

## Land and Nature category

When churches manage land for nature, be it land owned by the church or land in the local community, they reinforce the whole mission of the church by caring for creation and serving the community – increasing access to nature for human wellbeing, building climate resilience and pointing people towards our Creator God.

There are two pathways through this survey category:

**Pathway 1:** for churches which own or manage land such as a garden, churchyard or burial ground

**Pathway 2:** for churches with very *limited* land such as a paved car park, a perimeter or other hard-standing areas and for churches that do not own or manage *any* land. This pathway asks you to consider your own small amount of land, if you have any, **and** also how you can have an influence on land managed by others.

Please refer to the [Land and nature overview document](#) for further guidance about completing this category.

### Pathway question

Please identify which pathway on balance best fits your situation.

**Pathway 1:** Our church owns/manages land such as a garden, churchyard or burial ground

**Pathway 2:** Our church has very limited land OR does not own/manage land

For quick reference or if you are printing this document, please note that:

Pathway 1: pages 2–5

Pathway 2: pages 6–9

**Please note** this document is for reference and church-use only. To apply for an Eco Church award, you will need to copy your answers across to the online survey on the [Eco Church online platform](#). As we are a small admin team we are unable to accept paper copies of surveys as award applications.

**Land and Nature**

**Pathway 1: Our church owns or manages land**

**Commitment**

2. Our church recognises the significant contribution churches can make to the UK's target of 30% of land protected for nature by 2030. We have established a plan to manage our land for nature to help us do this in the most impactful way.

Yes / Partly / No

**Theme 1: Biodiversity**

3. Our church encourages wildlife to flourish on our land by providing:

*Choose all that apply*

bird boxes

bat boxes

bug hotels

hedgehog boxes

food for birds throughout the year

a pond or wetland area for wildlife

wild, scrubby area (e.g. nettles, brambles, weeds in pavings)

log pile(s)

composting and mulching as appropriate

a source of water for wildlife all year round

other

no options for wildlife

4. Our church manages mowing in a way that:

*Choose all that apply*

encourages the growth of wildflowers (no spring or summer mowing)

allows the growth of long grass (only mown every two to three years)

is good for grassland fungi (regular mowing and removing cut grass)

other

does not aim to improve our land for wildlife

### Land and Nature

5. Our church is intentional about leaving 'untidy' areas during the autumn/winter that support over-wintering wildlife:

*Choose all that apply*

dead flowers and seed heads left in situ

flower beds and shrub areas left 'untidy'

leaf piles and branches left in situ

untidy areas are not part of our plan

6. In the last year, our church has been actively engaged in planting and/or managing trees and/or hedgerows for wildlife on our land or in the local community.

*Choose all that apply*

We plant and/or manage trees or hedgerows on our land

We help fund tree and/or hedgerow planting and management locally

We volunteer in tree and/or hedgerow planting and management initiatives locally

We are not involved with tree and/or hedgerow planting and management

7. Our church recognises that healthy soils are critical for the flourishing of biodiversity. Our church:

*Choose all that apply*

composts organic garden waste on site

does not use horticultural products that contain peat

uses no dig/mulching and/or other soil-friendly cultivation methods

does not do any of the above

8. Our church avoids the use of synthetic fertilisers, pesticides or herbicides:

always / not always

### Theme 2: Monitoring and citizen science

9. Our church monitors and reviews the impact our plan for nature is making for biodiversity.

Yes / No

### Land and Nature

10. Our church undertakes citizen science activities including wildlife surveys on our land to monitor changes:

*Choose all that apply*

Big Garden Birdwatch

Big Butterfly Count

Churches Count on Nature

regularly gather data and input it into a national database (e.g. iRecord/iNaturalist)

other

We don't do any citizen science activities

11. Our church engages with A Rocha UK's Target 25 (T25) or similar projects to help declining species, taxonomic groups and habitats (on our own land or other land in the community, e.g. ARUK's Partners in Action) by:

*Choose all that apply*

promoting the project to church members

taking action on one or more T25 species, groups or habitats (add details in comments)

supporting those working on T25 or similar (e.g. by volunteering)

At the moment, we are not contributing to T25

### Theme 3: People

12. Our church regularly takes part in a community litter pick/beach clean/river clean etc.

Yes / No

13. Our church grows food on our site (including in planters, boxes etc.).

Yes / No

### Land and Nature

14. Our church actively encourages people to access and enjoy our land by providing:

*Choose all that apply*

relevant interpretive material (e.g. nature display boards or leaflets)

benches/seats

a wildlife trail

a labyrinth

adaptations to improve accessibility (e.g. ramps, appropriate path surfaces, handrails or braille signs)

ways to engage with, and facilitate access for, people who are statistically less likely to access nature

other

We have yet to take any action to improve accessibility to our land

15. Our church actively encourages church members and volunteers to nurture and protect our land by:

*Choose all that apply*

caring for it, for example by gardening

identifying the wildlife that is there and submitting records to, for example, iRecord or iNaturalist

other

We aren't yet involving people in looking after our land or monitoring its wildlife

16. Our church is planning and acting for land-based climate resilience through:

*Choose all that apply*

protecting the soil by mulching, composting and using natural manures during periods of drought

creating shaded areas

rainwater management (e.g. by using water butts and creating rain gardens and swales [shallow channels])

creating wet mud patches to help birds that need mud for their nests (e.g. house martins and swallows)

other

We have not yet taken any action for land-based climate resilience

## Land and Nature

### Pathway 2: Our church owns or manages only a small amount of land (e.g. the perimeter around the building) OR does not own or manage any land

#### Commitment

2. Our church recognises the significant contribution churches can make to the UK's target of 30% of land protected for nature by 2030. We manage our land and/or work in partnership with other organisations / community groups to manage land for nature.

Yes / No

#### Theme 1: Biodiversity

3. Our church encourages wildlife to flourish on our land (if applicable) and/or supports other organisations or community groups to encourage wildlife to flourish by providing:

*Choose all that apply*

bird boxes

bat boxes

bug hotels

hedgehog boxes

food for birds throughout the year

a pond or wetland area for wildlife

a wildflower area

wild, scrubby area (e.g. nettles, brambles, weeds in pavings)

log pile(s)

composting and mulching as appropriate

creating a roof garden or vertical garden

a source of water for wildlife all year round

other

We don't support other groups and community organisations in managing land for nature

4. Our church supports wildlife-friendly (e.g. for birds, butterflies etc) planting on our land by:

*Choose all that apply*

planting in one or more containers

planting in one or more window boxes

creating a roof garden or vertical garden

We are not currently growing wildlife-friendly plants

NA (*we have no land or buildings to support this*)

### Land and Nature

5. Our church is intentional about leaving 'untidy' areas during the autumn/winter that support over-wintering wildlife:

*Choose all that apply*

dead flowers and seed heads left in situ

wildflower containers left 'untidy'

leaf piles and branches left in situ

Untidy areas are not part of our plan

NA (*we have no land or buildings to support this*)

6. In the last year, our church has been actively engaged in planting and management of trees and/or hedgerows for wildlife on our land (if applicable) or with a conservation/community partner by:

*Choose all that apply*

helping to fund tree and/or hedgerow planting and management

planting and managing trees and/or hedgerows

We are not currently involved with tree and/or hedgerow planting and management

7. Our church avoids the use of synthetic fertilisers, pesticides or herbicides and encourages our partners to do the same.

Yes

No (*used sometimes, occasionally or sparingly*)

NA (*we have no land*)

### Theme 2: Monitoring and citizen science

8. Our church is involved in local citizen science or other activities that record species and monitor population changes. Maybe with another church or conservation partner (e.g. ARUK Partner In Action), or in a community garden/park.

*Choose all that apply*

Big Garden Birdwatch

Big Butterfly Count

Churches Count on Nature

other

We don't currently participate in any citizen science activities or similar

### Land and Nature

9. Our church engages with A Rocha UK's Target 25 (T25) or similar projects to help declining species, taxonomic groups and habitats (on our own land or other land in the community, e.g. ARUK's Partners in Action) by:

*Choose all that apply*

promoting the project to church members

providing financial support for the project

focussing on one or more T25 species, groups or habitats on our land, or with a conservation partner (add details in comments)

We don't currently participate in T25

### Theme 3: People

10. Our church regularly takes part in a community litter pick/beach clean/river clean etc.

Yes / No

11. Our church is involved in growing food, for example on an allotment or in a community garden.

Yes / No

12. Our church encourages people to get outside for events and activities in nature – for example for T25 activities, outdoor worship, nature/farming festivals, local walks or conservation volunteering.

Yes / No

13. Our church actively encourages church members and volunteers to nurture and protect our own land or other land by:

*Choose all that apply*

getting involved in practical land management or gardening activities

identifying wildlife and submitting the data to, for example, iRecord or iNaturalist

other

We don't currently involve people in looking after our own land or other land



### Land and Nature

14. Our church is planning and acting for land-based climate resilience through:

*Choose all that apply*

protecting the soil by mulching, composting and using natural manures, where possible, during periods

of drought

creating shaded areas

rainwater management (e.g. by using water butts and creating rain gardens and swales (shallow channels))

creating wet mud patches to help birds that need mud for their nests (e.g. house martins and swallows)

engaging with others in the community on climate resilience measures

other

We have not yet taken any action for land-based climate resilience

NA (*we do not have any land*)