

CHURCHYARD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024

INTRODUCTION

St Mary's Churchyard serves a variety of functions:

- An historical burial place
- A place for interment of ashes
- A place to remember those who died
- A place to sit on its many public benches
- Public walkway - it contains busy public footpaths
- A place for wildlife conservation
- The setting for the church buildings

This Churchyard Management Plan sets out how we seek to manage it, incorporating principles including ecological sensitivity, native species promotion, minimal carbon footprint, and community engagement.

The first two sections address progress last year and plans for the coming year. The following section sets out the detailed principles for management of each part of the Churchyard, followed by sections on Communication, Resources, and Award Schemes.



New wild flower bed

Detailed background information is provided in Appendix 1. Further appendices show the layout of the Churchyard and provide detailed data on the trees and flora present.

SUMMARY OF 2023 IN THE CHURCHYARD

During the year, we consolidated our practices for the churchyard but were forced to compromise on certain issues beyond our control.

A significant innovation was the establishment of two new beds. The first was a "wildflower bed" south of the church building (bed 16). The Council rotavated an area about 3m x 1m which we sowed with native wild flower seeds in March. The colourful display was visible from the main footpath for a few months in the summer. We have decided to add a triangular bed nearby during 2024.

In the autumn, responding to a request from the church, we tackled two areas of ground between the church hall and the fairly new paving. Having removed grass and weeds, we planted the areas with suitable shade-tolerant ground-covering plants

(creating bed 17). All were donated by members of the working parties, under the supervision of Margaret Tabone, who advised which plants would be suitable. In December, we planted bulbs in these areas.

The various flower beds have continued to mature during the year. The spotted laurel bush in bed 12 was heavily pruned by David and Pam Ferris, opening up the bed. A number of plants were grown from seed and planted in various beds – calendula, teasel and echinacea. The monthly Monday working parties continue to be both enjoyable and a means to maintain the appearance of the churchyard. Eleven parties took place during 2023, with an average of about 8 people each time.

The three compost heaps continue to be managed. Some mature compost is distributed across the churchyard flower beds. Because it takes about 2 years for compost to mature, using our scheme, occasionally we have to move material between heaps, always keeping one “open” to receive new green waste.



We held two litter-picks, one in March and one in September, which included the churchyard as well as local streets, and plan to continue this pattern in 2024. These have now superseded the Saturday “GroundForce” events, which have ceased.

In November, the PCC agreed to our plans to improve the fenced-off area near the tower next year (the ‘tower area’, bed 18, see Appendix 6).

Bird Species Observed 2023		
	January	June
Blackbird	-	Yes
Blue Tit	-	Yes
Carrion Crow	Yes	Yes
House Sparrow	-	Yes
Jackdaw	Yes	Yes
Robin	Yes	Yes
Wood Pigeon	Yes	Yes
Species observed	4	7

During the year we continued to survey wildlife in the churchyard:

Wild flowers growing in the Spring and Summer meadows were surveyed (by Margaret Tabone):

- January - New Year "plant hunt" (organised by the BSBI to see which plants are flowering) – daisy, dandelion, groundsel & red dead nettle – this was the first time in St Mary's.
- June – over 50 species of wild flower identified in the various meadows (see details in Appendix 5). These have been uploaded onto the NBN Atlas¹.

¹ <https://burialgrounds-places.nbnatlas.org/places/10038900?sortField=index&rows=100#taxa-list>

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Members of the church surveyed birds in the churchyard in January (Big Garden Bird Watch) and in June (Churches Count on Nature) – see table. As in previous years, six of the nine nest boxes were used again (www.eatonsocon.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Nest-box-log.pdf).

Mike Matthews surveyed moths and butterflies for a short period during June: unfortunately, it was a period of poor weather for butterflies and only small blue, small white were seen, and an azure damselfly. In July, Roger Peppiatt spotted a tiger moth, and for the Big Butterfly Count, Anthony Harris observed a large white and two red admirals.



Tiger moth

From time to time we use a trail camera to see which mammals frequent the churchyard, particularly around the hedgehog feeder and water source. We see mice very regularly, sometimes a hedgehog, fox or domestic cat.

The Council struggled with issues of bad weather, staff shortages and machine malfunctioning. This meant they were unable to cut the Spring and Summer meadows on time. Our volunteers agreed to rake the Spring Meadow cuttings in early August. This activity is not sustainable in the future for our ageing workforce! We have now agreed with the Council an amended mowing regime for 2024 which will be more realistic for both them and us.



The Council-commissioned tree inspection took place in February. This includes a total of 59 trees, many of them requiring some tidying and pruning. These works have all been approved by the District Planning Department (23/01771/TRCA). We expect that works including the horse chestnuts will be done in February-March 2024 (see Appendices 3 & 4).



Primula

PLANNED ACTIVITY DURING 2024

Date	Detail
January	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Big Garden Bird Watch 2. A review of the "Adopt a Flower bed" project
February	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disposal of the remains of the church Christmas tree 2. Agree a revised mowing regime for 2024 with the Council 3. Amend signage for the public accordingly 4. The Council to rotavate the additional area of the wildflower bed. 5. Begin implementing plan for renovation of the tower area (as agreed by the PCC) 6. Council to begin tree work
March	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restart Wild-life Walks (most months during the year, usually the second Sunday) 2. Sow the wild-flower bed 3. Remove grass from around new trees and mulch 4. Hold the first litter-pick of the churchyard and local roads and paths
April	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tidy War Graves 2. Sow seeds of annuals (in a greenhouse) for our beds
May	
June	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in the annual "Churches Count on Nature" – survey, wild flowers, birds, moths and butterflies
July	
August	
September	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tidy War Graves 2. Hold the annual "quiz" for the congregation which included a question on the state of the churchyard 3. Hold the second litter-pick of the churchyard and local roads 4. Council to mow the smaller "Meadow" and our volunteers rake up mowings – date to be decided by Council
October	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work in the compost heaps
November	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey and empty the nest boxes in the churchyard 2. Trim hedges
December	

MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES FOR EACH ELEMENT

Grassland

Our original plan of four areas (Wild, Cut, Spring Meadow and Summer Meadow), has had to be amended in the light of challenges faced by the Council. We have now divided the grass land into three main areas (Appendix 2):

- **Wild Area** – only mown very occasionally. The area was covered with membrane followed by bark chippings in about 2016. We removed most of the membrane in 2021-2, and punctured the remainder, to allow the area to re-wild.

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- **Cut Area** – mown during the growing season with a mulching mower as in the past. In the longer-term, the church leadership hopes to convert part of area “A” into a multi-purpose grass area for outdoor gatherings and events.
- **“Meadow”** – we have amalgamated our previous large (and overly optimistic) “Spring and Summer Meadows into one small area (See Appendix 2), which we hope the Council will cut in late summer/early autumn. This will allow many wild flowers to grow and flower. The area is small enough to allow our team of volunteers to rake the cuttings. We canvas opinion from church members (via the annual “Quiz”) – 83% prefer “some long grass” in the churchyard, to favour growth of wild flowers.



Ragwort has been found growing in the churchyard. It is controversial as it is poisonous to cattle and horses, but is also a rich source of nectar and a host for several insects, including the cinnabar moth caterpillar. We have agreed to allow it to grow, but review it if it increases. In 2023, there was less ragwort than the previous year.

There are some heavily shaded areas, where there is little grass under the canopy, which are left undisturbed to provide alternative habitats. Parts of these areas have been overtaken by ivy; this provides shelter and food for wildlife, and need not be discouraged unless it is causing damage, or distress to the owners of affected graves.

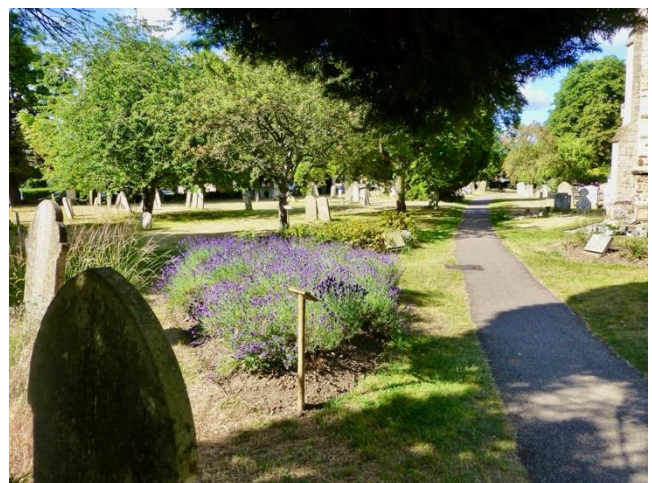
Paths

There are two tarmac surfaced public paths within the churchyard, both of which can be quite busy with pedestrians and cyclists. An adjoining strip (about 0.5m) of grass of the adjacent new “Meadow” area in 2024 will be cut by the Council to ease walking along the path.

Trees

The churchyard is within a conservation area, so permission must be obtained from the District Council for work on any tree whose trunk is more than 75mm diameter at 1.5m from the ground. The Town Council is responsible for a quinquennial inspection, remedial action and replanting as and when required. Whenever possible native species are used for new planting.

The most recent quinquennial inspection was in February 2023. Appendix 4 lists the trees surveyed and the work that was recommended. Work on the trees cannot be done during the nesting season.



While we value trees for their contribution to the character and diversity of the churchyard, the amount of continuous canopy should not be increased significantly, as the shade prevents the growth of grass or other plants below. This policy still leaves scope for a few further modest-sized trees, particularly towards the north-east corner.

The two new Cherry Trees planted in 2021 are growing well. The grass is regularly cleared from around them, and some mulch has been added.

There are a few laburnums in the Churchyard, which are poisonous and non-native. They are pruned to keep the seed-pods out of reach of young children.

The Church may allow plaques to be installed beside trees planted in memory, but the church does not accept any responsibility for their upkeep. There is a statutory fee to be paid, and flowers or other objects may not be left at the tree.

Hedges

There are laurel and beech hedges belonging to neighbours along part of the northern boundary of the churchyard. There is also a mixed hedge, largely covered in ivy, along part of the eastern boundary, separating it from the adjacent road. The Council is responsible for trimming these hedges on the churchyard side, where it is not done by the neighbours owning the hedge.

The hedge ("whips" of various native species including hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel and field maple) planted by the Council in February 2021 at the back of flower bed 1 is growing well. It is trimmed annually to manage the spread. The aim in the longer term is to lay it and maintain it at the height of the wall behind.



Young cherry in blossom



Tulips

The hedges within the churchyard will be trimmed when necessary to maintain a 'natural' rather than artificially-shaped appearance.

Flower Beds (see Appendix 2)

There are now 17 established flower beds in the churchyard and an 18th bed, the tower area, that has yet to be established. All are cared for under our, "**Adopt a Flower Bed Scheme**" whereby members of the congregation and local people are invited to look after a bed during the year. The system is reviewed each January. It is popular with the volunteers who are encouraged to join the monthly churchyard working parties which are held generally on the first Monday morning of the month. However, they can also work at other times depending on their availability.

Gardens of Remembrance

The churchyard, although “closed”, still provides for interment of ashes. Currently there are two areas - a rectangular section adjoining the east side of the church building, which is now “full”. This is gravelled between plots but requires regular weeding. The larger Circle of Remembrance is a grassed area, regularly mown, with five benches in memoriam. The public are encouraged to leave fresh flowers in vases around the perimeter. It is estimated that the circle will become “full” within two to three years. A new area elsewhere within the churchyard is currently being explored.



Seating

Our “Quiet Area”, comprising a 5m diameter circular paved area with 5 benches placed in a circle, was completed in January 2022. It provides an outdoor seating area for individuals and groups from the community and the church. The Council provided and maintains a litterbin in the vicinity. The nearby yew hedge will be pruned when necessary to keep it at about 1.2-1.5m in height so as to provide some visual separation, but not total privacy, from the public path.

This brings the total number of benches in the churchyard to fourteen – there were already five at the circle of remembrance, a further two along the public paths and two near to the church building.

Water

There is an external tap by the church vestry door. Two water butts fed by rainwater from a church hall roof down-pipe were installed in 2021 - 2022. They are well used by people tending flowers at the circle of remembrance, as well as the gardeners. Alongside is a robust wooden box to store the metal vases used in the circle.

A shallow water container is situated near the compost heaps for the use of mammals and birds. A trail camera has shown its value to wildlife. We are planning to introduce a shallow water feature in the tower area, which will primarily be for mammals and insects to drink from.

Tombstones (Appendix 3)

A full list of these is available from the vicar. The Council is responsible for checking them from a safety point of view and taking any remedial action as needed. An inspection has recently taken place.

A total of five are identified as Commonwealth War Graves (marked in red in Appendix 3). These have additional modern plaques. A map attached to the metal railings by the car park gate also shows their positions. Particular attention is paid to their upkeep and access during the monthly working parties.



Many tombstones provide a good habitat for lichens, but these have not been catalogued.

Although the use of chemical is generally avoided, it has been agreed that a systemic herbicide could be used by the Council to remove grass and weeds within gravestone plots.

Walls and fences

Most of the south and west boundaries are defined by a low brick and stone wall covered in ivy. The ivy is trimmed back from time to time, but this can be left to provide food and shelter for birds and mammals so long as it is not damaging the wall or obstructing access.

There is wooden fencing along parts of the northern and eastern boundaries. There is a vulnerable retaining wall behind the wooden fence on the eastern boundary, so we must avoid planting any trees alongside that fence. Ivy climbs some of the northern boundary fencing; it has been cut back, but must be checked and controlled before it damages the fence.

Birds/butterflies etc

Many common species are to be seen and heard in the churchyard; no doubt attracted by the large number of mature trees. There is a bird feeder near the church porch which is regularly topped-up. The CCG has now installed nine nesting boxes within the churchyard. Every autumn they are inspected and cleaned out.

Mammals

Little is known about mammals in the churchyard. We used a "trail cam" on several occasions and recorded several species including several mice, a fox on many occasions drinking from the water source, a hedgehog and a few domestic cats. The hedgehog "house" has not been occupied so far, but it was moved in 2023 to a more suitable location and we hope it will be occupied this winter.



Toad – by the Church entrance

Compost Heap, Log Piles, Bug Hotel

We have constructed three compost heap frames out of old wooden pallets, in a secluded part of the wild area. We are trying to establish a three-year cycle so that compost can mature for two years before it is used. Adjacent to these three is a bin in which there is a permanent log pile, which serves as a refuge for small mammals, slow worms and invertebrates as it decays. Nearby is our "bug hotel" and some smaller wood piles.

COMMUNICATION

With the public

In 2021, we changed the sign in the large notice board near the path at the north end of the churchyard to reflect current plans (the previous sign was about 20 years old). Comments are welcomed via the CCG's email address, which is displayed. We also commissioned xpress to design and print smaller notices which we mounted on suitable wooden posts. These have been placed at strategic points in the churchyard to inform the public of the various elements of the churchyard and our aims in their management. Some have been moved to reflect changes to the mowing regime. All the signs display a link and QR code to www.eatonsocon.org/churchyard, a page linked to the Creation Care page of the church website, and which includes this Management Plan and other items of interest.



Buddleia

In April 2022, we purchased a large glazed noticeboard and erected it on an external wall of the church hall near the circle of remembrance to provide further information to the public.

With the Congregation

We continue to use part of a large noticeboard inside the church entrance hall to display maps and information about Creation Care including the churchyard. When the church is open, members of the public are also able to access these. The congregation has the CCG's email address. From time-to-time during Sunday services and in the vicar's regular communications, the congregation will be informed about developments in the churchyard.

In many months of the year, we held "wildlife walks" (organised by Audrey Hedges, a member of the congregation and of the CCG), which start from the church hall, goes through the churchyard, across the river and through Pocket Park to Audrey's barge moored on the River Great Ouse near to Willow Bridge for a tea. Participants are given paper materials including identification sheets for wildlife and often the opportunity to make something for wildlife e.g. fat balls for feeding birds.



Cowslips



Pyramidal orchids, in Pocket Park

RESOURCES

The church is indebted to the Town Council for the essential work they perform during the year and for their cooperation on maintenance and development of the churchyard.

The PCC funds some development work in the churchyard via the CCG budget, and manages donations for care of the churchyard; these include donations by families of people buried in the churchyard to enable memorial benches to be provided. The Eatons Community Association also provides grants from time-to-time.

AWARD SCHEMES

Eco Church - this scheme for churches in England and Wales is run by the Christian environmental charity A Rocha UK (part of the A Rocha International organisation). It uses an online survey in five sections, one of which is, "Management of Church Land". We received the "bronze" level award overall in June 2021 and "silver" in January 2023, although the "Land" section scores at gold level. (Both awards are displayed in the church entrance.) Over 6,700 churches have registered with Eco Church, over 3,000 have received the bronze award and over 800 have received the silver.

Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation Award Scheme is run by the local Wildlife Trust and also has bronze, silver and gold awards. Following an inspection in September 2021, we were pleased to receive the bronze award together with much useful guidance from Diana Cook and her colleagues. We are steadily following their recommendations and hope at some stage to apply for their "silver" award. Their recommendations included:



Borage

Achieved:

- Establish static and permanent compost heaps as a home for invertebrates
- Remove or puncture the remaining membrane
- Ensure long grass can be established in the wild/uncut area, some of which should receive sunlight
- Plant additional flowers which specifically provide a rich source of seeds for birds. For example, thistles (makes up a third of a goldfinch's diet) teasels, sunflowers, buddleia (we have some but need to leave dead flowers to provide seeds for birds).

Not yet:

- Establish an additional water source, both as a bird bath and to provide drinking water
- Provide an additional external noticeboard

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CCG is grateful to:

- The Vicar, the PCC and the congregation for support and willingness to embrace changes to the churchyard
- The Town Council for its hard work in caring for the churchyard and also for willingness to change their ways of working and cooperate in a very positive manner
- The local community which volunteers to help and generally treats the churchyard with respect
- Caring For God's Acre – for the excellent information on its website and organisation of "Churches Count on Nature"
- Google Earth for the satellite photo of the churchyard

Creation Care Group

St Mary's Church Eaton Socon

creationcare@eatonsocon.org

Approved by PCC February 2024

Appendix 1: BACKGROUND

There has been a church on the site since 1120. Although much of its parish is in Bedfordshire, the church and its churchyard are in Cambridgeshire, in the District Authority of Huntingdonshire, and in the area covered by St Neots Town Council. The National Grid reference is TL 17040 58869. St Mary's is also known as "The Church on the Green". It is adjacent to Eaton Socon Village Green and the village War Memorial.

The church is Grade II* listed and the churchyard is in the St Neots Conservation Area.

The churchyard was "closed" in the 1990's, which meant that no further burial of bodies was allowed, although interment of ashes still occurs. The responsibility for maintaining the churchyard is primarily that of St Neots Town Council, although the congregation is also involved.

In 2020 a small "Creation Care" Group (CCG) was formed under the aegis of St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) to draft and implement environmental plans for the church and churchyard, among other activities, and is allocated a modest annual budget.

PURPOSES OF THE CHURCHYARD MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. The main purpose of this plan is to bring together in one document the various strands of work that have been and are being carried out, and those planned for the next year.
2. It records policies relating to the churchyard, and provides a single location for reference information.
3. This vision can then be shared with stakeholders, who include – the church congregation and leadership; the Town Council; the local community; the local Wildlife Trust.
4. It serves as a basis for annual reviews of work completed and for planning the following year.



In November 2022 the PCC agreed that from 2023 future Plans be submitted in January for consideration by the PCC. This current plan has been re-designed so that the new data is presented first, making it easier to read.

KEY MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

- All work should be done in a manner sensitive to the sacred nature of the area and to users of the space
- Whenever possible, new trees, shrubs and plants should be native species
- The "carbon footprint" of every activity should be minimised
- The use of chemicals should be minimised
- Management principles should be sympathetic to wildlife whenever possible
- Clear signage should be used to explain to the public what we are trying to achieve
- Consideration should be given to the workload on current and future volunteers
- Innovations should only be implemented if they are sustainable, from ecological, financial and workload points of view
- More people should be involved, both from within the congregation and also the wider community

GOVERNANCE

Once the churchyard was “closed”, responsibility for its maintenance was devolved to St Neots Town Council. The Council needs to apply to St Albans Anglican Diocese via the church PCC to authorise any works in the churchyard such as installation of benches or planting of trees. The good relationship between the church and the Council is key to managing the churchyard. We believe that church and Council can continue to cooperate in a productive way in the future over the proposals in this plan.

The Creation Care Group (CCG) maintains this document; this issue was approved by the PCC on 20th February 2024.

The church insurance policy covers the work of volunteers in the churchyard when on an authorised church activity.

SUMMARY OF CREATION CARE GROUP ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2020 (WHEN IT WAS FOUNDED)

2020

- Creation Care Group established, our Mission Statement approved by the PCC and they expressed support for our aims
- First newsletter produced
- Joined Eco Church in February
- **Erected nesting boxes**

2021

- Newsletters 2 and 3 produced
- **Work on various beds to prepare ground for planting**
- **Public Notice at far end of churchyard replaced; various small public notices produced and sited**
- **Quiet Area – proposal accepted by PCC; foundations laid**
- **Hedges behind Bed 1 and near Quiet Area planted**
- **“Adopt a Flower Bed” scheme started, together with monthly working parties**
- **Created compost heaps, bug hotel, log pile, hedgehog house and feeding station, water source for birds and mammals**
- **Bronze award from Cambridge Churchyard Conservation Scheme awarded**
- Bronze award from Eco Church

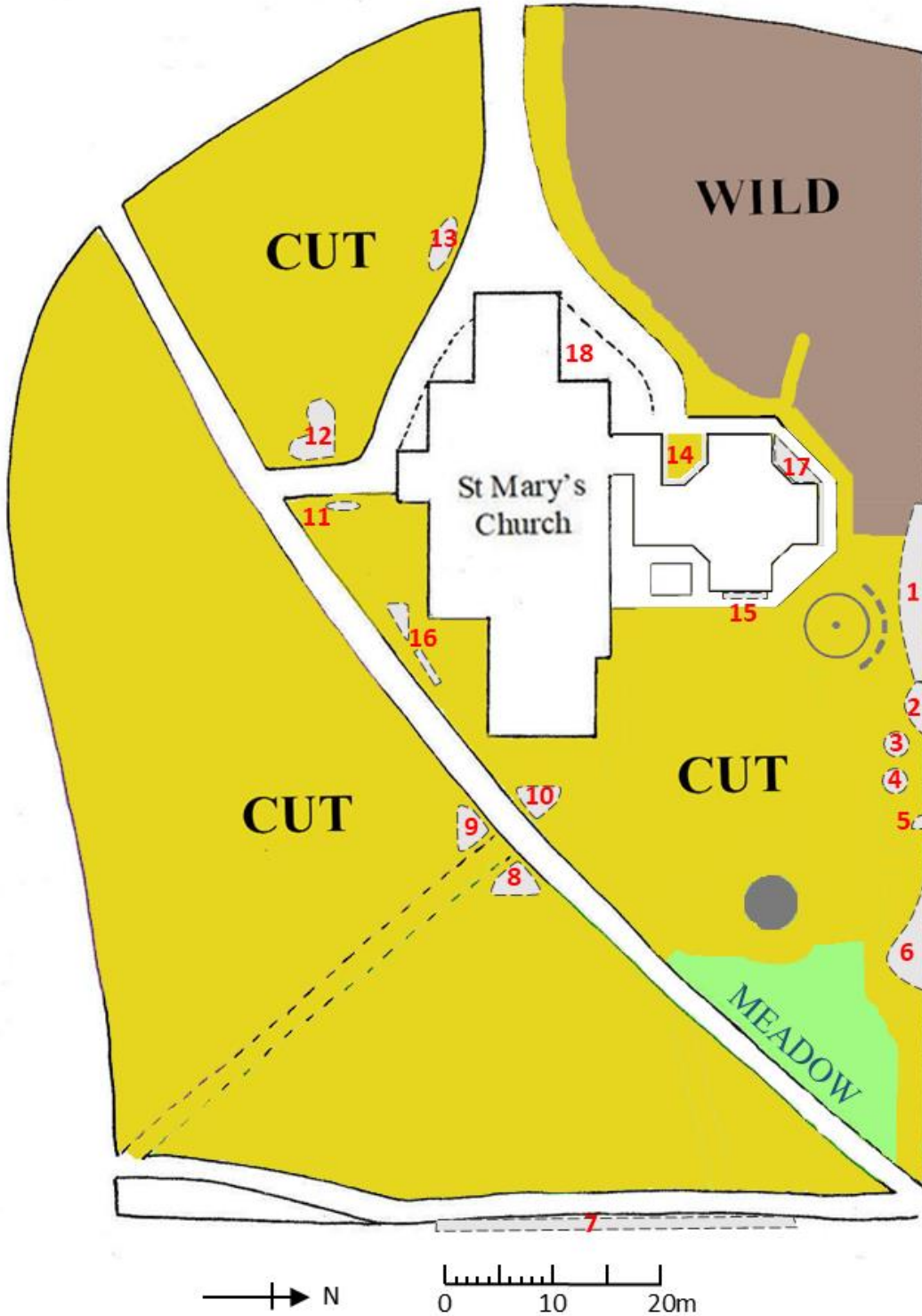
2022

- **Removed most of membrane from Wild Area**
- **Installed two water butts**
- **Installed external notice on church hall wall**
- **Created Bed 15, a vegetable patch**
- Newsletters 4 and 5 produced
- Creation Care Policy approved by PCC

2023

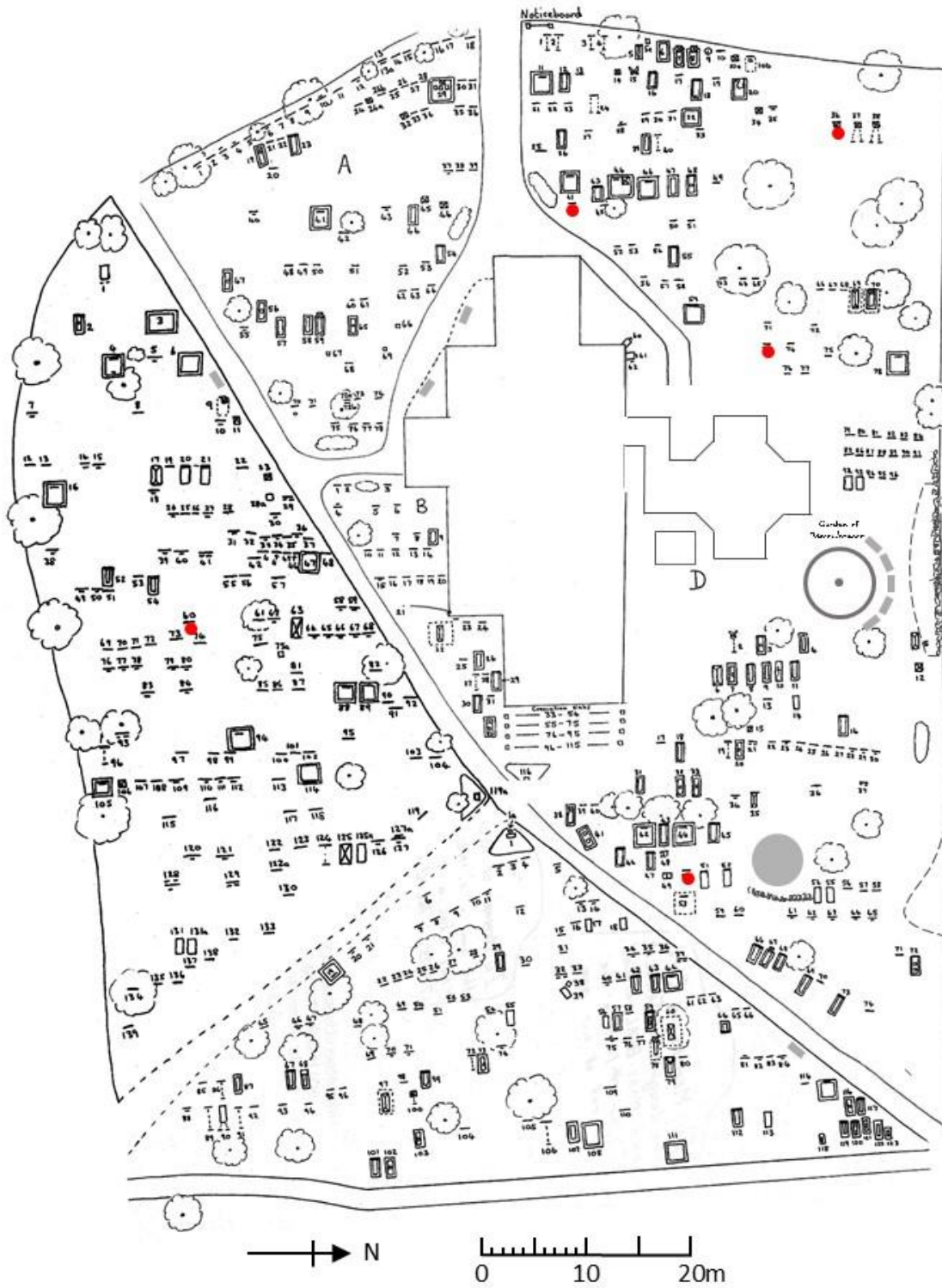
- Received the Silver Eco Church award
- **Created a pilot wildflower bed**
- **Transformed two areas of scrub near the church hall into two flower beds, stocked with shade-tolerant plants**
- **PCC approved our plans for transforming the tower area**
- Newsletters 6, 7 and 8 produced

Appendix 2: FLOWER BEDS & MOWING REGIME FOR 2024



Appendix 3: POSITIONS OF BUILDINGS, TOMBSTONES AND TREES

War graves are marked by red dots



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Appendix 4: TREE LIST (plan on next page)

Note that some numbering has changed from previous editions

Ref.	Common Name	Formal Name	Recommendation
1	Horse Chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum	Reduce height by 3.5m & lateral branches by 2.5m
2	Hornbeam	Carpinus betulus	
3	Horse Chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum	Reduce height by 6m & lateral branches by 3m
4	Pedunculate Oak	Quercus robur	Crown lift to 3 m for pedestrian clearance over car park
5	Pedunculate Oak	Quercus robur	Crown lift to 3 m for pedestrian clearance over car park
6	Horse Chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum	Reduce height by 6m & lateral branches by 3m
7	Horse Chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum	Reduce height by 6m & lateral branches by 3m
8	Horse Chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum	
9	Pedunculate Oak	Quercus robur	
10	Pedunculate Oak	Quercus robur	
11	Rowan	Sorbus aucuparia	
12	Horse Chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum	Reduce height by 6m & lateral branches by 3m
13	Horse Chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum	Reduce height by 6m & lateral branches by 3m
14	Pedunculate Oak	Quercus robur	
15	Pedunculate Oak	Quercus robur	
16	Elm	Ulmus sp.	
17	Lime	Tilia sp.	
18	Horse Chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum	Reduce height by 6m & lateral branches by 3m
19	Horse Chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum	Reduce height by 6m & lateral branches by 3m
20	Common Holly	Ilex aquifolium	
21	Elm (dead)	Ulmus sp.	Fell tree.
22	Wellingtonia	Sequoiadendron giganteum	
23	Wellingtonia	Sequoiadendron giganteum	
24	Wellingtonia	Sequoiadendron giganteum	
25	Copper Beech	Fagus sylvatica purpurea	
26	Pedunculate Oak	Quercus robur	
27	Common Holly	Ilex aquifolium	
28	English Yew	Taxus baccata	
29	English Yew	Taxus baccata	
30	Silver Birch	Betula pendula	
31	Elm	Ulmus sp.	
32	English Yew	Taxus baccata	
33	Not identified	(Dead stump of eucalyptus)	
34	Silver Birch	Betula pendula	
35	Scots Pine x3	Pinus sylvestris	Cut back from building to give 1.5m clearance Remove deadwood - greater than 25 mm.
36	Lawson Cypress	Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	
37	Scots Pine x2	Pinus sylvestris	Remove deadwood - greater than 25 mm.
38	Silver Birch x3	Betula pendula	Remove deadwood - greater than 25 mm.

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39	Wild Cherry	Prunus avium	
40	Lawson Cypress	Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	Lightly cut back from footpath
41	Wild Cherry	Prunus avium	
42	Common Holly	Ilex aquifolium	
43	Field Maple	Acer campestre	Cut back from streetlight
44	Pear	Pyrus ?	
45	Field Maple	Acer campestre	
46	Field Maple	Acer campestre	
47	Lawson Cypress x2	Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	Fell 2x trees
48	English Yew x4	Taxus baccata	
49	Box x2	Buxus sp.	
50	Lawson Cypress	Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	Remove broken branch
51	Apple	Malus sp.	
52	Cherry	Prunus sp. 'Cherry'	Crown lift over footpath to 2.5m
53	Cherry	Prunus sp. 'Cherry'	
54	Lawson Cypress	Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	Lightly cut back from the footpath
55	Rowan	Sorbus aucuparia	
56	Common Ash	Fraxinus excelsior	
57	Rowan	Sorbus aucuparia	Remove broken branch
58	Common Laburnum x3	Laburnum anagyroides	Remove split stem
59	Common Laburnum	Laburnum anagyroides	



Appendix 5: WILD FLOWER SURVEYS

<u>Date etc</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<p>Date: 7th June 2021 Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm Recorders: Margaret Tabone/ Roger Peppiatt</p>	<p>Record excludes trees, grasses, mosses, lichens</p> <p>Methodology: a simple walk-through of each area, noting species. This initial survey was to establish the variety of species as a whole and differences between the areas but a more detailed survey could follow with each area divided into squares so species and their distribution could be mapped more accurately. Inclusion of grasses could also follow.</p> <p>It was not always possible to be certain of the species and this is indicated in the list. A more detailed study at times when the plants are in flower or fruit could make it easier to be accurate.</p>
<p>Date: 6th June 2022 Time: 10.00am – 12.30pm Recorders: Margaret Tabone/ Frances Peppiatt</p>	<p>As before, record excludes trees, grasses, mosses, lichens</p> <p>Methodology: as previous year, a simple walk-through of each area, noting species, qualitative, not quantitative. The Town Council has been unable to maintain the mowing regime needed for the meadow areas and the close-mown area, so all had similar long grass. This seems to have resulted in similar species being found in the two meadow areas, whereas last year there was a noticeable difference and the close-mown area also contained some species associated with the meadow areas that would ordinarily have been mown out. (The weather conditions during the first 5 months of this year also differed from last year and will have had some effect.) The total number of species seen was similar to last year but seemed to be more widely spread throughout the churchyard, with less noticeable difference between areas, as already noted. The long grass made finding plants difficult so some species that seem to be missing from an area may well still be present.</p>
<p>Date: 2nd June 2023 Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm Recorders: Margaret Tabone/Victor Tabone</p>	<p>As before, record excludes large trees, grasses, mosses, lichens</p> <p>Methodology: as previous year, a simple walk-through of each area, noting species, qualitative, not quantitative. The spring and summer meadow area boundaries have changed and the regularly cut area has increased in size, to make it simpler for the Council to maintain a mowing regime. Overall most species persist but may appear to be found in different areas, because of these changes. There are more species listed for the wild area this year as the edge is mown and species found in grassy areas are creeping in.</p>

St Mary's Church Eaton Socon

Plant species found in St. Mary's Eaton Socon churchyard in annual survey on 2/6/2023

	GENUS	SPECIES	COMMON NAME	
1.	Achillea	millifolium	Yarrow	✓
2.	Alliaria	petiolata	Garlic mustard	✓
3.	Anthriscus	sylvestris	Cow parsley	✓
4.	Arctium	pubens	Common burdock	✓
5.	Artemisia	vulgaris	Mugwort	✓
6.	Arum	maculatum	Lords and ladies/Cuckoo pint	✓
7.	Bellis	perennis	Daisy	✓
8.	Bryonia	dioica	White bryony	✓
9.	Centaurea	nigra	Common knapweed	✓
10.	Cirsium	arvense	Creeping thistle	✓
11.	Cirsium	vulgare	Spear thistle	✓
12.	Convolvulus	arvensis	Field bindweed	✓
13.	Epilobium	montanum	Broad-leaved willowherb	✓
14.	Galium	vernum	Bedstraw	✓
15.	Galium	aparine	Goosegrass/Cleavers	✓
16.	Geranium	pusillum	Small cranesbill	✓
17.	Geranium	robertianum	Herb robert	✓
18.	Geranium	dissectum	Cut-leaved cranesbill	✓
19.	Geum	urbanum	Herb bennet/Wood avens	✓
20.	Glechoma	hederacia	Ground ivy	✓
21.	Hedera	helix	Ivy	✓
22.	Iris	foetidissima	Stinking iris	✓
23.	Lamium	album	White dead nettle	✓
24.	Lamium	purpureum	Red dead nettle	✓
25.	Lapsana	communis	Nipplewort	✓
26.	Latuca	serriola	Prickly lettuce	✓
27.	Malva	sylvestris	Mallow	✓
28.	Malva	neglecta	Dwarf mallow	✓
29.	Medicago	arabica	Spotted medick	✓
30.	Medicago	lupulina	Black medick	✓
31.	Pentaglottis	sempervirens	Alkanet	✓
32.	Plantago	lanceolata	Ribwort plantain	✓
33.	Plantago	media	Hoary plantain	✓
34.	Potentilla	reptans	Cinquefoil	✓
35.	Ranunculus	repens	Creeping buttercup	✓
36.	Ranunculus	bulbosus	Bulbous buttercup	✓
37.	Rubus	sp.	Bramble	✓
38.	Rumex	acetosa	Sorrel	✓
39.	Sambucus	nigra	Elder	✓
40.	Senecio	vulgaris	Groundsel	✓
41.	Senecio	jacobaea	Ragwort	✓
42.	Silene	latifolia	White campion	✓
43.	Sonchus	asper	Prickly sow thistle	✓
44.	Stellaria	media	Chickweed	✓
45.	Sysimbrium	officinale	Hedge mustard	✓
46.	Taraxacum	officinale agg.	Dandelion	✓
47.	Trifolium	repens	White clover	✓
48.	Urtica	dioica	Stinging nettle	✓
49.	Veronica	chamaedryis	Germander speedwell	✓
50.	Viola	riviniana	Common violet	✓

St Mary's Church Eaton Socon

Summer meadow						
Genus	Species	Common name(s)	7/6/21	6/6/22	2/6/23	
Achillea	millifolium	yarrow	✓	✓	✓	
Alliaria	petiolata	garlic mustard (jack-by-the-hedge)	-	✓	✓	
Anthriscus	sylvestris	cow parsley	✓	✓	✓	
Arctium	pubens	common burdock	-	✓	-	
Bellis	perennis	daisy	✓	✓	✓	
Bryonia	dioica	white bryony	-	-	✓	
Centaurea	nigra	common knapweed	-	✓	-	
Convolvulus	arvensis	field bindweed	✓	✓	✓	
Cirsium	arvense	creeping thistle	-	✓	✓	
Cirsium	vulgare	spear thistle	-	✓	✓	
Epilobium	montanum	broad-leaved willowherb	-	✓	✓	
Euphorbia	peplus	petty spurge	-	✓	-	
Galium	vernum	lady's bedstraw	-	✓	✓	
Galium	aparine	goosegrass/cleavers	-	✓	✓	
Geranium	pusillum	small cranesbill	✓	✓	✓	
Geranium	robertianum	herb robert	✓	-	✓	
Geranium	dissectum	cut-leaved cranesbill	✓	✓	✓	
Geum	urbanum	herb bennet/wood avens	✓	✓	-	
Glechoma	hederacia	ground ivy	✓	✓	✓	
Hedera	helix	ivy	✓	✓	✓	
Hypericum	perforatum (sp?)	st. john's wort – probably perforate	✓	✓	-	
Lamium	album	white dead nettle	-	✓	-	
Lamium	purpureum	red dead nettle	✓	-	-	
Latuca	serriola	prickly lettuce	-	✓	✓	
Luzula	campestris	field woodrush	✓	-	✓	
Malva	sylvestris	mallow	✓	✓	✓	
Medicago	arabica	spotted medick (calvary clover)	✓	-	✓	
Pentaglottis	sempervirens	alkanet	✓	✓	✓	
Plantago	lanceolata	ribwort plantain	✓	✓	✓	
Plantago	media	hoary plantain	✓	✓	✓	
Potentilla	reptans	cinquefoil	✓	✓	-	
Ranunculus	repens	creeping buttercup	✓	✓	✓	
Rubus	(sp.?)	bramble	✓	-	-	
Senecio	vulgaris	groundsel	✓	-	✓	
Senecio	jacobaea	ragwort	✓	✓	✓	
Silene	dioica	red campion	-	✓	-	
Sonchus	asper	prickly sow thistle	✓	✓	✓	
Stellaria	media	chickweed	✓	-	✓	
Taraxacum	officinale	dandelion	✓	✓	✓	
Triticum	(sp?)	bread wheat	✓	✓	-	
Urtica	dioica	stinging nettle	✓	✓	-	
Veronica	chamaedrys	germander speedwell	✓	✓	✓	
Veronica	arvensis (sp?)	wall speedwell?	✓	-	-	
Viola	sp.	violet	-	✓	-	

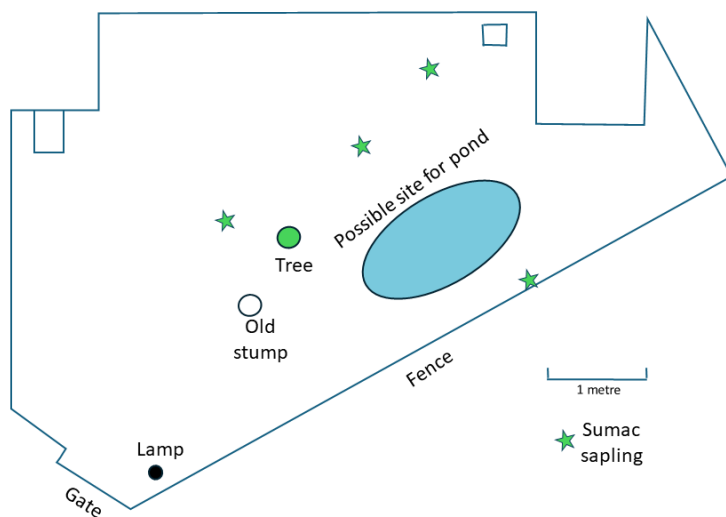
St Mary's Church Eaton Socon

Spring meadow					
Genus	Species	Common name(s)	7/6/21	6/6/22	2/6/23
Achillea	millifolium	yarrow	-	✓	✓
Anthriscus	sylvestris	cow parsley	✓	✓	✓
Arctium	pubens	common burdock	-	✓	-
Artemisia	vulgaris	mugwort	-	✓	✓
Bellis	perennis	daisy	✓	✓	✓
Bryonia	dioica	white bryony	-	-	✓
Centaurea	nigra	common knapweed	-	-	✓
Cirsium	arvense	creeping thistle	-	✓	-
Cirsium	vulgare	spear thistle	-	✓	✓
Convolvulus	arvensis	field bindweed	-	✓	-
Epilobium	montanum	broad-leaved willowherb	-	✓	-
Galium	aparine	goosegrass	-	-	✓
Geranium	pusillum	small cranesbill	✓	✓	✓
Geum	urbanum	herb bennet/wood avens	-	✓	✓
Glechoma	hederacia	ground ivy	-	✓	-
Hedera	helix	ivy	-	-	✓
Hypochaeris	radicata	catsear	-	-	✓
Lamium	album	white dead nettle	-	✓	✓
Lapsana	communis	nipplewort	-	✓	-
Malva	sylvestris	mallow	-	-	✓
Medicago	lupulina	black medick	✓	✓	-
Papaver	rhoeas	common poppy	-	✓	-
Pentaglottis	sempervirens	alkanet	-	✓	✓
Plantago	lanceolata	ribwort plantain	✓	✓	✓
Potentilla	reptans	cinquefoil	-	✓	✓
Ranunculus	repens	creeping buttercup	✓	✓	✓
Ranunculus	bulbosus	bulbous buttercup	✓	✓	✓
Rumex	acetosa	sorrel	✓	✓	✓
Senecio	vulgaris	groundsel	✓	✓	✓
Senecio	jacobaea	ragwort	✓	✓	✓
Silene	latifolia	white campion	-	✓	✓
Sonchus	asper	prickly sow thistle	-	✓	✓
Stellaria	media	chickweed	✓	✓	✓
Sysymbrium	officinale	hedge mustard	-	✓	✓
Taraxacum	Officinale agg.	dandelion	-	-	✓
Trifolium	repens	clover	✓	✓	-
Triticum	(sp?)	bread wheat	-	✓	-
Urtica	dioica	stinging nettle	-	-	✓
Viola	riviniana	common violet	✓	-	-
Viola	sp.?	sweet violet?	-	✓	-

Appendix 6: PLANS FOR TOWER AREA

The area of churchyard to the north-west of the church is fenced off because of falling debris from the tower. It is becoming unsightly as a black membrane is poking through the shallow covering of gravel, in which grass and weeds are now growing.

The sumac tree (non-native), in the centre of the area, was in leaf again this year, but only at the tips of the branches. The trunk is not firm in the ground, it is unusually tall and lanky due to the shade and it is not looking healthy. It is producing runners from its rootstock. It is not large enough to be protected by conservation area rules. Some snowberry – a quick-spreading shrub – is growing around it.



The following is proposed to improve this area:

1. Remove the tree, runners and snowberry.
2. Remove the membrane and re-distribute the gravel.
3. Dig a shallow pond, say 200 mm deep and partially filled with stones, to act as a water source for mammals and insects.
 - a. The pond would need regular topping up, as well as maintenance which could be carried out by the monthly working parties.
 - b. For added safety, fit a stout wooden frame with galvanised wire mesh and mount it above the pond allowing 100mm clearance below for access by animals and birds.
 - c. The position of the pond could be nearer the centre of the area than shown, depending on the tree roots.
4. Plant native suitable small/medium sized shrubs and perennial ground cover plants which would provide texture and shelter for animals.
5. Make a suitable aperture in the fence to allow access to hedgehogs.