

## 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. Failure to comply with the allotment rules can result in you receiving a warning, cultivation or eviction notice which can lead to the termination of the tenancy.**

- **General Conduct:** Please show respect and do not cause a nuisance to other tenants and local residents. Incidents of Anti-Social or Unlawful Behaviour should be reported to the Police on 101.
- **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. See Appendix A ( page 4 for this Code of Conduct) for the definition of Cultivation Standards ( NAS Policy 108)
- **Items on plots and keeping plots tidy:** Please do not bring or store unnecessary items on your allotment other than for the sole purpose of using on your garden. If you are not sure please ask the office. Plots should be kept in a tidy condition and rubbish not allowed to accumulate. See below “Rubbish Disposal”
- **Bonfires:** these can now only be lit between October 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>)
- **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. Up to 6 hens are allowed per plot.
- **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.
- **Water on site:** Tenants must not create dams or bridges in the brook. It is an offence to do so without a licence for water abstraction or impoundment from the Environment Agency. Enforcement options include prosecution and fines by the Environment Agency.
- **Trading:** Strictly not allowed to conduct a business from your allotment.
- **Weedkiller / Chemicals** - Must NOT be used on shared public areas.
- **Car Parking and Driving on site:** a car park is provided for use by all tenants. The grass tracks around the site are for pedestrians only. Bollards / Posts are in place as driving vehicles around the site is not permitted.
- **Advisory Links Bio Diversity and Climate Change** – see below

<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 should help to support wildlife and ensure a balanced ecosystem 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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The National  
Allotment Society

National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd

## **NAS Policy Document 108. Cultivation Standards**

1. Tenancy agreements for allotment gardens typically include obligations to keep the plot clean, free from weeds, in a good state of fertility and cultivation, and for paths to be kept well maintained. The Society recognises that the monitoring and enforcement of these obligations is inherently subjective, and increasingly so, given the proliferation of gardening styles to be found on allotments in the UK.

2. As a minimum requirement, the Society believes that allotment gardens should be cultivated in a way that does not interfere in a material way with the enjoyment of neighbouring tenants, or that is likely to impede the ability of the allotment provider to re-let the plot at a later date. Providers may also wish to set standards for the proportion of the land put to use in the production of fruit, vegetables, flowers and the keeping of permitted livestock, and for the maintenance of residual areas.

3. The Society believes that the cultivation of allotment gardens should be subject to a regime of inspection that is timely, fair, unintrusive and appropriate to the season. It further believes that allotment garden tenants have an obligation to cooperate in such inspections, including enabling access when external visual inspection is impractical.

4. The Society believes that enforcement procedures for non-cultivation should be fair, and made known at the outset to any tenant against whom action is proposed. Such procedures should include clear documentation of faults, an early opportunity to declare any mitigating circumstances (which should be treated in confidence), and deadlines for rectification that allow reasonable time for the tenant to take action, bearing in mind the time of year. Courses of action should offer alternatives to termination wherever possible, including the opportunity to cultivate a smaller plot, especially when there is no prior history of non-cultivation. An independent appeals procedure should also be in place. Where faults are left unrectified and all alternatives refused, however, the Society recognises the right of the allotment provider to terminate the tenancy in accordance with the terms set out in the tenancy agreement and relevant legislation.