



REVISED PLAN APRIL 2016

TRADITIONAL ORCHARDS

1. INTRODUCTION

Traditional orchards are groups of fruit trees such as apples, pears and plums planted on vigorous rootstocks at low densities in permanent grassland managed in a low intensity way; nut-bearing shrubs such as walnuts, almonds and hazelnuts can also be present in some sites. These man-made habitats are long-established and widely distributed and are a distinctive feature of the British countryside. Prime traditional orchard habitat consists of grazed grassland with fruit trees of varying age structure, with an abundance of standing and fallen dead and decaying wood. Warwickshire is not as rich in traditional orchards as its neighbouring counties of Gloucestershire and Worcestershire but it retains a valuable resource of this habitat, especially within Stratford-on-Avon District.



Blackwell Orchard
© Sarah Shuttleworth

Traditional orchards are structurally and ecologically similar to wood-pasture and parkland, with open-grown trees set in herbaceous vegetation, but are generally distinguished from these priority habitat complexes by the following characteristics: the species composition of the trees, these being primarily in the family *Rosaceae*; the usually denser arrangement of the trees; the small scale of individual habitat patches; the wider dispersion; greater frequency of occurrence of habitat patches in the countryside.

Some traditional orchards may have originally been commercial orchards but are now no longer managed intensively. Others are small orchards planted originally to produce fruit for local consumption or for the production of cider and perry (pear wine). They are usually dominated by older, less intensively managed 'standard' trees (branches springing above the reach of grazing animals) planted at relatively lower densities, which allows livestock grazing beneath the orchard canopy. The official definition of a traditional orchard is at least five trees with crown edges less than 20m apart, although sites not adhering strictly to this may still be of importance.

Traditional orchards differ from intensive orchards which are managed to maximise fruit production, usually including aspects of: dense planting of short-lived trees on dwarfing rootstocks; high chemical inputs; intensive pruning to remove dead and decaying wood and maintain the trees in a restricted form; frequent mowing and spraying of the orchard floor. They have a relatively short productive life, perhaps only 20-25 years and a usually more limited wildlife interest. The underlying grassland can be relatively unimproved and species-rich where fertilizer usage has not been heavy.

Traditional orchards are important reservoirs of genetic diversity in supporting locally distinctive varieties of fruit which are increasingly rare. Local examples include the Wyken Pippin apple and Warwickshire Drooper Plum.

Traditional orchards can have significant ecological value (Barker et al. 2011). The spring blossom is vital for insects such as bees, butterflies and hoverflies and can vastly increase

the carrying capacity of a landscape for these (which can benefit the pollination of other habitats and crops and boost beneficial insect predators of pests such as aphids). The flower buds, leaf buds and fruit can be important for birds such as bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) and the winter thrushes, fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) and redwing (*Turdus iliacus*). Older and dying trees provide holes suitable for nesting birds and may attract lesser spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*). A diverse fungus flora can also be associated with old or dead trees.

The dead wood (e.g. heart rot) or mature wood of older trees can also be important for 'saproxylic' invertebrates such as the red-belted clearwing moth, *Synanthredon myopaeformis* (rare in our area (Joy, 2001)) and the [noble chafer](#) *Gnorimus nobilis* (Alexander & Bower, 2011). The noble chafer is on the current UK BAP Priority Species list, classified as 'vulnerable', which means that it is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. There is only one record for Warwickshire, from Bickmarsh in 2001 and again in 2015 but as the insect fauna of the sub-region is not well recorded, there may be other sites where it occurs.

The foliage is important for insectivorous birds, also phytophagous insects such as the scarce Pinion-spotted Pug (*Eupithecia insigniata*). Other scarce moths associated with this habitat are the Green Pug (*Pasiphila rectangulata*), Eyed Hawk-moth (*Smerinthus ocellatus*) and Pale Tussock (*Calliteara pudibunda*). Traditional orchards are also an important local habitat for mistletoe, *Viscum album* (Briggs, 2011) which supports a number of scarce insects.

2.	OBJECTIVES*	TARGETS*
Associated Action Plans are: <i>Wood-pasture, Parkland & Veteran Trees</i> , <i>Lowland Neutral Grassland</i> , <i>Lowland Calcareous Grassland</i> , <i>Hedgehog</i> , <i>Bats</i> and <i>Song Thrush</i>		
PLEASE CONSULT THE 'GENERIC HABITATS' ACTION PLAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS DOCUMENT FOR OBJECTIVES COMMON TO ALL HABITAT PLANS		
A.	To maintain those orchards judged to be in 'excellent' condition.	2026
B.	To achieve condition of ecologically and horticulturally (rare varieties) important orchards judged to be in 'good' condition.	2026
C.	To restore those orchards judged to be in 'poor' condition.	2026
D.	To expand the extent of the habitat by 40ha.	2026
*Objectives are derived from People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) / Natural England (NE) Inventory 'Condition Criteria' (Burrough A.E. et al. (2011)) and expanded by the Habitat Biodiversity Audit (see section 4 below). Targets will be set after survey by the Local Wildlife Sites Project (2013-14) to determine condition of all orchards.		

3. NATIONAL BAP OBJECTIVES & TARGETS

Orchards became a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitat as part of the BAP review completed in 2007 by [Orchard Network](#) for the [Joint Nature Conservation Committee](#). A description of the habitat of [Traditional Orchards](#) BAP, updated in 2010-11, may be seen online.

4. CURRENT STATUS

Traditional orchards are derived from land management practices which are rapidly disappearing, but which provide excellent conditions for biodiversity to thrive. The habitat is becoming increasingly rare due to neglect, intensification of agriculture and pressure from land development. Since 1950 the overall area of all orchards in England has declined by 63% and of the remainder, only a third are traditional. This means that only 13.5% of the former habitat range exists.

The [Traditional Orchard Project in England](#) (PTES/NE, 2011), the creation of an national inventory recorded by counties to support the UK Habitat Action Plan, identified 16,990ha of traditional orchard habitat in England on 35,378 individual sites, primarily via aerial photograph interpretation. Only 19% of those identified were ground-truthed, thus providing a partial snapshot survey of the situation: 45% of the total number were judged to be in poor condition, 46% in good condition and only 9% in excellent condition; 2750 orchards (2831ha) were included within Environmental Stewardship schemes.

In Warwickshire the PTES/NE Project 2011 identified 240ha of traditional orchard on 589 sites; this does not include Solihull and Coventry whose figures are included in the West Midlands (total figures were 24ha on 114 sites). Revised figures for Warwickshire (236.8ha) and for the West Midlands (26.5ha on 117 sites) were produced a year later (PTES/NE, 2012).

The PTES condition assessment descriptions used for the report are given below, with minor editing:

Excellent	An orchard with established trees and mostly stocked(i.e. no opportunity, nor desirable due to environmental factors, to plant new trees at present) or where there are new trees planted in gaps. There is both standing and fallen large-diameter deadwood present. Below the trees is unimproved grassland which is grazed or cut from August to February.
Good/Fair	An orchard with established trees and mostly stocked; if there are gaps present there is little or no evidence of replanting. There may be both standing and fallen, large-diameter deadwood present or just one of these elements. This category also includes newly planted or young orchards provided no livestock damage is evident. Below the tree is semi-improved grassland which is grazed or cut from August to February. There is opportunity to restore the grassland.
Poor	An orchard that has been either neglected or abandoned or which comprises more than 30% scrub cover. Deadwood in either form may be present or totally absent but there is no evidence of new planting and the orchard comprises mostly gaps. There is improved grassland below the trees and livestock damage to the trees is evident.
Destroyed	An orchard that is indicated as being present on maps and aerial photographs but no longer exists on the ground when ground-truthed ; there are no fruit trees evident on land parcel.

From Phase 1 Habitat Survey (HBA, 2012), based on ground-truthing augmented by aerial photographic interpretation (in a ratio of c.2/3 to 1/3), the area of traditional orchards in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull was estimated to be 162ha. All will be remnants of traditional orchards, not commercial, and newly planted orchards in private grounds, and almost all occur in Stratford-on-Avon District (117ha), with small areas in North Warwickshire Borough (7ha), Warwick District (6ha) and Solihull Metropolitan Borough (1ha). Provided targets for expansion are met, the area of traditional orchard by 2026 will

be 202ha, based on HBA figure for current area. In 2011 the number in Environmental Stewardship (ES) was 20, covering 21.75ha (PTES/NE Project).

Two traditional orchards have designated as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS): Kingsway Orchard at Binley, under CCC ownership (2014) and Mount Pleasant at Shipston-on-Stour (2015); 12 other sites have been identified and will be surveyed in 2015.

4.1 Legal and Policy Status

A wide range of species and habitats are protected under international and domestic laws, including the [Wild Birds Directive](#) (1979), the [Wildlife and Countryside Act](#) (1981), the [Conservation Regulations](#)(1994) and [EC Habitats Directive](#) (1992). Protection of sites is afforded nationally through [Sites of Special Scientific Interest](#) (SSSI), [Special Areas of Conservation](#) (SAC) and [Local Nature Reserve](#) (LNR) statutory status. Other sites are offered recognition of their value through Local Wildlife Site status (LWS), Local Character Areas and identified Landscape Scale Areas. The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (2012) chapter/section 11 states conditions with regard to any development negatively affecting biodiversity, including protected sites, ancient woodland and other irreplaceable habitats (paragraph 118). The Wildlife & Countryside Act and schedule 2 of the [Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations](#) (2010) make it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, take, possess, sell, buy or transport a range of species.

Traditional orchards were targeted as an important habitat in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) and their conservation and restoration is continued in the subsequent [Environmental Stewardship: Higher Level Scheme\(HLS\) targeting](#). They are included in the [Regional Theme Statement for the West Midlands](#) under Theme 1: Improving the resilience of Nationally Important (UK Biodiversity Action Plan) habitats to climate change: *Natural England will consider applications in the West Midlands region offering to maintain and/or restore/link/buffer 'significant'1 areas of the following habitats: traditional orchards particularly in Worcestershire, Herefordshire and South Shropshire.*

Orchards have been liable to pressure for residential development, particularly where orchards are seen to be part of the curtilage of existing buildings and therefore were classified as 'brownfield' sites prior to planning changes in 2011. Gardens are no longer classified as brownfield sites.

4.2 Current Factors Affecting the Habitat

- **Insensitive management:**
 - Many sites are now used as horse paddocks. Horses can cause considerable damage when allowed to graze in old orchards; the palatable bark can be stripped in a matter of weeks causing death to the tree.
 - Dying trees are often removed promptly, depriving organisms that rely on dead wood.
 - Many orchards are commonly located adjacent to farms; this means that they are often used (and traditionally used in the past) as shelter for over-wintered livestock that receive supplementary feed. This can lead to

nutrient enrichment of the grassland beneath the fruit trees, damaging botanical diversity and the health of the trees.

- **Destruction for ‘agricultural improvement’** – old orchards were often seen as being unproductive and were ripped out for more intensive agricultural use. In the past this was the main source of loss but other threats are more significant now, particularly neglect.
- **Development** – some of the remaining traditional orchards are located within or on the edge of villages, particularly in the south of Warwickshire. In some cases they now form part of the curtilage of a dwelling. As such they may be subject to proposals for residential development on the basis that they fall within the definition of ‘brownfield land’. They may also be subject to proposals for development ancillary to existing dwellings, e.g. garages, domestic extensions, swimming pools etc. While rural planning policies are now generally successful in preventing speculative residential development on traditional orchard sites, there may be some cumulative impact on the quality of the habitat through small-scale householder-type developments.
- **Neglect or loss through natural processes** - fruit trees generally have a short life in comparison with other tree species. Plums rarely live beyond 50 years, apples 80-100 years and pears (especially perry pears) 100-150 years. Therefore, unless replacements are established to replace lost trees, a traditional orchard is unlikely to survive beyond 100-150 years.
- **Isolation of sites** - the loss of orchards over the last 40 years means that sites have become increasingly isolated from one another.

5. LOCAL ACTION

- An accurate digitised database of orchards in the sub-region has been established by the Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA) and is annually updated.
- The effectiveness of HLS agreements in meeting objectives for orchard maintenance, including achieving condition, restoration and expansion is monitored at a fairly regular level by NE as part of its “care and maintenance” work for HLS agreements.
- Established management - traditional varieties of fruit are becoming better appreciated among the general public resulting in owners of small orchards placing more value on old fruit trees. The CSS encouraged better management of sites through the 10 year duration of the agreements and this is being continued via [Higher Level Stewardship](#) (21.75ha of traditional orchard are being managed under ES according to the PTES Inventory).
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- Higher Level Environmental Stewardship options (2013) are:
 - HC18 - maintenance of high-value traditional orchards
 - HC20 - restoration of traditional orchards
 - HC19 - maintenance of traditional orchards in production
 - HC21 - creation of traditional orchards

Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan

- Creation/restoration of traditional orchards - new community orchards are increasingly being created in urban areas. The [National Trust](#) and other major landowners have created and / or restored a number of traditional orchards adjacent to their properties, e.g. at [Upton House](#) and [Packwood House](#), both owned by the National Trust. The orchard at [Charlecote Park](#) will be restored / expanded under a HLS scheme to be submitted in the near future.
- Education - there are good opportunities for educational access to traditional orchards through the Environmental Stewardship Schemes administered by Natural England, particularly for sites within easy access of urban areas. There are sites near Coleshill in the north and Stratford-on-Avon in the south. Specific requests can be routed through the Worcester office of Natural England.
- Planning Procedures - current wildlife and habitat interests are taken into account when planning authorities are assessing proposals for development and when they are identifying land for development through local development frameworks. However the lack of survey data on many traditional orchards may mean that their contribution to biodiversity is not fully appreciated.
- [Portobello Crossroads Orchard](#) LWS has some trees over 50 years old with open cavities providing potential access points for the rare noble chafer beetle.
- Sites where unusual cultivars are preserved, such as the Warwickshire Drooper (a plum), Wyken Pippin (an apple) and Shakespeare Pear include [Marston Green Orchard and Park](#), [Hill Close Gardens](#) (HCGT) in Warwick and [Garden Organic](#) at Ryton. HCGT holds an annual Apple Weekend.
- The [Big Tree Hunt](#) of Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull, launched in 2005, gathered information on unusual cultivars and important local fruit tree collections.
- The following community orchards have been established through the [LEADER](#) funded service project 'Community Orchards':
 - [Stoneleigh Community Orchard Group](#) was formed in May 2011 with a generous offer from the Stoneleigh Meadows Society making land adjacent to Stoneleigh Bridge available for the creation of a new orchard with traditional varieties of apple and pear, also local varieties of apple. These have thrived, with some trees approaching 20 feet after only 2 years, giving the appearance of a site that has existed for far longer. The field containing the trees offers plenty of potential for wildlife to thrive in proximity to the river although the other element of the project, trying to establish a wild flower meadow, has to date met with limited success owing to the strength of the indigenous grass (pers.comm. Pete Freeman, 2013).
 - [Ryton-on-Dunsmore Community Orchard](#), established with help and support from *South Warwickshire Local Food* to purchase 78 trees in 2011, [Baginton Community Orchard](#) and [Eathorpe Orchard](#) .
 - At Hatton LEADER funded the trees for the community orchard project on Warwick District Council (WDC) land ,with perimeter planting and landscaping carried out by the WDC; a rich nectar rich meadow sown under the trees will develop in 2014.
- Orchards have also been established at the following primary schools through the Central Warwickshire [LEADER](#) programme: [Ryton, Long Lawford](#) , [Wolvey, Knightlow](#), [Princethorpe](#) and [The Revel C of E Primary School, Monks Kirby](#) where, with help and support from *South Warwickshire Local Food*, residents purchased 29 trees and equipment and a shed to support the project.

Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan

- Salisbury Close Orchard - a relict orchard within the [Welcombe Hills and Clopton Park LNR](#), restored (part funded by a Countryside Stewardship grant in 2002) by children and their parents, the 6 remaining mature trees were added to by c.80 more fruit trees of local varieties (Common Ground, 2008). SDC are planning some replacement planting to fill spaces(2013).
- [Kineton Community Orchard](#) began in 2011 with the offer from Kineton Sports and Social club to provide rent-free an area of unused land on their site. By 2014 a mixed orchard of 40 fruit and nut trees had been planted, with emphasis on local 'heritage' varieties including the Warwickshire Drooper plum; a small avenue of perry pears and a species-rich boundary hedge were added. Funding came from local businesses and management is carried out by local groups and students from Moreton Morrell college; the orchard will be developed organically with a biodiverse meadow (per.comm. Mark Levene).
- [WO2Grow](#), the Whatcote, Oxhill and Tysoe Community Orchard, was started in 2011 with support from the Big Lottery Fund's Local Food Scheme and other local groups.
- [Bishop's Itchington Community Orchard](#) was planted in 2009 in an unmown corner of the Parish Council - owned playing field with c.12 local/old varieties of fruit trees.
- Community Orchards Project organiser (Gareth Davies, S. Warwickshire Local Food CIC) is supporting the PTES new national project to 'sign up' a network of museum, or mother, orchards to hold every variety, like a distributed virtual collection', by providing planting lists for all Warwickshire's community orchards.
- A Warwickshire beekeeper has 6 hives in her apples and pears orchard (2015) in Brinklow, a remnant of a large and ancient orchard running along the back of the village along the Fosse Way (Broad Street). She is willing to share her experiences (email: scj.scj@btinternet.com).
- Mount Pleasant Orchard near Shipston on Stour – this 1.6ha traditional orchard was the venue for the first LBAP event (**see CP1**) to promote the management of orchards for biodiversity, courtesy of the owners, Roger and Gudrun Berry (2015). Its 220 trees, with 100 varieties of plums, pears and apples, are managed non-commercially to preserve and increase the gene pool and support wildlife.
- Mid Shires Orchard Group Scionwood Swap - Feb 28th 2016 - supported by PTES, and an opportunity to find and obtain local and rare varieties, this event enabled visitors to share, swap and buy scionwood (one-year old shoots for used for grafting) from heritage fruit trees such as apple, pear, plum and cherry. Scionwood can be taken home for grafting, or for a small charge, grafted on the day onto bare-root rootstocks of choice. The resultant new fruit trees are then ready to take away for potting up, for planting out next winter in gardens, community or home orchards, fields and hedgerows.

6. PROPOSED LOCAL ACTIONS

ACTION	Lead	Partners	By
PLEASE CONSULT THE '<i>GENERIC HABITATS</i>' ACTION PLAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS DOCUMENT FOR ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL HABITAT PLANS			
Policy, Legislation & Protection			
PL1. Continue to select all qualifying traditional orchards as LWSs and enter onto database, targeting designation at the most valuable, taking account of priority species. (see RM2)	LWSP	NE LAs WWT WCC	ongoing
PL2. Ensure that the protection of all traditional orchards is included in Local Development Frameworks, Neighbourhood Plans and any other relevant strategies, including targets for maintenance, restoration and expansion for each Local Authority.	WCC	NE LAs WWT	ongoing
PL3. Ensure that new minor or major developments result in net biodiversity gain through adherence to the mitigation hierarchy.	WCC	NE LPAs WWT NWBC NBBC	ongoing
PL4. When traditional orchards are under imminent threat of destruction, liaise with local conservation groups to record varieties and rescue genetic material of any rarities.	WCC	HBA WBRC WWT LWSP WALC OGS MSOG LAs LOs	ongoing
Site / Species Safeguard & Management			
SM1. Maintain condition of those orchards currently in 'excellent' condition by ensuring the appropriate management of all sites.	CSG	NE LOs CFE	ongoing
SM2. Achieve condition of those ecologically and horticulturally (rare varieties) important orchards in 'good' condition by appropriate management.	CSG	NE LOs CFE	2026
SM3. Restore those orchards in 'poor' condition by 2026, retaining mature and veteran trees. Retain dead wood, both standing and fallen, to maximise its value for wildlife (birds and insects), and for breeding sites, e.g. for lesser spotted woodpecker.	CSG	NE LOs	2026
SM4. Expand the extent of the habitat by creating another 13ha by 2015, and a further 27ha by 2026, of new 'standard' orchards of locally traditional fruit varieties and appropriate grass mix, on land of low existing conservation value / old orchard sites, and ensure site management.	CSG	NE WWT LOs MSOG	2015-2026

ACTION	Lead	Partners	By
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SM5. Document and conserve viable populations of all extant fruit varieties traditionally associated with Warwickshire.	SBT	NE EOs NT MSOG OGs PTES HCGT	2020
Advisory			
A1. Provide appropriate, targeted advice to owners to maintain, achieve condition, and restore their traditional orchards.	NE	WWT NE GO MSOG LAs	ongoing
A2. Actively promote uptake of the agri-environment schemes when existing agreements expire.	NE	LOs OGs	ongoing
Research & Monitoring			
RM1. Interrogate existing information in HBA database, land utilisation survey, previous surveys and local records, to identify key sites/areas for orchard biodiversity.	HBA	NE WFWI WT WALS	2014
RM2. Develop and agree a scoring system for the condition of orchards according to size, condition of trees and grassland.	CSG	BC	2018
RM3. Survey all existing orchard sites (see RM1) to assess their condition according to size, condition of trees and grassland.	LWSP	HBA LOs LAs	2015-17
RM4. Survey all orchard sites with mature trees for the presence of the noble chafer and scarce moths associated with this habitat (see Introduction).	WBRC	Unis PTES HBA BC LOs LAs	2015-17
RM5. Continue to monitor effectiveness of HLS agreements in meeting objectives for orchard maintenance, including achieving condition, restoration and expansion.	NE	LOs	ongoing
Communication & Publicity			
CP1. Organise an annual event to support local groups and landowners managing traditional orchards by promoting their biodiversity value.	MSOG	NE WWT MPO LOs OGs BC	2020
CP2. Organise at least one 'popular' event per year, e.g. around Apple Days, to promote the biodiversity value of traditional orchards to the wider public.	SBT	NE WWT OGs HCGT MSOG	2020

Abbreviations: BC – Butterfly Conservation, CSG – LBAP Core Steering Group, EOs – Estate owners, HCGT – Hill Close Gardens Trust, HBA – Habitat Biodiversity Audit partnership, LAs – Local Authorities, LOs – Landowners, LPAs – Local Planning Authorities, LWSP – Local Wildlife Sites Project, MPO – Mount Pleasant Orchard, MSOG – Mid shires Orchard Group, NE – Natural England, NT – National Trust, OGs – Orchard Groups, PCs – Parish Councils, PTES – People's Trust for Endangered Species, SCOG – Stoneleigh Community Orchard Group, SBT – [Shakespeare Birthplace Trust](#), WALC – Warwickshire Association of Local Councils, WFVI – Warwickshire Federation of Women's Institutes, WCC – Warwickshire County Council, WT – Woodland Trust, WWT – Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

7. PROGRESS WITH ACTIONS

From 2015–2020 there will be a rolling programme of reporting on progress, of 10 action plans per year with an annual summary of results. Results will be entered onto the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System [BARS](#). Progress with this plan up to 2008 can be seen at www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/LBAP.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

UK National Digital Archive of Datasets, Crops, Farmers & Workers, Livestock, County Summaries (1996) – Reference: CRDA/4/DS/1/3/1

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Briggs,J. (2011) Mistletoe – a review of its distribution, conservation and insect associates. British Wildlife October 2011 (p.23-31).

Natural England (2011) [First ever survey of England's traditional orchards from the air](#).

[Economics, biodiversity resource protection and social values of orchards](#) (2012): A study of six orchards by Herefordshire Orchards Community Evaluation Project - a 4 year study of the environmental, wildlife and social value of orchards.

Lawton, J.H. (2010) [Making Space for Nature](#): a review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network. Report to Defra, advocating a landscape-scale approach guided by four key principles, summarised as '*more, bigger, better and joined*'.

DEFRA (2011) [Biodiversity 2020](#): A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services.

Natural England (2012) [Traditional orchards Inventory for England](#) – habitat surveillance pilots and inventory updates are part of the ongoing monitoring projects carried out by Natural England.

PTES (2012) The traditional orchards of Warwickshire: summary findings of an inventory to support habitat conservation.

PTES (2014) [Noble chafer campaign](#) – a research project bringing together a range of disciplines to learn more about this rare species with the help of the public.

RSPB (2013) State of Nature – a stocktake of all our native wildlife by 25 wildlife organisations.

HBA (2013) The State of the Habitats of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.

9. FURTHER INFORMATION

The Noble Chafer is on the current UK BAP Priority Species list published in 2007 ([JNCC](#)). The targets and objectives for the [Noble Chafer \(*Gnorimus nobilis*\)](#) may be seen online.

Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA) for Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull – mapping data set and associated information. [Phase 1 habitat survey](#) 1996-2002 and Phase 2 (Local Wildlife Sites) ongoing.

[Biodiversity Planning Toolkit](#) - a new online resource to help incorporate biodiversity and geodiversity into the planning system and new development.

[Plantlife](#) - a charity which carries out plant species and habitat conservation, owns and manages nature reserves, campaigns, and raises awareness through education.

[Flora Locale](#) - promotes the restoration of wild plants and habitats for the benefit of biodiversity, landscapes and people in town and countryside.

[Common Ground](#) with English Nature (1999). Orchards and Wildlife: Conference Papers, 22nd & 23rd September. ISBN 1 870364 20 1

Anon. (1989) Orchards - A Guide to Local Conservation. Common Ground, London. For advice on community orchards and the founding of local Orchard Groups, contact Common Ground on tel. 01747 850820.

[Garden Organic](#) (formerly known as HDRA), Ryton, Coventry, Warks. CV8 3LG - dedicated to researching and promoting organic gardening, farming and food. Tel. 024 7630 3517

[National Orchard Forum](#) - champions traditional orchards.

[Staffordshire Orchards Initiative](#) - based at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, The Wolseley Centre, Wolseley Bridge, Stafford ST17 0WT

[Worcester Orchard Workers](#) - Wade Muggleton at The Countryside Centre, Wildwood Drive, Worcester WR5 2LG. Tel: 01905 766493

[People's Trust for Endangered Species](#) - the [Traditional Orchard Survey](#) is working to preserve these special places; orchard owners or managers in England or Wales can complete a [questionnaire](#). Records of the rare Noble Chafer beetle which develops as a larva in decaying fruit trees are wanted: email enquiries@ptes.org for a colour photo.

Cordrey, L. & Merry, K. (2011) [Conserving and Restoring Traditional Orchards in England. Project Scrapbook](#). Copies available from [National Trust](#), Heelis, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2NA (send A5 SAE) .

Natural England Technical Information Notes – TIN 12 to 21 cover all aspects of orchard management.

The [Mistletoe League](#) - a project to help orchard and garden mistletoe management by encouraging the recording of mistletoe-susceptible tree varieties during the winters 2011 – 2013.

[Orchard Network](#) works for the conservation of Traditional Orchards as a wildlife habitat and is the website of the Habitat Action Plan (HAP) group for Traditional Orchards. It provides a forum / platform for local orchard groups in addition to being a key resource for all things orchard-related .

The [Mid Shires Orchard Group](#) aims to conserve and promote enjoyment and use of the local orchards and rich apple traditions of the four 'mid-shires' counties of Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire.

10. CONTACT

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