



CHURCHYARD SURVEY FORM

SECTION 1

Church name: All Saint's Church

Parish: Ashwicken

Address: Church Lane, Ashwicken, Norfolk, PE32 1LN

District: West Norfolk

Grid reference: TF 69841 18851

Weather conditions: Overcast and warm

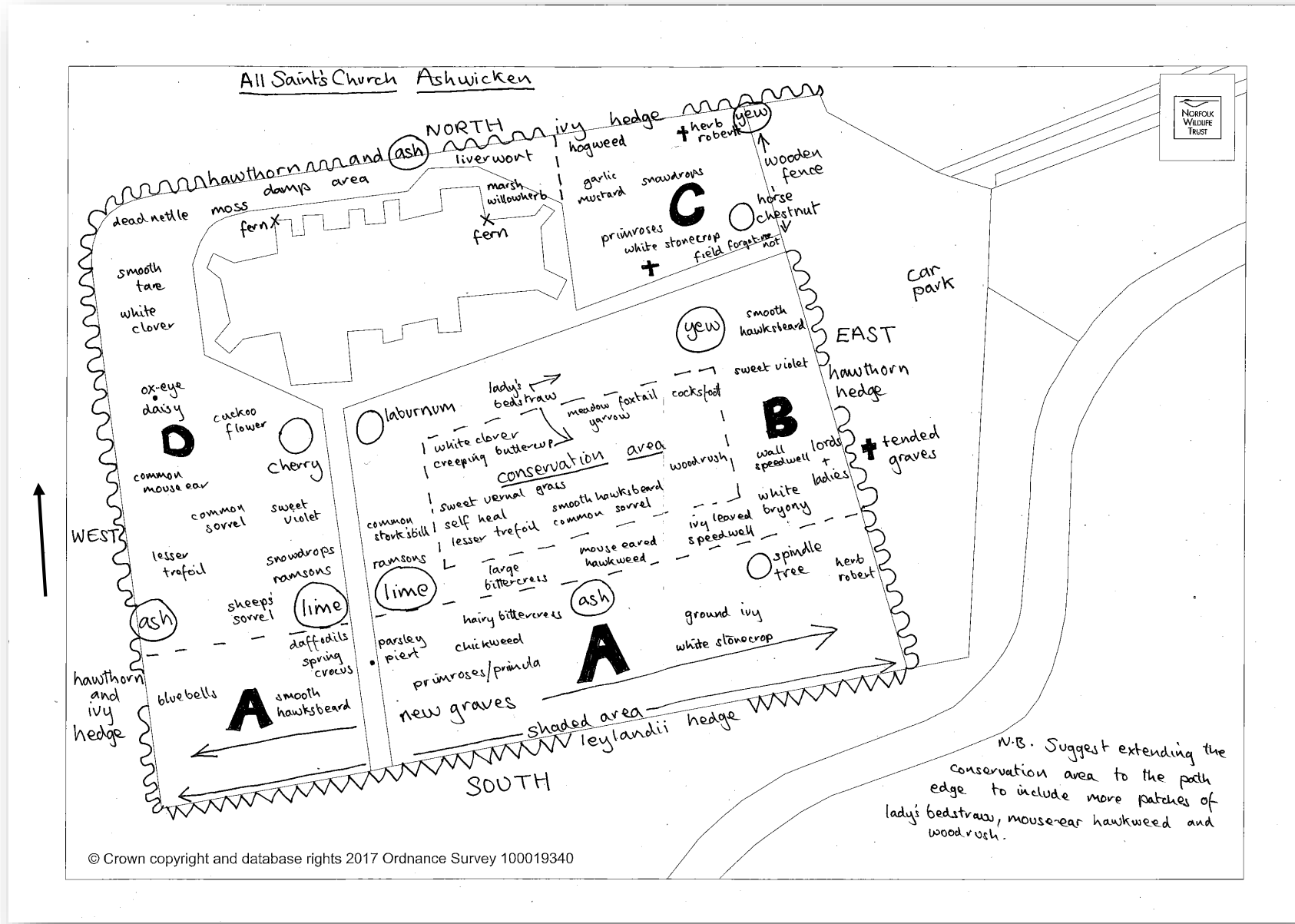
Date of survey: 10th July 2017

Name of surveyors: Lynda Jones, Judith Coker, Elizabeth Fairweather, Sally Tilly and Gemma Walker (NWT)



All Saints' Church by Elizabeth Fairweather

Annotated Churchyard Map



1. Does the churchyard have a defined conservation area(s)?

According to Norfolk Wildlife Trust's records the 2017 survey was the first one to be carried out in the churchyard.

With the support of the church warden an area was set aside as a conservation area (see map) in the spring to the south of the church.



2. Is the sward even and fine-textured? Or coarse and tussocky? Or closely mown?

The whole churchyard has a sward that is even and fine textured. Finer grasses have been left to grow around some of the gravestones and in the conservation area. Grasses recorded include:

- Sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*)
- Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*)
- Bent sp. (*Agrostis* sp.)
- False oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*)
- Barren brome (*Bromus sterilis*)
- Meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*)
- Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*)
- Rough meadow grass (*Poa trivialis*)

3. Are the grass cuttings raked off?

Yes

The grass is removed from site, there is no compost heap present.

4. Are there significant unmanaged or neglected areas?

No

The whole churchyard is well tended.

5. What sort of hedge do they have? Does it appear to be managed?

On the north, west and east sides there are well formed hedges. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) predominates, with occasional ivy (*Hedera helix*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*). There is a good understorey of nettles (*Urtica dioica*), ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*) and lords and ladies (*Arum maculatum*). Hedgehog droppings are evident, close to the hedge line.

The hedge on the south is a dense line of mature leylandii (*Cupressus leylandii*).

6. Are ant hills present in the churchyard?

None recorded

7. Description of the churchyard – for compartment locations see attached map

Compartment A

Little grows below the leylandii hedge and the compartment is partially shaded by mature trees. The area around the common lime (*Tilia europaea*) provided a haven for lords and ladies and hybrid Spanish bluebells (*Endymion hispanicus*).

Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*), white stonecrop (*Sedum album*), smooth hawsbeard (*Crepis capillaris*) and daffodils (*Narcissus sp.*) provide a colourful procession through the spring and summer.

NB. New graves are located in this area.

Compartment B

Located to the south and east of the lime trees, with a mature yew (*Taxus baccata*) present. This sunny compartment is where the conservation was located. There is a large area of Lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*), meadow saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*), common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and germander speedwell (*Veronica tencrimum*) are also present. As the area was left uncut, flowers bloomed and grasses matured. In the spring sweet violets (*Viola odorata*) were a delight.

Speckled wood (*Pararge aegeria*), red admiral (*Vanessa atlanta*) and brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) butterflies were spotted, as were cinnabar moths (*Tyria jacobaeae*), common blue (*Enallagma cyathigerum*) and blue-tailed (Ischnura elegans) damselflies, plus lighthouse galls (*Jaapiella veronicae*).

Compartment C

In the spring primroses and snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) were frequent in this area. Lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), red and white dead nettle (*Lamium purpureum* and *album*), herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*) were also present.

As the summer progressed the grass was kept short, but within the grave markers were white stonecrop and hairy tare (*Vicia hirsuta*). Some field forget-me-not (*Myosotis arvenis*) was found near the gate. Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), periwinkle (*Vinca sp.*) and hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) were found near the hedge.

Compartment D

Compartment D, the north-side of the churchyard, is damp and shaded. Of note was the presence of maidenhair spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*), liverworts and mosses, including springy turf moss (*Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*), and marsh willowherb (*Epilobium palustre*).

On the sunnier west-side: common sorrel, germander speedwell, ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*) and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) were frequent.

To the south of the compartment there was a small patch of finer grasses and sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) present. Occasional was common mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*), common cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) and lesser trefoil (*Trifolium dubium*). One lone ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) was found by a tended grave.

Around the lime tree were snowdrops, lords and ladies and spring crocus (*Crocus albiflorus*).

Other species seen:

The churchyard is surrounded by fields, a managed public path way and there are woods nearby. There was evidence of rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), moles (*Talpa europaea*) and hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*). There were good populations of butterflies, moths and damselflies using the churchyard.

Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) and kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) were heard. A starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) murmuration in spring was seen over the churchyard, and there were a lot of rook (*Corvus frugilegus*) and jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*) activity in nearby trees.

In March a nesting mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) was recorded below the lime tree in compartment D.

Photographs (images by Gemma Walker and Elizabeth Fairweather):



Snowdrops – Compartment C



Sedum covering grave marker –
Compartment C



Conservation area – Compartment B



Lady's bedstraw – Compartment B



White stonecrop



Field woodrush (E. Fairweather)



Maidenhair spleenwort
(E. Fairweather)

County Wildlife Action - Plant List

Name of Site: All Saint's Church Ashwicken West Norfolk
Survey Date 15th Feb, 15th March, 19th April, 29th May, 21st June, 10th July, August 2nd 2017
Surveyors: Lynda Smith, Elizabeth Fairweather, Judith Coker and Sally Tily

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comp. A	Comp. B	Comp. C	Comp. D	DAFOR	Comment
Germanda Speedwell	<i>Veronica tencrium</i>	*	*	*	*	F	
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	*	*	*	*	F	
Red Dead Nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	*	*	*	*	O	
White Dead Nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	*	*	*	*	O	
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	*	*	*	*	R	
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	*	*	*	*	F	
Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	*	*	*	*	F	
Common Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	*	*	*	*	O	
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	*	*	*	*	O	Conservation Area
Greater Celandine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	*				R	
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	*			*	R	
Cyclamen	<i>Cyclamen purpurascens</i>	*				R	
Common Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>	*	*	*		R	
Ground Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	*	*	*	*	F	
Petty Spurge	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>			*		R	
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus Sp.</i>			*		R	
Common Mouse Ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	*	*	*	*	F	
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca Sp.</i>			*		R	
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	*		*		O	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comp. A	Comp. B	Comp. C	Comp. D	DAFOR	Comment
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	*	*	*	*	F	
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	*		*		O	
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	*	*	*	*	F	
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	*	*	*		O	
Spring Crocus	<i>Crocus albiflorus</i>				*	R	
Large Bittercress	<i>Cardamine amara</i>		*		*	R	
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>		*	*	*	R	
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	*	*			F	
White Stonecrop	<i>Sedum album</i>	*	*	*		F	
Cuckoo Flower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>				*	LF	
Lords And Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	*	*	*	*	F	
Ramsons	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	*	*			LF	
Sheep's Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	*					
Hybrid Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides massartiana</i>	*	*		*	LF	
Hairy Bittercress	<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	*				R	
Sweet Violet	<i>Viola odorata</i>		*		*	R	
Lesser trefoil	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>				*	R	
Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	*	*	*	*	LF	
Ivy Leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>		*			R	
White Bryony	<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	*	*			R	
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>			*		O	
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>			*		O	
Wood Rush	<i>Luzula campestris</i>	*	*			R	Conservation Area
Grape Hyacinth	<i>Muscari Atlanticum</i>			*		R	
Mouse-Ear Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	*	*			R	
Parsley Piert	<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	*				R	
Wall Speedwell	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	*	*		*	R	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comp. A	Comp. B	Comp. C	Comp. D	DAFOR	Comment
Dovesfoot Cranesbill	<i>Geranium molle</i>	*				O	
Spindle Tree	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	*				1	
Prickly Sow Thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus asper</i>	*				R	
Ground Elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	*				R	
Small-Flowered Cranesbill	<i>Geranium pusillum</i>	*				R	
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>		*			LF	Conservation Area
Bulbous Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>		*		*	R	
Sticky Mouse-Ear	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>		*			F	
Hairy Tare	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>			*		R	
Maidenhair Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>			*		R	
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	*		*	*	O	
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>				*	R	
Springy Turf Moss	<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>				*	R	
Self-Heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>		*	*	*	O	Conservation Area
Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>				*	R	
Common Catsear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	*	*		*	R	Conservation Area
Rough Chervil	<i>Chaerophyllum temulentum</i>		*		*	R	
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>		*		*	O	Conservation Area
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>		*		*	R	Conservation Area
Rough Meadow Grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>		*		*	O	
Smooth tare	<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>			*	*	R	
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>		*		*	O	
Smooth Hawksbeard	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	*	*			O	Conservation Area
Barren Brome	<i>Bromus sterilis</i>		*			O	Conservation Area
Common Poppy	<i>Papavar rhoeas</i>	*				R	
Procumbent Yellow Sorrel	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>		*			R	
Sow Thistle	<i>Sonchus sp.</i>	*		*	*	O	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comp. A	Comp. B	Comp. C	Comp. D	DAFOR	Comment
Field Forget Me Not	<i>Myostis arvensis</i>			*		R	
Common storksbill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>		*			R	
Ox-eye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	*			*	R	
False Oat Grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatis</i>		*			R	Conservation Area
Dock sp.	<i>Rumex sp.</i>		*	*		O	
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>				*	R	
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla erecta preptans</i>			*		R	
Hawkbit sp.	<i>Leontodon sp.</i>		*			R	
Meadow Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga granulate</i>		*			R	Conservation Area
Bent sp.	<i>Agrostis sp.</i>		*			R	Conservation Area
Leylandii	<i>Cupressus leylandii</i>	*					
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>			*			
Common Lime	<i>Tilia europaea</i>		*		*		
Marsh Willowherb	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>			*	*	R	
English Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>		*	*			
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>						
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	*	*	*	*	O	
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	*					
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>		*			O	Conservation Area
Cherry	<i>Prunus sp</i>				*		
Wall Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>		*				
Swan's Neck Moss	<i>Campylopus sp.</i>		*				
Spiked Sedge	<i>Carex spicata</i>		*				Conservation Area
Laburnum	<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>		*				
Prickly Sow Thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>		*			R	
Sweet Vernal Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>		*			R	Conservation Area

Please note: **DAFOR** is a way of measure the relative abundance of plants present in the churchyard, where D=dominant, A=abundant, F=frequent, O=occasional and R=rare

The plants **highlighted** in this colour are of note