20 GENERAL BIODIVERSITY
Reduced input of herbicides/pesticides

Reducing use of chemical herbicides and pesticides: limiting use only to restricted areas where absolutely required. Use of organic alternatives to pesticides where appropriate.

Suitability	Low, medium and high density housing.
Management type	Reduced use of chemicals.
Supplier information	Not applicable.
Community engagement?	Hand weeding.
Benefits	• Increased biodiversity generally: directly through increase in plants and invertebrates usually killed, and the organisms that feed on them. • Reduction of build-up of harmful chemicals in food chain e.g. hedgehogs which feed on pest invertebrates such as slugs treated with harmful chemicals (e.g. slug pellets). • Reduced hazard to human health of coming into contact with harmful chemicals. • Reduced cost in buying less chemical products, equipment for applying etc., and staff time for application (may be partly offset by time taken for manual removal, especially to begin with).
Costs/Disbenefit	• Some plant species will require manual removal which is likely to take more time than chemical control. • Organic pesticides may be slightly more expensive than synthetic alternatives.
Level of ongoing maintenance	If using organic alternatives, these will be applied as and when required. Manual removal of undesirable plants will be carried out as and when required.

20 GENERAL BIODIVERSITY
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		Notes
How achieved	Reducing use of chemical herbicides and pesticides: limiting use only to restricted areas where absolutely required. Use of organic alternatives to pesticides where appropriate.	
Timing of activity	Any time.	
Long-term management	Continued reduction of chemical inputs. Over time the increase in beneficial invertebrates through reduced chemical pesticides should promote natural pest and weed control and therefore any use of chemical and/or organic herbicides and pesticides should be relaxed further over time.	
Monitoring success	General recording (see page 6). A butterfly transect or timed count could be set up as part of the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme **http://www.ukbms.org**. Simple butterfly timed counts can be conducted using the European Butterfly Monitoring app **https://butterfly-monitoring.net/ebms-app**. Flower-Insect Timed (FIT) counts can be conducted as part of the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS) **https://www.ceh.ac.uk/pollinator-monitoring**. Conduct Plantlife's 'Every Flower Counts' survey of lawns to survey the number of flowers present and contribute to calculating a National Nectar Score: **http://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts**.	