

## Project Type: Churchyard Conservation

**Project Title:** The Pond Project

**Location:** St George's Church, Little Thetford

**Aims:** Create a small wildlife pond in the churchyard to increase the amount of habitat available and make little "stepping-stones", linking fragmented wildlife communities.

**Total Cost:** All resources donated.

**Funding Sources:** The pond was created by New Life on the Old West, a project supported by National Lottery Heritage Fund.



**Project Duration:** The project started with a presentation from Caring for God's Acre in February 2022. The pond was completed in June 2023.

### Brief Overview

A Creation Care Team was established at St George's Church, with the aim to improve habitats for wildlife in the churchyard, and quiet spaces for people to enjoy the peace and beauty of nature. One of the Creation of Care talks organised for the team focused on ponds, which inspired them to explore the possibility of creating a small wildlife pond at the back of the church. Fortunately, the New Life on the Old West project had already created a pond in the village and were keen to help the team at St George's. All the costs were covered by this project and it took about half a day for volunteers to create the pond – visit the [NLOW](#) website to find out more and see photos of the process.

The biggest challenge for the project lead at St George's church was to address concerns raised regarding the safety of the pond, particularly for young children. She worked with the neighbouring school and sought advice from professionals to ensure that risks were minimised. A full, detailed risk assessment was compiled, and clear signage has been erected at various points in the churchyard.

The project also includes the creation of a wildlife meadow and installation of swift boxes. The team is hoping to achieve a Silver Award for the Churchyard Conservation Scheme in 2024.

### Top Tips:

Communication and engagement are key. Involve people at the start and throughout the project; listen to concerns and suggestions but be prepared for the unexpected to arise at the last minute; stay focused on the vision and purpose of the project and don't do it alone!

### Websites:

Churchyard Conservation Scheme in [Cambridgeshire](#) and [Norfolk](#)

[New Life on the Old West](#)

**Contact:** If you would like to know more about this project or speak to the people involved, please contact Holly Isted, Historic Church Buildings Support Officer [holly.isted@elydiocese.org](mailto:holly.isted@elydiocese.org) 07948 350211