

MEREVALE ALLOTMENT SITE - CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct has been produced by Atherstone Town Council, in consultation with the Merevale Allotment Association, and it applies to all tenants of the site, not just those who are members of the Association.

All tenants are required to follow the Code of Conduct and if a tenant is found in breach at any time a warning will be issued in line with the Allotment Garden Tenancy Rules and Agreement.

- **Site Access:** Please note that with immediate effect tenants should not be on site between 10pm at night and 5am in a morning.
- **Cultivation:** Keep your allotment: “free from weeds and well manured and otherwise maintain it in a good state of cultivation and fertility and good condition” Regular inspections are undertaken by Atherstone Town Council.
- **Bonfires:** these can now only be lit between October 1st and the last day of February. Bonfires should still be considered a last resort to be used for burning diseased matter or materials that cannot be otherwise composted. Bonfires must not be lit when the wind is blowing towards the nearby houses. If in doubt observe the wind direction using the numerous flags that are on site.
(Bonfires cannot be lit between March 1st and September 30th)
- **Gates:** the entrance gates should be locked every time a tenant enters or leaves the site to stop unauthorised visitors, fly tippers, dog walkers etc. All tenants should carry their key with them at all times.
- **Cockerels / Ducks:** these are not permitted.
- **Dogs:** these are allowed on site but should be kept on a lead at all times and dog litter must be cleared up.
- **Rubbish Disposal:** tenants must not deposit rubbish anywhere on the site. They should compost green waste within their own plot or take it home, see next item recycle point. Hazardous waste should be notified to the Town Council.
- **Recycling Area** (located at the Picnic bench on the car park)
If tenants have surplus plants or items that they think other tenants may be able to make use of these can be put at the recycling point. Do not use this area to dispose of rubbish found on allotments.
- **Canalside tenants** – tenants whose plots form a boundary with canal should leave a metre clearance at the canal bank to allow for maintenance access and for their own safety.
- **Merevale Wall** – tenants are required to leave a three metre gap between their plot and the wall to allow for maintenance access.
- **Advisory Links Bio Diversity and Climate Change** – see overleaf

<https://www.walc.org.uk/news/latest/local-councils-powers-on-climate-change>

EXTRACTS FROM NATIONAL ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/allotment-info/wildlife-gardening-on-allotments/>

Plot-holders can help to support wildlife and ensure a balanced eco-system that will reduce pests and diseases and increase productivity by following some simple steps

Tips for a wildlife friendly plot

- Reduce or eliminate use of chemicals, use companion planting and physical removal to combat pests such as aphids, slugs and sawfly
- Create habitats for wildlife; bee-boxes, hedgehog homes, log and stone piles for invertebrates, toads and slow worms who will also inhabit a compost heap
- Plant late, mid-season and early blooming nectar rich flowers to attract pollinators and beneficial insects all year round

Allotment sites can make communal efforts to be wildlife friendly by managing hedges appropriately and setting aside un-mown grassy areas to nurture insects and amphibians; a patch of nettles will provide both plant food and a breeding area for butterflies. Orchard areas managed in a traditional way provide potential breeding sites for many different species of wildlife.

[Click here](#) to read about the importance of Pollinators to your plot.

Citizen Science, allotment holders are also very well placed to take part in the many citizen science projects taking place, contributing to an increased knowledge of how the eco-system works and its importance to human life. Here are a few projects that you may like to be involved with.

[Great British Bee Count.](#)

[The Earthworm Society of Britain](#) - Earthworm Identification, Blogs, National Earthworm Recording Scheme, Recording Scheme Handbook.

[Earthworm Watch](#) - conduct your own earthworm survey to help map where they are, better understand the vital benefits they bring, and ultimately, help protect them

[RSPB Swift Survey](#) - swifts are in trouble and we need to help them survive by providing nesting sites.

[Big Butterfly Count](#)

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