

## **PCC Plan for Millennium Wood in Fladbury**

This woodland owned by the Worcester Diocese Board of Finance, is located on the strip of land between the River Avon and the rear of the churchyard. It does not form part of the churchyard and is not consecrated land. The land is the responsibility of the PCC of the parish of Fladbury, Hill & Moor, Wyre Piddle, Crophorne & Charlton. Fladbury church and its land are registered as an Eco church.

Volunteers provide practical help in managing the woodland.

The woodland is covered by the PCC's Public Liability Policy. In 2025, the latest risk assessment identified the need for a sign warning the public of the risks associated with the woodland which is now in place. It was also acknowledged that as the PCC does not have the financial resources to have regular arboriculturist safety reports and has very limited financial ability to employ a professional tree surgeon. Therefore, the woodland is to be left as a "wild" wood. Public access is permissible at own risk.

Safety inspections will continue at regular intervals to check that the life buoy remains in place, that the warning sign is on display, and for obvious dangers of fallen or unsafe branches across the paths. Action will be taken as soon as possible if these dangers are identified. Access to the woodland can be closed at any time.

In the past, some memorials have been placed in the woodland, despite this area is not part of Fladbury churchyard. As risks have been identified with the woodland as part of the Public Liability Risk Assessment, the PCC will no longer be able authorise any memorials on this land, including the disbursement of ashes, plaques, benches or other seating.

It is accepted that care of this woodland will be limited by the availability of resources and volunteers, operating within the Terms of Reference set by the PCC, and will be primarily by:

- reasonable maintenance of the footpaths and removal of obstructions
- care of the natural environment to encourage wildlife and biodiversity
- synthetic fertilisers, pesticides or herbicides will not be used
- if new planting is necessary, only planting with native woodland species
- all of the above, with the required permission from the Worcester Diocesan Office.

## **Terms of Reference for Millennium Wood Co-ordinator**

Being guided by the PCC's Plan for The Millennium Wood, the Co-ordinator will advise and lead in its care including:

- Calling volunteer work parties at a time agreed with local church warden and giving directions for what work is to be done by the volunteers.
- To check the situation of the Wood and report any health & safety concerns to the local church warden, particularly after storms.
- Report any health & safety incidents to local church warden. A first aid kit is available in the church kitchen, for which the key code will be made available.
- Periodically check that the life buoy and warning sign are in place.

*Agreed by the PCC 15/01/2026*