

St Giles Hill Graveyard management plan.



Front entrance to St Giles Hill Graveyard on the Alresford Rd.

Compiled by The Friends of St Giles Hill Graveyard

Statement of objectives:

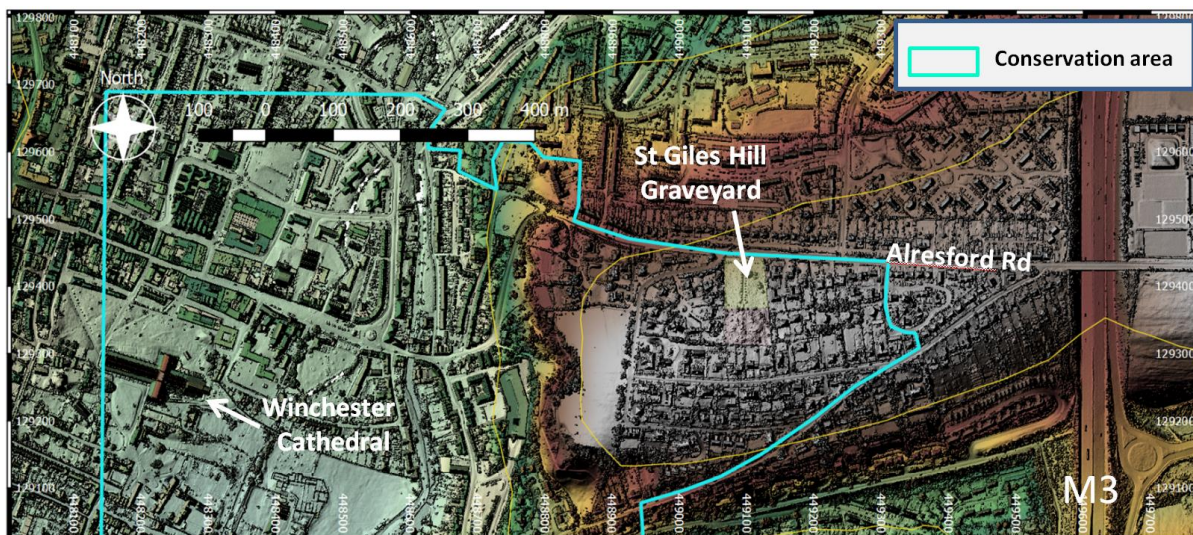
- To link three communities (Highcliffe, St Giles Hill and Winnall) in a joint project to maintain, repair and preserve St Giles Hill Graveyard, upholding its original purpose as place of reflection and remembrance, and as a benefit to local residents and the wider community.
- To maintain and enhance the graveyard as a sanctuary for wildlife.
- To preserve the historic significance of the site and to increase safe access for visitors.

The concept of this plan is that the site should be managed as a contribute to the Winchester local biodiversity action plan (2005), and as part of a strategy that encompasses the South Downs habitat network that includes Magdalen Hill Down, the adjoining St Giles Hill Park, Winnall Moors and St Catherine's Hill.

This management plan is the latest update from that originally plan published in 2016.

Site location and description:

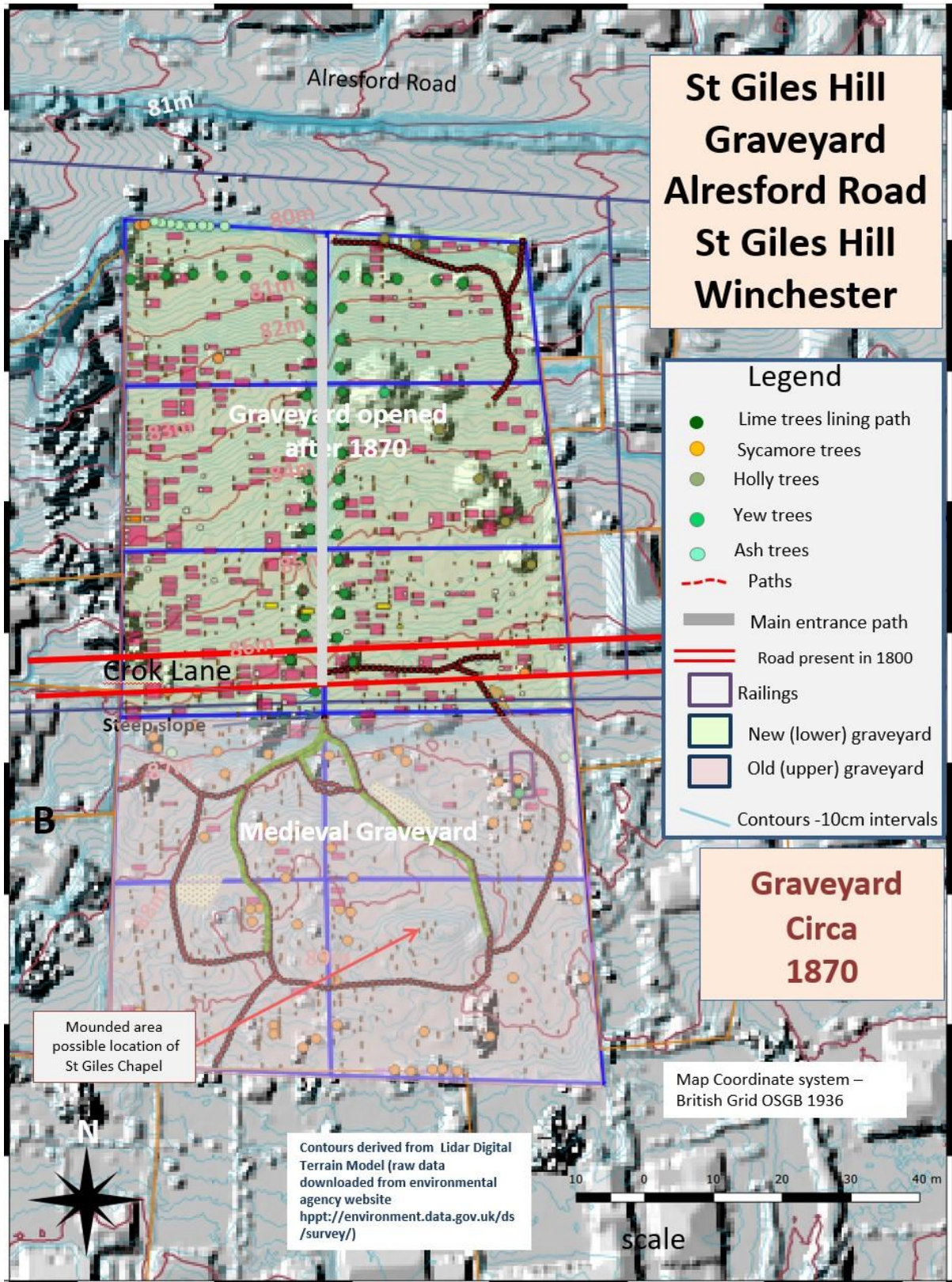
The graveyard is located on the Alresford Road (OS grid reference SU49102938) within a residential area on the east side of Winchester (post code SO23 0HG). The graveyard occupies the topographically highest part of St Giles Hill. It is now disused for burials.



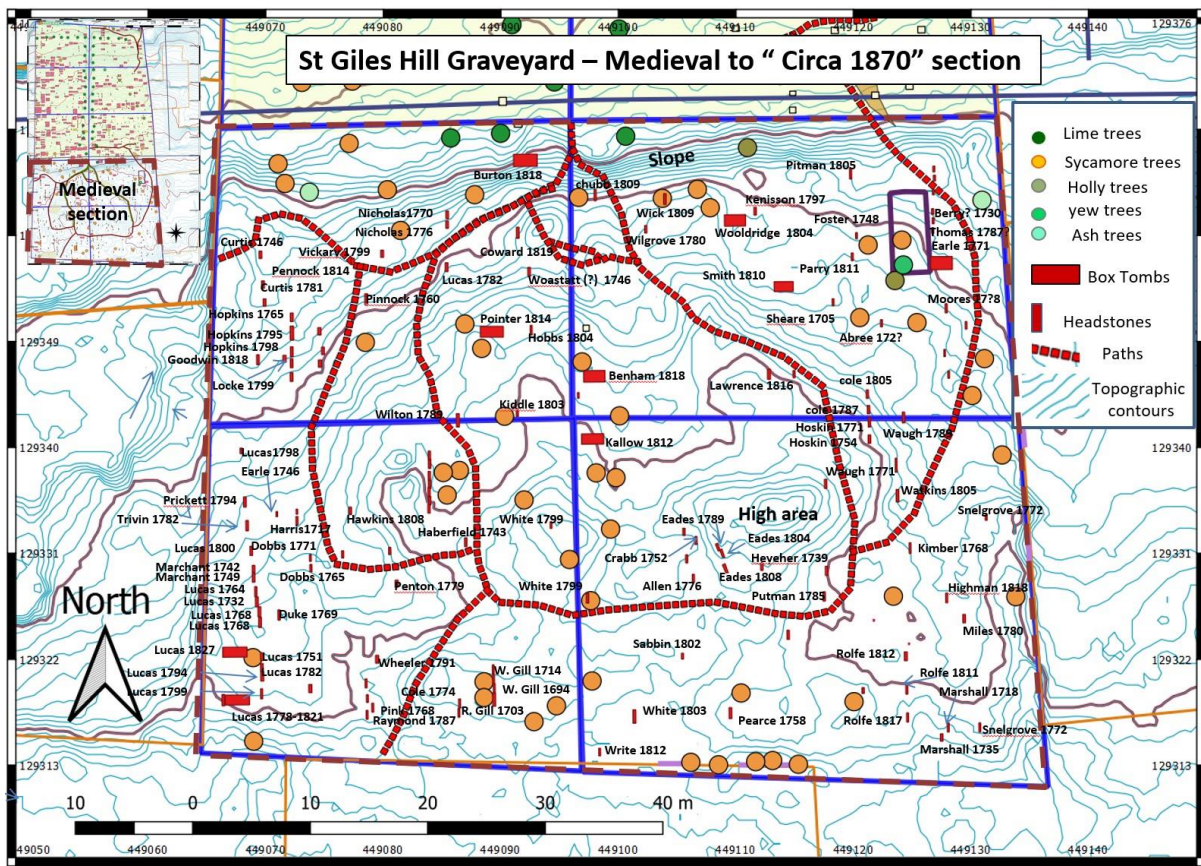
Location of St Giles Hill Graveyard (topographic contours in red).

The St Giles Hill Neighbourhood Design Statement, (page 11) published jointly by Winchester City Council and the St Giles Hill Residents' Association, states that the graveyard is an important open space for wildlife. It is classified in the Winchester City Council Open Spaces Strategy (2015) as an informal green space (see St John Ward, page 84 and map on page 85).

The graveyard can be divided into two parts, here called the old and new graveyards. The old graveyard occupies the higher southern half of the site and was first mentioned in association with the medieval St Giles Chapel in 1092, and in 1172 and 1306 when it was mentioned as a parish church. On eighteenth century maps the northern end of the site is shown as an open area of chalk hillside, possibly used as pasture. The older part of the graveyard was originally flanked on its northern side by Crok Lane, but by the time the new graveyard came into operation around 1870, this lane had become disused. A break of slope running through the centre of the graveyard marks the probably course of medieval Crok Lane.



Map showing the distribution of graves and trees in the graveyard and the old and new areas of the graveyard.



Map showing the “old” or “medieval” graveyard first mentioned at the end of the 11th C.

Graveyard habitat:

The “old” graveyard is occupied by mature broad-leaved woodland comprising self-seeded Sycamore. Common Lime planted in rows occupy parts of the “new” graveyard. Other trees include Holly, Yew and Ash are also present. Many of these trees are considered to be veterans. They have multiple trunks (possibly the result of coppicing in the past), decayed limbs, holes and good fungal growth. Open areas support a ground flora dominated by Bramble, Ivies, Hogweed, Old man’s beard, Stinging-nettle and Wood Aven with Elder, Ash and Sycamore saplings. Some open areas have Holly, native Privet, Hazel, Hawthorn and Dogwood, but these shrubs are less than one metre high. At present there is a lack of middle storey vegetation advantageous to wildlife.

In recent years the “new” graveyard, has periodically been cut back by The Community Rehabilitation Company, mainly during the winter

A plant survey was carried out on the 20-05-16 by Anna Stewart (see appendix 1 below). The results were confirmed by a visit of the Country BSBI plant recorder. The purpose of the survey was to establish a baseline to measure any future improvement to the site biodiversity and habitat. Please see <http://www.stgileshill.org.uk> for more information.

Maintenance priorities and schedule:

Any management plan must be realistic, cost effective and sustainable tailored to the resources available. The original plan benefited from the input of Winchester City Council Landscape and Parks and Historic Environment departments. Special thanks go to Richard Smith (city ecologist) and Tracy Matthews (City Archaeologist). Subsequent plans have been modified as we learn from the successes in failures of our activities.

The graveyard has been divided into sections (A to J) to facilitate the communication of the work programme to work parties.

Summary of overall objectives (see later sections for more detail):

- Overall to increase the biodiversity of the site whilst making it easier to maintain.
- Maintain grass covered paths giving access to all parts of the graveyard.
- Reduce the number of randomly distributed shrubs (mostly Alder, sycamore and ash) to facilitate the use of mechanical devices – strimmers and lawnmowers. Replace the shrubs with useful wildlife friendly shrubs planted mainly as hedgerows that will provide a middle story largely missing at the moment.
- Ground flora – develop designated areas for meadow habitat, woodland habitat, nettle stands etc:
- Construction of dead hedges and stumperies to facilitate biomass management and bring some benefit for wildlife (birds and insects). Ideally, they will be upgrades to live hedges with the planting of shrubs.

Strategy:

We have developed an annual “living” plan for habitat management and upgrade in the graveyard. In many parts of the graveyard this is based on a rotational cutting regime will be required although the exact timing and number of cuts will vary with the habitat and desired end product. It is important to remember bird nesting times and other wildlife factors in the management strategy. For instance, making sure that the front sections E to J are cut back before spring, allows the development of a good display of Snowdrop, Daffodil, Primrose and Violets, Bluebell flowers in the spring.

Strimming with metal brush cutter blades is not permissible as they damage the gravestones and constitute a safety risk. The use of light line strimmers is preferable but the operation can be troublesome and time-consuming owing the frequent need to recharge the strimmer line owing to snagging on stumps, brambles and gravestone edges. The same obstacles made access for a mower difficult. At times it is necessary to hand cut the vegetation.

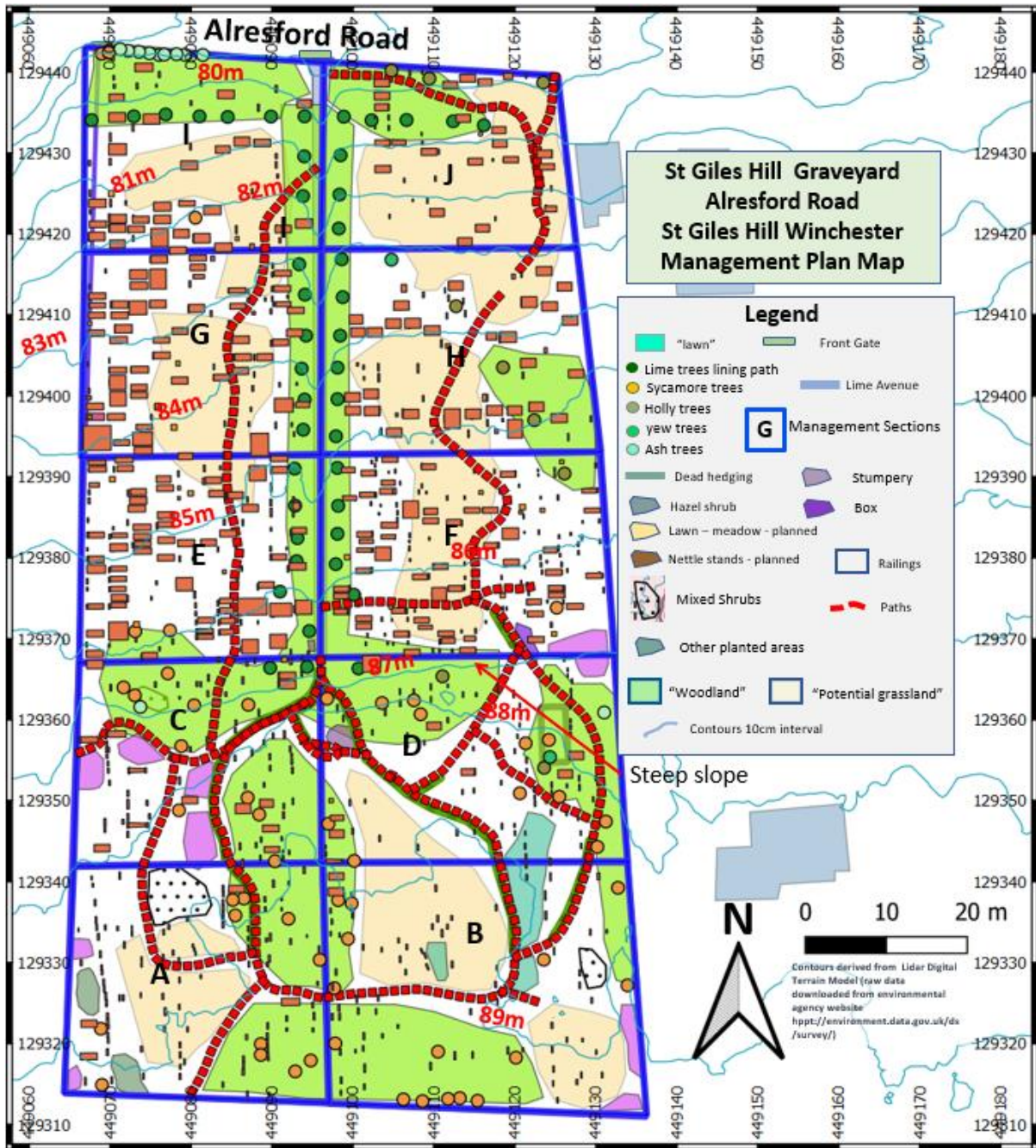
Because the stumps constituted a major hinderance to maintenance, it was decided to implement a programme to remove them. Many of the stumps belong to self-seeded Elder, Ash and Sycamore saplings growing indiscriminately and forming trip hazards. In the “new” graveyard it was decided to remove most of these saplings, whilst in the “old” graveyard removal would be selective. Hedges comprising clumps of Hazel and other shrub would be left. Only the stumps that are not close to graves are removed. To mitigate the impact on wildlife a programme of shrub planting has been started. to make living hedges to provide bird nesting sites.

Herbicides will not be used as a widespread means of removing unwanted plant species.

The Sections: The sections are divided into 3 main types. **Section J** at the front of the graveyard has a high proportion of fescue grasses and will be cut using a mower on a regular basis. Mowing was made possible by a programme of shrub stump removal (which previously prevented mowers from operation effectively) see stumps below. Regular mowing should promote a more diverse flora. Cuttings will be removed to promote the low fertility needed to encourage the insipient Chalk Flora. We are currently trying to expand this area to section H.

Sections E to I form the remainder of the “new” graveyard (first utilized in the 1870’s). These sections have all of the historic WW1 graves. In some areas the gravestones are closely spaced and the vegetation between them will need periodic cutting throughout the year. Stumps have also been removed from these sections allowing the use of a mower rather than strimmers. Strimmers will still be necessary in area inaccessible to mowers. We are sowing meadow seeds in the open areas of these sections and grass has been laid to form pathways.

Sections A to D are on higher ground and represent the “old” graveyard where visible graves are sparsely spaced. Originally graves may have been more tightly packed, but many have been lost or buried beneath the current surface. These sections will have lighter touch maintenance and be the part of the graveyard in which wildlife areas will be encouraged. See Table 1 for management priorities and sections of graveyard affected. The many open and shade free areas constitute potential tracts of chalk grassland and wildflowers. A heavy programme of stump removal in the winter 2019/20 has rendered much of this area manageable with strimmers and mowers. Paths constructed in 2016 are now mostly grassed and can be easily maintained using a mower. Although mostly wooded there are some open areas. During the winter of 2019/20 we started a programme to convert the open, sunny areas which are free of monuments into chalk flora meadows. This comprises the sequential clearing of rectangular plots followed by seeding or plugging.



Management map of St Giles Hill Graveyard showing different sections and habitat area.

Other management items:

Gravestones: The gravestones are to be cleaned very carefully with minimal intervention using guidelines set out by Historic England and The War Memorials Trust. Care should be taken not to damage remaining inscriptions, especially when removing Ivy. Removal of biological growth such as lichens, using even gentle means, may be well intentioned but is often damaging and should generally be avoided. Aggressive cleaning methods should always be avoided as they can cause the etching, roughening and discolouration of stone

and metal surfaces, which will in turn lead to accelerated decay. Care should be taken not to damage graves whilst using mechanical tools or carrying out tree surgery.

- **Construct path around the cemetery:** A loop path was first constructed in the “old Graveyard” making it more accessible. The path was originally made from natural material such as wood chips generated from restoration and maintenance activities in the graveyard. They are now being replaced by grass. The lengths of wood branches that initially lined the paths have now been removed as they hinder the use of mowers and strimmer. The purpose of the path was to make access easier for the mobility impaired and make it easier for maintenance teams to access the more overgrown areas. The network of paths has now grown significantly (see management map).
- **Maintain narrow pathway to WW1 and other historically interesting graves:** These will be informal paths cut by strimmer or hand, and between blocks of grave the more interesting graves in the “old” upper graveyard. Work to do this has already begun.
- **Stabilize any potentially dangerous monuments:** After discussion with the Winchester City Council (WCC) Historic Environment Team it is suggested that the potentially dangerous monuments are, informally, “fenced in” using inconspicuous materials, not high vis. tape. It was suggested that some sort of biomass fencing would be appropriate. As far as possible monuments should be left alone. On no account are monuments to be structurally modified without the consultation with the church, Historic environments and all such work should be done by professionals.
- **Rebuild flint walls:** This is a long term objective as the restoration of flint walls is costly. The WCC Historic Environment Team has indicated that major wall repairs should be carried out by a professional. This is particularly important with respect to the front wall if it were to be rebuilt. The self-seeded Ash trees that currently occupy the position of the wall will need to be taken down. A priority is to repair areas of wall where the copping stones are loose or missing, as water penetration will cause most rapid deterioration and collapse of the wall. Any repair will need permission from the landowner. Work on the Alresford Road wall will need planning permission from WCC.

Minor repairs can be carried out by volunteers who have been trained by a professional. Care should be taken note to remove environmentally significant wall plants (see English Heritage LAN: Vegetation on walls).

- **Notice board:** To be constructed at the graveyard entrance. Laminated map and

information to be displayed on the board. This will need permission from the landowner and possibly Winchester City Council Planning Department.

- **Bird and Bat boxes:** The wooded area constitute good locations to place bird and bat nesting boxes.

Risk assessment for volunteer work in the graveyard:

An HSE risks assessment has been carried out for volunteers working in the graveyard. It is presented in **Table 2**. The assessment will be revised periodically. Volunteers need to be aware of this assessment.

The supervisor of the work event is required to hold an HSE briefing with volunteers prior to starting work. On arrival at the site the supervisor should ensure a list of attendees is prepared with a contactable telephone number to be used in case of illness or emergencies.

Plan for designated wildlife areas:

These are planned for the “old” part of the graveyard. Areas relatively clear of graves have been earmarked for the development of “wildlife areas” where shrubs such as Hazel and Wild Privet are already present. The purpose of these areas is to develop the essential middle storey of vegetation so important to wildlife but currently missing from the graveyard. Additional plantings of appropriate shrub species will be made.

- **Tree and shrub management:** Work on trees and shrubs should only take place between end September and end February to minimise the disturbance of wildlife. At this point crown lifting and other pruning can be done. Where necessary, trees around the perimeter should be cut back to prevent damage to the wall. Epicormic growth on Common Lime needs careful pruning on a regular basis. In the case of trees and shrubs with berries pruning will be left until spring, to leave seeds and berries on the plants for birds. If possible, also leave hollow items and other dead vegetation for invertebrate overwintering.
- **Biomass management:** The use of bonfires in the graveyard to dispose of biomass is not permitted in the graveyard on the grounds that it could damage burial plots or archaeological remains. It is also close to dwelling and the Alresford Road. In addition, removal of biomass from the site will be minimised in line with current practice in many graveyards managed for wildlife. Dead wood shall be retained and used to furnish material for paths, dead hedging, and grave protection or as habitat piles to provide for biodiversity within the woodland, especially invertebrate habitat. Discrete composting areas will be developed for fine material to be deposited (see English Heritage LAN: Green Waste Management). A survey of wood decaying fungi

in St Giles Hill Graveyard has show that there are many (See Appendix 2 below). Some of them are very picturesque.

Such as this Dryads Saddle fungus:



- **Dead and Live Hedges:** The dead hedges are being developed in area of lower grave density in the old part of the graveyard. Construction of dead hedges from woody material that has fallen to the ground during storms or has been cut during routine maintenance. The dead hedges are slowing being converted to live hedges by the planning od suitable shrubs (for instance a donation of Beech whips was planted this year). This should go a long way to creating and understory vegetation with good nesting possibilities.
- **Stumpery:** A stumpery has been built with larger pieces of wood biomass. This structure needs periodic feeding as it visibly rots down. The structure is a good home for beetles (we have seen Stag beetles), bats and hedgehogs (all seen in the graveyard this year). Large sawn up trunks are used as seating.
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- **Ivy management:** Climbers that form permanent structures tend to be better for wildlife, providing overwintering shelter and nest sites (British Trust for Ornithology advice) for birds and bats. Ivy should be retained on trees as it provides excellent habitat and food for wildlife. See appendix “Survey of Ivy.” Extensive pruning should only be necessary where Ivy takes-over the crown of a tree potentially destabilizing it. In these cases, Ivy roots should be pruned around the entire circumference of the tree to weaken growth. Where pruning is thought necessary, this should take place between January and February. Householders adjacent to the graveyard should be dissuaded from killing ivy on trees (see Suffolk Wildlife Trust). Generally, only require light pruning after flowering,

Ivy on the ground and gravestones will be removed in an appropriate manor so as not to damage inscriptions.

- **Ground Flora – designated areas for meadow habitat, nettle stands etc:** At present Hogweed, Stinging Nettles, Old man’s beard and Wood Avens dominate the ground flora. With consistent management, it should be possible to improve biodiversity by introducing appropriate herbaceous plants by means of plug plants and seed including native grasses.

Currently we are working to develop pollinator friendly meadow area in sunny open positions where the density of stone grave monument’s is low. The chosen areas are cleared of unwanted vegetation in manageable rectangular plots followed by seeding or plugging the area with target species. We have concentrated on section J to the front of the graveyard and section A, B and D in the old part of the graveyard. Seed has also been spread elsewhere when there is open ground (sections G,H and F).

Maintenance of discreet area of common nettle in open sunny position. This plant is the sole larval food plant of Red Admiral, Peacock and Comma butterflies. Without them they cannot complete the life cycle that will reproduce these wonderfully colourful butterflies. We have identified the stand of nettle favoured by these butterflies. Nettle stands are mainly in sections C, B and D.

- **Cutting regime:** Management of the graveyard is labour intensive. Any management plan must therefore be tailored to available resources. The cutting regime will be varied according to need. The results will be monitored to see if there are improvements, and adjustments made as necessary. **Table 4** shows the envisaged annual work programme during 2020/2012.

- **Wildlife:** The graveyard boasts a good list of wild woodland birds. More than 35 species have been recorded including birds such as Tawny Owl, Tree Creeper, Nuthatch, and Great Spotted Woodpecker. Notable birds nesting in the graveyard are Blackcap Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher and Song Thrush, the latter two are on the RSPB red alert list. Bat surveys have established the bats almost certainly use the graveyard for roosting and feeding. The most likely places for roosts are in ivy covered trees. The main species noted are the Common noctule and Common pipistrelle. Conservative Ivy management and the encouragement of shrub areas would improve their plight. Other wildlife includes Holly Blue, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Orange tip, Comma, Peacock and Red Admiral butterflies. It is hoped that the introduction of chalk meadow flora will establish additional butterfly species such as Common blue, Marbled white and Gatekeep in the graveyard. It is planned to place bird (See **Table 3** for list of Birds) and bat nest boxes and insect refuges will be placed around the graveyard in the coming years. We are particularly keen to develop stump piles as these are good for invertebrates such as stage beetle and hedgehogs (both observed in the graveyard).
- **Removal trees from perimeter walls:** Tree removal will only be carried as a last resort and then only by professional tree surgeons. Authority and liability for such works does not rest with Friends of St Gilles Hill Graveyard. A priority for tree removal should be along the perimeter wall with the Alresford Rd., where a line of Ash trees leaning towards the road. These trees may have Ash Dieback Disease. Trees that are causing damage to the perimeter wall at other locations should be cut back or removed. All such work must be approved by the landowners by way of a church faculty. As the graveyard is in a conservation area permission must also be sort from the WCC planning department. Removal of trees to be compensated by the planting of appropriate shrubs.

Maintenance of the graveyard is manpower intensive. Up to now the graveyard receives maintenance one day per month. The much of the work be, under supervision, by teams from the Community Rehabilitation Company and a handful of volunteers. The current pandemic has highlighted sustainability issues with the arrangement and the need to involve other groups on a regular basic. The probation services stopped coming with lockdown and there is no sign of a return at present. On the positive side there has been much more interest and we have started an arrangement with the Winchester Rotary Club to help with maintenance.

References:

Some of the articles and organizations used as sources of advice when compiling this management plan.

Guidance from Historic England: (previously English Heritage), 2011 Caring for Historic Graveyard and Cemetery Monuments.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/caring-historic-graveyard-cemetery-monuments>

English Heritage offer advice on Gardens and Landscapes Conservation. They publish Landscape Advice (LAN) Notes on a wide range of subjects. Some of which have been used to construct this management plan. (www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice)

Historic England, Landscape Advice Note: Vegetation on Walls.

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/learn/conservation/2544404/LAN -
Vegetation on walls.pdf](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/learn/conservation/2544404/LAN-_Vegetation_on_walls.pdf)

Historic England, Landscape Advice Note: Green Waste Management.

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/learn/conservation/2544404/LAN -
Green Waste Management.pdf](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/learn/conservation/2544404/LAN-_Green_Waste_Management.pdf)

Historic England, Landscape Advice Note: The treatment of deadwood.

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/learn/conservation/2544404/LAN -
The treatment of deadwood.pdf](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/learn/conservation/2544404/LAN-_The_treatment_of_deadwood.pdf)

Historic England, Landscape Advice Note: The use of pesticides.

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/learn/conservation/2544404/LAN - The
use of Pesticides.pdf](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/learn/conservation/2544404/LAN_-_The_use_of_Pesticides.pdf)

War Memorials Trust help sheet; Conservation principles.

www.warmemorials.org/uploads/publications/257.pdf

Heritage Lottery Fund publish guide to help applicants for grants such as Conservation Plan Guidance (pub Oct 2012)

www.hlf.org.uk/conservation-plan-guidance

Suffolk Wildlife Trust:

www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/churchyards-community

See: Suffolk Wildlife Trust: Advice Directory article, Grassland, pathways and graves.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust: Advice Directory article, Ivy in churchyards, gardens and community spaces.

Butterfly conservation, Upper Thames Branch – Churchyards; <http://upperthames->

butterflies.org.uk/churchyards.html

Butterfly conservation, Upper Thames Branch, 2010 – Basic Guidelines for Churchyard Management.

Archaeology Scotland supplies an extensive range of documents for download from their website dealing with the graveyard conservation and management, including gravestone care and repair.

www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk/our-projects/scottish-graveyards/conservation-management

[www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk/our-projects/scottish-graveyards/recording'](http://www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk/our-projects/scottish-graveyards/recording)

CABE, Cemeteries, Churchyards and Burial Grounds briefing Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds. (2007)

Winchester City Council, Open Spaces Strategy 2015,

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/open-spaces/open-space-strategy>

Winchester City Council, Winchester BAP (biodiversity) final report (2005),

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/landscape-countryside/biodiversity>

Table 1 Management Objectives for St Giles Hill Graveyard (2016 original).

| section | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Activity | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strim "lawn" area | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tree safety inspection of all mature trees in site area | | | | | | | | | | |
| Construct path around the graveyard | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maintain narrow pathway to WW1 and other interesting graves | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stabilize any potentially dangerous monuments | | | | | | | | | | |
| Repair of flint walls especially in area where copings have been lost | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rebuild collapsed flint walls | | | | | | | | | | |
| Notice board | | | | | | | | | | |
| Build steps | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remove or prune selected trees around perimeter walls (sept-march) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Retain deadwood in biodiversity piles where possible. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Build natural fences/hedges with biomass | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ivy management | | | | | | | | | | |
| Install bat and bird boxes on suitable mature trees. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clean bird boxes | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remove self-seeded sycamore and ash (Sept – March). | | | | | | | | | | |
| Encourage wildlife area by encouraging existing Hazel and Wild Privet | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plant appropriate shrub and herb species in "wildlife" designated areas to increase biodiversity | | | | | | | | | | |
| Encourage chalkland flora by managing bramble and scrub. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Establish log sitting areas | | | | | | | | | | |
| Epicomic growth Lime prune-back (Sept-March) | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 2 Risk Assessment for St Giles Hill Graveyard volunteers (December 2019).

| activity/hazard | risks | likelihood of happening | Impact if it happens | Action required |
|---|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Incorrect use of hand tools | Injury to feet, hands and other people. | High | Low | Ensure that volunteers use appropriate tools for the task and that tools are in good condition. Warners to wear stab proof wear and working/gardening gloves. Do not leave tools where they present a trip hazard. |
| Allowing of inappropriate tasks for the fitness/competence of a volunteer. | Death, serious injury. | Medium | Medium to high | Assess the volunteer's level of competence and fitness level for a task. Leader too provide suitable level of coaching and supervision. Volunteer to communicate a red flag/fitness |
| Tree crown lifting and shrub removal (we are not authorised to lift trees). | Cuts, grazes, Broken Limbs, small possibility of death. | Medium | Medium | The lifting in the graveyard can only be carried out by professionals who have the appropriate permissions (licences) from the council, planning permission from WCC. Minor crown lifting may be carried out when low branches present a hazard to the public. Assess working area prior to |
| Heavy lifting | Injury to back or some other part of the body. | Medium | Medium | Always use correct lifting technique. If you don't know, find out. |
| Step banks | Stumbling and falling. Could lead to serious injury if in the vicinity of someone's memorial. Most likely injury twisted ankles etc. | Low-medium | Medium-high | To be extra care when working on slopes especially in wet conditions. If working on a steep slope work in pairs. Ensure stability of footing before operation tools. |
| Bonfires are not permitted in the graveyard. | Risk of burns through contact and of spreading to neighbouring properties. High risk of damage to graves and archaeological artefacts. | Low (other means of biomass management used) | High | Do not use or bonfires to remove biomass in the graveyard. Dispose of biomass in a metal compost heap, dead hedges and stumpers. This is a good for biodiversity providing homes for insects and birds. |
| Use of Machine tools (stumpers/brushcutters) | Injury due to faulty equipment, unsafe use of machinery or inappropriate use. Injury from flying debris. Injury to feet from straining. Operator injury (noise, burns, cuts, rashes, white finger, vibrations etc). | Medium | Medium-high | Ensure a user of machinery equipment has received up to date training on how to use the equipment. Ensure the equipment is in safe condition and has been maintained properly. Use safety glasses or a visor, gloves and protective shoes. Use equipment as recommended in instruction manual to take regular breaks to prevent accidents due to fatigue. Cease operation if approached by member of public. |
| Blade (all) Hooks, loppers, Chisels, Bow saws etc) | Severe cuts/loss of limb and possible loss of life. | Low - medium | Medium to High | Safety talk to be given prior to starting work. Thorough maintenance of equipment to be carried out. All equipment to be regularly cleaned and maintained. Have mobile phone and identification equipment to hand. Appropriate PPE to be supplied and worn. Always use the tool appropriate to the job. Take regular breaks and stop work when starting to feel tired. |
| Wasp nests | Be aware of the potential for the presence of wasp nests at ground level from May to October. People know to have a high level of awareness and should be particularly careful. PEOPLE KNOW TO HAVE A HIGH LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND SHOULD BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL. PEOPLE KNOW TO HAVE A HIGH LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND SHOULD BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL. PEOPLE KNOW TO HAVE A HIGH LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND SHOULD BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL. | Medium-high | High (for people with allergies) | When identified nests are marked with large signs. Please keep at least 2m from the signed area. When venturing into long vegetation during restrictive months look out for wasp activity and withdraw immediately. Please inform the leader so that warnings can be put in place. Please note that wasps may use the same area in consecutive years so a nest could develop anywhere in the graveyard. |
| Unstable grave memorials. | Risk of grave memorials falling on people potentially causing severe life threatening injuries | Medium | High | Crosses in the lower more recent part of the graveyard are the most unstable - these are checked regularly and red/white tape around sound them - They should be avoided. Gravestones and other memorials are generally quite firm but they should not be leaned on and heavy machinery should be kept away. |
| Injury from contact with bark plants. | The sap from many plants is harmful when it gets onto the skin. | High | Low | When long sleeved garments and long trousers to prevent being sprayed by toxic sap. Unpleasant such as Hogweed can be a particular problem, but also stinging nettles. Volunteers using stimpers should wear a visor, gloves, long sleeved tops and long trousers. |
| Hazardous materials: broken bottles, sharp metal objects etc... | Cuts and infection. Toxic risks (parasitic infection from dog mess). | Low | Medium | Ensure litter picking equipment and protective gloves are used and that waste is disposed of responsibly. |
| Trips and falls | Open wounds or sores to areas can be contacted. | Low | High | All participants should have had ant-helmets. All participants should have had ant-helmets. [A full course lasts 30 years]. Ask if any of the team have not had injection, and stress in advance regarding these, particularly if the skin is broken out. Clean ant-helmets in immediately. |
| Weather conditions | Be in, be slippery surfaces; sun - heatstroke, cold - hypothermia; wind - risk of falling trees; fog - affected visibility. | High | Low - medium | Wearable clothes including sturdy footwear to avoid slipping and falling the cold/hypothermia; covering and use of sunscreen to avoid heatstroke or burning. In sunny weather, carrying of water to avoid dehydration; no tasks to take place in high winds and rain. |
| Uneven and slippery ground, hidden stumps and buried gravestones | Injury (cuts bruises broken limbs) due to tripping, slipping, slipping, slipping. Potential serious injury if body hits stone or iron memorial. | Medium-high | Medium | Be aware of uneven slippery ground and other potential trip hazards. Look for stumps or low grave articles when moving in long vegetation. Wear boots that have been with a good sole. |

Table 3: Bird year presence list (composite for 2016 to 2018).

| Selected Species | 1st Location | Month | | | | | | | | | | | | Notes | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|-------|---|---|---|
| | | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December | | | | |
| Birds - St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black-headed Gull | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | flyover |
| Blackbird | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | abundant - gardens-graveyard |
| Blue Tit | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | nests in cemetery and elsewhere on st. giles hill |
| Bullfinch | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | abundant - gardens-graveyard |
| Buzzard | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | 2 or 3 pairs |
| Carrion Crow | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | flyover but occasionally in trees of graveyard |
| Chaffinch | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | common |
| Chiffchaff | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | common |
| Coal Tit | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | seen going to feeders |
| Collared Dove | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | common - in pairs |
| Common Gull | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | flyover |
| Dunmock | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | common in gardens and graveyard |
| Fieldfare | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | very occasionally - berry eating in winter |
| Goldcrest | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | occasional - often an influx in autumn |
| Goldfinch | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | in small flocks up to 12 |
| Great Black-backed Gull | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | flyover |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | in cemetery and st. giles hill woods |
| Great Tit | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | abundant - gardens and graveyard |
| Green Woodpecker | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | seen on garden lawns |
| Greenfinch | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | in flocks with goldfinch of chaffinch |
| Grey Heron | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | flyover |
| Grey Wagtail | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | rare visitor |
| Herring Gull | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | flyover |
| House Martin | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | flocks flying close to tree tops |
| Jackdaw | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | small groups - nest in area |
| Jay | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | in pairs |
| Kestrel | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | flyover |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | flyover |
| Long-tailed Tit | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | small flocks with other tits |
| Magpie | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | in small groups |
| Mallard | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | rare flyover |
| Mistle Thrush | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | seldom - in spring |
| Nuthatch | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | cemetery and st. giles hill woods |
| Peregrine | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | flyover |
| Pheasant | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | in gardens |
| Pied/White Wagtail | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | in cemetery and saint giles hill woods |
| Redwing | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | abundant |
| Robin | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | abundant |
| Rock Dove | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | occasional |
| Rook | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | in gardens around cemetery nests in graveyard |
| Song Thrush | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | occasional |
| Sparrowhawk | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | occasional |
| Spotted Flycatcher | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | migrant |
| Starling | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | very occasional small flocks |
| Stock Dove | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | single or in pairs |
| Swallow | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | above trees |
| Swift | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | above trees |
| Tawny Owl | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | at night in graveyard |
| Treecreeper | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | Graveyard trees |
| Willow Warbler | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | migrant |
| Woodpigeon | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | abundant |
| Wren | St. Giles Hill Graveyard | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | common |

Table 4: Annual management program for period 202/2021

| Activity | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December |
|--|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Mow open meadow areas | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| mow grass paths | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prune trees and shrubs (non-seed or berry bearing) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prune trees and shrubs with berries and seeds | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dead hedging | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ivy management - root pruning. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remove old stumps and self-seeded sycamore and ash | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plant appropriate shrub and herb species in designated areas. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sow seeds and plant plugs of chalkland flora. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Epicomic growth - Common Lime - pruning (after leaves drop then in spring) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tree safety inspection of all mature trees in site area | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Install bird boxes on suitable mature trees. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maintain bird boxes (cleaning etc.) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Install bat boxes on suitable mature trees. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maintain bat boxes (cleaning etc.) - only by licenses personell | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Appendix 1

Results of St Giles Hill Graveyard plant survey

| Scientific name | Common name | Records |
|--|----------------------------|---------|
| <i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i> | Hart's-tongue | 1 |
| <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> | Male-fern | 1 |
| <i>Taxus baccata</i> | Yew | 3 |
| <i>Clematis vitalba</i> | Traveller's-joy | 3 |
| <i>Ranunculus acris</i> | Meadow Buttercup | 2 |
| <i>Ranunculus repens</i> | Creeping Buttercup | 2 |
| <i>Ficaria verna</i> subsp. <i>fertilis</i> | | 2 |
| <i>Papaver atlanticum</i> | Atlas Poppy | 1 |
| <i>Chelidonium majus</i> | Greater Celandine | 1 |
| <i>Fumaria officinalis</i> subsp. <i>officinalis</i> | | 2 |
| <i>Urtica dioica</i> | Common Nettle | 2 |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> | Hazel | 2 |
| <i>Silene latifolia</i> | White Campion | 1 |
| <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> | Knotgrass | 1 |
| <i>Rumex acetosa</i> subsp. <i>acetosa</i> | Common Sorrel | 1 |
| <i>Rumex crispus</i> subsp. <i>crispus</i> | | 2 |
| <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> | Broad-leaved Dock | 3 |
| <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> | Perforate St John's-wort | 2 |
| <i>Tilia x europaea</i> | Lime | 3 |
| <i>Malva sylvestris</i> | Common Mallow | 1 |
| <i>Viola odorata</i> | Sweet Violet | 6 |
| <i>Viola riviniana</i> | Common Dog-violet | 2 |
| <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> | Garlic Mustard | 1 |
| <i>Cardamine pratensis</i> | Cuckooflower | 1 |
| <i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> | Shepherd's-purse | 1 |
| <i>Primula vulgaris</i> | Primrose | 3 |
| <i>Primula vulgaris</i> x <i>veris</i> = <i>P. x polyantha</i> | False Oxlip | 1 |
| <i>Primula veris</i> | Cowslip | 1 |
| <i>Ribes uva-crispa</i> | Gooseberry | 1 |
| <i>Filipendula vulgaris</i> | Dropwort | 1 |
| <i>Rubus idaeus</i> | Raspberry | 2 |
| <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. | Bramble | 3 |
| <i>Fragaria vesca</i> | Wild Strawberry | 1 |
| <i>Geum rivale</i> x <i>urbanum</i> = <i>G. x intermedium</i> | Hybrid Avens | 1 |
| <i>Geum urbanum</i> | Wood Avens | 1 |
| <i>Rosa canina</i> | Dog-rose | 3 |
| <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> | Cherry Plum | 1 |
| <i>Prunus avium</i> | Wild Cherry | 1 |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn | 1 |
| <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> var. <i>corniculatus</i> | Common Bird's-foot-trefoil | 1 |

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| <i>Medicago lupulina</i> | Black Medick | 3 |
| <i>Trifolium pratense</i> | Red Clover | 2 |
| <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> | Great Willowherb | 2 |
| <i>Epilobium montanum</i> | Broad-leaved Willowherb | 3 |
| <i>Circaea lutetiana</i> | Enchanter's-nightshade | 2 |
| <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> | Dogwood | 1 |
| <i>Euonymus japonicus</i> | Evergreen Spindle | 2 |
| <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> | Holly | 3 |
| <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> x <i>perado</i> = <i>I. x altaclerensis</i> | Highclere Holly | 1 |
| <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> | Box | 1 |
| <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> | Dog's Mercury | 2 |
| <i>Euphorbia lathyris</i> | Caper Spurge | 2 |
| <i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i> | Wood Spurge | 1 |

| | | |
|--|------------------------|---|
| <i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i> subsp. <i>amygdaloides</i> | | 2 |
| <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> | Horse-chestnut | 1 |
| <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> | Sycamore | 2 |
| <i>Geranium robertianum</i> subsp. <i>robertianum</i> | Herb-Robert | 2 |
| <i>Hedera helix</i> subsp. <i>helix</i> | Common Ivy | 3 |
| <i>Hedera hibernica</i> | Atlantic Ivy | 1 |
| <i>Sanicula europaea</i> | Sanicle | 1 |
| <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> | Cow Parsley | 3 |
| <i>Aegopodium podagraria</i> | Ground-elder | 4 |
| <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> | Hogweed | 3 |
| <i>Daucus carota</i> subsp. <i>carota</i> | Wild Carrot | 3 |
| <i>Solanum dulcamara</i> var. <i>dulcamara</i> | Bittersweet | 2 |
| <i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i> | Lungwort | 1 |
| <i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i> | Green Alkanet | 2 |
| <i>Myosotis arvensis</i> var. <i>arvensis</i> | Field Forget-me-not | 2 |
| <i>Stachys sylvatica</i> | Hedge Woundwort | 3 |
| <i>Lamium album</i> | White Dead-nettle | 2 |
| <i>Lamium purpureum</i> | Red Dead-nettle | 1 |
| <i>Glechoma hederacea</i> | Ground-ivy | 1 |
| <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> | Selfheal | 2 |
| <i>Origanum vulgare</i> | Wild Marjoram | 1 |
| <i>Plantago major</i> subsp. <i>major</i> | | 2 |
| <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> | Ribwort Plantain | 3 |
| <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> | Ash | 3 |
| <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> | Wild Privet | 1 |
| <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> | Foxglove | 1 |
| <i>Veronica chamaedrys</i> | Germander Speedwell | 1 |
| <i>Veronica persica</i> | Common Field-speedwell | 1 |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | Cleavers | 3 |
| <i>Sambucus nigra</i> | Elder | 3 |
| <i>Viburnum opulus</i> | Guelder-rose | 1 |

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| <i>Lonicera nitida</i> | Wilson's Honeysuckle | 1 |
| <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> | Spear Thistle | 3 |
| <i>Cirsium arvense</i> | Creeping Thistle | 1 |
| <i>Lapsana communis</i> subsp. <i>communis</i> | | 2 |
| <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> | Cat's-ear | 1 |
| <i>Leontodon hispidus</i> | Rough Hawkbit | 1 |
| <i>Sonchus arvensis</i> | Perennial Sow-thistle | 1 |
| <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> | Smooth Sow-thistle | 1 |
| <i>Sonchus asper</i> | Prickly Sow-thistle | 3 |
| <i>Taraxacum</i> agg. | Dandelion | 3 |
| <i>Crepis capillaris</i> | Smooth Hawk's-beard | 2 |
| <i>Hieracium scotostictum</i> | | 1 |
| <i>Bellis perennis</i> | Daisy | 4 |
| <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> | Mugwort | 1 |
| <i>Achillea millefolium</i> | Yarrow | 3 |
| <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> | Oxeye Daisy | 2 |
| <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> | Common Ragwort | 2 |
| <i>Senecio erucifolius</i> | Hoary Ragwort | 1 |
| <i>Senecio vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>vulgaris</i> var. <i>vulgaris</i> | Groundsel | 2 |
| <i>Tussilago farfara</i> | Colt's-foot | 1 |
| <i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i> | Hemp-agrimony | 2 |
| <i>Arum maculatum</i> | Lords-and-Ladies | 3 |
| <i>Carex flacca</i> | Glaucous Sedge | 1 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | Red Fescue | 1 |
| <i>Lolium perenne</i> | Perennial Rye-grass | 2 |
| <i>Vulpia myuros</i> | Rat's-tail Fescue | 1 |
| <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> | Crested Dog's-tail | 1 |
| <i>Poa annua</i> | Annual Meadow-grass | 3 |
| <i>Poa trivialis</i> | Rough Meadow-grass | 2 |
| <i>Poa pratensis</i> | Smooth Meadow-grass | 1 |
| <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | Cock's-foot | 3 |
| <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> | False Oat-grass | 4 |
| <i>Holcus lanatus</i> | Yorkshire-fog | 3 |
| <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> | Creeping Bent | 3 |
| <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> | Meadow Foxtail | 1 |
| <i>Phleum pratense</i> | Timothy | 1 |
| <i>Anisantha sterilis</i> | Barren Brome | 3 |
| <i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> | False-brome | 1 |
| <i>Elytrigia repens</i> | Common Couch | 3 |
| <i>Hordeum murinum</i> | Wall Barley | 1 |
| <i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i> | | 3 |
| <i>Allium roseum</i> | Rosy Garlic | 1 |
| <i>Allium ursinum</i> | Ramsons | 1 |
| <i>Galanthus nivalis</i> | Snowdrop | 5 |
| <i>Galanthus elwesii</i> | Greater Snowdrop | 1 |
| <i>Narcissus</i> agg. | Daffodil agg. | 3 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Narcissus pseudonarcissus | | 1 |
| Narcissus pseudonarcissus agg. | | 1 |
| Iris foetidissima | Stinking Iris | 1 |
| Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora | Montbretia | 1 |

Appendix 2

Results of St Giles Hill Graveyard plant survey

Survey carried out by Anna Stewart.

| Fungi | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Species list Giles Hill Graveyard Winchester | |
| Scientific Name | Common Name |
| <i>Agrocybe rivulosa</i> | Wrinkled Fieldcap |
| <i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i> | Jelly Ear |
| <i>Calocera cornea</i> | Small Stagshorn |
| <i>Calvatia gigantea</i> | Giant Puffball |
| <i>Chondrostereum purpureum</i> | Silverleaf Fungus |
| <i>Daldinia concentrica</i> | King Alfred's Cakes / Cramp Balls |
| <i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i> | Sulphur Tuft |
| <i>Exidia glandulosa</i> | Witches' Butter |
| <i>Flammulina velutipes</i> | Velvet Shank |
| <i>Nectria cinnabarina</i> | Coral Spot |
| <i>Polyporus squamosus</i> | Dryad's Saddle |
| <i>Sarcoscypha austriaca</i> | Scarlet Elfcup |
| <i>Trametes versicolor</i> | Turkeytail |
| <i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i> | Candlesnuff Fungus |
| <i>Xylaria longipes</i> | Dead Moll's Fingers |