

CHURCHYARD SURVEY FORM

SECTION 1 Current Condition

Church name: St Peter

Parish: Lingwood – Diocese of Norwich.

Address: Church Road, Lingwood, Norfolk, NR13 4TR.

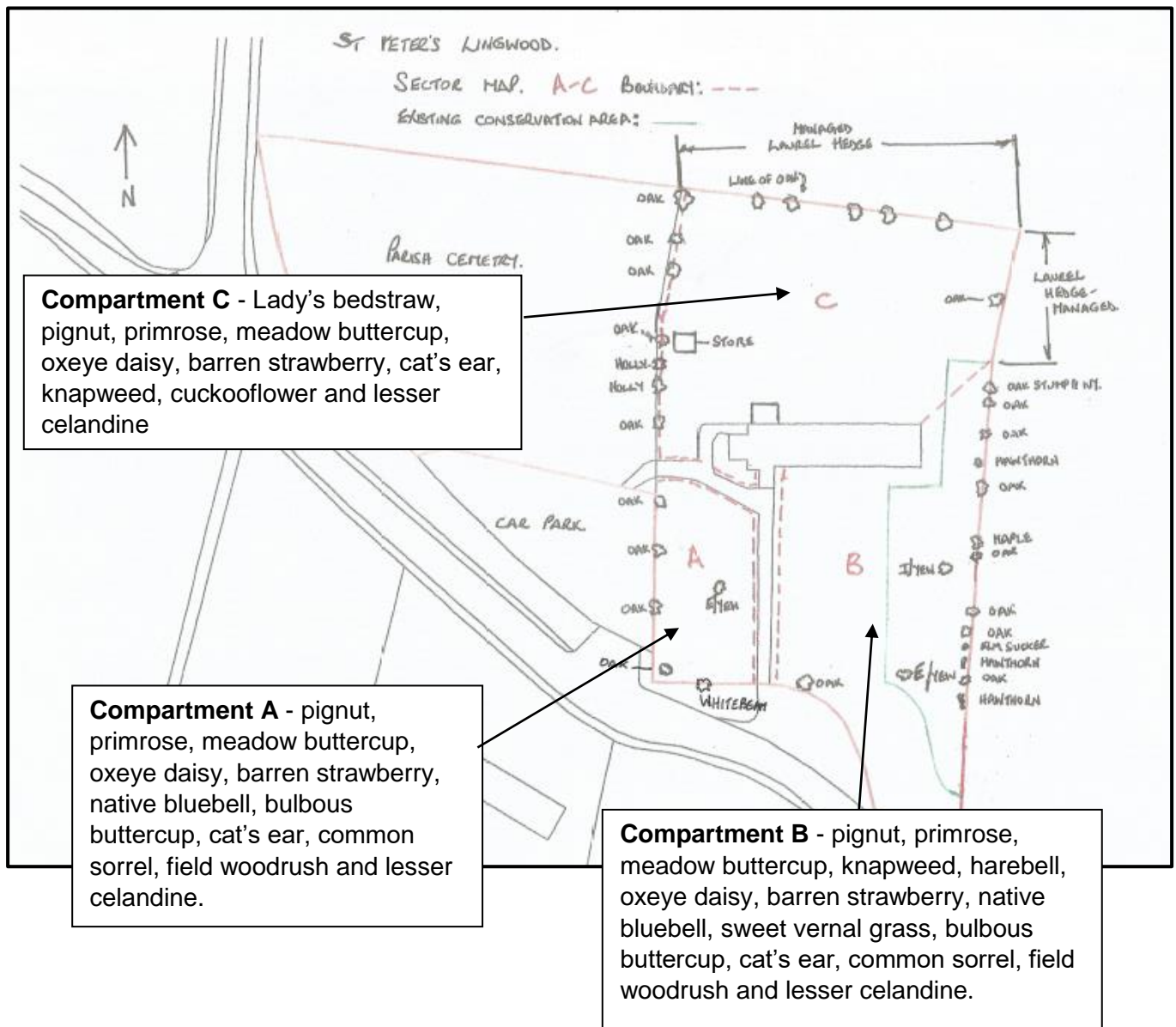
Grid reference: TG 36071 09042

Weather conditions: Variable but mainly clear and dry on the days visited.

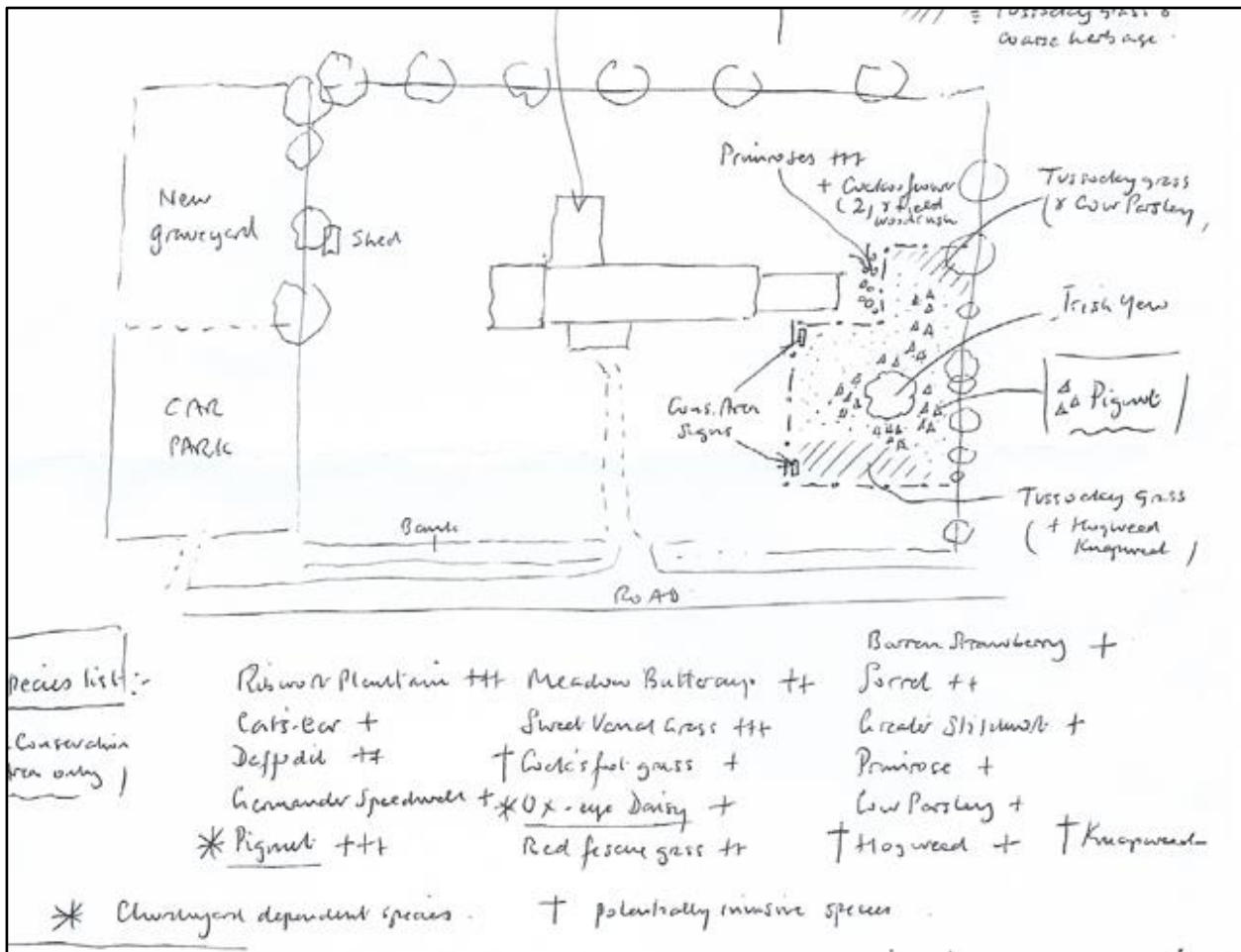
Date of survey: Visits: Feb 2022, 6/4, 16/4, 14/5, 27/5, 9/6, 4/7, Aug 2022

Name of surveyor: David Holt.

2022 Map showing compartments and main wildflowers:



Map of St Peter's, Lingwood, 2010 - by Bob Leaney:



St Peter's is a medieval church sited beyond the village centre surrounded by arable fields and the odd dwelling. It dates back to the 13th century with additions in the 14th & 15th Centuries. It has modern facilities in a new section on the north side. To the west is the non-denominational parish cemetery which is not a part of the survey. According to NWT records the churchyard was surveyed in 1992 and 2010.

For the purposes of surveying, the churchyard has been divided into compartments A, B & C (see 2022 map).

1. Does the churchyard have a defined conservation area(s)? If yes, how many does it have?

Yes. The conservation area sits in compartment B and has been maintained over the years by Blofield and District Conservation Group (BADCOG).

As you can see from the maps above this area supports the good plant diversity, with pignut, primrose, meadow buttercup, harebell, oxeye daisy, barren strawberry, native bluebell, sweet vernal grass, bulbous buttercup, cat's ear, common sorrel, field woodrush and lesser celandine.

The area also contains coarser species, such as cocksfoot grass and cow parsley, so regular management is needed to keep them in check.
A slight change of timing when cutting and clearing is recommended (details below).

2. Is the sward even and fine-textured? Or coarse and tussocky? Or closely mown?

All compartments have to date had a regular cutting regime, with compartment B being well maintained by both BADCOG and the PCC contractor.
More regular short mowing has resulted in a finer sward on the PCC section of Compartment B, with more tussocky areas in the conservation area due to less frequent mowing.
Compartments A and C are both closely mown and in this year the regime was irregular presumably due to the hot weather.

3. Are the grass cuttings raked off?

Not in the mown areas. The conservation area is mown and the cuttings raked off.

4. Are there significant unmanaged or neglected areas?

Apart from the space between headstones, which is hard to reach, there are no unmanaged areas.

5. What sort of hedge do they have? Does it appear to be managed?

There is a defined hedge surrounding most of compartment C which is well managed and is of Portuguese Laurel.
Compartment B on the east has a remnant hedge line appearing unmanaged with standards.

6. Are ant hills present in the churchyard?

No.

7. Description of the churchyard

The churchyard has an open aspect with oldest burials in the south and most recent burials to the north although the majority of new burials will be in the Parish Cemetery. Pedunculate Oak occurs on every boundary with the exception of the south.

Compartment A:

This is to the south and west of the church and is defined by the path to the porch, the car park and Church Road. This compartment supports pignut, primrose, meadow buttercup, oxeye daisy, barren strawberry, native bluebell, bulbous buttercup, cat's ear, common sorrel, field woodrush and lesser celandine.

It also had two orchid spikes at the time of the survey and care was being taken to avoid them being mown out. The area is mown under the PCC regime. The headstones have a mix of flora growing around them and are not actively mown close, allowing varied flora to establish.

Few if any graves are tended in this area.

Compartment B:

This area is to the south and east of the church with an extension by the chancel end. It is defined by the path to the porch, the east boundary and the end of the conservation area.

Compartment B supports pignut, primrose, meadow buttercup, knapweed, harebell, oxeye daisy, barren strawberry, native bluebell, sweet vernal grass, bulbous buttercup, cat's ear, common sorrel, field woodrush and lesser celandine.

This is the area with two maintenance regimes (see 2022 map for detail of the boundaries). The area subject to the PCC cutting regime gives a similar mix of flora as compartment A with the exception of any orchids. The conservation area is becoming tussocky and coarse with cow parsley which will could come to restrict the growth of lower growing flora.

A change in timing of the cutting should help reduce coarser species and benefit the wildflowers.

Compartment C:

This is an area of existing graves to the north of the church with a small area to the west. It is on two levels. At the lower level many of the graves are visited with floral tributes being left and some graves maintained by relatives.

This area supports Lady's bedstraw, pignut, primrose, meadow buttercup, oxeye daisy, barren strawberry, cat's ear, knapweed, cuckooflower and lesser celandine. It is defined by maintained a Portuguese Laurel hedge with standards on three boundaries and the access path from the car park.

The more regular maintenance regime by the PCC has resulted in the sward generally being of a fine mown cut. Where a grave has edgings the central part is generally left undisturbed and accordingly has a mixed flora.

There are two raised areas to either side of the new build extension with older inhumations that appear to be less frequently mown and show a more diverse flora.

Previous Surveys:

1992 and 2010.

PLANT LIST – species highlighted in green are of particular interest in churchyards

The **DAFOR** rating is used to record occurrence of species in the churchyard as a whole - D dominant / A abundant / F frequent / O occasional / R rare

English Name	Latin	Area			Comments	D	A	F	O	R	
		A	B	C							
Barren Strawberry	POTENTILLA STERILIS	X	X	X	in B			X			
Bee Orchid	OPHRYS APIFERA	X								X	2 plants
Bluebell - English	HYACINTHOIDES NON-SCRIPTA	X	X		in B			X			
Bluebell - Spanish	HYACINTHOIDES HISPANICA			X	in B				X		
Bramble	RUBUS sp		X	X	in B				X		
Broad Leafed Dock	RUMEX OBTUSIFOLIUS		X	X				X			
Bulbous Buttercup	RANUNCULUS BULBOSUS	X	X					X			
Bush Vetch	VICIA SEPIUM	X	X	X	in B			X			
Catsear	HYPOCHAERIS RADICATA	X	X	X	in A & B		X				
Cleavers	GALIUM APARINE		X	X	in B				X		
Cock's-foot	DACTYLIS GLOMERATA		X		in B						
Common Bird's-Foot Trefoil	LOTUS CORNICULATUS		X		in B, one plant					X	
Common Knapweed	CENTAUREA NIGRA		X	X	in B			X			
Common Mouse-ear	CERASTIUM FONTANUM	X	X	X					X		
Common Nettle (stinging)	URTICA DIOICA		X	X	in B				X		
Common Sorrel	RUMEX ACETOSA	X	X		in B			X			
Common Vetch	VICIA SATIVA		X	X					X		

Cow Parsley	ANTHRISCUS SYLVESTRIS	X	X	X	in B			X	
Creeping Buttercup	RANUNCULUS REPENS			X				X	
Creeping Cinquefoil	POTENTILLA REPTANS	X	X					X	
Creeping Thistle	CIRSIUM ARVENSE			X					X
Crocus	CROCUS		X	X					X
Cuckooflower	CARDAMINE PRATENSIS			X	in B				X
Cut Leaved Cranesbill	GERANIUM DISSECTUM		X	X				X	
Daffodil Sp	NARCISSUS sp	X	X	X				X	
Daisy	BELLIS PERENNIS	X	X	X				X	
Dandelion	TARAXACUM OFFICINALE	X	X	X				X	
Dog Violet	VIOLA RIVINIANA	X			in A & B				X
Dovesfoot Cranesbill	GERANIUM MOLLE	X	X	X				X	
Elm Sp	ULMUS		X		Sucker growth				X
Field Bindweed	CONVOLVULUS ARVENSIS		X						X
Field Maple	ACER CAMPESTRE		X						X
Field Wood-rush	LUZULA CAMPESTRIS	X	X		in B			X	
Fox-and-cubs	PILOSELLA AURANTIACA		X						X
Garlic Mustard	ALLIARIA PETIOLATA			X					X
Germander Speedwell	VERONICA CHAMAEDRYS	X	X	X				X	
Grape Hyacinth	MUSCARI ATLANTICUM	X	X	X					X
Greater Plantain	PLANTAGO MAJOR			X					X
Greater Stitchwort	STELLARIA HOLOSTEA	X	X		in B				X
Ground Elder	AEGOPODIUM PODAGRARIA		X						X
Ground Ivy	GLECHOMA HEDERACEA	X	X	X				X	
Groundsel	SENECIO VULGRIS			X					X
Hairy Tare	VICIA HIRSUTA		X						X
Harebell	CAMPANULA ROTUNDIFOLIA		X		in B				X
Hawkweed sp	HIERACIUM AGG	X	X					X	
Hawthorn Sp	CRATAEGUS MONOGYNA	X	X		in B				X
Herb Robert	GERANIUM ROBERTIANUM	X	X	X					X
Hogweed	HERACLEUM SPHONDYLIIUM		X	X	in B				X
Holly	ILEX AQUIFOLIUM		X	X					X

Hop Trefoil	TRIFOLIUM CAMPESTRE	X	X	X				X	
Ivy	HEDERA HELIX	X	X	X	in B			X	
Ivy-leaved Speedwell	VERONICA HEDERIFOLIA	X							X
Japanese Cherry	PRUNUS sp		X						X
Lady's Bedstraw	GALLIUM VERUM		X						X
Lesser Celandine	RANUNCULUS FICARIA	X	X	X				X	
Lesser Stitchwort	STELLARIA GRAMINEA	X	X						X
Lesser Trefoil	TRIFOLIUM DUBIUM	X	X						X
Lords-and-Ladies	ARUM MACULATUM	X	X	X					X
Meadow Buttercup	RANUNCULUS ACRIS	X	X	X	in B			X	
Oxeye Daisy	LEUCANTHEMUM VULGARE	X	X	X	in B			X	
Pedunculate Oak	QUERCUS ROBUR	X	X	X					X
Perforate St John's-wort	HYPERICUM PERFORATUM	X							X
Pignut	CONOPODIUM MAJUS	X	X	X	in B			X	
Pink Sorrel	OXALIS ARTICULATA			X					X
Portugal Laurel	PRUNUS LUSITANICA			X					X
Prickly Sowthistle	SONCHUS ASPER		X	X					X
Primrose	PRIMULA VULGARIS	X	X	X	in B			X	
Ragwort sp	SENECIO sp	X	X	X				X	
Red Clover	TRIFOLIUM PRATENSE		X						X
Red Dead-nettle	LAMIUM PURPUREUM	X	X						X
Red Fescue	FESTUCS RUBRA		X		in B				X
Ribwort Plantain	PLANTAGO LANCEOLATA	X	X	X	in B			X	
Selfheal	PRUNELLA VULGARIS	X	X	X					X
Smooth Sowthistle	SONCHUS OLERACEUS		X						X
Snowdrop Sp	GALANTHUS	X	X	X	in B				X
Spear Thistle	CIRSIUM VULGARE		X						X
Spotted Medick	MEDICAGO ARABICA	X							X
Star of Bethlehem	ORNITHOGALUM UMBELLATUM	X	X	X					X
Sun Spurge	EUPHORBIA HELIOSCOPIA	X							X
Sweet Vernal Grass	ANTHOXANTHUM ODORATUM		X		in B				X
Violet Sp	VIOLA sp	X	X	X				X	

White Clover	TRIFOLIUM REPENS	X	X	X				X	
White Dead-nettle	LAMIUM ALBUM			X					X
Whitebeam sp	SORBUS	X							X
Wood Dock	RUMEX SANGUINEUS			X					X
Yarrow	ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM	X	X	X	in B			X	
Yew English	TAXUS BACCATA	X	X						X
Yew Irish	TAXUS BACCATA "Fastigata"		X						X

Other species:

Feb 2022 - Puffballs
6/4 Chiff Chaff, Hedgehog poo, 7 spot ladybird
16/4 Holly Blue, Brimstone, Orange tip, Peacock
4/7 8 Meadow Brown

SECTION 2 Current management and recommendations

Preamble.

The PCC and BADCOG have over the years have developed their own practices for the churchyard. To date these have served the churchyard well and resulted in the flora and its associated life flourishing.

The conservation area retains good floral diversity but also remains tussocky in places. So it is suggested the conservation area is cut in July and again in October/November each year. Cuttings should be removed after both cuts.

If you feel it is needed, and a lot of lush growth has been put on over winter, you could cut carefully in March with high blades (and remove the cuttings), but this can be difficult to achieve whilst also avoiding spring species. After a mild winter the leaves of spring or early summer wildflowers (such as pignut, primrose, bulbous buttercup) could easily be present, so it is recommended that instead of a spring cut, you cut and clear well, particularly at the end of the growing season (Oct-Nov).

(If you were to decide on a spring, high-bladed cut, this would be in addition to the cuts in July and Oct/Nov).

Overall suggestions.

- Continue to manage main churchyard with regular mowing, and if possible collection of cuttings afterwards.
- Cut and vigorously rake the conservation area twice a year – once in July and again in October/November.

Compartment A

The current PCC regime should remain in force, and if the contractor can use equipment that collects the cuttings they can be deposited in an agreed location. There seems to be an area near the store in compartment C that has been used for composting.

Any longer areas missed in the regular mowing (i.e. less accessible patches by gravestones) should be cut and cleared by October/November each year.

If the recently planted Yew comes to shade out the nearby flora, you could consider trimming some of the lower branches.

Compartment B

PCC

Recommendations are as compartment A. The current PCC regime should remain in force and the guidance for that area followed.

Conservation area – managed by BADCOG

It is suggested that the conservation area is managed by following the 2010 advice given by Bob Leaney:

- Cut and vigorously rake in July and again in October/November.
- It is further suggested that, if possible, you follow Bob's advice to cut the tussocky areas twice more between the July and Oct/Nov cuts (Bob advises using a rotary mower). These extra cuts are only for the tussocky areas of the conservation area (in 2010 coarser growth was found at the north and south ends of the conservation area).

These changes to the timing and frequency of cuts should help encourage a finer sward and more wildflowers, and also a reduction of coarser species.

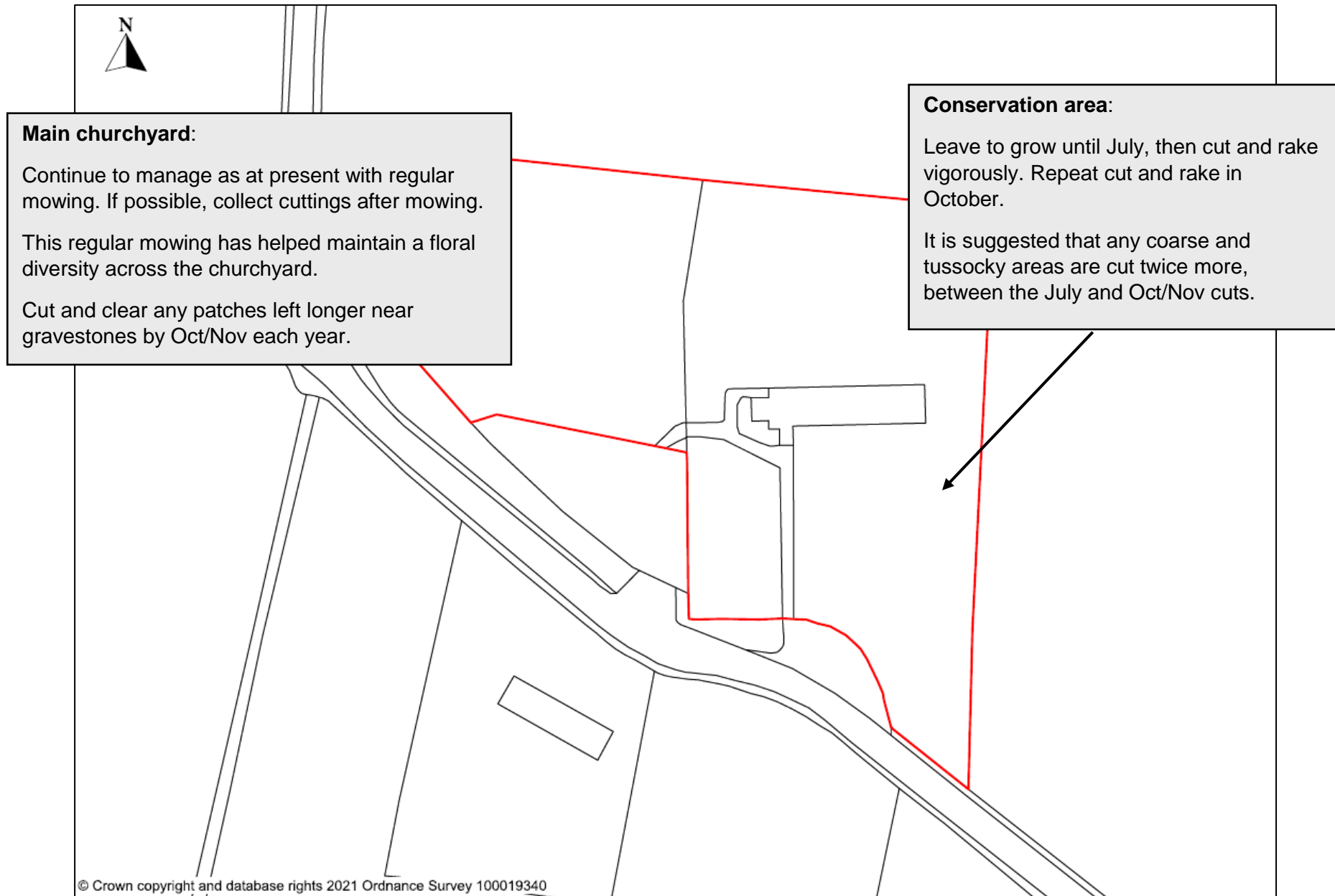
Avoid cutting any harebells in the July cut and rake (if they grow in the more tussocky areas). They can then be cut and cleared in Oct/Nov.

Compartment C

The current mowing regime by the contractor should be maintained.

This mowing regime does not always reach the area between the headstones and inside the grave surrounds, so these small pockets can be cut and cleared by October (cutting and clearing cut material will help retain the floral interest in these spaces).

Management suggestions map



Management work summarised – annual work timetable

Annual work timetable	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Leave the Conservation Area to grow until July, then cut and rake vigorously. Repeat in October. Cut tussocky areas twice more between the July & Oct/Nov cuts.												
Cut the rest of the churchyard												
Mow any grass paths												
Cut any wildlife refuge strips to c.15cm.												
Raise tree canopies (when required)												
Cut hedgerows every 2-3 years in winter												
Clear ivy from stonework (when required)												
Cut back scrub (when required)												
Clear hard surface paths/stonework/grave kerbs of damaging vegetation by hand												

SECTION 4

Monitoring of plants and other wildlife

It is important to monitor changes in the relative abundance of plants and sightings of other wildlife. This will help inform the future management of the churchyard.

Please encourage members of your church or churchyard visitors to submit wildlife sightings by either using our:

- a) Online churchyard recording system: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/ChurchyardRecording>
- b) Sending records to us via email wild@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk or post them to Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Bewick House, 22 Thorpe Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 1RY

SECTION 5

Let people know you are part of the churchyard conservation scheme

Norfolk Wildlife Trust can provide you with the following:

- a) NWT outdoor churchyard plaque (erect in churchyard)
- b) Hardcopy of the most recent plant survey and management statement (display in porch/church)
- c) Churchyard conservation information pack (display in porch/church)