



# Making space for nature - in Addingham

Rick Battarbee

Addingham Environment Group

**Selected slides**

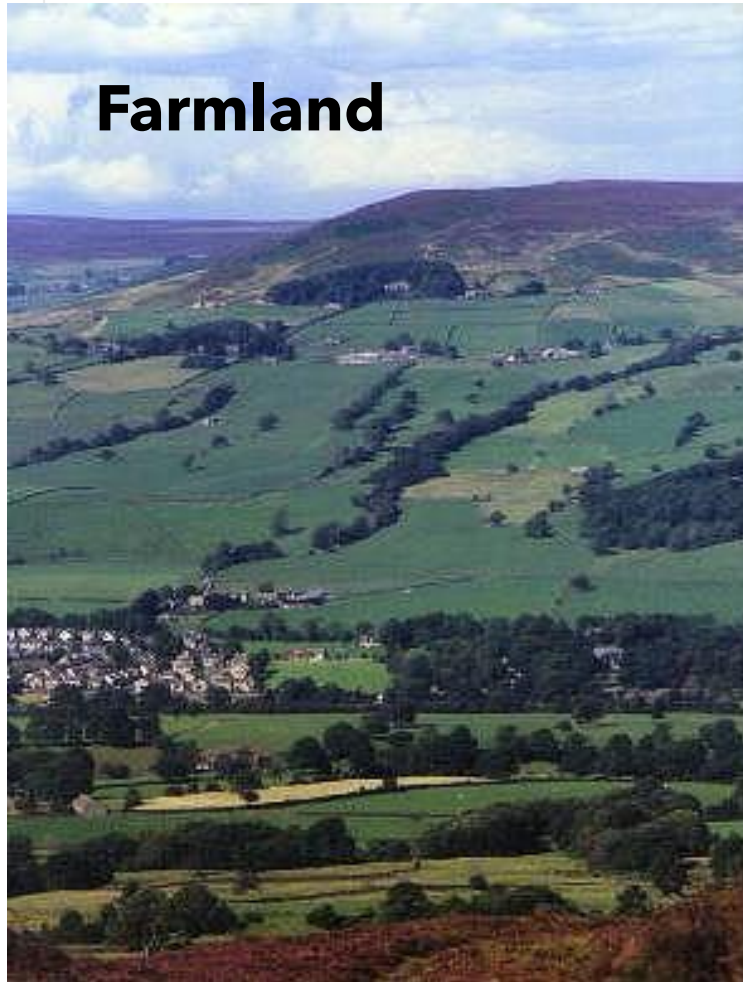
AAGA Speaker Meeting, 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

# Making space for nature

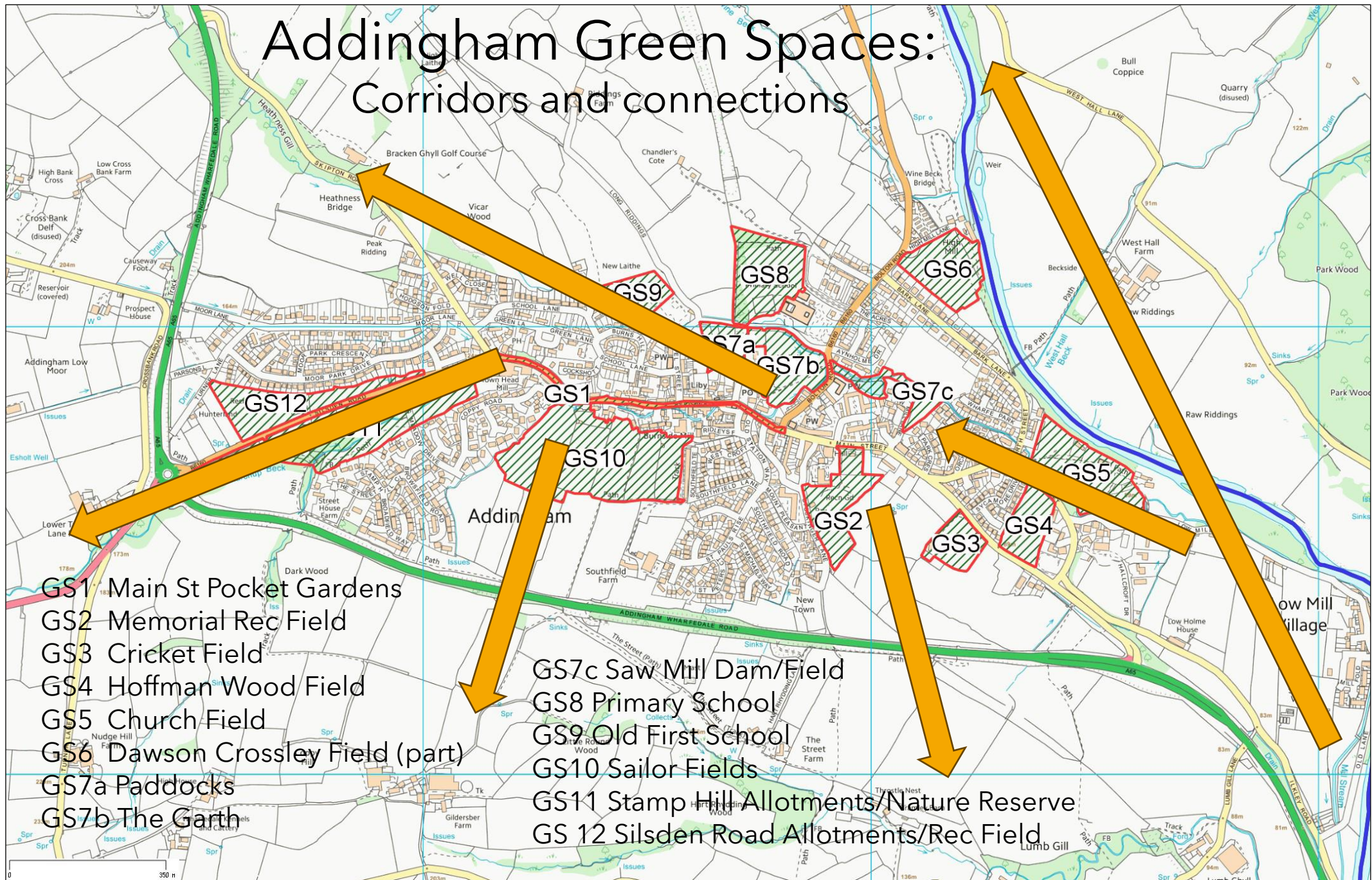
## 2010 Lawton Report

To create an ecological network that operates more naturally and effectively, the Lawton report called for some simple measures - **more, bigger, better and joined-up sites within the landscape.**

# Making space for nature in Addingham



# Addingham Green Spaces: Corridors and connections





## Addingham Environment Group

What are we doing in Addingham?

- Plant more **hedges and trees**
- Restore **wildflower rich hay meadows**
- Increase **pollinator populations**
- **Build ponds** and **create wetlands**
- Eradicate or control **invasive species**
- **Record wildlife** (bees, butterflies, birds)

# Trees and hedges in gardens

Do you have space for a small native species tree e.g. birch, rowan, hawthorn or crab apple?

## Quick facts

Recommended native trees for gardens;

- *Acer campestre* (field maple)
- *Betula pendula* (silver birch)
- *Corylus avellana* (hazel)
- *Ilex aquifolium* (holly)
- *Sorbus aucuparia* (rowan)



<https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/types/trees/native-tree-shrubs>

# Trees and hedges in gardens

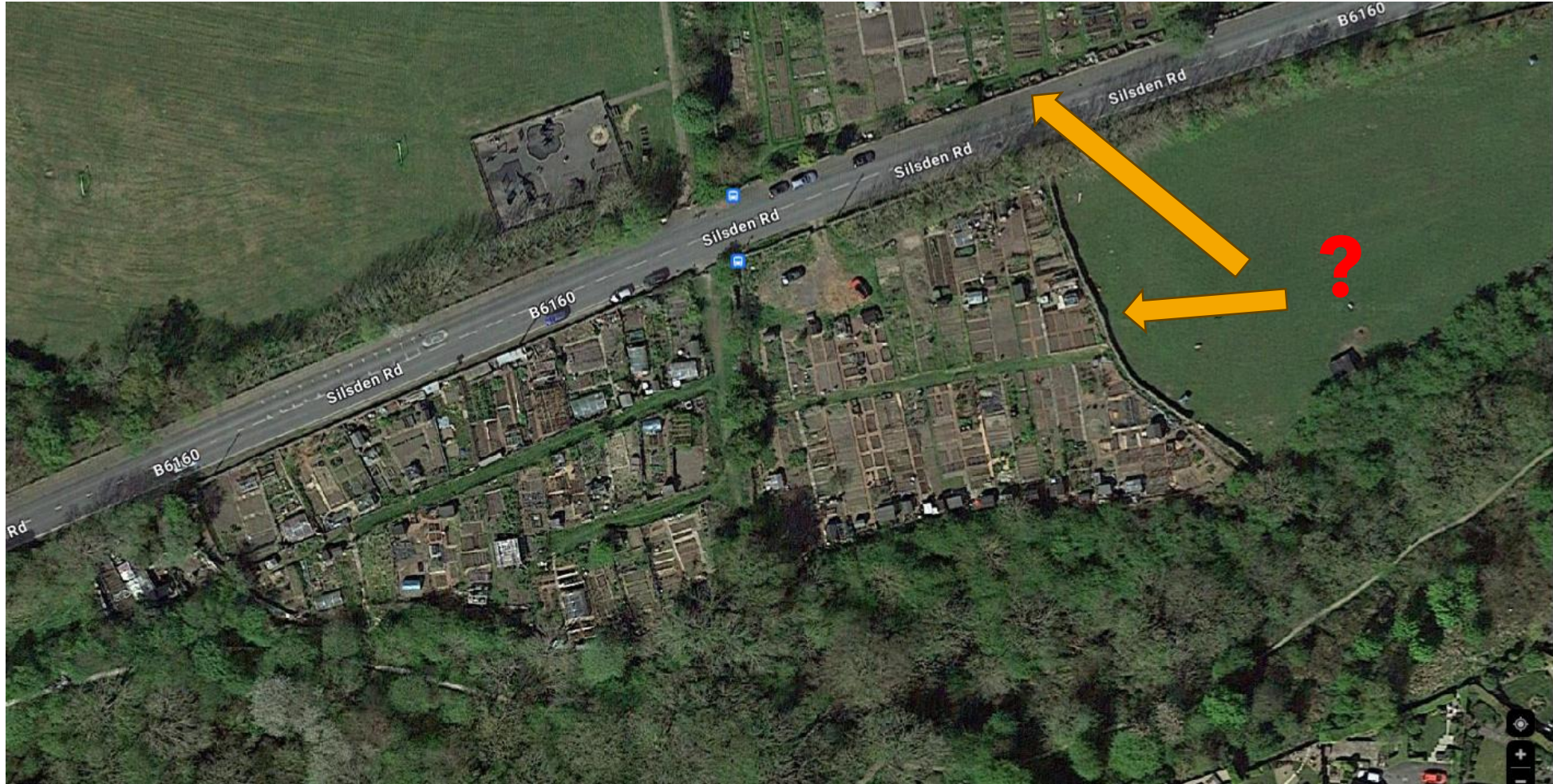
Could a boundary fence be replaced by a native species hedge?



Photo: Malcolm Keeble

# Trees and hedges in allotment sites

Is there appropriate space for more trees along the boundaries of our allotments?  
Can we find sites in allotments to plant boundary hedges?

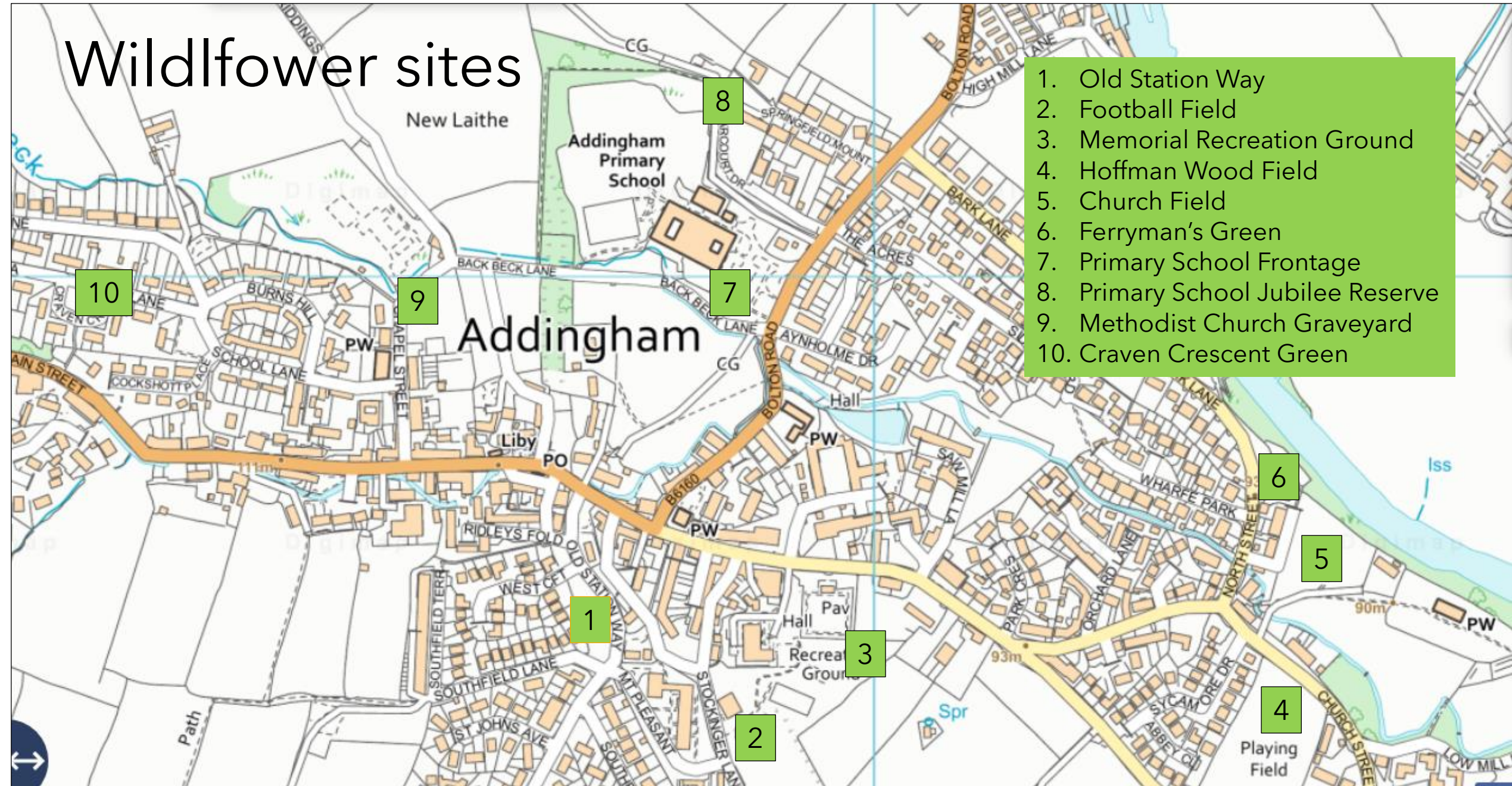




Wildflowers

# Wildflower sites

1. Old Station Way
2. Football Field
3. Memorial Recreation Ground
4. Hoffman Wood Field
5. Church Field
6. Ferryman's Green
7. Primary School Frontage
8. Primary School Jubilee Reserve
9. Methodist Church Graveyard
10. Craven Crescent Green






Craven Crescent Green: using a scarifier

# Sowing **yellow rattle** (*Rhinanthus minor*) seed to weaken the dominant grasses



# Sowing wildflower seeds in pots

Wildflowers are being grown from seed by AEG volunteers in the village. After 1 to 2 years they are planted in our wildflower areas as **plug plants**.



24<sup>th</sup> March: green shoots after 52 days



20<sup>th</sup> April: 100% success after 79 days



28<sup>th</sup> May: almost ready for pricking out after 117 days



betony



great burnet



red campion



wild carrot



cowslip



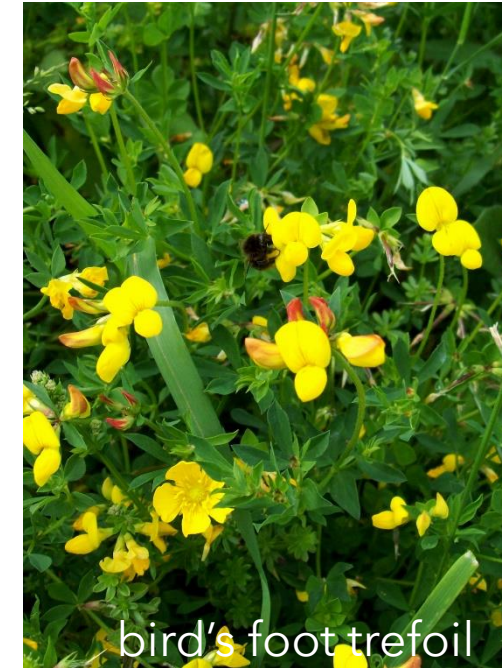
ox-eye daisy



field scabious



knapweed



bird's foot trefoil



yarrow



Old Station Way - after six years

# Do our wildflower meadows attract pollinators?

It's still early days, but there are signs of success. All our wildflower sites are now incorporated into our **ten bee and butterfly transects**



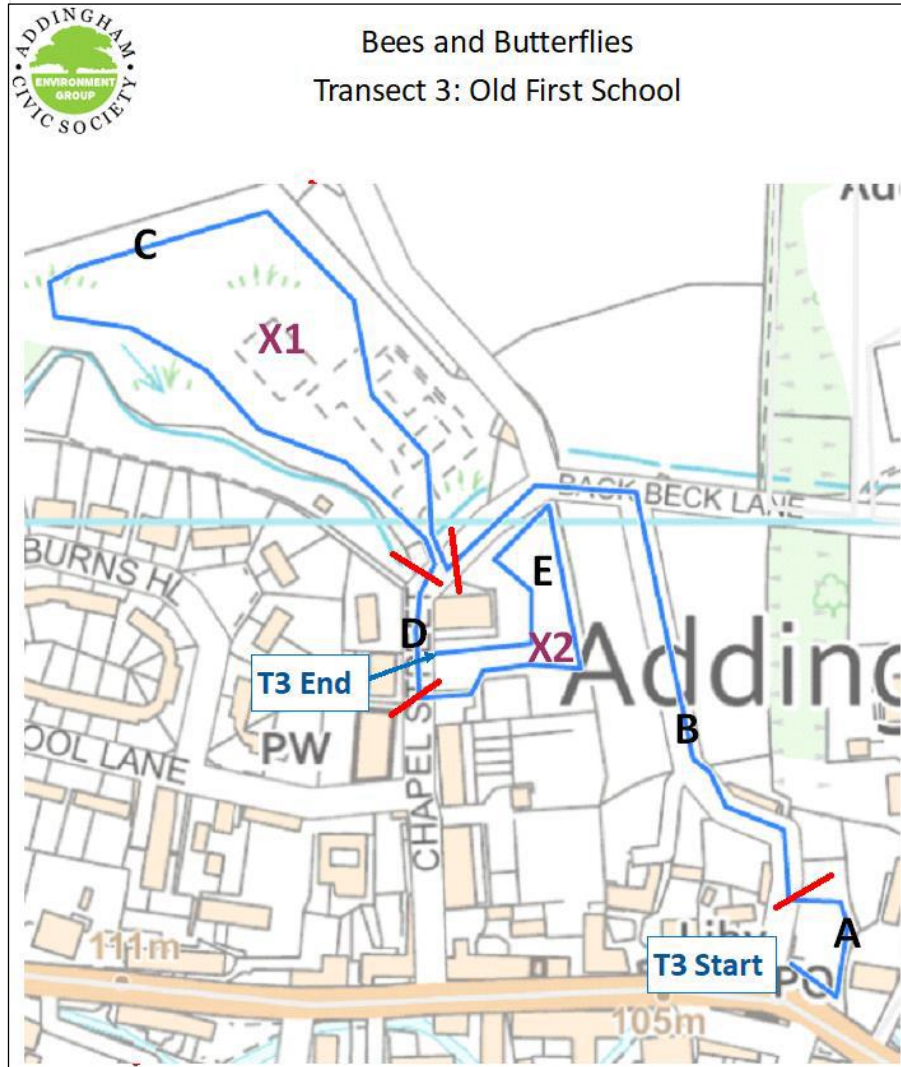
Photo: Diane Morris



Twitter



# Transect 3: Old First School Site and Methodist Church Graveyard (2022)



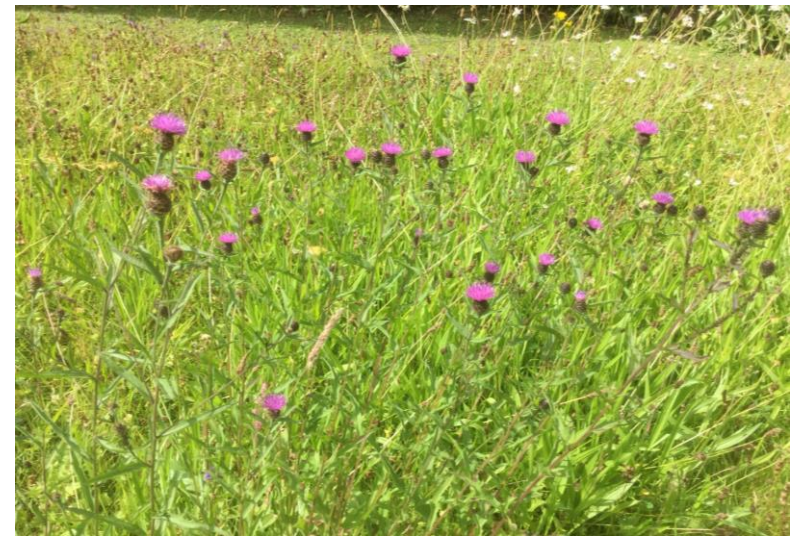
Transect: 3	Zones .....					
Bees	Total	A	B	C	D	E
Total	60	3	9	40		8
White/Buff-tailed	26		6	16		4
Common carder	13	2		10		1
Buff-tailed	8			8		
Tree	8		3	3		2
Unknown	3	1		1		1
Red-tailed	2			2		

Transect: 3	Zones .....					
Butterflies	Total	A	B	C	D	E
Total	78	1		63	4	10
Ringlet	18			16		2
Small White	16	1		10	2	3
Red Admiral	12			9	1	2
Meadow Brown	7			7		
Peacock	7			7		
Speckled Wood	7			4	1	2
Small Copper	4			4		
Comma	2			2		
Orange-tip	2			2		
Small Tortoiseshell	2			1		1
Large White	1			1		



# Wildflowers for pollinators in gardens

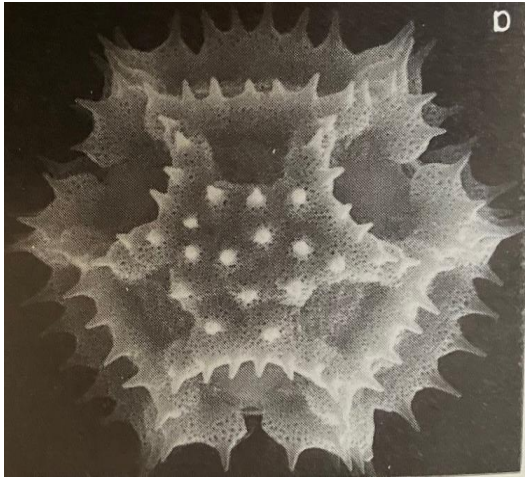
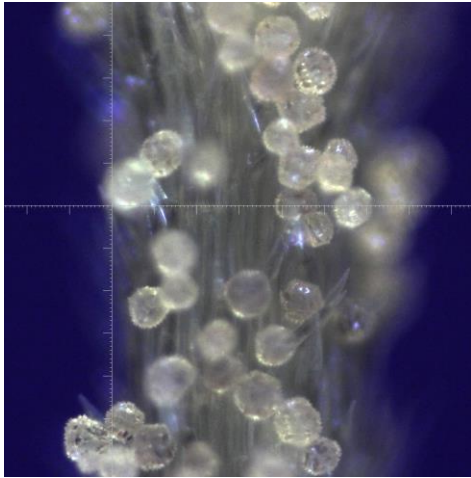
Let the lawn grow!



Encourage early flowering species to provide nectar and pollen - that includes dandelions!



Patricia Breen



# The nectar café: garden flowers and shrubs that attract bees and butterflies



Chives



Comfrey



Foxgloves



Buddleia



Lavender



Ivy



Sedum



Bramble

# Think about early and late season flowers

Seasonal period	Recommended plants
Early spring (March)	<i>Helleborus</i> spp.
	<i>Pieris</i> spp.
	<i>Pulmonaria</i> spp.
	<i>Salix</i> spp. (willow)
	<i>Skimmia japonica</i>
Mid to late spring (April–May)	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>
	<i>Ceanothus</i> spp.
	<i>Malus</i> spp. (apple)
	<i>Prunus avium</i> (cherry)
	<i>Ribes</i> spp. (currants)
Early to mid summer (June–July)	<i>Campanula</i> spp. (bellflower)
	<i>Geranium</i> spp. (cranesbill)
	<i>Lavandula</i> spp.
	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> (honeysuckle)
	<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i> (firethorn)
Late summer to autumn (August–October)	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> (coneflower)
	<i>Hedera helix</i> (ivy)
	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>
	<i>Sedum</i> spp.
	<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>



Tew, N.E., Baldock, K.C.R., Vaughan, I.P., Bird, S. & Memmott, J. 2021 Turnover in floral composition explains species diversity and temporal stability in the nectar supply of urban residential garden. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, DOI: 10.1111/1365-2664.14094.

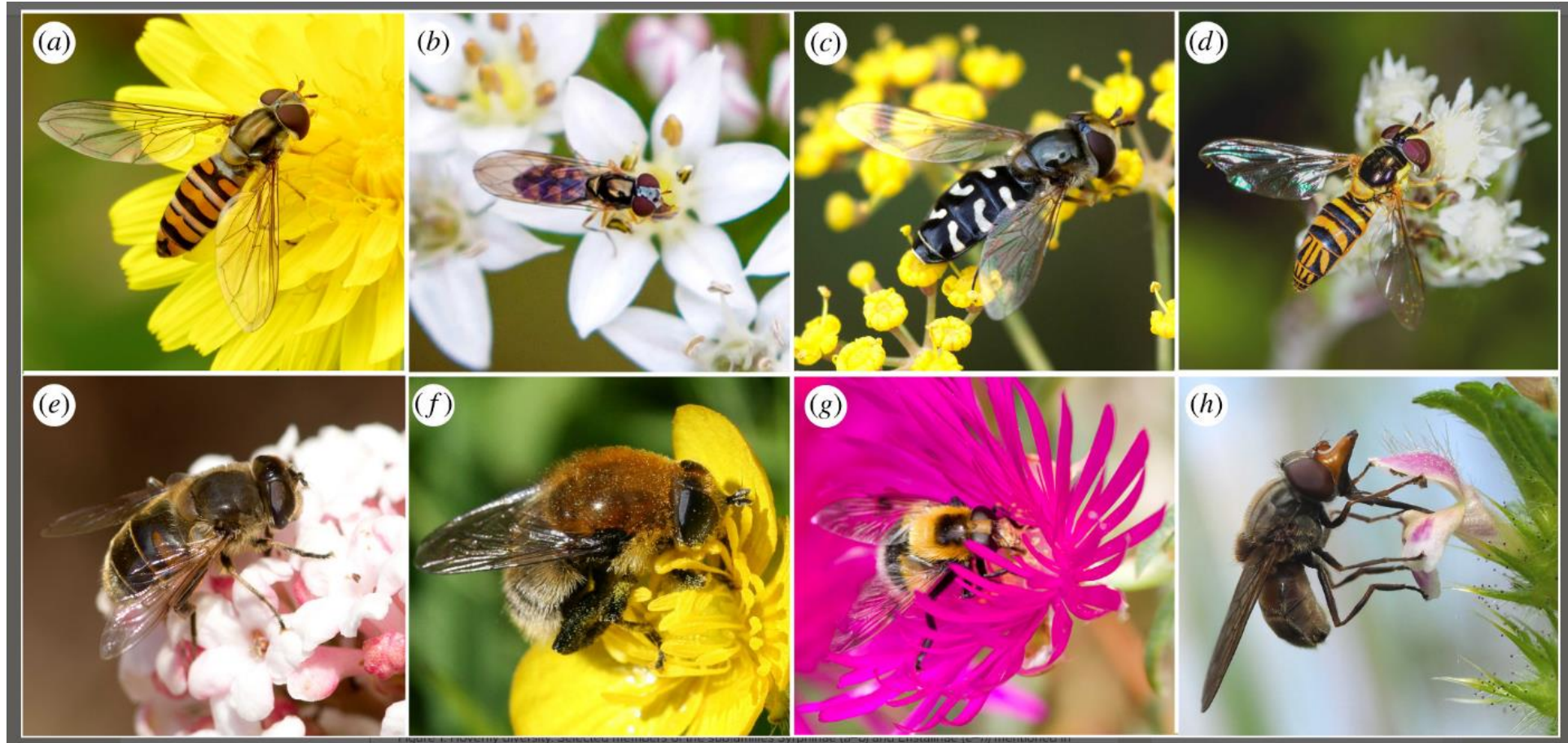
# Think about different types of insects and pollinators

Tubular-shaped flowers such as [foxgloves](#), [honeysuckle](#), [penstemons](#) and [snapdragons](#) are an important source of food for long-tongued bees such as the garden bumblebee, *Bombus hortorum*



# Think about different types of insects and pollinators

Hoverflies feed mainly on nectar, second only to bees as pollinators



(a) *Episyrphus balteatus*, the marmalade hoverfly; (h) *Rhingia campestris*, the Heineken fly

# Think about different types of insects and pollinators



Yellow underwing

- Pollinate at night
- Can be more efficient than bees
- Transport on ventral thorax as well as mouth parts
- Declining under pressure from pesticides and habitat loss
- Problems of artificial light, street and domestic
- Value brambles and scrubby wildflowers in gardens and allotments
- Leave road verges to grow



Water

Working with the Primary School to create a new  
Wetland Nature Reserve











June 2022





Success in year 1



# Garden Ponds



Use native aquatic plants, include emergents



# Rain gardens

## Slowing the flow using sustainable drainage (SuDS)



Rain from roof

Water butts

Pond

Bog

Soakaway

An Addingham rain garden

# Garden Ponds





Newtown allotment pond

# ADDINGHAM ALLOTMENT SITES POLICY AND GUIDANCE Detailed guidance notes 8e

e) The creation of a pond feature may be permitted on the allotment sites in the following circumstances:

1. Plot holders are required **to obtain written consent from the Parish Council** prior to the creation of any pond, regardless of size. Requests should be sent in writing and these will be considered by the Property and Maintenance Committee at their next meeting.
2. The plot holder is required to hold relevant **insurance** and provide a copy of this to the Clerk. There are no exceptions to this.
3. Ponds must be **wildlife friendly** providing easy access for amphibians, especially frogs. Invasive non-native species (such as Canadian pondweed) must not be introduced
4. Guidance for the maximum pond size will be given on a case by case basis, after consideration has been given to the size of plot or half plot but not exceeding maximum width and depth outlined in point 4 & 5.
5. Ponds must not exceed **1m at their widest point**
6. Ponds must not exceed **30 cm at their deepest point**
7. The type of container must be specified at the time of application. No soil should be removed from the plot to create a pond. (Section 4.5 of tenancy agreement)
8. Plots with ponds should be fenced, with a gate. Or point will apply;
9. Ponds must be covered with suitable child safety netting or a wire mesh grill IF there is not a boundary fence around the plot.
10. Plots with ponds must display a sign on the boundary fence, advising that there is a wildlife pond and that extra care should be taken to supervise children.
11. There will be **no permission granted on the unfenced, Silsden Road site.**
12. Ponds may contain protected species under the Countryside and Wildlife Act. **Permission to remove a pond must be requested in writing to the Parish Council.**
13. Consideration must be given for the removal of your pond at the end of the tenancy unless the new plot holder wishes to take on the pond and agrees to comply with the above conditions. Removal of the pond is the responsibility of the outgoing plot holder.



An Addingham regulation allotment pond

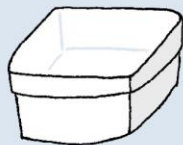
Why not create a wildlife pond in your garden or allotment?



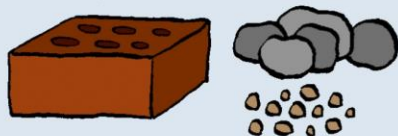
# How to build a mini wildlife pond

## You will need:

- a watertight container\*



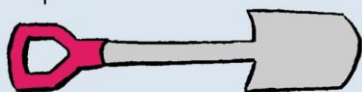
- old bricks, rocks and pebbles



- pond plants



- spade



\* Is there anything that you can upcycle? It could be an old washing-up bowl, sink or even a plant pot. Aim for 20-30cm deep.

1 Choose a spot. Your pond will need light, but not full sunlight all day. You can dig a hole and sink your container, or just have it sitting on top.

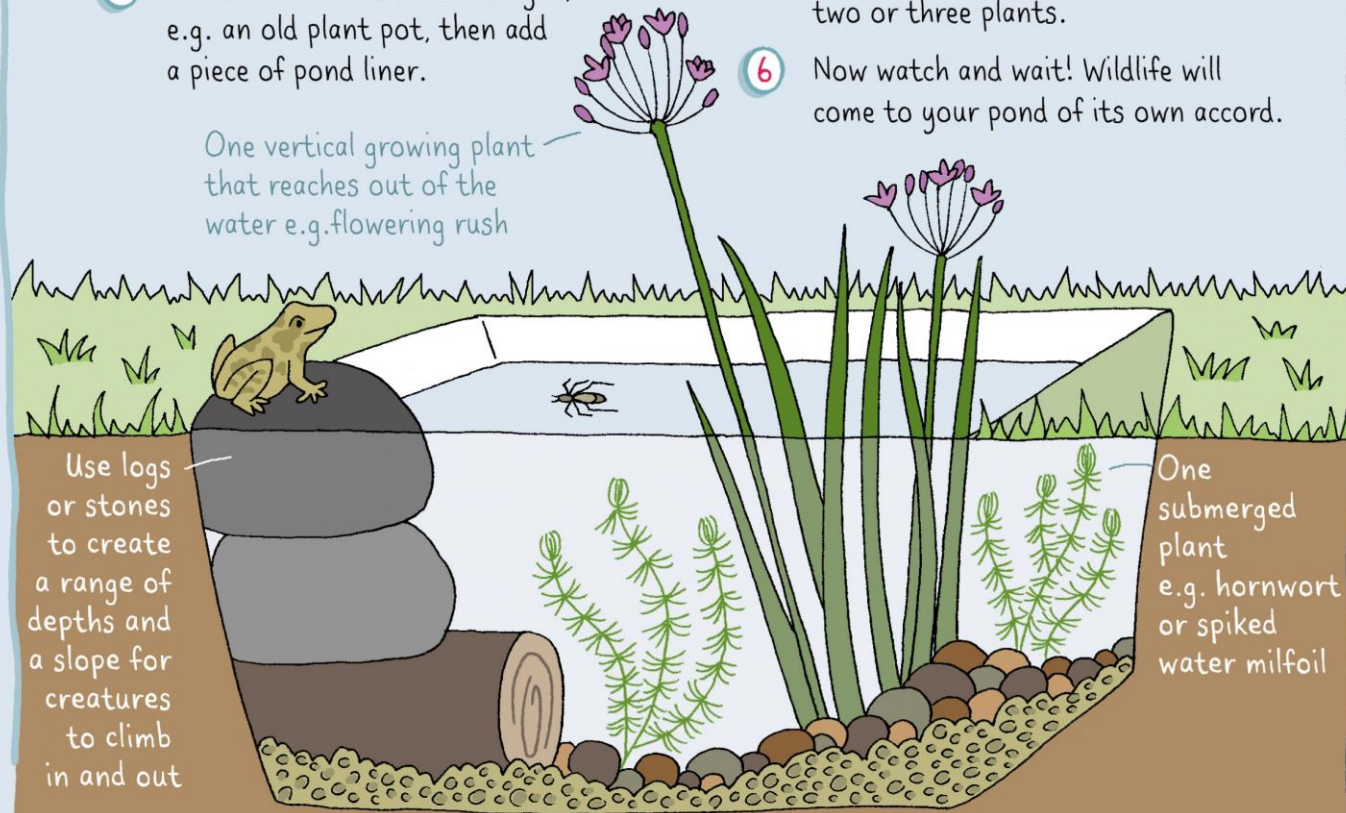
2 If the container isn't watertight, e.g. an old plant pot, then add a piece of pond liner.

3 Add a layer of gravel and rocks.

4 Fill your pond with rainwater (tap water contains chemicals).

5 Start planting... you only need two or three plants.

6 Now watch and wait! Wildlife will come to your pond of its own accord.



One vertical growing plant that reaches out of the water e.g. flowering rush

Use logs or stones to create a range of depths and a slope for creatures to climb in and out

One submerged plant e.g. hornwort or spiked water milfoil

Other wildlife

# We need to do more!



## Red-listed species seen in Addingham (2022)

- Starling (65)
- Cuckoo (2)
- Fieldfare (8)
- Greenfinch (74)
- Lapwing (12)
- Curlew (39)
- Swift (31)
- House martin (39)
- House sparrow (108)
- Mistle thrush (8)
- Tree sparrow (21)

From Chris Acomb (2023)



# Be Hedgehog friendly



# Look out for badgers



Mark Penny (Holme House)



Anne Clarke

# Garden check list

- 1. Pesticide free** - use nature to do the work of controlling pests (think ladybirds, frogs, hedgehogs)
- 2. Don't be too tidy** - leave some areas entirely untouched
3. Redefine **understanding of a weed** - dandelions, nettles, brambles, ragwort
4. Create a range of **natural habitats** - wet and dry, holes and crevices in walls for insects to nest in, hedges, climbers such as ivy, long grass and wildflowers
- 5. Ponds and bog gardens** to attract amphibians and insects such as damsel and dragonflies
6. Bird baths or other **water features** to allow drinking - top up with water from **water butts**
7. Grow **species that flower at different times of year** to maximise food supply across the seasons
8. Think about **pollinators with differing needs** e.g. bees, hoverflies, moths
- 9. Compost** as much as possible not just to create an excellent nutrient rich product but to provide a splendid **home for insects** and other forms of wildlife
10. **Minimise artificial lighting** to prevent disturbance of nocturnal life especially moths
11. Think about **connectivity and corridors, garden to garden and garden to countryside**
12. Others?

# Allotments check list

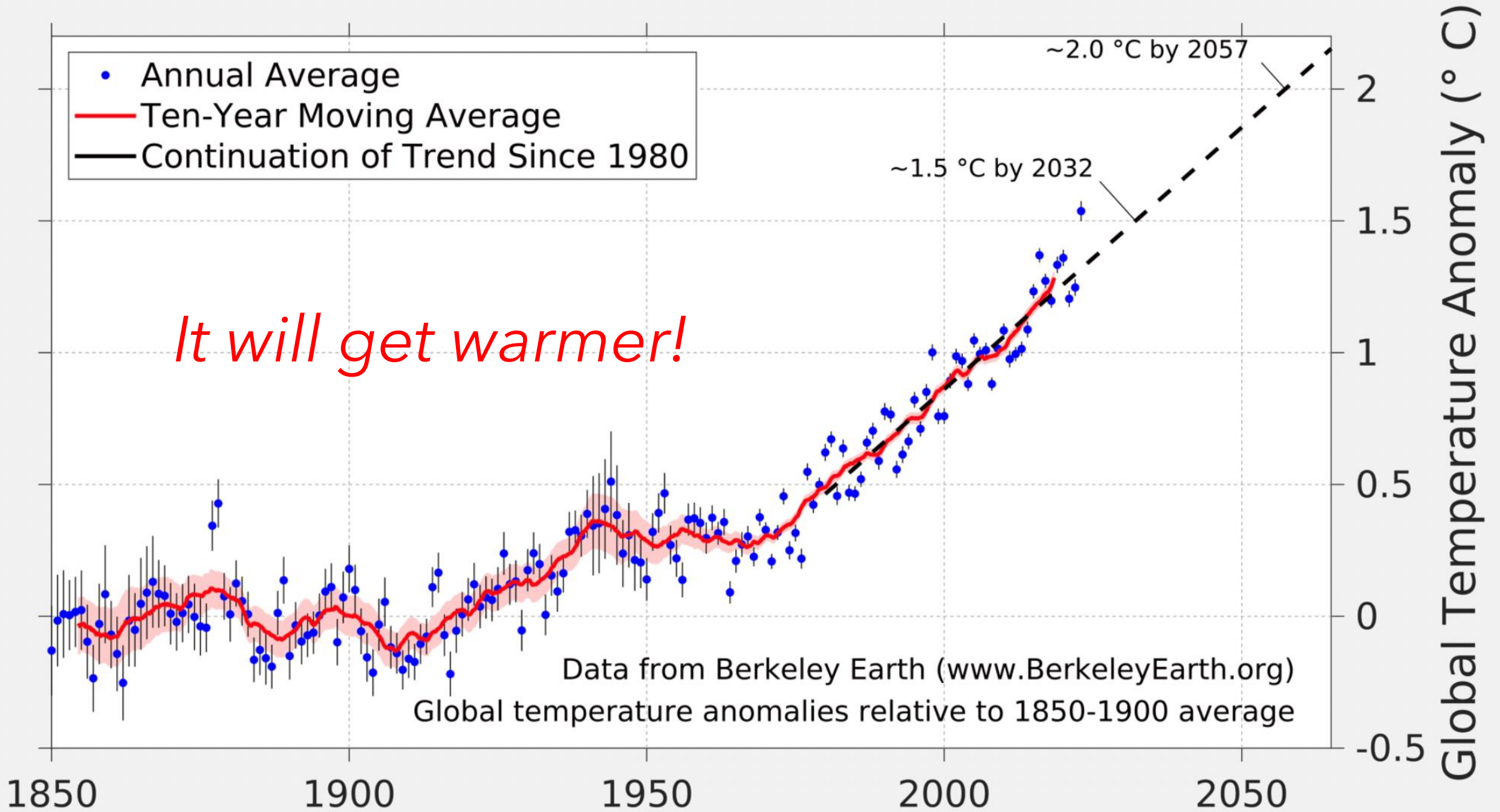
1. No poisons
2. Boundary planting with trees and hedges
3. Space for wildflowers within allotments
4. Take care of the common areas - protect comfrey and brambles
5. Install small ponds and/or bog gardens
6. Manage water wisely - collect rainwater, don't use tap water
7. Minimise plastic
8. Work together
9. Think about permaculture
10. Other things?



No dig approach



Plan for the future and allow for climate change





*And wetter! If that's possible*



Thank you for  
listening

And whatever,  
have fun!