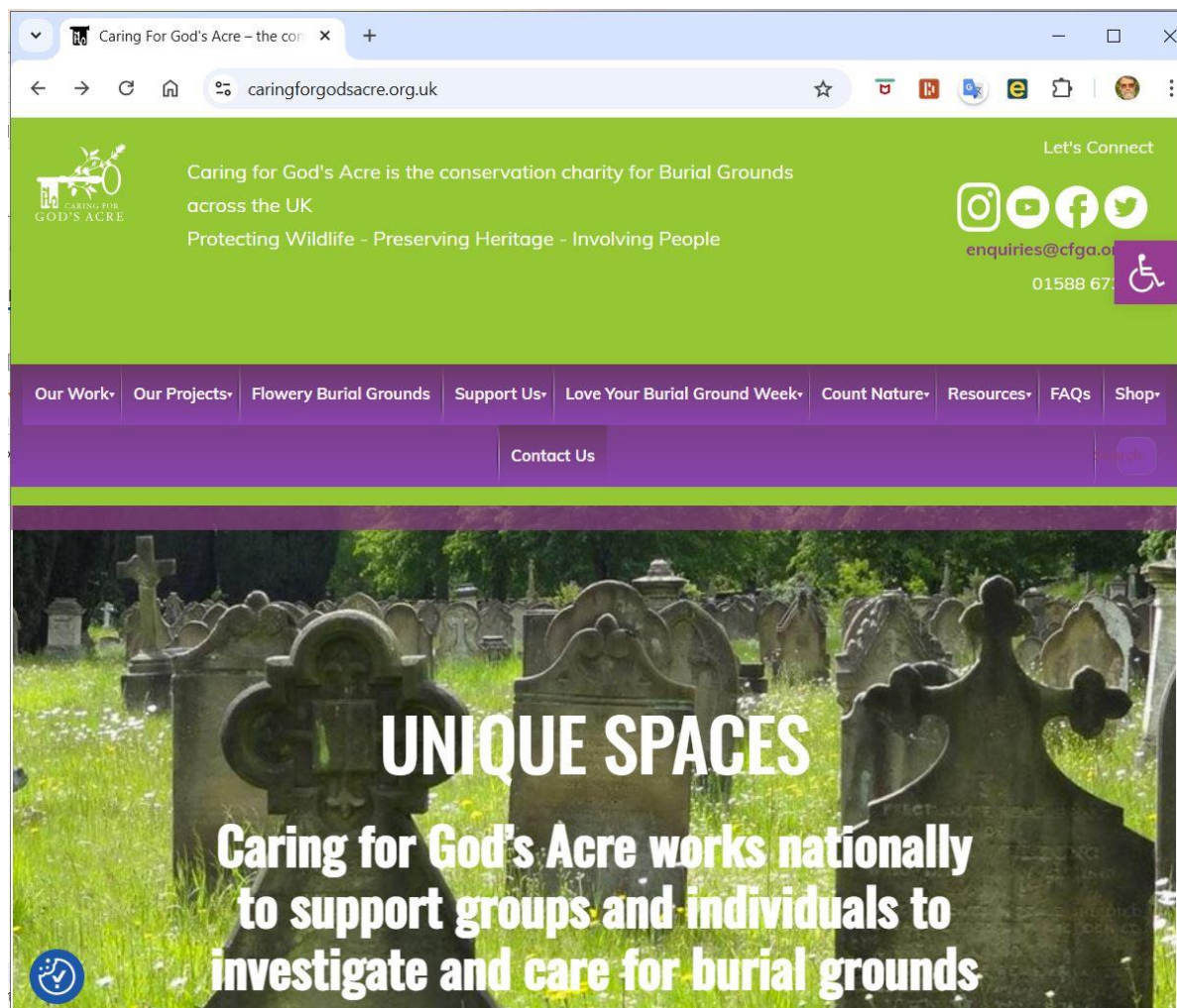


## Does your churchyard have any biological records in the NBN database?

A step-by-step guide by Dr Mark Ritchie of All Saints' Church, Faringdon.

Here's how to find out:


- Start at <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/>



- Click on “**Count Nature**” in the horizontal list of options and choose “**Burial Grounds NBN Portal**”.

- This brings up the **Burial Grounds NBN Portal** which gives access to churchyard and burial ground records on the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Database.

## Burial Grounds NBN Portal



Search the Caring for God's Acre NBN Atlas to discover more about the ecology of burial grounds near you

SEARCH      SUBMIT A RECORD      ANALYSE DATA

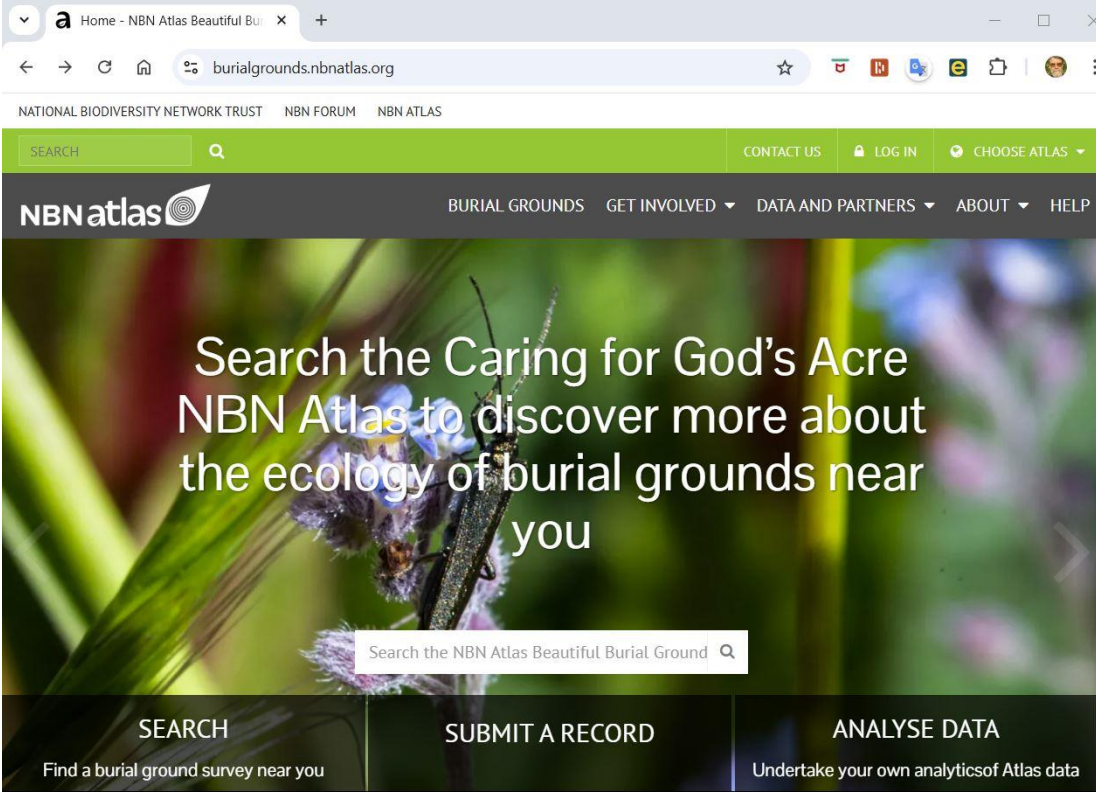
Find a burial ground survey near you      Undertake your own analytical Atlas data

### Related Pages

- [NBN Portal](#)
- [Add your records](#)
- [Starter Guide to Species](#)
- [Botanical Companion](#)

As part of the Beautiful Burial Ground Project we partnered with the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) to create a Burial Grounds Portal on the NBN Atlas, an online tool that provides a platform to engage, educate and inform people about the natural world. The Burial Grounds portal is an extension of the NBN Atlas entirely devoted to burial grounds. Using the Burial Grounds Portal you can search for specific burial grounds, view burial grounds on a map, and view records. [VISIT THE PORTAL HERE](#) .

- Now click on **“VISIT THE PORTAL HERE”**.



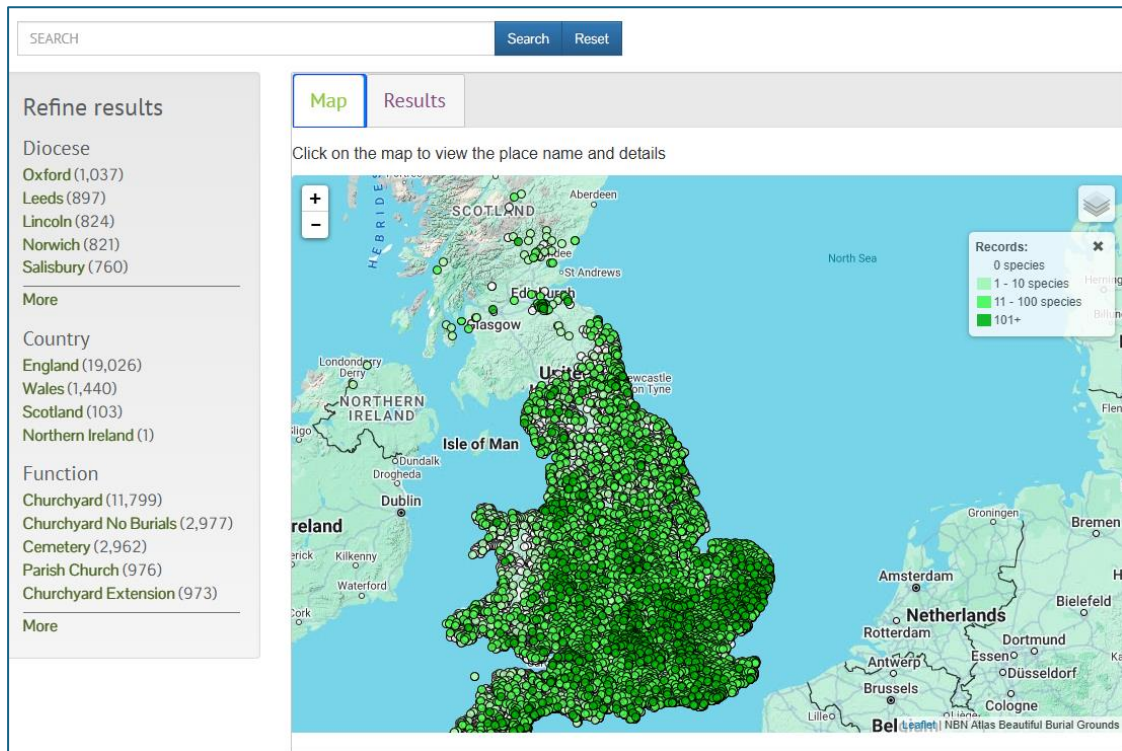
SEARCH the Caring for God's Acre NBN Atlas to discover more about the ecology of burial grounds near you

SEARCH      SUBMIT A RECORD      ANALYSE DATA

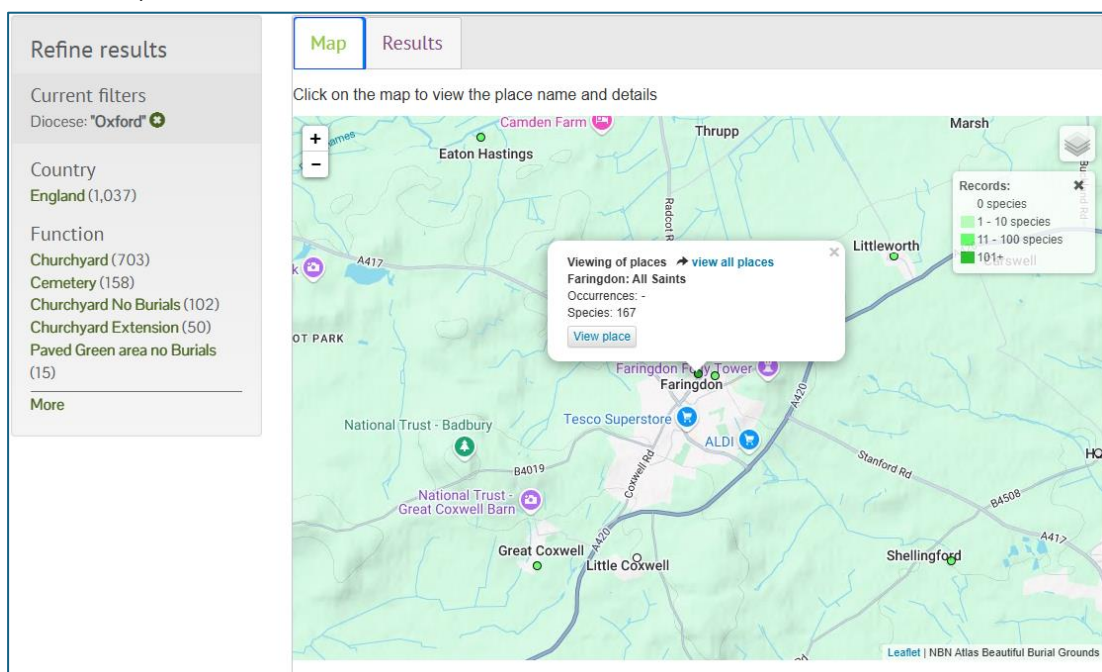
Find a burial ground survey near you      Undertake your own analytics of Atlas data

- Now click on **“SEARCH”** (bottom left of image).

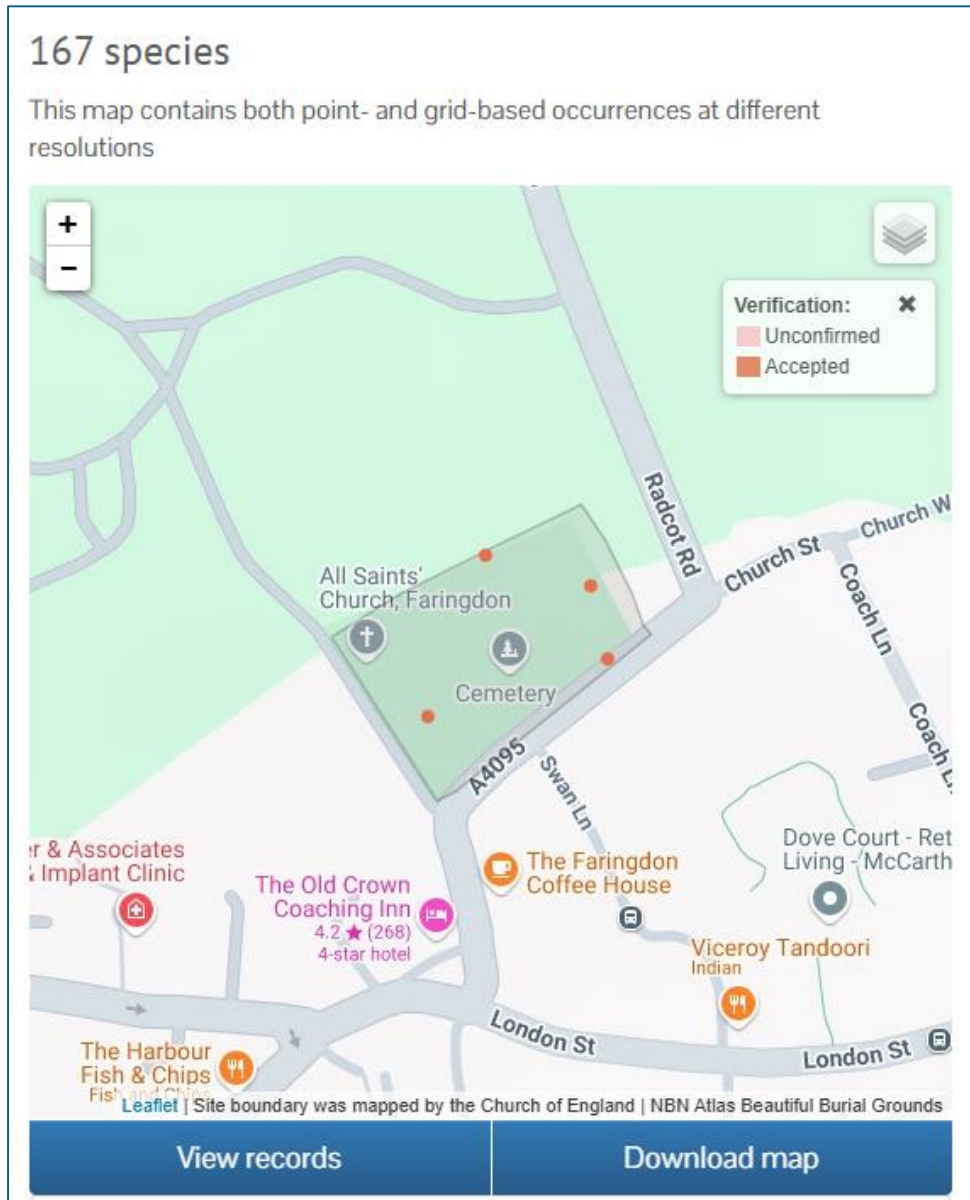
- This brings up the NBN Atlas which shows a map of datasets for UK (mainly England and Wales).



- On the **left** of the screen is a set of filters for Diocese, Country and Function.
- Now choose your Diocese by clicking on “**Oxford**” and zoom in by clicking on the “**+**” sign (top left of map) and moving the map around the window by clicking and holding down the button on your mouse.
- Click on the **green circle** closest to where your churchyard should be.
- This brings up a **white label**. In our case we have selected “**Faringdon: All Saints**” with 167 species.
- (Note that the intensity of the green colour relates to the number of species recorded.)



- On the **label**, click on “**View place**”.
- This brings up a screen showing a map of the chosen graveyard and surroundings.
- There is also a basic “ecological summary” which is the same for all places.
- At the bottom of the map are blue panel buttons for “**View records**” and “**Download map**”.
- Red dots indicate those few records that were (hopefully!) accurately geo-located to a specific area within the churchyard.



- Below that is a short panel of text indicating that **5 datasets** exist for All Saints Churchyard.
- If we now click on “**View records**” we can see occurrence records (in this case for plants).

The screenshot shows the NBN Atlas search results page for 'Burial grounds: Faringdon: All Saints'. The page displays 230 results. On the left, there is a 'Narrow your results' panel with 'Selected filters' showing 'Exclude Occurrence status: absent'. Under 'Data resource', several options are listed with checkboxes: 'TVERC Historical Churchyard Records (126)', 'BSBI data from several English counties, up to 2018 (84)', 'Millipede (Diplopoda) records for Britain and Ireland to 2005', 'Isopoda (Interim dataset)', and 'Conchological Society of Great Britain & Ireland: non-marine mollusc records'. The main content area shows a list of species records, including 'Urtica dioica | Common Nettle', 'Primula veris x vulgaris - P. x polyantha | False Oxlip', 'Chamaecyparis lawsoniana | Lawson's Cypress', 'Glechoma hederacea | Ground-ivy', 'Rumex sanguineus | Wood Dock', 'Sambucus nigra | Elder', and 'Viola odorata | Sweet Violet'. Each record includes the date (2015-02-08), location (England), and OSGR (SU2895).

- To get a feel for what groups of organisms may have been recorded, click on “**choose more**” under “**Data resource**” on the left side text panel.
- This brings up a panel headed “**Refine your search**” with a summary of the numbers of records (not numbers of species recorded) provided by specific “data resources” (i.e. recording entities).

The 'Refine your search' panel displays a table with the following data:

	Data resource	Count
<input type="checkbox"/>	TVERC Historical Churchyard Records	126
<input type="checkbox"/>	BSBI data from several English counties, up to 2018	84
<input type="checkbox"/>	Millipede (Diplopoda) records for Britain and Ireland to 2005	11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Isopoda (Interim dataset)	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conchological Society of Great Britain & Ireland: non-marine mollusc records	1

At the bottom of the panel, there are buttons for 'INCLUDE selected items', 'EXCLUDE selected items', a download icon, and a 'Close' button.

- Finally, clicking on any of the blue labelled entries in the list brings up the relevant records.
- In the above list the first two recorders are **TVERC** (Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre) and **BSBI** (Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland).



- Historically, TVERC is a local body that has contributed the largest share of plant records for churchyards in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, many are now quite old.



Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes  
Environmental Records Centre

- There is also the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes ERC, not sure if their data is on the portal but you can do records searches with them directly.

<https://www.bucksmkerc.org.uk/>



- The BSBI has contributed over 6 million records to the NBN database nationally.

### Mistletoe

- Mistletoe may be found in churchyards and is currently the focus of ecological research by Ollie Spacey, a PhD student at Oxford University.
- There is a downloadable app (**MistleGO!**) to enable anyone to record mistletoe on trees by taking and uploading a photo to assist the research.
- <https://treecouncil.org.uk/science-and-research/mistletoe-research/>

### Lichens



British Lichen Society

- The British Lichen Society (BLS) has contributed over two million records to the NBN database nationally.

### Natural England's bat roost visit records

- Natural England has contracted the Bat Conservation Trust to run its advisory visit service and the church bat roost records from it are shared on the NBN.

<https://www.bats.org.uk/free-advice-service-for-places-of-worship-in-england>