



## REVISED PLAN JULY 2021

### GARDENS

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

For the purposes of this action plan, private gardens are defined as the private open space surrounding residential dwellings where the householders have sole responsibility for management. For many people gardens are those areas of land that are managed for personal enjoyment and are the places where they have most frequent contact with nature. Managed appropriately, they can be extremely rich in wildlife. They can support a number of important small-scale habitats including ponds, hedgerows, mature trees, walls, species-rich grassland and a wide range of useful flowers.



Bee on Buddleia © D.Lowe

Collectively, gardens combine to create a large area of habitat for wildlife, forming part of the green infrastructure in urban areas where they act as wildlife corridors between parks, open spaces, allotments, woods and eventually the countryside. The size of a garden and the extent to which it is managed and connected with adjacent open land is a major factor influencing the wildlife that will use it. A garden that consists largely of lawn and hard surfacing, or is constantly replenished in a bedding scheme style, will support far fewer species. However, all gardens are valuable and even a small window box planted with herbs can provide nectar for foraging insects. By providing the right conditions many species, including some that are struggling in the wider countryside, can be encouraged and supported; in addition, gardens can also be very important for migratory birds and insects.

Gardens provide many places with cavities, such as old compost heaps, sheds, patios and rockeries and can include a wide variety of habitats such as woodland edge, trees, grass, flower and shrub borders, areas for growing food, ponds and sometimes streams; water is probably the most important feature for wildlife in a garden. This range of habitats can support a number of resident species by providing them with food throughout the year, as well as resting and breeding sites. The value of any individual garden for wildlife will depend on its size, age, location and management but with careful planning even a small garden can increase its wildlife value. A garden with high plant diversity, plenty of cover and areas where wild plants are allowed to flourish, has the potential to attract and support a wide range of plants and animals. For less ambitious gardeners a few simple changes such as berry-bearing bushes or insect-friendly flowers can make a notable difference. Adding more flower patches to the landscape will clearly help our rarer species of bumblebee to survive and perhaps not surprisingly gardens house more nests than the countryside (Goulson, 2013).

The varied habitats within gardens are used by a number of species as the dense undergrowth provides good breeding sites for small birds and mammals, many of which have suffered significant declines in the countryside. Larger gardens and gardens adjoining areas of semi-natural habitat may help support grass snakes, foxes and many birds. These include song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), house sparrow (*Passer*

*domesticus*), starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), and woodpeckers, both greater spotted (*Dendrocopos major*) and green (*Picus viridis*). The lesser spotted (*D. minor*) is quite rare now and only occasionally seen in gardens. They are also important for hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) provided access between gardens is facilitated by gaps in fencing and walls. Gardens provide insect-rich feeding areas for bat species, especially pipistrelles (*Pipistrellus spp.*) and brown long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*) and ponds support frogs, toads, newts and dragonflies. Many other invertebrates such as lesser stag beetles (*Dorcus parallelipedus*) and butterflies - comma (*Polygonia c-album*), holly blue (*Celastrina argiolus*) and brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) - may be seen in gardens.

Good practices include non-chemical forms of weed and pest control or using target-specific rapidly degrading chemicals such as *Glyphosate*, composting of garden waste and less frequent mowing. Feeding birds and providing bird and bat boxes, ladybird houses and bee logs can all help. Native flowers can be very attractive for wildlife, cultivated from legally collected seed, not dug up from the wild or of continental origin. Management regimes are also important – for example, cutting ivy (*Hedera helix*) back rigorously every year will prevent flowering yet it is a seasonally important source of nectar and berries, provides nesting and roosting habitats for birds, and is the caterpillar food plant of the holly blue butterfly. *Pyracantha*, hawthorn and female holly trees provide autumn berries and nesting sites for thrushes and blackbirds if allowed to grow to a sufficient height. Some plants have comparatively little value for wildlife, for example double-flowered varieties which produce no nectar or pollen. Gardeners trying to encourage wildlife in their garden should select plants which produce food or create shelter for wildlife (or both).

The focus of any action plan has to be on education and raising awareness to try and stimulate change. The objective has to be to encourage an increase in wildlife friendly gardening by showing how a different approach can benefit wildlife and also be satisfying to the gardener, giving contact with wildlife for adults and children. Involving communities in wildlife gardening and informal surveys is a great way to promote sustainability issues e.g. healthy eating, waste minimisation, re-use and recycling through composting, natural forms of pest control (not chemical control) and the importance of conserving biodiversity.

2.	OBJECTIVES	TARGETS
	Associated Action Plans are: 'Built Environment', 'School Grounds', 'Hedgerows', 'Ponds', 'Allotments', 'Bats', 'Hedgehog', 'Song Thrush', 'Great Crested Newt', 'Rare Bumblebees' and 'Scarce Arable Plants'	
	<b>PLEASE CONSULT THE 'GENERIC HABITATS' ACTION PLAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS DOCUMENT FOR OBJECTIVES COMMON TO ALL HABITAT PLANS</b>	
A.	Stimulate the enhancement of gardens as habitat for a range of local wildlife.	ongoing
B.	Highlight and protect the overall resource for wildlife provided by private gardens by discouraging building on existing gardens, especially mature ones.	ongoing

### 3. NATIONAL BAP OBJECTIVES & TARGETS

Gardens come under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Broad Habitat type of '[Built up areas and gardens](#) ([Joint Nature Conservation Committee](#), 1997) : 'This type includes urban and rural settlements, farm buildings, caravan parks and other man made built structures such as industrial estates, retail parks, waste and derelict ground, urban parkland and transport infrastructure. It also includes domestic gardens and allotments. This type does not include amenity grassland which should be included in the "Improved grassland" broad habitat type.'

### 4. CURRENT STATUS

Gardens are found across the UK, and cover about 3% of the land surface of England and Wales. Individual gardens vary in size, structure and management. They may be anything from an isolated green patch, to a sizeable complex of neighbouring properties, which may be important to biodiversity in their own right. Gardens can act as an important extension of, or a corridor between, other habitats important for biodiversity. There are no reliable figures for the area occupied by private gardens in the sub-region.

Gardens tend to be managed using conventional methods where benefit to wildlife is more or less incidental rather than planned, although the practice of wildlife gardening is now well established. While wildlife may be disadvantaged through a variety of well-established gardening practices, many people now feed birds and provide homes for wildlife in their gardens. It is difficult to obtain accurate knowledge about the full extent of the change although 'Citizen Science' surveys / projects such as the annual Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RPSB) [Big Garden Birdwatch](#) have both increased awareness of, and interest in, garden birds. There are other surveys of this type ongoing run by [Butterfly Conservation](#) and the [Bumble Bee Conservation Trust](#).

#### 4.1 Legal and Policy Status

Private gardens are seldom protected from development purely for their wildlife value, and few are part of Local Wildlife Sites. However they are subject to planning control and biodiversity is often a factor included in planning policies to protect garden land. Great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*), bats, slow worms (*Anguis fragilis*), common lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) and grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*) can all be present in residential areas; these species are all protected under the [1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act](#) (as amended). Other species using gardens are protected to various degrees by wildlife legislation, notably badgers (*Meles meles*). Conservation Area status and Tree Preservation Orders give some protection to tree cover.

Any proposals requiring planning permission that could affect a protected species require information on these species as a material consideration within [ODPM Circular 06/2005](#), which is still applicable within National Planning Policy Reform.

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). 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.

#### 4.2 Current Factors Affecting the Habitat

- **Development** leads to fragmentation of habitats as well as direct loss. Large gardens are increasingly under threat because they are very attractive to developers for housing and commercial development.
- **Size of garden** - increasing development pressure in recent years (coupled with decreasing availability of land) has resulted in a reduction in the average size of gardens provided in new developments. Average garden size has reduced by 5 m<sup>2</sup> since 1983 and is now 0.04acres (0.016ha).
- **Increase in hard surfacing** as a result of decking, paving and hard standing for cars is a loss of habitat for wildlife and exacerbating flooding problems.
- **Over-use of non-native and hybrid species** which may flower at the wrong time of year for insects or have flowers not attractive to them. Vegetation within gardens is largely planted and intensively maintained and is often of an ornamental nature, commonly involving introduced species.
- **Excessive tidiness**, removing areas of shelter and food for many species and limiting biodiversity. Many species, particularly birds, are disturbed by too much human activity, which interferes with their normal lifecycles. Naturally colonising species are often viewed as weeds and removed.
- **Over-use of chemical herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers** can affect wildlife - they directly reduce number of plant and invertebrate species and food availability. They are often indiscriminate in their effects, killing beneficial insects such as ladybirds along with the target "infestation". They also have consequences for predatory species, e.g. song thrush and hedgehogs which can be poisoned by eating slugs and snails killed by metaldehyde slug pellets which are to be banned for outdoor use from 2022 because of unacceptable risk to birds and mammals. Pesticides often enter the food chain, often with disastrous results: e.g. ants treated with ant-killer can poison nestling green woodpeckers). Ignorance and the desire for 'quick fix' solutions still pervade the choice of pest control methods and there is clearly a need for greater awareness in this area.
- **Removal of plants and animals from the countryside** - people sometimes presume that the best way to get wildlife into a garden is to take it from the wild, or even from nature reserves. Gardeners must be encouraged to source sustainable materials wherever possible, and to use plants that come from legitimate sources (not taken from the wild).
- **Escaped / dumped garden plants** - examples include rampant colonisers such as parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) which causes severe problems by choking waterways and ponds, and the Spanish bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) which hybridises with our native bluebell.

Variiegated yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon argentatum*) is becoming a problem in Warwickshire, in many woodlands and gardens as its rampant spreading growth habit quickly shades out native plants.

- **The use of materials from unsustainable sources** such as peat (which is damaging to the rare and important peat bog habitat), limestone from limestone pavements and wooden garden furniture made from primary rainforest timber.
- **Climate change** - gardens are invaluable in helping to mitigate against the effects of climate change, for example by allowing slower drainage of rainwater, thereby reducing the risk of flooding. Garden plants are also effective in filtering out pollutants and reducing the heat island effect.
- **Media coverage** is increasing the enthusiasm for wildlife gardening; organic gardening is becoming more popular.

#### 4.3 10-point Action Plan for enhancing a garden for wildlife.

Size does not matter - even a small window box planted with herbs or night scented flowers can provide nectar for insects.	
1.	<b>A range of habitats</b> - piles of <b>stones and logs</b> , <b>holes in walls</b> and <b>broken plant pots</b> will give shelter to amphibians and reptiles. Leave <b>some undergrowth</b> for cover and retain <b>dead wood</b> where possible, leaving fallen branches and also standing dead wood which is very valuable for wildlife. Plant nectar-providing perennials in spaces in a paved area.
2.	<b>Make a pond</b> with several depths - get some <b>mud from an established healthy pond in good condition</b> to kick start the nutrient recycling process. Make sure that amphibians can get out with a <b>few rocks or slabs at the edge and a ramp for hedgehogs</b> . You will get a boost to your garden wildlife in the first year and good for children to dip in - but make a strong mesh cover for safety. Old sinks filled with water can teem with wildlife too.
3.	<b>In the flower beds</b> have a <b>range of plant heights</b> to encourage insects and <b>fewer double blooms</b> which have less nectar and are difficult to access. Grow <b>food plants for butterfly caterpillars</b> and <b>nectar rich flowers</b> for butterflies. (see 4.4). <b>Night-scented flowers</b> are very attractive to moths. Leave <b>dead heads</b> over winter for seed-eating birds – you may get goldfinches.
4.	<b>Food and water</b> - have several <b>bird baths</b> and <b>bird feeders</b> around the garden at different heights – keep them in service all year round and clean.
5.	<b>Homes for wildlife</b> will be there already if a garden is not too tidy but add bird and bat boxes away from artificial light to avoid disturbance, hedgehog homes and insect 'hotels' for ladybirds, lacewings and solitary bees.
6.	<b>Hedgehog holes</b> - make fencing 'permeable' by creating gaps in panels and bases to allow them to roam between gardens - home ranges average 10ha for females which is 50 'average'(i.e. small) gardens; males need three times that.
7.	<b>Composting</b> - create a <b>compost heap</b> using grass cuttings and dead flowers, ideally with three open sections for a 3-year rotation – it may attract the harmless grass snake.
8.	<b>Trees and shrubs</b> - plant <b>native species, including berry bearers</b> , in addition

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	to ornamentals. Keep <b>some ivy</b> - it provides nest sites, summer food for holly blue caterpillars, winter nectar for insects, berries for winter bird food - and it does not kill trees.
9.	<b>Wild flowers</b> - create a <b>meadow area with seed and/or plugs</b> - leave grass to grow from springtime and then cut at the end of summer so that the area has at least 12 weeks to set seed; strimming is better than mowing. For areas of <b>spring flowers</b> leave mowing until June. Spend a couple of minutes checking for any wildlife before you cut. Less frequent mowing may allow some wild flowers to grow in the lawn.
10.	<b>Wildlife-friendly materials</b> – put down <b>beer traps or crushed egg shells</b> to deter slugs instead of the old metaldehyde slug pellets, or use <a href="#">organic slug pellets</a> which are safe and just as effective. Hang old CD's on wire as bird deterrents and use <b>sustainable peat</b> alternatives.
Keep a wildlife diary and send your records to the <a href="#">Warwickshire Wildlife Trust</a> , <a href="#">Warwickshire Biological Record Centre</a> and <a href="#">Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire</a> .	

## 4.4. Plants for attracting butterflies

Butterfly	Food plant for caterpillar	Nectar - giving plant for butterfly
Meadow brown, hedge brown, marbled white, large skipper	Grasses including <b>meadow grass</b> ( <i>Poa spp.</i> ), <b>false bromes</b> ( <i>Brachypodium spp.</i> ), <b>cocksfoot</b> ( <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> ), <b>Yorkshire fog</b> ( <i>Holcus lanatus</i> )	<b>In spring:</b> <b>Primrose</b> ( <i>Primula vulgaris</i> ), <b>aubretia</b> , <b>sweet rocket</b> ( <i>Sisymbrium spp.</i> )
Large and small white	Wild and cultivated cabbages	<b>In summer:</b> <b>Lavender</b> ( <i>Lavendula</i> ), <b>catmint</b> ( <i>Nepeta cataria</i> ), <b>thyme</b> ( <i>Thymus</i> ), <b>heliotrope</b> ( <i>Petasites fragrans</i> ), <b>red valerian</b> ( <i>Centranthus ruber</i> ), <b>hebe</b> , <b>buddleia</b> , <b>knapweed</b> ( <i>Centaurea spp.</i> )
Green veined white, orange tip	<b>Lady's smock</b> ( <i>Cardamine pratensis</i> ), <b>honesty</b> ( <i>Lunaria annua</i> ), <b>hedge garlic</b> ( <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> ), <b>hedge mustard</b> ( <i>Sisymbrium officinale</i> )	
Brimstone	<b>Alder buckthorn</b> ( <i>Frangula alnus</i> ), <b>purging buckthorn</b> ( <i>Rhamnus catharticus</i> )	<b>In autumn:</b> <b>Michaelmas daisy</b> ( <i>Aster spp.</i> ), <b>sweet scabious</b> ( <i>Scabiosa spp.</i> ), <b>hyssop</b> , <b>ice-plant</b> ( <i>Sedum spp.</i> )
Common blue	<b>Bird's foot trefoil</b> ( <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> )	<b>Moths like night scented stocks</b> ( <i>Matthiola spp.</i> ), <b>honeysuckle</b> ( <i>Lonicera spp.</i> ), <b>evening primrose</b> ( <i>Oenothera spp.</i> ), <b>tobacco plant</b> ( <i>Nicotiana</i> )
Painted lady	<b>Thistles</b> ( <i>Cirsium spp.</i> )	
<b>Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>) is an important source of decaying berries in</b>		

winter and nectar early in the year and for many butterflies.

#### 4.5 Wildlife Gardening Calendar

A CALENDAR TO HELP YOU HELP WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide water all the year round – use hot water when it is freezing.</li> <li>• Clear snow off some grass and crumble fat balls for the birds, under a protecting mesh e.g. old hanging basket.</li> <li>• Join the RSPB's <a href="#">Big Garden Bird Watch</a>.</li> </ul>	<b>JANUARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan a herb bed - south facing and on poor soil - for nectar loving insects.</li> <li>• Resolve to have more perfume in your garden for moths, e.g. nicotiana, night-scented stocks, evening primroses.</li> <li>• Install or build a composter for garden and kitchen waste.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a wildflower meadow, best sown in spring or autumn or plant wildflower plants/plugs.</li> <li>• Do not mow Feb-July/August. Cut in late January/February if there has been a lot of winter growth.</li> <li>• In a small garden, sow grass and wild flowers in pots.</li> </ul>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan to sow nectar-producing cottage garden flowers.</li> <li>• Trim hedges after berries have been eaten but before bird nesting begins in March.</li> <li>• Plant honeysuckle for nectar, berries, and nesting and roosting sites.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Make a pond</a>, at least 1m deep with several depths, gently sloping sides, away from trees.</li> <li>• Create some damp spots to attract amphibians.</li> <li>• Amphibian counts start now - see the <a href="#">WART website</a>.</li> </ul>	<b>MARCH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tie some nesting materials near your bird feeders.</li> <li>• Make a <a href="#">mini wetland</a> to attract new wildlife to your garden, such as dragonflies.</li> <li>• Keep bird baths clean. Top up ponds with rainwater.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant red berry-bearing shrubs, e.g. holly, cotoneasters, pyracantha and skimmia.</li> <li>• Avoid using herbicides - hand weed, apply mulch, and plant good ground cover instead.</li> <li>• Let some grass grow longer for 'brown' butterflies.</li> </ul>	<b>APRIL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant sunflowers for finches, and blue, white and yellow flowers for bees.</li> <li>• Avoid double flowers which may have no nectar and are difficult for insects to feed from.</li> <li>• Plant evergreen shrubs and hedges to shelter young birds.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for swifts and send records to <a href="#">Swift Conservation</a>.</li> <li>• Grow caterpillar food plants for butterflies, e.g. honesty and ladies smock for orange tip, buckthorns for brimstone, bird's foot trefoil for common blue.</li> </ul>	<b>MAY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant out nectar plant seedlings by the end of the month. when frosts should be over.</li> <li>• Bring a bit of countryside into the garden with pot-grown wild flowers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for bats at dusk and send records to the <a href="#">Bat Conservation Trust</a>.</li> <li>• Avoid supplying dry bird food and loose whole nuts which can choke baby birds.</li> </ul>	<b>JUNE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid using pesticides which will kill ladybirds and other helpful insects. Use <a href="#">alternatives to slug pellets</a>.</li> <li>• Encourage predatory and other insects with bunches of hollow stems in sunny spots.</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check for nests before trimming hedges and shrubs.</li> <li>• Look for orange tip and brimstone eggs, and record.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If greenfly become a problem, wash them off with a dilute solution of washing-up liquid or pinch out plant tips.</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut your 'field' and let seeds drop before removing hay.</li> <li>• Ask a neighbour to keep feeders topped up if you go away for any length of time.</li> <li>• Complete the WWT Garden Wildlife Survey form and take part in <a href="#">National Moth Night</a>.</li> </ul>	<b>JULY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When using your compost / leaf mould – instead of peat - take care in case grass snakes or hedgehogs are nesting there.</li> <li>• Dispose responsibly of old chemicals – they will not be needed if you encourage garden wildlife.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mow wildflower meadows once only between mid-Aug. and mid-Sept., always removing arisings after seed fall.</li> <li>• Keep bird baths well topped up.</li> <li>• Let some flowers go to seed and leave heads over winter.</li> </ul>	<b>AUGUST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant some spring-flowering shrubs to give valuable early nectar for insects next year.</li> <li>• If you cover soft fruit crops, use taut 4cm netting to deter birds but make it visible by hanging old CDs on it.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear the pond of leaf debris with a sieve – watch for newts and dragonfly nymphs and put them back.</li> <li>• Leave some windfall fruit for birds- they will appreciate the water and sugar.</li> </ul>	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave some ivy for late nectar, also seed heads in the flower border, and let vegetation die back naturally.</li> <li>• Build a rockery – the stones will provide shelter for small creatures.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave the lawn slightly longer over winter and avoid chemicals to provide all-year bird feeding.</li> <li>• Grow fruit-bearing native shrubs and trees, e.g. crab apple, holly, elder, birch, rowan or hawthorn, for a winter supply of bird food.</li> </ul>	<b>OCTOBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean out the bird feeders and make sure they are in cat proof places in the garden.</li> <li>• Press fat balls, cheese or mealworms into holes in hanging logs for the insect eaters like tree creepers and goldcrests which need soft food rather than seed.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have space, plant a hazel for the nut supply and insects, and a fruiting hedge as a wild food supply. You may have room to plant a mini-woodland.</li> <li>• Make a few holes in your fences for hedgehogs to roam - they need a big territory.</li> <li>• Review the year's wildlife records and plan for more.</li> </ul>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check bonfire piles for hedgehogs – or instead of having a bonfire, rake rotting branches, grass clippings, fallen leaves into heaps and leave them to rot down naturally for hibernation homes.</li> <li>• Leave dried stems and seed heads to provide shelter for over-wintering insects.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover bare areas with ground cover such as periwinkle.</li> <li>• Take care when tidying up greenhouses – some of our butterflies overwinter as adults.</li> <li>• Put up bird or bat boxes on a</li> </ul>	<b>DECEMBER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant a rugosa rose to provide hips - finches love them.</li> <li>• Buy a present for the garden such as a wildlife camera, <a href="#">wormery</a> or hedgehog home – though a log pile will suit hedgehogs just as well and</li> </ul>



building or tree.

provide insect food.

Keep a wildlife diary and send your records to [Warwickshire Wildlife Trust](#), [Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire](#), and [Warwickshire Biological Record Centre](#)

## 5. LOCAL ACTION

- Campaign and education work is carried out by [Warwickshire Wildlife Trust](#) (WWT), [Royal Society for the Protection of Birds](#), [Warwickshire Museum](#) and organisations such as [Garden Organic](#).
- WWT:
  - the 'Gardens Go Wild' project from 2010-12 funded by LEADER European programme aimed to encourage more people to consider wildlife in their gardens, allotments and community green spaces, running across the rural parishes of Warwick District and Rugby Borough. The project provided support and information including information packs and wildlife gardening and allotment talks. It also provided an award scheme to reward people for the positive steps they take to improve their green spaces for wildlife. Gardens Go Wild provided opportunities for young people to assist older people with improving and maintaining local community green spaces as well as sessions in after school clubs to talk about wildlife gardening and building bird boxes.
  - held a wildflower event at Brandon Marsh Visitor Centre for many years.
  - in 2015 created the first Hedgehog Improvement Area HIA in the country, a conservation area dedicated to hedgehogs, was created and funded by the [British Hedgehog Preservation Society](#) (BHPS). 90ha in Solihull were managed by volunteers to establish a sanctuary and to encourage a more wildlife friendly approach amongst gardeners; a second HIA was established in Rugby in 2016. There was measurable success as almost 15,000 people engaged face-to-face and areas of both public and private land were improved practically for the benefit of hedgehogs. The project ended in 2019.
- [Warwickshire Biological Records Centre](#): held events in 2011 and 2014 in Warwick and at Chesterton in 2014 to promote wildlife gardening.
- [Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire](#):
  - its annual Garden Butterfly and Moth Count produces survey results from local gardens.
  - at least 5 talks have been given to Gardening Clubs in the past few years.
- Coventry Organic Gardeners Club encourages the use of techniques and products that encourage local wildlife. It is based at Garden Organic which promotes the benefits and delights of organic gardening.
- [Hill Close Gardens](#) in Warwick has a garden managed by school children.
- [Warwickshire Gardens Trust](#) aims to provide members with a programme of lectures, visits and newsletters; to survey, research and make records of the county's gardens and parks; to raise awareness of gardens and parks, by lectures and visits; to promote co-operation between owners, residents, and local government; and help with advice.

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- [WCC Waste Management Team](#) (2021): a composting workshop offering subsidised composting bins has been running since 2014. Every year, except during 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.

## 6. PROPOSED LOCAL ACTIONS

ACTION	Lead	Partners	By
<b>PLEASE CONSULT THE 'GENERIC HABITATS' ACTION PLAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS DOCUMENT FOR ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL HABITAT PLANS</b>			
<b>Policy, Legislation &amp; Protection</b>			
<b>PL1.</b> Biodiversity and wildlife habitat to be taken into account in planning proposals, e.g. for the development of mature garden land.	WCC	LAs	ongoing
<b>Advisory</b>			
<b>A1.</b> Signpost Best Practice Guidelines for gardens to inform landowners of the importance of garden habitats as a wildlife resource in both urban and rural areas (see <b>10 point plan - section 4.3</b> ).	WWT	RSPB BCW BTO LAs	ongoing
<b>A2.</b> Encourage environmentally- friendly gardening e.g. alternatives to pesticides, non-peat products, safe bird deterrents, pond creation, native plants, composting (see <b>Plants for Butterflies - section 4.4</b> and <b>Wildlife Gardening Calendar – section 4.5</b> ).	WWT	WCC	ongoing
<b>A3.</b> Encourage the planting of local species rather than exotic ornamental species (see <b>sections 4.3, 4.4</b> and <b>4.5</b> ).	WWT	WCC	ongoing
<b>Research &amp; Monitoring</b>			
<b>RM1.</b> Actively promote the <b>10 point plan</b> (see <b>section 4.3</b> ) by making it available on the website.	WWT	WCC GCs RSPB	ongoing
<b>RM2.</b> Actively promote the ' <b>Wildlife Gardening Calendar</b> ' (see <b>section 4.5</b> ) by making it available on the website.	WWT	WCC WDG RSPB BCW GCs WART	ongoing
<b>Communication, Education &amp; Publicity</b>			
<b>CP1.</b> Promote wildlife gardening to Gardening Clubs via talks and events.	BCW	WWT GCs	ongoing
<b>CP2.</b> Continue to encourage composting through workshops.	WCC	LAs	ongoing

**Abbreviations:** BCW – Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire, BTO – British Trust for Ornithology, GCs – Gardening Clubs, LBAP – Local Biodiversity Action Plan partnership, LAs – Local Authorities, RSPB – Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, WART – Warwickshire Amphibian & Reptile Team, WBRC – Warwickshire Biological Record Centre, WCC – Warwickshire County Council, WDG – Warwickshire Dragonfly Group, 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 2020 can be seen at <https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/LBAP>

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Natural England (2016) [Conservation Strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#). Sets out how NE will help deliver DEFRA's ambitions for the environment to reverse biodiversity loss, sustain distinctive landscapes and enhance engagement with nature.

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## 9. FURTHER INFORMATION

UK [Urban](#) Biodiversity Action Plan (JNCC Old broad habitat type, 1995-1999, now archived)

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

Garden BirdWatch run by the [British Trust for Ornithology](#) (BTO) encourages members nationally to record birds and other wildlife in their gardens and collates the information annually.

Natural England: [Wildlife Gardening Forum](#) - provides information on how to develop and manage gardens for wildlife. This consortium of the UK's leading

wildlife, conservation, gardening and horticultural organisations, from both the private and the public sectors, has an updated manifesto: [Let our gardens live.](#)

[Buglife](#) - the Invertebrate Conservation Trust (2004) - provides information on the habitat-management requirements of key invertebrates.

Biodiversity in Urban Gardens in Sheffield (BUGS) project

Butterfly Conservation: Gardening for Butterflies leaflet.

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

[Shropshire Organic Gardeners](#) (SOGS) - a group of enthusiastic organic gardeners and small holders who meet once a month for talks, visits and outings.

Garden Organic - produces fact sheets and guidance on best practice some of which is available to the public as well as members. Provides advice on Home Composting.

Mammal Trust UK – [Garden Mammal Survey](#)

[Growing Native](#) - welcome to the fascinating world of native trees and wildflowers.

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

[Hedgehog Street](#) – the initiative [Make a hole, make a difference](#) aims to create hedgehog highways through gardens.

[Friends of the Earth](#) – the [Great British Bee Count](#) from June to August is an annual event. In 2018 23,755 bee-lovers took part, 482,915 bees were recorded, 50 species of bee were identified, 2,901 bees were recorded at bee hotels and 73% of bees were spotted in gardens.

[Royal Horticultural Society](#) - plants with the '[Award of Garden Merit](#)' are reliable good quality species and cultivars that are often more tolerant of pests and diseases. The [Horticultural School](#) includes a course on wildlife gardening

[Parish Wildlife Map Toolkit](#) – How to make a Wildlife Map

Composting worms - a wormery is an easy and efficient system of converting kitchen waste into rich organic compost and liquid feed using native British composting worms.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) provides information on controlling garden pests with wildlife in mind, and runs the Big Garden Birdwatch. Its [Wildlife Action Awards](#) encourage children to find out about wildlife, doing practical things to help and telling other people.

Mobile Phone apps to help with identification are:

- Bumblebee Conservation Trust: '[Bumblebees of Britain and Ireland](#)'
- British Trust for Ornithology : '[BirdTrack](#)'
- Butterfly Conservation: '[Butterflies-in-autumn](#)'

[Garden Wildlife Health](#) - a collaborative project between the [Zoological Society of London](#) , BTO, [Froglife](#) and RSPB, that aims to monitor the health of, and identify disease threats to, British wildlife.

[The Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley](#), has set up:

- the [Plants for Bugs](#) project, supported by the Wildlife Gardening Forum: demonstrated that gardens can be enhanced for pollinators by planting a variety of flowering plants which are biased towards native and near native species but with a selection of exotics to extend the flowering season and provide resources for some groups such as solitary bees.
- the [Wild About Gardens](#) project with the Wildlife Trusts, to celebrate wildlife gardening and to encourage people to use their gardens to take action to help support nature. Many of our common garden visitors – including hedgehogs, house sparrows and starlings – are increasingly under threat. There is a 'Wildlife Gardening for Everyone' Question & Answer book.

## 10. CONTACT

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