



Newton Abbot Town Council: Allotments & Community Garden Strategy (2025–2027)

Date of adoption	Full Council, 12 th November 2025 Minute Number:
Reviewed by Policy & Resources Committee	22 nd October 2025
Next Review Date	As required

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1. Introduction

This strategy sets out Newton Abbot Town Council's commitment to supporting food-growing spaces for health, community, sustainability, and biodiversity. It outlines our priorities for allotments (a statutory duty) and the community garden, ensuring both strands are developed in parallel under shared values.

This strategy complements the Council's Green Spaces Policy and supports the delivery of wider environmental, wellbeing, and community engagement goals.

2. Vision and Shared Principles

Our vision is for a resilient, inclusive, and biodiverse network of food-growing spaces that improve lives, strengthen community ties, and support local sustainability.

We are guided by:

- Environmental sustainability
 - Community co-stewardship (through NADCAA and other groups)
 - Accessibility and inclusion
 - Education, wellbeing, and biodiversity enhancement
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3. Current Provision Overview

3.1 Allotments

Newton Abbot has seven active allotment sites that are owned by the council unless stated otherwise:

- Decoy Field
- Coach Road
- Cooke's Field (Private land)
- Blake's Field (Private land)
- Bradley Field
- Camomile & Larkspur Field (Only the Chamomile half is currently active)
- Vicary's Field

All fields except Vicary's are managed in partnership with the Newton Abbot District & Co-Operative Allotment Association (NADCAA). More on NADCAA: nadcaa.org.uk. The council is responsible for formal cultivation inspections, complaints, and tenancy renewal whilst NADCAA deals with the day-to-day running of the fields, managing the waiting lists and lettings.

3.2 Vicary's Field (Transitional Allotment Site)

Vicary's Field is currently transitioning from informally managed allotments to formalised oversight under Newton Abbot Town Council, with support from NADCAA. A formal transition plan (2025–2026) is underway to improve site condition and align with best practices.

Details of the specific actions to support this transition are outlined in Section 5.2. The strategy ensures Vicary's Field becomes a safe, supported, and sustainable part of the town's allotment provision.

3.3 Community Gardening

Vicary's Community Garden is a dedicated shared growing space designed for community-led cultivation and time in nature, operating independently from the allotment network. It is leased by a community group (Transition Town Newton Abbot). The site fosters local engagement and environmental education, and may be used by schools, voluntary groups, and health initiatives.

4. Strategic Objectives (2025–2027)

These objectives set the direction of travel for the Council's support of allotments and community gardening over the next three years. They are intentionally outcome-focused rather than prescriptive, allowing flexibility in how priorities are delivered and adapted based on feedback, funding, and partnership capacity.

- Ensure all growing spaces are safe, accessible, inclusive, and climate resilient
- Support NADCAA and community partners to deliver high standards of management
- Strengthen environmental and biodiversity gains through organic and sustainable practices
- Provide clearer routes into participation, particularly for new gardeners and under-represented groups
- Support the development of Vicary's Community Garden as a useable community focused space

5. Allotment and Community Garden Plans

5.1 Allotment Development Plan

To meet the strategic objectives related to allotments, the Council may consider the following priorities:

- Infrastructure improvements including phased installation of toilet facilities and improved water collection capacity

- Creation of accessible plots at Decoy and Vicary's Fields, providing raised beds, access to a shed, and a greenhouse. Concept layout: Appendix J.
- Bring Larkspur allotment on-line with road access and footpath connecting it to Camomile Field
- Expansion of the allotment network in response to future demand and land availability by working with developers

5.2 Vicary's Field Transition Plan (2025–2026)

Vicary's Field is currently transitioning to formalised oversight under Newton Abbot Town Council, with support from NADCAA. The Council will:

- Remove unsafe structures and rehabilitate overgrown plots
- Improve security and improve on site accessibility
- Restore water infrastructure and basic facilities
- Introduce phased tenancy agreements for all growers
- Require NADCAA membership for all **new** tenants

5.3 Community Garden Development Plan

To support the strategic vision for Vicary's Community Garden:

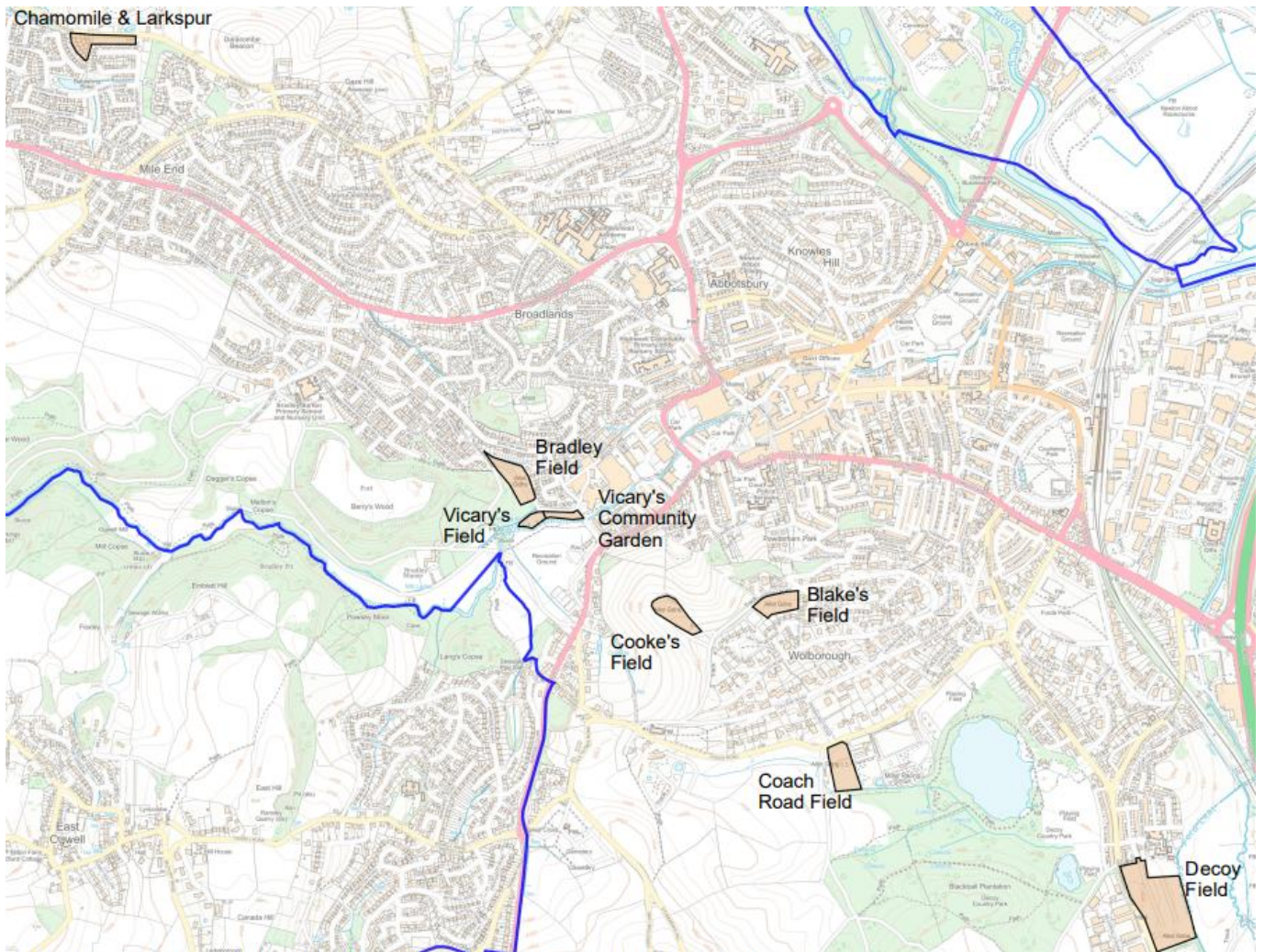
- Support inclusive use through accessible design and shared-use principles
- Encourage use by education groups (e.g. schools or nurseries), health initiatives, and voluntary groups
- Promote long-term sustainability of the site through secure tenure, shared responsibilities, and co-stewardship
- Explore potential for improved infrastructure, including tool storage and shelter

6. Monitoring and Review

- Strategy reviewed biannually
- Annual reports to Community & Heritage Committee
- Tenant and community feedback invited through surveys and on-site reps

Appendices

Appendix A – Newton Abbot Wide Site Map



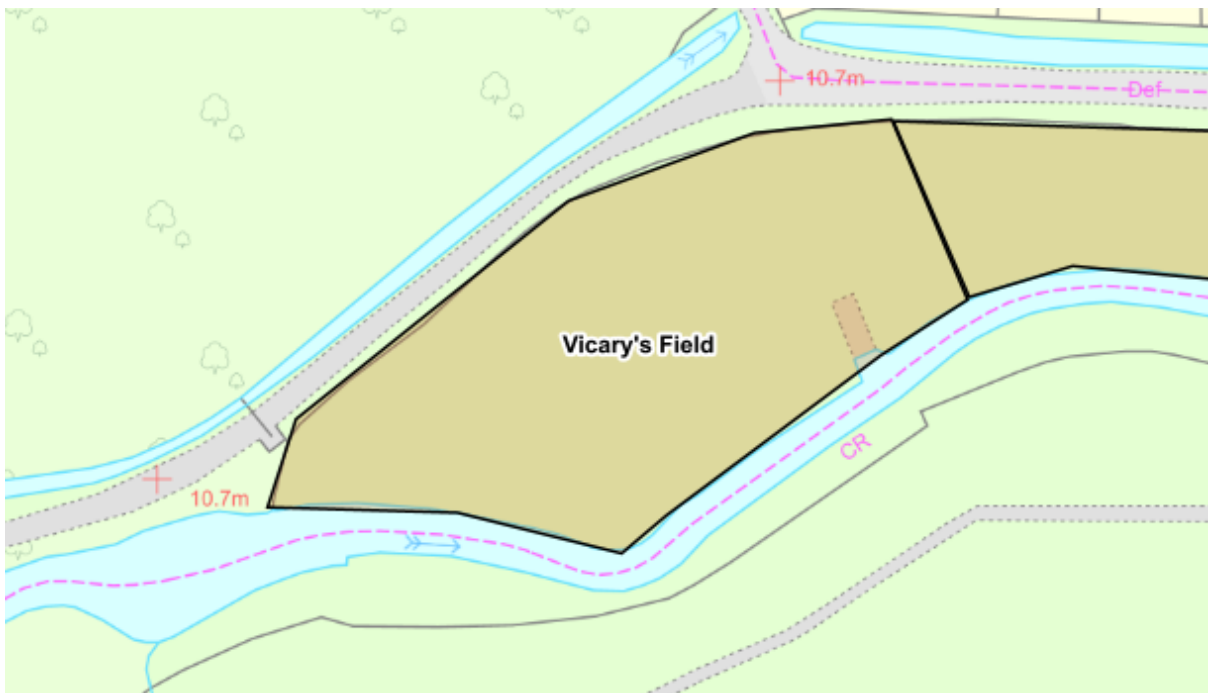
Appendix B – Chamomile & Larkspur



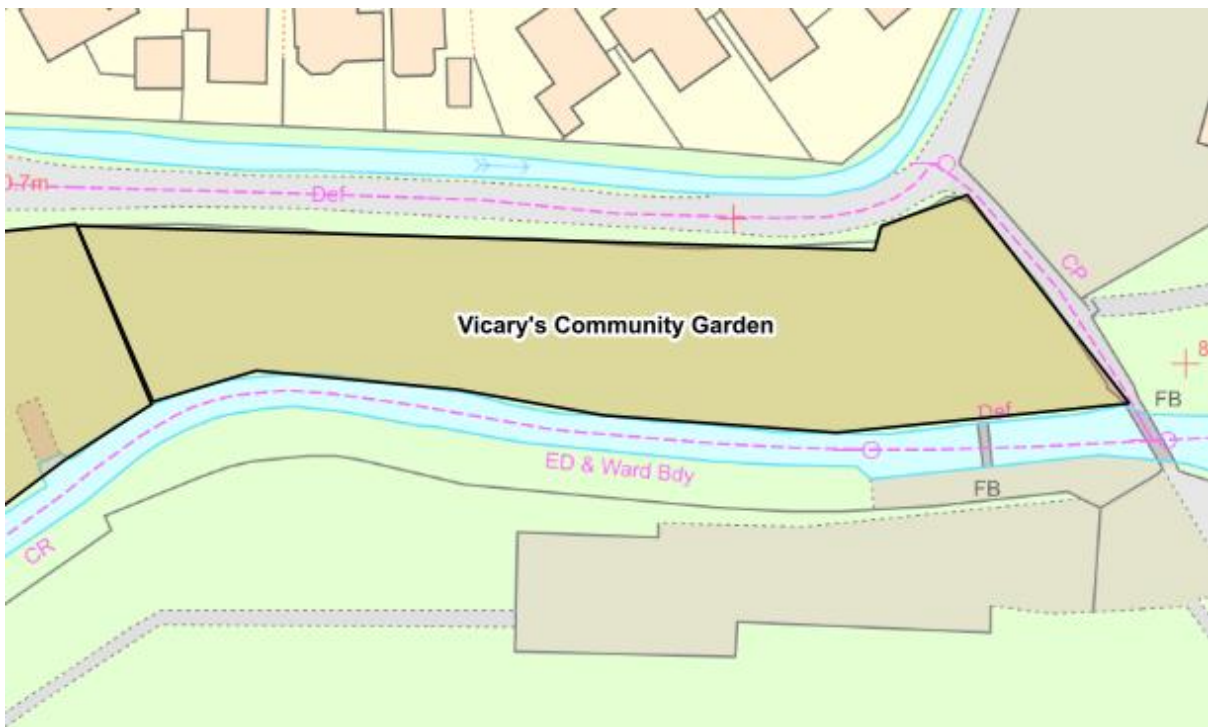
Appendix C – Bradley Field



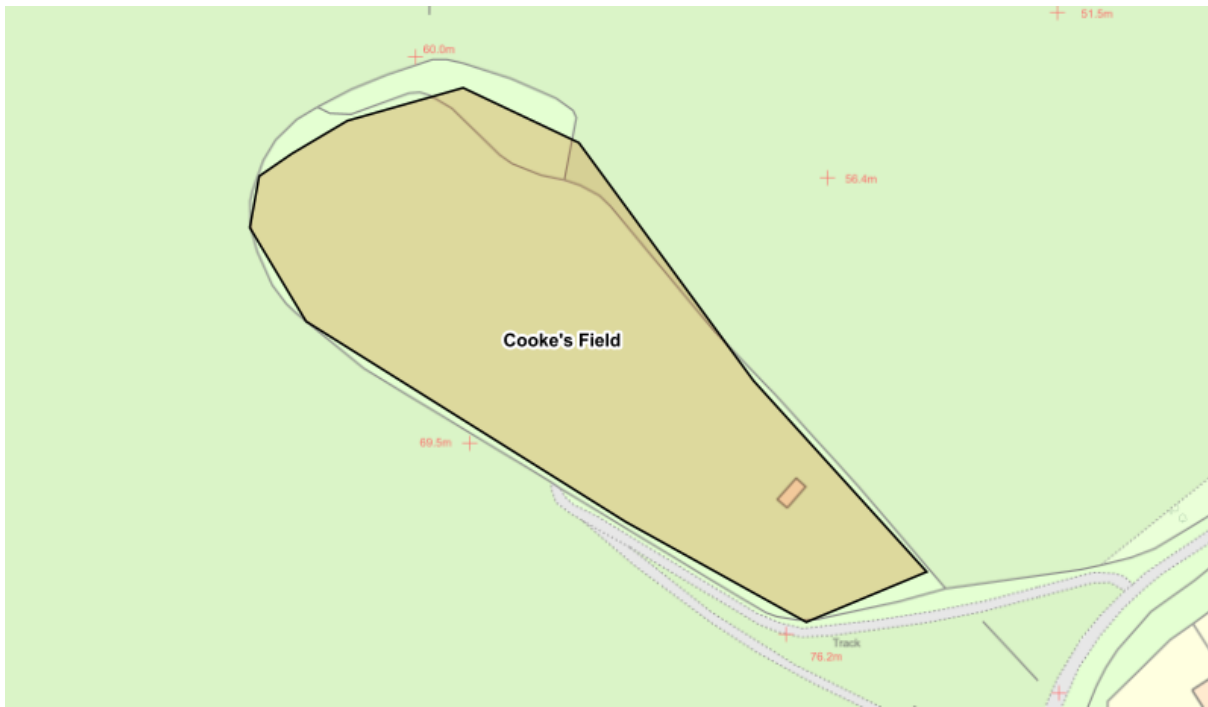
Appendix D – Vicary's Field



Appendix E – Vicary's Community Garden



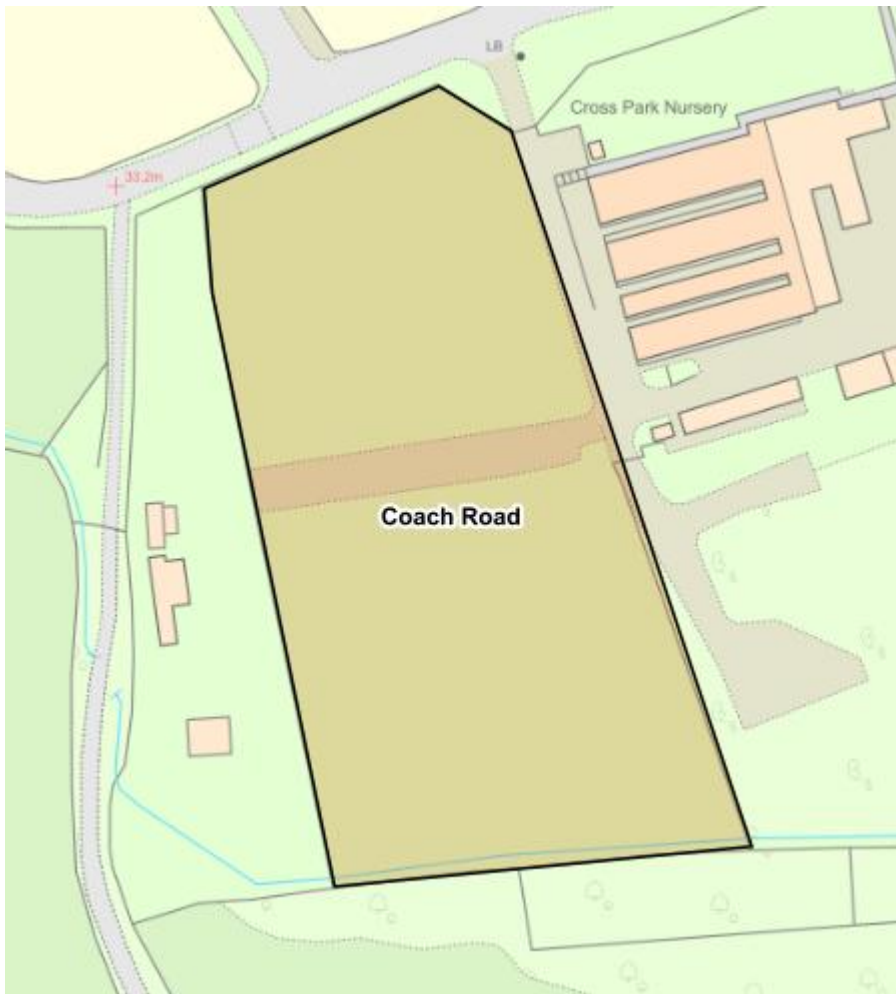
Appendix F – Cooke's Field



Appendix G – Blake's Field



Appendix H – Coach Road



Appendix I – Decoy Field



Appendix J – Accessible Plot Concept Sketch

A concept layout illustrating the design intent for an accessible growing area. The layout includes raised beds surrounded by compacted gravel pathways for ease of movement, a lower no-dig vegetable area with a paved walkway running through the centre, a large wooden shed for tool storage, and a glass greenhouse equipped with water-harvesting tanks. Several small benches are provided to offer resting spots and encourage social interaction. The space prioritises physical accessibility, manageable gardening, and continued participation for those unable to maintain a full plot.

