

**Kent & Medway**



**Biological  
Records Centre**

**Report for  
St Stephens Church**

**Survey of St Stephen's churchyard  
carried out on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

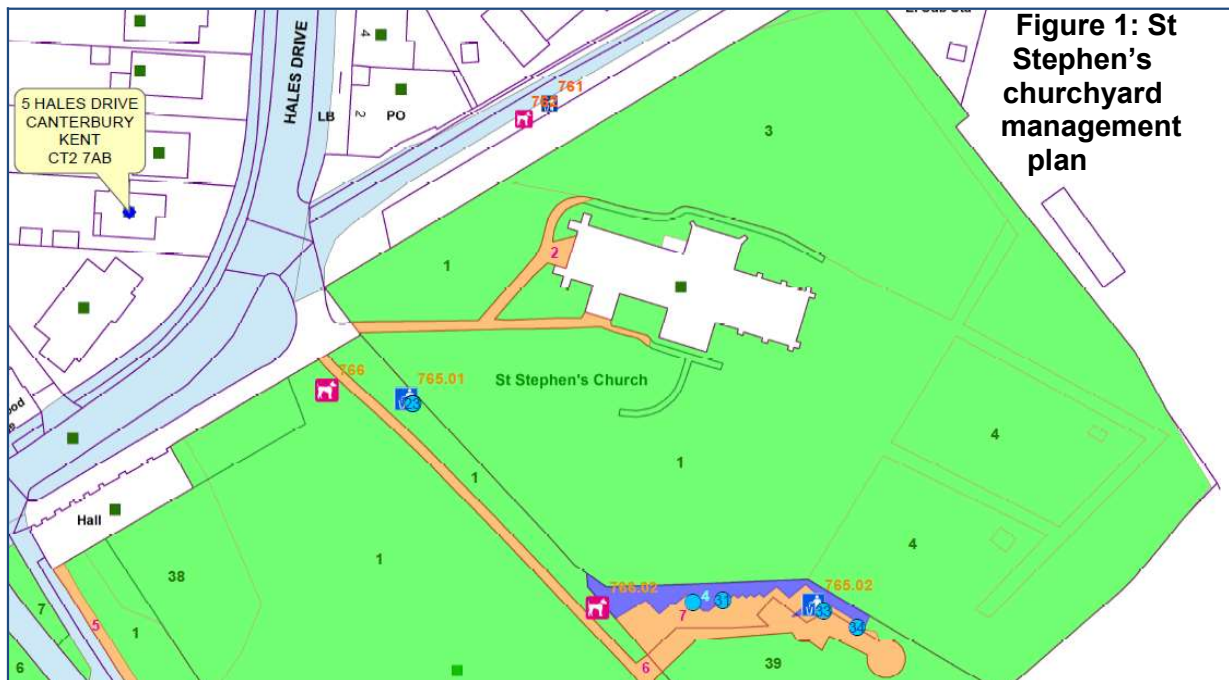
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Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre**

**June 2019**



## Background

The churchyard at St Stephen's is 'closed' and is maintained by Canterbury City Council (CCC). Under the terms of the Closed Churchyards legislation CCC is responsible for maintaining the grass, trees, boundary walls and gates as they were at the time of the closure (Figure 1 and Table 1).



**Table 1: CCC churchyard maintenance regime**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Maintenance schedule</b>
<b>Grass mowing regime</b>	
Plot 1 – Amenity grassland	18 cuts per year
Plot 3 – Meadow grass	4 cuts per year
Plot 4 – Conservation grass	1 cut in April and 1 cut in July
<b>Other maintenance works</b>	
Trees	Inspected every 2 years with works carried out as required
Emergency works	As required in between inspections

CCC receives no revenue from the Church and has no spare funds within the churchyard budgets to do any additional work/projects. CCC is happy to reduce the level of maintenance undertaken and would be grateful for any cost savings. On the other hand, CCC always tries to assist, where possible, for example tidying the odd overgrown patches elsewhere in the district as part of a Britain in Bloom bid. However, CCC has said that changes in maintenance would really need to be managed by the community. Like for like swaps are generally fine, so moving a path or not cutting one area but cutting another at neutral cost would be possible. For any odd, one off works it is best to contact CCC early in the financial year<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Information on CCC maintenance regime received via email correspondence between CCC and Peter Toon.

## **Churchyard walkover survey**

A walkover survey of the churchyard was undertaken on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 by the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre (KMBRC). Surveyors were: Tony Witts, Judith Church, Hannah Cook and Teresa Redfern.

The purpose of the survey was to:

- Record the range of wildlife in the churchyard
- Identify whether there were any areas that contained rare or unusual species with specific management requirements

Weather conditions on the day were wet and overcast, meaning that there was an absence of insects flying around. Furthermore, the amenity grassland areas of the churchyard had been cut earlier in the week, which may have limited the range of plant species recorded in these areas.

## **Survey results**

A list of the species recorded from field observations in the churchyard on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 has been prepared (Appendix A). None of the species were rare meaning that there are no restrictions on management from a species perspective. Note that the list covers the species observed on the day; the absence of a species does not necessarily mean that a particular species does not occur. The record applies to the day of the visit.

## Appendix A: List of species recorded in St Stephen's churchyard on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Species Name	Common name	Notes
<b>Fungi</b>		
<i>Phoma samararum</i>	A fungus	On ash fruits
<i>Diaporthe samaricola</i>	A fungus	On ash fruits
<i>Uromyces muscari</i>	A fungus	
<i>Puccinia lagenophorae</i>	A fungus	
<i>Puccinia distincta</i>	A fungus	
<b>Ferns</b>		
<i>Asplenium adiantum</i>	Spleenwort	
<b>Flowering plants</b>		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard	
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-ladies	
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black horehound	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy bitter-cress	
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckoo flower	
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous sedge	
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common mouse-ear	
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky mouse-ear	
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater celandine	
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty spurge	
<i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>	Caper spurge	
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broadleaved willowherb	
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild strawberry	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved crane's-bill	
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood avens	
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground ivy	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Hop	
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish bluebell	
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scriptus</i>	Bluebell	
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red dead-nettle	
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field wood-rush	

Species Name	Common name	Notes
<i>Oxalis exilis</i>	Least yellow sorrel/Shady woodsorrel	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green alkanet	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain	
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy (grass)	
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping cinquefoil	
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	Barren strawberry	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved dock	
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red campion	
<i>Smyrniium olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common chickweed	
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg	Common dandelion	
<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	Common lime	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common nettle	
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall speedwell	
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander speedwell	
<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	Ivy-leaved speedwell	
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved speedwell	
<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Early dog-violet	
<b>Invertebrates</b>		
<i>Oomorplus concolor</i>	A beetle	Beaten from Ivy
<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	Harlequin ladybird	
<i>Exochomus quadripustulatus</i>	Pine ladybird	
<i>Calvia quattuordecimguttata</i>	Cream-spot ladybird	
<i>Nedyus quadrimaculatus</i>	A weevil	
<i>Polydrusus pterygomalis</i>	A weevil	Specimen discarded
<i>Taxomyia taxi</i>	Yew gall midge	Plant gall on yew
<i>Eriophyes tiliae</i>	Nail gall mite	Plant gall on <i>Tilia</i>
<i>Aceria macrorhyncha</i>	A gall mite	Plant gall on Sycamore
<i>Issus coleoptratus</i>	A planthopper	
<i>Forficula auricularia</i>	Common earwig	
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	Rotund disc (snail)	
<i>Cochlicopa cf. lubrica</i>	Slippery moss snail	
<i>Cyclosa conica</i>	A spider	
<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	Common carder bee	
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	European honey bee	
<i>Philoscia muscorum</i>	Common striped woodlouse	
<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>	Common pill-bug	