



## CHURCHYARD SURVEY FORM

### SECTION 1

**Church name:** West Beckham Cemetery

**Parish:** East Beckham with West Beckham

**Address:** Mill Road, West Beckham, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 6NY

**Grid reference:** TG 146391

**Weather conditions:** Hot and sunny

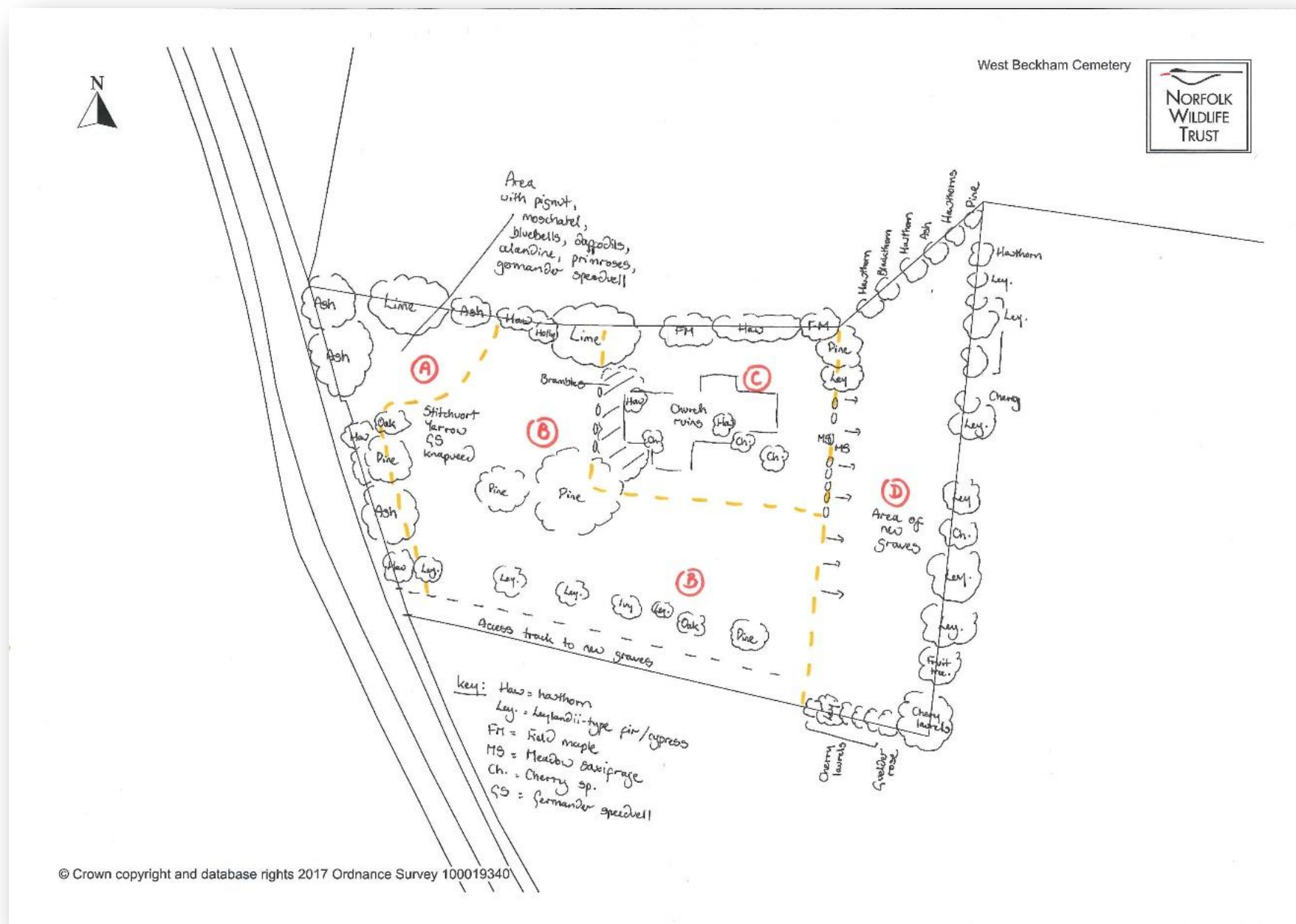
**Date of survey:** 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Name of surveyors:** AG, LM, LS(NWT)



West Beckham Cemetery

### Annotated Map of Cemetery



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

No – according to Norfolk Wildlife Trust's records this cemetery has never been surveyed before and is not part of the Churchyard Conservation Scheme.

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

Main open areas of churchyard are regularly cut, to about 4 inches, with the cuttings left on. No area is particularly tussocky, as it is regularly mown, however the shady areas beneath the trees and around the old church ruins, and under the boundary hedgerow are left long, presumably because of access problems for the mower. Many of the trees in the cemetery are tall and mature with very low branches to the ground, casting lots of shade and so are unable to be easily cut.

**3. Are the grass cuttings raked off?**

No, the grass cuttings had been left on at our June visit.

**4. Are there significant unmanaged or neglected areas?**

The whole cemetery is carefully managed throughout, with no neglected areas. Compartment A (north west corner of cemetery) seems to be managed for spring bulbs. There are also 'islands' left for spring species in compartment B, but these are obvious choices to help bulb development for next year.

The new graves in compartment B are carefully tended.

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

There are no obvious hedges as such, but the following could include overgrown patches of old hedge, now grown to maturity.

On the north boundary there are mature trees, and areas of what could be an old hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and field maple (*Acer campestre*) hedge. There seems to be an old hedge bank to the north east, with hawthorns, all of a similar age, still growing on it.

To the east, there is post and wire fencing with several tall, Leylandii-type garden trees, also some prunus species (see map), hawthorn, oak (*Quercus robur*) and cherry laurels (*Prunus laurocerasus*) into the south east corner.

The southern boundary has an open fence of wire and posts, with a few trees/hedge species to the south east corner, including more cherry, laurel and Leylandii type trees.

The west of the site has tall ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), oak and pine trees and hawthorns, also dog rose (*Rosa canina*).

**6. Are ant hills present in the churchyard?**

No

## 7. Description of the churchyard

West Beckham Cemetery contains the ruins of the old, Medieval All Saints church, also gravestones dating back to 18<sup>th</sup> Century, as well as recent parish burials to the eastern end.

According to Norfolk Heritage Explorer, the church was in ruins by 1602, with the west tower falling in 1783 and “the whole building was demolished in 1890, when much of its masonry was incorporated into the new church of St Helen's and All Saints' Church. Only the outline of the nave, chancel and south porch can be made out. The surrounding churchyard remains in use and has a number of fine 18<sup>th</sup> century headstones”.

West Beckham cemetery has areas of open grassland, is surrounded by many tall trees, including lime (*Tilia* sp.), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Leylandii sp. and field maple (*Acer campestre*) on the north, east and west boundaries. The cemetery also has some mature trees growing in the central grassy sward, as well as patches of managed bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) scrub. The southern boundary is a post and wire fence leading on to arable fields. To the west is a country lane, which leads northwards to St Helen and All Saints church, West Beckham.

An access track runs from the gateway, along the southern boundary edge, to the area of new graves to the east.

### Compartment A:

This is a small compartment to the north west – it is full of spring interest with lovely garden bulbs and wildflower species, including celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), pignut (*Conopodium majus*), hybrid bluebells (*Hyacinthoides* sp.), garden daffodils (*Narcissus* sp.), greater and lesser stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea* and *S. graminea*), primroses (*Primula vulgaris*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), common mouse ear (*Cerastium fontanum*), germander speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*), ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*).

Closely surrounded to the north and west by mature trees (some of the limes with low branches) and patches of bramble, this compartment is heavily shaded by summer, making this area important for spring flowers, but perhaps less so by midsummer, but it is still an important habitat for wildlife.

There is an encroaching patch of ground elder (*Aegopodium podagraria*) in this north west corner. The old graves here are left with a covering of ivy (*Hedera helix*).

Compartment A continues in a narrow strip along the western boundary trees, and includes the outside edge of the boundary. The hedgebank to the west has tall, mature ash, pine, oak, and hawthorn trees and is again very shady underneath, with grasses and sparse wild flowers, but including a patch of greater stitchwort, and male fern (*Dryopteris felix-mas*).

On the sunny, roadside of this western bank there are the following species: bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), celandine, ivy, red dead nettle (*Lamium purpureum*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondyleum*), ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*), yarrow, cleavers (*Galium aparine*), snowdrops (*Galanthus* sp.), germander speedwell and native bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).



**Compartment B:**

This compartment rises gradually to the east and the old church ruins, and contains some of the sunniest, open spots in the cemetery. There are two, very tall mature pines (*Pinus* sp.) – one clad in ivy, one without ivy – dominate the central grassy area, casting shade from their large canopies and shedding needles onto the grass below.

A large area of grass with trees to the north, but otherwise open to the centre and towards the east, the grass is kept cut throughout, with 'islands' of longer growth left around some of the old graves, and beneath some of the mature trees. Germander speedwell is abundant throughout in the low sward, with cow parsley, yarrow, cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), hogweed, common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), daisy, common sorrel, primrose, couch grass (*Elytrigia repens*) and ground ivy all occasional. Creeping buttercup, Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), and false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) are all frequent. Bramble is occasional, and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) is also occasional, close along the southern boundary. Nettles (*Urtica dioica*) and bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) are occasional in the longer grass around the old graves, which seems to be kept longer for the bluebells.

On the sunniest side of compartment B there is rare Lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*), occasional germander speedwell, knapweed, also some finer grasses are left to grow around old graves – including sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthemum odoratum*) and a fescue sp. (*Festuca* sp.). Bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) is occasional, again in the open, sunny areas.

**Compartment C:**

This is the compartment with the church ruins, consisting of flint walls of the nave, chancel and south porch, some of a few feet tall, others just a few inches. The low walls are partially grown over with ivy, bramble, nettles, hedge woundwort and knapweed, and also planted with some garden species, such as spring bulbs, variegated garden ivy (*Hedera* sp.) and purple toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*) on the sunniest part of the stonework.

The chancel area of the ruins is the most obviously 'gardened' area, with plants such as daffodils, bluebells and snowdrops near graves contained in the ruins.

There are sections of old hawthorn and field maple hedge to the north, with pine and garden cypress species to the north east of the compartment, spreading from the boundary edge into the grass of compartment D.

A dense stand of brambles (we think surrounding old gravestones) seems to act as a barrier and protection to the ruins, and is carefully maintained, with the grass regularly cut around it. The central area of the nave had been recently cut in June. Ornamental cherries (*Prunus* sp.), hawthorn, blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) with dog rose threading through, are growing within and without of the church ruins.

The area of grass surrounding the ruins has been left to grow longer, presumably due to the difficulty of mowing near the ancient walls – but this also creates another habitat in the cemetery for wildlife.

To the north of the ruin there is a small patch of diverse species, such as meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), white campion (*Silene latifolia*), bird's foot trefoil, lesser stitchwort, Lady's bedstraw, common vetch (*Vicia sativa*), Yorkshire fog, yellow oat grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), and rough chervil (*Chaerophyllum temulum*) all in a small, sunny area, surrounded by taller, tougher vegetation.

### Compartment D:

Compartment D runs along the eastern end of the cemetery, with field maple, pine, ash, blackthorn and hawthorns on the north boundary, and a patch of ornamental laurel shrubs in the south. The compartment follows a row of recent graves (marked on map). The east boundary has hawthorn, oak, ornamental cypress, and *Prunus* sp. Nettles and false oat grass are frequent beneath the trees.

The ground has a 1metre rise to the west and the ruins.

This is the only compartment with meadow saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*), with just two flowers seen on two small plants – one plant on the 'Lever' grave and one nearby on the 'reserved plot'. This row of graves acts as a boundary marker between compartments for our survey, and also marks the top of the slope.

The sward has been left longer around the areas of new graves, towards the eastern tree line. The slope and rest of the compartment had been cut to about 4 inches at our June visit.

Here is occasional sweet vernal grass, common sorrel, field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*), hogweed, cocksfoot, creeping buttercup, daisy, yarrow, white clover and knapweed; germander speedwell, Yorkshire fog and ribwort plantain are frequent. Meadow saxifrage is rare, as is ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), rose sp. (*Rosa* sp.) and Mexican daisy (*Erigeron* sp.). Some of the recent graves have garden plants associated with them, while others retain more wildflower species.

### Photographs:



Meadow saxifrage, West Beckham cemetery



Low bank, facing north, (with field scabious and common sorrel) which is the boundary between compartments C and D.



Low bank, facing south, showing of gravestones where surveyors found meadow saxifrage





Surveyors at work in grassland of compartment B, with tall lime and epicormics growth behind on northern boundary. Stand of brambles of compartment C just visible to right-hand side. Spring 2017.



## Churchyard Plant List

Name of Site: West Beckham Cemetery  
 Date/s of Survey: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
 Name of Surveyor/s: AG, LM, LS(NWT)

Common name	Scientific name	Comp. A	Comp. B	Comp. C	Comp. D	Comment	DAFOR
Common cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>		*				O
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	*	*		*	Occ. On roadside bank of comp A	O
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>			*		Possibly garden plant	R
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	*	*		*		O
Sheep's sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	*	*				F
English bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	*				On outside of roadside hedgebank	R
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	*	*	*	*		F-LA
Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>			*			R
Lesser celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	*					O
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>			*			O
Meadow saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>				*	Just two small plants seen – one on Lever grave & one on reserved plot next to it, in line of new graves.	R
Field scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>			*	*		R
Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>				*		R
Pignut	<i>Conopodium majus</i>	*					O
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	*	*				O
False oxlip	<i>Primula x. polyantha</i>			*			R
Greater stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holstea</i>	*	*				O
Lesser stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	*	*	*			O

Common name	Scientific name	Comp. A	Comp. B	Comp. C	Comp. D	Comment	DAFOR
Hybrid bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides</i> sp.	*		*			O
Moschatel	<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>	*					R
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	*	*		*		O
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>			*			R
Bird's foot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>		*	*			O-F
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>		*				O
Hairy tare	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>			*			O
Thyme-leaved speedwell	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>		*				O
Wall speedwell	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>			*			O
Ivy-leaved speedwell	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	*					O
Purple toadflax	<i>Linaria purpurea</i>			*			O
Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>		*				F
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	*					O
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	*					O
Ground ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	*	*	*	*		O
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	*	*		*		O
Common mouse ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	*					O
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondyleum</i>	*	*		*		O
Sowthistle sp.	<i>Sonchus</i> sp.	*					O
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	*	*				O

Common name	Scientific name	Comp. A	Comp. B	Comp. C	Comp. D	Comment	DAFOR
Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>	*					O
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	*	*				O
Ground elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	*				Underneath holly in comp A	R
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	*	*	*			O
Daffodil (garden sp.)	<i>Narcissus</i> sp.	*				Mainly in NE corner	O
Crocus	<i>Crocus</i> sp.	*					O
Fox and cubs	<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>			*			O
Red campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>	*		*			O
White campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i>			*			R
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	*	*		*	Frequent under trees in comp D	O-F
Hedge woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>			*			O
Herb robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	*		*			O
Red dead nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	*					R
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>		*				O
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	*	*	*			O
Rose sp.	<i>Rosa</i> sp.				*		R
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i> sp.		*				O
Mexican daisy	<i>Erigeron</i> sp.				*	Garden species	R
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>		*		*		O
Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>		*				O
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>				*		F
Rough chervil	<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>			*			O
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>			*			O
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>			*			O
Hoary willowherb	<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>			*		On church ruins	O
Cranesbill sp.	<i>Geranium</i> sp.			*			O
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus</i> sp.			*		Growing at base of ruins	O



Common name	Scientific name	Comp. A	Comp. B	Comp. C	Comp. D	Comment	DAFOR
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>		*				R
Variegated ivy sp.	<i>Hedera</i> sp.			*		Cultivated ivy, growing on ruins	R
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	*	*				O
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	*			*		O
Lime	<i>Tilia</i> sp.	*	*				O
Pine sp.	<i>Pinus</i> sp.		*		*	Mature trees - central in comp B sward	O
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	*	*	*	*	Mostly as mature plants but also saplings in comp A.	O
Garden cypress sp.	<i>Cupressus</i> sp.		*		*	Leylandii type cypress on boundary and in sward.	O
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>		*	*			O
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>			*		In area of church ruins	O
Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	*	*		*		O
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>				*		R
Cherry sp.	<i>Prunus</i> sp.			*		Ornamental cherry trees	O
Male fern	<i>Dropteris felix-mas</i>	*				On western hedgebank under trees	R
<b>Grasses</b>							
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>		*		*		
False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>		*				F
Sweet vernal	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>		*	*	*		O
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>		*		*		F
Yellow oat grass	<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>			*			R
Soft brome	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>		*				R
Barren brome	<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>		*				O

Common name	Scientific name	Comp. A	Comp. B	Comp. C	Comp. D	Comment	DAFOR
Rough meadow grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>		*				

### Animal Species List

Name of Site: West Beckham Cemetery

Species Name	Date Seen	Any comments
Clouded yellow butterfly	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	
Painted lady	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	
Peacock butterfly	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	
Speckled wood butterfly	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	
Pheasant	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	
Kestrel	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	
Robin	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	
Wren	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	
Goldfinch	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	

**Please note:** DAFOR is a way of showing the amount 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

The plants highlighted in this colour may spread and can become invasive