



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

National Pollinator Strategy: Implementation Plan, 2018-2021

December 2018



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Introduction

The National Pollinator Strategy (NPS) is a 10 year plan published in November 2014, developed after a thorough review of the evidence base and wide consultation. It sets out how Government, beekeepers, conservation groups, farmers, researchers and industry can work together to improve the status of the 1500 or so pollinating insect species in England.

The NPS implementation plan sets out how we will deliver the actions in the NPS. It details what we will do and how we will monitor progress. The plan covers the period 2018-2021.

Many of its actions are well underway, continued or updated from those in the previous implementation plan, published in November 2015. These previous actions are noted, where relevant. Others are new, reflecting progress made and needs identified since the NPS was published. The actions were developed in consultation with the Pollinator Advisory Steering Group (PASG), under four themes or 'action areas':

- Strengthening the evidence base
- Managing our land
- Bee health
- Engaging people.

Delivery and review

The Pollinator Advisory Steering Group (PASG) guide and deliver actions under the implementation plan, which is coordinated by Defra. PASG members work with their supporters and partners, creating a wide network delivering benefits for pollinators across the country.

As we progress, and new evidence comes to light, we will undertake periodic evaluation of the plan to ensure that we are meeting the NPS's objectives and prioritising the right areas and approaches.

In 2019, alongside the PASG and in consultation with other stakeholders, we will also review and refresh the aims of the NPS. As stated in the NPS, this review will identify any necessary targets and additional policies, including mandatory or incentivised measures, to strengthen our response. We will update the implementation plan accordingly.

Pollinator Advisory Steering Group Members

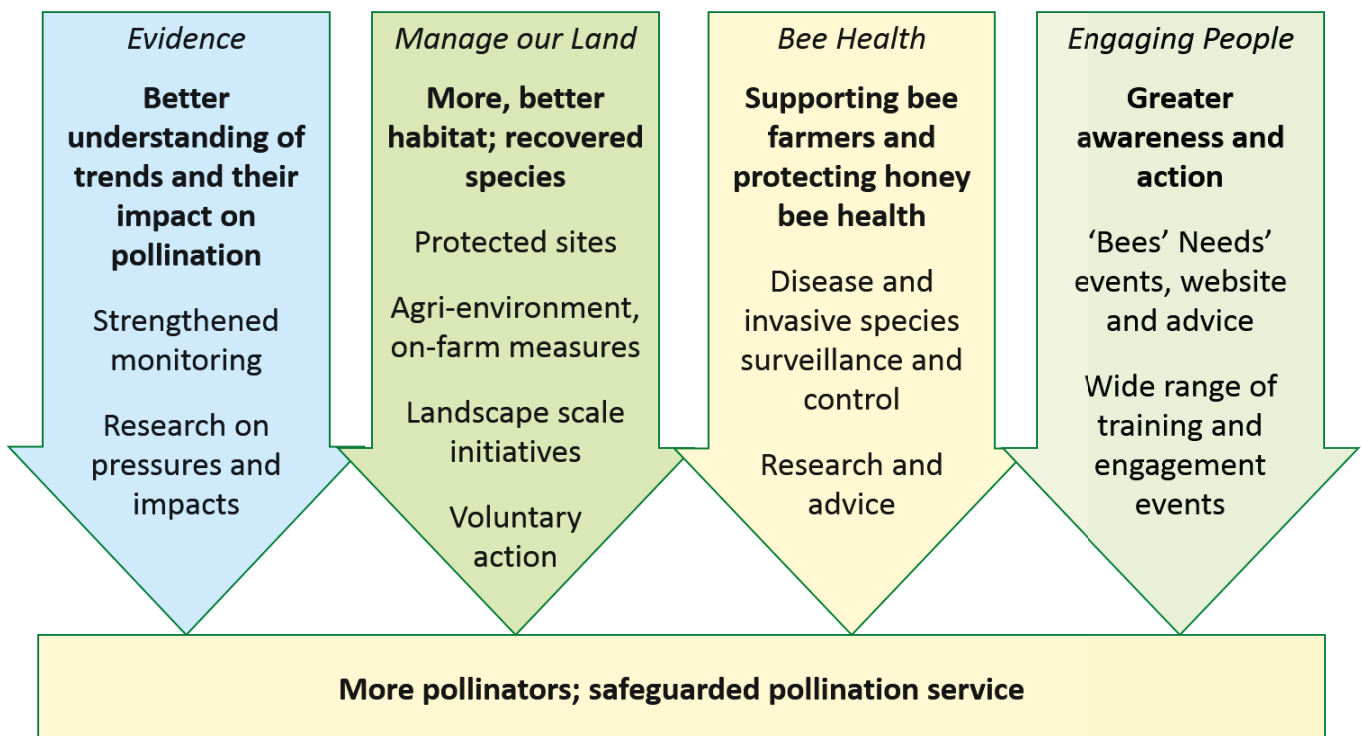
The Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE), the Bee Farmers Association (BFA), the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA), Buglife, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust (BBCT), the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH), Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE), CLA, The Environment Agency (EA), Friends of the Earth (FoE), Grow Wild, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT), Kew Gardens, Learning Through Landscapes, Ministry of Defence, National Farmers Union (NFU), The National Trust, Natural England (NE), Natural Resources Wales, Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK), Plantlife, Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), Royal Parks, Soil Association, University of Bristol, University of East Anglia (UEA), University of Reading, the National Federation of Women's Institutes (WI), the Wildlife Trusts (WT), the World Bee Project.

Overview

Strategy Outcomes

- 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.
- Enhanced awareness across a wide range of businesses, other organisations and the public of the essential needs of pollinators.
- Evidence of actions taken to support pollinators.

Strategy Structure



Actions

Strengthening the Evidence Base

What success will look like:

- Up-to-date, accessible evidence will be available on the status, value and drivers of change of pollinators and pollination services in England
- Funding will be identified and secured for research and monitoring initiatives
- An updated National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides will be published, following review and consultation
- Accessible, up-to-date guidance will be available on Integrated Pest Management for professional and amenity sectors

Steps for the partnership to take:

- Agree and pursue the most effective and efficient ways to build the evidence base
- Continue to promote citizen science and volunteer monitoring schemes
- Identify and target funding streams for project applications
- Continue to review and encourage research on the impacts of pesticides and IPM, along with the development of evidence-based guidance, restrictions and applications

Table 1: Monitoring

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Implement the Pollinator Monitoring and Research Partnership (PMRP), including action to support and promote volunteer recording schemes including, but not limited to, PoMS (<i>refers to 2016 Implementation Plan Evidence Action 2</i>).	CEH	Defra, Devolved Administrations, JNCC, Univ. of Reading, Univ. of Leeds, BBCT, BTO, BC and Hymettus	yes		

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Review options for continued/longer-term funding of monitoring (2016 IP Evidence Action 2).	Defra, CEH, JNCC, BWARS	PASG	yes		
Continue to work with the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Trust to implement the new NBN strategy (2016 IP Action 2).	Defra, NE, JNCC, EA	NBN	yes		
Review options to apply new DNA based techniques to monitoring - alongside and in comparison with traditional taxonomic techniques - and publicise and share information where possible/relevant (2016 IP Evidence Action 4).	JNCC, NE, CEH	Defra	yes		
New actions					
Establish a pollinator monitoring and research group (PM-RAG) to advise on strengthening monitoring in the long-term	University of Reading, CEH	Academic community	yes		
Roll out iRecord to improve online data flow to the NBN Atlas	Biological Records Centre at CEH		yes	yes	

Table 2: Research

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
New actions					
Disseminate findings of 'Modelling Landscapes for Resilient Pollination Services' research, including options for risk maps.	University of Reading		yes	yes	yes
Disseminate findings of new research on nutritional quality of pollinator seed mixes.	UEA			yes	yes

Table 3: Evaluation

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
New actions					
Update the evidence base on the status and value of pollinators, including assessment of the effectiveness of responses to date (e.g. agri-environment schemes).	Defra	CEH, Academic community (including Univ. of Reading, Univ. of Bristol, Royal Holloway, UEA, Imperial College and INRA), PASG	yes		

Table 4: Knowledge exchange

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Consider further opportunities for knowledge sharing between scientists, conservation practitioners and NGOs (<i>2016 IP Action 4</i>).	Defra, PASG	Academic community	yes	yes	
New actions					
Synthesise evidence-based reviews for accessibility by PASG and wider audiences	Defra	Academic partners	yes		
Bring together outputs from research projects on biodiversity and ecosystem services, to effectively enable management of land at the landscape/catchment level - NERC Knowledge Exchange Fellowship: “Working together to add value: Enhancing landscapes for biodiversity and multiple ecosystem services”	Univ. of Reading	Defra, NE, BBCT, GWCT, Buglife, LEAF, other PASG members and stakeholders		yes	yes

Table 5: Pesticides / Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Continue to review and update guidance on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Continue working with industry bodies on the development of new guidance which promotes the use of integrated approaches to control pests, weeds and diseases. (2016 IP Action 8)	Defra, HSE, Industry	Pesticides Forum, PASG	yes	yes	yes
Identify practical applications of IPM in support of pollinators for promotion to farmers/growers from active and ongoing review of research. PASG to advise Defra on relevant new publications/data, etc. Defra to assess outputs from PF's Knowledge Transfer Group review of practical applications of existing IPM research, and views of PASG members on applied research developments in relevant organisations. Defra and PASG to consider and pursue potential options for application. (2016 IP Action 11)	Defra, PASG	Pesticides Forum, HSE	yes	yes	yes
New Actions					
Review and publically consult on the National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides by 2018, in line with the commitment in the 25 Year Environment Plan	Defra	HSE	yes		
Continue to base policy on pesticides on the best available science. Support further restrictions on neonicotinoids on the basis of the current available evidence. Consider applications for emergency authorisations on a case by case basis, to be scrutinised by the ECP and taking full account of the scientific evidence and the need to avoid unacceptable risks to pollinators.	Defra	ECP, HSE	yes	yes	yes

Managing our Land

What success will look like:

- Improvements will be recorded in the condition of protected sites (Areas/Sites of Special Scientific Interest (A/SSSIs))
- Increases will be recorded in the extent, quality or connectivity of wildflower-rich habitat outside protected sites, e.g. in Local Wildlife Sites, farmland, public spaces, gardens and verges (including linkages to the 'wildflower recovery areas' outlined in the 25 Year Environment Plan)
- Uptake will have continued of pollinator-friendly agri-environment packages

Steps for the partnership to take:

- Enable land managers to take pollinators into account and help deliver high quality, connected pollinator-friendly habitats
- Continue to inform actions with robust evidence and regular evaluation
- Take forward the IPM commitments in the 25 Year Environment Plan, engaging with key stakeholders

Table 6: Agri-environment schemes and voluntary land management measures

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Continue to promote and target Countryside Stewardship, including the Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife Package (2016 IP Action 5).	Natural England (NE)	CFE, BBCT	yes	yes	yes
Promote and facilitate landscape scale conservation of pollinators, including through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countryside Stewardship • Farmer clusters • The <i>Landscapes for Wild Pollinators</i> projects (2018/19 new/extended projects: 'West Country Buzz', led by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust; and 'Martin Down Super Cluster', led by the Game and Wildlife 	NE, Defra, Buglife, CFE, The Wildlife Trusts, BBCT, GWCT		yes	yes	yes

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Conservation Trust and three existing farmer cluster groups) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary initiatives (e.g. mapping and habitat creation approaches such as Buglife's <i>B-Lines</i> and the Wildlife Trusts' <i>Living Landscapes</i>) (2016 IP Action 5)					
Continue engagement with farmers and farm advisers through workshops, advice provision and online resources focused on pollinator management, including through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bees' Needs website Developing a new online information hub with a dedicated pollinator channel (CFE) Countryside Stewardship/ELMS Other projects and activities (2016 IP Action 7)	CFE; NE	CFE partners (including NFU, CLA, TFA, AIC, GWCT, LEAF); Wildlife Trusts; Defra; BFA, BBCT, Soil Association	yes	yes	yes
Encourage and support major landowners/managers including government departments, County farm managers and other public bodies to take action and agree plans and targets for pollinators. (2016 IP Action 12)	Defra, PASG	ALGE, The Royal Parks, Other Government Departments/ bodies	yes	yes	yes
New actions					
Deliver a programme of improvements to protected sites (A/SSSIs).	NE		yes	yes	yes
Support the design of the new Environmental Land Management Scheme so that it benefits pollinators and works at a landscape scale, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing the current agri-environment scheme and delivery and looking at options including 'Payment for results'; Working with farmers, land managers, environmental experts and stakeholders to test and trial new approaches and investigate innovative funding mechanisms for the delivery of environmental outcomes. 	Defra, NE	PASG: NGOs, NFU, academic partners (e.g. UEA)	yes	yes	yes

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Develop plans for a network of 'wildflower recovery areas' to provide opportunities for conserving pollinators, as outlined in the 25 Year Environment Plan.	Defra	Buglife, CFE, The Wildlife Trusts, Plantlife			
Continue to take action to secure the establishment of the short-haired bumblebee.	BBCT	RSPB, NE	yes		
Identify options for integrating action for pollinators in the planning process.	Defra		yes		
Continue to offer discounted pollen & nectar mixes for farmers.	CFE	CFE partners	yes		
Support the adoption of new 'best practice' management guidelines for road verge biodiversity.	Plantlife, NE, Defra	ALGE	yes	yes	
Establish a cross-government working group to promote and deliver action for pollinators on the public estate	Defra	Other government departments and bodies	yes		

Table 7: Pesticides / Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<i>For research and monitoring actions, see 'Pesticides / Integrated Pest Management (IPM)' under 'Strengthening the Evidence Base'</i>					
Continue to share and promote IPM practices/crop protection messages to farmers and advisers. (2016 IP Action 10)	The Voluntary Initiative (VI)	NFU, CFE, other VI partners	yes	yes	yes
Continue to work with the Amenity Forum to ensure appropriate pesticide guidance is available for all parts of the sector and explore ways to maximise uptake by users. (2016 IP Action 19)	Defra, HSE	Amenity Forum	yes	yes	yes

Sustaining Bee Health

What success will look like:

- A new Healthy Bees Plan will be in place by December 2019 with measurable targets for delivery on education and pest and disease inspections and control, which is consistent with the aims and objectives of the National Pollinator Strategy

Steps for the partnership to take:

- Review the existing Healthy Bees Plan and its evidence of success since 2009
- Consult with beekeeping organisations to ensure the next plan meets their needs

Table 8: Bee health

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Continue to assist beekeepers with identifying and controlling bee pests and diseases, including providing hive-side training and training courses, and through DASH, the Disease Accreditation Scheme for Honeybees (operated by the National Bee Unit (NBU) and the BFA). <i>(2016 IP Action 21)</i>	NBU	Defra, BFA, BBKA, Beekeepers	yes	yes	yes
Act on lessons learned to improve capability to deal with future pest and disease outbreaks. <i>(2016 IP Action 22)</i>	NBU, Defra	BFA, BBKA	yes	yes	yes
Continue to monitor the impact of the trade in bumblebees. <i>(2016 IP Action 23)</i>	Defra, NE		yes	yes	yes
New Actions					
Develop a new Healthy Bees Plan by December 2019, consistent with the aims and objectives of the National Pollinator Strategy	Defra	NBU, BFA, BBKA, other Bee Health Advisory Forum and academic partners	yes	yes	

Engaging People

What success will look like:

- In every county, people will be accessing Bees' Needs advice and committing to take action for pollinators in their gardens, window boxes or communal spaces, with nationwide action increasing year on year
- In every county, schools, local authorities, community groups and other organisations will be participating in Bees' Needs Week and other campaigns and activities, with nationwide action increasing year on year
- Government department and agency commitments to take action for pollinators across the public estate and/or through institutional remit will have increased in coverage and/or ambition year on year

Steps for the partnership to take:

- Regularly share best practice on the Bees' Needs website, including utilising actions and campaigns already undertaken by PASG members
- Undertake keener analysis of audiences, their needs and actions to which they are likely to be receptive
- Deliver more messages and content relevant to localities and regions, including rural and urban

Table 9: Understanding audiences

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
New Actions					
Publish the review of social and cultural value of pollinators.	Defra		yes		
Explore options for, and agree actions on, conducting or collating existing audience analysis to increase the relevance and specificity of pollinator messaging.	Defra, PASG		yes		

Table 10: Engaging the public

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<i>For raising awareness of farmers and landowners, see 'Agri-environment schemes and voluntary measures on farms' under 'Manage our Land'</i>					
Develop and deliver an ambitious communications plan led by a sub-group of PASG and with input from relevant Defra policy and communications teams. The plan will coordinate a series of targeted events – including during Bees' Needs Week - and associated opportunities to promote positive steps that people and communities everywhere can take for pollinators year-round; and identify opportunities to engage the public through wider pollinator-relevant policies (2016 Implementation Plan Action 1).	Defra, PASG		yes	yes	yes
Disseminate regular, up-to-date advice through a new Bees' Needs hosted website to encourage action across the country. Improve the targeting of communications specific to audiences, to reach people, communities and institutions wanting to act but feeling uncertain, to those already leading on best practice. This includes the promotion of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "5 Simple Actions" for everyone to take • Citizen science initiatives (e.g. PoMS) • Case studies of exemplary action from Bees' Needs Champions and other projects • Partners' and other local best practice and engagement expertise (2016 IP Action 2).	Defra, BBCT	PASG	yes	yes	yes
Increase outreach work with communities to support pollinators, through events, online communication, Bees' Needs Champions networks of best practice (see Box 11) and other approaches (2016 IP Action 3).	Defra, PASG	Green Flag	yes	yes	yes
New Actions					
Increase public engagement through, or linked to, other themes and policy areas, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, well-being, education and outdoor learning as part of Defra's approach 	Defra, PASG		yes	yes	yes

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<p>under the 25 Year Environment Plan and 2019's Year of Green Action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Environmental Land Management system, the Environment Act and Agriculture Act, the Nature Recovery Network. 					
Measure numbers and types of people and organisations accessing and acting on Bees' Needs website content and campaigns to ensure that engagement increases year on year and nationwide action is documented from schools, local authorities, community groups and other organisations, in every county.	Defra, PASG		yes	yes	yes

Table 11: Celebrating success and promoting good practice

Action	Lead	Partners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Deliver an annual programme of Bees' Needs Champions Awards, partnering with award programmes in wider sectors as well as initiatives such as the Government's Year of Green Action (2016 IP Action 18).	Defra	Green Flag Awards (Keep Britain Tidy), PASG, farming bodies, education bodies/ programmes	yes	yes	yes
New Actions					
<p>Work with the Bees' Needs Champions award winners as an ongoing network(s) of best practice, to promote and support ambitious action across their sectors (e.g. local authorities, community groups, schools, universities, beekeepers, farmers). Using, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online and social media messaging, advice, case studies and newsletters Facilitation and training events during Bees' Needs Week, the Year of Green Action and other PASG member events 	Defra, PASG	Green Flag, farming bodies, education bodies/ programmes	yes	yes	