

Project Plan: Alcester Connected for Climate & Nature

Project Duration:

Start Date: September 2025

End Date: August 2026

Funding: £10,000

Funder: Stratford-on-Avon District Council – Community Climate Change and Nature Recovery Fund (CCCNF)

1. Project Summary

Alcester Connected for Climate & Nature is a collaborative, community-led initiative tackling the urgent challenge of biodiversity decline. The project will create and connect habitats, engage schools and residents in nature-based activities, and build a long-term foundation for environmental stewardship. It directly supports local and regional biodiversity priorities, including the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull LBAP.

2. Objectives

- Restore and enhance habitats for hedgehogs, pollinators, and other priority species.
- Deliver educational and interactive biodiversity events and workshops.
- Empower residents and schools with resources to protect and celebrate local nature.
- Achieve Bee Friendly Town accreditation for Alcester.
- Establish a legacy of long-term volunteer-led nature recovery work.

3. Project Timeline & Milestones (Sep 2025 – Aug 2026)

Month	Activity	Lead Partners
Sept–Oct 2025	Establish an alliance with other interested parties, community members & schools. Site selection	Project Coordinator, Schools, WWT, HoEF, CPRE, LEAF, Kinwarton PC
Nov–Dec 2025	Install 30 hedgehog highways, 10 hedgehog houses, Hedgehog Awareness event	WWT, Community Volunteers
Jan–Feb 2026	Distribute 150+ “Hedgehog Helper” guides, continue school activities	Project Coordinator, Schools
Mar 2026	Plan Bioblitz & Bee Festival, train volunteers in iNaturalist	HoEF, Volunteers
April 2026	Run Bioblitz event, record 50+ species, mobile app training	HoEF, Community Volunteers
May 2026	Wildflower planting at 5+ pollinator sites in schools & public spaces	Schools, Volunteers

Month	Activity	Lead Partners
June 2026	Deliver Bee Festival with partner organisations and schools	Project Coordinator, Local Councils, Coughton Court
July 2026	Launch Bee Friendly Charter & Nature Photography Competition	Project Coordinator,
August 2026	Publish Alcester Nature Calendar, apply for Bee Friendly Town status	Project Coordinator,
Ongoing	Volunteer engagement, event planning, monitoring, social media updates	All Partners

4. Partner Roles and Budget Allocation

Partner	Role	Budget Allocation
Project Coordinator (P/T)	Project delivery, coordination	£1,000
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust	Hedgehog activities, citizen science training, educational resources	£1,500
Heart of England Forest	Bioblitz co-delivery, species recording support	£500
Local Schools (2–5)	Host planting sessions, student involvement, school activities	£1,000
Community Volunteers	Habitat creation, event support, long-term maintenance	In-kind
Local Designers/Printers	Design & production of Nature Calendar, signage, printed materials	£1,250
Event Venues/Speakers	Bee Festival, Bioblitz, Hedgehog Evening costs (venue, materials, talks)	£1,275
Expert Speakers/Workshops	Biodiversity education, nature walks, app training	£2,500
Education and outreach	Creation and printing of educational guides	£750
Contingency	Risk buffer and flexible support costs	£1,000

5. Key Outcomes

1. Hedgehog Habitat Creation

- 30+ hedgehog highways installed in gardens and green spaces
- 10 hedgehog houses placed in strategic locations
- 150+ "Hedgehog Helper" guides distributed
- 3 schools involved in hedgehog activities
- 1 community hedgehog event delivered

2. Biodiversity Events

- 1 Bioblitz event: 30+ participants, 50+ species recorded
- 1 Bee Festival: 25+ attendees
- Seasonal photography competition with 12+ images published in the **2027 Alcester Nature Calendar**

3. Pollinator-Friendly Planting

- 5+ pollinator sites established with native wildflowers
- 3+ schools/residents participate in planting and data collection
- 10+ households or businesses sign Bee Friendly Charter
- Bee Friendly Town accreditation achieved

6. Evaluation

Quantitative

- 50+ species recorded during Bioblitz
- 10 hedgehog houses and 30+ highways installed
- 5+ pollinator sites established
- Attendance: 25+ people at each main event
- 150+ guides distributed
- 12+ photos published

Qualitative

- Feedback surveys from participants
- Stories and testimonials from schools and volunteers
- Partner evaluations on collaboration effectiveness

7. Co-Benefits

- Enhanced carbon capture via planting and habitat creation
- Improved air quality and microclimate regulation
- Increased wellbeing and mental health through nature connection
- Intergenerational learning and community cohesion
- Practical skills developed in biodiversity monitoring and sustainable gardening
- Support for eco-friendly local business through the Bee Friendly Charter
- Future potential for green tourism in Alcester