

Get Bath Buzzing

Pollinator Action Plan 2019-2024



There are over 1,500 species of insect pollinators in the UK, including bumble bees, honey bees, solitary bees, hoverflies, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies and moths. They play a vital role in the pollination of agricultural crops and wild flowers. The UK State of Nature Report in 2013 showed that more than half of the bee, butterfly and moth species studied had declined in the last 50 years. The UK has lost 20 species of bees since 1900 and a further 35 bee species are considered to be under threat of extinction. England has the greatest decline in wild bees of anywhere in Europe. Nationally the cost of replacing pollination services provided by bees alone is thought to be over £1.8 billion a year.

The West of England Pollinator Strategy (now incorporated in the Nature Recovery Network) brings together regional initiatives to ensure pollinators have the space they need to thrive – both on the ground and in policy.

This Action Plan sets out Bath & North East Somerset Councils vision, aims and actions for pollinators around Bath and the broader Bath & NE Somerset area. Over the next year the Council will be engaging with a wide variety of partners to support the aims and identify activity being undertaken to benefit pollinators.

Our Vision: That Bath & NE Somerset supports healthy and diverse populations of pollinators to benefit the people, economy and environment.

Aims

1. To contribute to the West of England Nature Recovery Network
2. To continue to manage wildflower grasslands and other habitats in Bath & NE Somerset to promote biodiversity.
3. To create and enhance habitats and wildlife corridors for pollinators where appropriate.
4. To encourage community involvement in practical activities, events and the surveying and monitoring of pollinators.
5. To raise awareness of the plight of pollinators and the actions needed to help reverse species declines.



Bath and North East Somerset Council

Current commitments

Planning policy and development management:

- Supporting connectivity of pollinator habitats as part of the West of England Nature Recovery Network through the local plan and the planning process
- Supporting development and delivery of the West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Implementing the B&NES GI Strategy/ Green Space Strategy

Parks and open spaces management:

- Incorporating nectar-rich plants into formal planting schemes in parks & open spaces
- Providing information to support creation of additional nectar-rich plantings at allotments and community growing spaces
- Managing highway verges for wildflowers
- Trialling a range of methods for creating wildflower-rich grassland in parks and open spaces drawing on research and best practice; and working with research institutions
- Reducing the frequency of hedge-cutting where possible to promote flowering shrubs and provide cover for invertebrates
- Creating pollinator habitat by retaining dead wood and diversifying mowing regimes to create areas of long grass in parks and open spaces

For more information about the Council's management of green spaces see:

www.bathnes.gov.uk/grasscuttingfaqs & <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/grasscuttingmap>

Highways management:

- Review the routine spraying of weeds in the highway and explore options for more targeted/later spraying/weed treatment through research and staff training.
- Share the message with the public about the negative impacts of weed removal on biodiversity and promote a conversation about the best way forward

Bathscape:

- Restoring and creating 12 wildflower meadows
- Developing a nursery facility for growing wildflowers from local provenance seed
- Increasing the amount of late nectar sources available to pollinators
- Encouraging surveying and monitoring of butterflies, bees and other pollinators at key sites
- Raising awareness about the importance of pollinators

www.bathscape.co.uk

Website information, leaflets, events to promote awareness:

- Supporting Festival of Nature and City Nature Challenge initiatives
- Using Parks/Get Bath Buzzing logo on sites being managed for wildflowers
- Promoting Parks web page information
<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/sport-leisure-and-parks/parks-opening-times-and-locations>
- Get Bath Buzzing Instagram