

### 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 an 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.

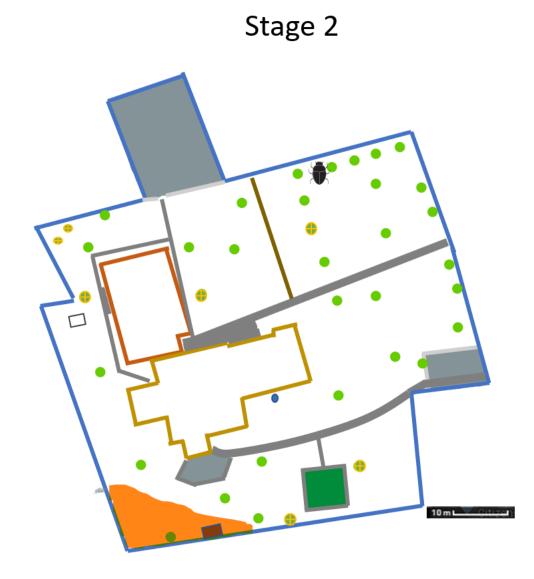
#### Stage 2:

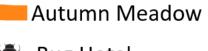
While the ultimate aim is to utilise a range of areas across the Churchyard, it is important this is done in manageable steps. Given the time of year, the following is proposed for stage 2.

Project	Marking	Rational	Timescale
Autumn Meadow		What? An area that will be left	Autumn 2023
		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 winder 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.	
Bug Hotel	*	What? Specifically constructed	Spring 2023
-		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.	
Compost heap		What? Container to biodegrade	Summer/Autumn
		plant material from the churchyard	2023
		to use on beds. No food-waste to be	
		put in here.	
		Why? Reduce use of fertilisers or	
		externally sourced compost.	
Water Butt	•	What? Container to collect	Summer/Autumn
		rainwater from down pipe.	2023
		Why? Less use of mains water for	
		watering plants, also more	
		convenient for those working on	
		south side of the church.	

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.





- 🐞 Bug Hotel
  - Compost heap
- Water Butt

**Current Areas** 

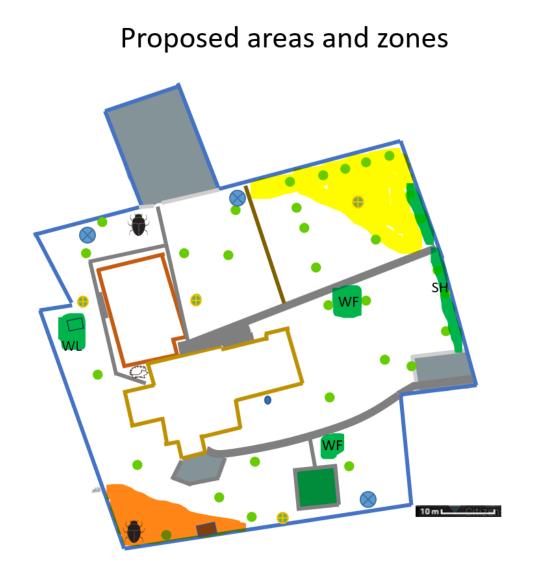
- Bird Box (existing)
- Trees (existing)

## 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		What? A significant area which will	Spring 2024
		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)	
		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	
Autumn Meadow		Fayre. What? An area that will be left	Autumn 2023
Autumini Meduuw			Autumn 2025
		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 winder 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.	
Wildlife areas		What? 3 Wildlife areas to develop	In year 2024
		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.	
		Why? Increases biodiversity and	
		promotes wildlife corridors around	
		the churchyard.	
Hedgehog habitat	Q	What? Collection of wood and other	ТВС
	There is a	biodegradable material to provide	
		habitats for hedgehogs over winter.	
		Why? Encourage increase in local	
		animal life.	

Bug Hotel What? Specifically constructed Spring	2023
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.	
Eco Pile What? A pile of biological material Spring	2023
including wood and other safe	
biodegradable material to	
encourage ground level insects and	
other wildlife.	
Why? Increases population of	
insects and animals that feed on	
them.	
Compost heap What? Container to biodegrade Summe	er/Autumn
plant material from the churchyard 2023	
to use on beds. No food-waste to be	
put in here.	
Why? Reduce use of fertilisers or	
externally sourced compost.	
Water Butt • What? Container to collect Summe	er/Autumn
rainwater from down pipe. 2023	2023
Why? Less use of mains water for	
watering plants, also more	
convenient for those working on	
south side of the church.	
Bird Boxes (Already e What? Range of bird boxes around	
added) the churchyard mounted in trees.	
Why? Increases habitats for birds	



Spring Meadow Autumn Meadow Wildlife Areas WL = Wild life WF = Wild Flowers SH = Shrub Habitat Hedgehog Habitat P. **Bug Hotel** Eco Pile Compost heap Water Butt 0

# **Current Areas**

- Bird Box (existing)
- Trees (existing)