

Gatwick Airport

Head Office, Gatwick



© Rachel Bicker

Gatwick Airport's non-operational areas cover around 75ha of woodland, grassland, and wetland habitats. Recognising the importance of protecting biodiversity, the business has dedicated this land to wildlife conservation and community benefit. This commitment stems

from Gatwick Airport Ltd's sustainability policy, the Decade of Change which commits Gatwick to a sector-leading biodiversity net gain approach. The Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark standard provides a framework for the business to deliver our biodiversity work, whilst gaining the benefit of external verification and recognition for their efforts in biodiversity.

Enhancing biodiversity and managing aerodrome safeguarding risks associated with the risk of bird strikes has required close collaboration between departments to ensure both safeguarding and biodiversity aims are being met. Gatwick Airport Ltd employs a biodiversity advisor and a fully funded Gatwick Greenspace Partnership (GGP) project officer role, monitoring and managing the sites while engaging over 200 volunteers a year from the local community.

The success of the project relies on support from colleagues, third parties and the local community. Involvement of stakeholders is enabled through outdoor work volunteering programmes and wildlife educational events, led by the GGP project officer. Raising awareness of biodiversity with future generations is of the utmost importance and they do this through facilitating forest schools (primary school age), wildlife rangers (secondary school), youth rangers (college years) and university programmes.

Gatwick Airport

Head Office, Gatwick



Through the delivery of their Biodiversity Action Plan, we have seen improvements in the condition of our key habitats which includes wildflower rich grassland, ancient woodland, scrubland, rivers, and wildlife ponds. These efforts help to maximise biodiversity potential, resilience, and habitat connectivity to the wider landscape.

Ecological monitoring work with the help of experts and local volunteers led to the discovery of several important species utilising Gatwick's habitats. Species such as the Long-horned Bee, Grizzled Skipper Butterfly, Nightingale, Bechstein's Bat, and Harvest Mouse, to name a few, have been recorded on their sites. These records are shared more widely with regional and national wildlife recording schemes to support the latest science on species distribution, population, and abundance.

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity continues to be a priority for the business. Gatwick Airport is proud to uphold the requirements of the Biodiversity Benchmark award and continually looks for opportunities to improve its approach to biodiversity. Their staff and the local community recognise the importance of biodiversity and are pleased to be able to do their part in preserving habitats and species for future generations.



Date Benchmark Achieved: 2014

Nature of Business: Commercial Airport