

ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH NATURE AND WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Wildlife-Friendly Land Management Plan for St. Saviour's Church Grounds aims to enhance biodiversity whilst at the same time enhancing the natural beauty of our Church grounds so that they can be enjoyed by the congregation and visitor alike. By aligning with wildlife-friendly principles, St Saviour's Church aims to be a model of environmental stewardship within the community.

***Date of last
revision /
review:
November
2024***

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St. Saviour's Church Nature and Wildlife-Friendly Land Management Plan

1 Introduction

St. Saviour's Church is committed to creating and maintaining a sustainable, nature-friendly environment that encourages biodiversity and enhances the natural beauty of our church grounds that can be enjoyed by the congregation and visitors alike. This land management plan outlines our approach to caring for our land in a way that supports wildlife, promotes native flora and fauna, and aligns with our values as an Eco Church.

2 Objectives

Our key objectives for managing the church grounds are:

- To provide a welcoming & tranquil open area for the congregation, the local community and visitors to enjoy
- To provide a haven for wildlife and to encourage biodiversity
- To provide easy and visually pleasing access to the church
- To promote sustainable gardening practices that reduce our environmental impact to our congregation and local community.
- To educate and engage our congregation and the local community in nature conservation efforts.
- To be sustainable in the long term in terms of the amount of effort and funding required to meet our objectives.

3 General Land Management Practices & Principles

3.1 Habitat Creation and Enhancement

- All land management actions will be undertaken with consideration of its impact on habitat for wildlife and on biodiversity.
- Maintain and add to the existing bird boxes installed on trees and buildings to provide nesting sites. Monitor browsing by local deer population.
- Maintain and add to existing insect hotels and log piles in quiet areas of the grounds to encourage invertebrates.
- Set up hedgehog houses and ensure passageways (hedgehog highways) between gardens and green spaces.
- Conduct regular butterfly transects between 1st April and 31st September

3.2 Sustainable Gardening Practices

- Avoid use of pesticides & chemicals and artificial fertilizers. Alternative strategies where appropriate:
 - Saline / vinegar solution
 - Hand weeding
 - Boiling water
- Compost all food / flower waste on-site to reduce waste and provide natural fertilizer for the grounds.
- Keep bonfires to an absolute minimum.
- Ensure extensive laurel growth is kept in check and so does not shade out native plants.

3.3 Seasonal Maintenance Schedule:

- Develop a seasonal maintenance schedule that includes tasks such as planting, pruning, and mowing to ensure they align with wildlife needs (e.g., avoid mowing during nesting or flowering seasons) – See Appendix C – Annual & Ongoing Maintenance tasks;

4 Management Areas

We have identified 5 areas / land types within the church grounds for targeted management. The location of each of these is marked on the map of the grounds contained in Appendix A:

1. **Nature & Wildlife-Friendly Area with children's trail:** A designated section of the church grounds where native plants, wildflowers, and a small barrel pond provide food, water and shelter for insects, birds, and small mammals.
2. **Mature Trees, Shrubs & hedging:** Preservation and care of the existing mature trees and hedges that are important for local wildlife.
3. **Longer grass areas:** These areas are managed to encourage a variety of grass heights and bulbs in the spring, creating habitats for insects and small mammals. The areas of longer grass are marked on the map
4. **Community and Recreational Spaces:** Areas maintained for community use, including lawns, pathways, and gathering spaces, will be managed with environmentally friendly practices.
5. **Flower Beds:** Areas maintained to be visually appealing, mostly located close the church hall and along the pathways. – Locations marked on map.

5 Management Practices by Area

5.1 Nature & wildlife friendly area, incorporating Children's trail (See Appendix B for diagrammatic plan of the area)

- Maintain "viewing trail" through the area for children and visitors, with signage pointing out different habitats etc.
- Continue to sow native wildflowers and plant bulbs at edges of area to encourage bees, butterflies and other pollinators.
- Maintain half barrel pond feature to provide habitat for amphibians and water for small mammals and insects.
- Create and maintain a small "boggy" area (bog garden) – as marked on the map.
- Maintain and add to dead wood stacks, and other natural materials around the area for shelter and breeding grounds.
- Continue to manage the bramble and cut back laurel to allow native wildflower and grasses to thrive
- Include signage explaining the purpose of these areas to educate the public and reduce complaints about "untidiness."
- Coppice Hazel stools on a 4 – 7 year rotation

5.2 Mature Trees, shrubs & Hedging Management (see Appendix C and E for 30 year tree plan and current Tree species list respectively)

- Conduct regular surveys of trees to assess health and safety, focusing on maintaining native species that provide food and shelter for wildlife.
- Avoid pruning of hedges or trees during the nesting season (March to August) to protect bird populations.
- As and when older trees approach the end of their life, plant additional native trees and shrubs, such as hawthorn, holly, and rowan, to increase food sources and shelter. See Appendix for 30 Year Tree plan.
- Within the churchyard, there is existing a large amount of laurel which is very fast growing and could become invasive and have a detrimental effect on native plants if not kept in check – See map for location of laurel.

5.3 Longer grass Area Management (As marked on plan in Appendix A)

- Leave a minimum of a 2m boundary area of grass, enlarged in places, un-mown to allow native grasses to grow and to provide wildlife habitat. See map for location of unmown grass.
- This area to be mown just once a year in the autumn.

- During May, the area of unmown grass to be extended with prominent signage to explain the delay in mowing. NB This will only be undertaken if the Eco Church team commits at the beginning of May to being responsible for raking up mown long grass at the end of May.

5.4 Community & Recreational Space Management (As marked as "Cut grass" on the plan in Appendix A)

- Maintain existing seat and bench provision to enable people to sit and enjoy
- Maintain short lawn for community activity & outdoor services (see Grounds Map for detail)
- Keep patios and paved areas clear of weeds without use of weed killers
- Maintain a reflective space marked by the four Remembrance Olive trees

5.5 Flower Beds Management (As marked as "Bed" on the plan in Appendix A)

- Maintain existing flower beds to be visually pleasing to visitors
- As and when new are required, ensure that new plants are good for bees and pollinators
- Ensure only peat free compost is used and that no artificial fertiliser or pesticides are used.

6 Community Engagement & Education

- Monthly volunteer gardening team to help maintain wildlife-friendly areas and the rest of the grounds.
- Invite Primary School Eco Committee and other parent/child groups to help with planting in the wildlife area, hopefully termly and at least yearly.
- Install informational signs around the perimeter of the grounds explaining the purpose of wildlife-friendly areas and the benefits of specific plants and habitats.
- Regularly update the church website and social media with information on land management activities and events.
- Encourage church members, local residents and the school Eco Group to participate in planting days, litter picks, and other community conservation activities.
- Scout group helped with making and putting up bird boxes around the grounds.

7 People Involved:

- Martin Fletcher (overall in charge)
- Tim Dodwell (Chair of Fabric Committee)
- Eco Church Team (monthly working party on the 3rd Wednesday of each month)

- Greener Brockenhurst Making Space for Nature Team (as and when) – NB This team includes an advisor from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Neil Hunt, contractor who mows grass (as and when required under the supervision of Martin)
- Ros Vall responsible for flower bed to right of the Church porch.
- Jenny Oakhill responsible for Flower bed to right of Hall Entrance doors
- Margaret Anderton responsible for flower bed to left of Hall Entrance doors

8 Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the effectiveness of this plan, we will:

- Conduct regular surveys of plants, birds, butterflies & insects, to monitor biodiversity. See Appendix D for current survey observations. See Appendix E for Observed Species List to date.
- Review and update the land management plan annually, incorporating feedback from the church community and local partners.
- Report on progress in the Parish Magazine and website to maintain transparency and engagement.

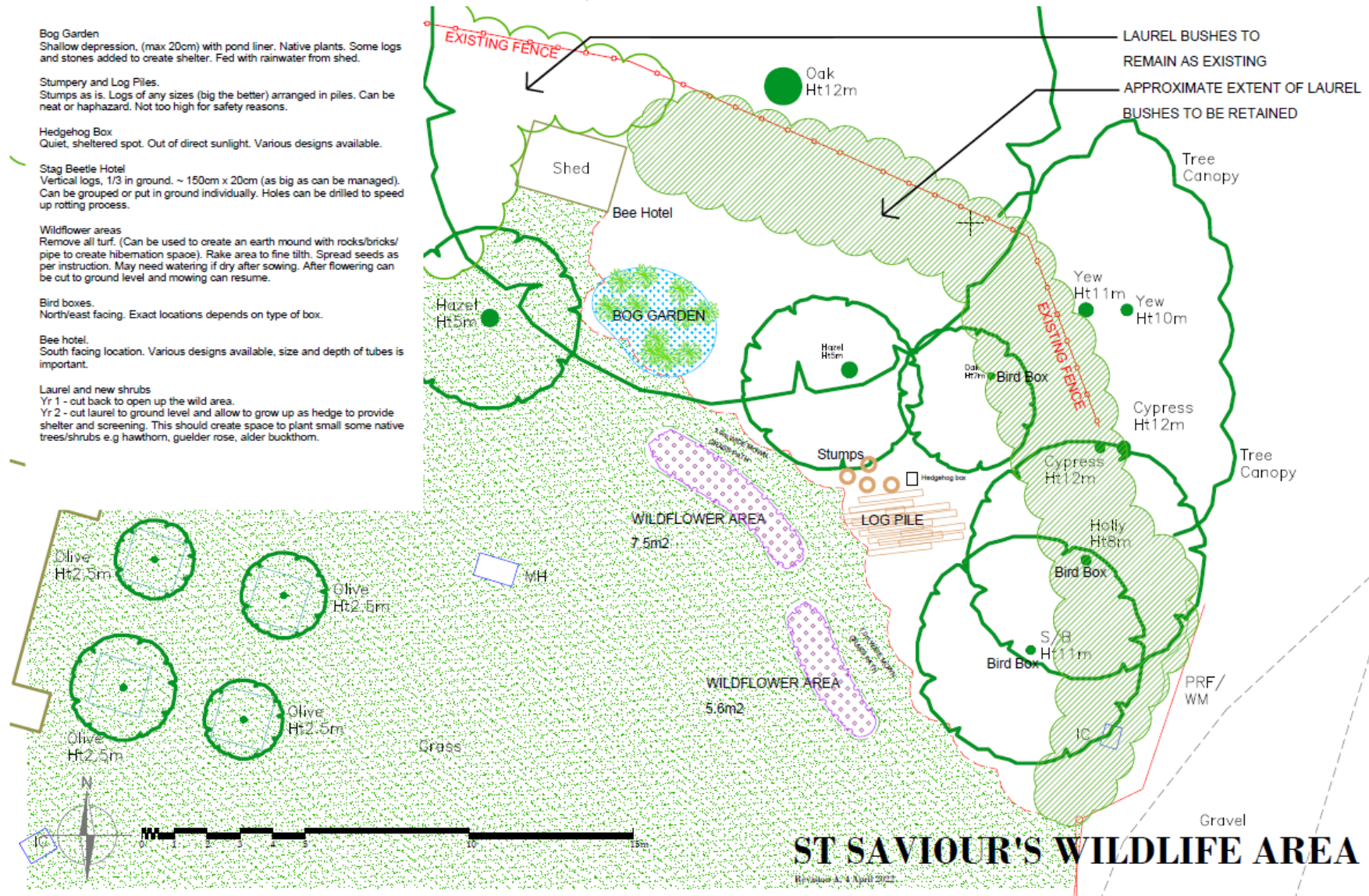
9 Conclusion

This nature and wildlife-friendly land management plan is a living document that reflects our commitment to environmental stewardship as part of our spiritual mission. We aim to create a thriving, biodiverse environment that enriches the lives of all who visit St. Saviour's Church.

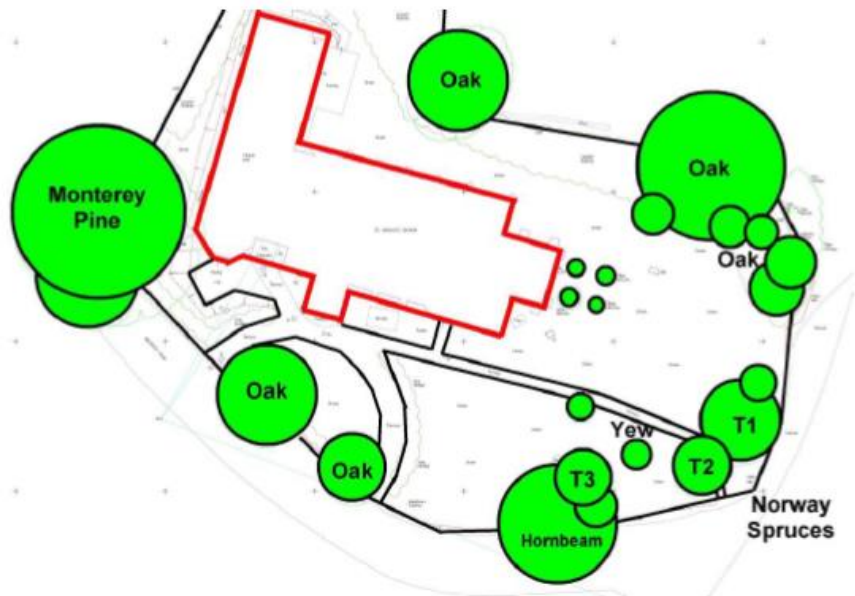
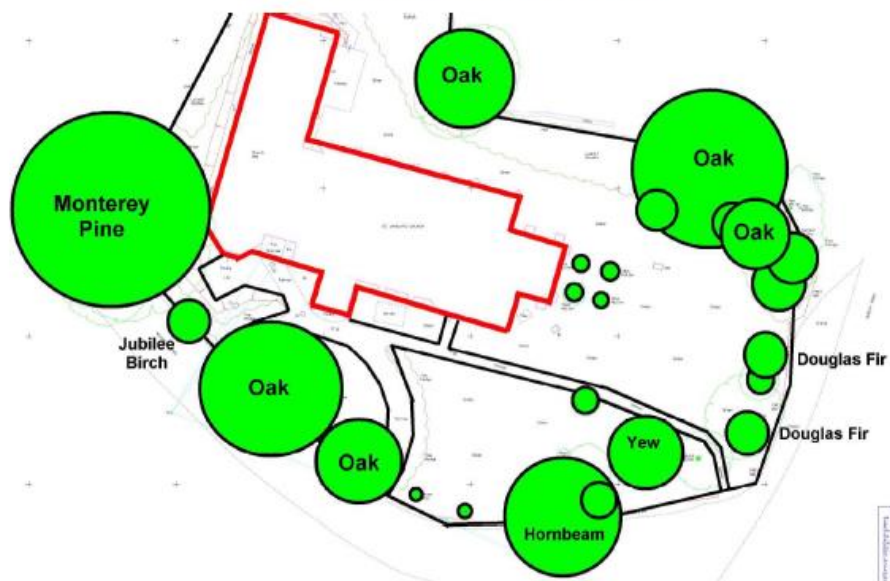
10 APPENDIX A: Overall Plan of the land



11 APPENDIX B: Plan of the Wild Life Friendly area



12 APPENDIX C: 30 year Tree Plan

St Saviour's Church Grounds Now - 2022St Saviour's Church Grounds Future - 2050

13 APPENDIX D: Annual & Ongoing Maintenance Tasks

Annual tasks:

- Check and clean bird boxes / hedgehog box
- Empty compost bin
- Clip hedge by Wilverley Road biannually
- Cut bramble back on bank to west of church hall
- Cut back bramble after flowering to north of church
- Autumn strim of 2m boundary edges of long grass
- Plant wildflowers / bulbs in the spring in the wildlife area

Ongoing Tasks (as and when required):

- Cut back laurel
- Mow recreational areas of grass (ie short grass)
- Weed paths and patios
- Weed flower beds / dead head / prune as required
- Keep bramble around wild life area under control
- Perform any maintenance required on benches / sheds etc

14 APPENDIX E: St Saviour's Species List: 2022 – 2024

14.1 Trees

- Oak
- Hazel
- Laurel
- Hawthorn
- Elder
- Birch
- Blackthorn
- Norway Spruce
- Monterey Pine
- Hawthorn
- Yew
- Hornbeam
- Remembrance Olive Trees in Pots

14.2 Birds (heard or observed)

- Blackbirds
- Jackdaws
- Robins
- Great Tits
- Long Tail Tits
- Blue Tits
- Magpies
- Wood Pigeon
- Green Woodpecker
- Siskin
- Wren
- Sparrowhawk
- Tawny Owl
- House Sparrow
- Goldfinch
- Starlings

14.3 Plants

- Red Clover
- Speedwell
- Germander
- Cuckoo Flower
- Mouse Ear
- Chickweed
- Birds Foot Trefoil
- Oxide Daisy
- Meadow Buttercup
- Forget Me Not

- Dandelion
- Hawkbit
- Hoary Plantain
- Cranesbill
- Ragged Robin
- Alpine Strawberry
- Ivy
- Wild Garlic
- Foxglove
- Daffodil
- Globeflower
- Bluebells
- Bramble
- Marsh Marigold
- Comfrey
- Primrose,
- Wild Carrot
- Ragwort
- Hemp Agrimony
- Common Fleaban
- Oregano
- Sneezewort
- Bull Thistle
- Common St John's Wort
- Greater Celandine
- Common Sorrel
- Hedge Woundwort
- Prickly Sowthistle
- Colts foot
- Timothy
- Yorkshire fog
- Rye grass
- Meadow Fox Tail

14.4 Fungi

- Wax Caps

14.5 Invertebrates

- Stag Beetles
- Jersey Tiger Moth
- Cockchafer
- Centipedes
- Millipedes
- Ants
- Banded Demoiselles

- Small Red Damselflies
- Gatekeepers
- Red Admirals
- Peacock Butterflies
- Speckles Wodd
- Brimstone butterfly
- Cattlefly
- Woodlice
- Worms
- Slugs And Spiders
- Ground Beetles

14.6 Reptiles and Amphibians

- Smooth Newt

14.7 Mammals

- Hedgehog Poo
- Grey Squirrels
- Bats
- Deer