

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	PROGRESS	PLAN STATUS	
			2008-2010	2011-2020
A. To improve the biodiversity value of allotments, paying particular attention to the treatment of boundaries, water courses and vacant plots.	2020	Information has been obtained from 7 allotments / allotment associations on the use of surplus land to create specific habitats or wildlife areas such as ponds, going organic and mixing vegetables with bee/butterfly friendly plants. It seems that little has happened yet for allotment biodiversity across the county. However, a survey by a Coventry University student of 15 allotments in 2020 revealed a keenness to encourage management practices that would increase biodiversity among plot holders.	↔	↑
B. To increase the percentage of allotment sites with a wildlife area by at least 20%.	2020	No information is available on this as the number of Allotment Associations has not been forthcoming.		

Key to status: 2010: ↑ Any improvement ↔ No change ↓ Decline 2020: ↑ Good progress ↑ Some progress ↔ No change ↓ Decline

PROPOSED ACTIONS	BY	REPORTED PROGRESS	NO.OF SITES/ ITEMS	% OF TARGET	ACTION STATUS ↑↑↔↓
PL1. Set criteria for designating parts of allotments as Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs), assess any that are surveyed against the criteria and take to LWS panel.	ongoing	No progress			↔
PL2. Ensure a biodiversity statement is contained in all local strategies and publicity relating to allotments which integrates nature conservation with crop production and discourages the use of herbicides and pesticides.	ongoing	Little progress. Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council: its Allotment Strategy (2012-22) promotes healthy living through the development and management of allotment provision throughout the borough. As a signatory to the West Midlands Biodiversity Pledge and to support delivery of Biodiversity Action Plan targets and objectives, NBBC is committed to seeking to retain and enhance biodiversity within allotment sites. Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council: its Allotment Vision (2013-18) highlighted the interest and potential for improving and encouraging biodiversity and conservation across the Borough's allotment sites.	2 out of 7 LAs	29%	↑
PL3. Encourage the adoption of a policy discouraging the use of pesticides on land controlled by local authorities, e.g. parks and allotments, and promote organic alternatives.	2016	Known progress in 4 out of 7 Local Authorities Coventry City Council (CCC): does not use any pesticides on its green spaces and only uses glyphosate non-residual herbicide to minimise the negative environmental impact of these products.	4LAs	58%	↑

		<p>Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC): does not use residuals but still uses glyphosate as the only economically viable means of weed control; if banned then foam treatments look the next most plausible method but at much greater expense. Encourages environmentally sympathetic approaches by individual allotment associations.</p> <p>North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC): would fully support the reduction of chemical use although there would be some resistance as would not be able to keep the weed growth at bay. Has reduced the use of chemicals over the years and uses glyphosate to control weeds in most areas, around trees and other obstacles to assist the mowing operation and garage sites, drying areas and walkways to keep the area tidy. Also works with Highways to carry out a Borough wide chemical application to the public highway, kerbs and back of footpaths.</p> <p>Rugby Borough Council (RBC): glyphosate licence is extended until 2022; unclear if its licence will be renewed after that.</p> <p>Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT): work has been done with councils (e.g. Rugby, Coventry) to discourage the use of chemicals on their WWT sites.</p>			
<p>PL4. Promote the adoption of a policy to discontinue the use of all chemical slug repellents on land controlled by all local authorities.</p>	2016	<p>Achieved but adoption not.</p> <p>Rugby Borough Council: promoted in 2016 as the lead for the other Local Authorities but information on the adoption of this policy received from only 4 Local Authorities:</p> <p>Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council: does not use any within their grounds maintenance contract.</p> <p>North Warwickshire Borough Council: never uses slug pellets</p> <p>Warwick District Council: has discontinued the use of any type of slug pellets.</p> <p>Severn Rivers Trust: reduction and management of the level of use of slug pellets is being undertaken in the Leam Catchment.</p>	4 out of 7 LAs	58%	↑
<p>SM1. Encourage a variety of management options that increase biodiversity within allotments (see 15 point plan - section 4.3), aiming in the first year to get 5% of Allotment Associations signed up.</p>	2016	<p>Some progress. Number of allotment associations unknown.</p> <p>Nuneaton & Bedworth: several allotments (Greenmoor Road, Nuneaton and Mount Pleasant and Newdigate, Bedworth) have utilised surplus land to create specific habitats or wildlife areas adding even further to the general value of the sites for wildlife.</p> <p>Rugby: Lansdowne Allotments Association is embarking on a policy of developing the 4ha site with additional orchard planting focusing on heritage varieties and creating many designated wildlife areas and corridors. Plot holders are promoted to go organic and mix vegetables with bee/butterfly friendly plants.</p>	7 locations	n/a	↑

		<p>Warwick:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binswood Allotment Society/ Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire: in 2015 created a dedicated butterfly/ wildlife area with specific planting, a small pond, meadow and information board on the site of an old barn. • Packmores Community Garden Group created a pond at Priory Park Allotments in 2015. • Sherbourne Allotments has created a small pond 4m² 			
<p>SM2. Develop at least one allotment per district with biodiversity elements as a demonstration site for education of tenants, schools and other groups who might access the sites.</p>	2020	<p>Known progress in 3 Local Authorities</p> <p>Coventry City Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandon Wood Farm, a 16ha working farm 5m from Coventry City centre. The social enterprise was set up with the support of Coventry City Council to develop a programme of activities for schools, pre-schools and community groups. • Cardinal Wiseman School has a farm in the grounds with teachers' days organised by the Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens (FCFCG) <p>Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council: the Neighbourhood Services department developed Bluebell Community Gardens, attached to an existing Town Council allotment site. The gardens are used by local community groups; Gro-Organic and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) also use the site to run educational sessions and campaigns.</p> <p>Warwick District Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitnash Town Council developed the Dobson Lane Community Allotments in 2009 to include a 'Nurture Nature' wildlife garden and Forest School area. • Hill Close Gardens runs various educational events. 	3 LAs	49%	↑
<p>RM1. Monitor butterfly populations using Butterfly Conservation's 'Allotment Butterfly Monitoring' form.</p>	ongoing	<p>Little progress</p> <p>Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire: despite visiting 2 allotment groups and giving 2 talks to gardening groups, there is only one known monitored site, at Binswood Allotments.</p> <p>Bumblebee Project (2013-14): set up by Coventry University and Garden Organic to explore the diversity and abundance of the 8 most common bumblebee species in UK allotments and gardens cultivated for food.</p>			↑
<p>RM2. Produce biodiversity survey forms for allotment holders to complete, covering either individual plots or whole sites as appropriate, for other animals, e.g. slow worm, dragonflies, and plants.</p>	2015	<p>A little progress.</p> <p>Coventry University: in 2020 April Webb invited 50 allotments to take part in her botanical survey of the spontaneous flora present in allotments in VC38 but due to lockdown only 15 were able to take part. A questionnaire on whole site history and management and questionnaires to individual plot holders regarding management practices, cultivation</p>			↑

		techniques, mindset concerning nature, understanding ecological interactions amongst other aspects were used to gather data.			
RM3. Follow up information from RM2 by visiting sites where rare species occur and creating ecosites as appropriate.	ongoing	No progress Achievement is dependent on RM2			↔
CP1. Establish a system for awarding 'Wildlife Friendly Allotment' certificates for fulfilling positive habitat management options (see SM1) using the 15 point plan based on the number of elements incorporated – bronze, silver and gold levels.	2016	No progress.			↔
CP2. Inform Allotment Association secretaries of the 'Wildlife Friendly Allotment' Awards (see CP1) and demonstration sites (see SM2).	2016	No progress Achievement is dependent on CP1			↔
CP3. Encourage wildlife friendly gardening and using the 'Gardening Wildlife Calendar' (see section 4.4), and promote the health and social benefits of having an allotment.	ongoing	Some progress Warwickshire Wildlife Trust: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005-8: advised and helped on various allotment projects in Coventry such as the Hillfields project where a small organic allotment was created out of a former derelict site and used as a therapy garden providing fresh food, exercise and relaxation. • 2012: the 'Gardens Go Wild' project aimed to encourage people to consider wildlife in gardens, allotments and community green spaces across the rural parishes. 			↑
CP4. Continue to encourage composting through workshops.	ongoing	Good progress Warwickshire County Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Waste Management Team/Master Composter Scheme first ran a composting workshop in 2014 • every year since then, until the 2020-21 lockdown, a workshop has been run twice a year in Spring and Autumn in different districts, with priority given to those in which the provision of free green waste collection will soon be discontinued • the Master Composter Scheme will be reconstructed in 2022. 			↑↑
CP5. Continue to hold an annual bio-blitz of allotments.	ongoing	No known progress			↔