



REVISED PLAN FEBRUARY 2021

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.



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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. The south Warwickshire tradition of making fermented beverages out of a hard pear/apple juice mixture goes back to the 1100s producing a cider known as Crab John.

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.

Drop in orchards in 1950s due to mechanisation and use of land for housing, with destruction of whole orchard. Housing in 1920s tended to be less intensive, with odd trees left in each house plot.

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), a total of 263ha.

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, 2018), based on ground-truthing augmented by aerial photographic interpretation (in a ratio of c.2/3 to 1/3), the area of the 231 known traditional orchards in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull was estimated to be 186ha, a loss of 87ha since 2012. All were remnants of traditional orchards, not commercial, and newly planted

orchards in private grounds; almost all occur in Stratford-on-Avon District with small areas in North Warwickshire Borough, Warwick District and Solihull Metropolitan Borough; some are in Environmental Stewardship. By 2020 the area had been expanded to 276ha, an increase of 50% since 2018.

Four traditional orchards have been designated as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS): Kingsway Orchard at Binley (under CCC ownership), Portobello Crossroads Orchard on the Fosse Way and Mount Pleasant Orchard and Blackwell Bushes at Shipston-on-Stour.

4.1 Legal and Policy Status

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' 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 serious damage as 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 overwintered 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 [Big Tree Hunt](#) of Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull, launched in 2005, gathered information on unusual cultivars and important local fruit tree collections.
- **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. At the Warwick University Gibbet Hill Campus a 15yr. old amenity orchard was demolished in 2018 but no record kept of the varieties of the 50 trees lost.
- The effectiveness of [Higher Level Stewardship](#) 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. 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 HLS; options 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
- 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](#).

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[Packwood House](#), and [Baddesley Clinton](#). Small areas of the orchards at [Charlecote Park](#) and [Farnborough Hall](#) have been restored.

- **Recording and preserving variety (see also list of Local Wildlife Sites LWS, section 4)**
 - [Portobello Crossroads Orchard](#) 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, [Garden Organic](#) at Ryton and [Shakespeare Birthplace Trust](#) at Wilmcote.
 - Salisbury Close Orchard - a relict orchard within the [Welcombe Hills and Clopton Park LNR](#), was 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).
 - Mount Pleasant Orchard near Shipston-on-Stour was the venue for the first LBAP event to promote the management of orchards for biodiversity, held in 2015 courtesy of the owners, Roger and Gudrun Berry. 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.
 - [The Apple Farm at Snitterfield](#): organic certification has just been regained by Charlotte Cleveley, daughter of the couple who bought most of the Snitterfield orchards a few years ago.
 - [Lansdowne Allotment Association](#): formed in 2017 to take over the allotments in Rugby that had been in existence for over 90 years; a number of orchards are contained within the site, some newer than others but in total containing over 50 old Warwickshire Droopers. Plans for additional orchard planting focusing on heritage varieties and creating many designated wildlife areas and corridors has yet to take place (pers.comm. John Young).
 - [Mid Shires Orchard Group](#) (MSOG):
 - 2016: a Scionwood Swap, supported by PTES, was an opportunity to find and obtain local and rare varieties by enabling visitors to share, swap and buy scionwood (1yr. old shoots for used for grafting) from heritage fruit trees such as apple, pear, plum and cherry. Scionwood was taken home for grafting or, for a small charge, grafted on the day onto bare-root rootstocks of choice, to take away for potting up, for planting out next winter in gardens, community or home orchards, fields and hedgerows.
 - advice was provided for the creation of an orchard at Nelsons Wharf to augment the existing wildlife friendly training centre and meadow (see **Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire** below).
 - 2020: the first Warwickshire-based Pruning Course at Feldon Forest Farm, Frankton, Rugby.
 - [Warwickshire Wildlife Trust](#): has orchards at 2 of its reserves: Elmdon Manor and Brandon Marsh where traditional fruit varieties have been planted in a small area.

- **Other established orchards:**
 - at the Earlswood 'Hungry Horse' farm, Earlswood, an old orchard was enhanced with 24 new fruit trees including apple, pear, plum and cherry in 2014/15 through NIA funding.
 - Malt House Lane, Earlswood has a 20-tree orchard, most of them planted around 1950 but a few more recently.
 - Shipston Road, Stratford-on-Avon: MOSG has identified most of the apple varieties (with the help of the RHS Fruit Group) in this last remnant orchard in the Shipston Road; its oldest trees date back to the early 20th century, with additions in last 40-50 years to give a mix of fruit with a couple of hard pear trees, a few plums and damsons and a grape vine.
 - MOSG continues to support the Kingsway Orchard, Coventry Peace Orchard and Coventry Charterhouse with their fruit tree endeavours as needed; grafted trees created from some of the wilding apples and pears have been grown on.
- **Community Orchards:** project organiser (Gareth Davies, S. Warwickshire Local Food CIC) is supporting the PTES' 'Orchard Network' project by providing planting lists for all Warwickshire's community orchards:
 - **Stratford District Council:**
 - 2014: at Bridgetown Meadowlands, a community orchard has a range of fruits typically found in UK orchards: 21 varieties of apple, 4 of cherry, 3 of damson, 6 of pear, 7 of plum, 3 of quince, and 1 variety of medlar. The wildflower planting will benefit bees and other insects that support the pollination of the trees. The orchard will provide opportunities for everyone to learn horticultural skills from pruning and maintenance of the fruit trees, and more individual skills such as the making of jam, cider and fruit juice.
 - 2019: a second community orchard, at Rowley Fields, is on the register as a biodiversity offsetting site; planting will begin in 2020.
 - 10 [community orchards](#) have been established through the [LEADER](#) funded service project 'Community Orchards', a total of 650 trees, including:
 - Stoneleigh Community Orchard Group: formed in 2011 with the offer of land adjacent to Stoneleigh Bridge by the Stoneleigh Meadows Society for the creation of a new orchard with traditional varieties of apple and pear, also local varieties of apple. (pers.comm. Pete Freeman, 2013).
 - Ryton-on-Dunsmore Community Orchard: established with help and support from *South Warwickshire Local Food* (SWLF) to purchase 78 trees in 2011; SWLF has also supported community orchards at Baginton, Eathorpe, Barford, Barnacle, Bishops Tachbrook and Flecknoe.
 - [Hatton Community Orchard](#): established on Warwick District Council (WDC) land with perimeter planting and landscaping; a rich nectar rich meadow sown under the trees will develop in 2014.
 - **Independently funded community orchards include:**
 - Kineton Community Orchard: in 2012 a mixed orchard of 40 fruit and nut trees was planted on land belonging to the Sports & Social Club, 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

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carried out by local groups and students from Moreton Morrell College; the orchard has been developed organically and a biodiverse meadow is planned (per.comm. Mark Levene).

- [WO2Grow](#): Whatcote, Oxhill and Tysoe Community Orchard, a mix of various fruit trees and soft fruit, was started in 2011 with support from the Big Lottery Fund's Local Food Scheme and other local groups (pers.comm. Paul Sayer).
 - 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.
 - [Alcester Community Orchard](#): was planted by a partnership between the Trust and Alcester Town Council, with 45 mixed fruit trees with some traditional varieties like the Wyken Pippin and Warwickshire Drooper.
- **School orchards:**
 - between 2011-2013, small orchards of 2-17 trees were established at the following primary schools through the Central Warwickshire LEADER programme: Ryton, Long Lawford, Leamington Hastings, Wolston, Wolvey, Leek Wootton, Dunchurch, Hatton, Knightlow, Princethorpe; also at 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.
 - 28 fruit trees were planted at North Leamington School in 2011.
 - **Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire (in conjunction with MSOG):**
 - in 2019 planted a native species orchard at Nelsons Wharf, combining variety with growability: apple varieties are Wyken Pippin, Market Bosworth Park, Compton Wynyates, Marriage Maker, Shustoke Apple, Red Injestic, Maxstoke Nibbler; plums are Early Transparent Gage, Warwickshire Drooper; the pear is Kennel.
 - in 2020: orchard restoration at Grove Farm (next to Ettington Cutting) and a new orchard with wildflowers underneath at Grange Farm, near Henley, Mays Hill Wood. **To be confirmed.**
 - **Events to celebrate orchards include:**
 - Hill Close Gardens Trust in Warwick holds an annual Apple Weekend.
 - Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Tree held a caring course at 2019.
 - The University of Warwick ran an apple tree planting event and held a celebration of St Clements Day in 2017.
 - MSOG ran apple and days at Brandon Marsh and Hill Close Gardens in 2016.

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	LWSP	NE LAs	WWT WCC
			ongoing

ACTION	Lead	Partners	By
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designation at the most valuable, taking account of priority species. (see RM2)			
PL2. Ensure that the protection of all traditional orchards is included in Local Development Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and any other relevant strategies.	WCC	NE WWT LAs	ongoing
PL3. Ensure that new minor or major developments aim for net biodiversity gain through adherence to the mitigation hierarchy.	WCC	LPAs WWT NE 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. Continue to maintain condition of those ecologically and horticulturally (rare varieties) important orchards currently in 'excellent' and 'good' condition by ensuring the appropriate management of all sites.	LOs	NE CFE	ongoing
SM2. 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.	LOs	NE	2026
SM3. 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.	LOs	NE WWT MSOG	2015- 2026
SM4. Document and conserve viable populations of all extant fruit varieties traditionally associated with Warwickshire.	SBT	NE EOs NT MSOG OGs PTES HCGT	ongoing
Advisory			
A1. Provide appropriate, targeted advice to owners to maintain, achieve condition, and restore their traditional orchards.	NE	WWT NE GO MSOG LAs	ongoing

ACTION	Lead	Partners	By
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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 WT WALS WFWI	ongoing
RM2. Survey all existing orchard sites (see RM1) to assess their condition according to size, condition of trees and grassland	LWSP	HBA LAs	ongoing
RM3. 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 HBA LOs PTES BCW LAs	ongoing
RM4. Continue to monitor effectiveness of HLS agreements in meeting objectives for orchard maintenance, including achieving condition, restoration and expansion.	NE	LOs	ongoing
RM5. Develop a scoring system for the condition of orchards according to size, trees including dead wood, grassland and biodiversity.	CSG	NE LOs HBA BCW PTES MSOG Unis	2023
Communication & Publicity			
CP1. Organise an annual event to support local groups and landowners managing traditional orchards by promoting their biodiversity value.	MSOG	NE MPO BCW WWT LOs OGs	ongoing
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 OGs WWT HCGT MSOG	ongoing

Abbreviations: BC – Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire, 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, SBT – Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Unis – Universities, WALC – Warwickshire Association of Local Councils, WFWI – 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. Progress with this plan up to 2019 can be seen at <https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/LBAP>

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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.

[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
- use the [Planning Protection Toolkit](#) to help ensure that orchards and other habitats are considered when development threatens them.
- 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.
- to assist with planning your orchard event, check the Apple Day Organiser for other events that may clash, also add your event for others to see. Ask PTES for the password.

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.

Woodland Trust - [tree packs](#) are available for schools and community groups such as Parish Councils, sports clubs and resident associations.

10. CONTACT

Gina Rowe - Head of Living Landscapes (Projects)
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Brandon Marsh Nature Centre
Brandon Lane Coventry CV3 3GW
Tel: 024 7630 2912 Email: gina.rowe@wkwf.org.uk