

Teme Valley Wildlife Group

BioBlitz of Churchyard of St John the Baptist Church, Nash, June 2025

REPORT

Summary

A BioBlitz of the Churchyard of St John the Baptist Church, Nash was undertaken on 14th June 2025. It was led by members of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group partnered by people from the local community. The BioBlitz identified:-

- **86 species of plant;**
- **1 species of fungus;**
- **17 species of bird; and**
- **74 species of insect including two of note.**

Introduction

In late 2024, The Parochial Church Council of Nash and Boraston received an initial development grant from The National Lottery to help the Council progress their plans to apply for a full Heritage Fund grant to repair St John the Baptist Church in Nash. These repairs aim to remove St John the Baptist Church from the Heritage At Risk Register and secure its long-term future as a place of worship and as a welcoming space for local people and visitors.

As part of the development grant, the Council hopes to establish a management plan to protect wildlife and improve the churchyard flora. Teme Valley Wildlife Group (TVWG) was commissioned to conduct a BioBlitz of the churchyard to establish a snapshot of the variety of wildlife present.

Methodology

The Nash Churchyard BioBlitz was undertaken on 14th June 2025.

A BioBlitz is a collaborative race against the clock (usually 24 hours) to discover as many species of animals, plants and fungi as possible in a defined space. A BioBlitz usually involves a mixture of wildlife experts and the public. This provides an opportunity for participants to learn together and share their expertise and enthusiasm. It provides the public with an opportunity to contribute to a genuine scientific survey and raise awareness of the importance of biological recording. The results of a BioBlitz will vary depending on the location, time of year and the expertise of the participants.

This BioBlitz was led by experts in flora, insects and birds. The team did not include expertise in lichens and mosses and so whilst these were present in the Churchyard, there was no attempt made to identify the species.

A “Base Camp” was set up just outside the porch of the Church. This provided a range of field guides, identification keys, hand lens, specimen collection pots and sweep nets.

Results of BioBlitz

The day-time weather was dry, mainly sunny with cloudy intervals. There was a westerly wind with an average speed 15 mph and the temperature was 18 – 20 degrees Celsius.

Plants

The Churchyard was divided into sectors (Figure 1) and a small team of TVWG members, led by an expert, worked systematically through each sector recording the species observed (Table 1). Any insects observed during the exploration for flora were also recorded.

Eighty-six species of plant were identified in the churchyard. This included 12 species of tree and shrub. The flora identified have been mapped to the areas of the churchyard where they were observed (Table 1 and Figure 1).

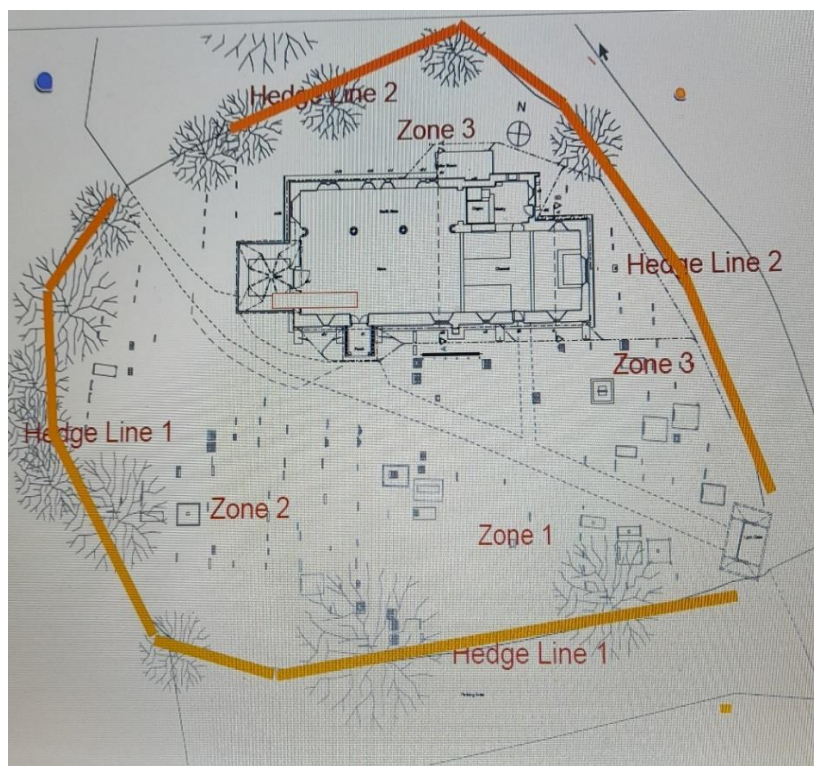


Figure 1. Map of St John's Churchyard showing Zones.

Table 1. Plant species identified and their location in St John's Churchyard (Key: HL1, Hedge Line 1; HL2, Hedge Line 2; Z1, Zone 1; Z2, Zone 2; Z3, Zone 3).

	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
1	Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	HL1
2	Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	HL1
3	Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	HL1
4	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	HL1 & HL2
5	Holly	<i>Ilex aquafolium</i>	HL1 & HL2
6	Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	HL1 & HL2
7	Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	HL1
8	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	HL1 & HL2
9	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	HL1 & HL2
10	Dogwood (as shrub)	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	HL2
11	English Elm (as shrub)	<i>Ulmus procera</i>	HL2
12	Cherry Laurel (as shrub)	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	HL1
13	Wild Blackcurrant	<i>Ribes nigrum</i>	HL1
14	Black Bryony	<i>Dioscorea communis</i>	HL1
15	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	HL1
16	Wild Rose	<i>Rosa sp.</i>	HL1
17	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	HL1
18	Greater/Common plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	Z1 & Z2
19	Common Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Z1 & Z2
20	Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Z1
21	Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Z1
22	Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Across all 3 Zones
23	Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Across all 3 Zones
24	Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Across all 3 Zones
25	Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Z1
26	Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Z1
27	Black Medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Z1
28	Hoary Plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>	Z1
29	White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Z1
30	Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Z1
31	Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Z1
32	Ox-eye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Across all 3 Zones
33	Common Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Across all 3 Zones
34	Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia sp.</i>	Z1
35	Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Z1
36	Dog's Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Z1

37	Barren Strawberry	<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	Z1
38	Cleavers/Goosegrass	<i>Galium apirine</i>	Z1
39	Herb Bennet	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Z1
40	Lords-and-ladies/Cuckoo-pint	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Z1
41	Common Nettle/Stinging Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Across all 3 Zones
42	Enchanter's Nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Z1
43	Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Across all 3 Zones
44	Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Z1
45	Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	Z2
46	Sweet Chestnut (seedling)	<i>Castania sativa</i>	Z2
47	Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Z1
48	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Z1
49	Sweet Woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Z1
50	Garlic Mustard/Jack-by-the-hedge	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Z2
51	Bush Vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Z1
52	Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Z1 & Z2
53	Greater Burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Z1 & Z2
54	Knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Between stones, porch
55	Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla sp.</i>	Z1 & Z2
56	Field Wood-rush	<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Z1 & Z2
57	Common Dog Violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Z1 & Z2
58	Oak (seedling)	<i>Quercus sp</i>	Z2
59	Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Z2
60	Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Z2
61	Lesser Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Z2
62	Greater Knapweed	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Z2
63	Common Sow Thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Z2
64	Common Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Z2
65	Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Z2
66	Ground Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Z2
67	Meadow Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Z2
68	Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Z3
69	Slender Speedwell	<i>Veronica filiformis</i>	Z3
70	Short-fruited Willowherb	<i>Epilobium obscurum</i>	Z3
71	Biting Stonecrop	<i>Sedum acre</i>	Z3
72	Goat Willow (seedling)	<i>Salix caprea</i>	Z3
73	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Z3
74	Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Z3
75	Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>	Z3
76	Perennnial Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Z3
77	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Z3
78	Lesser Burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	Z3

	Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	
79	(garden/variegated)	<i>subsp. Argentatum</i>	HL2
80	Privet	<i>Ligustrum sp.</i>	HL1 & HL2
81	Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Across all 3 Zones
82	Yellow-sorrel (garden escape)	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Between stones, porch
83	Yorkshire Fog-grass	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Across all 3 Zones
84	Sweet Vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Across all 3 Zones
85	False Oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	Across all 3 Zones
86	Quaking Grass	<i>Briza media</i>	Across all 3 Zones

Fungi

A BioBlitz for fungi would usually be conducted in the Autumn or sometimes in the Spring. This is when fungi produce their distinctive fruiting bodies (toadstools, mushrooms etc) which are visible, easily examined and recorded.

One species of fungus was recorded (Z3) in this BioBlitz. Without examining the spores, it is not possible to be completely confident but it is likely that the species is Orange Bonnet (*Mycena acicula*). Heavy rainfall in the period before the BioBlitz will likely have triggered fruiting body formation.

Birds

An expert recorded birds in the vicinity of the churchyard throughout the day using observation and bird song/call identification. These are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Birds identified at St John's Churchyard

	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>
1	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
2	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
3	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
4	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
5	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
6	Carion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
7	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
8	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
9	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
10	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
11	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
12	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
13	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
14	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>

15	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
16	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
17	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>

Two species of bird (Swift and House Sparrow) are currently on the UK Red List of Birds (Birds of Conservation Concern 5) due to declining populations.

Insects

Seventy-four species of insect were identified which included 50 species of butterfly and moth (Lepidoptera). Insects were recorded using a number of approaches:-

- Observation during the identification of flora;
- Through the use of sweep nets. These were used by experts together with families and children who participated in the BioBlitz;
- Using pheromone lures specifically for clearwing moths; and
- Light-trapping for night flying moths (collapsible, Skinner-type trap with a 125W mercury vapour bulb run between 22.00 and 00.00)

Insects that required close examination were carefully transferred to specimen pots for identification and then released.

Butterflies and moths observed during the day, together with the moths attracted to pheromone and light are listed in Table 3. Table 4 shows the other insects identified (observation and sweep nets).

Table 3. Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths) identified at St John's Churchyard

	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
1	Dark-dotted Longhorn	<i>Nematopogon metaxella</i>
2	Nettle-tap	<i>Anthophila fabriciana</i>
3	Rufous Tortrix	<i>Clepsis consimilana</i>
4	Green Oak Tortrix	<i>Tortrix viridana</i>
5	Barred Marble	<i>Celypha striana</i>
6	Common Marble	<i>Celypha lacunana</i>
7	Hoary Tortrix	<i>Eucosma cana</i>
8	Common Knapweed Tortrix	<i>Eucosma hohenwartiana</i>
9	Orange-tailed Clearwing	<i>Synanthedon andrenaeformis</i>
10	Large White butterfly	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
11	Speckled Wood butterfly	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
12	Meadow Brown butterfly	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
13	Red Admiral butterfly	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
14	Bee Moth	<i>Aphomia sociella</i>
15	Blushed Knot-horn	<i>Ephestia woodiella</i>

16	Small Magpie	<i>Anania hortulata</i>
17	Garden Pearl	<i>Udea olivalis</i>
18	Common Grey	<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>
19	Garden Grass-veneer	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>
20	White-banded Grass-moth	<i>Crambus pascuella</i>
21	Peach Blossom	<i>Thyatira batis</i>
22	Elephant Hawk-moth	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>
23	Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>
24	Silver-ground Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe montanata montanata</i>
25	Barred Straw	<i>Gandaritis pyraliata</i>
26	Green Carpet	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>
27	Small Yellow Wave	<i>Hydrelia flammeolaria</i>
28	Common Pug	<i>Eupithecia vulgata</i>
29	Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>
30	Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>
31	Mottled beauty	<i>Alcis repandata repandata</i>
32	Light Emerald	<i>Campaea margaritaria</i>
33	Blotched Emerald	<i>Comibaeana bajularia</i>
34	Pale Prominent	<i>Pterostoma palpina</i>
35	Straw Dot	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>
36	Snout	<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>
37	Beautiful Hook-tip	<i>Laspeyria flexula</i>
38	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>
39	Small Angle Shades	<i>Euplexia lucipara</i>
40	Marbled Minor agg.	<i>Oligia agg.</i>
41	Middle-barred Minor	<i>Oligia fasciuncula</i>
42	Hebrew Character (larva)	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>
43	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	<i>Leucania comma</i>
44	Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimna impura</i>
45	Heart & Dart	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>
46	Flame Shoulder	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>
47	Flame	<i>Axylia putris</i>
48	Purple Clay	<i>Diarsia brunnea</i>
49	Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>
50	Setaceous Hebrew Character	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>

Table 4. Insects (other than Lepidoptera) identified at St John's Churchyard

	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>
1	Yellow Mayfly	<i>Potamanthus luteus</i>
2	Southern Hawker Dragonfly	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>
3	Speckled Bush-cricket	<i>Leptophyes punctatissima</i>
4	Field Grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus brunneus</i>
5	Green Shieldbug	<i>Palomena prasina</i>
6	Grass Mirid Bug	<i>Stenodema holsata</i>
7	Night-flying Dung Beetle	<i>Acrossus rufipes</i>

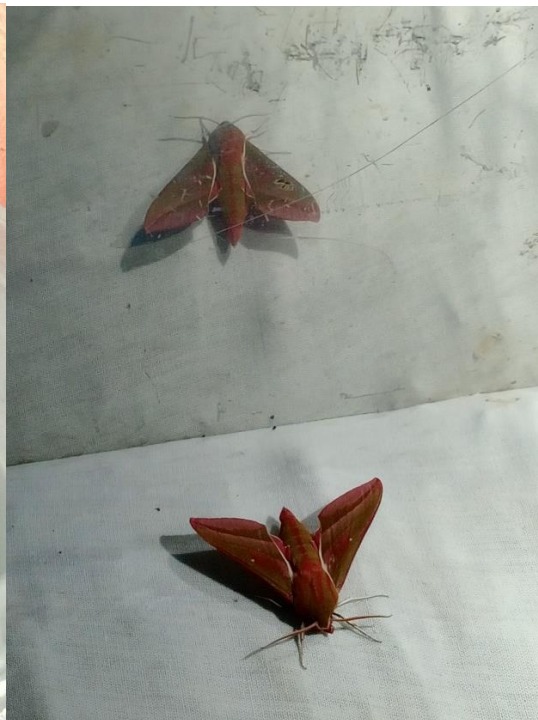
8	Two-coloured Brown Click Beetle	<i>Athous bicolor</i>
9	Common Brown Click Beetle	<i>Athous haemorrhoidalis</i>
10	Red-horned Cardinal Click Beetle	<i>Ampedus rufipennis</i>
11	Pine Ladybird	<i>Exochomus quadripustulatus</i>
12	22-spot Ladybird	<i>Psyllobora vigintiduopunctata</i>
13	7-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>
14	Swollen-thighed Beetle	<i>Oedemera nobilis</i>
15	Common Grammotera	<i>Grammotera ruficornis</i>
16	Marsh Crane Fly	<i>Tipula oleracea</i>
17	Band-eyed Brown Horsefly	<i>Tabanus bromius</i>
18	Dance Fly	<i>Empis tessellata</i>
19	Hoverfly	<i>Eupeodes corollae</i>
20	Marmalade Hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>
21	Hoverfly	<i>Syrphus ribesii</i>
22	Common Drone Fly	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>
23	Garden Bumblebee	<i>Bombus hortorum</i>
24	Common Carder Bumblebee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>

The Yellow Mayfly (*Potamanthus luteus*) is very local, mainly occurring in the River Wye and Severn catchments. The Red-Horned Cardinal Click Beetle (*Ampedus rufipennis*) is a rare species in the UK. Both these insects were important finds in this BioBlitz.

Images from the day



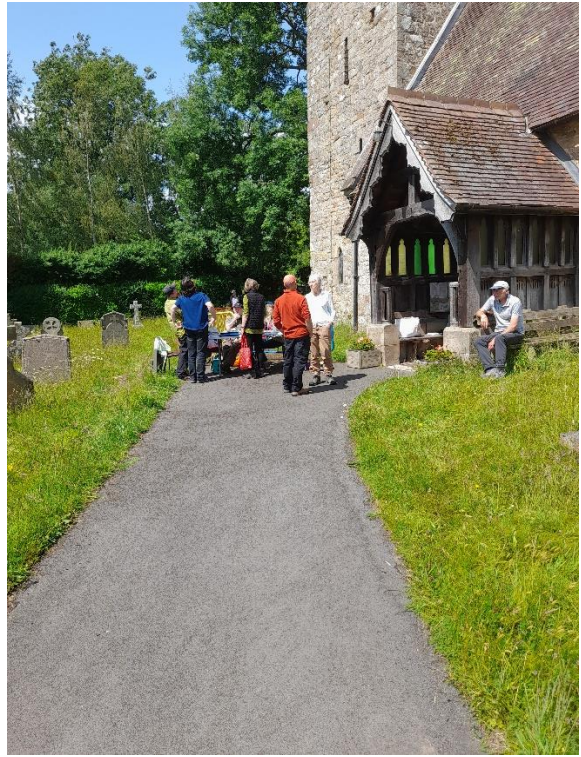
Orange-tailed Clearwing



Elephant Hawk-moth



TVWG expert identifying specimen



BioBlitz “Base Camp”

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