

# **Holy Habitats – a conversation on enhancing wildlife in your churchyard**



*We'd like to start a conversation to better understand the key challenges you may face, so we can offer the right support to best help you to enhance the biodiversity in your little patch of Eden.*



# *Plan for the morning*

- Introduction to the day
- Round Robin
- Successes
- Challenges
- Break out groups
- Refreshments
- Round up – going forward



A photograph of a churchyard with various gravestones, some of which are overgrown with tall grass and white wildflowers. A gravel path runs through the foreground. In the background, there are dense green trees under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text "Norfolk Churchyard Conservation Scheme" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# Norfolk Churchyard Conservation Scheme



# Why are churchyards important for wildlife?



- Remnants of original ancient meadow (98% lost)
- Over 650 churches in Norfolk! Form wildlife stepping stones between larger haven areas, crucially allowing spread throughout the landscape.



Rosary Cemetery, Norwich



Norfolk churchyards are now the single most **important refuge** for **6 wildflowers** typical of old meadows, and all have around **50%** of their populations in churchyards over large areas of the county



# NWT Churchyard Conservation Scheme

A photograph of a churchyard with numerous gravestones of various shapes and sizes, some showing signs of age and weathering. The ground is covered in green grass and small white and yellow wildflowers. In the background, there are dense green trees. The title text is overlaid in large white font at the top.

Wood Norton churchyard, photo by Emily Nobbs







# Workshops



## Norfolk Churchyard Conservation Scheme

### 2025 activity programme

These activities are being run as part of the Norfolk Churchyard Conservation Scheme which was established in 1981 and is run by Norfolk Wildlife Trust in collaboration with the Diocese of Norwich.

These sessions have been designed to support churches wishing to manage their churchyards for both people and wildlife. These activities are FREE.

Booking essential – through Eventbrite at [norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on](https://norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on)  
For further information visit [norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](https://norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk) or email [churchyards@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:churchyards@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk)

#### Introduction to wildflower identification in your churchyard

**Location: All Saints' Church, Horstead**  
**Friday 16 May, 10am to 12noon**

Churchyards often contain the last remaining patch of ancient grassland in a parish – so how do you go about finding out what's growing in your churchyard? This introductory outdoor session will show you how to identify 20 common wildflowers and grasses – and how to find some of Norfolk's top six churchyard dependent plants.

#### Managing your churchyard well for wildflowers

**Location: All Saints' Church, Hemblington**  
**Wednesday 4 June, 10am to 11.30am**

How can you manage your churchyard best for its wildflowers and also for the local community? Why is cutting and raking so important? A guided tour, focusing on how to manage 'God's Acre' for both people and wildlife.

#### Swifts in your churchyard

**Location: St Mary's Church, Reepham**  
**Tuesday 24 June, 10am to 11am**

Would summer be the same without swift 'screaming parties' as they fly overhead? Join Caroline Spinks, Norwich Swift Network, for an outdoors walk and talk, discussing the key role Norfolk churches can take in helping this red-data listed bird, and the practicalities involved in setting up a church swift project.

#### Five steps to creating a simple management plan for your churchyard

**Location: Gissing Community Building & St Mary's Church**  
**Thursday 11 September, 10.30am to 12.30pm**

Do you care for a churchyard and want to manage part of it with wildlife in mind? In this session we'll help you discover what is special about your churchyard, how to manage it well for people and wildlife, and how to create your own simple management plan.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Norwich

The Wildlife Trusts

## Sessions for a wilder community 2025

These sessions for 2025 have been specially designed to support individuals, communities and groups acting for nature in their local area. Sessions are subsidised by donations made to Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Booking essential – through Eventbrite at [norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/WilderCommunities](https://norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/WilderCommunities) (please note a small booking fee applies to charged events).

#### Group mechanics...

##### How to write a simple management plan for your community space

**Thursday 24 April, 10am-1pm**

Do you have a community space or small area of land you want to manage for wildlife? In this session we will go over how to get started, what to consider when writing a management plan, prioritising objectives and effectively monitoring the work planned to ensure the best outcomes for biodiversity and you. This workshop will include an outside element.

**Savingham Nethergate**  
£27 per person. Booking essential

##### How to run pond dipping and minibeasting sessions for children

**Friday 30 May, 10.30am-12.30pm**

Interested in running hands-on wildlife discovery sessions in your community? Join Isabelle Mudge, Wilder Learning Manager, to find out how to run two popular sessions in a safe and engaging way. We will cover: example risk assessments, essential equipment and of course there will be a chance to have a go yourself.

**NWT Hickling Broad and Marshes**  
£5 per person. Booking essential

##### A simple guide to DIY posters

**Tuesday 10 June, 6-7pm**

Scott Poulton, NWT Graphic Designer, will share with you some top tips on how to create and produce an eye-catching poster to promote your wildlife project or event, including a quick introduction to the design package Canvas.

**Online – presentation**  
Free. Booking essential

##### Raising your project's profile in the media

**Tuesday 11 November, 6-7pm**

Learn more about how to work with local media to raise awareness of your wildlife project or group. During this webinar you will learn how to use the media to share your stories with key audiences and explore the 'what's when? who?' and why? of pitching to media outlets.

**Online – presentation**  
Free. Booking essential

#### Practical tool use...

##### Introduction to practical scything

**Sunday 13 July, 10am-4pm**

Scythes are a fantastic tool for managing small meadows. This workshop will teach you how to set-up, use and maintain a scythe, as well as covering some of the basics of meadow management.

**Gressingham – Environment Hub**  
£22 per person  
Booking essential

##### Making room for swifts

**Wednesday 2 April, 6-7pm**

Would summer be the same without swift 'screaming parties' as they fly overhead? Surely this is something that would be truly missed if we lost these amazing birds that are now listed as a red data book species. Through this online presentation, Caroline Spinks, Norwich Swift Network, will give us an insight into these birds and talk about how we can help to look after swifts in Norfolk.

**Online – presentation**  
Free. Booking essential

The Wildlife Trusts

[norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](https://norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk)





Volunteer training, photo by Emily Nobbs







Surveying, photo by Emily Nobbs

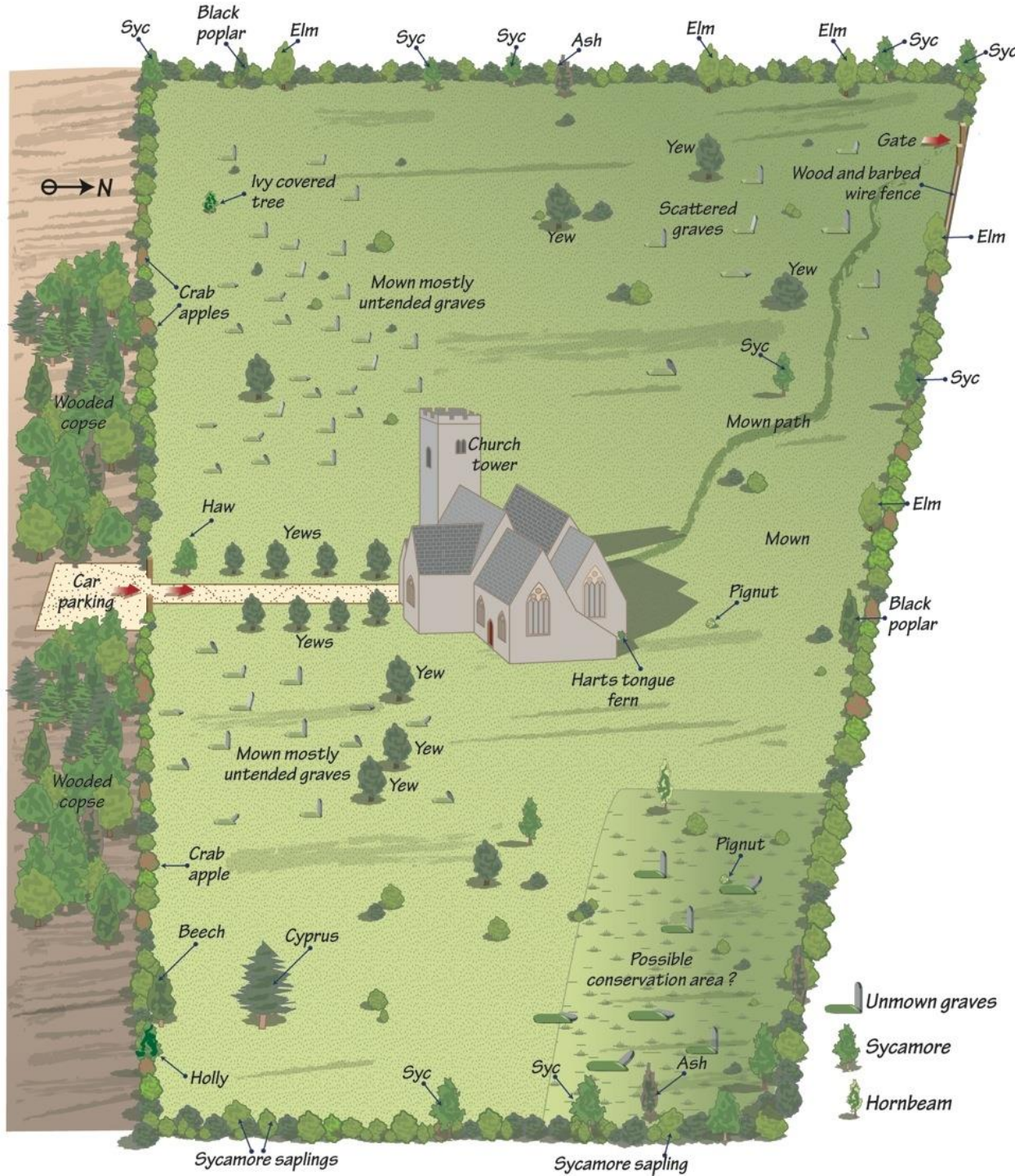
Leave best  
area uncut

Survey in  
Spring and  
summer

Provide  
a report



# Site sketch



## Example - Species list

**Ox-eye daisy** *Leucanthemum vulgare*

**Cowslip** *Primula veris*

**Lady's bedstraw** *Galium verum*

**Primrose** *Primula vulgaris*

**Germander speedwell** *Veronica chamaedrys*

**Hoary plantain** *Plantago media*

**Bulbous buttercup** *Ranunculus bulbosus*

**Lesser celandine** *Ranunculus ficaria*

**St John's wort** *Hypericum perforatum*





Wroxham churchyard, Conservation Areas,  
photo by Emily Nobbs



A photograph of a churchyard. In the background, a stone church building with a gabled roof and a brick chimney is visible. The churchyard is filled with various gravestones of different shapes and sizes. In the foreground, a field of tall grass is covered with numerous white daisies and yellow wildflowers. A gravel path leads through the churchyard.

# For more information...

Churchyard Conservation Scheme:

[churchyards@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:churchyards@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk)