

**Ecology** This plan covers all domestic gardens including small privately owned or tenanted gardens, large formal estates, allotments, and school or community wildlife gardens. Buildings and other artificial structures, churchyards and other built up areas are covered in separate plans.

Many gardens tend to be formal with regularly mown grass, flowerbeds, ponds, ornamental trees and shrubs, occasionally with areas set aside for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables. Hedgerows or stone walls often border them. They offer a refuge for flowering plants, mosses, fungi and lichens; and a source of food, water and shelter for many animals, particularly birds, butterflies, moths, small mammals, amphibians and reptiles. Small adjacent domestic gardens together with community and school wildlife gardens form a network of safe havens for biodiversity by creating wildlife corridors or stepping-stones for wildlife to migrate across built-up areas. These spaces are therefore important both to biodiversity, local residents, and the whole community, and provide opportunities for everyone to connect with and value biodiversity on their doorstep.

### Why are some gardens better for wildlife than others?

Certain types of gardening can deter wildlife from visiting gardens. The use of some garden products such as peat, can lead to damage or destruction through exploitation of fragile habitats such as peat bogs.

The following actions limit the biodiversity value of gardens:

- Over-tidying, removal of secret sanctuaries: tall grasses and other weeds, dead seed heads, wood and leaves.
- Use of chemicals such as pesticides ranging from slug pellets to herbicides.
- Hard-surfacing, use of decking, or gravel reduces the space available for wildlife.
- Choice of plants: some non-native shrubs and sterile hybrids support fewer species than 'cottage garden' plants: flowers, climbers, herbs, vegetables and fruit.
- Introduction of non-native animals and invasive plants, particularly to water features such as Canadian pond-weed, New Zealand stonecrop, goldfish.
- Lack of compost heaps that are useful for providing a habitat for invertebrates but also for recycling plant waste.
- Hunting of birds and small mammals by domestic cats.
- Habitat loss e.g. filling in water features and replacing hedges with fences.

### How to turn your garden into a wildlife haven

- Ask for wildlife gardening advice leaflets and take part in local or national surveys, e.g. national garden bird watches.
- Provide food for birds, insects and small mammals by planting nectar producing and fruit, berry, seed bearing plants.
- Provide supplementary food and water for birds.
- Avoid using chemicals: go organic, use natural compost rather than fertilisers.
- Choose plants and products recommended as being 'wildlife friendly'.
- Where possible provide natural nest sites (large mature trees and thick plant cover) and supplement these sites with nest boxes for birds, bats, hedgehogs and insects.
- Ensure cats have bells on their collars.
- Work with others in your community to encourage biodiversity in adopted community wildlife spaces.

For more information on how you can make the most of your garden or community space see part 2 of the plan or contact us.



### Where in Pembrokeshire?

Nationally there are over 15 million domestic gardens and allotments covering over 3% of the UK. In Pembrokeshire they are a major biodiversity resource in towns, villages and the wider countryside.

Some of Pembrokeshire's visitor attractions include large semi-formal gardens such as: Bro Meigan Gardens, Colby Woodland Gardens, Hilton Court Gardens, Picton Castle and Upton Castle Gardens.

### What's being done?

Television, and radio programmes and books offer good advice on the importance gardens can play in conserving wildlife, as do national charities through free leaflets and national surveys. Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership have produced a wildlife gardening leaflet which lists organisations that provide free advice on wildlife gardening. The biodiversity officer can provide details of recommended species that will attract wildlife to your garden and how to manage different habitats. Pembrokeshire County Council promotes home composting and is currently looking at exciting new proposals for a County-wide home composting scheme where every garden owner will be asked to participate. They also promote installing discounted water butts which you can order from Original Organics Ltd 0188 4841515.

Some Pembrokeshire schools are developing sustainable wildlife areas aimed at encouraging biodiversity with the aid of the Lands for Learning Grant Scheme (2003-2006). Several communities in Pembrokeshire have improved access and are managing sites specifically for wildlife, such as the Broad Haven Slash Pond.

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## GARDENS ● GERDDI



The actions listed below aim to:

- Raise awareness and understanding of the value of gardens and community wildlife spaces to biodiversity and to the quality of life.
- Encourage people to maximise the biodiversity potential of their gardens, schools and community wildlife spaces

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>Link to</b>
1	Promote wildlife friendly gardening techniques and the use of sustainable products.	PCNPA, PLANED, WTSWW, RSPB	Dec 2004	Promote through public launch of the plan, local walks, talks, garden open-days, press release, local radio, community case studies	PBP AAG
			2005 On going	Promote through workshops and advice leaflets for local planning authorities and developers.	PBP AAG
2	Collate information to provide comprehensive Best Practice Guidance.	WTSWW, PCC, CCW, PCNPA,	2005 On going	Provide and update Best Practice Guidance with species lists, management techniques, contacts and case studies.	PBP AAG PBP BDAG
			2005	Produce guidance booklets for new homeowners, and developers encouraging appropriate native planting for local biodiversity.	PBP AAG PBP DAG
3	Promote local initiatives to make gardens more wildlife friendly and sustainable.	PCC	2005-2007	Promote compost bin schemes, water butt discount vouchers & advice leaflets on reduction of resource consumption e.g. use of chemical use	PBP AAG
		RSPB, CCW, EA-W	2005 On going	Through working with local garden centres and gardening clubs to promote wildlife friendly gardening. Local promotion of CCW plant for wildlife species. Local control of invasive aquatic weeds in garden centres, promotion of information leaflets.	PBP AAG
4	Promote national garden wildlife surveys and competitions	RSPB, WTSWW, WBP	2005 on going	Promote National events in PBP newsletter e.g Garden Birdwatch, feed the birds day, WTSWW Great Garden Wildlife Survey etc... Encourage Pembrokeshire in Bloom competition to have a wildlife category.	PBP AAG PBP BDAG
5	Provide information as appropriate to enable community groups improve biodiversity and access to community wildlife spaces	PCC, PLANED, PAVS	2005 ongoing	Assist with identifying and applying for funding for biodiversity projects	Community Regeneration Unit, PLANED
		PAVS, WTSWW, Friends of PCNPA, RSPB,	2005 ongoing	Provide information of volunteer surveyors and volunteer workforce to carry out site surveys.	PEVN
		PCC, PCNPA, CCW	2005 ongoing	Seek further management and access agreements to encourage greater access of open spaces to the community	PCC, Rights of Way
		ALL	2005 ongoing	Promote Best Practice Guidance (once produced action 2).	PBP AAG

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>Link to</b>
6	Encourage and assist schools to develop and use wildlife areas in their grounds	PCC,	April 2005	Promote awareness opportunities and the potential school grounds to contribute biodiversity.	PCC Education Dept.
		NBGW, PBP	2005-2006	Promote the land for learning grant scheme and other sources of funding to schools. Ensure schools awarded with the land for learning grant maximise the biodiversity potential of their grounds.	Land for learning
		PBP, PCC	2005-2006	Promote Best Practice Guidance to all schools (once produced action 2).	PBP AAG
		PCC, NBGW	2005-2006 On-going	Train teachers in the use of the outdoor curriculum.	PCC Education Dept.
7	Encourage open days of private gardens where appropriate.	WTSWW,	2005 on	Encourage garden clubs to have open days of private gardens demonstrating wildlife gardening through garden open day schemes.	PBP AAG
8	Establish the extent of gardens and allotments and community wildlife spaces.	PCC, WTSWW	When resources permit	Survey the extent of gardens from maps and aerial photographs. Engage volunteers	PEVN, Community Councils / Groups
9	Carry out a baseline study of a sample of existing gardens, in terms of their contribution to local biodiversity interest. To increase awareness of garden biodiversity	PAVS, PLANED, WTSWW	When resources permit	Through promotion of Wildlife Trust garden survey and other existing initiatives. Engage volunteers.	PEVN, Community Councils / Groups
10	Monitor the extent and quality of gardens with biodiversity interest.	PAVS, WTSWW, PLANED	When resources permit 2006 on	Encourage future surveys, using the same methodology as the baseline survey. Engage volunteers.	PEVN, Community Councils / Groups

This plan contains all known information on January 2005, future schemes will be updated on the website plans. The whole plan will be reviewed in 2010.

**INTERACTION WITH OTHER HAPs AND SAPs**

Management for many species and habitats is particularly compatible with that for gardens, eg. buildings and other artificial structures and pipstrelle bats, song thrush, linnet, tree sparrow, bullfinch, pink waxcap, and many other LBAP species and habitats.

A glossary for the abbreviations used in this plan can be found in the full Local Biodiversity Action Plan available from the website or the biodiversity officer.  
**Website:** [www.biodiversitypembrokeshire.gov.uk](http://www.biodiversitypembrokeshire.gov.uk) **Tel:** 0790 154 1728

Abbreviation	Organisation	Contact
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales	
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry	
EAW	Environment Agency Wales	
PBP	Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership	
PCC	Pembrokeshire County Council	
PCNPA	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government	
PLANED	Pembrokeshire	
WTSWW	Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales	
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	
PBP AAG	PBP Awareness Action Group	
PBP DAG	PBP Development Action Group	
PBP BDAG	PBP Biological Data Action Group	
PAVS	Pembrokeshire Association of Volunteer Services	
PEVN	Pembrokeshire Environmental Volunteer Network	
NBGW	National Botanic Gardens Wales	
PTC	Princes Trust – Cymru	
SPEEL	Sustainable Pembrokeshire Environmental Education Link	