

2012

Bowling Park Community Orchard  
Management Plan;



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BEES

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# Bowling Park Community Orchard

## Management Plan; 2012 a review and update.

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## 1. Introduction

Bradford Environmental Education Service (BEES) is part of Bradford YMCA. BEES has been delivering environmental education projects in the Bradford District since 1985. The projects largely, but not exclusively, focus on learning about natural history and the management of land for wildlife. Since 1986 BEES has run a weekly conservation volunteer group which offers participants the opportunity to develop skills and understanding of managing urban green space for wildlife.

The development of a community orchard was an ideal project for the conservation volunteers to undertake as it is recognised that orchards can offer a valuable resource to wildlife<sup>1</sup>, as well as embracing the additional environmental theme of local food production with its diverse benefits.

In 2003 Bradford Environmental Education Service planted 40 trees on six disused allotment plots on Bowling Park Allotments, Bradford. The aim of the initiative was to grow local fruit, create wildlife habitats and develop social space for allotment holders and people interested in the orchard. The project became Bowling Park Community Orchard.

A range of local people and community groups were involved with the initial site preparation and tree planting and the orchard is now managed by BEES Conservation Volunteer group and Friends of Bowling Park Community Orchard.

The ethos underpinning the management regime is to cultivate the trees and the rest of the site organically, minimising any adverse environment impact. The management of the orchard provides the opportunity to share and develop skills, both in fruit cultivation and general site management.



### 1.1 Background

The idea for a community orchard in Bradford emerged in 2000 at a Woodland Conference hosted by Forest of Bradford<sup>2</sup>. Trevor Rogers, Chair of the Northern Fruit Group<sup>3</sup>, gave an inspirational

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<sup>1</sup> Common Ground is a national charity offering ideas, information and inspiration to help people to learn about, enjoy and take more responsibility for their own ideas. They have promoted the understanding of the value of orchards for wildlife since 1990 and have published conference papers in 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Forest of Bradford are a project of BEAT; Bradford Environmental Action Trust. Forest of Bradford is an initiative to increase woodland cover throughout the district in partnership with local communities, organisations, volunteers and businesses. The project was set up in 1998 with the aim of establishing a sustainable wooded landscape in both the rural and urban areas of the District.

presentation about the potential of Community Orchards. This motivated BEES to explore if there was sufficient interest in creating a community orchard in Bradford, and start to seek a suitable site.

Consultations were held at community events and discussions were started with interested individuals and organisations. BEES and Forest of Bradford organised an Apple Day event in October 2000 to raise awareness of local fruit growing and biodiversity in orchards and to engage interest in creating an orchard.

The offer of collaboration with Bradford Council Allotment Service to identify a suitable site was welcomed, as the land on offer could be guaranteed suitable for food growing and it would help to tackle the challenges of under occupancy facing some allotment belts. The Allotment Officer was developing an Improvement Scheme for Bowling Park Allotment which borders Bowling Park and is located between East and West Bowling. A proposal was made that BEES create the orchard on 6 of the uncultivated plots. A copy of the Improvement Scheme plan is included in Appendix 1.

In 2002 BEES received grant funding from Neighbourhood Renewal Fund administered by Bradford North Area Panel to begin the process of creating Bowling Park Community Orchard. Through the following nine years the allotments have been converted from weedy, uncultivated plots with significant amounts of rubbish and broken glass to a productive orchard which includes a mosaic of habitats as well as seating areas, shelter and storage.

### **1.1. Purpose of this Management Plan**

The purpose of this plan is to

- set the context within which Bowling Park Community Orchard was created
- clarify the ethos underpinning the way the orchard is managed
- to give practical guidance to enable continuity for regular management tasks, and encourage people to get involved with the orchard management
- provide information that will help people understand the orchard, learn from it and be inspired to develop similar projects in other areas.

### **1.2. Audience**

This plan is aimed at any person interested in the current and future management or general use of Bowling Park Community Orchard. BEES manage the orchard during seasonal practical sessions but the management plan may also be of interest to other groups such as;

- Volunteers who are involved in, or are interested in becoming involved in the management of the orchard, or other similar projects.
- Bradford Apple Group who organise Apple Day jointly with BEES, an annual celebration of local fruit growing, community orchards and local heritage.

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<sup>3</sup>Formed in 1995, The Northern Fruit Group is a membership based group of individuals interested in the growing of fruit. Their aim is to promote knowledge of fruit growing of all types, particularly those varieties suitable for growing in the North of England.

- Local schools, play schemes, childminders and youth and community groups. The orchard can be used by local schools for formal and informal education. The range of habitats and features within the orchard offers education opportunities for natural history, arts, and fruit, vegetable and flower cultivation skills.
- Local people and groups who may wish to use the orchard for the health benefits it offers. This may be physical activity or general wellbeing through social occasions such as picnics and barbeques.



### 1.3. Background Policies and links

This section refers to a selection of policies and information that have guided the creation of the orchard, and have influenced the management approaches that have been adopted.

1.3.1 Common Ground is a national charity which offers ideas, information and inspiration to help people learn about, enjoy and take responsibility for their own localities. They instigated Apple Day celebration in 1990 and have promoted local activity of orchards during the following years. They have produced a number of publications that not only give practical advice for fruit cultivation but also encourage the exploration of local distinctiveness and sustainability; 'sustainability is about living together; traditional orchards: good for us and good for wildlife'.

1.3.2 Natural England<sup>4</sup> influence and oversee the UK Biodiversity Action Plans. Traditional orchards were included as a priority habitat in 2007. The joint approach to fruit production and management for wildlife has informed the orchard's management plan.

1.3.3 Garden Organic, the national charity for organic growing state 'The organic approach to growing recognises that all living things depend on one another, from pests and soil to flowers and wildlife, all are inter-related - even us. We are all responsible for how we treat the soil and the environment, to safeguard it for future generations'

Advice received from Garden Organic advisors and publications such as 'Organic Apple

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<sup>4</sup> Natural England is the government's independent adviser on the natural environment. Established in 2006 NE's work is focused on enhancing England's wildlife and landscapes and maximising the benefits they bring to the public

Production – pest and disease management’ (2001, HDRA Publishing) has influenced many of the management decisions in the orchard.

**1.3.4 Bradford Council Food Strategy<sup>5</sup>**; this strategy has not been formally adopted at the time of writing, however it is a broad ranging document with many references to research and information on all aspects of local food production. A few examples are included here.

- Friends of the Earth estimate that modern agriculture accounts for around a third of the EU’s greenhouse gas emissions:

[http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/food\\_climate\\_change.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/food_climate_change.pdf).

- DEFRA state the following: “In an energy and oil dependent economy, threats to domestic energy security, in particular fuel supplies, are likely to have adverse impacts on domestic food security, both through supply disruptions, and for lower income groups, through reduced affordability for nutritious food” (‘Food Security and the UK: An Evidence and Analysis Paper’, Food Chain Analysis Group DEFRA, December 2006, p.v):

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/economics/foodfarm/reports/documents/foodsecurity.pdf>.

- Action to promote home composting is specifically referred to on page 34 of Bradford Council’s current Municipal Waste Management Strategy. The strategy can be accessed via a link at the bottom of the following Bradford Observatory webpage

<http://www.bradfordobservatory.com/strategies.cfm>.

- OrganicLea food growing cooperative in Walthamstow. This initiative has enabled local allotment holders to distribute their surplus produce locally. The social and environmental benefits that have accrued include: (a) developing confidence among growers about the value of their produce and that they will get a fair price for what they grow; (b) providing support and advice for growers about growing food sustainably; (c) providing “ultra-local” food for local residents in a way that encourages them to grow more of their own food for themselves; (‘Building a Sustainable Community Food Hub: Distribution of Surplus from Allotments’, Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming, 2009, pp.2-4):

[http://www.sustainweb.org/pdf/Building\\_Sustainable\\_Community\\_Food\\_Hub.pdf](http://www.sustainweb.org/pdf/Building_Sustainable_Community_Food_Hub.pdf).

**1.3.5 Green Infrastructure;** Natural England is promoting the concept of Green Infrastructure as a way to deliver a wide range of benefits for people and the natural environment together. Green Infrastructure (GI) is a strategically planned and delivered network of high quality green spaces. It should be designed and managed to support a wide range of users whilst recognising its importance as a wildlife corridor and as part of a wider habitat network. Green Infrastructure offers benefits for physical and mental health and other ecosystem services such as education and improved quality of life<sup>6</sup>.

The orchard, along with allotment sites as a whole, is a valuable part of the GI network in Bradford.

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<sup>5</sup> Bradford Council Food Strategy is the scrutiny process and due to return to Overview and Scrutiny Committees in early 2012. Progress can be found on [www.bradford.gov.uk](http://www.bradford.gov.uk)

<sup>6</sup> Natural England promote the need for everybody to be within 5 minutes’ walk of high quality natural green space to benefit from the wellbeing that such places have been shown to provide.

## 2. Description and Location of Bowling Park Community Orchard

Bowling Park Community Orchard is within Bowling Park Allotments, Bradford, Belt 103. Entrance to the site is on Bowling Park Drive, BD4, and it lies about 1 mile from Bradford City Centre. The allotment belt covers about 7 acres and is divided into 182 plots.

The orchard has been created on 6 disused allotment plots, (plot numbers 46, 47, 52, 53, 64 and 65) Work began in 2002 when the first task was to prepare the site and install the orchard infrastructure.

Initially the work involved clearing vegetation such as bramble, rosebay willowherb, creeping thistle and creeping buttercup, horsetail, as well as an enormous volume of debris and broken glass. BEES were assisted in this task by BMDC providing skips and Trident Clean Team removing larger items. Old bricks were gathered and used to make a compost bin by young people at The City Centre Project. Pupils from Laisterdyke School cleared and prepared the site as did Community Service. Both groups, along with pupils from Bowling Park Primary School, helped plant the trees, the first of which were planted in 2003.

Fencing was constructed and a native hedge was planted to offer shelter to the fruit trees as well as food for the birds. A path was constructed, essential to mark a way through the weeds. Seating areas and supports for the trained trees were installed.

A planting plan for the fruit trees was devised with reference to the Northern Fruit Group's advice sheets<sup>7</sup>. A selection of dessert apples and culinary varieties were chosen and consideration was given to the season of use to ensure fruit was available for an extended period. Some varieties have Yorkshire origins, such as the Ribston Pippin, which was originally raised from a French apple pip at Ribston Hall near Knaresborough. Other varieties are more familiar, Bramley's Seedling and Discovery, but were chosen because their quality was well known. If we were starting again now we would probably have focused purely on varieties that are not available commercially.

The majority of the trees were planted as individual 'bush' type to grow into open trees; in addition 3 apples were planted to train as espaliers<sup>8</sup>, and 4 apples and 4 pears trained as cordons<sup>9</sup>. These trees of restricted form not only provide the opportunity for orchard volunteers to learn to manage the specific pruning regimes, but also offer a demonstration of how fruit can be grown in a small garden.

The rootstock of grafted fruit trees influences the size that the mature trees reach. In the orchard most of the trees are on semi-dwarfing rootstock<sup>10</sup> so the fruit can be harvested relatively easily. Five of the trees, spread throughout the site, are on the half standard M25 rootstock; these will grow bigger, fruit more abundantly and live longer than smaller trees.

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<sup>7</sup> Northern Fruit Group; Suggested Fruit Cultivars for the North, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2002

<sup>8</sup> Espaliers are restricted in form to allow one central trunk with horizontal branches at regular interval up the stem.

<sup>9</sup> Cordons are grown with the main trunk at approximately 45° with the side spurs restricted to grow within the spaces.

<sup>10</sup> The rootstock will influence the overall size the tree will reach. Different rootstocks are suitable for different conditions.

In 2007 the orchard extended to incorporate 3 plots (numbers 35, 36 and 37) that enable education and celebration events to be hosted on the site. These plots are leased by Bradford Apple Group, and as with the original site were reclaimed from a thicket of bramble, willowherb, ground elder and rubbish.

A map and directions can be found at [http://www.bees-ymca.org.uk/places\\_orchards\\_directions](http://www.bees-ymca.org.uk/places_orchards_directions)



## 2.1 The Biodiversity of the Orchard

Over the years many species of bird and insect have been seen at the orchard, though no official species surveys have been undertaken.

Kestrels hunt overhead; long tailed tits, great tits and blue tits are regular visitors. Whitethroat and linnets have been seen as well as bullfinches. There has been one sighting of a merlin, but this must be considered a one-off rather than a regular or even occasional visitor. Butterflies such as comma, red admiral, orange tip and small tortoiseshell can be seen nectaring on the flowers. Meadow brown is a regular visitor and ringlets have been seen increasingly in 2010 and 2011. These species depend on tall flushes of native grasses for the caterpillars to feed on and for shelter for the pupae.



Ladybirds, lacewing and hover fly are all crucial inhabitants of the orchard, as are the bumblebees upon which the pollination of fruit is dependant. There are a number of spiders species, again they have not been identified but are welcome as predators of aphids and other unwanted pests. Damselfly larvae have been found in the pond and brown hawker dragonflies have been seen hunting over the orchard grassland.

National nature conservation organisations recognise the rich biodiversity of flora and fauna of traditional orchards and in 2007 traditional orchards received UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority status in recognition of their importance to wildlife by Natural England. Although BPCO does not exactly match the definition for such an orchard<sup>11</sup>, the management plan can be influenced by the information within the Habitat Action Plan for Traditional Orchards adopting some of the key features that support a range of species whilst still managing productive fruit trees. BPCO can aspire to be one of the next generation of designated wildlife sites in Bradford by sensitively maintaining the mosaic of habitats (wildflower areas, grassland, hedges and the pond) within a fruit producing allotment.

More can be read about Natural England's traditional orchard wildlife and guidance notes on the natural England website or at [http://bees-ymca.org.uk/places\\_BPCO\\_nature\\_in\\_orchards](http://bees-ymca.org.uk/places_BPCO_nature_in_orchards)

## **2.2 What are we trying to achieve?**

Our ambition is to create a healthy, productive organic orchard, which is of interest to and an inspiration to a broad range of people. The orchard incorporates a range of wildlife habitats in order to provide the natural infrastructure for organic cultivation processes, and also to create an interesting and educational natural green space.

We want to produce a range of apple and pears, plums and soft fruit to share amongst the orchard volunteers, local school groups who come to the orchard and community groups who are interested in developing fruit growing skills. We also want to learn about processing and storing the fruit; making juice, cider, pickles and chutney and dried fruit.

We want the orchard to be place where people can learn about orchard management;

- technical skills of summer and winter pruning
- organic gardening techniques such as creating areas to encourage pollinators and predators
- managing competition from weeds
- managing and creating compost
- feeding regimes for the fruit
- pest and disease control
- creating and managing complementary wildlife habitats

We want the orchard to be a place where people can relax and enjoy the surroundings; maybe paint a picture of the trees in full blossom, take photos of the trees and flowers, have a picnic amongst the fruit and wildlife, study the insects and listen to the birds.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.orchardnetwork.org.uk/content/traditional-orchard-hap> Traditional Orchards are defined, for priority habitat purposes, as groups of fruit and nut trees planted on vigorous rootstocks at low densities in permanent grassland; and managed in a low intensity way.

We want people to come along to an open day or celebration day at the orchard and decide that they too can do more. Perhaps they will join the volunteers that manage the orchard. Perhaps they will ask their local shops to stock more English apples. Perhaps they will increase the amount of fruit they are eating, or take an extra walk, or be more interested in the butterflies next time they are out. Perhaps they will take on an allotment to grow fruit and veg. Perhaps they will look again at the old apple tree in their garden, bring along fruit to be identified at Apple Day, learn how to prune it. Perhaps they will talk to their neighbours about creating their own community orchard.

### **3. Objectives in management**

The aim is to create and maintain a productive, healthy, organic orchard. We aim to maximise the biodiversity of the site and minimise any adverse impact on the environment.

In order to achieve these aims a 5 year work plan has been devised. This will give a clear framework of tasks creating a consistent approach to management and will identify when the tasks are best implemented and what resources will be required for successful outcomes. The work plan will also evaluate and monitor the progress of the plan and leave scope for alteration in future years if change is identified.

A key source of information and guidance has been Garden Organic. In 2001 they produced a publication 'Organic Apple Production - pest and disease management'. This is aimed at commercial growers but a lot of the advice is applicable for smaller scale orchards.

A general outline of management tasks is outlined below.

#### **Fruit Trees**

The aim is to produce open trees that allow light and air to permeate the branch structure. Control of diseases such as canker, which is present in the allotments, and overcrowding of the branches are managed through winter pruning, as is the formative pruning of the younger trees. Each variety has its own growing habit. If they were all like Arthur Turner, having long vertical branches, we would need ladders to harvest, but the Blenheim Orange stretches out horizontally. As we have come to learn more about the different varieties we have identified which varieties need summer pruning to restrict their excesses within the restraints of the space.

The cordons and espaliers are pruned in summer to restrict and shape their growth.

For about five years after planting the ground around the trees is kept clear of weeds and grass. As the trees mature the grass is cut but the earth is not left bare.

#### **Grassland management**

The grass around the trees forms the basis for the predator and pollinator habitats. Floral strips, 3 meters in width, all around the orchard are advised. These should include short term annual species and longer-term perennials that are good for over wintering sites. Tussocky grasses such as cocksfoot and tall fescue are good for ground beetles and spiders. A list of suggested flowering species can be seen in Appendix 2. In a commercial orchard the alleyways between the trees would be left unmown in rotation. Although the grass immediately around the trees needs to be controlled

to reduce competition, the key reason for keeping this zone clear in a commercial orchard is to limit the chance of pickers turning their ankles.

In the orchard the floral strips have been partly focused into designated areas that have been managed to reduce the dominant weeds, with additional contribution to the habitat being the zones between the trees. Docks and creeping buttercups have been spot weeded from across the orchard and plots 64 and 65 have been specifically managed to reduce levels of horsetail and ground elder. In November 2011 we approached Garden Organic advice team to confirm if guidance in 'Organic Apple Production' around grass management is still considered current. Whilst referring to an updated and more detailed publication 'Organic fruit production and viticulture, a complete guide'; 2009 (which we will use as a future reference resource) they confirmed that *'The grass immediately around the trees should be kept short to reduce competition (although the need for this does depend a bit on the size of the trees) but it is a good idea to leave other areas to flower to provide a habitat for beneficial insects.'*

In conclusion, organic research guides us not to mow the orchard regularly, as well as destroying habitat this would require an unnecessary use of fossil fuels (and associated CO<sub>2</sub> production) and labour. However we feel it is important that the ethos behind the long grass is explained so information has been displayed on the orchard notice boards. In addition pathways are mown through the grass to indicate access and demonstrate intent. The grass is cut and removed each September and may be cut in early spring.

### **Pond**

A small pond has been created to encourage insects, amphibians and birds.



### **Hedge**

In 2002 a mixed native hedge was planted bordering plot 64. This had a dual purpose of acting as a wind break for the young trees and a food bank for the birds and insects. Whilst we had been delighted to see bullfinches on the site in the early days we didn't want them to eat all the fruit buds so included wild pear and dog rose as an alternative food source.

As the hedge matured it has been laid in order to form a dense barrier at a reasonable height. This technique will be repeated in subsequent years to ensure a good habitat and allow light into the orchard. The hedge should be cut in late winter and in rotation, leaving some uncut at any one time.

### **Habitat extras**

Bird boxes, insect homes and boxes add to the hibernation and roosting places for wildlife, allowing the orchard to support diverse populations.

### **Pathways, fences and other infrastructure**

The infrastructure of the orchard needs to be maintained to ensure boundaries are marked and structure are fit for purpose.

### **3.1 Who will be involved?**

BEES Conservation volunteer group are the main group undertaking management of the orchard. The group is open to anyone interested in practical conservation work and skills development. Between April 2010 and October 2011 eleven BEES work days were held, with a total of 205 'volunteer days' undertaken.

In addition one off practical work is arranged for community groups and Friends of Bowling Park Community Orchard. This group is coordinated by BEES but is a loose informal gathering meeting at the orchard mainly on summer evenings and weekends during the harvesting season, which begins in August with the Discovery, and ends mid to late October with the Court Pendu Plat and Ashmead's Kernel.

Between April 2010 and October 2011 approximately 27 sessions with a total of 84 volunteer sessions worked.

As well as practical work the orchard is also used for education and celebration. Between April 2010 and October 2011 approximately 11 events or sessions have been run, attracting about 1,343 visits, enabling people to learn, enjoy and relax at the orchard.

### **3.2 Keeping up to date.**

The best way to keep up to date with what is happening at the orchard, and how to get involved is by viewing the BEES website. [www.bees-ymca.org.uk](http://www.bees-ymca.org.uk)

#### **3.2.1 Practical Days at Bowling Park Community Orchard**

[www.bees-ymca.org.uk/projects\\_conservation\\_tasks](http://www.bees-ymca.org.uk/projects_conservation_tasks)  
and  
[www.bees-ymca.org.uk/places\\_orchards](http://www.bees-ymca.org.uk/places_orchards)

#### **3.2.2 Harvesting Record at Bowling Park Community Orchard**

There is a link to a google document on the orchard page  
[www.bees-ymca.org.uk/places\\_orchards](http://www.bees-ymca.org.uk/places_orchards)



### 3.3 Bowling Park Community Orchard Action Plan 2012-2017

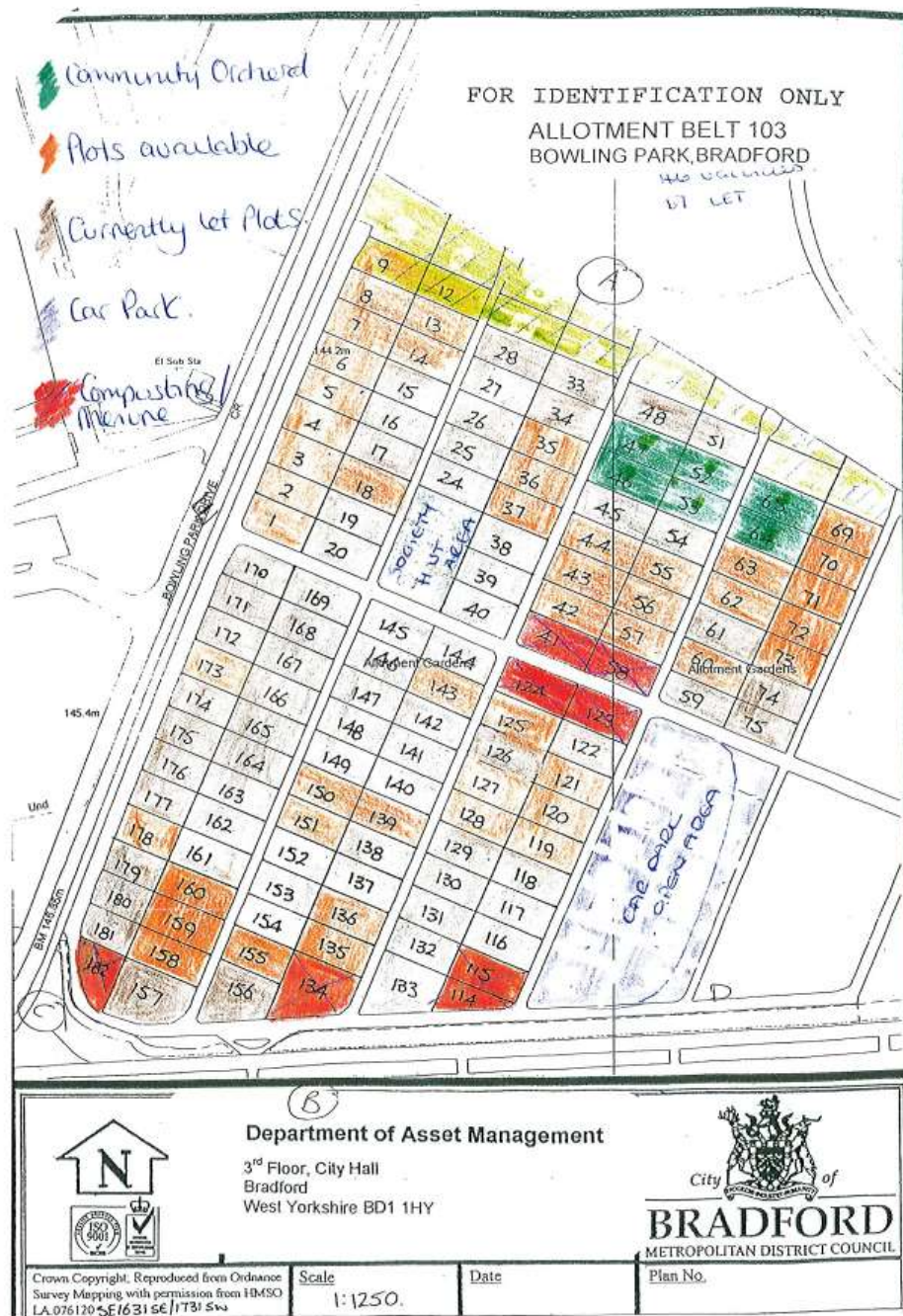
MONTH	TASK	WHO	COMMENTS
April			
May	<p>Organise Blossom Day activities.</p> <p>Prune top of cordons and espaliers to limit their height</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut grass to create paths through grassland and control areas of ground elder.</li> <li>• Weed 1m area around base of trees planted within last 5 years. Control ground elder around all trees</li> <li>• Spot weed docks, thistles and creeping buttercup</li> <li>• Manage pathways and beds</li> </ul> <p>Feed trees; dressing of compost, charcoal dust and seaweed.</p>	<p>BEES Volunteer Group – Friday Task</p> <p>Friends of BPCO</p>	<p>Belveder shelter will need varnishing in May 2014</p> <p>Repeat every 3-5 years, plus bi-annual inspection to ensure structurally sound.</p>
June	<p>Consider thinning fruit if large clusters have pollinated. Leave until late in month to allow for natural drop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut grass to create paths through grassland and control areas of ground elder.</li> <li>• Weed 1m area around base of trees planted within last 5 years. Control ground elder around all trees</li> <li>• Spot weed docks, thistles and creeping buttercup</li> <li>• Manage pathways and beds</li> </ul> <p><b>2013</b> - plant meadow flowers in area around Grandpa Buxton.</p>	<p>BEES Staff/vol</p> <p>Friends of BPCO</p>	<p>Cowslips and primroses planted by Ribston Pippin. Oxeye daisy planted nr G'pa Buxton May '13</p>
July	<p>Summer pruning of cordon and espaliers</p> <p>Ensure sufficient numbers of insect hibernation and roosting houses are distributed amongst the trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut grass to create paths through grassland and control areas of ground elder.</li> <li>• Weed 1m area around base of trees planted within last 5 years. Control ground elder around all trees</li> <li>• Spot weed docks, thistles and creeping</li> </ul>	<p>BEES Volunteer Group – Friday Task</p> <p>BEES staff/vols</p> <p>Friends of BPCO</p>	<p>Summer pruning of Blenheim Orange, Kids Orange Redd and Grandpa Buxton undertaken in 2012 because of overcrowding.</p>

	<p>buttercup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage pathways and beds</li> </ul>		
<b>August</b>	<p>Start to harvest – first trees to come into fruit are Discovery, Beauty of Bath and Irish Peach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete summer pruning</li> <li>• Cut grass to create paths through grassland and control areas of ground elder.</li> <li>• Weed 1m area around base of trees planted within last 5 years. Control ground elder around all trees</li> <li>• Spot weed docks, thistles and creeping buttercup</li> <li>• Assess for damage to fruit and disease in trees and plan action</li> <li>• Manage pathways and beds</li> </ul>	<p>BEES staff/vols</p> <p>Friends of BPCO</p>	
<b>September</b>	<p>Full cut and rake of grass areas. Leave approximately 10% as hibernation refuge for invertebrates. This could be done in early October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue harvesting</li> <li>• Weed 1m area around base of trees planted within last 5 years. Control ground elder around all trees</li> <li>• Spot weed docks, thistles and creeping buttercup</li> <li>• Assess for damage to fruit and disease in trees and plan action</li> <li>• Manage pathways and beds</li> </ul>	<p>BEES Volunteer Group</p> <p>BEES staff/vols</p> <p>Friends of BPCO</p>	
<b>October</b>	<p>Apple Day event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue harvesting</li> <li>• Weed 1m area around base of trees planted within last 5 years. Control ground elder around all trees</li> <li>• Spot weed docks, thistles and creeping buttercup</li> <li>• Assess for damage to fruit and disease in trees and plan action</li> </ul>	<p>Working with BAG</p>	

	Manage pathways and beds Feed trees; dressing of compost, charcoal dust and seaweed.		
<b>November</b>	<b>Review Action Plan.</b> In addition to reviewing regular tasks also make annual assessment of the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess paths and need for repair/replacement or additional bark topping</li> <li>• Assess benches and need for repair/replacement</li> <li>• Review need to upgrade fences and gates to secure orchard so access is limited to Friends of BPCO only.</li> <li>• Take into account any disease or damage and plan accordingly.</li> <li>• Maintenance of shed</li> </ul>	BEES  Friends of BPCO	Compost bins near shed replaced in autumn 2012
<b>December</b>	Winter pruning – can be done between December and February. Avoid periods when heavy frost is forecast within 2-3 days. Aim – remove dead, diseased and damaged branches. Promote healthy shape and productive growth.	BEES Volunteer Group	Belverder shelter installed Dec 2013
<b>January</b>	Winter Pruning	Friends of BPCO	General clearance of stones/debris 2013-14
<b>February</b>	Winter Pruning  Hedge laying; top area –due in approx. 2016 and events area – 2013 and 2018  Coppice hazel and pear near Fortune, 2/3 year cycle.  <b>2012</b> – replace diseased Charles Ross and Lane’s Prince Albert with new trees	Friends of BPCO  BEES vols	Some of hedge near veg beds laid in 2012  2012. Radical pruning of Fiesta because of extent of disease.  Hazel coppiced 2013  Two trees planted. Paid for by donation from BEES participant
<b>March</b>	Revise management plan Celebrate orchard’s birthday		2013 = 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
<b>Additional tasks to consider</b>	shelter repairs insect hotel in fence end of orchard. soft fruit – plant more. remove raspberry supports add species surveys to management plan More detail on rootstocks and habitats		2013. Soft fruit planted in veg beds.

#### 4. Appendices

##### 1. Plan for Bowling Park Allotments Improvement Scheme



#### Appendix 2 Suitable Wildflowers for organic orchards

#### 5. References, useful organisations and links.



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2. Orchards and Wild Life, Conference papers, Common Ground with English nature, Much Marcle and Ledbury, Herefordshire 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1999
3. Northern Fruit Group; Suggested Fruit Cultivars for the North, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Spring 2002
4. <http://www.orchardnetwork.org.uk/content/traditional-orchard-hap>
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