

National Pollinator Strategy



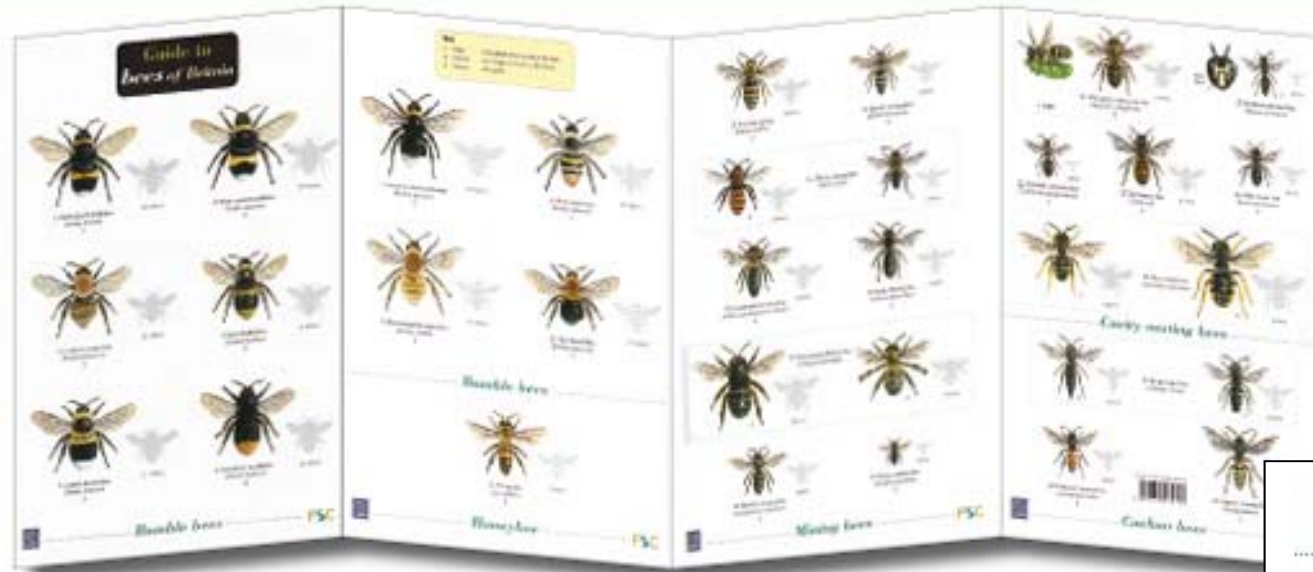
Tasha Niesen - Policy
advisor, Defra

Structure of presentation



1. Background on Pollinators
2. National Pollinator Strategy – vision and aims
3. Strategy's Priority Actions
4. Call to action - Bees' Needs: Food and a Home
5. What can local authorities do?
6. Case Study - Bristol

At least 1500 pollinator species - UK



Source: Field Studies Council

Bees



Andrena cineraria - ashy mining-bee
(With online recording now available)



Andrena fulva - tawny mining-bee
(With online recording now available)



Anthidium manicatum - wool-carder bee



Anthophora plumipes
hairy-footed flower bee
(With online recording now available)



Bombus hypnorum - tree bee
(With online recording now available)

Wasps



Mellinus arvensis - field digger-wasp



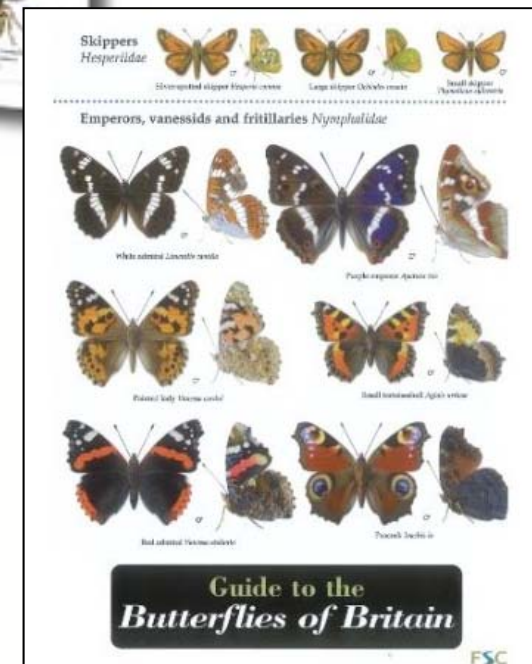
Philanthus triangulum - beewolf



Vespa crabro - hornet
(With online recording now available)



Dolichovespula media - median wasp



Source: Field Studies Council

Source: Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society

Pollinators are essential for our food



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Many of our food crops and wild plants rely on visits by insects to transfer pollen between plants leading to fertilisation and production of seeds and fruit.



Pollinators are vital to the wider biodiversity of our natural environment.



Pollinators evidence base

- Some understanding of occurrence and geographical distribution of many wild pollinator species
- (But) our understanding of population size is limited, apart from moths and butterflies
- Overall assessment – wild pollinators are likely to be less abundant than in the 1950s

Background to the National Pollinator Strategy

July 2013: 'Bees and other pollinators: their value and health in England'

Pollinators face many potential pressures:

- **Intensification of land-use and habitat loss**
 - Urban growth, agriculture, industry, transport, retail
 - Loss of food sources, shelter and nest sites
- **Pest and disease risks**
- **Invasive alien species**
- **Use of pesticides**
- **Climate change**



National Pollinator Strategy



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- Published November 2014
- The Strategy is a 10 year plan:
- Covers all 1500 species of insect pollinators (wild and managed)
- Is a shared plan between Government and other interested parties
- Covers England and we will coordinate with Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland



A range of current policies and initiatives support pollinators



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- Biodiversity 2020
 - Habitat and species protection,
 - Pest/disease control in honey bees
 - Pesticides policy
 - Stewardship of farmland
 - Planning policies
 - Investment in science
-
- Plus many initiatives by businesses, non-government organisations
e.g. Friends of the Earth's Bee Cause, Syngenta's Operation Pollinator,
Soil Association's Keep Britain Buzzing



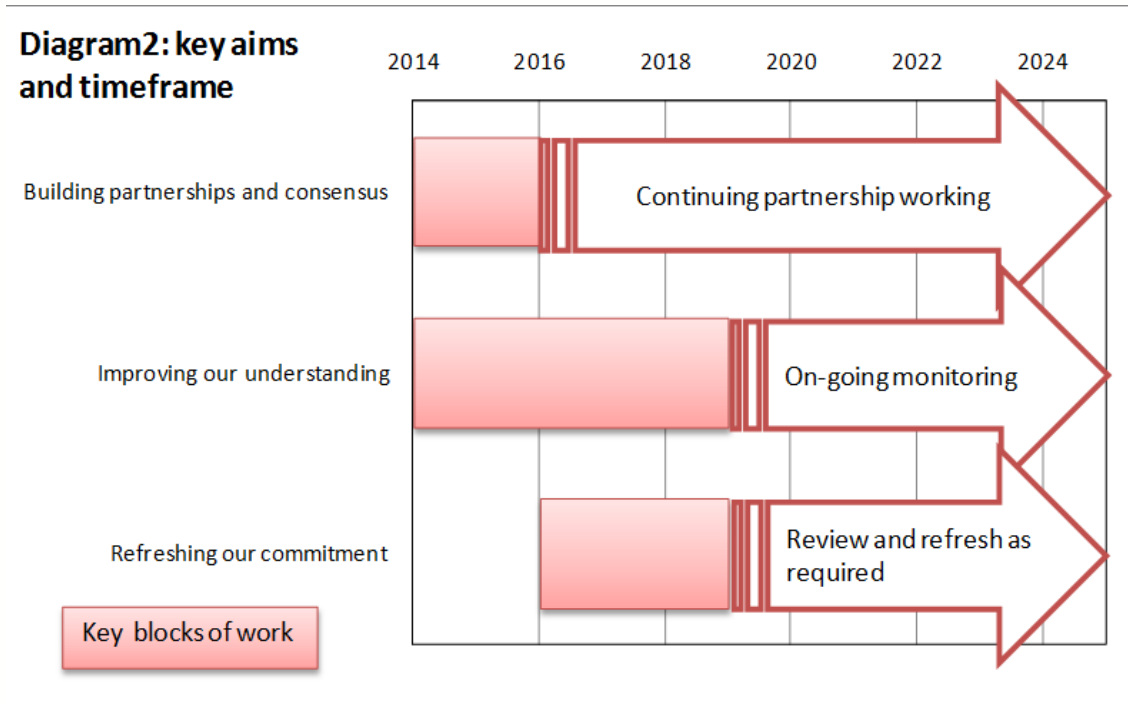
National Pollinator Strategy Aims

Collaborative, iterative and adaptive



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- Build partnerships and consensus + expand actions to support pollinators
- Improve our understanding
- Refresh our commitment
- Think globally



National Pollinator Strategy **Defra**

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Our vision is to see pollinators thrive, so they can carry out their essential service to people of pollinating flowers and crops, while providing other benefits for our native plants, the wider environment, food production and all of us.



Strategy's 3 main elements



1. **Priority policy actions**

- 23 actions for Government and others to implement from 2014

2. **Evidence-gathering on pollinator status and impacts of pressures**

- 11 evidence projects to provide a sound base for future policies to support pollinators
- Includes long term sustainable monitoring programme to assess pollinator status and trends

3. **Refresh Strategy's aims and actions as additional evidence becomes available by 2019**

- Implementation Plan, One-Year Progress Report

Strategy's Priority Policy Actions



- Key aim is to **expand flower-rich habitats across full range of land uses**...farmland, land in towns, cities and the countryside, transport infrastructure, retail parks, gardens, sewage works.
- Particular focus on pollinators' essential needs for pollen and nectar (February to October), shelter and nest sites, including over the winter
- **Who is involved?** Examples include Defra, Natural England, academia, Campaign for Farmed Environment, NFU, LEAF Farms, Voluntary Initiative, Royal Horticultural Society, Kew's Native Seed Hub.

'Bees' Needs: Food and a Home'

- Most of the 23 actions are underpinned by simple actions and detailed advice for land managers to help them expand pollinator habitat
- July 2014: Launched a call to action



- Website, hosted by Wildlife Trusts www.beesneeds.org.uk
- 5 simple actions
- Detailed evidence-based tailored advice for land owners and managers
- Case studies

Bees' Needs: 5 simple actions

5 simple actions to support pollinators' essential needs:

1

Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees rich in pollen and nectar



Bees' Needs: 5 simple actions

	Spring			Summer			Autumn			Winter		
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Hellebore	✿	✿										✿
Rosemary	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿			
Lungwort	✿	✿										
Geranium			✿	✿	✿	✿						
Apples & pears				✿	✿							
Chives					✿	✿						
Thyme				✿	✿							
Rock rose				✿	✿							
Lavender				✿	✿	✿						
Raspberry					✿	✿						
Honeysuckle				✿	✿	✿	✿					
Artichokes					✿	✿	✿					
Heather					✿	✿	✿	✿				
Runner beans					✿	✿	✿					
Sunflower				✿	✿	✿	✿					
Hebe					✿	✿	✿					
Michaelmas daisies						✿	✿	✿				
Anise hyssop						✿	✿	✿				
Blue Satin Hibiscus						✿	✿	✿	✿			
Mahonia									✿	✿	✿	✿
Ivy							✿	✿	✿			
Sarcococca	✿									✿	✿	✿
Acacia									✿	✿	✿	✿
Crocus	✿											✿

Bees' Needs: 5 simple

actions



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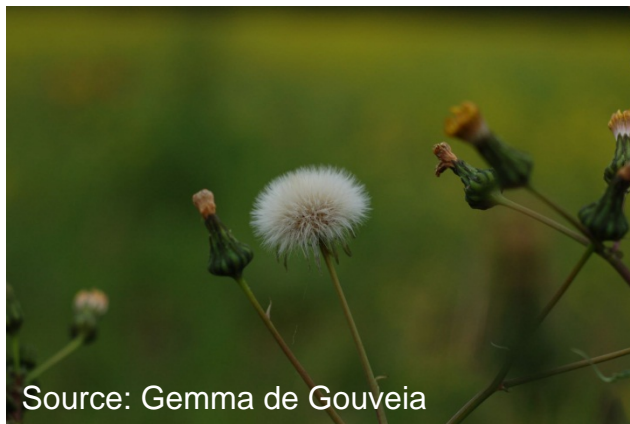
5 simple actions to support pollinators' essential needs:

1

Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees rich in pollen and nectar

2

Leave patches of land to grow wild with plants like stinging nettles provide food for caterpillars, and breeding places for butterflies and moths



Bees' Needs: 5 simple

actions



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Leave patches of land to grow wild with plants like stinging nettles provide food for caterpillars, and breeding places for butterflies and moths

3

Cut grass less often to allow plants to flower



Bees' Needs: 5 simple

actions

5 simple actions to support pollinators' essential needs:

- 1 Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees rich in pollen and nectar
- 2 Leave patches of land to grow wild with plants like stinging nettles provide food for caterpillars, and breeding places for butterflies and moths
- 3 Cut grass less often to allow plants to flower
- 4 **Avoid disturbing or destroying nesting or hibernating insects**



Bees' Needs: 5 simple

actions



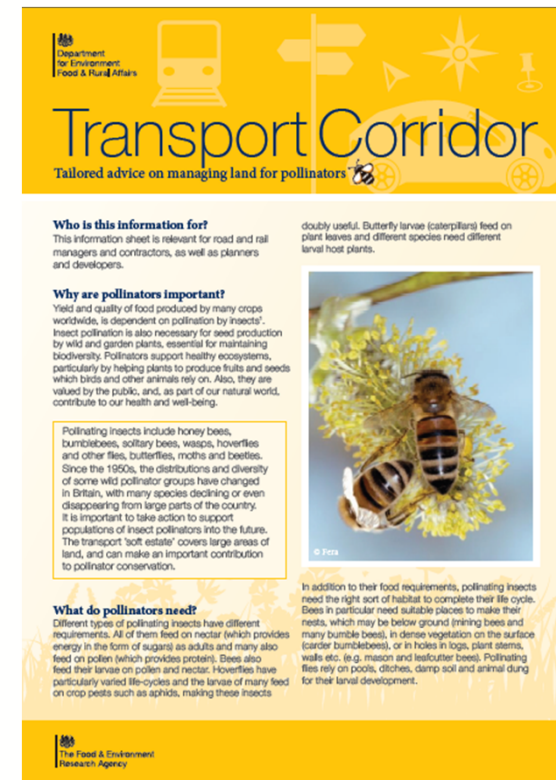
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- 3 Cut grass less often to allow plants to flower
- 4 Avoid disturbing or destroying nesting or hibernating insects
- 5 Think carefully about whether to use pesticides**

Bees' Needs: Information Sheets

- Tailored evidence-based guidance for land managers on how to best implement the simple actions on a variety of land uses
- Current pages:
 - Agriculture
 - Gardens
 - Woodlands
 - Transport Corridors
 - Industrial and post-industrial spaces



New information sheets to be published in 2015/2016

What can local authorities do?



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Take Action Now

- Implement the Bees' Needs 5 simple actions
- When designing or managing green spaces, keep pollinators in mind
 - Wild flower meadows, perennial meadows, reduced mowing, growing wild
- Make use of all green spaces, including less used urban areas
 - E.g. roadside verges, roundabouts, allotments
- 'Micro urban areas' can help connect the fragmented urban ecologies scattered throughout the city

Be a Voice

- Promote the pollinator message to local businesses, interest groups and members of the public
- Encourage local schools to create bee-friendly habitat and bee hotels

What can local authorities do?



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Plan for the Future

- Make sure your contractors and groundskeepers are taking action to support pollinators (consider using clauses in your contracts)
- Engage your suppliers to ensure they stock plants for pollinators
- Ensure that planners follow DCLG's Planning Guidance. Ensure that policies in your Local Plan require new developments to create pollinator habitat
 - Wildflower meadows, bee-friendly landscaping, green roofs
- Seek out partnerships and funding from the private sector
- Supporting pollinators can have benefits for wider biodiversity and the natural environment

Case Study: Wyre Forest Council



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- Four-year program to increase available supply of nectar in Kidderminster
- Replaced traditional beds and amenity grassland with urban pollinator mix flower seed
- Project has expanded each year
- As a result of the scheme, the Council has seen savings
 - Cost less to plant and maintain than traditional horticultural displays
 - Banks are less expensive than maintaining amenity grassland areas
- Public support and enquiries on how to plant similar schemes on their own land



Case Study: Bristol City Council



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Source: Teija Ahjokoski

- Policy context:
 - Encourage people to walk and cycle more, with aim of reducing carbon emission and pollution
 - Need for habitat creation for wildlife
- Spring 2011: Two highway sites selected as pilot urban meadows: the M32 and Hengrove Way
- M32 results were striking
- Public response overwhelmingly positive

A background image showing a vast field of colorful flowers, likely a meadow, with a person walking through it. The scene is bright and sunny, with green foliage and a building visible in the distance.

Hello,

No query, just a quick email to say thank-you to you and your colleagues. I work in the Castlemead building, and one of the points of my days this summer has been walking past your flower meadow in Castle Park, smelling and seeing all those blooms and all the happy insects bumbling back and forth between them.

I really can't adequately express how much joy it's given me (and even explain why), some of my colleagues and presumably many other people. And presumably it's helped your research on the insect populations too.

I very much hope you can do it again next year. Although you might wish to add some nettles or something thorny to prevent drug festival goers tearing the flowers up next time. That was distracting.

Thank-you so very much,

For more information



- Consult the Royal Horticulture Society's Perfect for Pollinators List
- Read more about the Bees' Needs actions on www.beesneeds.co.uk
- Contact interest groups, such as River of Flowers, who can help guide you

Thank You



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