

NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Community & Heritage Committee

DATE: [15/10/2025]

REPORT AUTHOR: Thomas Collard, Green Spaces Officer

AGENDA ITEM No.: [7]

REPORT TITLE: Accessible Allotment Report

1. PURPOSE

This report sets out a proposal for the development of **Accessible Allotment Plots** at Decoy Field and Vicary's Allotment. It outlines the rationale, benefits, anticipated costs, and delivery considerations to support approval and implementation.

2. IMPLICATIONS

Area	Details
Legal	Compliance with Equality Act 2010; general duty to promote inclusive access
Financial	Initial capital expenditure (costings to be scoped); future maintenance within existing budget
Policy	Aligns with the Allotment and Community Garden Strategy, Green Spaces Policy, and Strategic Plan
Property	Minor works to existing Council-managed site
Personnel	Delivered by the FMO Team with volunteer support

3. BACKGROUND

As outlined in the **Allotment and Community Garden Strategy**, Newton Abbot Town Council recognises the need for **inclusive participation in local food-growing**. Many long-standing allotment tenants are ageing or facing changing life circumstances. The proposed plot provides a solution that enables continued involvement in a manageable and welcoming space.

This concept was developed in consultation with NADCAA committee members and community stakeholders. The proposed accessible plot will:

- Be open to members unable to manage a full plot
- Include raised beds, tool storage, and a sheltered working area
- Use compacted gravel and woodchip pathways to support mobility aids
- Provide seating for social use and rest breaks
- Include a greenhouse, shed, and rainwater harvesting capacity

A **visual concept sketch** is included in Appendix J of the Strategy, or Appendix A of this document. These areas will be incorporated within the wider Decoy and Vicary's allotment sites, in locations requiring minimal disruption.

4. RATIONALE AND BENEFITS

- **Inclusivity:** Supports tenants with limited mobility or health conditions to continue growing
- **Wellbeing:** Encourages connection with nature and others through manageable activity
- **Retention and Dignity:** Offers an alternative to full tenancy termination by providing a manageable plot for those unable to sustain a full allotment, preserving a sense of ownership and connection to the site
- **Pilot Value:** Offers a replicable model for other sites in future
- **Community Engagement:** Deepens the Council's support for co-stewardship and intergenerational gardening
- **Strategic Fit:** Delivers objectives in the Green Spaces and Allotments & Community Garden Strategies

5. DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS

Costs:

Aim to keep all construction work in-house to reduce costs to materials only.

- Site preparation and groundwork
 - Accessible pathways of compacted gravel and woodchip (minimum 75–90cm wide)
 - Gravel approx. £3300
- Raised beds - 45–75cm high for comfortable access from sitting or standing
 - Approx 90 sleepers are required at £15 per sleeper (£1350).
- Greenhouse re-installation and water tanks for rainwater collection (Approx £200).
- Shed/shelter (Approx £600) and seating (benches constructed using sleepers).

Funding Opportunities:

- Potential grant applications (e.g. Growing Communities Fund, RHS Accessibility Grants)
- In-kind contributions from NADCAA volunteers
- Sponsorship or material donations from local businesses

Next Steps:

1. Design and layout approval
2. Costing and funding options finalised
3. Procurement of materials and delivery scheduling
4. Public and allotment community engagement


RECOMMENDATIONS

That Newton Abbot Town Council resolves to:

1. **Approve the proposal** to establish an Accessible Allotment Plot at Decoy and Vicary's Fields, as outlined in this report and the Allotment and Community Garden Strategy
2. **Authorise officers** to scope full costs and begin procurement and delivery planning
3. **Invite community partners** and NADCAA to support delivery through volunteer and material contributions
4. **Review implementation outcomes** in Year 1 with the potential to extend similar provision at other sites


Authors of Report:

Thomas Collard, Green Spaces Officer

 01626 201120

 thomas.collard@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

Rob Woodger

 01626 201120

 rob.woodger@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

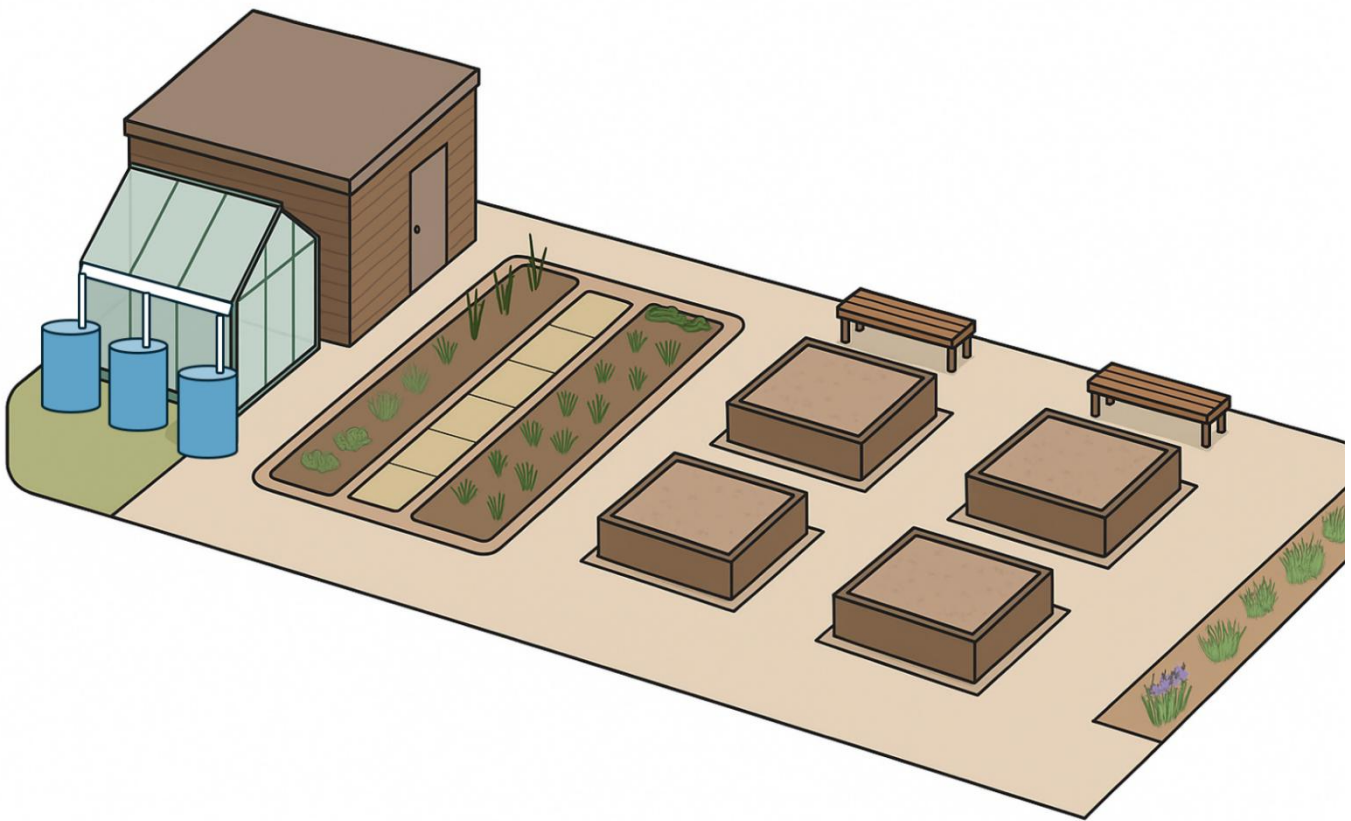
[Accessible Allotments: Gardening for Every Body \(UK 2025 Guide\) - Garden and Allotment Tips and Advice](#)

[Disabilities and Allotments | South West Counties Allotment Association](#)

[Designing an Accessible Allotment for All - Allotment & Gardens](#)

[Accessible Allotments - Mansewood Allotments](#)

Appendix A



Appendix B

Mansenwood Allotments



