



Wildlife Trust for
**Beds, Cambs
& Northants**



Ready to make a difference in your churchyard?
Join us in preserving and enhancing its natural
beauty. Contact us, get involved, and let's create a
haven for both wildlife and serenity together!



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**Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

The Wildlife Trust
Northamptonshire Churchyard
Conservation Award Scheme,
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Registered Charity No. 1000412

Northamptonshire Churchyard Conservation Award Scheme

Churchyards can be havens for wildlife as well as quiet retreats for people. The Wildlife Trust runs the Churchyard Conservation Awards Scheme, which aims to help groups increase the wildlife in their churchyards. To request an advisory visit or discuss applying for the Award, please contact us using the details on the leaflet. Applying costs £5, and once you have registered as part of the scheme, you can work towards Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards.

The criteria for each Award can be found on the leaflet. Each Award lasts for 3 years, after which you can reapply or aim for a higher award. Alternatively, you can request a free advisory visit any year to help you on the way.

Our Patron Rt. Revd. John Holbrook,
Bishop of Brixworth



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SCORING GUIDE (POINTS)

Each must be a good, established and ongoing example.
(Only include those features suited to your churchyard)

Wildflower areas (meadow or equivalent)

- Spring areas (cut in late spring/early summer) (2)
- Summer meadows (cut in late autumn) (2)
- Uncut areas (cover for small mammals) (2)
- Mown and strimmed grass picked up (2)
- Paths through and around meadows (1)
- Efforts to improve/develop flowers & reduce coarse grasses (2)
- Nettles retained and managed in sunny areas (1)
- Other areas of short mown grassland (1)
- Only sensitive use of chemicals or herbicides (1)

Trees, Shrubs and Herbs

- Old trees well maintained (1) and new plantings well cared for (1)
- Providing berries/fruit (1), seeds/nuts (1) and nectar (1)
- Mainly native species (1), providing potential nest sites (1)
- Area of planted herbs for wildlife (1)

Management, Education and Public Relations

- A plan of the churchyard (1), displayed (1)
- A management plan (1), displayed (1) and being implemented (1)
- Attempts to involve others (1) and evidence of effort/enthusiasm (1)
- Surveys have been carried out (1) and monitoring of species continues (1)
- Up to date information about the churchyard available (1) and other conservation information provided (1)
- A seat provided for visitors to enjoy the churchyard and its wildlife (1)

Sustainability

- Water butt(s) or other water-saving devices in use (2)
- Efforts to promote recycling, cut down on waste and reduce transport costs for things like cut flowers—consider growing your own cut flowers for arrangements or sourcing bulbs and seeds locally (1)
- Communication of what the church/churchyard is doing towards sustainability (1)

Variety of Habitats

- Mix of vegetation heights (incl. grass, shrubs and trees) (2)
- Log or brushwood piles (1) and compost heap (1)
- Pond or any water feature (i.e. bird bath) (2)
- Bird boxes or good supply of natural nesting sites (1)
- Bat boxes or evidence of bats using buildings (1)
- Seed bearing plants for finches left over winter (1)
- Insect tubes/bug hotels and no unsympathetic pointing /repairs of stonework that block up insect holes (1)
- Leave lichens on stones and walls (1) and sensitive management of ivy (1)

LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT:

BRONZE AWARD

The Bronze award is aimed at churchyards who are starting to manage their churchyard for wildlife. You need some form of management plan and to have made a start on some conservation work.

Requirements:

- A Management Plan
- 5 further points made up from any of the sections

SILVER AWARD

The Silver award is aimed at churchyards whose conservation management is up and running with obvious benefits to a range of wildlife.

Requirements:

25 points from across any of the scoring sections, but must include:

- An ongoing management plan that is being implemented
- A wildflower area (where grass cuttings are removed)
- A leaflet, noticeboard or other way of informing people what work is going on and why
- A compost heap or log pile
- Bat, bird or insect boxes

GOLD AWARD

The Gold award is aimed at the best churchyards for wildlife, where conservation management is well established across a range of habitats and species and benefiting a range of wildlife.

Requirements:

- Meet all requirements from the Silver award
- Plus: score 40 points including at least 5 from each section (except sustainability) and including;
- An ongoing programme of monitoring and recording of wildlife