



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Allotments Guidance

Rachel Edwards, 20 March 2014



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Importance of Allotments

- Health benefits
- Healthy eating: instilling healthy eating habits
- Sustainable food production
- Social interaction and community cohesion
- Promoting biodiversity





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Allotments: Background

- Section 23, Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908
- Section 8, Allotments Act 1925
- Select Committee 1998: The Future for Allotments
- February 2002: Revised policy criteria
- January 2014: Refreshed Allotments guidance





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Purpose of Guidance

- Speed up planning decision making process
- Improve transparency
- Utilise resources effectively
- Protect allotments



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/allotment-disposal-guidance-safeguards-and-alternatives>



What has Changed?

- Criteria stayed the same
- Additional clarification on each criteria
- Handling applications

Application for Secretary of State Consent to Dispose of Statutory Allotment Land - Allotment Act 1925

YOUR DETAILS

Local Authority Name:
Your Name:
Telephone Number:
Email Address:
Postal Address:
Post Code

Alternative Contact Details (if required)
Name:
Email:
Postal Address:
Post Code:

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR APPLICATION

Name of Allotment Site to be disposed of (including any name by which it is locally known)

Q1. What is the nature of the disposal?
a) Sale
b) Lease
c) Change of use

Please provide more information if you feel this would be helpful.

Q2. What are your reasons for disposing of the site/part of the site?
a) Redevelopment
b) Redistributing supply
c) Soil contamination
d) Lack of demand

Please provide more information if you feel this would be helpful.

SECTION 2: STATUTORY CRITERIA

Adequate alternative provision will be made for displaced plot holders or that such provision is not necessary or is impracticable

Q3. Are you seeking to dispose of:
a) Whole site
b) Part of the site

Q4. How many plots are you intending to dispose of?

Q5. How many plot holders will be affected by the disposal if consent is granted?

Q6. What is the size, in hectares, of the area to be disposed of?

Q7. Have you secured alternative allotment provision? Yes

If no, please explain why not.

Q8. What is the size, in hectares, of the alternative site?

Q9. How many plots will there be on the alternative site?

Q10. What is the size, in square metres, of the plots on the existing site?

Q11. What is the size, in square metres, of the plots on the alternative site?

If there is a difference, please explain why.

Q12. What is the distance, in miles, of the alternative site from the existing site?

Please provide a map highlighting the existing site and the proposed alternative. If the distance from the alternative site is more than 7½ miles from the existing site, please explain why.

Q13. Have you received objections from existing plot holders or interested third parties? Yes

If no, please explain why not.

Q14. Is the alternative site currently:
a) Council owned land
b) Commercially owned land

Q15. What evidence have you obtained to show you have secured the use of the land for allotments?

SECTION 3: POLICY CRITERIA

1. The allotment in question is not necessary and is surplus to requirement

Q16. How many cultivated plots are there on the existing site?

Q16. How many plots are currently occupied on the existing site

Q17. How many people are there on the waiting list for the existing site?

Q18. Has the waiting list been closed? Yes

If yes, at what number have you closed it?

If you are claiming an exception to the criteria should apply, please provide your explanation here.

2. The number of people on the Waiting List has been effectively taken into account

Q18. How many people are there on the waiting lists for other sites in the Council's area?

Q19. Have the waiting lists for any of those other sites been closed? Yes

If yes, at what number have these lists been closed?

If N/A, please explain why

Q19. Have any of the people on the other waiting lists been offered a plot on the existing site? Yes

If no, please explain why not.

Q20. Did any of those offered a plot on the existing site accept? Yes

Q21. If so, how many?

Q22. If people refused a plot on the existing site, what reasons did they provide?

Please provide copies of this correspondence

If you are claiming an exception to the criteria should apply, please provide your explanation here.

SECTION 4: CHECKLIST OF EVIDENCE AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The form below is intended to help speed up the decision making process with your application.

You can use it to check that you have provided all the information and evidence the NPCU will use when determining your application.

Question Number	Document	Relevant to provide	Provided
1	Map highlighting existing and alternative site	Yes	Yes
12	Copies of correspondence (letters, emails) showing objections/support for proposals	Yes	Yes
14	Evidence you've secured land for use as allotments	Yes	Yes
22	Correspondence showing reasons for refusing plot on existing site	Yes	Yes
23	Methods for publicising and promoting availability of allotment sites (information and copies)	Yes	Yes
24	Copies of correspondence with National Allotment Society	Yes	Yes
25	Relevant section of Local Plan	Yes	Yes
26	Other Council policies	Yes	Yes
27	National Government policies	Yes	Yes

Contact

National Planning Casework Unit
5 St Philip's Place
Cannon Row
BIRMINGHAM
B3 2PW

Tel: 0303 44 49050
e-mail: npc@communities.gov.uk



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Mandatory Criteria



- There are 3 mandatory criteria in Section 8 of the Allotments Act 1925:
 1. The Secretary of State is satisfied that adequate provision will be made for allotment holders displaced by the action of the local authority; or
 2. The Secretary of State is satisfied that such provision is unnecessary; or
 3. The Secretary of State is satisfied that such provision is not reasonably practicable



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Policy Criteria

- The allotment in question is not necessary and is surplus to requirement
- The number of people on the waiting list has been effectively taken into account
- The authority has actively promoted and publicised the availability of allotment sites and has consulted the National Allotment Society
- The implications of disposal for other relevant policies, in particular development plan policies, have effectively been taken into account



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Alternatives to Disposal and Community Engagement

- Community Right to Challenge
- Community Right to Bid
- Community Gardening
- Neighbourhood Planning





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Additional Support

www.mycommunityrights.org.uk

Practical advice and case studies for all the community rights including neighbourhood planning and Our Place

www.nsalg.org.uk

Work with central and local government, other organisations and landlords to provide, promote and preserve allotments for all

www.farmgarden.org.uk

Supports, represents and promotes community-managed farms, gardens, allotments and other green spaces, creating opportunities for local communities to grow

