

## **Phase 1 Habitat Surveys of the University Estate**



*Client:* University of St Andrews  
*Project duration:* 8 months

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### **Project description:**

Universities are now duty bound to promote Biodiversity under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. Biodiversity issues are also recognised by the University of St Andrews as being one area that can provide opportunities to raise awareness of environmental aspects with both staff and students. A baseline ecological survey will be carried out in order to understand the variety of flora and fauna present across the University estate.

Much of the University Estate on the North Haugh and DRH areas is made up of amenity grassland that is used as common areas and sports grounds. Tree belts delineate these amenity areas, and both Common and Soprano pipistrelles were recorded at both sites. The North Haugh has more widespread and intensive bat activity, and may support a roost of common pipistrelle

in the Physics building. The Andrew Melville Pond and Swilken Burn provide important foraging areas for the bats, and are also popular with a variety of wildfowl. The Arboretum considerably increases the overall diversity of the North Haugh, but the planting of a wildflower meadow could enhance this further. The DRH SUDS pond is of poor water quality.

### **Key elements:**

Within this programme, SERG:ES was responsible for all project and surveyor coordination, reporting, and the aquatic surveys. The main project output from this project was a GIS that the University Estates Department is now able to refer to when considering new developments. The survey was also useful for highlighting the importance of biodiversity within the University community, and many workers came forward with sightings of wildlife.



The Andrew Melville Pond on the North Haugh

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