

Churchyards in a Living Landscape

There are many hundreds of churchyards in Kent. These sites, which have been a haven of peace for people for centuries, often provide valuable refuges for wildlife. Whether located in towns and villages or in the countryside, our churchyards have their part to play as a stepping stone for wildlife in the wider landscape.

Hedgerows and old trees are a valuable wildlife habitat for bats, birds and small mammals

Regularly updated interpretation boards inform the public about the wildlife and any management taking place

Old buildings such as churches provide much needed roosting places for bats

Regularly mowing both paths and areas with recent burials allows good access for the local congregation

A compost heap and patches of nettles can be left tucked away at the back of the churchyard

There are 600 or so lichens found in churchyards in lowland England and half of these are very rare

Reducing the number of cuts allows wildflowers to grow and set seed

Logpiles can shelter invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians

Stone walls provide a good surface for lichens, mosses and ferns to grow on and are home to numerous animals

