

THE *Living*
Churchyard
PROJECT 2022

**Advisory Visits to
St George's Church
Churchyard Portland**

Visit dates

23rd August 2019 and 23rd June 2022

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Living Churchyard management advisor

2021 Plant survey carried out by
botanists' Martin McCleary, Christine Storey and Kate Odmell.



Google Earth aerial view of the church and churchyard showing the extent of the large churchyard adjacent to the large working quarry

Introduction

In 2019, the Dorset Wildlife Trust Portland Reserve Officer was asked by The Churches Conservation Trust for advice on the management of St George's Churchyard for the benefit of wildlife. This request was passed on to the DWT Living Churchyard Project and we visited this churchyard on August 23rd 2019.

A second visit was made on 23rd June 2022 and observations from this visit are made below.

The extent of this very large Churchyard is shown in the Google Earth image shown above. This churchyard dating from 1840 with extensions in 1873 and 1910 contains 2500 gravestones and monuments and is surrounded by a wall 1,630 ft in length built by convicts.

This churchyard is surrounded by a large working quarry and industrial areas. It is an important undisturbed area for wildlife, not far from the 2 DWT nature reserves at the redundant Tout and Kingbarrow quarries'

Report on visits.

When the visit was made in late August it was not possible to carry out a detailed botanical survey as much of the vegetation had dried up and is shown in the two pictures below. At that time verbal advice was given suggesting a mowing regime earlier in the year to create different grass lengths within the growing season.

23rd August 2019



View of the churchyard 23rd August 2019 dominated by long grass over most of the area except for mown footpaths.

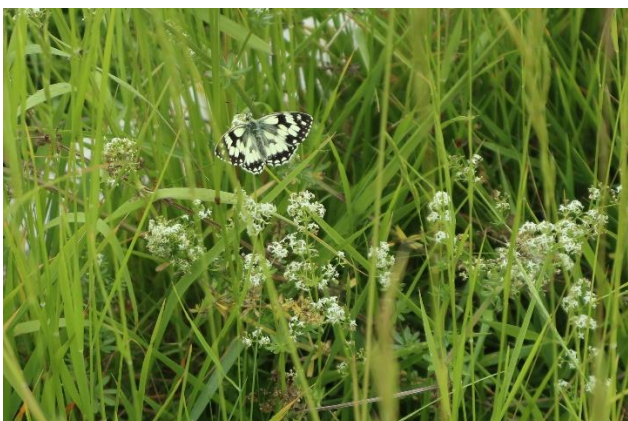
23rd June 2022



A general view across the churchyard

On the second visit we were very pleased to see the extent of grass cutting to create 3 different grass lengths. Many native plants were in flower and being visited by insects such as Marble white butterflies. Examples of some these are shown below.

Particularly noticeable was how some of the tomb areas had an attractive range of plants in flower.



Marbled white butterfly on Field bedstraw



Tomb with many wildflowers



Musk mallow



Wild carrot



Meadow vetchling



Bird's-foot trefoil



Tomb with Biting stonecrop



A walled border in flower.

Lichens

The plant survey listed below includes some lichen records. It is likely that a further survey by a lichenologist would be useful on this very extensive site.

Conclusions

St George's Church Churchyard is clearly a very difficult area to manage between the many grave stones and memorials. However the hard work has benefitted the wide range of native plants that exist here which include a significant number of 'Dorset notable' plants as recognised by the Dorset Environmental Records Centre.

Congratulations to the volunteers for carrying out this work to manage this important wildlife site

The plant list carried out by the botanical surveyors during 2021 is shown in the attached spreadsheet.

date 2021	St Georges Churchyard Flowering Plants	English Name					Tony B 220623 plants noted
	5 Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	Established	Flowers	Apr-Jun		X
	7 Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Native	Flowers	Jun-Ag		X
	22 Agrimonia eupatoria	Agrimony	Native	Flowers	Jun-Sept		
	Agrostemma githago	Corncockle	Native	Flowers	Jun-Aug		
	76 Allium vineale	Crow Garlic	Native	Flowers	Jun-Jul		
	85 Alopecurus pratensis	Meadow Foxtail	Native	Flowers	Apr-Jul		
	Anacamptis pyramidalis	Pyramidal Orchid	Native	Flowers	Jun-Jul	DN	
	99.8 Anagallis arvensis subsp. arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel	Native	Flowers	Apr-Oct		X
x	113 Anisantha sterilis	Sterile Brome	Native	Flowers	May-Jul		
	125 Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley	Native	Flowers	Apr-Jun		X
	151 Arctium lappa	Greater Burdock	Native	Flowers	Jul-Sept		
	Armeria maritima	Thrift	Native	Flowers	Apr-Jul		
	169 Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-Grass	Native	Flowers	Jun-Sept		
	176 Arum maculatum	Lords-and-Ladies	Native	Flowers	Apr-Jun		
	Asplenium scolopendrium	Hart's Tongue fern	Native	Flowers	Jul Aug		X
	231 Bellis perennis	Daisy	Native	Flowers	Mar-Oct		X
	Borago officinalis	Borage	Established	Flowers	Jun-Sept		
	250 Brachypodium sylvaticum	Wood False-brome	Native	Flowers	Jul-Aug		
	Brassica nigra	Black Mustard	Native	Flowers	May-Sept		
	269 Bromus hordeaceus	Soft-brome	Native	Flowers	May-Jul		
	Calendula officinalis	Pot Marigold	Casual	Flowers	Jun-Oct		
	311 Calystegia sepium	Hedge Bindweed	Native	Flowers	Jul-Sept		
	325 Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's-purse	Native	Flowers	All Year		
	328 Cardamine flexuosa	Wavy Bitter-cress	Native	Flowers	Mar-Sept		
	329 Cardamine hirsuta	Hairy Bitter-cress	Native	Flowers	Feb-Nov		
	Centaurea cyanus	Cornflower	Casual	Flowers	Jun-Aug		
	Centranthus ruber	Red Valerian	Casual	Flowers	May-Oct		X
	467 Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	Native	Flowers	Mar-Sept		
	515 Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	Native	Flowers	Jul-Sept		
	522 Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	Native	Flowers	Jul-Oct		X
	544 Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	Native	Flowers	Jun-Sept		X
	Coronopus didymus	Lesser Swine-cress	Native	Flowers	Aug-Sept		
	Crocsmia x crocosmiflora	Mountbretia	introduced	Flowers	Jul-Oct		
	Crepis biennis	Rough Hawk's-beard	Native	Flowers	Jun-Jul		
	578 Crepis vesicaria	Beaked Hawk's-beard	introduced	Flowers	May-Jul		
	592 Cymbalaria muralis	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Established	Flowers	May-Sept		
	597 Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail	Native	Flowers	Jun-Aug		
	607 Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	Native	Flowers	Jun-Sept		
	620 Daucus carota subsp. carota	Wild Carrot	Native	Flowers	Jun-Aug		X
	Diptaxis muralis	Annual Wall-Rocket	Native	Flowers	Apr-Oct		
	5 Dipsacus fullonum	Wild Teasel	Native	Flowers	Jul-Aug		X
	Echium vulgare	Viper's-bugloss	Native	Flowers	Jun-Sept		
	33 Elytrigia repens	Common Couch	Native	Flowers	Jun-Aug		
	692 Epilobium hirsutum	Great Willowherb	Native	Flowers	Jul-Sept		
	695 Epilobium montanum	Broad-leaved Willowherb	Native	Flowers	May-Aug		
	Erysimum cheiri	Wallflower	Casual	Flowers	Mar-Sept		
	762 Euonymus europaeus	Spindle	Native	Flowers	May-Jun		
	Euonymus japonicus	Evergreen Spindle	planted	Flowers	May-Jun		
	763 Eupatorium cannabinum	Hemp-agrimony	Native	Flowers	Jun-Sept		
	Euphrasia nemorosa	Eyebright	Native	Flowers	May-Sept		
	Festuca arundinacea	Tall Fescue	Native	Flowers	Jun-Aug		
	Festuca pratensis	Meadow Fescue	Native	Flowers	Jun-Aug	DN	
	Ficaria verna ssp verna	Lesser Celandine (bulbils)	Native	Flowers	Feb-May		
x	841 Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Native	Flowers	Mar-May		
	873 Galium aparine	Cleavers	Native	Flowers	Apr-Sept		X
	Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw	native	Flowers	Jun-Sept		X
	Galium verum	Lady's Bedstraw	Native	Flowers	Jun-Aug	DN	X
	907 Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	Native	Flowers	Mat-Aug		
	Geranium lucidum	Shining Cranes-bill	Native	Flowers	May-Sept		
	918 Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert	Native	Flowers	Apr-Oct		X
	Geranium rotundifolium	Round-leaved Cranesbill	Native	Flowers	Apr-Aug		
	Gladiolus	Gladiolus Sp	Established	Flowers	Jun-Aug		
x	952.1 Hedera helix helix	Common Ivy	Native	Flowers	Sept-Nov		X
	Helminthotheca echioides	Bristly Ox-tongue	Native	Flowers	Jun-Nov		X
	968 Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	Native	Flowers	Jun-Sept		X
	983 Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	Native	Flowers	May-Aug		
	Hyacinthoides x massartiana	Hybrid Bluebell	Established	Flowers	Apr-Jun		
	Hypericum calycinum	Rose of Sharon	Established	Flowers	Jun-Aug		
	1023 Ilex aquifolium	Holly	Native	Flowers	May-Aug		
	Iris foetidissima	Stinking Iris	Native	Flowers	May-Jul		X
	Knautia arvensis	Field Scabious	Native	Flowers	Jul-Sept	DN	
	1116 Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling	Native	Flowers	May-Aug	DN	X
	1130 Leontodon hispidus	Rough Hawkbit	Native	Flowers	May-Oct	DN	X
Apr-M	333 Lepidium draba	Hoary Cress	Established	Flowers	Apr-Jun		
	502 Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye Daisy	Native	Flowers	May-Sept	DN	X
	Linaria purpurea	Purple Toadflax	Established	Flowers	Jun-Sept		X
	1183 Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass	Native	Flowers	May-Aug		
	1191 Lotus corniculatus	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	Native	Flowers	May-Sept	DN	X
	Malva moschata	Musk-mallow	Native	Flowers	Jun-Aug		X
	1236 Malva sylvestris	Common Mallow	Native	Flowers	Jun-Sept		X
	1239 Matricaria chamomilla	Scented Mayweed	Native	Flowers	May-Sept		
	Medicago arabica	Spotted Medick	Native	Flowers	May-Sept		
	1250 Medicago lupulina	Black Medick	Native	Flowers	May-Aug		X
	1317 Myosotis arvensis	Field Forget-me-not	Native	Flowers	Apr-Sept		
	Narcissus sp	Daffodil	Established	Flowers	Mar-Apr		
	1361 Odontites vernus	Red Bartsia	Native	Flowers	Jun-Sept		X
	Ononis repens	Common Restharrow	Native	Flowers	Jun-Sept	DN	
	Origanum vulgare	Wild Marjoram	Native	Flowers	Jul-Sept	DN	
	Ornithogalum umbellatum	Star of Bethlehem	introduced	Flowers	Apr-Jun		
	Orobanche hederæ	Ivy Broomrape	Native	Flowers	Jun-Oct	DN	
	Oxalis articulata	Pink-sorrel	introduced	Flowers	May-oct		
	Oxalis corniculata	Procumbent yellow Sorrel	Established	Flowers	Jun-Sept		
	1430 Papaver rhoeas	Common Poppy	Native	Flowers	Jun-Aug		X
	Papaver somniferum	Opium Poppy	Casual	Flowers	Jun-Aug		
Jun-Sept	Piosella aurantiaca	Fox-and-Cubs	introduced	Flowers	Jun-Oct		
	1475 Pimpinella saxifraga	Burnet Saxifrage	Native	Flowers	Jul-Sept	DN	
x	1487 Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Native	Flowers	Apr-Oct		X

	1488	<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	Native	Flowers	Jun-Oct	
		<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain	Native	Flowers	May-Aug	DN
	1495	<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	Native	Flowers	All Year	
	1506.4	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass	Native	Flowers	May-Jul	
	1507	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass	Native	Flowers	Jun-Jul	
x	1523	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	Native	Flowers	Jun-Nov	
	1594	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	Native	Flowers	May-Sept	X
		<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	Native	Flowers	Mar-may	
	1642	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	Native	Flowers	Apr-Aug	X
		<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	Native	Flowers	Mar-Jun	
x	1660	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	Native	Flowers	Apr-Oct	
	1709	<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog-rose	Native	Flowers	Jun-Jul	
x	1728	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	Native	Flowers	May-Oct	X
	1734	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	Native	Flowers	May-Jul	
	1742.1	<i>Rumex crispus crispus</i>	Curled Dock	Native	Flowers	May-Oct	
	1748	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	Native	Flowers	May-Aug	
	1753.2	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i> var. <i>viridis</i>	Wood Dock	Native	Flowers	Jun-Aug	
		<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom	Native	Flowers	Jan-May	DN
	1815	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	Native	Flowers	Jun-Jul	
		<i>Schedonorus pratensis</i>	Meadow fescue	Native	Flowers	Jun-Aug	Repeat! This is new name
		<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop	Native	Flowers	Jun-Aug	
		<i>Sedum rupestre</i>	Reflexed Stonecrop	Native	Flowers	Jun-Aug	
	1899	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	Native	Flowers	Jun Oct	X
	1905	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	Native	Flowers	All Year	
		<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder	Native	Flowers	May-Oct	DN
	1258	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	Native	Flowers	May-Oct	
	1933	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock	Native	Flowers	Mar-Nov	
	1938	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	Native	Flowers	Apr-Oct	
		<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	Native	Flowers	Mar-May	X
	1947	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	Native	Flowers	May-Sept	
	1952	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Perennial Sow-thistle	Native	Flowers	Jul-Oct	
	1953	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	Native	Flowers	Jun-Oct	
	1954	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle	Native	Flowers	Apr-Oct	
	2012	<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	Native	Flowers	All Year	
	2034	<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion	Native	Flowers	Mar-Oct	X
	2039	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Common Yew	Native	Flowers	Feb-Apr	X
		<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	Native	Flowers	May-Oct	X
	2091.1	<i>Trifolium pratense</i> var. <i>pratense</i>	Red Clover	Native	Flowers	May-Sept	X
	2092	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Native	Flowers	May-Sept	X
	1241.1	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Mayweed	Native	Flowers	Jun-Nov	
	2105	<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow Oat-grass	Native	Flowers	Jun-Jul	DN
		<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	Bread Wheat	Casual	Flowers	Jun-Jul	
	2126	<i>Urtica dioica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	Native	Flowers	May-Sept	
		<i>Valerianaella locusta</i>	Common Cornsalad	Native	Flowers	Apr-Jun	
	2168	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	Native	Flowers	Mar-Jul	X
	2171.1	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i> subsp. <i>hederifolia</i>	Ivy-leaved Speedwell	Native	Flowers	Apr-May	
	2175	<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field-Speedwell	Established	Flowers	All Year	
		<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Way-faring Tree	Native	Flowers	Apr-Jun	
	2649	<i>Vicia sativa</i> subsp. <i>segetalis</i>	Common Vetch	Established	Flowers	May-Sept	
0	2198	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	Native	Flowers	Apr-Oct	
	2202	<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare	Native	Flowers	May-Aug	
		<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet	Native	Flowers	Mar-May	DN

Date 2021

		St Georges churchyard Lichens
Limestone		<i>Aspicilia calcarea</i>
Limestone		<i>Caloplaca aurantia</i>
Limestone		<i>Caloplaca dichroa</i>
Limestone		<i>Caloplaca flavescens</i>
Limestone		<i>Dirina massiliensis</i>
Limestone		<i>Lecanora lbescens</i>
Limestone		<i>Lecanora campestris</i>
Limestone		<i>Lecidella Stigmatea</i>
Limestone		<i>Verrucaria baldensis</i>
Limestone		<i>Verrucaria nigrescens</i>
Limestone		<i>Physcia tenella</i>
basic Stone		<i>Flavoparmelia caperata</i>
Basic stone		<i>Physconia grisea</i>
basic Stone		<i>Xanthoria parietina</i>