



DEVON LIVING CHURCHYARDS
St Michaels Church Blackawton
ACTION PLAN AREAS OF INTEREST

Action Plan for Increasing Biodiversity – Attracting a diversity of Wildlife

The fifth mark of mission (adopted by General Synod in 1996) is ***‘to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth’***. It is also helpful to show how creation care informs other parts of the church’s mission, and influences choices toward becoming carbon neutral etc. and completing Eco Church.

Cemeteries were often developed from green field sites, and many now have remnant habitats and features like heaths and hedges. As pockets of countryside locked within urban areas and as inherently quiet places, cemeteries can provide a range of habitats that can support a diversity of wildlife.

Biodiversity isn’t about individual species, it’s about the sometimes surprising connections that hold everything together. In this document we explore some of these ‘natural processes’ and how improving or providing new habitats the churchyard can give biodiversity the boost it needs.

This draft action plan is meant to be for your guidance on a more environmentally friendly approach to managing your churchyard for you to embrace and implement as appropriate.

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If you are unable to define a specific site for attracting wildlife it would be easier to spread the various features throughout the churchyard e.g. pollinator plants, log piles, compost heap, butterfly plants, bird nest boxes, bug hotels etc.

Below are some example of features you can introduce around the churchyard to increase biodiversity; *You might like to consider spreading the project over three years.*

1. Status:

Grade I Listed Building
Coast and Country Mission Community/United Benefice
Conservation Area
Closed Churchyard – but managed by Parish Council

2. Statutory Commitment

Section 40 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 states

'Every public body must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'

Conserving biodiversity includes restoring and enhancing species populations and habitats, as well as protecting them.

3. Primary Liability

For example: The Parochial Church Council is the body primarily responsible for the churchyards. However, when a churchyard is 'closed' i.e. no further burials the liability is transferred to the local authority.

However, in this case the churchyard management is retained by the church.

Individual memorials belong to, and are the responsibility of, the 'heirs at law' of the persons commemorated by them. These rights and liabilities remain unaffected by any transfer of maintenance to the local authority, and care must be taken to trace and respect their entitlement if any works are proposed which affect the memorials themselves.

4. Diocese of St Exeter Environment Policy

The diocese approved an Environment Policy and set targets for churches. Are your proposals in accordance with the policy and meet those targets which are relevant?

5. Safeguarding

An important statement quoting your church policy on safeguarding.

6. **What is your Vision for the Living Churchyards Project?**

Your Church Statement of Environmental Commitment. As stewards of creation what is your commitment? E.g.

To work with the local community and partners to engage with making caring for God's Creation more a part of normal church life and personal Christian discipleship and specifically to take action in protecting and managing wildlife in St Michael's churchyard.

7. **Required Outcomes**

- Increasing biodiversity/wildlife,
- providing a secure wildlife sanctuary,
- enhancing the wildlife potential in our churchyard through management and maintenance
- Using the Living Churchyards project as a tool to examine the various parts of church life – specifically worship and teaching, building and land, personal lifestyles, community engagement and global campaigns.
- Improving accessibility for all
- Communication
- Establishing Lifelong learning
- Conserving and improving the heritage value of St Michael's church
- Using the Living Churchyards project as a tool to assist with the Eco Church scheme
- Improving skills and knowledge through training
- Increasing number of volunteers involved by establishing a **Green Team**.

8. **Green Team**

A core group of people from the congregation and local community who are committed to raising awareness about the urgent need to protect 'God's Acre' and to work for environmental sustainability and responsibility. Led by a **Green Champion** who will be the point of contact.

9. **Creating a plan of action:**

Enhancement: Things to do to enhance wildlife potential:

The summer months is the perfect time for a survey of your churchyard. when plants are in flower and habitats are at their most active.

What is there already, which areas can be managed for wildlife, which areas need to be kept 'tidy' for events – weddings, baptism parties etc.

Not only is this a chance for you to record all the plants, insects & wildlife in your outdoor area, it's also a wonderful opportunity for all ages in your local community to come & discover their local churchyard & it's biodiversity.

Try these basic steps

- a. Create a church Green Team. Gather a group of volunteers. You may also like to ask the local [Devon Wildlife Trust](#) or a local expert if they can help
- b. Start with an annotated aerial 'map' of the churchyard & mark it with basic features like buildings, paths, walls, in-use burial areas & compost heaps. Outline the broad areas of habitat (e.g. areas of scrub,

- regularly cut grassland, shady areas & biodiverse areas). Use Google satellite image as your base and trace off features.
- c. Record the trees, their type, circumference, estimated height & spread of their branches
 - d. Take photographs & record where the photograph was taken, the direction & the date
 - e. Record where & when you saw birds, insects & other wildlife. Churchyard Wildlife Survey recording forms are available from: dcurry.devongreenchurchyards@gmail.com
 - f. Maintain species lists and let people know, so they can add sightings. e.g. Facebook,

10. Preparing a visual plan

The basic process is to get a google image of the churchyard as a photograph, as your baseline. From this you can construct a more diagrammatic representation, which can be reproduced as many times as you wish.

You can also produce a gridded version which can allow for more precision and detail. This will become your visual template against which everything is matched and monitored. It is the critical record of what grows and lives where and when, and as such will guide whatever you do next. All wildlife recording should be related to this map.

- 1) Mark in the main boundaries, footpaths and significant trees;
- 2) The churchyard falls into natural sections. Each of these will have a general approach, cut short, cut medium, leave long etc. Within these you can add as much detail as is necessary and achievable.. Once agreed they can be designated as more permanent, probably on a second iteration of the plan, which shows agreements and projects.
- 3) The amount of detail will vary around the churchyard, but may include suggested 'wild islands' and planted curbed areas (so-called mini-meadows).
- 4) Any suggested additional tree planting should be marked, as should sensory garden and/or garden of remembrance, and extra benches if they are to be installed at some point.
- 5) Finer detail should include such things as, bird and bat boxes, log piles, bee hotels etc.
- 6) As more detail is added the map/plan can become crowded - it might be sensible to have separate sheets for each category, which might also help when it comes to delegation.

- 7) Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words, so get some nice images to accompany any map/plan. They are also very useful to show before and after.
- 8) It is important to be realistic about what can be achieved within agreed timelines, so less is more to begin with. That way you can demonstrate progress and success, rather than trailing a long backlog of not-completed or even started projects.
- 9) You should accompany reference to each area or project with an image of the area you are talking about, it is surprising how people forget what things look like, even though they may pass it everyday.

11. Churchyard habitats Survey

See Appendix 1

12. The use of pesticides and herbicides

We strongly discourage the use of pesticides and herbicides in your churchyard. In particular those containing Glyphosate.

13. Establishing a circular trail

It would be helpful to establish a safe circular or figure-of-eight trail around the site to give more access. It could also serve as a prayer trail.

14. Managing Churchyard Grassland

Define St Michael's current cutting regime here e.g how many cuts/year

Different areas of grassland in the churchyard can be managed by one of three different ways. These are:

1. Short grassland is cut like a lawn on a regular basis, no more frequently than fortnightly, with the mower cutter height set at around 30mm and all cuttings removed to the compost heap. It is used for grass paths through the churchyard and for amenity grass areas such as entrances and wedding photograph areas. It may contain plants that flower close to the ground such as self-heal.

2. Medium grassland is cut no more frequently than monthly, unless the growing conditions are exceptionally fast, with the mower cutter height set on high at 75-100 mm and all cuttings removed to the compost heap. It is used for areas where people do not walk on the grass, between shrubs and where there are spring bulbs, in which case the first cut is not until all foliage has died back in mid-June. It may contain plants such as violets, primroses, daisies, self-heal, clover and bird's foot trefoil; a medium cut will allow these plants to flower and attract bees and other insects as well as small mammals and slow worms.

3. Long grass and summer meadow areas are cut only once each year during August when most of the flowers have set seed. It is cut with a strimmer or reciprocating bar mower and the cuttings are raked off and removed immediately to the compost heap. It is used in sunny areas where flowers in the grass such as rough hawkbit, various buttercups, yarrow, bush vetch, common sorrel, rib-wort plantain can flower during the summer, as in a meadow. The biodiversity of these areas may be improved by plug planting with suitable meadow species and seeding with yellow rattle. The long grass areas may attract many insect species including beetles and grasshoppers as well as small mammals.

<https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/get-involved/get-devon-buzzing/pollinator-resources/>

15. Church Frontage

Treat this as the church shop window. It's where the wedding photographs are taken, funerals are held, new visitors make first impressions etc.

Grass should be managed as **short sward amenity grass**. This would involve regular amenity cuts. This will also demonstrate that the churchyard is being managed.

It is important to provide some form of notice to inform people why this is important for wildlife. Either on the church information board or in the local parish magazine.

Provides opportunity to plant Spring flowering bulbs such as **daffodils and crocus** or blossom trees such as cherry, rowan, crab apple etc. Sometimes there is even a space for a small fruit orchard growing Devon varieties of fruit. (DC can advise)

Main path - would suggest that any sloping edges are scraped in places to expose bare soil to serve as a habitat for mason and mining bees nests.

16. No Mow May

Each year, during the month of May the conservation charity **Plantlife** urge people not to mow their gardens to help wild plants and pollinators thrive.

See: <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/about-us/news/no-mow-may-how-to-get-ten-times-more-bees-on-your-lockdown-lawn>

17. Sensory mapping

Sensory Mapping allows us to assess what a site has to offer to the five main senses, and also to record other feelings that a particular space evokes. It is a way for us to get away from view-dominated criteria for what makes a good site and to begin to make places that appeal across a broad range of senses.

18. Sensory Garden

A small sensory garden is a valuable feature which can be used by all.

They are places that can be designed with many different purposes in mind. They can be calming with scented plants and restful seating, a community area for growing tasty food or wildlife friendly plants, a therapeutic space for people to recuperate, a learning zone full of exciting things to touch and smell or an accessible garden for people with sight loss or wheelchairs to be fully independent. The possibilities are endless and that's what makes these gardens so exciting. (RHS Link: [Create a sensory garden / RHS Gardening](#))

19. Creating Habitat/Eco Islands in Churchyards

Fragmented areas of habitat that are surrounded and separated by areas of degraded habitats. This may be a single mature tree, a group of shrubs, a tomb covered in ivy, a mini wildflower meadow or a drystone wall.

The aim is to connect major wildlife habitats outside the churchyard by strengthening or creating 'stepping stones' or islands of **mini habitats** within the churchyard.

20. Mini Meadows

Most churchyards are well-supplied with raised beds of curbed burial plots, some of which already have been colonised by low-growing plants.

To create your own **mini meadow** it is important to remove the top 5-10cms of soil. Many types of wild flower and delicate wild grasses struggle to compete with other stronger grasses and common 'weeds'. By removing the top layer of soil you can help reduce the fertility of your soil and give your seeds a better chance to thrive.

Then lightly rake and tap down the soil, creating a firm surface on which to sow the seeds. Sprinkle your Mini Meadow seeds thinly over the ground and stamp them into the soil. These '*mini-meadows*' are easy to maintain and immensely useful to wildlife in the form of bees and other insects, which in turn provide food for birds.

21. Establishing a Biblical Herb Garden

Growing a herb garden is relatively easy but you do need 2 main things; Lots of sunshine and very well-drained soil.

Appendix 2 has a list of some of herbs mentioned in the Bible or associated with the Christian faith. This is a project which local school/uniformed groups may wish to develop. Consider establishing Biblical Herb Garden in raised beds on either side of the South Porch. Alternatively use large garden planters.

22. Trees

Trees are a traditional feature of churchyards and whilst trees may seem to be of no direct relevance to the life and work of the church as a local centre of worship and mission, they play an important role both in themselves as objects of interest and beauty and providing a habitat for wildlife and also as counterfoils to the architecture of the church itself and the memorials within the churchyard.

Often local people appear to be more concerned about what happens to trees within a churchyard than about any other aspect of church-life. Additionally trees both grow and decay. This can cause problems for buildings and memorials, and dangers for all concerned.

It important that new trees require three years of careful maintenance e.g. watering during dry weather and mulching/weeding. The water standpipe or water butt on site is a useful resource.

A **tree survey** is advised not only to record the trees but to carry out health checks.

23. Fruit Trees

Until about 40 years ago there were hundreds of small-scale orchards in the South Hams growing a wide range of different fruit, including many local varieties.

More than 70 different varieties of apples, pears and plums were grown.

The fruit trees were under-sown with grass, which could be used for grazing livestock, or inter-cropped with flowers and soft fruits.

Today Devon has lost most, if not all, of its active orchards to development, replacement or simple neglect. Many of these orchards contained fruit varieties particular to Devon with the result that most local types of fruit have now disappeared.

Where possible consideration should be given to planting a variety of local fruit trees and shrubs underplanted with meadow flowers. See appendix for a list of good fruit tree suppliers of local varieties.

Apple trees with mm106 rootstocks will grow to a maximum height of about 2m, which is ideal for landscaping and harvesting fruit. You can also buy other rootstocks to produce smaller trees such as container grown.

The fruit can be cropped and distributed locally or juiced.

Celebrating Wassail in January is also fun.

24. Boundary Wall

A fine drystone wall with ivy, and other wall species. Valuable habitat for plants and insects.

25. Boundary Hedge

The southern boundary has a considerable drop to the road beneath. Recommend planting a hedgerow along this boundary proving both increased biodiversity and a safety barrier.

The Woodland Trust give away free hedgerow packs of bare-rooted 1yr whips. Apply asap to; [Free Trees for Schools and Communities - Woodland Trust](#)

26. Bat/bird/owl nest boxes on trees can provide artificial roost sites for both birds and bats and are important for conservation and research. They cannot however, entirely replace or substitute for natural tree holes and crevices in buildings.

The local school children/uniformed groups could build bird/bat boxes under supervision. There are plenty plans available online.

27. **Swift nest boxes in the church tower** - It is becoming a popular idea to place nest-boxes behind the louvres in church belfries. Many churches have lost their Swifts under the eaves as a result of roof renovations, so it is a good idea to try to get them back.

For more information on how to provide homes for swifts, please see:

www.rspb.org.uk/homes-for-swifts

Other helpful sites:

<https://www.swift-conservation.org/>

<https://actionforswifts.blogspot.com/2011/03/swift-nest-boxes-in-church-belfries.html>

Some churches in Devon have recently installed swift boxes in their tower.

28. **Log and leaf piles** and purpose-built hedgehog homes make great places for hedgehogs to nest and hibernate. Fallen leaves also make the perfect nesting material, so make sure you don't clear all of these away.

29. **Bug hotels**

Bug hotels are structures that offer shelter for invertebrates, either to overwinter, breed or spend their daily lives. There are no hard and fast rules- they can be made to any size or shape and from a variety of materials to cater for different bugs.

This is a project which can be adopted by local children. See;

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/garden-activities/build-a-bug-hotel/>

30. **Get Devon Buzzing Scheme - Creating B-Lines in South Devon**

B Lines are an imaginative and beautiful solution to the problem of the loss of flowers and pollinators. The B-Lines are a series of 'insect pathways' running through the South Devon countryside and towns.

The South Devon project will create a network of B-Lines linking wildflower-rich areas across South Devon from the west to the east, and from the north to the south, linking Dartmoor to the coast, and linking our towns and urban areas to the countryside.

Suitably managed churchyards are ideal places for pollinator species to find nests and food creating a series of 'hotspots' linking important habitats.

Any sunny sloping edges can be scraped in places to expose bare soil to serve as a habitat for mason and mining bees nests.

We need to play our part in supporting our bees, hoverflies, butterflies and wasps by mowing the grass less frequently, by planting pollinator-friendly flowers to provide nectar and pollen and erecting bug hotels.

Consideration may be given to establishing a couple of beehives in the churchyard in partnership with local beekeeper and/or South Hams Beekeepers group.

31. Rep-tiles

Old roofing/floor tiles create the ideal environment for amphibians and reptiles to shelter under.

32. Create a sanctuary for contemplation, inspiration and enjoyment

Encouraging the local community to celebrate their sacred space through events which involve storytelling, folklore, historical written sources, oral history, art, poetry, music and song, dance, photography, workshops and courses. Consider installing seating at locations with a view over valley.

33. Artworks in the Churchyard

Art has been part of church life for centuries, and art in our churches takes many forms. It helps us connect with God and reflect our faith.

New art e.g. a sculpture, could be created for a specific place in your churchyard and with an understanding of its purpose in supporting people's faith.

34. How can parishioners help?

Parishioners and other interested people can become part of an excellent success story, become part of a community and make genuine contributions of benefit to the wider Blackawton community. Volunteers can be encouraged to share their time, expertise, enthusiasm and experience, but should be assured that even a few hours here and there throughout the year are still useful and welcome.

As the management plan is crafted it will become apparent what kind of help is needed. Central to all activities will be the Green Team who will be the main vehicle for achieving the aims of the plan; they can be seen as a 'management group' coordinating activities and monitoring progress and change. Within this Green Team there will be a need for those prepared to provide some physical input to carry out the 'gardening' aspects of enhancing the church grounds. Clearing cuttings helps a richer variety of ground flora to develop but is quite labour intensive. Handy people might become involved in building nest boxes and bug hotels. Gardeners might donate plants within a selected list. Individuals could 'adopt' a curbed grave and care for the mini-meadow it contains, or create a wild island and keep it looking presentable. Tree planting and future nurturing require some expertise that will be found in the community.

An important ingredient of the team is some natural history expertise; this does not have to be either exhaustive or academic. Every town and village has its amateur birders, butterfly enthusiast and wild flower fan – they need to

be recruited to create and maintain a catalogue of species found in the churchyard, such a listing will help plan future management.

Letting people know what is going on is crucial and one or more dedicated volunteers should be responsible for PR and other communications. Photography always tells a better story and so a person skilled with the camera will be a useful asset. Eye-catching posters and information panels should be of a good standard graphically, and have to be weather resilient. Suck outward expressions of intent reflect the overall image of the 'wilding' process.

Use the Love Your Burial Grounds week in June to encourage local people into the churchyard and appreciate the variety of wildlife.

Consideration may be given to liaising with the Devon Wildlife Trust, Wilder Communities project which aims to mobilise community action; to inspire and enable the creation of wildlife-friendly villages, parishes, towns and cities to support nature's recovery in Devon.

35. Local Farming Community

The local Young Farmers group could play a pivotal role in this project e.g. practical projects in the churchyard. Contribution to agricultural calendar services e.g. Plough Sunday, Lammas, Harvest etc.

36. Communication: Essential from the beginning

Communication is vital at every stage of churchyard management. There will always be naysayers and it is best to pre-empt any criticism by clear communication that reflects the written management plan and its approaches and aims.

Some communities have an effective village magazine and this should be exploited to the full. A regular report of activities should become a feature, as well as taking opportunities for 'Flower of the Month' or 'Celebrity Mini-beasts', etc.

On-site notices, but not too many, provide information where it is wanted and can explain a particular regime, feature or interesting plant(s). More than anything else communicating in this way shows positive intent rather than unconcerned neglect.

The church porch is an ideal place for a permanent but flexible Churchyard Noticeboard, which may also include historical information and notice of events.

Such a display could provide much more detail and attract visitors into the church. It can also become a centrepiece for providing and exchanging the latest information and be a clarion to encourage more participation.

Colourful images are an essential ingredient of successful remote communication.

Communication by;

- Posters
- Signage
- Notice board in porch
- Church/village magazine
- Presence at events – fetes, coffee mornings etc
- Talks to village clubs – WI, Gardening, History etc
- Working with the school
- Word of mouth
- Annual meeting

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APPENDIX 1 – Churchyard Habitat Survey

What is a habitat survey?

A habitat survey looks at mapping the different habitats in an area. For a churchyard this could be for example, grassland, trees, paths and stone walls. A habitat survey is often also referred to as a Phase 1 survey. If you are an experienced botanist you might want to carry out a Phase 1 habitat survey according to the JNCC techniques. If you are a beginner then rest assured it isn't difficult and we've put together this guide to help you.

Why do a habitat survey?

Recording biological data is really important. As well as knowing what species are found in an area, such as bees and butterflies, it's also important to know what habitats are present. This helps us to understand more about a place. It is also important as the first step to working out how best to manage the habitats for wildlife.

Can I do a habitat survey?

Yes, you can! You may not be able to identify every species you come across, but getting the dominant species is important. Make sure you are prepared, and you give yourself enough time. There are plenty of good ID books available.

How to carry out a habitat survey

Here is a simple step-by-step guide to getting you started with your habitat survey. Don't worry, you don't need to know what every plant species you see is. It's helpful if you do know, but you can still provide really important information without knowing this.

1. Identify your churchyard

2. Prepare your map. You might find it useful to look at your chosen churchyard as an aerial first. You can find it on **Google Maps**, or other similar site. You can either print it out or use the image to sketch out the basic shape, ready to take with you. Depending on how good the image is, and how big the churchyard is, it might also help to put on a few notable landmarks e.g. paths, or a large tree. They will help to orientate you when you are there and help to keep things as true as possible.
3. Head over to the churchyard. You will need to walk around the churchyard and note down everything you see. Make notes as you go of what is there. Note down grassland, paths (what sort of path? Paved/tarmac/gravel), buildings.
4. If you do know any of the plant species you see, make a note of them, along with where you see them. This could be over most of the site!
5. Making notes for something special. There are some things you see that you will want to note down, but they are too small to mark on as a habitat, or they are difficult to classify. This is where you use target notes. Instead of trying to write everything on your map (you'd soon lose sight of your map under writing) mark an interesting point with a number and keep a list with organized notes. Notes might include a particularly old, gnarled tree with holes in that could be used by birds or bats. Or maybe there's an old headstone that has really interesting lichens on it. You can use notes for things more transient too, such as a hedgehog poo, or a bumblebee.

APPENDIX 2 Some Biblical Herbs

Aloe (*Aquilari agalloche*)

Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*)

Cumin (*Cuminum cyminum*)

Mint (*Mentha sp.*),

Garlic (*Allium sativum*)

Hyssop (*Sorghum vulgare*)

Mustard (*Brassica nigra*)

Rose (*Rosa spp.*)

Rue (*Ruta graveolens*)

Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*)

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)

Costmary (*Chrysanthemem balsamita*)

Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)

Dill (*Anethum graveolens*)

There are many more on several web sites.

APPENDIX 3 Text for information panels

Suggested basic text for information panel. Please add your own text as appropriate.

“With so many pressures today on our countryside, **Churchyards represent environmental jewels and long-term sanctuaries for wildlife.**

Every churchyard is a potential nature reserve that can be a home to many plants and animals, some of which are struggling to thrive in our countryside.

If we manage our churchyards well, they can provide many other environmental benefits such as improving air and water quality and providing quiet greenspace for meditation and relaxation.

As a member of the **Devon Living Churchyards Project**, an Exeter Diocese initiative, we are committed to managing our churchyard to improve its biodiversity. As well as building bug hotels, nest boxes and homes for hedgehogs etc. we will be mowing some areas of grass less frequently in order to create valuable hay-meadow habitats.

We will still keep the main grass paths cut regularly and maintain neatness around graves which are frequently visited, but in other places we will be letting things grow naturally and adding wildflower seeds to improve biodiversity.

The **Devon Living Churchyards Project** works in active partnership with other denominations and environmental organisations such as the Devon Wildlife Trust Devon Local Nature Partnership and Caring for God’s Acre. For further details Email: dcurry.devongreenchurches@gmail.com”

APPENDIX 4 – Fruit Tree Suppliers

The Mother Tree <https://themothertree.uk/>

Based in Dartington South Devon. A range of Devon and SW apples as well as pears, plums, nut trees, soft fruit, interesting edibles and more! Bare-root plants will be available from December, pot-grown plants available all year.

Adams Apples <https://www.adamsappletrees.co.uk/>

Adam’s Apples is a nursery growing fruit trees with love and care in the heart of East Devon. Our fruit trees are available bare-rooted in the winter months, when they are dormant. We start taking orders from July for the upcoming bareroot season and trees are ready for planting from late-November until mid-March.

Endsleigh https://www.endsleigh-gardens.com/fruit_trees_intro.php

At Endsleigh Gardens Nursery, we specialise in grafting and growing a wide range of fruit trees including the almost forgotten, and popular, Tamar Valley Apple and Cherry varieties.

Root Stock

Our fruit trees are grafted on a range of different root stocks, which include M9, M27, M26, M106 and M25. M27 root stock produces a patio size tree (6ft tall), M9 Rootstock 10 feet, M26 root stock produces a 10 to 12 foot tall tree, M106 root stock produces a 14 to 16 foot tall tree and M25 rootstock produces a tree of 20-25 feet in height.