

Allotments

The National Allotment Society

NAS Policy Document 101 – Plot Sizes, The National Allotment Society 2013

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/NAS-Policy-Document-101-PLOT-SIZES.pdf>

Creating a New Allotment Site, The National Allotment Society 2012

https://www.nsalg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/A5_Creating_a_new_allotment_site_LR.pdf

An allotment is an area of land, leased either from a private or local authority landlord, for the use of growing fruit and vegetables. In some cases, this land will also be used for the growing of ornamental plants, and the keeping of hens, rabbits and bees. An allotment is traditionally measured in rods (perches or poles), an old measurement dating back to Anglo-Saxon times. **10 poles is the accepted size of an allotment**, the equivalent of **250m²** or about the size of a doubles tennis court – which is **enough land to feed a family of four for a year**.

The Society recommendation is that authorities should supply **20 plots (or .5 hectare / 5,000m²) per 1,000 households**. Whilst a maximum size of a holding permitted for an individual is defined by statute, there is no legal definition of the minimum size of an allotment garden. The Society encourages flexible provision of allotment gardens on every site in such sizes (within the legal maxima) which best fit the aspirations and capabilities of present and future plottolders in the locality.

The Society recommends the 10 pole plot as the template for the subdivision of allotment land where appropriate, as something that is well understood, that can be readily and flexibly subdivided on a temporary basis.

To enable access for wheelchair users, all paths should be no less than 1.5m wide preferably measuring 1.7m to allow for a wheelchair and ambulant person to travel side-by-side.

Based on **450 households at Calvert Green** and **20 units RES**, we would need:

20 x 250m² allotments per 1,000
= 9.4 (or rounded up to 10) x 250m² allotments for 470 households
= **2,500m²** dedicated to the provision of allotments (total of 10 plots, at 250m² each)

There is scope to provide plots of varying sizes to accommodate the needs of different plottolders. These can be distributed and managed as the Parish Council sees fit.

Aylesbury Town Council

<https://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/town-council-services/allotments/>

For local comparison purposes, Aylesbury Town Council currently manages 7 allotment sites in Aylesbury. The council provides a choice of a **2.5, 5 or 10 (maximum) pole plot** and encourages the sharing of plots between family and friends.

With **'beginners'** in mind, they endeavour to provide more **2.5 pole plots** on all sites, to give the new allotment gardener a manageable piece of land to start with.