Institute, it became a College of Further Education in 1993 and formally merged with Nottingham Trent University in 1999. It now operates as the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences (ARES), which has doubled in size over the past decade to support a growing and diverse student body.

As both a working farm and wildlife haven, Brackenhurst offers extensive facilities including lecture theatres, residential accommodation, glasshouses, veterinary nursing centre, animal unit, food laboratories, cattle roundhouse, and engineering workshops. These support innovative teaching and research in animal, rural, and environmental sciences.

The campus also hosts a British Horse Society (BHS) approved Equestrian Centre, featuring an indoor arena, outdoor school, and stabling for around 60 horses. It operates under a full local authority riding school licence.

## 1.3. History

Brackenhurst's origins date back to 1827, when Reverend Thomas Coats Cane of Halloughton acquired 37 acres of land and built the Main Hall in 1828. A Cambridge-educated clergyman and landowner, Cane farmed cattle and pigs on the estate, establishing its agricultural roots.

In 1899, William Norton Hicking purchased the property and significantly enhanced the house and gardens. Between 1899 and 1919, he introduced a range of ornamental features including the Dew Pond—believed to be the first in the UK to fill naturally from rainwater—alongside a willow-pattern bridge, boat house, Japanese Wilderness, Sunken Garden, Orangery, Rose Garden, and Italian statuary. He also planted tree-lined avenues leading to the Main Hall and expanded the estate to 250 acres, becoming a nationally recognised breeder of dairy shorthorns.

By 1901, the house was named Brackenhurst Hall. The Main Hall and surrounding buildings continued to evolve, with additions such as the roof balustrade, chimneys, tower, and the integration of the original coach house. Mature trees, including notable cedars, date from the 1830s. During the First World War, Brackenhurst Hall served as one of Nottinghamshire's auxiliary hospitals. It later hosted a regional weather station, contributing daily data to national records.

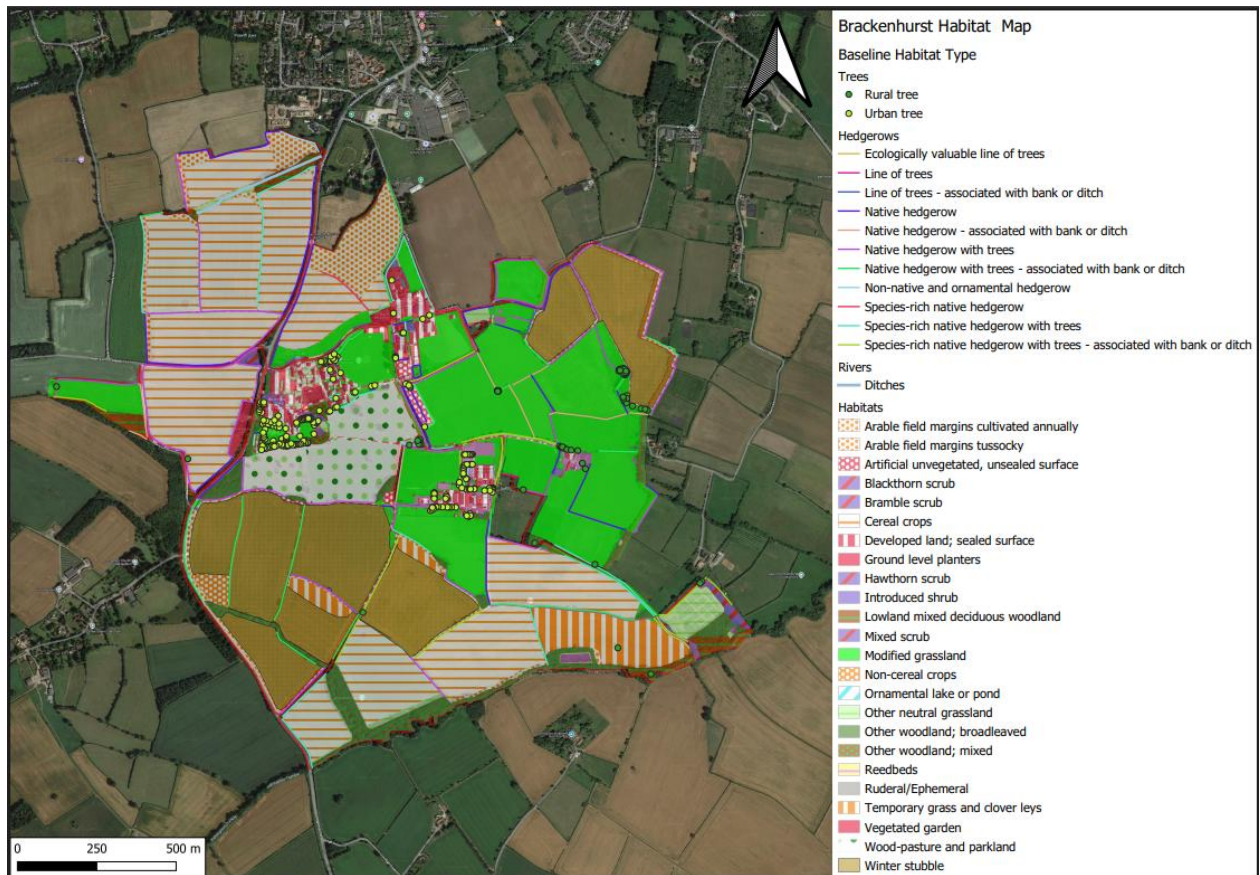
In response to post-war food shortages and the need for skilled farm workers, the Ministry of Agriculture established the Nottingham Farm Institute at Brackenhurst in 1947. The estate was chosen for its combination of farmland and a substantial hall. The Council acquired the Hall and 260 acres, and by 1964 had added conference facilities, laboratories, and residential buildings. In 1999, the institute formally became part of Nottingham Trent University. Despite changes over time, Brackenhurst has remained a centre for land-based learning ever since.



*Brackenhurst Hall, Estimated 1918*

#### **1.4. The Gardens and Grounds**

In 1928, the gardens at Brackenhurst were landscaped in the style of Sir Edwin Lutyens. This included an Italianate courtyard, a sunken Dutch garden, a Rose Garden, a Japanese rock garden, and a teardrop-shaped Dew Pond set within ornamental woodland, complete with a boathouse and 'willow-pattern' bridge. Figure 1 provides the most current plan of the campus grounds.



**Figure 1: Habitat Map of Brackenhurst Campus**

**1.4.1. Historical Entrance to the Brackenhurst Estate**

The estate’s original entrance features a Grade II listed gateway and railings arranged in a semi-circle, leading to the Grade II listed Lodge and a tree-lined avenue that once served as the main approach to the Hall. Mature shrubs and broadleaved trees along Nottingham Road provide visual screening.

**1.4.2. Rose Garden**

Located south of the Lyth Building, the Rose Garden is laid out in an elongated oval with a semi-circular pond and low wall at its southern end. Restored by students in 2009 with alumni support, the garden now features a diverse collection of roses, a commemorative sundial, and seating.

**1.4.3. Sunken Garden & Dew Pond**

East of the Main Hall and adjacent to the Orangery (now the Students’ Union Café), the Sunken Garden is a formal, rectangular space with paved paths, flowerbeds, and a central pond. South of this lies a formal lawn, leading to the Japanese Wilderness and Dew Pond. The pond is fed by rainwater collected from the Main Hall roof and drained via a ha-ha. A timber-shingled boathouse and a ‘willow-pattern’ bridge complete the setting.



*Historic Image of the Rose Garden Pond*

#### **1.4.4. Walled Garden**

The Edwardian Walled Garden and Potting Sheds, both Grade II listed, are actively used by staff and students for horticultural training, including planting and pruning.

#### **1.4.5. Cricket Pitch**

Between the campus core and Home Farm Workshops lies a football pitch and cricket square, complete with nets and a pavilion. A boardwalk along the eastern edge links the car park to the main campus footpath. The boardwalk is made of Millboard decking, a material manufactured from recycled materials, and is completely recyclable. To avoid damage to the tree roots, the deck has been mounted on 90mm diameter screw piles, so no excavation was required during construction. The lights along the path are LED and low level to directly light the path. Soft landscaping and redesign of central walking routes around the campus will complement people's experience and interaction with their environment.

#### **1.4.6. Wider Estate**

Beyond the formal gardens, the estate includes sports pitches, a public library with student-designed landscaping, an Equestrian Centre, glasshouses, and a variety of academic, residential,

and specialist buildings. The working farm comprises arable and pastoral land, hedgerows, field ponds, and woodland. Sheepwalk's Pond and bird hide, southeast of Brackenhurst Farmhouse, are accessible via public and permissive footpaths. Several rights of way cross the estate. A heritage orchard is currently being established, with the goal of planting every apple variety developed in Nottinghamshire. Around 30 trees have already been planted near South Hill House by staff and student volunteers.



*Edwardian Walled Garden*



*Boathouse and Bridge of the Dew Pond*

## 1.5. Home Farm

Brackenhurst Campus operates a working farm that supports around 75 Lincoln Red suckler beef cows, 2 stock bulls, and produces approximately 50 calves annually. The farm also manages 200 ewes, with lambing season yielding up to 300 lambs each year.

As part of the DEFRA Environmental Stewardship Scheme, Home Farm promotes sustainable land use by combining modern agricultural practices with conservation. The farm spans 53 hectares of permanent pasture, 11 hectares of woodland, and 152 hectares of combinable cropping, all situated on heavy Keuper marl clay soil. Farming is carried out in-house using regenerative mixed methods, including:

- Strip-till drilling
- Cover cropping
- Ruminant rotation
- Band under-sowing to reduce fertiliser use
- Variable rate seed and fertiliser application
- Yield mapping
- Companion cropping
- Soil conditioning
- RTK GPS guidance

In 2022/23, Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) introduced 2.4 ha of flower-rich margins, 9.2 ha of buffer strips, 1.9 ha of winter bird food, and 0.5 ha of bumble bird flower mix. The farm aims to remain productively sustainable while enhancing soil health and biodiversity. 1.6.

## 1.6. Outdoor Classroom

The Brackenhurst estate offers an exceptional outdoor learning environment, providing hands-on experience for student research and fieldwork across a range of land-based courses. The farmland is a key teaching resource, where agriculture students gain practical skills in animal care and farming techniques. Countryside Management students explore native habitats and apply conservation theory in real-world settings.

The estate's bridle paths are used by the Equestrian Centre for practical riding sessions and equine grazing. Conservation students conduct habitat surveys, mammal trapping, and bird ringing, while research projects frequently deploy camera traps to monitor wildlife activity.

Students contribute to the campus-wide iNaturalist Biodiversity Monitoring project by uploading images of flora and fauna, helping inform estate management decisions. Recorded mammal species include foxes, bats, hedgehogs, badgers, roe deer, and hares.



*Camera Trap Image of Roe Deer at Sheep Walks Pond*

### **1.7. Hedgerows**

Hedgerows across the Brackenhurst estate provide vital ecological benefits, serving as habitats, foraging grounds, and wildlife corridors that link woodland and open water areas. They offer seasonal flowers and fruits for birds and insects, enhancing biodiversity and landscape connectivity.

The estate's hedgerows vary in age, species composition, structure, and condition. Many are of historic significance, marking parish boundaries or ancient drove routes, while others, particularly in the northwest fields, are more recent. Overall, the hedges are well maintained and form prominent linear features within the landscape. These hedgerows support a wide range of species of conservation concern, including badgers, hedgehogs, brown hares, stoats, weasels, common shrews, harvest mice, great crested and smooth newts, frogs, and toads.

### **1.8. Campus Development and Sustainable Infrastructure**

Under Nottingham Trent University's Estates Development and Contractor Control Operational Procedure, all new buildings are assessed and, where applicable, must achieve a BREEAM Excellent rating. Major refurbishment projects are also evaluated for environmental performance and certified using the RICS SKA Rating.

NTU is a proud Client Partner of the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS), actively working to reduce the environmental and social impacts of construction. The partnership promotes excellence in site appearance, community engagement, environmental protection, safety, and workforce wellbeing.

NTU continues to invest in sustainable infrastructure across Brackenhurst Campus, with several key developments enhancing both functionality and environmental performance.

- **Library (2013):** Achieved BREEAM Excellent status, placing it among the UK's most sustainable buildings. The design expanded study space and incorporates energy from the onsite biomass boiler.
- **Glasshouse Development (2014):** A 384m<sup>2</sup> glasshouse was added to support landscaping across NTU's estate. With automatic climate control, it facilitates student, academic, and commercial research.
- **The Lyth Building (2020):** Offers modern teaching and social spaces, including a 200-seat lecture theatre with retractable seating, Scale-Up classrooms, a refectory, and a cross-disciplinary research lab.
- **New Accommodation (2020):** Adds 120 student rooms to the existing 300-bed provision. Certified BREEAM Excellent in 2021, the project also funded woodland planting along Brackenhurst Lane and supports future conference hosting.
- **Home Farm Workshops (2023):** Originally built in 1953, the workshops were refurbished to modern standards, reconfiguring 400m<sup>2</sup> of space and adding a foyer, teaching area, and locker room. The project removed asbestos risks and extended the building's lifespan by at least 15 years.
- **Main Hall Refurbishment (2020–2025):** Over the past 5 years, refurbishment of the Grade II listed Main Hall at Brackenhurst has enabled external and internal repairs to improve the weathertightness of the building and services within. [The newly refurbished facility](#) now offers high-quality working spaces with improved heating, lighting, safety aspects, and end-user comfort. Historic features have been reinstated, preserving the building's heritage while enhancing its functionality. This refurbishment not only safeguards the building's future but also provides a more comfortable and efficient environment for colleagues.

### 1.9. Biodiversity Commitment at NTU

Nottingham Trent University aims to be recognised as the most environmentally responsible university in the world, a goal that depends on conserving and enhancing biodiversity across its estate. To support this, NTU is committed to:

- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity within the estate
- Raising awareness among students, staff, and visitors
- Embedding biodiversity into campus planning and management

NTU is a founding signatory of the Nature Positive Universities Alliance, launched at COP15 in Montreal in December 2022. This global network of universities is dedicated to halting and reversing nature loss by addressing institutional impacts and restoring damaged ecosystems.

Aligned with this pledge, NTU has set the following objectives:

- Conduct a baseline biodiversity survey to identify key habitats and species
- Set SMART, ambitious biodiversity targets
- Implement actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- Report progress annually and transparently
- Engage the university community to raise awareness and inspire action

In support of these aims, NTU replaced mown lawn verges with native wildflower strips since 2019 and participates in No Mow May, allowing grass to grow into summer to support pollinators and other invertebrates.



## Section 2: A Welcoming Place

## 2. A Welcoming Place

---

### 2.1. Good and Safe Access

#### 2.1.1. Access & Accessibility

There Brackenhurst Campus is accessed via a main vehicle entrance from the A612 and a pedestrian entrance near the bus stops, with footpaths leading to Lyth and the Main Hall through the gatehouse and rose garden.

Access across the site complies with BS 8300 standards, ensuring inclusive design with level or ramped building entrances and dropped kerbs at most crossings. Paths are made wheelchair- and pushchair-accessible where possible, though some cross uneven terrain. New developments consistently consider accessibility, including ramped access and inclusive features at the Sheep Walks East wildlife hide.

Planting along Nottingham Road maintains clear sight lines while screening built elements in harmony with the rural landscape. North of the main access road, an earth bund with native trees planted during the 2009 BBC "Tree O'clock" event providing additional screening.

#### 2.1.3. Travel & Transport

Brackenhurst's rural location means many students, staff, and visitors travel by private vehicle. However, the regular Pathfinder 26 bus service from Nottingham City Centre provides accessible public transport, with wheelchair spaces and ramps.

On-site parking is available for all users. A student car park in Upper Close Field, a short walk from the main campus, equestrian centre, and animal unit, features a permeable surface to reduce runoff and low-level LED lighting to minimise environmental impact.

Cycle paths connect Brackenhurst to Nottingham and Southwell. NTU works with local partners to promote sustainable travel and conducts biennial travel surveys to monitor progress. Students and staff are encouraged to use the campus bike hire scheme, detailed in **Section 5.6**. There are 42 cycle parking spaces across campus, including an 18-space secure store for student accommodation and additional racks near Bramley reception and the equestrian centre. The Sustainability Team monitors usage to assess future needs.

### 2.2. Signage

Standard road signage on Nottingham Road marks the main entrance to Brackenhurst Campus. On-site signage follows NTU branding and directs vehicles and cyclists to the staff car park near the Bramley building. The rest of the campus is accessible on foot from this point.

Visitor information is provided across the estate, including 27 interpretation boards detailing the site's history, ecology, and management. Fingerposts mark public rights of way, and additional boards offer site details and security contact information. These interpretation boards will be updated as part of NTU's campus-wide signage project from 2026.

Campus maps highlight public routes, board locations, and key features. These will also be reviewed and updated through the signage project. Leaflets with this information are available at Southwell Library, Tourist Information Centre, Leisure Centre, Brackenhurst reception desks, and on NTU's Sustainability webpages.

### **2.3. Equal Access for All**

Brackenhurst Campus is a valuable resource for students, academics, and the wider community. It plays an active role in university life and is widely used by local groups. Robin Hood Way crosses the site via Brackenhurst Campus Lane, with additional public footpaths providing countryside access. Permissive access to other areas is granted under a simple code of conduct.

Community involvement is encouraged through environmental education activities such as pond dipping and farm walks, often hosted for school and community groups. Volunteer groups, including current and former students, the [Conservation Society](#), [South Notts Ringing Group](#), and [Nottinghamshire Bat Group](#), support estate maintenance and wildlife monitoring. These contributions are essential to the long-term conservation of the campus grounds.



## Section 3: Health, Safety and Security

## 3. Health, Safety and Security

---

### 3.1. Appropriate Provision of Quality Facilities and Equipment

Brackenhurst Campus offers a wide range of high-quality facilities to support professional, educational, and recreational needs. These include traditional teaching spaces, specialist animal, agricultural, and horticultural facilities, sports areas, indoor and outdoor social spaces, The Orangery café, and The Refectory. Toilets are available across campus and are kept clean and safe, with most accessible to the public. Outdoor seating is available throughout the campus, including near Main Hall, in the Walled Garden, and at the log circle classroom in the Japanese garden.

The Refectory serves freshly prepared meals and snacks from around the world, including affordable breakfasts and healthier options. The NTU Catering Team works with the Sustainability and Procurement Teams to ensure food and drink choices reflect ethical, social, and environmental considerations.



*Outdoor seating pod outside of the Lyth Building*

### 3.2. Safe Equipment and Facilities

Brackenhurst Campus is maintained as a safe environment for all users. The Estates Department conducts regular inspections to identify and resolve issues, with a system in place for users to report concerns directly to the maintenance team. Grounds maintenance equipment is inspected annually to ensure safe operation. Built features across the estate are also routinely checked and

maintained as needed. Tree stock, including woodlands, is surveyed every three years by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd. These surveys identify dead, dying, or hazardous trees, which are then managed appropriately. The most recent survey was completed in 2025. The Landscape Services Manager also monitors external threats such as tree diseases to enable proactive response.

Water safety is prioritised through risk assessments of ponds and water bodies. Where necessary, barriers are installed and surrounding land is maintained to ensure safe public access. Access to Sheepwalk's Pond is managed to allow safe viewing from the boardwalk and wildlife hide. Fencing and planting prevent entry to the water, and signage warns of depth. Dew Pond access is similarly controlled by routing paths away from the edge. All barriers are regularly inspected as part of the maintenance regime.

Ponds across the estate have been assessed to ensure wildlife, including hedgehogs, can escape if they enter the water. In support of NTU's Hedgehog Friendly Campus initiative, all strimmers and mowers are labelled to remind users to check for hedgehogs and other wildlife before use. Further details are available in **Section 7.2**.



*Landscape Services equipment is labelled with a Hedgehog warning sticker.*

### 3.3. Personal Security

Brackenhurst Campus is monitored 24/7 by the Security Team based at Pippin Cottage. They are contactable by all campus users on 0115 848 5262, with the number displayed on information boards across the site. All team members are first aid trained, and a defibrillator is located on the ground floor of Pippin Cottage.

CCTV cameras operate continuously across the campus, providing extensive coverage. The Landscape Services Team works with Security to ensure clear sightlines for cameras and along footpaths. Emergency Security Points (ESPs) have been installed at key locations following staff and student feedback:

- Crossroads Junction
- Upper Close Car Park
- Equestrian Centre
- Cricket Pitch Car Park

ESPs allow users to contact Security in emergencies via intercom and camera. Once activated, a Security Officer responds, assesses the situation, and provides support or contacts emergency services if needed. All crime incidents are recorded, with annual statistics used to review and improve security measures.

Streetlights provide safe illumination across campus routes. Hedges along these paths are maintained at a maximum height of 1.5 metres to preserve visibility. LED lighting between the main campus and the Equestrian Centre improves safety while minimising energy use and light pollution.

### 3.4. Health and Safety

The Landscape Services Manager oversees safe working practices for the Landscape Services Team. Risk assessments and COSHH evaluations are regularly reviewed and updated. Team members receive mandatory training aligned with Health and Safety legislation. Grounds staff are equipped with appropriate protective clothing and tools. Training covers key areas such as chainsaw use, tree climbing, fire safety, and first aid. Staff also receive relevant risk assessments and guidance materials for their roles

NTU's Health and Safety and Wellbeing Team has developed policies and procedures to minimise risks across the estate. Brackenhurst benefits from an on-site Health and Safety Advisor due to the nature of work carried out on campus.

### 3.5. Accident and Incident Reporting

In line with Health and Safety at Work legislation, NTU requires all accidents and near misses to be reported online using a standard procedure. Reports are monitored centrally, and investigations are initiated when necessary.

### **3.6. Dog Fouling**

Brackenhurst Campus welcomes responsible use by dog-walkers, with public rights of way crossing the site. Three dog waste bins were installed in 2016 to support this access. The built areas of campus contrast with its rural surroundings and must be kept free of dog waste. Dog owners are expected to clean up after their pets.

The Brackenhurst Walks leaflet advises users to keep dogs under control and remove litter. Compliance is monitored through regular inspections by the Security and Landscape Services Teams.

### **3.7. Working Hours**

The Estates Department works with NTU's timetabling, sport, and marketing teams to avoid conflicts with residents and students during exams, events, and open days. Any planned disruptions are communicated in advance through virtual Estates Works Notifications, which include contact details for site managers. For updates on campus development, staff and students are directed to NTU's dedicated Campus Developments webpage.



## Section 4: Cleanliness and Maintenance

## 4. Cleanliness and Maintenance

---

### 4.1. Litter and Waste Management

#### 4.1.1. Facilities and Services

Campus appearance is a key priority for NTU and supports student recruitment. The Facilities Team services external litter and recycling bins daily, with litter picking and leaf sweeping as needed. Weekday operations focus on high-use weekend areas, such as around the Students' Union, on Monday mornings.

General waste and recycling banks are widely available across campus. In 2025, all external bins were to be replaced to standardise waste disposal, and revised signage has been introduced on internal bins to improve waste segregation. NTU operates a fully integrated Environmental Management System (EMS), supported by policies that guide sustainability efforts. Waste guides are available on the Sustainability webpages, promoting recycling and use of donation banks.

#### 4.1.2. British Heart Foundation

Clothing recycling banks are located at Halls of Residence, allowing staff, students, and visitors to donate clothes, footwear, and books to the British Heart Foundation. NTU's Sustainability Team, in partnership with UPP Ltd and NTSU, promotes donation points across three campuses. This collaboration won the Retail Partner category at the British Heart Foundation Hero Awards in 2019. In 2022, students from NTU and the University of Nottingham donated 6,230 bags of items through the Pack for Good campaign, raising £87,220 and diverting nearly 50 tonnes of waste from landfill, equivalent to 294,163 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In 2023, The Big Clear Out diverted over 4,000 kg of NTU student waste from landfill. More than 500 bags of household and electrical items, valued at over £7,000, were donated to the British Heart Foundation. Additionally, around 800 kg of food was gifted to local food banks Himmah and Emmanuel House.

#### 4.1.3. Warp It

NTU's Sustainability Team promotes Warp It, an online portal for redistributing unwanted furniture and equipment internally. All staff can use the platform to support reuse across the university. Since September 2018, 2,160 items have been reused, saving 67,022 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>, diverting 26,855 kg of waste from landfill, and achieving estimated cost savings of £141,796 in disposal, replacement, and administration.

### 4.2. Horticultural Maintenance

The Landscape Services Team maintains the campus grounds, enhancing its appearance and supporting NTU's reputation. Seasonal priorities include leaf clearance in autumn and grass

cutting in summer. Alongside an annual maintenance programme, a longer-term plan addresses complex landscape issues, detailed in **Appendix B**.

High standards in grounds care influence public perception and student recruitment. The team collaborates with students and academics to support learning, offering work placements and practical experience. The student-led Conservation Society and FE Wildlife Conservation students contribute to tasks such as hedge laying, pond clearing, brush cutting, and habitat creation.

#### **4.2.1. Formal Gardens & Walled Garden**

The formal gardens at Brackenhurst include the Rose Garden, Sunken Garden, Japanese Wilderness, formal lawns, and Dew Pond, bordered by a ha-ha to the south and east. Their historic character and design present ongoing maintenance challenges, unlike modern landscapes which are typically designed for ease of upkeep.

Given limited resources, the Landscape Services Team prioritises tasks to conserve these heritage features. Appendix B outlines short- and long-term maintenance priorities to guide this work. Conservation and restoration objectives are further detailed in **Section 6**.

The Grade II listed walls of the Edwardian Walled Garden frame a key heritage feature at Brackenhurst Campus. Used year-round by students and academics, the garden also supports local biodiversity. In 2024, a hedgehog maternity nest was discovered within the garden, highlighting its ecological value.

### **4.3. Tree Maintenance**

Brackenhurst Campus undergoes a full tree condition assessment every three years by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd. Plans. The campus features a diverse tree stock, including heritage ornamental trees, young woodlands, orchards, native parkland trees, and mixed planting around buildings and gardens. Each tree or group is mapped and coded, with species and condition recorded in a live database used by the Landscape Services Team to guide maintenance. Staff also conduct ongoing surveys of 'at risk' trees. This arboriculture policy extends to parkland trees within the curtilage of the listed Main Hall, where tree succession planning is key to preserving views. The Brackenhurst Farm and Landscaping teams are collaborating on future planting strategies. Trees also serve as a vital educational resource. Students learn practical skills such as chainsaw use, coppicing, pollarding, and crown reduction. Teaching staff work closely with the Landscape Services Team to identify trees suitable for training and maintenance.



*Japanese Wilderness and Willow Pattern Bridge*



*Walled Garden*

#### 4.4. Hedgerow Management

Between 1947 and 1985, the East Midlands lost an estimated 16,000 miles of hedgerows due to agricultural intensification. Although removal has slowed, the UK still experiences a net annual loss despite planting efforts. Brackenhurst Campus supports 43 native and non-native woody species across its hedgerows, many of which display full habitat zonation, including wide field margins, hedge banks, and ditches. A rotational cutting plan, every 2 to 3 years, is in place to enhance habitat for farmland birds. This regime is overseen by the Farm Manager in consultation with ARES ecologists and external advisors. Hedges bordering roads and public rights of way are cut annually to ensure public safety and access.

#### 4.5. Building and Infrastructure Maintenance

Brackenhurst Campus features a diverse range of buildings in age, scale, style, and function, from the original Main Hall built in 1828 to the Home Farm workshops refurbished in 2023. These buildings support teaching, research, administration, and residential use, all within a shared landscape setting. The Estates Department maintains all buildings to a high standard. Listed buildings require special permissions to ensure appropriate materials and methods are used. An on-site maintenance team oversees day-to-day upkeep across the estate.

#### 4.6. Equipment Maintenance

A structured inspection programme ensures all work equipment is safe to use, in line with the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998. Portable appliances are PAT tested to comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), which requires employers to ensure electrical equipment is safe for staff and public use. Tree climbing equipment is inspected every six months under the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. NTU vehicles are managed by Campus Services, which oversees servicing, testing, and inspections. Specialist vehicles, such as tractors, are either owned or leased, with servicing included in lease agreements. ARES staff manage vehicles used for farm operations and teaching.

#### 4.7. Maintenance Planning

The Landscape Services Team adapts to changing conditions, carrying out tasks such as gritting roads during icy weather and clearing tree debris after storms. Daily maintenance priorities are agreed with the Landscape Services Manager, with health and safety tasks given top priority. The team follows a tree replacement policy, planting at least one new tree for every one removed.

Cyclical tasks include shrub bed maintenance, summer bedding planting, mowing, and strimming. A sample planning document is provided in **Appendix A**. Long-term maintenance is shaped by campus development and the condition of landscape features.



## Section 5: Environmental Management

## 5. Environmental Management

---

### 5.1. Managing Environmental Impacts

#### 5.1.1. Policies and Pledges

NTU is committed to reducing its environmental impact. The Environmental Policy is publicly available on the NTU Sustainability webpages. As of December 2023, NTU is rated a first-class university in the People & Planet League and ranked 2nd in the University of Indonesia Green Metric World University Ranking.

NTU has pledged to achieve Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2040. This commitment is now a strategic KPI, with milestones set for 2025 and 2030. The pledge covers emissions from energy use across the estate and scope 3 emissions from activities beyond direct control.

#### 5.1.2. Staff Training

The Sustainability Team delivers monthly Sustainability Awareness at NTU sessions for all staff, including new starters. Environmental Awareness and Compliance Training is also provided for Estates, Catering, and Cleaning Services staff. These sessions help colleagues understand NTU's sustainability goals, their responsibilities, and ways to engage with related projects and events. Environmental Compliance training is also available for NTU staff as a suite of online modules through Thrive.

### 5.2. ISO 14001

NTU's Environmental Management System was established through the EcoCampus scheme and is aligned with the ISO 14001 standard. Certification was first achieved in November 2012. ISO 14001 provides a framework for identifying and managing environmental aspects, improving performance, and ensuring legal compliance. This certification confirms that NTU has robust systems in place to manage environmental impacts and meet its sustainability objectives.

### 5.3. Pesticides and Herbicides

Integrated Pest Management is used across the estate to support landscape maintenance through environmentally responsible practices. Pesticide use is minimal and applied only when necessary, always in line with legislative guidance. Cultural and biological controls are prioritised within maintenance schedules. Herbicides are used for weed control in specific areas, along with turf fungicides and insecticides where appropriate. All grounds staff are fully trained and certified in the safe application of herbicides. Biological controls are also used within the glasshouse setting and campus ponds when required.

#### **5.4. Composting and Elimination of Pesticide Use**

To reduce the environmental impact of landscaping, peat alternatives are used across campus, including compost produced on-site. Peat is still used for teaching, research, and experimental purposes. The campus actively participates in research into alternative growing media and conducts plant growth trials. Brackenhurst Campus generates significant horticultural waste due to its extensive grounds. This waste is recycled into compost and mulch. Landscape Services staff separate woody material for mulching and softer materials like autumn leaves for soil enrichment. A composting machine and chipper are used to process the waste efficiently.

#### **5.5. Nottingham City Transport (NCT) Number 26**

During term-time, the Number 26 Pathfinder bus connects Brackenhurst Campus to Nottingham City Centre, departing every 30 minutes. A sheltered bus stop at the campus exit provides convenient access for off-site students. In Spring 2019, NTU funded the replacement of the bus shelter on the A612 following an NTSU campaign. The new shelter is five times larger than the previous one and includes upgraded lighting to improve safety. At the start of the 2019/20 academic year, the Pathfinder 26 fleet was replaced with cleaner buses fitted with Euro IV engines, significantly reducing emissions compared to the previous vehicles.

#### **5.6. Cycling**

NTU promotes cycling to support individual wellbeing and reduce environmental impact. A range of services make cycling more accessible across the University:

- Over 200 bikes available for hire to staff and students
- More than 300 secure cycle storage spaces
- Changing rooms and locker facilities
- On-site workshop with expert mechanics and advice
- Free maps and training resources

The Cycle Hub encourages cycling through infrastructure improvements, social media campaigns, engagement events, and a bike hire scheme. Hybrid bikes are available for £49, with a £60 refundable deposit. Each hire includes a free D-lock, bike lights, winter maintenance session, year-round advice, and access to secure storage. E-bikes are also available for £75 per term, with a £125 refundable deposit, averaging around £5 per week. NTU's Sustainability webpages provide up-to-date information on cycle routes, compounds, lockers, and showers. Additional cycle information will be added to external campus boards in the future. Currently, 85 cycle spaces are available on campus, many within secure shelters featuring CCTV, swipe card

access, and Sheffield stands. In line with the travel plan, upgrades are underway to expand covered and secure cycle parking.

### **5.7. Electric Vehicles**

ARES has recently acquired a fully electric pool car, adding to the Landscape Services team's two electric vehicles. The team also operates John Deere electric-powered gators and a range of handheld battery-powered tools for on-site maintenance. Electric vehicles are in use across several departments, including the library, Digital Technologies, Postal Services, and the entire Security Fleet.

NTU provides 32 EV charging bays across the City, Clifton, and Brackenhurst campuses. Five of these are accessible spaces for blue badge holders. Brackenhurst Campus includes six bays, two of which are located in Bramley car park and designated as accessible.

### **5.8. Solar Photovoltaic Panels (PV)**

PV generation at Brackenhurst Campus is concentrated across five buildings: the library, Mary King Arena, Poultry Unit, Lyth, and the New Brackenhurst Residence. In 2022/23, these installations produced 307,659 kWh of electricity, resulting in a carbon saving of up to 63 tCO<sub>2e</sub>. The Equestrian Centre also contributes to renewable energy efforts, with 400 photovoltaic panels generating 23,330 kWh during the same period.

### **5.9. Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Plant**

There Brackenhurst Campus operates two natural gas-fuelled CHP units that provide heating and summer cooling to the halls of accommodation and Main Hall. Together, they generate up to 210 kW of electricity and 300 kW of heat each year. All electricity used by NTU is supported by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) credits, demonstrating the University's commitment to certified renewable energy sources.

### **5.10. Biomass Boiler**

Installed in 2012 next to the glasshouses, the Biomass boiler has the potential to save up to 410 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. It currently supplies hot water to the accommodation block, Medlar building, and the library. The system has been extended with a new CHP unit to provide low-carbon heating for the Lyth Building and the new student accommodation.

### **5.12. Environmental Management Review Committee**

The Environmental Management Review Committee meets each year to ensure the successful implementation of NTU's Environmental Management System across the estate. Key objectives reviewed include waste reduction, sustainable transport, lowering energy-related emissions,

reducing water consumption, promoting sustainable procurement, and conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

### **5.13. Engagement**

In January 2019, NTU launched Green Rewards, a programme for students and staff to earn rewards by taking actions that reduce environmental impact, support the local community, and improve personal wellbeing. As of January 2024, 5,111 participants have completed 358,528 actions, resulting in a carbon saving of 704,536 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Also in January 2024, 38 staff members were enrolled in the Colleague Sustainability Rep Scheme. These departmental representatives engage with the Sustainability Team, raise issues, and share suggestions related to campus operations and landscape. The group meets termly and maintains ongoing communication through a Microsoft Teams network.

### **5.14. Climate Change and Adaptation**

As one of the UK's largest universities, NTU recognises its environmental impact at both local and global levels. The University is committed to reducing activities that contribute to climate change and adopts a holistic, integrated approach to landscape management that supports climate adaptation.

For example, Landscaping Services has ceased purchasing peat-containing compost and is trialling alternative products. The team is also adapting campus management practices by regularly reviewing plant species and selecting drought-tolerant varieties where needed. More advanced stock is used to ensure quicker establishment and resilience in changing conditions.



## Section 6: Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

## 6. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

---

### 6.1. Management of Natural Features, Wild Fauna, and Flora

Brackenhurst Campus supports a rich variety of wildlife, making it an ideal outdoor classroom. The estate includes ecologically important habitats, with Local Wildlife Site designations for Brackenhurst Hall Gardens and Halloughton Dumble. Habitats of Principal Importance include hedgerows, ponds, semi-natural woodlands, semi-improved grassland, [wildflower meadows](#), wood pasture, parkland, and remnants of traditional orchards. Management practices encourage scientific research and student involvement.

The farmland and its habitats support a wide range of species, including European Protected Species such as the great crested newt and several bat species: soprano pipistrelle, common pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat, noctule, and brown long-eared bat. Nationally protected species include badgers, while Species of Principal Importance found on campus include hedgehogs, Eurasian otters, European hares, common toads, yellowhammers, kingfishers, barn owls, and tree sparrows. In 2022, a [polecat was recorded on campus](#) for the first time during a student project.

Over 200 bird species have been documented at Brackenhurst, supported by more than 200 nest boxes for passerines and birds of prey. Students can participate in the annual Big Garden Bird Watch, hosted by NTSU at The Orangery. Bug hotels have been installed as part of compensation for new developments and student-led research projects. These insect refuges support biodiversity and are used to study the impact of recreational land use. NTU holds Gold accreditation as a Hedgehog Friendly Campus across Brackenhurst, Clifton, and City campuses. Further details are available in **Section 7.2**. Estate-wide management techniques are designed to maximise biodiversity, resulting in a diverse and resilient landscape.

As part of NTU's conservation remit, horticultural staff maintain a seed bank on behalf of the Heritage Seed Library. This work involves cultivating rare and historic vegetable varieties that are at risk of disappearing from cultivation. These include heirloom strains passed down through generations in local communities and Victorian varieties no longer found in commercial seed catalogues.

#### 6.1.1. Great Crested Newt Conservation

Most Many ponds within the built environment of Brackenhurst Campus serve as important breeding sites for Great Crested Newts (GCN), contributing significantly to the estate's biodiversity. The Dew Pond is currently the primary breeding stronghold for the campus

population. Since 2017, NTU has partnered with Natural England to develop a landmark conservation plan aimed at making Brackenhurst the leading example of farmland habitat for GCN in the region. This collaboration led to the UK's first Phased License, which outlines the creation of new ponds, enhancement of existing ones, and improved management of hedgerows, field margins, and woodlands that connect aquatic habitats. The full habitat network is expected to be completed by 2025. Other amphibians found on the estate include the common toad (*Bufo bufo*) and smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*). As part of the library construction in 2012, four hibernacula were installed near Bramley car park and behind the Ash accommodation block, linking to the lagoon. A series of hedgerows and a woodland strip along Brackenhurst Lane further enhance habitat connectivity across the estate.



*Examples of Bug Hotels found across the Brackenhurst Campus*

### **6.1.2. Bat Box Monitoring Project**

Barbastelle In 2023, Barbastelle bats (*Barbastella barbastellus*), one of the UK's rarest mammal species, were recorded at Brackenhurst Campus for the first time by the Conservation Society and Nottinghamshire Bat Group.

Following this discovery, the Sustainability Team and FE Wildlife Conservation students launched the Bat Box Monitoring Project. Thirty new bat boxes have been installed across the campus and will be monitored annually under licence. The project contributes to local records of bat distribution in Nottinghamshire and supports long-term conservation efforts.

### **6.1.3. Invasive Species Management**

Brackenhurst Campus is regularly monitored for invasive species that pose a threat to native habitats. Control measures are implemented as needed, with the goal of eradicating invasive species wherever possible.

In November 2015, New Zealand pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*) was discovered in a mitigation pond. It was successfully buried using material from nearby ponds. The Landscape Management Team, supported by FE Wildlife Conservation students, continues to monitor the site. In 2023, Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) was identified and promptly spot-treated by Landscaping Services, who maintain ongoing surveillance of the area. In 2024 and 2025, Water Fern (*Azolla filiculoides*) was found in several ponds. North American weevils from CABI were introduced to the infested wildlife pond, resulting in a rapid and effective reduction of the fern within two weeks.

### **6.1.4. Woodland Management**

Woodland areas around the campus edges are primarily composed of native species such as oak, ash, and field maple. These areas are managed to promote biodiversity by encouraging ground flora and creating habitats like log and leaf piles, which provide shelter for invertebrates, amphibians, and hedgehogs.

Standing dead wood and fallen timber are left in place unless they pose a safety risk to footpaths, roads, or public areas. This practice supports biodiversity, particularly for invertebrates and birds. Where safe and feasible, standing dead wood is retained and tree stumps are cut high to benefit species dependent on decaying wood.

External threats to tree stock, including the spread of tree diseases, are proactively monitored. During national outbreaks of ash dieback, no cases were reported at Brackenhurst Campus thanks to the vigilance of the Landscape Services Team. If a case were identified, best practice procedures would be followed.

## **6.2. Water Conservation**

The Dew Pond is naturally replenished by rainwater collected from the Main Hall, while other campus waterbodies rely on surface runoff. Rainwater from the largest glasshouse is stored in a nearby reservoir and used to irrigate plants within the glasshouse complex.

To reduce water use, summer bedding schemes incorporate water-retaining granules or gel, helping to minimise drying out and the need for frequent watering. At the Brackenhurst Workshops compound, water used by the wash-down facility is recirculated through a closed-loop system for reuse.



*ConSoc Wildflower Meadows in Full Bloom*



*ConSoc Students Sowing Wildflower Seeds by Student Accommodation*

### 6.3. Planting Policy

Across NTU prioritises the use of native nectar and berry-producing species of local provenance across its landscaping. Non-native plants are carefully selected to enhance biodiversity. Native species are primarily used for planting and replacing trees, woodlands, and hedgerows to support wildlife habitats. Recent tree and hedgerow planting near Nottingham Road reflects this approach. A diverse mix of native and non-native species is maintained in the glasshouses, the Edwardian Walled Garden, and formal gardens. New planting is regularly undertaken as part of development schemes.

The £100,000 glasshouse facility at Brackenhurst Campus produces seasonal bedding plants year-round, raised from seeds and plugs. With an annual turnover of approximately 30,000 plants and propagated materials, the glasshouse supports the majority of soft landscaping needs across NTU campuses. Additional plants are sourced from nurseries when required.

### 6.4. Conservation of Landscape Features

Brackenhurst Campus spans 200 hectares and features a diverse range of planting, from formal gardens around the Main Hall to woodlands and meadows across the wider estate.

The formal gardens enhance the historic setting of the Main Hall and serve as inspiration for horticulture and garden design students. Planting in these areas reflects the estate's heritage, with replacement species chosen to match those previously used. Over the past three years, several native fruit trees have been planted around the farm estate. These trees are locally sourced and represent traditional Nottinghamshire varieties.

Third Park, located south of the Main Hall, includes an Elm Avenue designed to replicate a historic feature shown on the 1919 Ordnance Survey map. In First Park, east of the Main Hall, ridge and furrow patterns from World War II farming practices remain visible. These fields, along with those bordering the ha-ha, retain their original parkland character through careful management. Intensive agriculture is avoided to preserve these features and maintain mature parkland trees.

North of the Main Hall, a historic elm avenue is identified on the 1919 map. It was originally planned to line a proposed drive by Hicking. Due to a dispute with a neighbouring farmer, the drive was never built. Although the original trees were felled, 34 elm trees have recently been planted to restore the avenue.

Students are encouraged to participate in conservation and replanting efforts. The Conservation Society at Brackenhurst leads many initiatives, including woodland planting, hedgerow management, and the creation of wildflower meadows near accommodation blocks. The campus

offers excellent horticultural facilities, including glasshouses and poly-tunnels. In contrast, the Walled Garden provides a traditional space for learning planting techniques.

NTU academic staff and students maintain an ongoing programme of hedge laying, gapping, and planting as part of formal studies on campus. In addition to curriculum-based work, students also volunteer to support hedgerow management. These practices aim to create larger, better-connected hedges with structural and species diversity. This approach enhances ecological connectivity and supports biodiversity across the estate.



*Example of hedge laying undertaken by FE Wildlife Conservation Students*

Established and healthy hedges across the estate are managed on a two- to three-year rotation. This approach allows plant species to flower, supports thick nesting cover, and provides valuable habitat for insects. To protect birds during the nesting season, hedge management is restricted to the period between September and February. Hedges located near roads and footpaths are

managed from September to meet health and safety requirements. In areas without such requirements, hedgerows are left until January to support winter fruiting, which benefits bird populations. Hedgerow surveys are carried out annually, primarily as part of training and educational activities. These events focus on learning rather than formal, systematic monitoring.

## 6.6. Heritage Conservation

The campus boasts a rich heritage, comprising the Main Hall as well as associated buildings and grounds dating from 1828. Many of these buildings and features are still in existence. **Section 1** of this document gives a concise history of the site and describes the historic features. The University recognises the importance of conserving these and has invested significantly in past years to preserve them.

The following list provides details of the Grade II listed buildings and features contained within the campus:

- Brackenhurst Hall and Attached Coach House
- The Orangery and Garden Wall
- Garden Walls and Bothies 100 metres Northeast of Brackenhurst Hall
- Lodge to Brackenhurst Hall
- Gateway and Railings at Brackenhurst Hall
- South Hill House
- Brackenhurst Campus Farmhouse

In addition to the above features, the Ordnance Survey map from 1919 identifies the following features which are still in place.

- The Rose Garden
- The Sunken Garden
- The Japanese Wilderness
- The Dew Pond, Boat House, and Willow Pattern Bridge
- A Well
- The Cricket Pavilion
- An Avenue of Trees (south of the Main Hall)
- Parkland

Conservation work by the building's maintenance team prioritises jobs to ensure the long-term survival of these features for all current and future site users to enjoy. Due to the historic nature of the Brackenhurst Campus, conservation work plays an important part in the overall maintenance. The upkeep of the formal gardens forms part of the day-to-day maintenance regime for the campus, but certain elements of the gardens and grounds require a longer-term conservation and restoration strategy. The Landscape Services Team works on a priority list for conservation and restoration work. Future aims include the restoration of the pergola in the Rose Garden and the gates to the Walled Garden, subject to available funding.

In 2021, NTU collaborated with external heritage consultants to produce a draft Brackenhurst Conservation Statement. This document outlines guidance for future maintenance, identifies challenges and opportunities, and presents an action plan summarising proposed interventions.

### **6.7. Rose Garden Pergolas**

As outlined in **Section 1**, the Rose Garden was restored in 2009 with funding donated by a former lecturer and students. Restoration included rose planting, installation of a sundial, and placement of benches. However, funding was insufficient to restore the Italian-style pergolas, which date from between 1899 and 1919. Funding for this work is still being sought.

The two pergolas are located on the west side of the Rose Garden and feature red clay tile piers with oak cross-members. The connecting path consists of York stone flags, brick basket weave, and circular section edge tiles. The northern pergola remains accessible but is heavily covered with ivy. The southern pergola is currently unstable and fenced off for safety. Both structures are likely to require dismantling and rebuilding. Due to their non-standard construction, the piers will need reinforcement and the oak cross-members will require replacement. The uneven path may also need relaying to ensure safe access for pedestrians and wheelchair users. Any restoration planning will include mitigation for potential habitat loss. On the southern boundary of the Rose Garden is a semi-circular pool set slightly below the main garden level. A low wall with piers surrounds the curved edge, constructed from red clay tiles and stone copings. The piers are now significantly reduced in height and the original bronze figures have been lost. The stone copings are also deteriorating. Restoration work on the pond was completed in 2022, and it has since been planted with vegetation selected and designed by FE students to support amphibian habitat.

### **6.8. Gatehouse Wall**

When the Main Hall served as a private residence, it was accessed via a driveway from Nottingham Road, located beside the Grade II listed gatehouse. At the entrance to the drive stands a semi-circular wall with tall railings and stone piers. The copings on the northern side are either missing or deteriorating. As part of the Lyth Building development, the rusty gates and railings, including the coat of arms, will be restored and repainted to their original condition.

### **6.9. Gates to Walled Garden**

The Grade II listing for the Walled Garden applies specifically to the garden walls. The gates require restoration and repainting, while additional gates will need full replacement. At present, no restoration plans are in place, as this work is dependent on securing appropriate funding.



*Walled Garden Gates*

### **6.10. Bramley Apple Tree**

On 20 August 2018, Nottingham Trent University's Brackenhurst Campus and academic staff were featured on BBC2's Countryfile. The report highlighted the recent acquisition of the original Bramley apple tree in Southwell, which is believed to be over 200 years old. Sadly, the tree is affected by an incurable honey fungus infection.

Horticulture staff and students at Brackenhurst have carried out initial assessments and are carefully tending the tree to prolong its life. Grafts from the original tree will be replanted at Brackenhurst Campus to preserve its legacy.

In 2023, the original Bramley apple tree and the wider Brackenhurst estate were also featured in Notts TV's [The Nottinghamshire Garden](#), further showcasing the campus's horticultural heritage.



## Section 7: Community Involvement

## 7. Community Involvement

---

### 7.1. Community Events

#### 7.1.2. *External Conferences, Events and Meetings*

Brackenhurst Campus regularly hosts external conferences, meetings, and events that support the animal, rural, and environmental science sectors. Its facilities include lecture theatres, exhibition spaces, classrooms, and outdoor areas, making it an ideal venue for both professional and public engagement.

The Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomological Society (DaNES) organises an Insect Show on campus every other year. This public event showcases insect specimens and includes displays, stands, and live exhibits from various organisations. The most recent show took place in November 2023 and featured short talks throughout the day to promote conservation awareness. In August 2023, Brackenhurst hosted the Mammal Society's 68th Annual Conference. Later that year, in November, the British Dragonfly Society held its annual meeting on campus. This event brought together members and students to discuss dragonfly conservation. NTU also hosts the annual Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group Forum. This event brings together more than 100 conservation volunteers and ecological consultants for workshops and talks led by high-profile speakers. The forum supports species and habitat monitoring and conservation efforts across the county. The University regularly arranges seminars related to Brackenhurst research. These are open to NTU students and staff. Most recently, Emily Stott from the University of Oxford's Nature Positive Universities initiative delivered a Great Minds Lecture. Her talk explored how universities can lead their communities toward nature-positive outcomes, including ecosystem resilience, biodiversity recovery, and climate change mitigation. Community tree-planting events have also taken place at Brackenhurst. In 2018, local groups from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and AgeUK participated in planting new woodland areas on campus.

#### 7.1.3. *Biodiversity Conservation & Surveys*

The Brackenhurst Campus supports a range of biodiversity initiatives and ecological monitoring activities involving students, staff, and external organisations.

The South Nottinghamshire Ringing Group operates a permanent bird ringing site on campus. This programme engages students and volunteers in collecting valuable data on bird populations, contributing to nationally significant conservation records. The National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme (NARRS) has used the campus ponds to train volunteers in identifying amphibian species, including the protected Great Crested Newt. Natural England utilised the

estate for training in 2025. In September 2023, the charity Buglife visited Brackenhurst to sow wildflower seeds and plant wildflower plugs along the bund of Brackenhurst Lane. The event was organised by the NTU Sustainability Team and the Students' Union as part of the "Give it a Go" programme, encouraging hands-on involvement in habitat creation and ecological enhancement.

#### **7.1.4. Partnerships With Southwell Community Groups**

Brackenhurst Campus actively engages with local organisations through a variety of community events and collaborative initiatives.

The Southwell University of the Third Age has hosted events on campus and participated in wildlife surveys during university holidays. These activities support lifelong learning and environmental awareness. Southwell Flood Forum holds annual events at Brackenhurst, focusing on topics such as community resilience to flooding and emergency planning. These events promote preparedness and local collaboration.

Rogation is a traditional event held each May, during which the people of Southwell gather to pray for favourable weather, successful crop yields, and healthy livestock. The service is jointly hosted by the School, Southwell Minster, the Nottinghamshire Farmers' Union (NFU), and the Nottinghamshire Young Farmers' Club (YFC). The first part of the service takes place in Southwell Minster, followed by a procession to Brackenhurst Campus. Along the route, participants stop at intervals to bless the crops and animals.

#### **7.1.4. Open & Away Days**

Open Days provide an opportunity for all members of the community to explore the campus and learn more about higher education. A full programme of site-wide open days is promoted through various channels, with temporary road signage used to improve access and visibility.

Each June, Brackenhurst Campus hosts Open Farm Sunday in partnership with Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF). This national event invites the public to take part in tours, talks, and demonstrations that promote awareness and understanding of agricultural practices. During the 2015 nationwide celebration, which marked the tenth anniversary of Open Farm Sunday, over 500 people attended the Brackenhurst event. In 2017, attendance exceeded 1,500 visitors, reinforcing its reputation as "the industry's open day."

Recent additions to the farm facilities include the cattle roundhouse, a modern structure designed to reduce stress for both livestock and handlers. It is hoped that such infrastructure will continue to attract community interest during future Open Farm Sunday events.

Team-building away days also offer valuable opportunities for staff based at the City or Clifton campuses to experience Brackenhurst. In October 2018, members of the University's Executive

Team volunteered alongside the Landscaping Team, contributing to campus maintenance and strengthening cross-campus collaboration.



*Students sowing native wildflower seeds and planting plugs with Buglife, the Sustainability Team & NTSU*

### **7.2. Flower Pod**

Nottingham Trent University works in partnership with Reach, a registered charity that supports people with learning disabilities in Nottinghamshire. In 2012, Reach established the Flower Pod, a 1.5-acre green space leased from NTU at Brackenhurst Campus. The site features a mature garden and purpose-built working space, offering outdoor experiential learning throughout the year.

The Flower Pod building has a low-carbon footprint and incorporates sustainable materials, including straw-bale walls, lime rendering, sheep-wool insulation, and floors made from concrete and recycled glass. The site continues to evolve with a strong environmental and sustainability focus. Future plans include installing solar panels, enhancing rainwater harvesting systems, and expanding the wildlife garden to support biodiversity and provide enriched learning opportunities for adults with learning disabilities.

Flower Pod Southwell brings together people with learning disabilities, local organisations, community members, and corporate volunteers to engage in therapeutic horticultural activities. The charity continues to innovate, using the site for creative initiatives such as producing natural petal confetti from spent flowers and upcycled blooms collected from supermarkets. It also hosts forums to introduce participants to broader sustainability topics.

Collaboration with NTU remains strong, with joint projects integrated into the Brackenhurst horticulture curriculum. NTU students grow commercial-quality plants for Flower Pod, which are used in hanging baskets and sold to generate income for the charity. In 2023, Flower Pod commissioned the renovation of an old pond to [create a user-friendly wildlife resource area](#). The project included the construction of a new pond and bog garden, along with accessible pathways for individuals with limited mobility or wheelchair users. Looking ahead, Flower Pod aims to increase client engagement through planned activities such as participation in local events. These initiatives will enable people with learning disabilities to take a more active role in the community while supporting the corporate and social responsibility goals of partner organisations.

### 7.3. Hedgehog Friendly Campus (HFC)

Since 2020, the Hedgehog Friendly Campus (HFC) initiative has provided an engaging platform for students and staff to take action in making Brackenhurst Campus more hedgehog-friendly. Brackenhurst currently holds Gold Accreditation and is actively working towards achieving the Platinum Award in 2024.

As part of the initiative, awareness stickers have been added to all estate strimmers and mowers (**see Section 3.2**). NTU has supported the British Hedgehog Preservation Society's Hedgehog Awareness Week, conducted hazard audits, surveyed for hedgehog presence, and engaged with the wider community through webinars, [school visits](#), and social media campaigns.

### 7.4. Community Access

Access to the campus grounds and facilities is available to school groups and community organisations by arrangement. Organised activities include pond dipping, nature walks, and visits to Home Farm. Guided walks offer members of the public the opportunity to explore the gardens and grounds, learning about the site's history and its diverse flora and fauna.

In addition to designated public footpaths, the university provides access along permissive routes. These allow visitors to reach features such as Sheepwalk's Pond and the wildlife hide. The campus includes a variety of environments, including wetland, woodland, and parkland, which the community is welcome to enjoy.

To support engagement, the University has produced a leaflet outlining a series of nature walks across the estate. Each walk focuses on a particular species, habitat, or environment. The leaflet is available online and has been distributed to Southwell Library, Southwell Tourist Information Centre, and Southwell Leisure Centre. Interpretation boards are placed along public and permissive footpaths to inform visitors about local wildlife and ongoing land management practices. The gardens of the Main Hall and the wider site are open to the public and regularly host planned visits. The campus library is also accessible to the public during office hours.

### **7.5. Conferences, Catering and Room Hire**

Outdoor weddings can be held on the Main Hall lawn at weekends between June and September. Clients may choose from a variety of outdoor structures, including a tipi, marquee, or sailcloth tent. These events are supported by an external catering company and bar service.

On-site catering is also available for a wide range of events. Each June, a marquee is erected on the main lawn to host the popular Brackenhurst Ball for students. In September, the same space is used for welcome week activities, offering a vibrant introduction to campus life.

### **7.6. Sports Facilities**

NTU Sport offers inclusive and high-quality opportunities for students, staff, and the local community. Brackenhurst Campus supports a range of sports clubs, including Cheerleading, Hockey, Netball, and Rugby Union.

Facilities include a football pitch, cricket square and nets used by Southwell Cricket Club, and an Equestrian Centre offering riding lessons and competitions. The centre is approved by the British Horse Society for training and livery and holds a full riding school licence. It is also available for public hire. Staff and students benefit from discounted access to Southwell Leisure Centre, which includes gym, pool, sauna, and court facilities.

NTU Sport continues to invest in its facilities to support growing participation and performance across campus and the wider community.



## Section 8: Marketing and Communication

## 8. Marketing and Communication

### 8.1. Marketing and Promotion

Increasing Efforts are ongoing to raise awareness within the local community about the facilities available at Brackenhurst Campus. The NTU ARES website features detailed information on campus amenities, while the main NTU website and Sustainability webpages provide updates on current and upcoming events. Publicity for major events, open days, and LEAF activities includes internal communications such as 'Must-know Monthly' emails and the MyNTU Newsroom, along with external press releases to encourage public participation. Short films about the University, Brackenhurst Campus, and related topics are available on both the NTU and ARES websites. The Sustainability webpages also host a dedicated section on Wildlife and Green Spaces, featuring landscape details, conservation projects, and a copy of this report for public access.

### 8.2. Communication Channels

Internal NTU uses a range of internal communication tools to keep staff and students informed. The MyNTU dashboard provides daily updates for staff on upcoming events and university news. A student dashboard, launched in 2021, offers similar updates across all campuses. The University Calendar is available online for both students and staff. NTU publishes an annual printed newsletter for supporters of Shaping Futures, keeping alumni and donors informed about university developments. The 2020 edition featured climate research at ARES and highlights from community fundraising efforts. The Estates Department also produces a newsletter focused on carbon-saving and green initiatives. Brackenhurst's Green Flag status is promoted through events such as Sustainability Awareness sessions, Sustainability in Practice tours, and Welcome Week. It is also featured on NTU's Sustainability webpages and social media. The Sustainability Team works closely with staff and student communication teams to share key messages and opportunities for involvement. The team maintains its own social media accounts, supported by other NTU channels that help promote news and events.

### 8.3. Educational and Interpretational Information

As a Higher Education Institution, NTU offers a wide range of educational activities across Brackenhurst Campus for both students and community groups. These include formal teaching, practical fieldwork, and informal learning experiences.

Interpretation boards across the Brackenhurst estate help visitors navigate the site and learn about its landscapes, habitats, and wildlife. There are currently 27 boards in place, with plans to review and will be update the signs as part of a campus-wide project from 2026.



## Section 9: Management

## 9. Management

---

### 9.1. Management Structure

This The Landscape Management Plan (LMP) is reviewed annually by the Sustainability Team, ARES academics, the Farm Manager, and the Landscape Services Manager. The Director of Estates, supported by Senior Management, oversees the implementation of the University's environmental policy. NTU's Sustainability Team plays a key role in sharing best practices and promoting sustainable principles across the University through strong collaboration with internal stakeholders. At Brackenhurst Campus, buildings and gardens are managed by the Estates Department, while farmland is overseen by ARES and the Farm Manager. Communication among campus stakeholders has improved through regular Land User Group meetings. These are chaired by the ARES Head of Operations and attended by academics, the Farm Manager, the Senior Field Technician (who supports the Conservation Society), and representatives from Landscape Services and the Sustainability Team.

### 9.2. Project Funding

NTU is currently undertaking major redevelopment across its campuses, with working capital allocated to support site works. Each new building project includes associated landscape improvements, guided by the Landscape Management Plans. The Landscape Services Team operates with an annual budget of approximately £500,000 across all three campuses, including staff costs. A breakdown of spending on larger projects is available in the Implementation Plan in **Appendix B**. Restoration projects, such as the Rose Garden, are supported through fundraising by staff, students, and the Brackenhurst Campus Old Students' Association (BOSA). While this approach can involve long lead-in times, additional funding opportunities are being explored. These include the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage grants for historic buildings, monuments, and designed landscapes.

### 9.3. Management Priorities

Brackenhurst Campus has identified a series of short- and long-term aims to guide landscape development and community engagement.

Short-term aims (2022–2024):

- Create new ponds across the estate
- Strengthen relationships with the local community to enhance landscaped areas
- Increase habitat creation for invertebrates, birds, bats, and small mammals
- Deliver wider landscaping projects to improve the student experience

Longer-term aims (subject to funding):

- Restore and replace gates to the Walled Garden, including glasshouses, Mart House, and bothies
- Restore the Rose Garden pergola and Boat House
- Repair Gatehouse walls and railings
- Develop stronger links with local groups such as Young Farmers and the Ramblers Association

The Implementation Plan (see **Appendix B**) helps the management team prioritise actions and develop a responsive programme.

## Appendices

---

### Appendix A – Sample Maintenance Plan

#### Examples of Landscape Maintenance Schedules

##### **Shrub Beds:**

- Shrub beds will be managed to maintain a healthy stock of plants. The edges of the beds will be neatly defined by appropriate means. Beds shall be weed-free and mulched annually to suppress weed growth and retain moisture content within the soil. However, should the prevailing weather conditions dictate these beds shall be irrigated during the dry spells to remove undue plant stress and the potential for die-back.
- Pruning will be conducted on shrubs that require it according to species to remove the dead and damaged branches, retain the natural shape and encourage good flowering to improve health and vigour.
- Where die-back of plant material has been identified new plants will be planted as soon as possible, using species that maintain the character and continuity of the shrub bed. Replacement planting will use the species with a form and flowering habit that is appropriate for that plant's position in the bed as well as the context of the nearby environment.

##### **Winter sports pitches (Football/Rugby):**

- Grass in these areas will be maintained to a height governed by the respective playing needs at the time of play and to provide a suitable and safe playing surface throughout the season. Areas will be mown weekly throughout the growing season. In addition, other tractor-mounted tasks will be undertaken to provide a true, safe, and free-draining surface. These tasks will include monthly aeration, rolling and chain harrowing throughout the playing season. User needs determines the frequency and timing of such tasks as well as maintaining the quality and integrity of the playing surface. Throughout the year regular applications of fertilisers and herbicides will be considered on their merit and need under the prevailing weather/ground conditions.
- Throughout the playing season and as determined by fixture arrangement the pitches will be fully marked out per the Association Rules and Regulations. Respective posts and crossbars will be safely erected at the start of each playing season and regularly checked before and after each fixture including the setup and removal of nets (football). At the end of each season, this equipment will be safely dismantled, repaired, and stored until it is next required.

- End-of-season renovations will include topdressing, over-seeding, and re-establishing levels to make it safe and maintain the integrity/quality of the playing surface.
- Preparation and maintenance tasks are conducted during the academic year (Sept-June) when demand is at its greatest with the end of the season works taking place as demand eases. We have a working partnership with Brackenhurst CC to ensure their fixtures are fulfilled during the summer months.

**Landscape Machinery and associated equipment – maintenance:**

- All landscape machinery and associated equipment are subject to regularly prescribed checks to ascertain service and repair needs under the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998 including six monthly safety inspections of Arboriculture equipment which falls under Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) 1998.
- All works, repairs and inspections are documented and maintained to file for access, monitor and review where requested.

**Arboriculture:**

- During the Autumn/Winter period or when safety issues prevail. Care is taken to avoid such work during the nesting season and work action accordingly. Works are driven by a 3-yearly survey, by external consultants, which prioritises works according to either tree health/failure as well as the potential risk to the public or property. Successional planting is factored into replanting where trees could or have been lost.
- All tree stock, within the remit of NTU, is reviewed on a 3-yearly cycle to determine workload priorities and assess the health, well-being and vigour of both specimens and groups of trees.
- Regular inspections of dead, dying and dangerous trees are undertaken throughout the year where high winds and disease may present a threat to NTU trees. Works are actioned accordingly to maintain the integrity of specimens affected and to remove the potential risk to people & property, especially trees located near well-used footpaths and roads.
- Safe work practices are adopted in relation to working at height within trees. Operatives undertaking work are IPAF certified to use mobile elevated work platforms & NPTC compliant up to units cs38/39 as well as MEWP trained.

**Turf Maintenance:**

Defined as either high or low amenity areas and subject to respective maintenance regimes.

This may include:

- Mowing, throughout the growing season to the respective height (collected or non-collected);
- Use of a variety of cylinder, flail, rotary mowers and strimmers during the growing season;
- Application of granular or liquid fertilisers to improve turf health and vigour;
- Application of granular or liquid chemicals for the control of weeds, pests & diseases;
- Application of water &/or wetting agents during periods of drought;
- Aeration & scarification to improve drainage, quality, integrity & appearance of grassed areas;
- Reinstatement of new, damaged, or worn areas by turf or seed mixes;
- Introduction of topdressings to improve drainage and levels;
- Removal of litter & debris from surfaces.

### **Landscape (Biodiversity):**

All landscape tasks give due consideration to the impact of our activities on all flora & fauna such as:

- Green waste recycling – all landscape material composted and chipped for reuse across campus to aid weed suppression and combat drought.
- Introducing a palette of colour-rich wildflower areas to improve biodiversity.
- Legal compliance to minimise the impact on wildlife such as nesting birds & Great Crested Newts
- The utilisation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques reduces the reliance on chemicals.
- Introducing wildlife habitats such as bird boxes & log piles as well as shelters for a wide range of other invertebrates & insects
- Engaging with key partners & stakeholders, through volunteering projects, to improve biodiversity.
- Actively encourage students to use the landscape areas for research and coursework and how to add value to biodiversity through study.

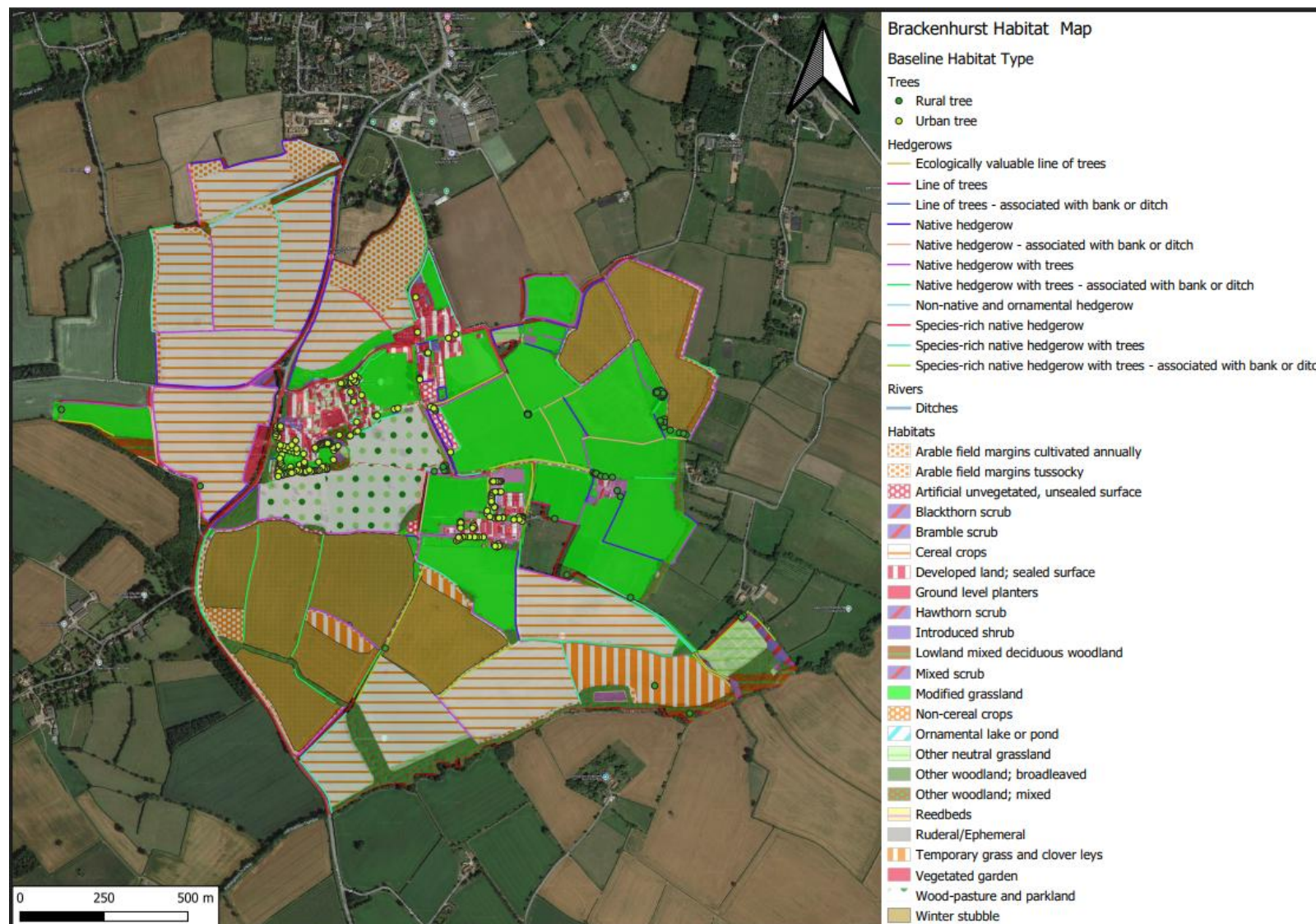
### **Internal Plant:**

Service and maintenance to over 200 planters, throughout the year, across key building forums on all three campuses. Includes watering, feeding, pruning, and cleaning down of containers.

## Appendix B – Implementation Plan

|                            | Action  | Target   | Budget   | Timescale                           | Owner   | Status  |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Brackenhurst Campus</b> | Wider landscaping projects including soft landscaping along Hicking Lane and re-landscaping of Bramley car park curtilage | To improve the landscaping and student experience at frequently used points around campus                          | TBC  | Sept 2022                           | Alan Horgan   | Creation of feature planting, seating and new paths for rich biodiversity and improved facilities as part of the new Lyth and accommodation building. |
|                            | Refurbish/re-instate the Rose Pergola and Lodge Gates and Walled Garden Gates.  | Improve heritage conservation  | Approx. 200k across 5 years, funding sources not secured | TBC considering current development | TBC   | Source funding for restoring the Walled Garden and Rose Pergolas is an ongoing venture.   |
|                            | Mitigation tree planting considering planned campus redevelopment   | Ensure trees lost to development are replaced  | TBC  | Ongoing                             | Alan Horgan   | Depending on planned campus regeneration, Brackenhurst Lane bund will be wooded by 2020   |
|                            | Restoration of Great Crested Newt ponds under Natural England Licence.  | To meet the legal requirements of the Natural England licence to improve the quality of pond habitat for wildlife. | Circa 30K  | January 2024                        | Jemma Maguire   | Final 2 pond enhancement works to be undertaken in December 2023-January 2024. All other required works are complete.                                 |
|                            | Update interpretation boards  | To improve the information available to Brackenhurst campus users on past and present land use.                    | TBC  | From January 2024                   | Led by Brackenhurst land user forum as part of a wider NTU signage project. | In progress as part of a wider NTU estate signage project.  |

## Appendix C – Brackenhurst Habitat Map





## Estate-Wide Actions

| Action  | Owner     |
|---|-----------|
| Ensure compliance with all national and international legislation regarding biodiversity and the conservation of species and habitats.  | S         |
| Define and commission surveys to baseline NTU's biodiversity, produce habitat maps for the estate and set ambitious targets for biodiversity.   | S         |
| Prioritise the planting and management of native nectar and berry-producing species of local provenance across the estate's landscaping. Where non-native plants are used, ensure that they are carefully selected to enhance biodiversity. | L         |
| Create new habitats through landscape management interventions or by using green and blue infrastructure, such as green roofs and living walls, within development footprints.  | CD & L    |
| Monitor and control any invasive species that are or become present within the estate; eradicate invasive species wherever possible.  | L & S     |
| Review the estate for habitat fragmentation; improve connectivity within the estate and within the wider landscape by strategically planting native tree species and creating wildlife corridors.   | L & S     |
| Where possible, hedgehog highways will be installed in physical barriers that affect connectivity and access e.g., fencing.   | S         |
| Continue to install and monitor bat boxes, bird boxes, bird feeders, hedgehog houses, insect hotels, hibernacula, and log piles across all campuses.  | CD, L & S |
| Halt all use of peat-based products in the university's Landscaping Services activities from spring 2023.   | L         |
| Engage with staff, students, and visitors on the importance of biodiversity and actions that can be taken to conserve and enhance biodiversity within the estate e.g., using signage and citizen science monitoring projects.               | S         |
| Annually report on biodiversity actions undertaken across the estate within the Sustainability Report, which is publicly available on the NTU website   | S         |



## Built Environment

| Action  | Owner  |
|---|--------|
| Ensure all new development projects minimise impacts on biodiversity, aiming to deliver a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain.   | CD     |
| Improve the biodiversity of amenity grassland and formal greenspaces through targeted interventions, including reduced management to allow rewilding and wildflower planting, for the benefit of invertebrates, birds, hedgehogs and amphibians. Rewilded areas are only to be managed through cut-and-collect in the autumn, to achieve & maintain low soil fertility. | L & S  |
| Include bird and bat boxes in the vicinity of or integrated within the development of all new buildings and extend the installation of bird and bat boxes on existing buildings at all university campuses, to provide urban breeding and nesting habitats.   | CD     |
| Continually monitor and evaluate the impact of any development on biodiversity, to identify and address any negative impacts and improve conservation efforts.  | CD & S |
| Aim to use sustainable building materials wherever possible, and consider the environmental lifecycle of buildings, to reduce the impact of any construction and preserve natural habitats.   | CD     |



## Farmland

| Action  | Owner |
|---|-------|
| Provide biodiverse and connected field margins/buffer strips wherever feasible, including the use of nectar-rich and wild bird seed mixes, to encourage pollinators and provide wildlife corridors enabling animals to move between different habitats and reduce soil erosion. The opportunity to implement beetle banks across suitable farmland will also be explored. | HF    |
| Plant cover crops to improve soil health, in line with the Stewardship agreement in place at the time, to reduce erosion and provide food and habitats for invertebrates and birds.   | HF    |
| Graze livestock to manage grasslands wherever possible, to maintain diverse flora and to prevent the growth of tussocky vegetation, scrub, and trees. Livestock will be grazed rotationally, to prevent overgrazing and ensure that grasslands can regenerate.  | HF    |
| Ditches will only be cleared once every five years, where this does not impede field drainage, to minimise disturbance to aquatic wildlife. Not all ditches will be cleared at once to ensure habitat provision across the landscape.   | HF    |
| Pesticide and herbicide use will be avoided where possible to reduce runoff into freshwater systems (ponds, ditches, and streams) and impacts on invertebrates, hedgehogs and other wildlife. Pernicious weeds will be controlled by pulling, weed-wiping, or spot-spraying and using integrated pest management, rather than relying solely on herbicides.               | HF    |
| To prevent damage to root systems, cultivating beneath tree canopies is avoided. Where livestock are present, trees are protected by tree surrounds until it is determined that the tree is strong enough to withstand the impacts of livestock.  | HF    |
| Manure will be reused across fields as a fertiliser to promote plant growth and increase the diversity of bacterial populations in the soil. It is ensured that runoff from the manure heap does not pollute freshwater systems.  | HF    |



## Hedgerows

| Action   | Owner  |
|--|--------|
| Aim for larger and well-connected hedges with structural and species diversity, to improve connectivity across the estate.   | L & HF |
| Established and healthy hedges will be managed on a 2 or 3-year rotation. This will allow species to flower, ensure thick nesting cover, and provide insect habitat across the estate.   | L & HF |
| Where possible, hedges will be cut in an approximate A-shape, to provide shelter for species of importance like yellowhammers.   | L & HF |
| Hedges will only be managed from September to February to ensure the protection of birds throughout the nesting season. Hedges which neighbour roads and footpaths will be managed from September due to health and safety requirements; where there are no health and safety requirements hedgerows will be left until January to allow for wintering fruit production for birds. | L & HF |
| Hedges with reduced base density will be laid or coppiced to rejuvenate and thicken the hedge. A maximum of 5% of hedges can be managed in this way per campus per year.   | L & HF |
| Newly planted and rejuvenated hedges will be lightly pruned annually, to encourage lateral & vertical growth. This should occur for the first 5 years after planting/laying.   | L & HF |
| When laying/coppicing hedgerows, cutting will be distributed across the landscape to not remove all fruit and nectar from a singular area.   | L & HF |
| The strimming of hedgerow bases, cutting of undergrowth and disturbing the leaf litter will be avoided, to conserve habitats for species of invertebrates, hedgehogs and amphibians.   | L & HF |
| Wherever possible, hedgerows will be kept to a minimum of 1.5m height, with the aspiration of hedgerows reaching a height of 3m for hedge laying. A diversity of hedge heights across the estate will support a wider variety of species.  | L & HF |
| Field margins will be provided alongside hedgerows wherever possible; this will ensure compliance with Stewardship Agreements in place.  | L & HF |
| Where required, young trees will be tagged and allowed to mature into hedgerow trees at appropriate spacing.   | L & HF |
| Native flowering shrub species, which are traditional to the area, will be used when planting new hedges or filling gaps.  | L & HF |

## Woodland & Scrub

| Action   | Owner    |
|--|----------|
| Increase the species and structural diversity of woodlands, by targeting woodland management to create a diverse range of habitats e.g., allowing ground flora to grow by selectively thinning, planting suitable species e.g., those listed within the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) or translocating local leaf litter to encourage flora establishment in suitable habitats. | ARES & L |
| Create additional habitats in woodlands, such as log piles and leaf piles, to provide shelter for invertebrates, amphibians and hedgehogs.   | L        |
| Standing dead wood and fallen timber will be left in situ unless they pose a safety hazard to footpaths, roads, or highly public areas. This will provide biodiversity benefits to a variety of species including invertebrates and birds.   | L        |
| Where practicable and safe to do so, as much standing dead wood will be left as possible and tree stumps will be cut as high as feasible to encourage invertebrates that are dependent on dead or decaying wood.   | L        |
| Proactively monitor potential external threats to tree stock, including the national spread of tree diseases; undertake pre-emptive action if required.  | L        |
| Install nesting boxes for various bird and bat species to encourage breeding populations and provide woodland shelter.   | L & S    |
| Protect all veteran trees within the estate and undertake regular condition inspections to determine sensitive management requirements and manage appropriately.   | ARES & L |



## Non-Agricultural Grasslands

| Action  | Owner       |
|---|-------------|
| Extend the area of diverse neutral grassland habitat, by reducing the area of amenity grassland across the estate.  | L           |
| Continue to review and expand rewilded and wildflower-planted areas within the estate, by reducing the management of grassland areas and planting local provenance native wildflower seed mixes of pollen and nectar-producing species.   | ARES, L & S |
| Mow grassland areas annually from late summer, to allow wildflowers to set seed and propagate. Cuttings will be collected and removed to achieve and maintain low-fertility soils.  | L           |
| Encourage species diversity by reducing soil fertility and introducing local province native species such as yellow rattle.   | L           |
| Before the management of grassland, checks will be undertaken for any hedgehogs or other wildlife in the area, to reduce the risk of harm from mowing and strimming equipment. "Check for hedgehogs" warning labels are present on all grounds maintenance equipment as a reminder for staff. | L           |

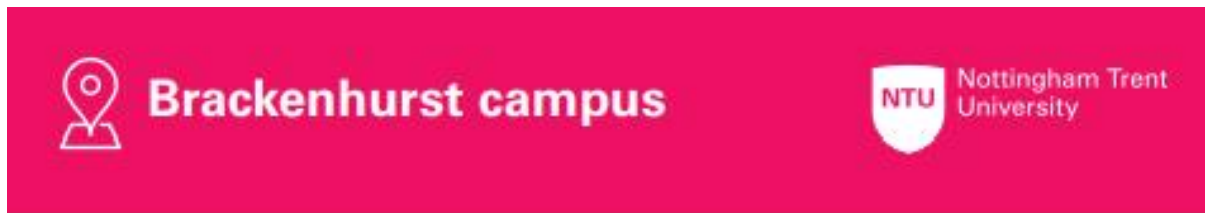


## Wetland & Water

| Action  | Owner            |
|---|------------------|
| Continue to improve the ecological value of ponds across the Brackenhurst campus through targeted management.   | ARES, HF, CD & S |
| Provide a buffer margin of wildflowers or grass meadows around ponds, to provide habitats for wildlife, reduce sediment inputs and reduce excess nutrients. | ARES, HF & L     |
| Promote habitat connectivity between wetlands and hedgerows or woodland edges, to provide improved green network routes for amphibians and mammals.         | ARES, HF & L     |
| Provide submerged, floating, and marginal vegetation within freshwater pond habitats, to support invertebrates, amphibians, and birds.                      | ARES, L & ARES   |
| Create hibernacula in key locations close to wetland habitats, to provide refuge for amphibians.  | ARES & L         |
| Ensure that all ponds on the estate have sloping sides or log and stone piles, to ensure that hedgehogs and other wildlife can exit the water easily.       | ARES & S         |



## Appendix D – Brackenhurst Campus Map of Access





## Travelling to Brackenhurst campus



Nottingham Trent University

### How to get here

#### By car

Brackenhurst can be reached from the M1 by leaving at any of the Nottingham exits (Junctions 24, 25 or 26), travelling through Nottingham city centre, then following the A612 towards Southwell.

From the A1, exit at Newark and follow signs to Southwell. Brackenhurst is on the A612 about one mile beyond Southwell.

#### By bus

Brackenhurst is served by the Nottingham City Transport (NCT)'s Pathfinder 26 bus service, which links Nottingham city centre to Southwell. Catch the service on King Street in Nottingham or Norwood Gardens in Southwell.

Tel: +44 (0)115 950 60 70 (NCT)  
[www.netx.co.uk](http://www.netx.co.uk)

#### By rail

Use Nottingham station and catch the NCT Pathfinder 26 bus service from King Street (about 10 minutes' walk).

Tel: +44 (0)3457 484950  
(National Rail Enquiries)  
[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

