



**St Andrew's  
Church  
God's Acre  
Nature and  
Wildlife  
Land Management  
Plan**

**April 2025**

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## **VISION:**

That the church estate is an outward demonstration of our respect and wonder for God's Creation; its diversity, fruitfulness, sustainability, responsiveness to change, and power to reassure us of God's selfless love for us. The peace and healing that comes with feeling part of God's Creation.

To achieve this through a continuing iterative, cyclical, enabling process that embraces the uncertainty of changes in the future – adaptive management planning enabling natural processes to liberate nature. A plan responsive to natural dynamic processes, environmental changes, and the legitimate interests of our stakeholders and visitors – a land management plan that is a process of learning whilst doing.

## **PLAN SUMMARY:**

### **Aims:**

To respond to the wish of the PCC to manage church lands in an ecologically sensitive manner, to develop their designated Wildlife Area and encourage its appreciation.

To develop a plan that achieves our vision within the resources available to us.

To be informed by professionals and develop a plan with advice and information from Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Arocha Eco Church, and caring for God's Acre.

For the plan to manage the balance between interment of ashes and visitors to existing graves with the wish to provide habitats to encourage native species and be a peaceful setting for rest and contemplation.

### **Objectives:**

To implement a land management plan that enables natural diversity to thrive in both its flora and fauna through management of grass cutting, tree care and planting and provision of habitat opportunities.

The plan will be adaptive, with a cycle of implementation, monitoring, and plan review to ensure that it responds to both beneficial and detrimental changes.

By working with church and outside groups, and stakeholders use the resource of the church lands as an educational opportunity by supplying information, leaflets, displays and involving them in monitoring changes and helping as a volunteer in the working party, learning conservation skills.

## **1. LEGISLATION, POLICY, and CONSTRAINTS:**

The church has well developed and annually reviewed: H&S policy and risk assessments, COSHH file, and Equal Opportunities, Safeguarding, & Open Access policies. As well as a yearly survey of church lands including headstone & memorial safety, tree safety, and safety of gates, walls, paths & steps.

All of the church lands are covered under the 'Area TPO' (Ref: ESCC/55/00029) and ESC Local Plan Policy (Ref: AP228) as 'Ipswich fringe open space near village of Rushmere St Andrew'. The church buildings are listed by English Heritage as 'Grade II\*' (ID: 1377298) and the WW1 War Memorial in the churchyard as 'Grade II' (ID: 1469902). The six CWGC graves & headstones (List No: 04422) are protected by the 1917 Royal Charter.

Policies relating to the church estate are determined by the PCC, informed for the churchyard by the Churchyard Rules of the Diocese and the Closed Churchyard Order dated 1973. Under this Order it is the responsibility of ESC, who contract East Suffolk NORSE to manage the churchyard. Our weekly volunteer working party manages the front churchyard but we are constrained by the maintenance work NORSE contractors can do and their policies.

In January 2023 the PCC adopted a Net Zero Carbon and Eco-Church Policy and endorsed an Eco-group to advise on the management of the church estate.

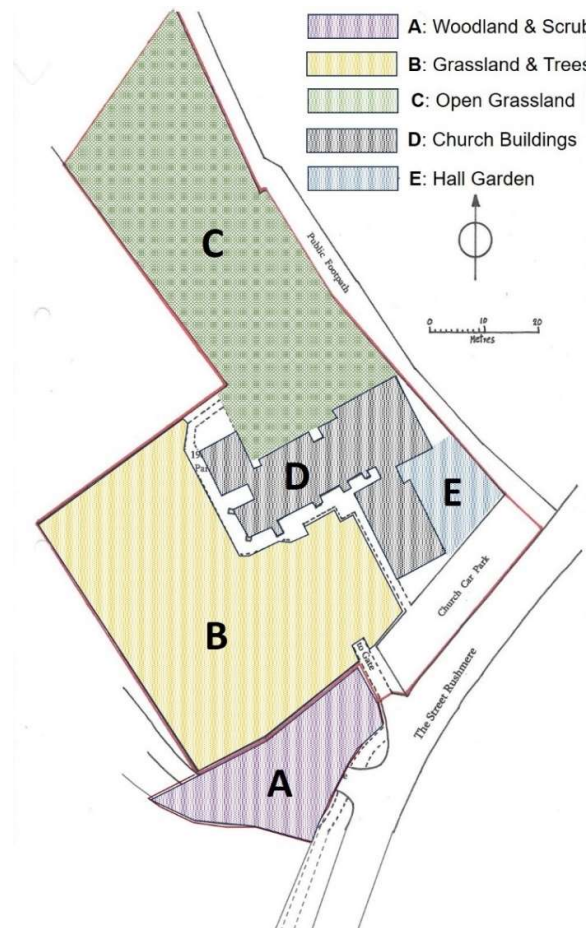
## 2. DESCRIPTION

### Zones of the Site:

Owing to the existing varied nature of the church estate, for the purpose of this plan it has been divided into five zones:



**Plan 1:** (left) Aerial Photograph (2022) of land managed by St Andrew's Church (red outline). Meadow carpark (broken red line) ©Google Earth acquired 17/03/2025. Note that the Churchyard Path leads to the Lawn Cemetery (to the north – blue outline) owned & managed by Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council.



## Outline Plan:

Plan 2 (above) indicates the existing habitat areas overlaid on a scale plan of church lands. These habitat areas will be managed differently and will be referred to as Management Zones A to E. A more detailed plan of each zone is given in the appendices.

- A:** Area of woodland and scrub – the land of the former rectory – 0.2 acres
- B:** Grassland area with standard trees – the historic churchyard – 0.8 acres
- C:** Open grassland – the two churchyard extensions – 0.5 acres
- D:** Built structures – boundary walls and church buildings – 600 m<sup>2</sup>
- E:** Lawn garden and border gardens – hall garden, borders either side of front hedge and north side of church – 0.1 acres

(The 'built structures' are included as their surfaces, eaves, etc. offer habitat opportunities for bats, birds, lichens & mosses. Including the car park areas the total site area is 2.3 acres)

## Photographs of each zone:

Photo 1 to 4 give an indication of the predominant habitat in each zone and further photographs are to be found in the appendices to highlight specific habitat opportunities in each zone, some natural features and some introduced.



**Photo 1: Management Zone A.** Woodland & Scrub with lying dead wood, wood piles, and open clearings for compost bins.



**Photo 2: Management Zone B.** Grassland habitat with open tree canopy of the historic churchyard.



**Photo 3: Management Zone C.** Open Grassland habitat of the 1925 & 1956 Churchyard Extensions.



**Photo 4: Management Zone E.** Hall Lawn & garden and formal gardens at front of site and rear of church.

**Location:**

Grid Ref: TM 196 460.  
St Andrew's Church,  
The Street,  
Rushmere St Andrew,  
Ipswich, Suffolk, IP5 1DH.

The church estate sits on the eastern fringe of Ipswich in the village of Rushmere St Andrew, at 43 metres above mean sea level. It consists of the historic churchyard and church recorded in the 1086 Great Survey and bounded by a yew hedge in 1856, two churchyard extensions in 1925 & 1956, the land adjoining the drive to the former rectory and a small hall garden (see Plan 1: aerial photograph below). The meadow and front car parks are not included in this plan of specific management zones, though they are managed using the general principles underpinning this plan.

**Site Infrastructure:**

The front car park provides blue-badge reserved parking. The main paths from the car park to zones B, C, D & E are of smooth hard surface construction providing level access for users of mobility aids to the site, church, numerous churchyard seats, and through to the Parish Council Lawn Cemetery, that adjoins our northern boundary. The church is open during the hours of daylight for access to a public WC, water, and on weekday mornings offering refreshments, warm space, and fellowship at The Open Door free café. For the volunteer working party there is power, water, multiple tools and equipment stored in a secure brick-built shed attached to the church.

**Physical Environment:****Geology:**

Church lands sit at 43m above mean sea level on a lowland glaciated plateau between River Fynn to the north, Mill River to the south. An upper 1-2m of decalcified and weathered to oxidized brown clay with flints and sands (Soilscape 10: acid, low fertility & FC Soil Type: Brown Earth). This overlays Glacial Tilt, Kesgrave Formation reg crag, thick Chalk sediments, with the basal layer being of crystalline basement rock of the London-Brabant massif. The Brown Earth is predominately clay rich to the north and sand rich to the south of the site. (Ref: Geological Survey of England.)

**Hydrology:**

Most of the site is free draining to ground water, except to the north of the site where the water table is near the surface. The ground water drains to the chalk that emerges, often as springs, in the Fynn and Mill River basins, all within the water catchment area of the River Deben. (Ref: Geological survey of England.)

**Climate:**

For Ipswich the annual rainfall is currently 600mm (24") and is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. The average wind speed is 7mph with the strongest recorded in Jan 2025 at SW 31mph. The average temperature is 10°C (50°F) with a min of -5°C and max of 30°C. Climate change is expected to lead to warmer summers and wetter winters. (Ref: Weather and climate.com.uk.)

## Biological Environment:

### Species surveys and observations:

Historically there have been a few amateur surveys and in 1968 SWT advised on the churchyard management. Recording observations and churchyard management became very ad hoc over the years. Only recently, the church Eco-group have noted observations and these supplemented the survey by Cathy Smith, SWT Conservation Adviser, in August 2022 (limited due to very dry weather conditions). Extract from her 2022 report below:

#### Records of protected species within 1Km include:

Stag Beetle – numerous records, Bat Spp.

#### Records of Priority Species within 1Km include:

Hedgehog, Norfolk Hawker

#### Birds of conservation concern, red listed within 1Km include

Swift, greenfinch, cuckoo, house martin, skylark, yellow hammer, herring gull, linnet, house sparrow, starling, mistle thrush, field fare.

#### Species noted on the day

Bulbous buttercup	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
Mouse-ear hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>
Baren Strawberry	<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
Germander speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>

**Flora and Tree, Fungi and Fauna Species: please refer to appendix.**

### Invasive / Pest Species:

A large area of nettles is invading from the SW corner of Zone B (work started on this).

Ivy growth over the yew hedge in Zone B.

Laural has become dominant in parts of Zone A.

Badgers and Muntjac digging and grazing, especially in Zone A.

## Cultural:

### Archaeology:

Within the site there are no surface or below ground finds recorded in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, however, though the original grave yard was not enclosed by a yew hedge until 1856 the churchyard has been used for burials for over 900 years. Zones B and C of the site contains numerous head stones and monuments from the 1700s to the present day and numerous graves from before stone marking of grave sites was used. The churchyards include six Commonwealth War Graves and the parish WW1 memorial. The broken footings of the 19<sup>th</sup> century school room are below the north side of the church, broken by the digging of footings for the 1968 vestry block and a large soakaway.

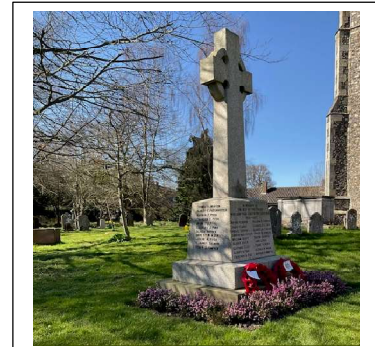


Photo 5: WW1 War Memorial.



Photo 6: 1 of 6 CWGC Graves

### Past land use:

Zones B, D & E have been the site of the church building and grave yard since, at least, 1086. Zone C was the former rectory orchard (until 1925) and garden (until 1956). Zone A was the wood lined driveway to the former rectory.

### Present use:

Church and Parish services and events, both in the church and outside. Burials and interment of ashes, there are three small areas designated by faculty for ashes. Visitors, walkers, and those tending graves. Our week-day 'The Open Door' free café attracted over 2,000 visits in 2024, apart from people seeking to be in a peaceful, natural environment.

### Past management:

Though formalised in 1968 it had become very ad hoc; mainly close mowing and strimming. Since 2022 some changes have been made and some provisions introduced to encourage wildlife: bird boxes, bug hotel, habitat piles, hedgehog houses, and a mixed mowing regime, though partly constrained by ESC-NORSE managing Zone C and the size of our Monday volunteer working group.

## Stakeholders, Access & Education:

### Stakeholders:

The Parochial Church Council who oversees the management of its land and that under tenure of the incumbent, the Parish Council who maintain the WW1 memorial and the paths to the church and their continuation through to the Lawn Cemetery. Also, those who tend the graves of family and friends and those who use it for recreation whether walking, enjoying being in a quiet space or exploring the natural world.

### Access:

The front smooth surfaced car park has reserved spaces for Blue Badge holders and there are level smooth surfaced paths to all zones (except Zone A). A disabled toilet is available in the hall along with other toilets in hall and church. The church is open during

daylight hours, water is available, as well as the numerous seats around the various zones.

**Education:**

There is a permanent Eco-Church and Caring for God's Acre display and literature in church, refreshed regularly, and notices in the churchyard as to the wildlife benefits of our churchyard management. The annual Summer Fun Day has a wildlife awareness stand often with the Ipswich Local Group of SWT engaging people in making bug & bee houses, bird boxes, etc., and the church Toddler and Youth Groups are involved in making, housing, and observing bird boxes, hedgehog houses and bug hotels as well as planting up the hall garden veg and seed box. The church year 'Environment Season' is supported by the ministry team with talks and hosting 'Fairtrade' and the like events.

**Landscape:**

The landscape is rural and open to the south, west and north providing wildlife corridors in and out of the site, with hedges, ditches, fields, and open meadow adjoining. To the east ribbon development along The Street, Rushmere, provides many mature residential gardens, though most are closed in by fences or walls.

### 3. EVALUATION

**Conservation Features:**

The site, as yet, has no recorded protected species and is not an SSSI and as such is not a protected habitat, it is a site where adaptive management planning that enables natural processes to liberate nature will work to permit dormant and migrating species to flourish, providing a diverse flora for a diverse fauna.

**Cultural Features:**

The churchyard has a strong personal significance to many parishioners who wish to see a 'tidy' and 'well cared for' churchyard, while others appreciate the abundance of wild flowers, butterflies, and birds in this rural peaceful setting.

The church PCC and congregation seem to wish for a nature-enabling management of their lands and an environmentally more sustainable way of living, and have responded in small, but growing ways in their work and personal lives.

The Parish Council maintain their adjoining Lawn Cemetery to an exceptionally high standard of neatness that is much appreciated by visitors. This will be in stark contrast to the proposed Churchyard management and visitors' perception will need to be managed.

**Resolving Conflict between features:**

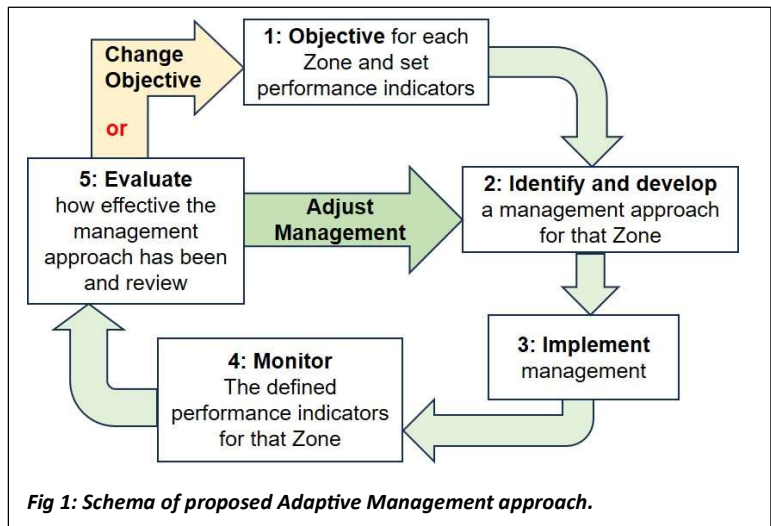
The Eco-group see two aspects to this:

- (a). That visitors see a churchyard that gives the appearance of being thoughtfully managed, that areas with graves frequently cared for are mown to provide access while other large areas appear purposefully left to enable nature to thrive and be enjoyed.
- (b). Active engagement of people through information boards encouraging them to walk along close mown paths from the surfaced path through the 'wild' parts to visit the bug hotel, habitat piles, and other signed areas of interest. Involving more people to help with the management and learn woodland skills. Providing information, trail leaflets, and other methods of education for young and old.

## 4. OPTIONS, PROCESS and OBJECTIVES

The aspiration is for the plan to be an active cyclical process that is specific to each zone, has measurable indicators for habitat change, species numbers and variety, is achievable, and is relevant to the surrounding natural environment and visitor's needs – an adaptive management approach.

To set an objective for each zone, identify a rational management for that zone, implement this, monitor the zone, review the plan, adjust the management or the objective for each zone.



This contrasts with having a long-term fixed approach that would be more appropriate to a site where the preservation of a specific environmental feature for a specific species is a priority.

## 5. ACTION PLAN

### 5.1. ZONE A: Woodland and Scrub

#### Objective:

Minimal intervention, provide a habitat to enable a greater and more diverse insect/beetle, small mammal, and reptile population.

#### Rationale:

Gradually reduce invasive and non-native scrub species with some new planting. Planting hedge species to enclose, reduce disturbance and improve shelter. Leave fallen dead trees, introduce habitat opportunities such as wood piles, log stumpery, brushwood piles, compost bins, bird boxes, and hedgehog houses.



*Photo 7: View through scrub – dense laurel growth.*

#### Implementation:

Work in area mainly in winter months except for access to compost bins. A considerable amount of this work has already been implemented.

**Monitor:**

For first cycle: survey the area for presence or evidence of Stag Beetles, Slow Worms, Hedgehogs and record any other notable findings that may be useful as performance indicators in later cycles. First survey 2025.

**Review:**

Initially two yearly. Next review 2027.

**Action Plan:**

For detailed management plan refer to Appendix 2.



*Photo 8: Central clearing, compost bins*

**5.2. ZONE B: Churchyard Grassland and Trees**

**Objective:**

Minimal to active management to provide and create a wildflower area offering a greater diversity of flora habitats to enable this zone to be frequented by a variety of bees, butterflies, bats, and nesting birds.

**Rationale:**

Radically reduce the nettle spread in its SW corner as this area is becoming a monoculture. Implement three levels of mowing, leaving – low cut beside main path for appearance and to encourage herb species; medium cut with no cut in may for flowering species both for insects and ground feeding birds; and a large area un-mown till autumn for grass and perennials to come to flower. Provide a mowed path for visitors to wander through and enjoy the zone. Close mowing next to the burial of ashes plots for visitors to graves. Provide numerous nest boxes and bug hotels to provide habitat opportunities for birds, bats, and insects.



*Photo 9: Medium cut area, nest boxes on trees*

**Implementation:**

The youth group have constructed and sited many nest boxes and bug hotels and the three levels of mowing were started in 2024.

**Monitor:**

For first cycle: survey the area for noted presence and variety of moths, and birds using nest boxes. Record any other notable findings that may be useful as performance indicators in later cycles. While engaging with visitors



*Photo 10: Low cut area, access to ashes plots.*

ascertain and note their opinions regarding the management of this part of the churchyard. Encourage church members to note wild flowers, moths & butterflies. First notes and survey 2025.

**Review:**

Initially four yearly. Next review 2029.

**Action Plan:**

For detailed management plan refer to Appendix 3.

### 5.3. ZONE C: Churchyard Open Grassland/Wild Flower Meadow

**Objective:**

Active management to provide a greater flora (flowering plants and grasses) diversity offering habitats to enable this zone to be frequented by a variety of butterflies and other winged insects, while providing access to the most recent graves that are frequently visited. To maintain a balance between enabling nature to thrive and providing access. The appearance of this zone is valued by many stakeholders. As this area is cut by a contractor, working alongside them to achieve, this will be important.

**Rationale:**

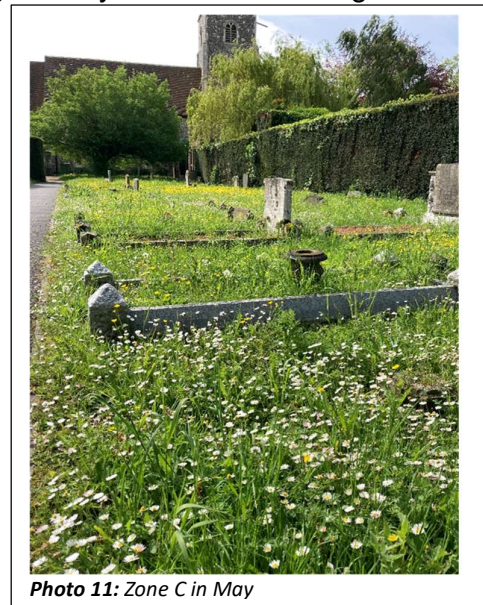
The predicted rate of change may be slow, as negotiations involves both the contractor and the Parish Council who fund part of the cost of mowing. Initially a low cut including the most visited and recent graves and a strip alongside the central path for access and appearance. A medium cut on the less recent area to start meeting the objectives.

**Implementation:**

The contractor is due to make 4 cuts a year and has been asked to not mow in May and just a 1-2m strip either side of the path low cut in May.

**Monitor:**

For first cycle: survey the area for noted presence and variety of butterflies and flowering grass. Record any other notable findings that may be useful as performance indicators in later cycles. While chatting to visitors ascertain and note their opinions regarding the management of this part of the churchyard. First notes and survey 2025.



*Photo 11: Zone C in May*

**Review:**

Review six yearly unless there are legitimate concerns from the stakeholders. Next 2031.

**Action Plan:**

For detailed management plan refer to Appendix 4.

## 5.4. ZONE D: Church Buildings and Built Structures

### Objective:

Non-intervention, except where risk of slips, falls or structural damage to the building fabric. Enable the natural growths of moss, lichen, ferns and provide a habitat opportunity for bats. Rain water collection for use in the churchyards and by those attending to graves with the provision of water butts.

### Rationale:

During roof repair/replacement work introduce bat tiles (these already fitted to the north nave roof slope). Investigate the feasibility of introducing swift boxes if changes are made. Both of these to enable growth in the population of bats and swifts. For public and staff safety clearance of moss from steps and paths.



Photo 12: Growths on stonework

### Implementation:

March-April	Remove moss from steps Check paths and remove moss is needed
Summer	Note bat and swift sightings

### Monitor:

Initially estimates of bat population and sightings of swifts. First 2025

### Review:

Review five yearly. Next 2030.

## 5.5. ZONE E: Hall Garden and Formal Borders

### Objective:

Active, regular management. To provide a well-tended, safe and enclosed space that is both peaceful for people to sit and reflect in, as well as for more active recreation and eco-education.

### Rational:

As this is an enclosed zone used for recreation by the Youth Group, the Toddler Group, MU tea parties, and for other outdoor events the grass is kept as a close-cut lawn, the hedge cut twice a year, paths swept and border garden well-tended so this space meets the expectations and needs of the users. To support the eco work and education work with young people a veg and seed box has been introduced as well as a hedgehog house.

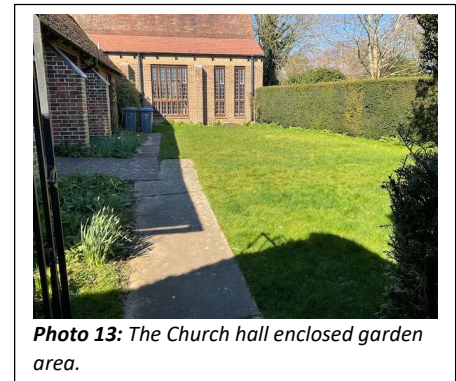


Photo 13: The Church hall enclosed garden area.

### Implementation:

All year	Low-cut of lawn and collection of grass cuttings. Sweep paths. Weed boards. Plant, water and harvest veg/seed box
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**Monitor:**

Seek the views of users as to how they feel the hall garden and borders are maintained and suit their use of them. Record comments.

**Review:**

Review annually, as the requirements of the users may change from year to year.

## **6. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION.**

The plan supports and enhances ecosystems by the non-use of pesticides, limiting a bonfire to one a year in the meadow car park, and through the targeted intentions of the plan.

It provides biomaterials by introducing a system of compost bins, wood piles and habitat piles.

It helps regulates the environment through low disturbance of the soil, encouraging tree & hedge planting, soil biomass and supports water regulation through plant/tree uptake, diverting roof and hard surface rain water to soakaways and water butts.

It supports and develops culture, a sense of place, health, recreation, cultural heritage, and aesthetic value by being open to local residents and visitors with the added benefit of the church being open during daylight hours with a free café in the mornings for refreshment and fellowship. There is nearly always someone around to show people round, provide information about the church, grounds, local area and history. The church seeks to be a source of information for education about the environment and the part we all can play in caring for it.

There are many factors that may influence site change: on the site- volunteer numbers, possible changes in the way the PCC wish to use the land, such as more areas designated for ashes burials; off-site - change in adjoining land use, such as housing and increased traffic or sports fields limiting ecosystem and habitat corridors, and change in farming practice and field pesticide use; physical constraints - change in climate.

## Appendix - Land Management Plan

### Appendix 1: Species Lists - Rushmere St Andrew's Church Grounds

Records of Protected species within 1 km include stag beetle, and priority species include hedgehog  
Tree Species 2020, following tree survey by tree surgeon, to be reviewed every five years, next review September, 2025.

Baseline survey taken 30/03/2025 and 11/04/2025			
<b>Car Park area</b>	<b>Birds identified in all areas</b>		
Lime	Blackbird	Chaffinch	Magpie
Oak	Blue tit	Crow	Wood Pigeon
Horse Chestnut	Bullfinch	Chiff chaff	Pheasant
	Herring gull		Robin
			Green woodpecker
<b>Mammals in all areas</b>	<b>Invertebrates</b>	<b>Moths and Butterflies in all areas</b>	
Bats	Snail	White tailed bumble bee	
Grey Squirrel	Earthworm	Red Admiral butterfly	
Hedgehog	Slow worm		
Muntjac deer			
Shrew			

Baseline for Plants and Trees identified 30/03/2025 and 11/04/2025 by Zone			
Church Hall Garden Zone E	Wildlife Area Zone B	Wild Flower Meadow Zone C	Woodland Area Zone A
Yew hedge	Plum Sycamore Copper Beech Silver birch Crab Apple x2 Yew hedge	Spindleberry Portuguese laurel Elder Leylandii Conifer Yew Hedge Field Maple(planted 2025) Hornbeam (planted 2025)	Blackthorn Norway Maple Beech Wild Cherry (Prunus) Holly Hawthorn Lawson Cypress Yew hedge
Clover	Bulbous Buttercup	Aconite (March)	
Common Comfrey	Celandine	Creeping Cinquefoil	Hybrid Bluebell
Dandelion	Common daisy	Groundsel	Ivy
Green Alkanet	Groundsel	Mallow	Periwinkle (Vinca)
Mouse Ear	Primrose	Field Scabious	Daffodil
Hawkweed	Queens Anne Lace	Sedum	Primrose
Daisy	Violet	Spring Crocus	
Hedge Mustard	Nettles	Wild Strawberry	
Spear Thistle	Herb Robert	Wood anenome	
Red dead nettle	Cow Parsley	Violet	
	Hybrid Bluebell	Yarrow	
	Star of Bethlehem	Ladies Bedstraw	
	Ivy	Ivy	
	Green Alkanet		
	Germander Speedwell		
	Daffodil		
	Snowdrop (February)		

## Appendix 2: Detail plan for Woodland Area – zone A



Central clearing, compost bins – March 2025

UKHab w1broadleaved & mixed woodland classification [ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)

### Performance indicators:

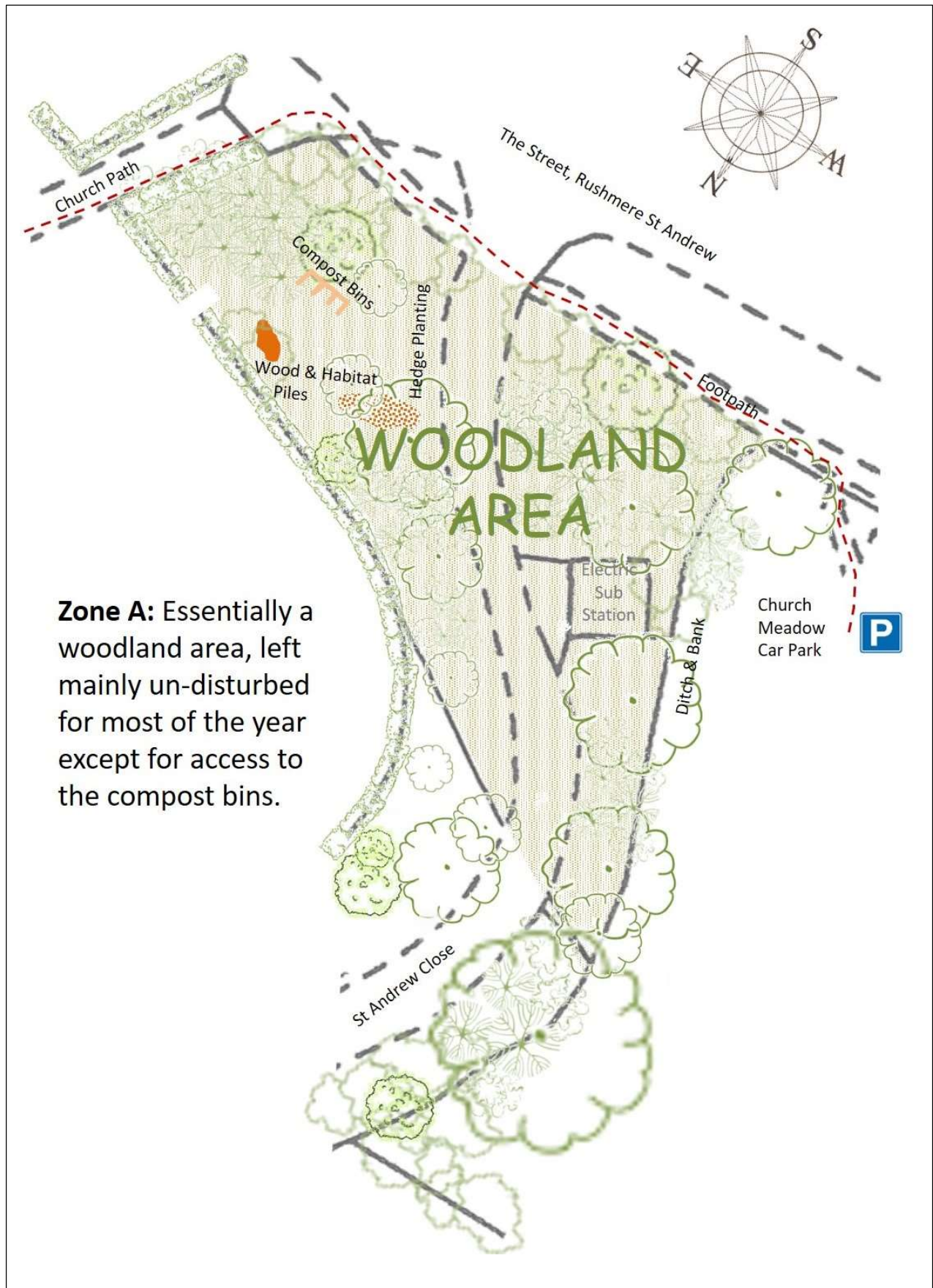
- Stag Beetles
- Slow Worms
- Hedgehogs

### Yearly cycle of action:

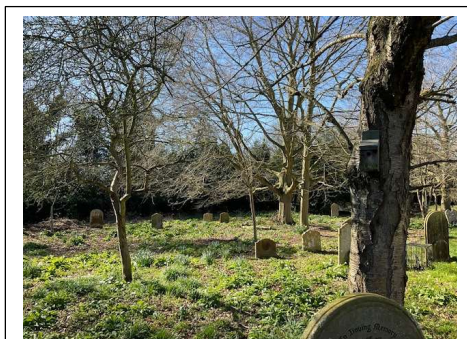
Dec-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top up wood piles.</li> <li>• Check-clean nest boxes.</li> <li>• Prune laurel growth.</li> <li>• Construct new compost bin if needed.</li> </ul>
Feb-March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-fill tree planting.</li> <li>• Remove ivy from boundary yew hedge.</li> </ul>
Late Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey</li> </ul>
Sept/Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prune trees to ensure canopy does not become dense.</li> </ul>

### Projects for action:

1. Build Log Stumpery: logs upright, 50cm deep in soil, in dappled shade for Stag Beetles, see [Stag Beetles - record your sightings for the Great Stag Hunt - PTES](#) and [Stag Beetle | Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#)
2. Construct Log Piles: in different locations – in shade for fungi, mosses & invertebrates, and in full sun for solitary bees.
3. If tree work is needed to stop the canopy closing completely, work in Sept/October to avoid the maternity and hibernation seasons of bats. Leave cut wood on ground for a few days to allow any bats and insects dwelling under bark and in cracks to relocate.
4. Making and locating around the zone bat boxes, see. [Roosts in trees - Bat roosts - Bat Conservation Trust](#) and also [Home - Bats In Churches](#).
5. Where not causing damage, leave ivy thickets as important for bats as well as for other species.
6. Consider boundary tree planting along the ditch/bank west boundary of the site.
7. Consider further hedge planting beside the St Andrew's Close drive to further enclose the area – reduce disturbance and improve the seclusion of this area.



## Appendix 3: Detail Plan for Wildlife Area – zone B



Medium cut area, nest boxes on trees  
– March 2025



Low cut area, access to ashes plots – March  
2025

UKHab  
Mixed woodland &  
neutral grassland  
classification [ukhab](#)  
– [UK Habitat](#)  
[Classification](#)

### Performance indicators:

- Moths
- Birds & Bats
- Bees

### Yearly cycle of action:

Feb	Remove ivy from yew hedge
March	Hang bee homes. Remove errant self-planting trees.
April	Low and medium grass cut, avoid area around bulbs. Establish mown path through 'wildlife area', continue to mow through the year.
May	No mowing (except for the path through the wildlife area). Survey spring flowers. Note use of nest boxes.
June-July Aug-Sept	Cut grass, remove arisings and cut margins of nettle area. Note bee and moth sightings.
Oct-Nov	Cut/scythe the 'wild' area. Rake leaves, transfer to compost bins – leave some 'heaps' in wildlife area. Remove ivy and overhanging branches from hedge. Prune any dangerous low tree branches. Remove nettles from central area of nettle bed. Sow wildflower seeds & over-sow in Feb (red campion, yellow archangel)
Dec	Cut 'wild' area to ground level. Clean nest boxes.

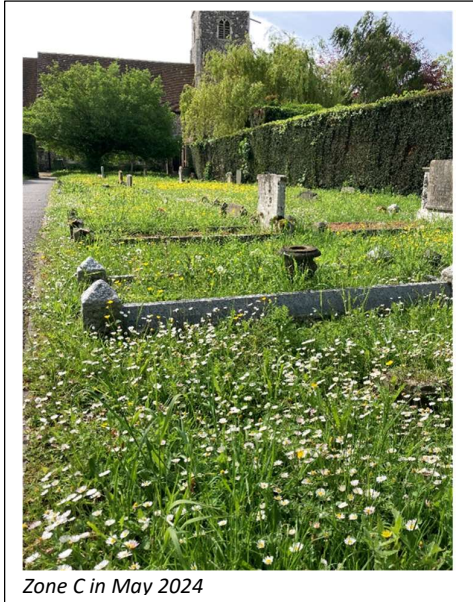
### Projects for action:

1. Reduce the cover of Alexanders (Horse Parsley – *Smyrniolus atriplicifolius*) and Stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) – leave some nettles as food plant for the caterpillars of Small tortoiseshell and Peacock butterflies, aphids shelter in them giving food for ladybird. [Stinging nettle | Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#)
2. Currently Tit family nesting boxes, make and locate boxes for Sparrow, Robin, Owl – information at [Nest Record Scheme | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](#)
3. Consider borrowing a moth trap [Borrow a Moth Trap | Butterfly Conservation](#)
4. Consider fixing Swift boxes: [SOS Swifts | Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#) if not possible on church try and locate suitable sites in area.
5. Introduce a log stumpery, another log pile and bug/bee hotels [How to make a bee hotel | Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#)

**Zone B:** A mixed area of grassland and trees forming a wildlife area with public access path to main features.



## Appendix 4: Detail plan for Wild Flower meadow – zone C



Zone C in May 2024

UKHab g3 Semi-improved grasslands and meadows classification [ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)

### Performance indicators:

- Butterflies
- Forbs (herbaceous flowering plants)
- Grasses, sedges and rushes
- By 1m<sup>2</sup> quadrangle survey – aim for 6-8 plus forbs/ rushes/grasses / sedges per m<sup>2</sup>

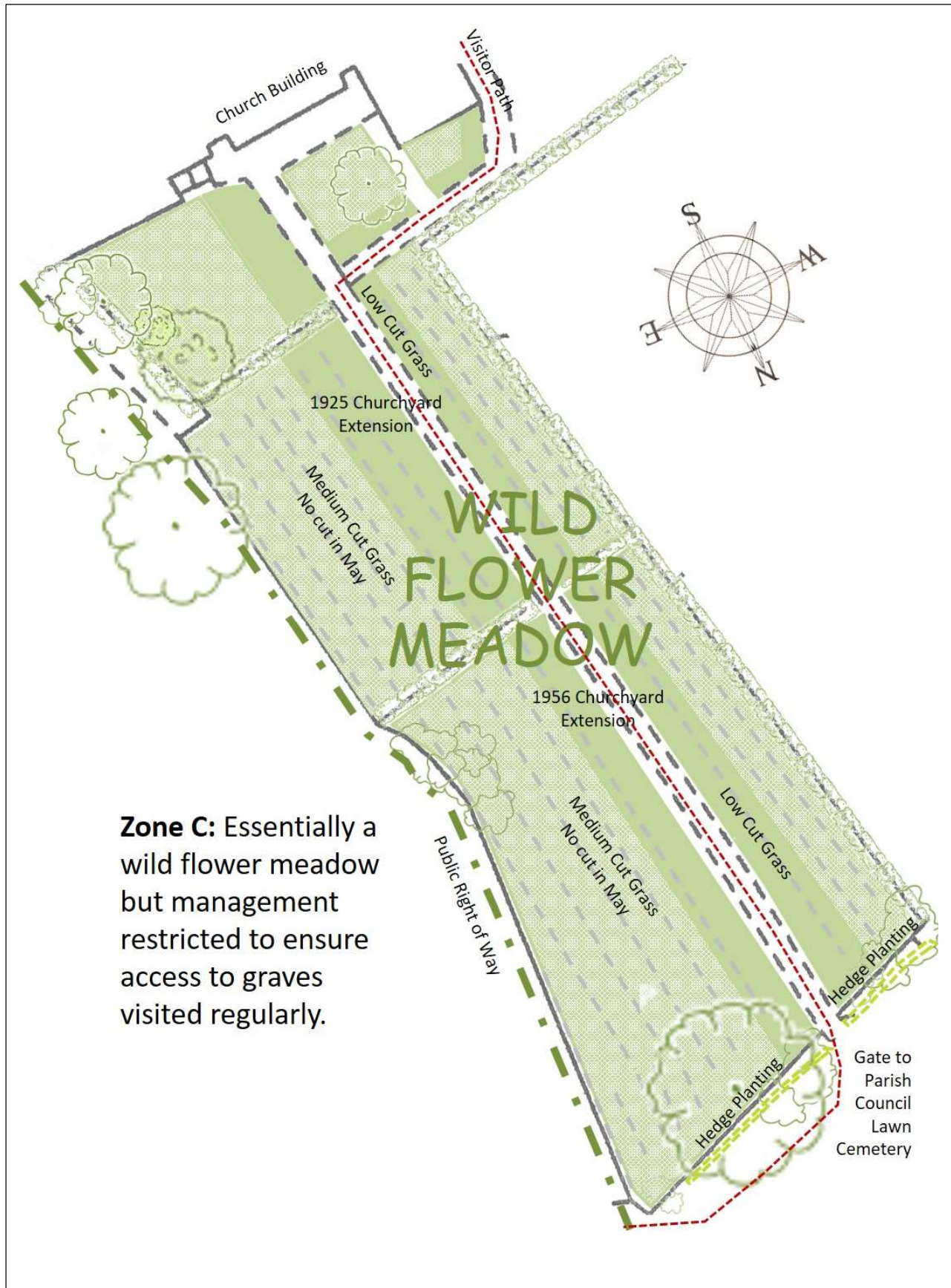
General principals of grassland management [Meadows and grassland | Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#)

### Yearly cycle of action

Feb-April	Low & Medium cuts Ensure paths are safe and remove moss if needed.
April to mid/late June	No cuts except beside path. Survey flowering grasses and note butterfly observations.
Late June	Before cuts survey the zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By quadrangle survey</li> <li>- By number of butterfly species</li> </ul> Continue low cut beside paths.
July & Sept/Oct	Continue low cut beside paths. July main cut of area left uncut in April-June, leave arisings for few days to dry and shed seeds, then remove hay from site. Sept/October cut all areas.
Dec-Jan	Prune shrubs and low branches.

### Projects for action:

1. Negotiate with Suffolk NORSE regarding possible changes in grass cutting and work towards leaving 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the area uncut in rotation each year – this will need to be introduced gradually and explained to stakeholders.
2. Consider making and siting very large bird boxes for barn and tawny owls on boundary trees.
3. Have information boards by gate to Lawn Cemetery to explain how and why the churchyard is managed for wildlife.



**Zone C:** Essentially a wild flower meadow but management restricted to ensure access to graves visited regularly.

## Appendix 5: 10-year overarching management plan

DATE	ACTIVITY	DONE
<b>Every Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out monthly work on each zone as per plan for that zone.</li> <li>• Update 'Eco-Church' display boards in church.</li> <li>• Collate feedback and species sitings by church visitors.</li> <li>• Make formal species surveys of the 'performance indicators for each zone, also, not occasional sightings and findings as well as absence of species previously recorded.</li> <li>• Take seasonal photographs of each zone for the photographic record of changes evolving in the site.</li> </ul>	
<b>Previous</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make and situate in zones A, B &amp; E bird boxes, bug hotels, hedgehog houses.</li> <li>• Build compost bins in zone A.</li> <li>• Remove ivy &amp; elder from yew hedge in zone B.</li> <li>• Cut all of nettle bed in zone B.</li> <li>• Introduce native wild flower mix in bare patches of zone B.</li> <li>• Plant native hedge species in zone A to improve shelter.</li> </ul>	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
<b>2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce full management plan to PCC</li> <li>• Purchase 'Churchyard and Eco-Church' display board for old end of church.</li> <li>• Update current display and provide information leaflets, boards, and feedback/sightings forms.</li> <li>• Compile base-line species lists to all zones.</li> <li>• Take base-line seasonal photographs of each zone.</li> <li>• Professional tree survey in 2020 (next September 2025)</li> </ul>	✓ ✓ ✓
<b>2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review zone E (hall garden) management plan</li> <li>• Create additional compost bin.</li> <li>• Plant Lavandula x intermedia in border/garden for bumble bees and butterflies,</li> <li>• Empty 1<sup>st</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Review tree &amp; hedge planting – replace any that died</li> <li>• Clean nest boxes.</li> </ul>	

<b>2027</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review zone A (woodland) management plan.</li> <li>• Review zone E (hall garden) management plan</li> <li>• Plant additional hedging in zone A, alongside St Andrew's close.</li> <li>• Start refilling 1<sup>st</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Empty 2<sup>nd</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Refresh bug hotel and bee homes.</li> </ul>	
<b>2028</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review zone E (hall garden) management plan</li> <li>• Start refilling 2<sup>nd</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Empty 3<sup>rd</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Consider if additional native tree planting needed</li> <li>• Clean nest boxes.</li> </ul>	
<b>2029</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review zone A (woodland) management plan.</li> <li>• Review zone B (wildlife area) management plan.</li> <li>• Review zone E (hall garden) management plan</li> <li>• Start refilling 3<sup>rd</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Empty 4<sup>th</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Refresh bug hotel and bee homes.</li> </ul>	
<b>2030</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review zone D (built structures) management plan.</li> <li>• Review zone E (hall garden) management plan</li> <li>• Start refilling 4<sup>th</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Empty 1<sup>st</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Consider if additional native hedge planted needed</li> <li>• Clean nest boxes.</li> <li>• Request professional tree survey and subsequent work.</li> </ul>	
<b>2031</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review zone A (woodland) management plan.</li> <li>• Review zone C (wild flower meadow) management plan,</li> <li>• Review zone E (hall garden) management plan</li> <li>• Start refilling 1<sup>st</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Empty 2<sup>nd</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Refresh bug hotel and bee homes.</li> </ul>	
<b>2032</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review zone E (hall garden) management plan</li> <li>• Start refilling 2<sup>nd</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Empty 3<sup>rd</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Review hedge and tree planting</li> <li>• Clean nest boxes.</li> </ul>	
<b>2033</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review zone A (woodland) management plan.</li> <li>• Review zone B (wildlife area) management plan.</li> <li>• Review zone E (hall garden) management plan</li> <li>• Start refilling 3<sup>rd</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Empty 4<sup>th</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Refresh bug hotel and bee homes.</li> </ul>	
<b>2034</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review zone E (hall garden) management plan</li> <li>• Start refilling 4<sup>th</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Empty 1<sup>st</sup> compost bin.</li> <li>• Consider additional native tree planting</li> <li>• Clean nest boxes.</li> </ul>	
<b>2035</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request professional tree survey and subsequent work.</li> </ul>	

**The PCC adopted this Land Management policy document at the May 2025 PCC meeting.**

The Eco-Church Group recognise that St Andrew's is blessed with an extremely hard-working team of volunteers.

The working party meet every Monday, with some also working on other days of the week.

Their members include: -

Kevin Brazier  
Jim Ainslie  
Ruth Silburn  
David Yaraslaw  
Sue Scotchmere  
David du Boulay  
Russell Scates

The Eco-Church Group wish to thank Cathy Smith, Suffolk Wildlife Trust Conservation Adviser for her enormous help in preparing this land management plan and species lists.

The Land Management Plan compiled by Tim Oxbrow & Ruth Silburn