



REVISED PLAN NOVEMBER 2021

CHURCHYARDS & CEMETERIES

1. INTRODUCTION

Churchyards, cemeteries, crematoria and 'green' burial sites are places where people are laid to rest and the living come to remember them. Churchyards can be very ancient and were often areas of old hay meadow likely never to have been ploughed, fertilised or sprayed. They are often the oldest enclosed piece of land in a parish, the establishment of boundaries preventing the grazing of animals from the 13th Century.



Oldberrow © Jane O'Dell

Churchyards can therefore represent relics of former countryside with the meadow habitat never fertilised apart from their primary use as a place for burial. This 'unimproved' pasture may be the only such grassland in a parish, and may contain a variety of plants that are now rare in the surrounding countryside such as devil's-bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) and betony (*Stachys officinalis*). Churchyards can also be a habitat for butterflies, other insects, molluscs, amphibians, slow worms (*Anguis fragilis*) and bats. The church itself may be a roost for swifts (*Apus apus*) which can be problematic for repair and restoration.

Other habitats can include veteran trees especially yews (*Taxa baccata*), hedges, ponds, ditches, ivy-clad walls and unusual tree specimens; three quarters of Britain's ancient yews are found in churchyards (Cooper, 2014). The variety of stone used in boundary walls, gravestones and the church itself provides habitat for a range of mosses, ferns, and drought tolerant plants; 20 species that rely on church walls are now rare in the wild. Where ivy (*Hedera helix*) has completely smothered graves its presence can be problematic, causing them to subside or collapse; however, in some cases it is holding monuments together and removal must be selective (Cooper, 2014).

The variety of substrates and aspects in churchyards also encourages a rich diversity of lichen species which are particularly important in Warwickshire because of the rarity of stone outcrops elsewhere in the local landscape.

Some 'natural burial grounds' are created in old grassland with the meadow vegetation allowed to remain unchanged, or modified to create a nature reserve as at [Sun Rising](#) in the south-east of the county on the edge of the Cotswold escarpment. City centre churchyards can often provide refuges for wildlife and bring solace into an otherwise busy, noisy environment. Any rough grassland would be valuable for barn owls (*Tyto alba*). The increasingly scarce spotted flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) can be encouraged by open fronted boxes high on walls to avoid predation from grey squirrels.

In this action plan the churchyard incorporates the church, other buildings, graves and walls as well as grass and trees. These habitats are the responsibility of the churchwardens with all management works to them requiring Diocesan permission.

Churchyard management is normally carried out either by volunteers from the church congregation or by a gardener employed and paid for by the Parochial Church Council.

There are a number of redundant churches and chapel sites which are closed for regular worship and these also need management and could be of value for wildlife.

2.	OBJECTIVES	TARGETS
Associated Action Plans are: 'Lowland Grassland (all types)', 'Built Environment', 'Hedgehog', 'Bats', 'Barn Owl' and 'Song Thrush'		
PLEASE CONSULT THE '<i>GENERIC HABITATS</i>' ACTION PLAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS DOCUMENT FOR OBJECTIVES COMMON TO ALL HABITAT PLANS		
A.	To enhance the range of habitats within churchyards and cemeteries for wildlife and wild flowers	ongoing
B.	To use churchyards as a source of local provenance seed to restore local meadows.	ongoing

3. NATIONAL BAP OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

There are no national Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) objectives and targets for Churchyards and Cemeteries. However, the distinctive threats and management issues associated with this land use make it worthy of a separate action plan.

Although not a national BAP habitat, churchyards may well harbour national BAP species. The only recorded churchyard site of the rare lichen *Anaptychia ciliaris* in Warwickshire is at Weston-under-Weatherley, on only one headstone so the species is very vulnerable; this is possibly its only site in the county. The British Lichen Society are revisiting sites where it has been recorded in the past to reassess its present status (pers.comm. Ivan Pedley, 2014).

4. CURRENT STATUS

In 1984 it was estimated that there were 759 'churches' in Warwickshire Vice County 38, of which 283 had enough churchyard to warrant a survey. A botanical survey of churchyards was therefore carried out during 1984/85 by the Women's Institutes (WIs) and the results are available in the [Local Biological Records Centre](#) in the Warwickshire County Council.

4.1 Legal and Policy Status

A wide range of species and habitats are protected under international and domestic laws, including the [Wild Birds Directive](#) (1979), the [Wildlife and Countryside Act](#) (1981), the [Conservation Regulations](#) (1994) and [EC Habitats Directive](#) (1992). Protection of sites is afforded nationally through [Sites of Special Scientific Interest](#) (SSSI), [Special Areas of Conservation](#) (SAC) and [Local Nature Reserve](#) (LNR) statutory status. Other sites are

offered recognition of their value through Local Wildlife Site status (LWS), Local Character Areas and identified Landscape Scale Areas. The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (2021) paragraph 180 states conditions with regard to any development negatively affecting biodiversity, including protected sites, ancient woodland and other irreplaceable habitats. The Wildlife & Countryside Act and the [Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations](#) (EU exit, 2019) make it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, take, possess, sell, buy or transport a range of species.

Nationally a few churchyards have been legally designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and some churchyards have become nature reserves. These usually have well-written management plans. It is more common for a churchyard to be designated a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) or equivalent; the designation of sites is ongoing, with 5 in 2015: Alderminster, Lillington, Oldberrow, Wishaw and Barston (the last two sites include meadows).

Churches and churchyards can also provide habitats for a number of statutorily protected species such as bats, badgers and reptiles. Relevant legislation includes various schedules of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 as well as the Habitats Directive; for example, bats are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act and Schedule 2 of the Conservation Regulations (Natural Habitats) 1994 (Regulation 38).

4.2 Current Factors Affecting the Habitat

- **Size** - most churchyards are relatively small which may affect population sizes of certain groups or species. Cemeteries tend to be larger.
- **Attitude** towards 'untidiness'. There can be ignorance of the value of tall herb and longer grass for a wide diversity of insect and bird life, with grass areas often being mowed too closely or subject to the use of chemical fertilisers. The main problems for butterfly conservation are too frequent mowing, over-tidiness and total neglect (pers.comm. Michael Slater, 2013)
- **Lack of resources / volunteers / equipment** to carry out the final cut and rake off grass. This can be a very labour intensive exercise but is important since leaving cuttings can lead to gradual nutrient enrichment of the soil. In the long-term it will favour the growth of more vigorous grasses rather than fine grasses and flowering herbs.
- **Gravestones** make cutting very time consuming and the grass can become tussocky in the immediate vicinity.
- **Introduction of inappropriate plants**, such as memorial trees that shade out valuable grassland or plants that compete or hybridise with native species (e.g. cultivated *Primulas*).
- **Insufficient management guidelines**. There is sometimes little control over the planting of inappropriate species, the use of pesticides (especially herbicides) and removal of rubbish from tended graves and headstones.
- **Cleaning lichens off gravestones**. Some gardening firms advertise this as a service.
- **Lack of awareness/education** of how the churchyard or cemetery can each serve its primary purpose and also be managed in a way that is sensitive to its inherent biodiversity value.

3. 10-POINT PLAN FOR ENHANCING A CHURCHYARD OR CEMETERY FOR WILDLIFE.

First, get together a group of like-minded people to spread the word about caring for parish wildlife and to forestall any concerns - also it shares out the work.	
1.	Map the site , noting the different areas e.g. church buildings, gravestones, grassland, trees, and keep a notebook for people to record the plants and animals they see, e.g. meadow flowers, bats, hedgehogs. Write a management plan .
2.	Create a summer meadow , leaving some grass areas long from the end of May, but cutting in August/September or the grass will become tussocky. Manage by strimming or scything so that wild flowers can set seed. Consider grazing if sheep are available but care if you have yew trees. Manage areas of spring flowers by not mowing until June.
3.	In regularly mown areas , do not mow too often or too short to allow plants like self-heal, plantains and bird's foot trefoil to flower. Aim to mow every 2-3 weeks , always removing cut material to reduce nutrient levels and prevent shading of the plants. In out-of-the-way spots let grass become tall and tussocky , only strimming to 4-6in high - you may have slow worms which like a structured habitat.
4.	Create a compost heap using grass cuttings and dead flowers , ideally with three open sections for a 3-year rotation – offer compost free to members of the congregation. A good opportunity for volunteering and it may attract the harmless grass snake.
5.	Install a range of types of bird boxes, insect 'hotels', hedgehog homes and bat boxes , away from artificial lighting to reduce disturbance.
6.	Aim to cut only a third of hedgerow length each year , allowing shrubs to flower and fruit to remain through the winter to feed birds. Restore gappy hedgerows by layering and planting up gaps with native species.
7.	Avoid damaging bark when mowing and strimming around all trees. Retain mature and veteran trees, and plant new native species trees to ensure replacement for the future. Take care when removing ivy as it may be holding stonework together; the best method of control is to weaken it by continuous cutting.
8.	Retain dead wood where possible, leaving fallen branches and standing dead trees which is 10 times as valuable for bats, birds and invertebrates – though care over danger to the public.
9.	Keep pathways clear and cut paths through grassy and wild flower areas so that people can see that churchyard is being looked after.
10.	Care for your lichens . They take many years to grow and may be the only example in the county so need to be conserved. Only clean those parts of gravestones and memorials with inscriptions , with water and a soft brush. Leave lichens on dry stone walls, church buildings, old gate posts and fences. If replacing woodwork, retain some old sections from which recolonisation to the new wood can occur.
Tell people what you are doing by displaying the map of the churchyard and the management plan so that they can see and understand the importance of the work.	

4.4 7-POINT PLAN TO CONSERVE LICHENS IN CHURCHYARDS & CEMETERIES

1	If lichen-rich trees pose a health and safety issue the first action should be to remove diseased parts rather than felling. If the latter decision is taken, replanting with the same species is desirable.
2	If stonework / walls need repairing it is preferable if the job is portioned and treated in 5-year periods, thus allowing the spread of lichens before the next area is tackled.
3	Bricks should be re-used wherever possible, ensuring that any surface with lichens faces the outside.
4	When new building is undertaken the use of local stone similar to that of the wall, together with the use of soft mortar, is preferable. Hard ribbon mortar does not encourage the growth of lichens and creates a frost-vulnerable joint that may exacerbate the weathering of the stone.
5	Although some cleaning may be necessary in order to read and record an inscription, that part of the stone only should be cleaned. Only water and soft brush should be used. It is undesirable to use bleach, herbicide or algacide.
6	When replacing fences or posts, it is helpful to retain some old sections from which colonisation of the new wood can progress as conditions become suitable. Painting wood or treating it with preservative is best avoided where possible as it inhibits colonisation.
7	Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>) may impede the establishment of lichens. Medieval stonework is often of great importance for its lichen communities and should be kept free from ivy and other vegetation which may shade out the lichens. However, complete removal of long-established ivy can be counter-productive as the process of removal may cause structural damage. If ivy is continually cut its vigour is weakened so this is the preferred option in most cases.
<p>It would be helpful if important lichen sites could be designated as Local Wildlife Sites. To find out about this process please contact the Local Wildlife Sites team on 01926 412197. Email records of lichens to the Local Biological Records Centre: wbrc@warwickshire.gov.uk</p>	

5. LOCAL ACTION

- Local authorities are responsible for the maintenance of many cemeteries, these are managed under contract. London Road Cemetery (Coventry) has an impressive selection of trees, good bird population and areas for wildlife. [Oakley Wood](#), managed by Warwick District Council, has an extensive area of open space and associated woodlands. Wildflower planting has been carried out at Leamington Cemetery by Warwick District Council.
- In Solihull 'Ecocentres', an initiative that builds on the Ecoschools concept, was trialled in four churches (St Peter's Church, Balsall Common, St James' Church, Bentley Heath, St Philip's Church, Dorridge and Chelmsley Baptists Church, Chelmsley Wood). The scheme promoted activities that will count towards a church achieving Eco-centre status.
- In 1984 the [Warwickshire Federation of Women's Institutes](#) carried out a botanical survey of churchyards, a tremendous achievement by many of the county's best botanists; many WIs took part in collecting this information and preserving the often beautifully illustrated results. Individual completed survey forms were filed in the appropriate ecosite files and also listed in order of their rating. This list may have been archived following the move from the Butts to Barrack St and can no longer be found.

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- In 1994 the [Warwickshire Wildlife Trust](#) promoted the improvement of churchyards and burial grounds for wildlife with a leaflet of advice, highlighting sites already known to give wildlife 'Special Sanctuary'. In 2013 it obtained funding for a churchyard project, carried out by several parishes including Wellesbourne (pers.comm. Jennifer Wharton, 2014).
- At Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground & Nature Reserve, 16 acre of set aside was bought in 2006 to turn improved grassland into a number of different habitats, funded by the burial ground business. Within the 4 acres currently used for burial, a half-acre wildflower meadow has been sown, and by 2017 another 1-2 acres will become more meadow. Native trees, seeds and bulbs have been planted on the graves by relatives, hedges been extended and a pond and long-term tussock habitat created, The remaining grassland, improved with minimal fertiliser and mown for hay and sometimes grazed by sheep, will be developed as a further patchwork of habitats. Open Days and Activity Days are held, including the annual wild flower meadow cut. Nature Watch days with nature walks, bulb planting and tree planting days. In 2015 a moth night open to the public was held and trees were planted in the burial area.
- In 2012 the conservation charity [Caring for God's Acre](#) (CFGa) launched a new national initiative - Cherishing Churchyards Week which has taken place in June every year since. It is now called Love your Burial Ground Week. In June 2019 events included Alveston and Oldberrow.
- A number of churchyards in the sub-region manage part or all of their grounds for wildlife, many working to existing management plans, developed with the support of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust or the [Living Churchyards Project](#). Examples include Offchurch, Oldberrow, Alderminster and Oxhill - see below, also Barston, Temple Balsall, Studley, Lea Marston and Wootton Wawen. Rowington and Dunchurch also have good meadows (pers.comm. Camille Newton 2013).
 - At Offchurch the churchyard has been divided so that conservation can take place in an old area and the grass is neatly mown where interments take place.
 - Oldberrow Churchyard is a perfect example of old unimproved neutral grassland and is managed accordingly. Two requests for local provenance seed have recently been received and one of the projects is now in progress: hay from the churchyard has been spread on a paddock belonging to a local farm in an agri-environment scheme. An annual 'Wildflower Weekend' is held to inform visitors of the biodiversity of the churchyard; the churchyard hay cut is often a community event.
 - The [Oxhill Wildlife Society](#) has organised an unmown area in the churchyard for wildflowers and are seeing an increase in butterflies; it is planning to install swift boxes in the church roof.
 - At Alveston the [St James Churchyard Conservation Project](#) which began in 2013 with the erection of bird boxes has now built a new compost heap and habitat pile. In 2014 a meadow was restored in the old area of the churchyard (2014), transplanting wildflowers to 'more appropriate' places and marking out areas to be left unmown; signs were be put up to tell

people about the nettles left as caterpillar food. By 2015 three work parties a year were being held.

- At Rowington-with-Lowsenford a management plan is being written to conserve the grassland for the primroses and rare burnet saxifrage and dropwort with an appropriate mowing regime.
 - Alderminster has been in the Living Churchyards Project for several years. Close to the church are closely mown paths, and just outside these paths is meadow-type grassland. This is mown once or twice a year, usually in late summer (but mowing schemes vary). In the more remote parts of the churchyard, the grass is not mown, and these are allowed to grow wild. The area around these gravestones had been colonised by vipers bugloss.
 - At Gaydon there are 2 burial grounds managed as wildlife areas, with good butterfly populations: the church has common blue (*Polyommatus icarus*), small copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*) and brown argus (*Aricia artaxerxes*) butterflies and the grave ground also has marbled white (*Melannargia galathea*).
 - At Tysoe a wild flower meadow was begun in the churchyard in 2019.
- In 2015 the HBA partnership worked with Caring for God's Acre (CFGa) to carry out a survey of Alderminster churchyard, using the Burial Ground Botanical Companion booklet.
 - The Warwickshire Flora Group has surveyed 13 churchyards in their tetrad survey programme for 2015: these are Church End, London Rd Coventry, Newton Regis, Mancetter, Barston, Warwick Cemetery, Clifton, Dunchurch, St James Old Milverton, St James Long Lawford, Middleton and Churchover.
 - In 2017, the Warwickshire Association for Local Councils invited Parish Councils to survey their churchyards and cemeteries for flowers and wildlife, using the survey form on the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust website.
 - In 2018, at the University of Warwick, an M.Sc. student project trialled the use of green hay from Oldberrow Church at 5 species-poor sites in Coventry.
 - The [Coventry Diocesan Environmental Group](#) (CDEG) has formed a 'Care of Creation Champion' role to help develop and assist in inspiring and encouraging God's people to engage in caring for creation. A flyer sent out in 2014 invited interest in this national campaign so that a champion may be appointed in each church; the role is flexible, adaptable to each local situation, and a point of contact for the diocese.
 - A conference 'Reconciling a Wounded Planet' was held at Coventry Cathedral in 2015, to respond to the challenge of reconciliation in a world where conflicting demands on the world's limited resources are leading to a developing crisis and to draw lessons from the past. The Coventry Diocesan Advisory Committee has appointed an ecologist, currently David Lowe, WCC's Principal Ecologist.
 - A **Biodiversity Statement** (see **PL2, section 6**), recommending a strategic approach to the management of churchyards as wildlife stepping stones across the landscape, was written in 2015 by the LBAP Steering Group and adapted by Godfrey Armitage (CDEG) for circulation to all churches in the Coventry Diocese (see **PL2/3**).
 - [Ecochurch](#) - A Rocha UK award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to engage with their local community and in global campaigns, and in the

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personal lifestyles of their congregations. The actions they take count towards a prestigious Eco Church Award at Bronze, Silver or Gold level.

- this scheme was launched in 2016 in the Coventry Diocese which is now a Bronze Award Eco-Diocese. By 2021 68 churches had registered of which 18 have won Bronze Awards, 5 have achieved Silver and St Andrew's Rugby has received a Gold Award.
- the Birmingham Diocese has also gained Bronze level accreditation, EcoChurch being its chosen way into eco-churchyard management (Patrick Gerard, pers.comm.2021).

6. PROPOSED LOCAL ACTIONS

ACTION	Lead	Partners	By
PLEASE CONSULT THE '<i>GENERIC HABITATS</i>' ACTION PLAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS DOCUMENT FOR ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL HABITAT PLANS			
Policy & Legislation			
PL1. Continue to select all qualifying churchyards and cemeteries as LWSs, using appropriate LWS criteria for ' <i>Grassland</i> ' or ' <i>Parkland</i> ' depending on the dominant habitat, and enter onto database.	LWSP	WWT WCC NE LAs	ongoing
PL2. Birmingham and Coventry dioceses to draw up a Biodiversity Statement, recommending a strategic approach to the management of churchyards as wildlife stepping stones across the landscape.	CDEG	NE DACs WWT PCCs	achieved for Coventry in 2015
PL3. Birmingham and Coventry dioceses to circulate this Statement to their parishes in a phased approach of minimum 10 per year from 2016.	CDEG	NE DACs WWT PCCs	achieved in Coventry
Site / Species Safeguard & Management			
SM1. Ensure all LWS sites receive management guidance and that all LWS churchyards/ cemeteries have a full management plan.	LWSP	NE LAs WWT	ongoing
SM2. Maintain and enhance existing quality habitats within churchyards and cemeteries, e.g. walls and stonework (see section 4.4), veteran trees, grassland, hedgerows and specific roosts e.g. bats, swifts, through liaison with PCCs.	CSG	PCCs EH BCT SJCA BLS BTO SRNBG LWSP CFGA	ongoing
SM3. Work with 10 churchyards per year, with reference to the Biodiversity Statement (see PL.2) and the 10 point plan (see section 4.3), to	CDEG	WCC PCCs WBRC WWT LWSP LBAP	ongoing

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enhance conditions for wildlife and wild flowers by adding biodiversity features and changing grassland and hedgerow management.			
Advisory			
A1. Promote good practice guidelines (see section 4.3) to enhance biodiversity.	CDEG	LAs DACs	ongoing
Research & Monitoring			
RM1. Continue the survey to Phase 1 (usually grassland category) methodology and digitise information of churchyards, cemeteries and crematoria habitat, including veteran trees.	HBA	WBRC PCCs SRNBG	ongoing
RM2. Carry out a detailed survey of the flora (including lichens – see section 4.4) of a minimum of 10 churchyards annually as identified by HBA, to inform habitat enhancement plans and linked to the LWS designation process.	WFG	PCCs WBRC BLS HBA LWSP BLS	ongoing
RM3. Repeat the 1984 botanical survey of churchyards by the Women's Institutes to determine the extent of losses and gains in wildlife value and extend to include butterflies using Butterfly Conservation's ' Churchyard Butterfly Monitoring ' form.	CSG	WWT DACs W.I.s BCW WBRC	achieved in 2017
RM4. Trial the use of local provenance seed /green hay at 5 sites which are species poor, found by survey work, particularly in urban areas.	CSG	LOs CovU WarU LAs SRNBG LWSP PCCs	achieved in 2018
Communication, Education & Publicity			
CP1. Establish an annual "Wildlife in Churchyards Day" with a programme of events as good examples of well managed churchyards, in spring / early summer to demonstrate the value of churchyard conservation to local communities, schools etc.	CDEG	DACs WWT LAs SRNBG SMCO	ongoing
CP2. Involve volunteers in management by turning the final grassland cut of the year into a community event, e.g. at Oldberrow Churchyard.	SRNBG	PCCs DACs CWs SMCO SJCA	

Abbreviations: BCW – Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire, BLS – British Lichen Society, CDEG – Coventry Diocesan Environmental Group, CovU – Coventry University, CSG – Core Steering Group, CWs – Church Wardens, DACs - Diocesan Advisory Committees, EH – English Heritage, NE – Natural England, HBA – Habitat Biodiversity Audit partnership, LAs – Local Authorities,

LBAP – Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership, **LOs** – Landowners, **LWSP** – Local Wildlife Sites Project, **PCCs** – Parochial Church Councils, **SJCA** – St James Church, Alveston, **SMCO** – St.Mary’s Church, Oldberrow, **SRNBG** – Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground, **WALC** – Warwickshire Association of Local Councils, **WarU** – Warwick University, **WBRC** – Warwickshire Biological Record Centre, **WCC** – Warwickshire County Council, **WFG** – Warwickshire Flora Group, **WWT** – Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

7. PROGRESS WITH ACTIONS

From 2015–2020 there will be a rolling programme of reporting on progress, of 10 action plans per year with an annual summary of results. Progress with this plan up to 2015 can be seen at <https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/LBAP>

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Natural England (2016) [Conservation Strategy for the 21st Century](#). Sets out how NE will help deliver DEFRA’s ambitions for the environment to reverse biodiversity loss, sustain distinctive landscapes and enhance engagement with nature.

Worldwide Fund for Nature (2018) [The Living Planet Report](#): aiming higher. Published in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London.

Day, J., Mayer, E. and Newall, D. (2019) [The Swift – a bird you need to help](#). The species has declined by 57%. In Practice 104: 38-42.

9. FURTHER INFORMATION

Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA) for Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull – mapping data set and associated information. Phase 1 ([JNCC](#)) 1996-2002 and Phase 2 (Local Wildlife Sites) ongoing.

[Bat Conservation Trust](#) (1988). Bats in Churchyards (leaflet). [Bat roost visiting](#) is carried out by volunteer workers who will provide advice on the protection of bats in churches and the impact of work on roosts.

[Action for Swifts](#) - provides advice for churches with nesting swifts.

[Caring for God's Acre](#) champions the conservation of churchyards and burial sites across the British Isles, through the Living Churchyard Project, the Beautiful Burial Ground Project and 'Cherishing Churchyards Week' to celebrate churchyards and burial grounds and to raise awareness of the treasures they contain. It provides information on management through Managing Churchyards and Burial Grounds and the Churchyard & Burial Ground action packs.

[Plantlife](#) - a charity which carries out plant species and habitat conservation, owns and manages nature reserves, campaigns, and raises awareness through education. Churchyard *Lecanactis*: old walls can harbour secrets (lichens). Leaflet available from 14 Rollestone St., Salisbury, Wilts. SP1 1DX.

[Buglife](#) - the Invertebrate Conservation Trust (2004) - provides information on the habitat-management requirements of key invertebrates (CD-Rom available).

Norfolk Wildlife Trust Churchyard Scheme. Grassland in Churchyards. Available online or contact Andrina Walmsly: Tel. 01603 625540.

[British Lichen Society](#) - Lowland Churchyard project

[Ancient Yew Group](#) - has a great list of veteran and ancient yews in the UK and provides management advice.

[English Heritage](#) has developed a framework for the protection of the historic environment, the National Heritage Action Plan.

[Field Studies Council](#) (2015) Fold-out Chart: Guide to Wildlife of Burial Grounds

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10. CONTACT

Jane O'Dell, email: oldberrowcottage@gmail.com

Godfrey.N. Armitage, Coventry Diocesan Environmental Group.

Email: gnarmitage@gmail.com