

## University Shortlisted for Two Green Gown Awards

We're delighted to announce that the University has been shortlisted for two **2025 Green Gown Awards**, recognising projects that deliver environmental and social impact, along with wider benefits across the institution and beyond.

The two projects that have been recognised are 'Nature Positive: The Old Quad's New Green Heart' and 'Furniture4Reuse – Repair, Refurbish, Reuse, Rehome!'.

### Our shortlisted entries

- [Nature Positive: The Old Quad's New Green Heart](#)

Shortlisted in the **Nature Positive** category, the Old Quad transformation has turned the former car park into a climate-resilient green space that demonstrates the University's commitment to sustainability.

Delivered as part of the bicentenary, the project has achieved an 80% biodiversity net gain whilst:

- integrating rainwater-collecting pools and drought-tolerant planting
- helping manage flood risk and support pollinators, and
- reusing historic materials in line with circular economy principles

These extensive environmental benefits have been recognised through the project's shortlisting in the 'Nature Positive' category, a testament to its long term contribution to campus resilience and ecological restoration. The space also delivers a wide reaching social value serving as a living lab for teaching and research in biodiversity, urban design, and sustainability.

Since it was reopened, the Quad has become a much-loved wellbeing space, supporting strategic health and engagement goals by providing a calm, nature-filled setting. It now regularly features in graduation photos, public events, and student recruitment materials - becoming one of the most iconic and photogenic locations on campus. As one judge commented, it's "a great initiative funded by the University with a long-term legacy in mind".

- [Creating Impact: Furniture4Reuse – Repair, Refurbish, Reuse, Rehome!](#)

Shortlisted in the **Creating Impact** category, Furniture4Reuse is the UK's largest dedicated furniture reuse hub in the UK higher education sector - achieving high-impact results with limited resources.

Since 2022, over 239 tonnes of furniture has been reused, avoiding around 641 tonnes of carbon emissions and saving £56,000 in disposal costs. Departments across campus benefit too, furniture is delivered within days, bypassing long procurement processes and saving time and money. One recent example saw 83 lab cabinets rehomed in just three weeks, saving over £33,000.

The service also plays a strong social role, supporting more than 60 local organisations and donating items to charities, schools, student groups, and start-ups. These include Holiform, a University spin-out producing sustainable biosurfactants, and the Students' Union Basic Needs Centre, which tackles student hardship. Its success has sparked spin-off initiatives like LabGood4Reuse (reusing lab equipment in FBMH) and inspired other institutions to seek our guidance in replicating the model.

This combination of measurable savings, social impact, and sector influence is a key reason the project has been shortlisted, showing what's possible when reuse is embedded into operations.

### **Further information**

Both projects show how sustainability can be embedded every day, delivering real value across teaching, research, student experience, community engagement, and campus design. Winners will be announced later this year. In the meantime, a huge thank you to all those involved in delivering these standout initiatives.