

WALDRINGFIELD CHURCH FIELD

Waldringfield Church Field Trust

Waldringfield Church Field Trust was established in 2003 to manage the 5.2 acres of land given to the village by Dr Tom Waller.

The land was formerly agricultural land and was given to the people of Waldringfield and the surrounding area for recreational use.

An open short grass area is maintained for ball games and kite flying and there is a basketball practice court. There are picnic tables and benches and many grass paths to run or walk round.

The field is managed for people and for wildlife by a team of volunteers. If you would like to help please contact one of the committee. Details are available on the glass fronted notice-board.

Please use the litter bins (shown L on the plan) and dog waste bin (shown D), or take your litter home. Remember dog waste is dangerous to children and discarded plastic bags and cans can harm wild animals. Thank you for your co-operation.

Managing the field to encourage wildlife:

Maintained long grass meadow areas

- The meadow areas are self-sown and no fertilisers or herbicides are used. This encourages grasses and other wild plants preferring open, sunny sites and poor, sandy soil.
- The long grass provides homes for voles and other small mammals, grass snakes and slow worms.
- Seeds are eaten by small birds, ground nesting partridges, voles and field mice.
- The different grasses and flowering plants are food plants for moth and butterfly larvae and many kinds of beetles, bugs, spiders, snails and slugs.
- These in turn may be eaten by birds such as song thrush and insect eating mammals including hedgehogs and shrews.
- The long grass areas are cut once a year in winter to prevent woody plants taking over.

Trees and hedges

- These were planted by volunteers and provide food and shelter for many birds, insects and small mammals.
- Long grass in the shade of the hedge may conceal newts, frogs and toads outside of the breeding season.
- Hedgehogs may forage along the bottom of the hedges and hide up there during the day.
- Hedges are cut infrequently and only in winter so the maximum flower and fruit is provided.

Brambles and gorse bushes

- Controlled bramble patches and gorse bushes provide a refuge for nesting birds and hedgehogs and the flowers are loved by bees and many butterflies and moths.



Skylark



Kestrel



Barn owl



Dragonfly



Ox-eye daisies

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Grey Partridges

Brown hare

Goldfinch

Centaury



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