

Church of St Mary the Virgin, Preston Candover

HIWWT Basingstoke and Deane Volunteer Team

HIWWT's Basingstoke and Deane Volunteer Team

This team has been set up with funding provided by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to work on land owned or managed by parish councils, community groups and private landowners. The tasks the team completes will benefit sites that provide important 'stepping stones' for wildlife in the wider landscape outside of bigger and better-resourced nature reserves and legally protected sites.

Church of St Mary the Virgin, Preston Candover, Grid reference: SU 6067 4160

Staff from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust visited the Church of St Mary the Virgin in November 2018 in order to advise which works could improve the diversity of the churchyard, and to identify tasks with which the Basingstoke and Deane volunteer team could assist. One suitable task that was identified was coppicing of a hedgerow bordering the churchyard.

The task – 10am-3pm Sunday 13 January 2019

This task will involve coppicing the hedgerow that borders the churchyard, along the edge of the B3046, as marked on the map below. This hedgerow is primarily made up of privet and ivy, and previous management by flail has caused the hedge to develop gaps at the base. The hedgerow will be coppiced to stimulate new growth and to create a better hedge structure with more dense growth at the base. A dense hedge base is important as it provides wildlife with better opportunities for hibernation, nesting and sheltering from harsh weather. It also helps to protect the root system, which is an important habitat in its own right. The coppicing work will also allow any gaps in the hedgerow to be filled by planting new saplings, providing an opportunity to increase the botanical diversity of the hedge.



The hedgerow that borders the churchyard (marked yellow on the map adjacent) will be coppiced to invigorate new growth and create a denser hedge structure. Gaps at the base can then be planted with new saplings to increase the botanical diversity of the hedge.



Task specifications

- Hedgerow plants to be coppiced and stumps to be left untreated to allow for regrowth.
- Arisings to be burnt on fire site within the churchyard.
- Volunteers from the local community are very welcome to join the task on the day.

Additional information

This task will be run by Matthew Smith, Assistant Reserves Officer. Matthew can be contacted by email to matthew.smith@hiwwt.org.uk or by phone on 07464 674642.

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Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust protects wildlife and creates wild places. By joining as a member you'll be part of a movement of people taking action for local wildlife. For more information please visit <http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/become-member> or call 01489 774400.