



Churchyard Management Booklet

www.ywt.org.uk

Love Yorkshire, Love Wildlife

The churchyard of St Helen and the Holy Cross at Sheriff Hutton was one of the first to become a haven for wildlife.



The churchyard in 1988: a sward close-mown for many years



The same view a few years later after management sympathetic to wildlife was begun



# The churchyard

The churchyard – God's Acre – is one of the most enduring features of our landscape. Over the centuries, churchyards have become sanctuaries for the living as well as the dead, where an abundance and diversity of indigenous and naturalised wildlife can flourish. Taken together, the 1300+ Yorkshire churchyards make a significant area of land that has survived untouched by intensive agriculture and urban development.

Some churchyards were formed from woodland but most were from meadowland, rich in a diversity of plant species. Sadly, the image of colourful meadows has been lost to the collective memory but churchyards can redress that loss. Their importance for wildlife was recognised as early as 1972 and by 1984 it had been demonstrated that many native plant and lichen species and their associated fauna survived only in churchyards. This came to the attention of Dr John Habgood, then Archbishop of York, and following his discussions with Sir David Attenborough the Yorkshire Living Churchyard Project was launched as a joint venture between Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Diocese of York.

The purpose of the Project is to promote interest and activity in the management of churchyards in ways that are sympathetic to the natural habitat and the ecology of native plants and animals. Information and assistance is provided to help local communities survey the wildlife present in the churchyard or cemetery and to draw up suitable management plans to benefit native wild flowers, lichens and innumerable living creatures. When requested, members of the Project make advisory visits to Yorkshire churchyards and burial grounds, regardless of the denomination. In addition, seminars are held at rural and urban churchyards throughout Yorkshire. Illustrated lectures and exhibitions are offered to organisations both Church and secular. Requests for information should be made to the Churchyard Officer who is assisted by a small team of volunteers. A large number of parishes, after initial advice and visits by the Project's volunteers, have become self-reliant and successful in developing the churchyard as a well-kept haven for wildlife.

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The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Tucker Mugabi Sentamu Archbishop of York and Patron of the Yorkshire Living Churchyard Project

## Introduction

Old grass and meadowlands have a rich variety of species but are now very rare. Plants which are allowed to flower and set seed provide both an attractive sight and a food source for many invertebrate animals including butterflies and bees (these latter are declining in numbers) which in turn are valuable food for frogs, birds and small mammals. Once, churchyards reflected the abundant wildlife of the countryside around them. Nowadays, they represent islands of refuge for plants and animals lost from intensively farmed land and urban areas. The current fashion for garden decking, paving and replacement of hedges with impenetrable fencing is particularly inhospitable to birds and small mammals such as hedgehogs. Churchyards have usually been carved out of meadowland or ancient woodland and are often rich in species associated with those habitats. Even those smaller than one acre may contain over one hundred different flowering plants and ferns. Many rare or less common species are characteristic of churchyards, including cowslips and early purple orchids. A varied flora creates an environment in which other forms of wildlife flourish.

Churchyards managed by traditional methods of cutting or grazing will have escaped applications of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals. Churchyards in towns and cities are obvious refuges for wildlife in an environment largely lacking in habitats that would provide food and shelter.

A churchyard managed with sympathy and understanding for wildlife can look well-cared for and be very attractive to people, as well as to plants and animals.

## A well-managed churchyard should be...

- a pleasant, reflective place for congregation and visitors
- a fit and proper setting for a church or chapel
- an environment in keeping with the purpose of burial and the scattering of cremated ashes, with an atmosphere of respect and commemoration for the departed
- a haven for grasses, wild flowers, trees, birds, butterflies and other wild creatures.

# When a churchyard is to be managed in ways sympathetic to wildlife, certain criteria must be borne in mind...

- the churchyard should present a 'cared-for' appearance
- there must be easy access to the church building and to tended graves
- the site of grassland set aside for nature conservation should be chosen carefully and only after a survey of species present has been made and the feasibility of management methods assessed.

To avoid confusion, there should be one person to oversee and be in charge of the overall management. All those who help with the care of the churchyard must be clear about the aims of the management and should be given a copy of the management schedule. It is important, too, that local people are kept informed.

## Management plan and schedule

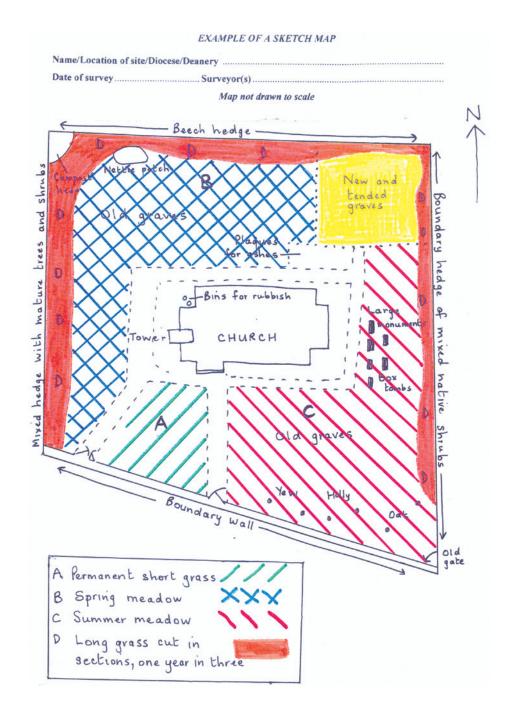
Before this can be drawn up the churchyard plants and animals must be listed and a sketch plan prepared. It is helpful to designate different areas as shown in the diagram. Coding the different areas by colour or different styles of shading is also helpful. The conservation of grassland areas can then be decided and the siting of any compost heaps and litter bins agreed.



The conservation area at St Mary's Church, Micklefield with short-mown grass around the tended graves beyond



Marking the area to be cut at St John's Church, Sharow





Surveying the churchyard at a management seminar at The Holy Trinity and St Oswald, Finningley

### EXAMPLE OF A SPECIES LIST

Name/Location of site/Diocese/Deanery ..... Date of survey.....Surveyor(s)

FLOWERING PLANTS	AREA A	AREA B	AREA C	AREA D
Achillea millefolium		v	v	N/
		X	X	X
Anthriscus sylvestrisCow parsley	***	X		
Bellis perennis Daisy	X	X	X	
Centaurea nigraKnapweed/Hardheads			X	
Cirsium vulgareSpear thistle		X	X	X
Leucanthemum vulgaris Ox-eye daisy		X	X	
Myosotis arvensis Forget-me-not		X	X	
Plantago lanceolata Ribwort plantain	X	X	X	
Prunella vulgaris Self-heal	X	X	X	
Ranunculus acris Meadow buttercup	X	X	X	
Urtica dioica Stinging nettle		X		X
Veronica chamaedrys Germander speedwell	X	X	X	
GRASSES				
Alopecurus pratensis Meadow foxtail		X	X	
Dactylis glomerata Cocksfoot		X	X	X
Holcus lanatus Yorkshire Fog		X	X	X
Poa pratensis Smooth meadow-grass		X	X	
TREES AND SHRUBS				R
Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn				X
Fagus sylvatica Beech				X
Ilex aquifolium Holly			X	X
Quercus robur English oak			X	X
Rubus fruticosus Bramble				X
Sambucus nigra Elder				X
Taxus baccata English Yew			X	X
BIRDS SEEN OR HEARD: Blue tit, Dunnock, Thrush	BUTTER	FLIES: Comm	a, Holly blue,	Wall brown

# **General guidelines**

### Trees and Shrubs

Trees are important for birds as they provide look-out posts, nesting sites and insects for food. If they are to be felled, the trunks should be left to a height of 6 to 8 feet but if they are dislodging gravestones or are growing close to the church buildings they should be removed entirely. The local council should be informed in case permission is needed. New planting should be carefully considered so that the grassy areas are not shaded out; native trees and shrubs should be used, preferably those that grow naturally in the surrounding countryside. Berry-bearing shrubs such as hawthorn and holly and the nut-bearing hazel are valuable for birds and mammals. Ivy is a very valuable plant providing nesting sites particularly for wrens and, late in the year, nectar and berries when other food sources may be scarce or used up.

### **Headstones**

These are important sites for lichens and mosses that will vary according to the type of stone, its age and its exposure to the sun and weather. These should be left untouched as far as possible as they do not harm the stone and may reduce erosion by protecting against acid rain. Headstones should be left in their original positions and the inscriptions recorded in the church archives.

### Areas around headstones and the base of trees

The grass should not be cut too close to the base of headstones and trees. An area of longer growth around these prevents damage to them and to the cutting equipment and maintains the stability of headstones as well as giving shelter to small animals such as frogs.

## **Boundary Hedges**

A thick hedge shelters birds and many other creatures. Trim to an 'A' shape, thicker at the base and narrower at the top. The height should be 4 to 5 feet and the base width 3 feet. If possible, preserve a few feet of uncut grass next to the hedge as protection and a food source for young hedgehogs.

## **Boundary Walls and Stonework**

Small plants including ferns and mosses that grow on boundary walls are important. Where walls need to be restored the work should be done in sections to allow ferns and mosses to recolonize the wall easily. If possible, lime mortar should be used and advice on this should be sought from the Diocesan Architect.

### **Birds and Bats**

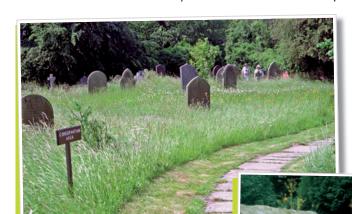
If the churchyard has suitable trees, nest boxes can encourage birdlife. One of the joys of the churchyard is to see bird activity and hear the bird song. Some churches are fortunate to have a colony of bats that will feed on the insects rising from the meadowland around the church. They are protected by law and it is illegal to disturb them. If advice is needed, contact Natural England.

### Use of chemicals

Fertilisers, insecticides, herbicides (weed-killers) should not be used as they are mostly non-selective.

### Information

It is important to display information about the management of the churchyard for wildlife conservation purposes, perhaps in the church porch and in leaflets about the church. A small notice board near the less frequently cut grass which reads 'Conservation Area' can be helpful to visitors to the churchyard.



The 'cared-for' appearance of the conservation area at the Church of the Holy Trinity and St Oswald at Finningley

Flora on the wall at St Oswald's Church, Oswaldkirk

# Management of the grassland

For many years, the rough 'rule of thumb' for churchyards that were being managed in ways sympathetic to wildlife was to mow twice a year, in late June/early July and September/October ie to practise traditional hay meadow management. Research in churchyards that have been managed for some years in this way shows that this does not necessarily achieve a fine sward with a diversity of wild flowers and, depending upon the species present, more frequent mowing may be advisable (see guidance below).

Climate change and increased nutrient levels in the countryside have extended the growing periods of plants and this, with other factors such as height above sea level, must be taken into account when determining the times and frequency of mowing. Any changes in the mowing regime should not be too drastic and be introduced gradually. This will lead, eventually, to more frequent cutting, giving a finer sward with a greater diversity of wild flowers. As noted earlier, one person (or possibly two) should have overall charge of the management and regularly monitor the species in the churchyard, adjusting the mowing regime as necessary.

In practice, most churchyards that are being managed in ways sympathetic to wildlife will have three or more areas each with its own particular mowing regime.

## 1. Permanently Close-mown Grass (up to 3 inches in height)

This gives the well-tended appearance needed in a churchyard immediately in front of the church; along the edges of paths where a one metre wide strip is usually sufficient and around frequently visited graves. Close mowing may also be needed to provide paths through meadow areas for access to the latter. To maintain this length, a weekly cut in the growing season may be necessary.



Caterpillars of the Cinnebar moth on Ragwort at All Hallows' Church, Kirkburton



Bat on a churchyard memorial at Adel

### 2. Permanent Short Grass (up to 4 to 5 inches in height)

This is valuable if interesting low-growing species are present, such as Mouse-ear hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*) or Hoary plantain (*Plantago media*). It is recommended that this area is cut every three to four weeks depending on the species present and their flowering times; it may be possible to omit the cut perhaps in early May to allow flowering and seeding. Reference should be made to the flowering times on p10 bearing in mind that these are guidelines and are not prescriptive. The area not being cut should be marked with posts and rope and cuttings removed after its eventual cut. Careful monitoring is important. The cutting, raking and disposal of cuttings after the break in cutting could be a social occasion with volunteers coming together to help and then enjoy refreshment in the churchyard afterwards.

### 3. Permanent Long Grass

It is desirable to have areas of long grass in the churchyard throughout the year. Although there will be very few colourful flowering species in these areas, they are important for the survival of overwintering butterflies, moth eggs and pupae and provide shelter, food and overwintering sites for small animals such as frogs, lizards and field voles. Areas just inside boundary walls and hedges or the less visited parts of the churchyard are suitable to be managed in this way. However, to prevent scrub invasion and to maintain the grass species these areas should be divided into three to five sections, depending on the size of the area, and a different section cut in autumn each year in rotation leaving the rest uncut. Cuttings should be removed.



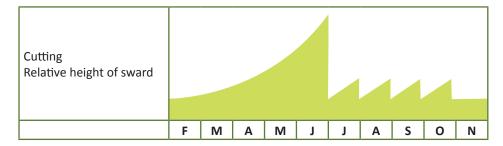
Shrew and newt at St John the Baptist Church, Adel



## 4 Spring Meadow

The table below indicates the plants that might be present in a spring meadow and the flowering times, subject to regional and seasonal changes.

	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N
Bird's foot trefoil Lotus corniculatus				Х	Х	Х	Х			
Cat's ear Hypochaeris radicata				Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Red Clover Trifolium pratense				Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Cowslip Primula veris			Х	Х						
Lady's smock Cardamine pratense			Х	Х	Х					
Bugle <i>Ajuga reptans</i>			Х	Х	Х					



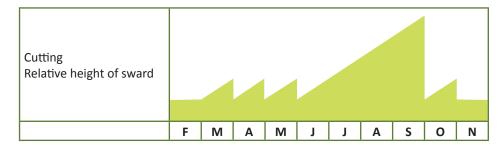
The spring meadow should be cut in mid June and the cuttings removed. Thereafter, mow once a month to a height of 2 inches until the autumn with the removal of cuttings if possible and then leave unmown until the following June.

This regime will gradually reduce the soil fertility allowing a greater diversity of wild flowers to develop whilst discouraging the coarser grasses.

### 5 Summer meadow

The table below indicates the plants that might be present in a summer meadow and the flowering times, subject to regional and seasonal changes.

	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N
Meadow buttercup Ranunculus acris					Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
Meadow cranesbill Geranium pratense					х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Ox-eye daisy Leucanthemum vulgaris				Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
Knapweed (Hardheads) Centaurea nigra					Х	Х	Х	Х		
Field scabious  Knautia arvensis					Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
Yarrow Achillea millefolium				Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х



The summer meadow should be cut to a height of 3 to 4 inches every 4 weeks through spring until the end of May and then left unmown until the end of September after which it should be cut and the cuttings shaken to release seeds and then removed. It should then be cut with the removal of cuttings if possible at the end of October.

As with the spring meadow, this regime will reduce the fertility of the soil and encourage a greater diversity of wild flowers.

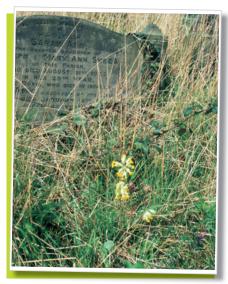
# Flowering periods of typical grassland species

SPECIES		MONTHS									
		М	Α	М	J	J	А	S	О	N	
Daisy	Bellis perennis	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
Lesser celandine	Ranunculus ficaria	Х	Х	Х							
Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Х	Х	Х							
Field woodrush	Luzula campestris	Х	Х	Х							
Cowslip	Primula veris		Х	Х							
Bugle	Ajuga reptans		Х	Х	Х						
Bulbous buttercup	Ranunculus bulbosus		Х	Х	Х						
Crosswort	Cruciata laevipes		Х	Х	Х						
Lady's smock	Cardamine pratense		Х	Х	Х						
Meadow saxifrage	Saxifraga granulata		Х	Х	Х						
Germander speedwell	Veronica chamaedrys		Х	Х	Х						
Bush vetch	Vicia sepium		Х	Х	Х	Х	х	Х	Х		
Pignut	Conopodium majus			Х	Х						
Sorrel	Rumex acetosa			Х	Х	Х					
Meadow buttercup	Ranunculus acris			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Lesser stitchwort	Stellaria graminea			Х	Х	Х	х				
Meadow vetchling	Lathyrus pratensis			Х	Х	Х	х				
Bird's foot trefoil	Lotus corniculatus			Х	Х	Х	х	Х			
Creeping buttercup	Ranunculus repens			Х	Х	Х	х	Х			
Cat's ear	Hypochaeris radicata			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х			
Red clover	Trifolium pratense			Х	Х	Х	х	Х			
Ox-eye daisy	Leucanthemum vulgare			Х	Х	Х	х	Х	Х		
Yellow rattle	Rhinanthus minor			Х	Х	Х	х	Х			
Burnet saxifrage	Pimpinella saxifraga			Х	Х	Х	х	Х			
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium			Х	Х	Х	х	Х	Х	Х	
Mouse ear hawkweed	Pilosella officinarum			Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Agrimony	Agrimonia eupatoria				Х	Х	Х				
Knapweed (Hardheads)	Centaurea nigra				Х	Х	х	х			
Toadflax	Linaria vulgaris				Х	Х	Х	х	Х		
Autumn hawkbit	Leontodon autumnalis					Х	х	х	Х	Х	

Some grassland species found in churchyards (clockwise from top left): Crosswort and Pignut; Yarrow, Ragwort and Knapweed; Lady's Smock (Cuckoo Flower/Milkmaids); Self-sown Cowslip









# **Grass cutting equipment**

Historically, churchyards were scythed at haymaking time and the stubble sheep-grazed. However, these days mechanical equipment is likely to be used.

COMPLYING WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVICE IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT

Safety precautions include:

- protective clothing goggles
- steel-capped boots ear muffs

- gloves
- possibly a face visor

## Scythe

A hand scythe is the traditional and most satisfactory method of haymaking but it should be used only by a skilled worker.

## Sickle bar mowers (reciprocating blade mowers)

These have a bar on the front equipped with an arrangement of teeth that move from side to side like a row of pairs of scissors. Such a mower is suitable for long grass in large areas but is unsuitable for awkward areas. The mower should be used by an experienced operative with full safety equipment. It may be possible to hire both the machine and the operative from British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) or a local supplier of garden or farm machinery. The cut vegetation is left in long pieces making it easy to rake up and remove and there is less danger of damage to any small animals in the area.

#### Strimmers and brush cutters

For a small area, strimmers can be used but care must be taken to avoid damage to tree trunks and grave headstones. Opt for a head with 2 or 4 nylon lines. Brush cutters are useful for areas of long grass but the metal saw blades are not recommended for use in a churchyard. Operation of brush cutters is dangerous so full safety precautions and a skilled operative are essential. The local group of BTCV (listed in telephone directories) may be able to help with this.

## **Rotary mowers**

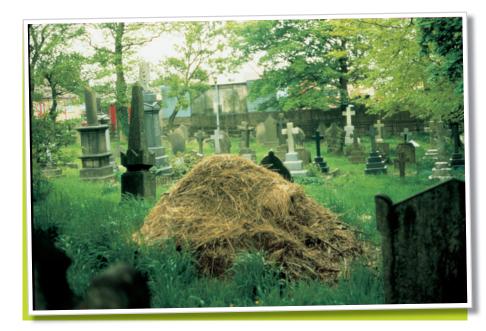
A wheeled rotary mower is probably the best option for most operatives in churchyards as the blades can be set at different heights and the action is easier than a hover version. An engine of 3.5hp or more is recommended. A hover mower will not cut long grass easily but may be needed on steep gradients.

## **Cvlinder mowers**

Unless it is a heavy-duty type, a cylinder mower will not cope with cutting a hay crop but it is good for permanently close-mown areas.

# Disposal of hay and grass cuttings

Wherever possible all grass cuttings should be removed to avoid smothering the smaller flowering plants and changing the soil composition as they decay. In a large churchyard there may be a large amount of hay. If there are no plants harmful to stock such as Ragwort, a local farmer may be willing to take it or the local council may operate a composting scheme. Smaller amounts can be made into compost heaps if mixed with other biodegradable material such as small twigs and prunings from larger plants. Grass alone forms a solid damp mass. A compost heap provides a home for fungi, bacteria and invertebrate animals that in turn become food for frogs, toads, slowworms and birds. Hedgehogs and other small mammals may hibernate in the heap. Compost heaps should not be placed at the base of trees as they will damage the tree roots and can cause the tree to fall.



Compost heap at Holy Trinity Church, Low Moor, Bradford

# Haymaking



Scything at Holy Trinity Church, Low Moor, Bradford



Cutting (reciprocal bar mower) and raking at St Helen's Church, Wheldrake

# Drying the hay prior to storage



St Hilda's Church, Hinderwell, circa 1900

St John's Church, Sharow, circa 2000



Sheep grazing the stubble at the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Hubberholme

# In praise of ... NETTLES!

Stinging nettles (Urtica dioica), the common nettle of the countryside and the coloniser of untended corners, rubbish dumps and derelict land have an unpopular image. But without nettles, the countryside and gardens would be much impoverished, as nettles sustain an extremely rich and diverse insect fauna which includes beetles, hoverflies and lacewings as well as butterflies and moths.

All the common butterflies - the Red Admiral, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Comma rely on nettles for part of their life-cycle. Nettle leaves are the sole food plant for the caterpillars of these butterflies and the lower stems may be the anchor for the chrysalis before the adult emerges.

To encourage butterflies to breed in the churchyard, conservation area or garden, a generous patch of vigorous nettles growing in full sun is needed. The clustering small black caterpillars on the nettle tips in late June/early July are caterpillars of either Small Tortoiseshell or, if they develop black spines, Peacock butterflies. The caterpillars of the Red Admiral or the Comma live in 'tents', folded nettle leaves 'sewn' together with silk.

Caterpillars grow very quickly and the shrivelled skins that they shed as they increase in size can sometimes be found. All the caterpillars disperse after about two weeks to find a suitably safe place to pupate. Finally, 10-14 days later, brilliantly coloured butterflies will emerge to feed on the nectar of flowers such as Buddleia, Sedums and Hemp Agrimony.

Life cycle of the Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly (clockwise from top left)



The caterpillars on nettles



The Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly



Ready to pupate



The pupa

# Wild flower introductions in churchyards

The introduction of more colour and variety into an existing sward that is predominantly grass species is an attractive option often considered, especially in areas that are to be managed as 'hay meadows'. There are, however, several points to be considered:

- 1. First it is important to establish what species of grasses and flowers are already present by monitoring the area over at least one season, having established the cutting regime to be followed.
- 2. Although a sward with few wild flowers may not have great visual impact, a variety of grasses have considerable wildlife value. All the 'brown' butterflies, ie Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Wall Brown require grasses as the food for their caterpillars. Grass seeds provide food for birds and small mammals.
- 3. The species of wild flowers to be introduced should be the species that occur naturally in the area ie local native plants. To find which native wild flowers occur in an area, note should be made of the wild flowers that occur in hedge-banks, roadside areas and 'scrub' present in field corners. Alternatively, a good source of information is the Plant Post Code Database (address below).
- 4. Wild flower seed should not be scattered over an existing sward as there is little or no chance of the seeds establishing themselves in competition with the herbage already present. The seed should be sown in trays and the seedlings 'potted on' to produce viable seedling plants. The plants should be introduced, preferably just after the sward has been cut, by taking out a 'plug' of sward and replacing it by the wild flower plant. Autumn and early spring are the optimum times. The grouping together in the sward of the new plants makes identification and monitoring of progress easier. Thereafter, once established, mow with the rest of the sward.

#### The Plant Post Code Database

- www.nhm.ac.uk (Natural History Museum). Click on plant codes database.
- ii www.fff.nhm.ac.uk/fff/

or write to:

Flora-for-Fauna Database c/o The Linnean Society of London Burlington House, Piccadilly LONDON W15 OLQ

# Further help

Each year, Churchyard Management Seminars are held in Yorkshire churchyards to help people learn more about churchyards, their importance for wildlife and how to manage them. For details, contact the Living Churchyard Officer at Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

Members of the Yorkshire Living Churchyard Project team visit churchyards and burial grounds in Yorkshire to advise on management sympathetic to wildlife. Following the visit, written suggestions for management, a list of the species seen or heard on the visit and an annotated map of the site are sent to the parish. To request a visit, contact the Living Churchyard Officer. There is no charge for the visit but a donation towards the work of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is always welcome.

The species lists made on advisory visits are transferred to the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre through the computer programme Recorder 2002. An important and permanent record of Yorkshire churchyards is being built up.

A5 porch notice available from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust



# Reference material and further help

Cocke, Thomas FSA (ed)	The Churchyards Handbook (2001) Church House Publishing
Cooper, Nigel	Wildlife in Church and Churchyard (2001) Church House Publishing
Echlin, Edward	Earth Spirituality Jesus at the Centre (1999) John Hunt Publishing The Cosmic Circle Jesus and Ecology (2004) Columba Press
Field Studies Council Tel: 01743 850370 www.field-studies-council.org	Various publications and identification leaflets

## **Yorkshire Living Churchyard Project**

Information leaflets available include:

- information signs
- suppliers of native seeds and plants
- light pollution and wildlife

- native trees and shrubs
- churchyard lichens
- newsletter (spring and autumn)

### **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust**

Information about:

- membership
- Wildlife Watch (the Wildlife Trust's junior wing)
- wildlife gardening

- Wildlife Trust Events
- volunteering with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- community projects

www.ywt.org.uk

## **Internet Search Engines**

Information on wildlife trusts, churchyard conservation work and projects throughout the country.





Wood anemones and Aconites at St Botolph's Church, Bossall

### Front cover: Ox-eye daisies at St Botolph's Church, Bossall

Photographs kindly provided by: Andrew Weston, Jean A. Hall, Keith Rhind, Elizabeth Hardcastle, Val Crompton, Ian Gunson, Tom Watson (by kind permission of Whitby Museum), Laurie Ramsay, Brenda Gilling, Wheldrake Church

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There is no charge for this booklet but donations towards the work of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are always appreciated.