

Garscube Allotments Association

Notice of Annual Plot Inspections – 1st August to 30th August 2026

Dear Plot Holder,

The Committee of Garscube Allotments Association wishes to advise all plotters that our annual plot inspections will take place **between Saturday 1st August and Sunday 30th August 2026**.

The inspections are an important part of ensuring that the site remains well maintained, safe and enjoyable for everyone, while meeting the requirements of our tenancy agreement.

How the inspections will be carried out

Each plot will be inspected by **two Committee members** using the Association's approved **Plot Inspection Checklist**. During the inspection, points will be **awarded or deducted** against a number of agreed criteria, and the **final score will determine the current status of your plot**.

The full inspection checklist is available to view on our website:

<https://garscubeallotments.org.uk/documents.html>

What the inspectors will be looking for

The inspection is based on the following areas:

- **Cultivation** – the proportion of the plot actively being used for growing fruit, vegetables, flowers or managed for wildlife. Greenhouses, polytunnels, composting systems and similar growing areas are included.
- **Weed Control** – ensuring weeds, particularly invasive weeds such as bindweed and marestail, are reasonably controlled.
- **Composting** – whether an appropriate composting system is in place.
- **Boundaries** – fences, hedges and other boundaries are safe and maintained.
- **Shared Paths** – paths around your plot are clear, accessible and free from excessive weeds or overgrowth.
- **Other Relevant Matters** – inspectors may award or deduct a point where appropriate, provided the reason is clearly recorded.

Please remember that **the inspection is not a competition**. It is **not about the quantity of crops you produce or the quality of your harvest**. Instead, inspectors are looking for clear evidence that **you are actively cultivating and managing your plot**.

Help us make the inspection straightforward

It is in every plotter's best interests to make the inspection as easy as possible. Before the inspection period, please consider:

- Keeping access paths clearly visible and free from obstruction.
- Ensuring growing beds can be easily identified.
- Making water harvesting systems, compost bins and cultivated areas visible.
- Keeping weeds under reasonable control.
- Trimming vegetation from shared paths and boundaries where necessary.

A tidy, accessible plot makes it much easier for inspectors to see the work that is being carried out.

After the inspection

Plotters with a **valid email address registered with the Association** will receive a detailed email containing:

- their inspection score;
- a summary of the assessment against each inspection criterion; and
- any actions, recommendations or timescales where applicable.

For transparency, a **summary showing only plot numbers, inspection scores and plot status** will also be displayed on the **Association notice board in the lower car park**. No detailed comments or personal information will be published.

The Committee appreciates the time and effort that all plotters invest in their allotments throughout the year and thanks everyone for their cooperation during the inspection period.

If you have any questions regarding the inspection process or would like to review the inspection criteria beforehand, please visit the Association website or contact a member of the Committee.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep Garscube Allotments a thriving and well-maintained site.

Kind regards,

The Committee

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