



Bio Diversity Task Group
Monday, 15th April, 2024 at 4.00 pm
**in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market
Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

**Reports marked to follow on the Agenda and/or Supplementary
Documents**

1. **Pollinator Action Plans - Speaker - Helen Baczkowska (Norfolk
Wildlife Trust) (Pages 2 - 10)**

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Norfolk Wildlife Trust & nature recovery

- Caring for our nature reserves
- Advice to land managers from farms to communities
- Planning & advocacy
- Research, science & innovation

A Wilder Norfolk for All

Vision: Norfolk's nature is abundant, thriving and valued

Outcome 1 - Abundant and thriving nature

Strong and connected recovery for nature across Norfolk

Outcome 2 - People valuing nature

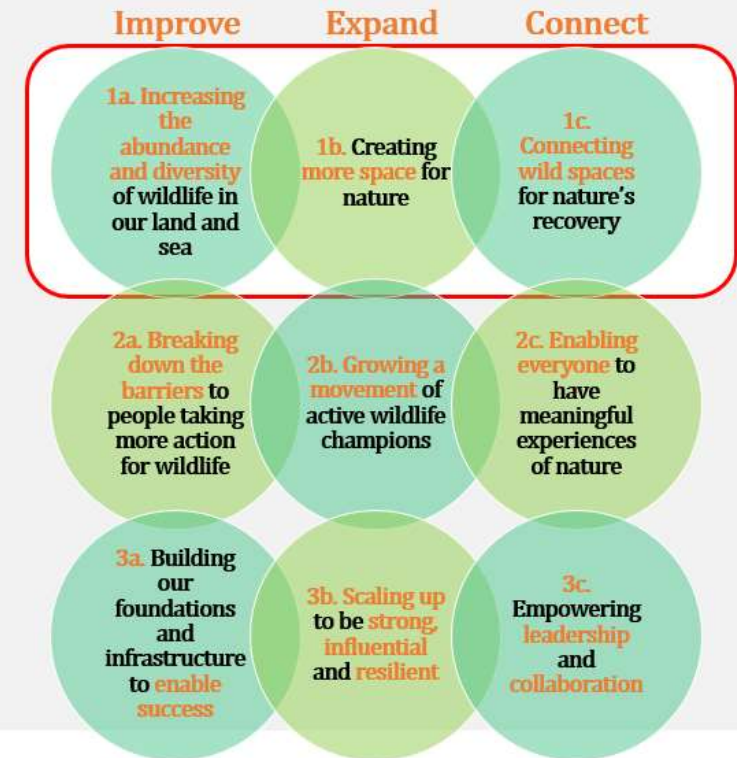
People across Norfolk are connected to, inspired by and taking action for nature

Outcome 3 - Leaders for nature

An influential, resilient and collaborative Trust

Mission

By 2030 to create more space for nature to thrive and to inspire more people to take action for nature



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Pollinator plans...an introduction

What are pollinators?

Bee identification

All bumblebees shown are worker bees

 14-17mm	 12-18mm	 11mm	 10-16mm	 12-18mm
<input type="checkbox"/> Buff-tailed bumblebee	<input type="checkbox"/> Willoughby's leafcutter bee	<input type="checkbox"/> Red mason bee	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree bumblebee	<input type="checkbox"/> White-tailed bumblebee
 13-14mm	 10mm	 13mm	 13mm	 14-15mm
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed bumblebee	<input type="checkbox"/> Tawny mining bee	<input type="checkbox"/> Common carder bee	<input type="checkbox"/> Wool carder bee	<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy footed flower bee

www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk

These are just a few of the 250+ species of bee in the UK!

Illustrations: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Traders 2007



Pollinators

Popular

Not-So Popular

Bees

Bats

Lepidoptera (Butterflies/Moths)

Beetles

Hummingbirds

Beneficials (Flies/Wasps/Snails/Ants)

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Why be concerned?

Pollinators are in decline –

- some UK species are already extinct. Others that were once widespread are now less abundant, or found in only a few places.
- 85-95% of the UK's insect-pollinated crops relying on wild pollinators. – globally this amounts to £690 million worth of crops annually. Taking over this job ourselves would be difficult and time-consuming and would cost us an estimated £1.8 billion every year!

Why are pollinators under threat?

- We can directly link these declines to changes in the way we farm, garden, manage community assets and urbanisation
- Habitats are still being destroyed and what is left is becoming increasingly fragmented.
- Insect pollinators are also affected by the heavy use of pesticides and herbicides, the effects of climate change and disease.



80%
of wildflowers
rely on insect
pollination²¹

What needs to happen for pollinator recovery?

Improve existing spaces

Grow more nectar-rich flowers, shrubs and trees to provide for pollinators throughout the year.

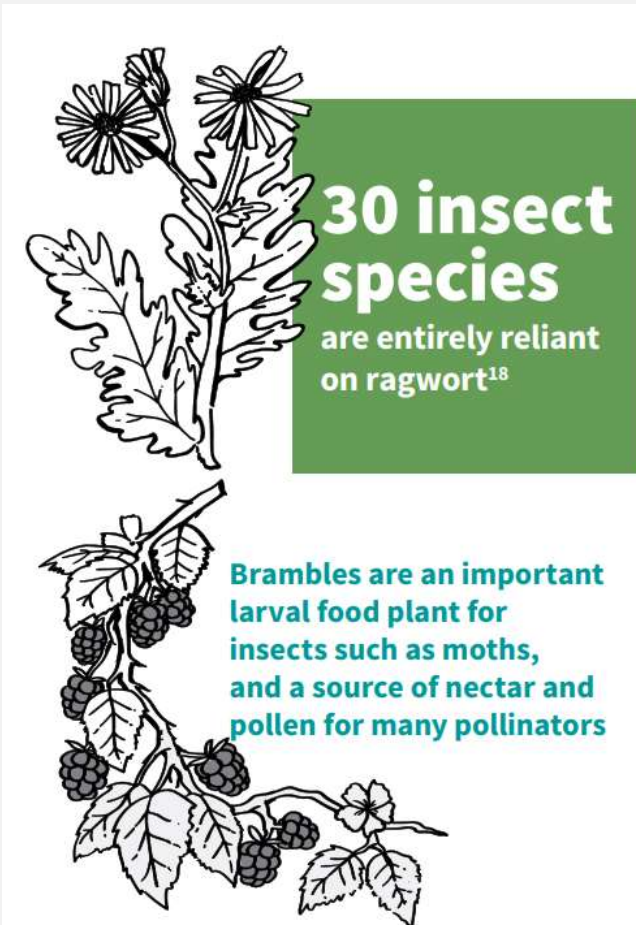
Put away the pesticides: They can harm pollinators and many other beneficial invertebrates. Consider alternatives and only use pesticides as a last resort.

Reduce and modify mowing regimes – cut grass less often, and remove cuttings to let plants flower.

Create new spaces for pollinators – on farms, community spaces, industrial estates & in gardens

Connect spaces for pollinators – through green infrastructure planning

Raise awareness of simple actions everyone can take, such as building a bee hotel and avoid disturbing or destroying nesting or hibernating insects in grass margins, bare soil, hedgerows, trees, dead wood or walls.



What is being done already?

2014 National Pollinator Strategy

Local Authorities

B Lines – connectivity for bees, butterflies and bugs led by Buglife

Chet B-Line – local project to connect and improve areas along the river Chet...one of many local projects!

The National Pollinator Strategy focuses on five areas:






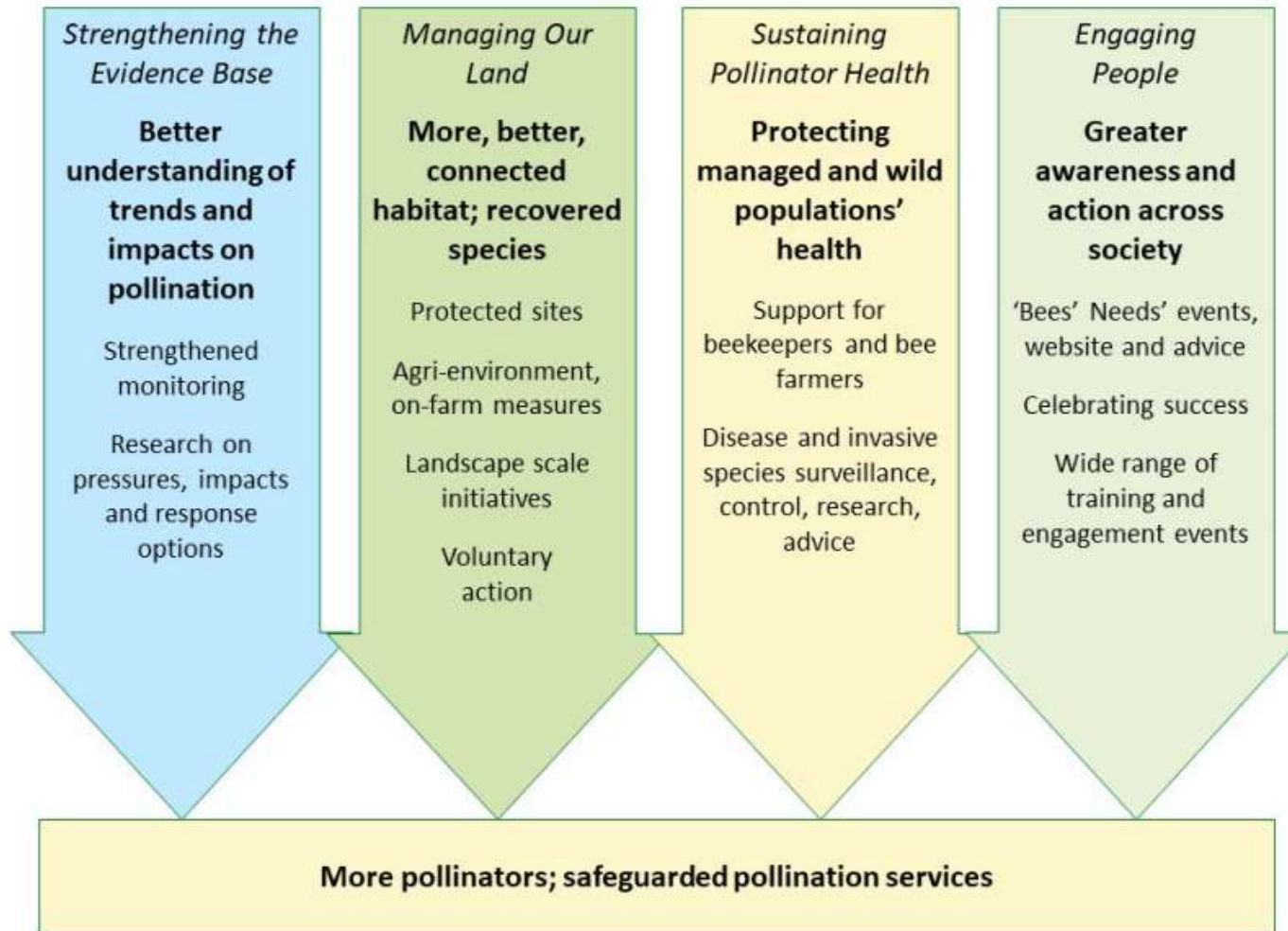
-  **Supporting pollinators on farmland**
-  **Supporting pollinators across towns, cities and the countryside**
-  **Enhancing the response to pest and disease risks**
-  **Raising awareness of what pollinators need to survive and thrive**
-  **Improving evidence on the status of pollinators and the services they provide**

Figure 1: The 4 priority areas of the NPS



What is being done already?

2014 National Pollinator Strategy

Local Authorities – plans already in place across UK

B Lines – connectivity for bees, butterflies and bugs led by Buglife

Chet B-Line – local project to connect and improve areas along the river Chet...one of many local projects!

Cornwall's Pollinator Action Plan has been designed so that it contributes to the National Pollinator Strategy outcomes, which are:

- 🐝 More, bigger, better, joined-up, diverse and high-quality flower-rich habitats (including nesting places and shelter) supporting our pollinators across the country
- 🐝 Healthy bees and other pollinators which are more resilient to climate change and severe weather events
- 🐝 No further extinctions of known threatened pollinator species



Local authority actions

Pollinator plans lead to savings!

Dorset County Council saves around £93,000 a year by only cutting rural road verges when needed.

Burnley Borough Council estimates that it saves around £50,000 helping pollinators by not cutting grass so often. They are also making savings and helping bees by planting perennial, bee-friendly flowers in their flower beds, instead of annual bedding plants



Through the actions set out in the plan we will:

- 🐝 Manage Cornwall Council assets and operations to ensure they are more pollinator friendly
- 🐝 Ensure the needs of pollinators are recognised across the breadth of Cornwall Council functions and responsibilities, and are taken account of in relevant strategies and policies
- 🐝 Increase awareness of pollinators and their needs across all sections of Cornwall Council, local communities, businesses and organisations
- 🐝 Support monitoring, data collection and the dissemination of information
- 🐝 Identify pollinator opportunities, and support collaborative, locally-owned initiatives
- 🐝 Help ensure local pollinator habitats and species recover and are able to provide beneficial services to farming and tourism, and to residents across Cornwall.

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Next steps and resources

Parish Biodiversity Duty – part of 2012 Environment Act – see <https://www.slcc.co.uk/site/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Model-biodiversity-policy-30-October-2023-1.pdf>

National Pollinator Strategy

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62878a17d3bf7f1f4469542b/Pollinator Action Plan 2021 to 2024.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62878a17d3bf7f1f4469542b/Pollinator_Action_Plan_2021_to_2024.pdf)

WT information [Save bees and pollinators | The Wildlife Trusts](#)

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Cornish Pollinator Action Plan

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/grow-nature/pollinator-action-plan>

Friends of the Earth [Ask your council to introduce a pollinator action plan | Friends of the Earth](#)



Workshops for a wilder community

NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

These sessions for 2024 have been specially designed to support individuals, communities and groups acting for nature in their local area. Workshops are subsidised by donations made to Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

Booking essential – through Eventbrite at norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on (please note a small booking fee applies to charged events).

Group mechanics...	Practical tool use...	Species focus...
<p>How to grab a grant – Introduction to applying for small community grants Thursday 9 May 10.30am–12noon</p> <p>Do you have a great idea for a wildlife project but haven't got the funds to move it forward? Jane Warren, NWTF Grants Officer, will guide you through some of the opportunities out there to help you raise funds for a community project. NWTF Clay Marshes. Free. Booking essential</p> <p>Raising your project's profile in the media Wednesday 11 September 6–7pm</p> <p>Learn more about how to work with local media to raise awareness of your wildlife project or group. During this webinar you will learn how to use the media to share your stories with lay audiences and explore the what? when? who? and why? of pitching to media outlets. Online – webinar Free. Booking essential</p>	<p>Refresher workshop – Scythe maintenance and use Monday 13 May 10am–1pm or 2–5pm</p> <p>Do you have a scythe, but are not sure how to maintain it? This 3-hour workshop will show you how to sharpen the blade and how to use it, as well as refreshing your memory on how to set it up and use it to give the most effective cut. NWTF Hickling Broad and Marshes. £30 per person (inc. 50% subsidy) Booking essential</p> <p>Introduction to practical scything Sunday 14 July 10am–4pm</p> <p>Scythes are a fantastic tool for managing small meadows. This workshop will teach you how to set-up, use and maintain a scythe, as well as covering some of the basics of meadow management. Gressenhall – Environment Hub £50 per person (inc. 50% subsidy) Booking essential</p> <p>Introduction to hedgelaying Saturday 9 November 9.30am–5pm</p> <p>Join us to learn the traditional art of hedgelaying. This whole day workshop will be an introduction to hedgelaying, giving you the opportunity to first prepare the hedge for laying, through to laying, staking and weaving the hedges. Heywood, near Diss £50 per person (inc. 50% subsidy) Booking essential</p>	<p>Introduction to recording wildflowers on your patch Friday 10 May 10am–1pm</p> <p>Plants are fascinating and when you take the time to really look at an area you will be amazed at how many different wildflowers can be found. This introductory session will show you how to start recording wildflowers, how to get to grips with plant families and how to identify at least 20 common wildflowers and grasses. Norwich £7 per person. Booking essential</p> <p>Making room for swifts Wednesday 15 May 6–7pm</p> <p>Would summer be the same without swift 'screaming parties' as they fly overhead? Surely this is something that would be truly missed if we lost these amazing birds that are now listed as a red data book species. Through this online presentation, Caroline Spinke, Norwich Swift Network, will give us an insight into these birds and talk about how we can help to look after swifts in Norfolk. Online – webinar Free. Booking essential</p>

The Wildlife Trusts
norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

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