

Variety of Habitats

- Mix of vegetation heights (grass, shrubs and trees) (2)
- Log or brushwood piles (1) and compost heap (1)
- Pond or water feature (e.g. bird bath) (2)
- Bird boxes or 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)
- Mature ivy for late pollen and winter berries for birds (2)



To request a visit or to discuss applying for an award please contact the co-ordinator or the Wildlife Trust.

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wildlifebcn.org/wild-churchyards

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. The Manor House, Broad Street, Cambourne, CB23 6DH. Registered Charity No. 1000412



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



Cambridgeshire 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.

The criteria for each Award can be found overleaf. Each Award lasts for 3 years, after which you can reapply or aim for a higher award.

“ The predictions about the future of life on this planet make for alarming and depressing reading and the need to repent of the past and live more sustainably is abundantly clear. Treasuring creation is an implicit part of proclaiming the Gospel. And we can give expression to this with our churchyards which can be ‘arks for vulnerable species’. I am delighted to support this Churchyard Conservation Award Scheme. ”

The Rt Revd Dr Dagmar Winter
The Bishop of Huntingdon
Currently Acting Bishop of Ely



wildlifebcn.org/wild-churchyards

BRONZE AWARD

The Bronze award is aimed at churchyards who have started 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 and sketch map of churchyard
- Plus 15 points made up with 10 from the Grassland and Wildflower area and 5 from any of the other areas.

SILVER AWARD

The Silver award is aimed at churchyards whose conservation management is up and running with obvious benefits to a range of wildlife. Normally churches should already have achieved the Bronze award.

Requirements:

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

- An ongoing management plan that is being implemented
- 15 points from the 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
- Water (for birds, mammals and insects)

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

Grasslands and Wildflower areas (meadow or equivalent)

- Spring flower areas cut late spring after flowering & several times until October). Mowings removed (3)
- Summer flower areas cut spring, late summer and autumn). Mowings removed (3)
- Uncut areas (cover for small mammals) (2)
- Short grass, mowings removed. (1)
- Paths cut through and around meadows (2)
- Efforts to develop flowers and reduce coarse grasses e.g. with yellow rattle (2)
- Nettles retained and managed in sunny areas for butterflies (2)
- No use of chemicals or herbicides (2)

Trees, Shrubs and Herbs

- Old trees well maintained (2) 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 pollinators (1)

Management, Education and Public Relations

- 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)
- Current churchyard conservation information available (2)
- A seat provided for visitors to enjoy the churchyard and its wildlife (1)

Sustainability

- Reduction of plastic flowers and recycling of visitors flowers and churchyard cuttings (2) Consider growing cut flowers and source bulbs locally (1)
- Communication of what the church/churchyard is doing towards sustainability (1) Water butts in use (2)