



Eco Churchyard Proposal

Proposal

St Andrew's Eco Group August 2023

What? To produce a range of biodiversity areas and installations in the church yard. This would work around the edge of the churchyard so the churchyard can work a nature corridor for wildlife without impacting the use of the churchyard. It would also make visible areas of biodiversity to show the Church's commitment to environmental issues.

Why? To improve biodiversity in the town to an extent that is reasonable for the church to achieve. To manage biodiversity that creates areas that the public and church members can enjoy. To reduce environmental impact of church grounds activities providing run off water and compost. To achieve Arocha Bronze, as a way to demonstrate the Church's commitment to improving the environment in Biggleswade.

Considerations: The churchyard is used regularly as part of the life of the church and already has some designated areas such as the Garden of Remembrance and the area for the crosses and nativity scene. Ensuring that areas that promote insect life are out of the way of main thoroughfares.

Stages





Stage 1: An initial stage has already been carried out to add and renew bird boxes in the churchyard.

Stage 2 (Pages 2-3): is proposed to include 4 elements and will be brought to the PCC in the September meeting.

Proposed Overall Plan (pages 4-6): It is proposed to continue developing the churchyard to have a full wildlife corridor that promotes wildlife, increases the range of experiences available in the churchyard (for example walking through a spring meadow) without affecting events such as Holiday Club.

Stage 2:

While the ultimate aim is to utilise a range of areas across the Churchyard, it is important this is done in manageable steps. Given the time of year, the following is proposed for stage 2.


Project	Marking	Rational	Timescale
Autumn Meadow		What? An area that will be left untended during Autumn months to allow insects and animals to develop in leaf mulch ahead of winter. Why? Ensure diversity area of benefit to birds and hedgehogs prior to winter months. In a secluded out of the way part of church yard and lowest elevation for moisture. While one of the less “pretty” areas, its location will minimise this impact.	Autumn 2023
Bug Hotel		What? Specifically constructed environment that encourages insect life, approx. the size of a small fridge. Why? Increase insect population which has a positive impact on a range of environmental factors.	Spring 2023
Compost heap		What? Container to biodegrade plant material from the churchyard to use on beds. No food-waste to be put in here. Why? Reduce use of fertilisers or externally sourced compost.	Summer/Autumn 2023
Water Butt		What? Container to collect rainwater from down pipe. Why? Less use of mains water for watering plants, also more convenient for those working on south side of the church.	Summer/Autumn 2023


Please see page 3 for plan.

Following this we would look to the Overall Plan for next steps, with the Spring Meadow having the highest potential for both ecological advantage and bringing a pleasant new area to the church.

Stage 2



 Autumn Meadow


 Bug Hotel

 Compost heap

 Water Butt





Current Areas






 Bird Box (existing)

 Trees (existing)

Proposed overall plan

This plan outlines an overall plan that would achieve the above aims, it is a work in progress plan but intends to show a view of what we would like to do.

Project	Marking	Rational	Timescale
Spring Meadow		<p>What? A significant area which will be left uncut during spring months to allow native plants to grow and provide an area for insect growth. This area has the most potential to drive biodiversity. Marked up and public facing as a feature, this will also give a pleasant new aspect to the church grounds. (Design on Plan is Indicative)</p> <p>Why? Supports biodiversity and promotes the church publicly as interested in environmental issues. In location as well placed to benefit from sunlight in these periods. This area will be able to be cut well ahead of Holiday Club and Country Fayre.</p>	Spring 2024
Autumn Meadow		<p>What? An area that will be left untended during Autumn months to allow insects and animals to develop in leaf mulch ahead of winter.</p> <p>Why? Ensure diversity area of benefit to birds and hedgehogs prior to winter months. In a secluded out of the way part of church yard and lowest elevation for moisture. While one of the less “pretty” areas, its location will minimise this impact.</p>	Autumn 2023
Wildlife areas		<p>What? 3 Wildlife areas to develop diversity in the churchyard. WL: General wildlife (left to go wild) are, already in place. WF: Planting of native wild flowers. SH: Planting of shrubs for birds and other wildlife.</p> <p>Why? Increases biodiversity and promotes wildlife corridors around the churchyard.</p>	In year 2024
Hedgehog habitat		<p>What? Collection of wood and other biodegradable material to provide habitats for hedgehogs over winter.</p> <p>Why? Encourage increase in local animal life.</p>	TBC

Bug Hotel		<p>What? Specifically constructed environment that encourages insect life, approx. the size of a small fridge.</p> <p>Why? Increase insect population which has a positive impact on a range of environmental factors.</p>	Spring 2023
Eco Pile		<p>What? A pile of biological material including wood and other safe biodegradable material to encourage ground level insects and other wildlife.</p> <p>Why? Increases population of insects and animals that feed on them.</p>	Spring 2023
Compost heap		<p>What? Container to biodegrade plant material from the churchyard to use on beds. No food-waste to be put in here.</p> <p>Why? Reduce use of fertilisers or externally sourced compost.</p>	Summer/Autumn 2023
Water Butt		<p>What? Container to collect rainwater from down pipe.</p> <p>Why? Less use of mains water for watering plants, also more convenient for those working on south side of the church.</p>	Summer/Autumn 2023
Bird Boxes (Already added)		<p>What? Range of bird boxes around the churchyard mounted in trees.</p> <p>Why? Increases habitats for birds within the local area.</p>	

Proposed areas and zones



Spring Meadow

Autumn Meadow

Wildlife Areas

WL = Wild life

WF = Wild Flowers

SH = Shrub Habitat

Hedgehog Habitat

Bug Hotel

Eco Pile

Compost heap

Water Butt

Current Areas

Bird Box (existing)

Trees (existing)