

CHRIST CHURCH ECO-CHURCH

LAND MANAGEMENT

FOR CHRIST CHURCH WITH ST. MARYS, SWINDON

MARCH 2022






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1. CURRENT ECO-CHURCH SURVEY STATUS
2. LAND MANAGEMENT – GAPS, IDEAS AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS



The Eco-Church survey is run by a UK charity called A Roche UK. Many churches in the UK now have some level of award. In Swindon, Christ Church w St Marys, Wroughton and Wichelstowe and Immanuel have bronze, Bath Road has Silver

I. CURRENT STATUS

Category	Current category status
Worship and teaching	
Buildings	
Land	
Community and Global Engagement	
Lifestyle	

- LAND category (how we manage our land) is the weakest category with most to do to further optimise to gain a SILVER in this category.
- We could gain SILVER overall by implementing improvements in how we manage the land.

3. LAND CATEGORY

We need to turn any 5 areas to Yes, to attain a category Silver for land management and an overall Silver.

	Question	A	Comment
1	The land at our church is managed for the encouragement of native wildlife (birds, animals and plants)	No	
2	We encourage native wildlife on our church land through provision of the following: birds, bats, bugs, hedgehogs	No	
3	Stocked wildlife feeding stations are present on our church land: All year round; winter only; No	No	
4	Our church land contains a pond or wetland area that is good for wildlife:	No	
5	We grow plants on our land that benefit birds, bees, butterflies etc.:	Yes	
6	Our church maintains an area of land for native wildflowers:	No	
7	Our church has researched and established a mowing regime appropriate to the conservation of the grassland and wildlife present:	No	
8	Our church avoids the use of harmful chemicals (pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers) in the management of our land (excluding paths and driveways):	Yes	
9	Our church participates in responsible native tree planting schemes in accordance with guidance from environment professionals:	No	
10	Our church undertakes wildlife (birds, animals and plants) surveys on our land: (Annually, occasionally, never)	Never	
11	Our church participates in a scheme, other than Eco Church, designed to promote conservation on church land (e.g. 'Living Churchyards'):	Yes	Starting to
12	We grow fruit and vegetables on our land (including in planters, window boxes etc. as well as in a community garden/allotment):	N/A	Could have said no
13	Composting facilities are available on our church land:	No	
14	Our church actively encourages members to use church land for recreation/contemplation (e.g. picnics, prayer etc.):	Yes	
15	Our church actively encourages members of the local community to use the church land for recreation/contemplation:	Yes	
16	Our church has established a management plan for the land for which we are responsible:	No	

3. LAND CATEGORY

What 5 things of 8 COULD we do? (2) Ideas under each of the 8 areas:

Numbers refer to question numbers

1. Managed for nature

- This question should be a yes if some of the following are achieved, i.e., wildflower area, birds, bugs, small pond or water hole

2. Birds, bugs, bats and hedgehogs

- Encouraging birds
- Encouraging bats
- Encouraging butterflies and moths
- Encouraging hedgehogs

3. Wildlife feeding stations – in winter

- Shelter, warmth, feeding stations, water (same resources as above)

4. Create a pond

- Can be an actual pond
- Can also be sunken washing up bowl, old sink, mud pools, rainwater planters
- (Part of No.10 Management Plan)

3. LAND CATEGORY

What 5 things of 8 COULD we do? (2)

Ideas under each of the 8 areas:

6. Wildflowers

- Wild as opposed to cultivated and pruned
- Wildflower survey
- Plant areas of wildflowers and incorporate into mowing regime (7)

7. Mowing regime to encourage wildlife and grassland

- Not all areas are mown, but some are left uncut Mar-Sep
- Spring flowering meadow – not cut til June
- Summer flowering meadow – cut to 8cm til May then left until Sept

10. Wildlife surveys

- Annually
- Surveying 2m x 2m parts of the land for all types of plants and bugs
- Nature awareness with children

16. Management plan for the land

- Map out the area you have
- Divide it up into areas
- Manage those areas
- Have a strategy for that management
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3_Uxyrjgy8

3. LAND CATEGORY

What are your ideas and thoughts?

The following proposal steers away from the bugs and feeding stations and focuses on the flowers and grasses, birds and water:

1. Managed for nature – would achieve this if all 4 below were done.
 - Includes forming Eco-working group
4. Create a pond, or several ponds from old sinks and bowls
6. Do an existing wildflower survey. Then in land management plan, map out an area for wildflowers, plant this area and establish it and don't mow it until September
7. Mowing regime created as part of land management plan (16) to encompass wildflower area(s) (6)
16. Create and agree a Land Management Plan with the gardening team and contractors, including wildflower area and water areas / pond(s) (4) and mowing areas (7)
 - Ask Caring for God's Acre, or Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to help us compose a Land Management Plan:
 - Arrange for a walk around the land areas, note what is there and what is possible, invite people to help us do this.
 - We only must have one and start the action plan, not finish it.