Aberdeen Planning Guidance 2023: Food-Growing (DRAFT)

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1. Introduction

1.1 Status of Aberdeen Planning Guidance

This Aberdeen Planning Guidance (APG) supports the Development Plan and is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. It also supports the implementation of Granite City Growing, Aberdeen's food-growing strategy. Section 119 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires that all local authorities prepare and review a food-growing strategy for their area.

This APG relates to, and expands on, the following policies in the Aberdeen Local Development Plan. It should be noted that a number of these policies have their own APGs. This APG should be read in conjunction with all relevant development plan policies and APGs.

- WB1 – Healthy Developments (APG Health Impact Assessments)
- NE2 – Green & Blue Infrastructure (APG Open Space and Green Infrastructure)
- NE3 – Our Natural Heritage (APG Natural Heritage)
- NE5 – Trees and Woodland (APG Trees and Woodland)
- D2 – Amenity (APG Amenity)
- R2 – Degraded and Contaminated Land
- CF1 – Existing Community Sites and Facilities
- CF2 – New Community Facilities (APG Children's Nurseries)
- I1 – Infrastructure Delivery and Planning Obligations (SG Planning Obligations)

1.2 Introduction to Topic / Background

The benefits of food-growing projects are multi-faceted; not only for placemaking, environmental and sustainability benefits and climate change mitigation, but for the health, social, physical and mental wellbeing benefits that these projects can bring for all sections of the community.

The Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016 -2026 includes stretch outcome 15 and its related Improvement Project Aim to ‘increase community food growing in schools, communities and workplaces’. Aberdeen adopted its first food-growing strategy, Granite City Growing, in 2020. Aberdeen is also a member of the Sustainable Food Places Network and is working through its accreditation scheme from bronze, silver to gold awards. In October 2021 Aberdeen became a signatory of the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration acknowledging the crucial role the local food system has in achieving net zero carbon and biodiversity targets.

In the light of the pandemic of 2020-21, protecting and improving the food resilience of the city to ensure access to local, healthy food and the significant health benefits of food-growing as an activity have become increasingly important.

The Aberdeen Local Development Plan therefore supports opportunities for food-growing projects in the city. This can be achieved through the protection and enhancement of existing open spaces identified on the Proposals Map. Specific areas with food-growing potential will be identified by the Food Growing Strategy using the Open Space Audit. It can also be achieved through meaningful open space provision in new developments. This is included within Policy NE2 (Green and Blue Infrastructure).

This new APG supports the Local Development Plan and the ambition of Granite City Growing to increase food-growing opportunities by setting out how food-growing can be successfully integrated into new developments across the city. The planning system can play an important role in creating and supporting a locally integrated sustainable food system. Including food-growing spaces in new developments will assist with ambitions to deliver sustainable development contained in the Aberdeen Local Development Plan and maintain Aberdeen as a Sustainable Food Place by providing the infrastructure to support an integrated sustainable food system.

Food-growing spaces for the purposes of this APG include allotments, community gardens, orchards and private growing spaces such as gardens and balconies. Please note larger scale agricultural projects are currently beyond the scope of this iteration of the APG.

1.3 Climate Change

34 tonnes of greenhouse gases (GHGs) are saved per hectare of land used for community food growing per year. This estimate for GHGs saved by creating a community food growing site is from a life-cycle analysis in Sutton, South London[1]. The calculation is made by looking at the same amount of food that would have been bought through mainstream retail channels.

This APG supports the delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals locally. Creating more food-growing spaces in new developments will contribute to the delivery of SDG 2 Food Security, SDG 3 Healthy Lives, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and SDG 13 Climate Action in particular.

It will also support the delivery of Aberdeen Adapts, which includes a number of actions to encourage food security: Action 12.1 '*Build understanding of risks to the food sector and opportunities to build resilience*' and Action 12.2 '*Incorporate climate adaptation measures in new and existing food growing sites*'.

[1] Reducing greenhouse gas emissions with urban agriculture: A Life Cycle Assessment perspective by M. Kulak, A. Graves and J. Chatterton

2. Aberdeen Planning Guidance

2.1 Benefits of Food-Growing Spaces

Food-growing spaces are part of Aberdeen's green space network and open space providing important co-benefits, such as:

• ***Biodiversity*** – space and habitat for wildlife and an opportunity for people to have access to nature. Planting to encourage and support pollinators should be part of a food-growing space.

• ***Amenity*** – places for outdoor relaxation and play. Food-growing contributes to high quality design and the provision of a good standard of amenity for existing and future residents within housing developments. Food-growing spaces are places where residents can feel involved with their surrounding open space and meet their neighbours. Designing food-growing into developments helps to make cities more 'liveable' and resilient; factors which are identified as important within Draft NPF4 and which have been shown to have a particular relevance during the recent Covid-19 pandemic lockdown situation. High density developments with little or no private open space should especially be designed with accessible food-growing spaces. Amenity spaces can be designed flexibly so that the option to grow food is available for future residents.

• ***Climate change mitigation and adaptation*** – Food-growing spaces contribute to achieving policies on mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change and other sustainability priorities. 'Growing your own' is part of a sustainable lifestyle which has the potential to displace food with higher carbon footprints. Food-growing spaces can be incorporated into climate adaptation measures designed around natural flood management (raingardens) and cooling urban heat islands; they also have a role to play in projects targeting air quality improvement; increased food resilience and food security.

• ***Environmental education*** – Small-scale food-growing spaces provide a learning environment and access to nature facilitating the transfer of skills between generations. Food-growing in schools has been shown to help children and young people achieve learning, skills, health and well-being outcomes. In Aberdeen there are many examples of food-growing spaces being used by children and young people (see the link to One Seed Forward and the University of Aberdeen school gardens webpage in Section 5).

• ***Improved health and well-being*** – The activity of growing food offers the chance to take exercise, be in nature, reduce stress and meet other people. The harvest increases access to fresh fruit and vegetables, and many health centres, hospitals and charities recognise the health benefits of urban agriculture in preventing illness and triggering healing responses in people.

• ***Local distinctiveness*** – Food and our relationship to it helps to shape the special qualities of an area.

2.2 Best Practice

Developers benefit from integrating food-growing into their developments by creating more marketable developments. Builders may opt to demonstrate the quality of their homes by gaining accreditation through the BRE Home Quality Mark (HQM). Credits are awarded for the provision of food-growing space within the scheme.

Developments of all scales will be expected to consider incorporating food-growing into their plans. Food-growing provision will be expected to be appropriate for the scale and setting of each site: from the smallest scale of consideration of windowsill dimensions to accommodate plants through to the largest scale of providing allotment sites and community gardens. When designing developments, early consideration should therefore be given to factors such as the location of food-growing spaces, the use of productive trees, other edible planting, structures needed to facilitate food-growing, such as storage for tools and equipment, water supply and irrigation (for example water butts). Outdoor amenity space includes private gardens, balconies, communal open space and general landscaped areas within any development. The ideal plan would build flexibility into the design and consider ongoing management requirements to enable the users of each space to become as involved as possible over time. Providing a range of food-growing spaces, both community orientated and private spaces of different sizes and formality, is likely to meet the varied needs of the greatest number of people.

How food-growing can be successfully incorporated into new developments will be subject to a range of factors dependent on the purpose, scale and location of the development. Appendix 1 presents a matrix of where different food-growing spaces may be most appropriate. ***It will be rare to find no opportunities to integrate a food-growing space into the design somewhere. As such, only in exceptional circumstances will it be acceptable for food growing spaces to not be incorporated into the design.***

There are some key considerations to ensure the success of food-growing spaces and the following factors should be reviewed at the design stage:

• ***Space***: Raised beds could be best used if: there is contaminated land; compacted or thin soil; the need to protect archaeological remains; the need to use a variety of different soils to support different plants; where there is a hard-standing and soil isn't available; on roofs or to enable easier access for gardeners with limited mobility. If the bed is to be used mainly by children, narrow raised beds up to 120cm wide will enable them to access from both sides. Containers may be best suited to hard-standings or for use in temporary gardens.

• ***Biodiversity*****:** Understanding the biodiversity of the existing site and the opportunities to add to it should be a key part of the design stage. Food-plants need to be pollinated and will benefit from the presence of pollinators in that process. Providing a variety of native flowering plants and areas which are left to nature in the vicinity will support pollinators and other wildlife. Avoid planting any non-native invasive species. When designing boundaries, consider using overlapping fences and soft boundaries which are permeable to wildlife and facilitates foraging behaviour. NatureScot have developed draft guidance 'Developing with Nature Guidance' which provides helpful advice on securing positive effects for biodiversity from development.

• ***Access****:* The food-growing space must be accessible both for people and materials. Consider who the growing space is for and how they will be able to reach it through the proposed development. Access paths to and between food-growing spaces should allow people of all ages and abilities to take part.

• ***Aspect and light***: Consider the 24-hour light cycle to optimise the ability of residents and users to grow plants. Food plants inevitably require exposure to direct sunlight during the growing period. Growing spaces should therefore be south or west facing and not permanently shaded from direct sun by other structures, buildings or trees. This should especially be considered when designing balconies on buildings. The removal of existing trees and hedges to create space for, or to allow more direct sunlight to, a food growing space is unlikely to be appropriate

• ***Water*****:** Food-growing spaces need a reliable water supply. Rainwater collection should be incorporated into the design both for sustainability but also for plant health. Easy access to mains water may be necessary as a backup in dry weather or if rainwater collection is not possible, however reliance on mains water can lead to over-watering and wastage and should be avoided wherever possible.

• ***Energy***: A power supply to the food-growing space to facilitate lighting, tools, food preparation and cooking should be considered at the design stage. Alternative low or zero-carbon energy sources should be considered for this purpose wherever possible.

• ***Wind***: Exposure to wind, especially salty sea wind, can damage plants and hinder their growth. Building materials should be robust and structures well secured to withstand any damaging wind action. Particular consideration of wind exposure is needed on roof gardens, balconies and sites near to the coast.

• ***Soil or growing medium****:* Rooftop or container growing may benefit from a lightweight free-draining growing medium. Building rubble and poor quality subsoil should be cleared from spaces intended for food-growing. Peat should not be used. Look for opportunities to use local top soil or compost to support the circular economy.

• ***Composting***: On-site composting should be considered from the outset and designed in where appropriate. Houses that have private gardens can also be designed to include space for composting. Developments consisting of flats can include communal composting space within their design.

• ***Contamination***: It is the developer's responsibility to ensure any risks posed are appropriately managed. Depending on the circumstances, soil contamination can be overcome by use of containers or raised beds or by replacing soil. Professional advice should be sought whenever soil contamination is suspected.

• ***Pollution***: Developers should assess whether the site would be affected by air pollution and design the food-growing space accordingly by perhaps restricting it to internal courtyards, balconies, roofs and by planting barrier hedges.

• ***Storage***: Adequate provision for the storage of tools and gardening equipment should be integrated into the design at an early stage.

• ***Planting***: Planting of edible perennial plants, herbs and fruit and nut trees can provide a strong structure to the landscape design of a site. Edible perennials such as fruiting shrubs and trees can be easier to manage than annual edible and ornamental plants and can be incorporated into boundary planting and green corridors within new development. The potential for invasiveness should be considered and avoided. For little or no ongoing maintenance consider creating foraging opportunities by using wild fruiting species such as wild plums, blackthorn, cherry, crab apple, hazel and varieties local to Aberdeen. Wild fruiting species can be incorporated into mixed native hedgerows. Consideration should be given in design and management to the height and spread of the canopy and roots at maturity. Fruit trees can be grown on dwarfing rootstock for constrained sites, and on highly visible amenity areas consider edible flowers and plants for all year interest. Poisonous or toxic plants should be avoided in proximity to edible plants to reduce the risk of accidental foraging. *See Appendix 2 for a list of native fruit trees suitable for planting in Aberdeen*. NatureScot have developed draft 'Developing with Nature Guidance' which provides helpful advice on securing positive effects for biodiversity from development.

• ***Security***: Natural surveillance from homes that overlook the space will increase security and should be considered at the design stage. Avoid placing the food-growing space out of sight but integrate it into the design to ensure visibility within the development.

• ***Cost*****:** A 'food-friendly' scheme should not cost more than a non-edible scheme to design and install; fruit trees for example may be less expensive than amenity trees. A key consideration however is the ongoing cost of repairs and maintenance. A well thought out design can reduce ongoing costs by choosing materials and structures which are easy to maintain or repair. A developer may decide to use a community facilitator to support growers in gaining the necessary skills to maintain the space. Once a project is up and running local growers may decide how to take things forward by accessing the funding and support opportunities available to community groups. Leaving flexible space around a food-growing scheme is useful to allow a community to expand the space as their ambition grows. A well-designed food-growing project can deliver substantial cost benefits to developments in terms of grounds maintenance costs, keeping public areas clean and tidy, security and surveillance.

• ***Management and Maintenance****:* 'Food-friendly' schemes need not always result in additional management and maintenance costs – for example, hedges may not incur more maintenance than harder structures. However, adequate resourcing for long-term management and maintenance should be considered from the outset as this will influence the appropriate type of landscaping and food-growing spaces provided. Each setting will likely have its own maintenance arrangements which best fit how the food-growing space is used and by whom. Where there is an easily identifiable community of users, such as in a care home or school, they may wish to have a role in growing food if the activity itself provides educational or therapeutic benefits. Hospitality settings may employ a dedicated food grower to provide crops as part of being a sustainable food business. Where the community of users has a more passive engagement with the setting, for example on a business park, it may be more appropriate to engage with landscape contractors. Developers could investigate local options to provide ongoing maintenance on their behalf. The degree to which a site is self-managed by occupiers or managed by a factor may alter over time. For further information on food-growing groups who may be interested in partnering on a project see the Aberdeen Food-Growing Map or use the RHS website to search for a local group.

2.3 Types of Food-Growing Spaces

Twelve types of edible settings are described in this section: A: Allotments, B: Orchards, C: Therapeutic gardens, D: School gardens, E: Temporary gardens, F: Edible landscaping, G: Community Gardens, H: Roof Gardens, I: Vertical Growing, J: Atriums and courtyards, K: Balconies, L: Private Gardens

A: Allotments

Modern allotment sites often have plots of varying sizes and may also have common areas for the amenity of all plot-holders. Plots can be leased to individuals, community groups, and other groups such as schools, nurseries, resident associations and care homes. Aberdeen City Council plots currently range in size from 300 square metres to under 50 square meters. Most allotment sites in Aberdeen are managed directly by Aberdeen City Council; some are run by independent allotment associations and three sites are privately rented or owned. It is anticipated that new allotment sites in Aberdeen could be managed by independent charitable allotment associations. When incorporating allotments into the design of a development the following needs to be considered:

- ***Access and Accessibility***: Where an allotment site is forming part of the open space provision of a new development, it is the responsibility of the developer to provide suitable access to the site. The site should be located adjacent to other greenspace to allow for flexibility of changes in demand and ambition of future residents. Access must always be provided for people with extra mobility needs, for example by incorporating dropped kerbs and suitable pathways.

- ***Water and waste water***: Guttering from sheds and greenhouses running into water-butts may provide a sustainable and free water supply. The applicant should be encouraged to have pre-application discussions with their local planning department and if applicable, SEPA and Scottish Water. Not all allotments will require a connection to mains drainage as compostable toilets and soak-away drainage are often the preferred option.

- ***Layout, Siting and Design***: Boundary screening should be planned for in terms of security, biodiversity and appearance as appropriate. Detailed information on site infrastructure including appropriate fencing and gates can be found in Scotland's Allotment Site Design Guide 2013 (see Section 5 for weblink).

- ***Structures*****:** The Scotland's Allotment Site Design Guide 2013 provides comprehensive advice on the siting and types of sheds with their respective merits and disadvantages. Other structures that would not normally be associated with allotment use such as public toilets, communal buildings, clubhouses or any other permanent structures should form part of any planning application to allow for consideration and consultation. Greenhouses on removable bases, poly-tunnels, cold frames, fruit cages, water-butts and compost bins are generally accepted as temporary structures that would be expected on allotments. The regulation of installing such structures would generally be included in the rules and guidelines as part of the tenancy agreement with the allotment association or landlord.

Aspects Silver and Gold level 4 (Biodiversity) of the Building Standards for non-domestic buildings (2019) sets a minimum specification for allotments on school estates. Developers are encouraged to consider this level of provision for other non-domestic settings too.

B: Orchards

An orchard can be planted with just five trees or more creating a useful foraging opportunity for people and wildlife. Fruit trees can be grown on dwarfing rootstock to keep them small; be trained against walls as espaliers or grown as screening. Many fruit and nut trees will be productive soon after planting and will not only become more productive with time but will potentially gain in biodiversity value. Local varieties should be chosen if possible as they are adapted to the local climate and soil. Social Juice is an organisation planting and overseeing orchards locally (see Section 5 for weblink).

C: Therapeutic gardens

Therapeutic gardens are usually secure and private in enclosed settings with high visibility from inside the development. Design should take into consideration the garden's high amenity value and include places for visitors and residents to sit. Paths should enable use by all service users and be designed for a range of mobility needs. Therapeutic gardens mostly provide an opportunity to grow herbs amongst other plants with sensory interest. A display of flowers, fruits and vegetables in a garden can help facilitate conversations and jog the memories of dementia patients. Generally, the responsibility for maintenance will likely fall to contractor however service users may also take a role in some settings supported by experienced gardeners. Trellis are a useful source of information on therapeutic gardening (see Section 5 for weblink).

D: School gardens

In Scotland food education is an integral part of the national educational curriculum. An urban school or nursery food-growing space could be raised beds accessible from a hard-standing, or perhaps be sited on a roof, a wall or within an atrium or courtyard where appropriate. Planting beds or containers need to be narrow to enable small children to reach. Composting bins, rainwater capture, water butts and storage areas are essential and should be designed into the food-growing space at an early stage. A greenhouse or polytunnel could be considered in a sunny, south-facing position, sheltered from strong winds to extend the growing season to better align with the school term dates. Gates, entrances, paths, and surfaces should enable access by a full range of pupils with special needs. Schools may be working towards the EcoSchools initiative and will want to promote sustainability in the sourcing of plants and materials and may also wish to be involved in the design as an educational activity. Aberdeen has expertise in school gardens and educational food-growing through the work of One Seed Forward and others.

Aspects Silver and Gold level 4 (Biodiversity) of the Building Standards for non-domestic buildings (2019) sets a minimum specification for allotments on school estates.

E: Temporary gardens
Temporary gardens on sites pending redevelopment can be created with containers and be moved to other vacant sites when the site is required for development. Planting directly into the soil may not be appropriate due to concerns regarding safety and potential contamination. There are many temporary gardens in Scotland; the Grove Community Garden in Edinburgh would be an example.

F: Edible landscaping
Traditional gardening, as well as forest gardening, embraces a mixed approach of integrating edible planting with ornamental planting which may be suitable across all development types and scales. Soft boundaries using native hedging can provide foraging opportunities, provide security to a site, and remain permeable to wildlife.

Forest gardening principles can be applied in urban areas where the open space may be partially shaded during the day. Perennial ground level plants, shrubs, trees, and climbers offer a wide range of edible plants which can be grown subject to light levels. With little need for digging, weeding or pest control, this is a low maintenance way of gardening that might provide useful for sites in partial shade.
Planted beds can include perennial edible shrubs such as artichoke, currants, herbs, rhubarb and fruit alongside ornamental plants. ‘Forest Gardening’ is being done on an allotment in Aberdeen (see A Food Forest in your Garden | forest gardening in Scotland and beyond). ‘Wee Forests’ are also being trialled in Scotland.

G: Community Gardens
Community gardens can be located on housing developments, places of work, on ‘temporary’ available land and near other community assets. The aim is to create an attractive amenity space where people can come together to share food-growing activities and its benefits. Individual raised beds could be used as ‘mini allotments’ whereby an individual is responsible for one food-growing space in a shared area. Examples of

this in Aberdeen can be found at Bonnymuir Green, Tullos Community Garden, St Fitticks Edible Garden, Duthie Park Community Garden and Springhill Community Garden.
Food which is grown in the garden can be shared amongst the volunteers or the wider community and perhaps by linking up with a local organization such as “The Allotment Market Stall”, which helps allotment holders sell excess produce and help locals have access to community grown food.
Gold Level domestic Building Standards set out a minimum specification for a communal shared garden or courtyard.

H: Roof Gardens
Roof gardens with raised beds can be designed for staff or tenants on offices or commercial buildings or for residents on residential developments. Roof gardens may also be appropriate on smaller scale residential buildings or on stepped developments. The load bearing capacity of the structure and ease of access should be addressed at the design stage. Wind breaks and shading may be needed to prevent food plants drying out but fruit and vegetables should grow well with the high light levels.
Ideally, beds for growing and their associated structures should be incorporated into the roof at the time construction. Consideration should be given to storage of materials, equipment and composting of waste plant material. The Aberdeen Royal Infirmary has a roof garden.
Gold Level domestic Building Standards set out a minimum specification for a roof terrace.

I: Vertical Growing
External walls can used for training espaliered and climbing edible plants growing in open soil or large containers. South and west facing walls are often most favorable for fruiting trees which can be space efficient, productive and attractive all year round. Historic walled kitchen gardens might provide inspiration which can be adapted to the scale of development. Vertical growing may be appropriate to enhance boundary schemes.
Living walls of modular planting systems attached to walls, including productive plants such as salads and herbs, may be appropriate in some high specification building design in commercial settings.

J: Atriums and courtyards
Buildings with atriums or courtyards with adequate exposure to sunlight can create opportunities for food-growing. Micro-climates within such spaces may allow plants such as tomatoes and citrus fruits to be

cultivated. Ground level beds, raised beds or wall climbing plants may be appropriate. Consideration for the irrigation system and control of water run-off is needed as part of the design stage. Internal gardens could be suitable for a range of developments such as hotels, business, offices, health and residential care.

K: Balconies

The provision of balconies in a housing development can inspire an interest in plants and add to the residential amenity of the site. Balconies can provide small spaces to grow a limited selection of plants and are particularly suited to higher density residential developments. Considerate design is needed to optimize the growing space available however: balconies from the property above may prevent rain from reaching containerised plants below; north facing balconies overshadowed by other buildings will only be able to grow a limited variety of food plants; balconies in full sun will need a good supply of water to stop containers drying out. Containers and window boxes may be incorporated into balcony design and railings or structures adjoining neighbouring balconies used to support climbing or espaliered plants for shade, shelter and privacy. Loading capacity will need to be addressed at the design stage.
Gold Level domestic Building Standards set out a minimum specification for a balcony.

L: Private Gardens

Developments of housing with private gardens provide opportunities for extending a framework of edible landscaping across a site by incorporating edible hedges, trees and orchards. Properties could have planters designed into their private space if there are restrictions on growing in the open soil. Even where space is limited there are design solutions which can encourage residents to grow their own. New builds could include a food-growing option for new residents when specifications are being discussed about how they would like their garden or balcony.
Gold Level domestic Building Standards set out a minimum specification for a private garden or patio.

3. Summary of Policy

In line with policy NE2 of the Local Development Plan, planning applications which seek to remove or compromise existing food-growing spaces will not be supported. Exceptions may be made when an equivalent and equally convenient and accessible food-growing space will be provided by the applicant.

In 2020, Granite City Growing reported that Aberdeen has approximately 2.85 allotment plots available per 1,000 people (approximately 500 households). With the ambition to increase food-growing opportunities across the city all developments will be expected to consider incorporating food-growing into their plans: from the smallest scale of consideration of windowsill dimensions to accommodate plants through to the largest scale of providing allotment sites and community gardens. Food-growing provision will be expected to be appropriate for the scale and setting of each site. The following applies to different scales of development:

- ***For local developments***: new developments should seek to provide at least one appropriately sized communal food growing space for every 25 households or every 5,000m^2 of gross floor area of new build of business or industrial sites regardless of whether private green space is also provided within the development. For households without a private growing space at least one communal food-growing space for every 5 households is advised.

- ***For major developments*** (defined as housing developments of 50 or more units or 2ha or more of site area, or business and industrial developments of more than 10,000m^2 of gross floor area of new build or in excess of 2ha of site area): new developments should seek to provide at least one appropriately sized food growing space for every 50 households in housing sites or every 10,000m^2 of gross floor area of new build of business or industrial sites, regardless of whether private green space is also provided within the development. For households without a private growing space at least one communal food-growing space for every 5 households is advised. Additionally, all new developments of over 50 homes are expected to provide allotments or community orchards within the mixture of food-growing spaces provided.

Developers should seek to deliver food-growing spaces on their developments wherever possible. Where it can be shown that this is not possible, financial contributions will be sought for off-site provision as part of any developer obligations towards open space (see Local Development Plan Policy I1 and its associated Supplementary Guidance for more information on Planning Obligations)*.*

Food-growing spaces are a category of open space and count towards the open space requirement described in the Open Space and Green Infrastructure APG.

4. Definitions

Allotment: is a plot of land, measuring approximately 250 square metres, within a community of other plots, tended by a plot-holder singly or in partnership with others, holding the rental agreement, leased either from a private or local authority landlord, used for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers. Allotments are not used with a view to making a profit.

Community food-growing space: is a space set aside for the community to grow vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers. Spaces can be allotment plots, school gardens, community gardens or community orchards for example. There should be some degree of access by the community whether through a formal leasing arrangement, access to a defined community group such as a school group, residents association or group of employees, or be completely open to the public as with a foraging space.

Community garden: A communal or community garden is a growing site not based at an allotment or school, where people grow collectively or are allocated a small individual plot (they are sometimes referred to as mini allotments). The garden is established by or with a community of users. The 'community' may be people who live in the local area or a particular group of people, for example employees, residents or service users.

Community orchard: is a collection of fruit and nut trees often planted among grass full of wild flowers. A community orchard would, at a minimum, consist of five crop trees planted ten metres apart. It should be open to the public or a defined community group.

Foraging space: is a space deliberately left or planted to provide foraging opportunities for people and wildlife. It is likely to include perennial plants, shrubs and trees which in part are seasonally edible. These spaces create opportunities for people to collect edible leaves, berries, nuts and mushrooms.

Integrated sustainable food system: is a food system that delivers food and nutrition security for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised.

Private food-growing spaces: spaces to which only a householder has access for example a balcony on a flat or a private back garden.

Raingardens: Raingardens are areas of planting designed to capture rainwater which runs off hard surfaces, slowly releasing it back into the drains. They help reduce flooding as well as protect rivers and waterways.

5. Further Reading

Aberdeen commitments of relevance to food-growing

- Aberdeen Adapts
- Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan
- Granite City Growing – Growing Food Together, Aberdeen's food-growing strategy
- Sustainable Food Places network of which Aberdeen is a member
- Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration
- Cities Race to Zero

Aberdeen Organisations or spaces involved in community food-growing

- Find a local Gardening Group (RHS affiliated)
- Aberdeen Food-growing Map

- Bonnymuir Green
- Cultivate Aberdeen
- Duthie Park Community Garden
- Grove Nursery Hazlehead
- One Seed Forward and the University of Aberdeen school gardens web page
- St Fitticks Edible Garden
- Springhill Community Garden
- Social Juice
- Tullos Community Garden
- The Allotment Market Stall

Allotments:

- Aberdeen City Council allotments
- The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 part 9
- Scotland's allotment site design guide 2013
- Aberdeen Food-growing Map

Biodiversity:

- NESBip website – wildlife gardening advice for the North East of Scotland
- NESBiP Developer Hub
- Foraging is a useful website from NatureScot
- Non-native plants to watch out for in the North East

Legislation

- s119 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 which places a duty on local authorities to prepare a food-growing strategy.
- The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 part 9 contains legislation relating to allotments

Planning advice (Scotland)

- Plan to Grow – a Spatial Planning Advice Guide for Allotments and other Food Growing Spaces by Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS) and Planning Aid Scotland (PAS)
- Greenspace Scotland case studies and publications including Our Growing Community resource pack
- Social Farms and Gardens
- Trellis is Scotland's network for therapeutic gardening

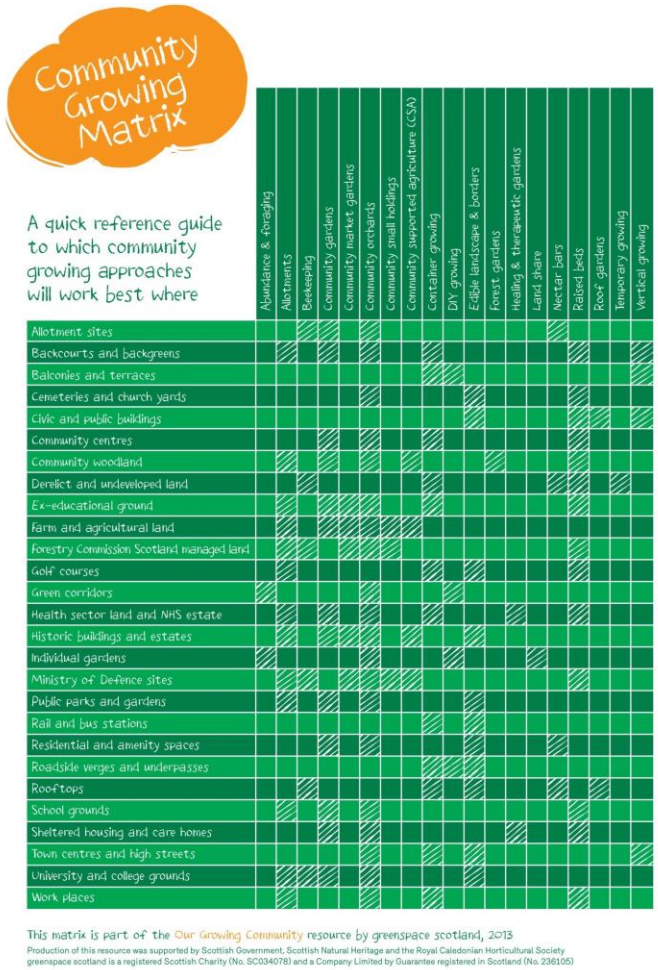
Technical specifications

- Building a raingarden
- Scotland's allotment site design guide 2013
- The Home Quality Mark
- Gold Building Standards in Scotland (domestic)
- Silver and Gold Building Standards in Scotland (non-domestic)

Inspiration

- 10,000 Raingardens for Scotland
- EcoSchools is an initiative leading schools towards reaching for a Green Flag - a visible indication of a school's commitment to Learning for Sustainability and an internationally recognised accreditation for excellence in sustainable education
- The Grove Community Garden, Edinburgh: an example of a temporary garden.
- A Food Forest in your Garden | forest gardening in Scotland and beyond is based on the work done in an Aberdeen allotment.
- Wee Forests are part of the global family of 'Miyawaki Forests' or 'Tiny Forests'. Following the method - with its emphasis on community engagement, co-design and careful soil preparation, means that Wee Forests meet a consistent global standard and their benefits can be measured and shared.
- Aberdeen Royal Infirmary has a roof garden.

Appendix 1 Community Growing Matrix: settings in which community growing approaches work best (reproduced from the 'Our Growing Community' resource by greenspace Scotland.



Appendix 2

Fruit Trees

Fruit trees provide nectar for pollinators and food for wildlife and people. To further enhance biodiversity and provide a local food source, consider planting fruit trees within native structural plantings, within more formal areas parks, gardens and other areas of open space. They can also be included within mixed native hedgerows. The following varieties are either of Scottish origin or have been cultivated in Scotland for a long period of time. *(Please note: this appendix aligns with the list of fruit trees in the Natural Heritage APG)*

Apple trees

Alderman
Beauty of Moray
Bloody Ploughman
Cardinal
Coul Blush
Cutler Grieve
James Grieve
Tam Montgomery
Hoods Supreme
Lass O Gowrie
Lord Roseberry
Oslin (Arbroath Pippin
Thorle Pippin
Tower of Glamis

Pear trees

Grey Auchan
Chalk/ Crawford

Craig
Cuisse Madame
Drummond /Charnock
Lindores
Maggie Duncan
Seggie Den

Plum trees

Victoria
Marjories Seedling
Opal
Czar
Rivers Early

Cherry trees

Morello
Lapin (cherokee)
Colney
Cariad