Dorset Wildlife Trust

THE Living Churchyard PROJECT

PATRON: THE BISHOP OF SHERBORNE

HABITAT MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

WILDLIFE HABITAT AREA	MANAGEMENT	ACTION
1. **Grass areas both open and around graves**	Identify areas which can be: a. Long grass wildflower meadow b. Medium length c. Short close cut	a. Cut in May & September (but be flexible according to growing conditions.) b. One cut in May, June, August, October. c. Regular cut
2. **Hedges**	Very important nesting sites for birds and food source	Cut between November and February. Aim to leave some partly uncut each year
3. **Shrubs**	Maintain where possible, individual native shrubs as well as those in hedges	Replace non-natives where possible over time.
4. **Grave stones**	A large range of lichen and frequently mosses which which have much botanical interest.	Wherever possible ensure that they are not disturbed
5. **Walls and other stonework**	Identify areas where there are ferns, small plants	Where possible allow small cracks which are most important for invertebrates. Take care to allow some ivy but keep this invasive plant under control
WILDLIFE HABITAT AREA	MANAGEMENT	ACTION

6. **Other habitats**
   a. Compost heap
   b. Deadwood pile
	Very important habitats for insects and reptiles such as slow worms and toads	Plan to provide as many of these as possible, probably in corners of the churchyard. Both sunny and shaded areas are ideal.

7. **Bee hotels, Hedgehog boxes, bird feeders**		Provide if appropriate
8. **A water source**		This does not need to be large. A bird bath size would do well.
9. **Information about the project.**	Display boards etc. a small notice beside each habitat will greatly help explain the reason for the project.	To identify the reason for the management with details of the species.
10. **Community involvement**	Who is running the project? Share your successes with the local community	If possible, talk to the local school or community group & ask them to come and learn about the importance of wildlife.