

Knutsford Bee Trail



Part of the Knutsford Nature Action Plan
Photos by Kevin Griffiths, Karl Creaser, KTC



What can Knutsford do for nature?

Plant more trees and hedges (mapped).
Plant more flowers to support pollinators.
Improve green corridors through the town (mapped).

Nature Action Plan
2020



A photograph of two frogs sitting on a log over water. The frog on the left is green with orange-tipped toes, and the frog on the right is light pinkish-white with orange-tipped toes. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Nature Action Plan 2023

Year 1 Bees and other pollinators.

Year 2 Frogs and ponds.

Year 3 Birds.

Year 4 Hedgehogs.

Year 1 Bees and other pollinators



Threats to pollinators

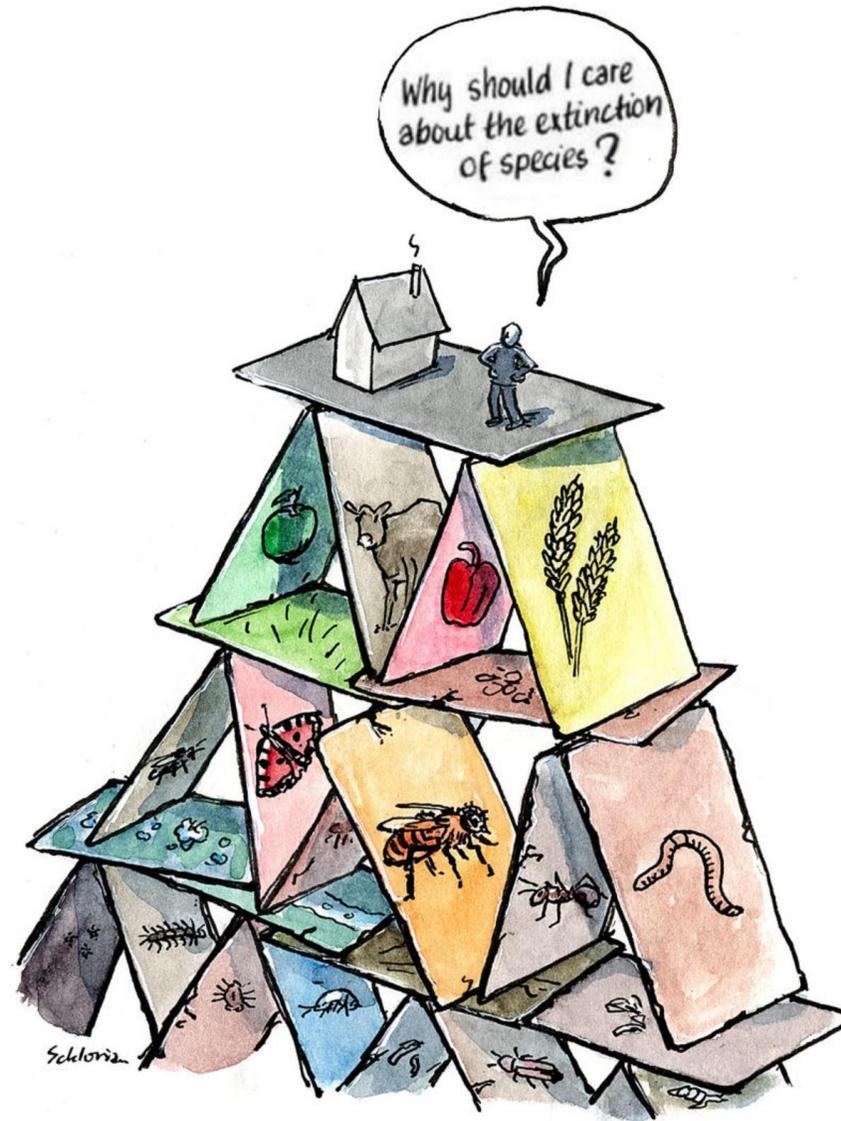
- Mass development.
- Large scale agriculture.
- Habitat loss and fragmentation of green corridors.
- Spraying chemicals.
- Lack of understanding of needs.





Reasons to care.

- ❖ Honeybees compete with wild bees for food. We need to support wild bees.
- ❖ Not all pollinators are bees. Hoverflies, beetles, moths, flies and wasps are important too.
- ❖ Insects provide multiple eco-system services to us. Without pollinators many flowers would not reproduce.
- ❖ It is alarming that there has been a 60% decline in flying insects in the UK over 20 years.
- ❖ Bees are critically important to food production. Around 70% of our food relies on the existence of bees and other pollinators.



No Bees = No humans?

CROSSTOWN COMMUNITY ORCHARD



The community orchard is designed to be a great place for wildlife and humans. The orchard needs pollinators visiting regularly to pollinate the trees and fruits, so the orchard is managed to support them all year round.



Bulbs to feed the bees when they wake up in spring.



Wildflower meadow to provide plenty of food in summer.



Ivy left on the trees to provide food in the autumn.



Bug hotel to provide a home for solitary bees over winter



GET INVOLVED

If you would like to help care for this space, get in touch with the Crosstown Community Orchard - visit www.crosstowncommunityorchard.org.uk

Knutsford Bee Trail

- ❖ Create the Knutsford Bee Trail to link up all the bee friendly habitats around the town.
- ❖ Celebrate the work of the community.
- ❖ Photo competition.
- ❖ Launch Day to coincide with World Bee Day.
- ❖ Educate and empower.

WELCOME TO THE KNUTSFORD BEE TRAIL!



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The Knutsford Bee Trail is a 3.5km walk connecting locations where bees and other pollinating insects thrive in our neighbourhood. The trail forms two loops from the Moor, going out to the Heath in the west, and St John's Wood in the east. You can start the trail at any point, do it in small sections, or as one big nature walk!

We created this trail to raise awareness about the decline of bees and other pollinating insects, and the threats they face. It aims to champion the positive work happening in our town and encourage further efforts to restore nature at home and in the community.

Walking the Knutsford Bee Trail you'll see examples of pollinator conservation in action, and get to enjoy some great community spaces too. You'll also find info boards where you can learn fun facts and ways that you can support our pollinators.



Keep your eyes out for Bob the Bee to guide you along the route!



JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Join our movement to save our bees! Head to our website to find out more:
www.knutsfordtowncouncil.gov.uk/bee-trail



Knutsford Bee Trail leaflet

- A 3.5mile, figure of 8 route around out town taking in an orchard, wildflower meadows, ancient woodland, the churchyard, community garden and heath.



BEE DAY
LAUNCHING THE
KNUTSFORD BEE TRAIL

FIND OUT ALL ABOUT BEES AND
THE SIMPLE THINGS WE CAN ALL
DO TO HELP.

CHECK OUT OUR FUN ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO
WIN A BEE HOTEL, FREE
WILDFLOWER SEEDS, TALKS, A
BAKE SALE AND A REAL LIVE BEE
HIVE

BEE A HERO AND JOIN OUR MISSION
TO SUPPORT POLLINATING INSECTS!

SATURDAY 17TH MAY
THE MOOR
10AM - 4PM



Launch of the Knutsford Bee Trail May 2025





Our message spread like wildfire across the town.

Knutsford Bee Trail – success so far

- Increased and improved pollinator habitat.
- Attracted nature tourism to the town.
- Improved engagement and understanding of pollinators. Empowered with actions.
- Involved local friends and community groups, land owners and allotments.
- Photographic competition gave us quality photos for promotion. The trail has given us quality reels for social media.
- Visible increase in bees and other pollinators especially wild bees, butterflies and dragonflies.
- Better understanding of the town councils work and commitment to nature in the town.
- Won a national DEFRA award: the Bees' Needs Champions Award 2025.





**DEFRA Bees Needs
Award 2025**

Bees' Needs Champion
2025

How can you help?

You can engage with your environment committee and local wildlife trust.

You can set up your own bee project or trail.

You can organise a POMS in your town.

You can tell your town, family, friends about Knutsford Bee Trail and the importance of bees

You can leave some piles of leaves or twigs in your parks for bees and other pollinators to live

You can plant some native wildflowers in your town

You can leave a shallow dish of water with some stones in it for bees to access water safely

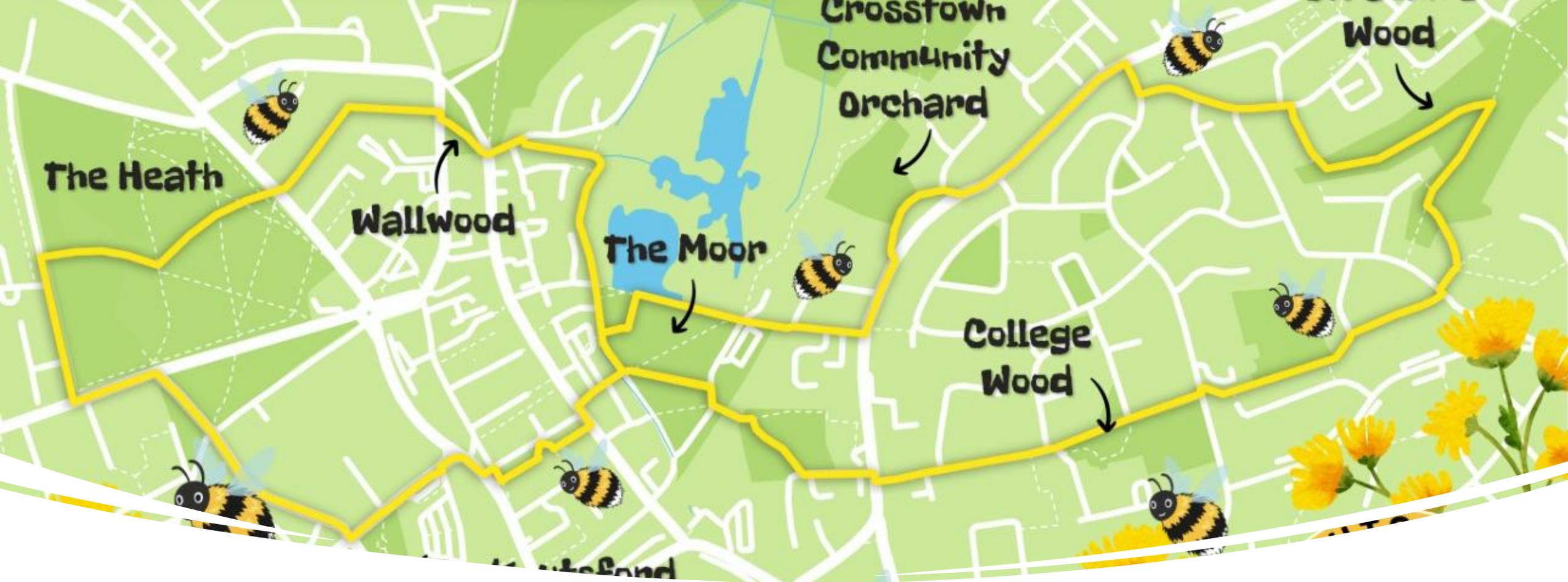
You can avoid spraying chemicals in your town. Run a trial.

You can buy and promote organic and local grown fruit and vegetables in your local shops

You can be untidy and leave an area with longer grass, brambles, twigs for bees to thrive

You can buy or make some bee or insect boxes





Here to help

- Knutsford Town Council Website
- April Johnson april.johnson@knutsfordtowncouncil.gov.uk
- Cheshire Wildlife Trust Blog - Knutsford Bee Trail