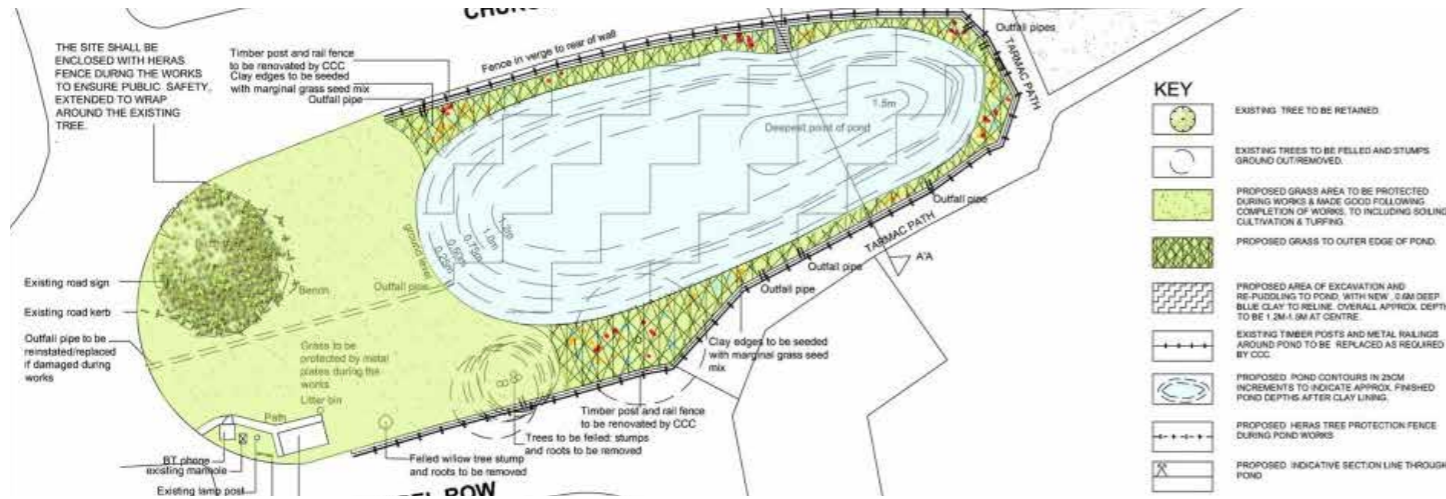


# Habitat Creation ~ Ashley Conservation Area

# Ashley Village, Cambridgeshire



Construction Drawings.



Existing Pond Condition Before Renovation.



Completed Pond after Renovation.

## Project Description

ELD was commissioned to act as lead consultant to design & manage improvements to the pond in the Conservation Area, for the Local Authority Client; principally, to review the pond, find a solution to dropping water levels & manage improvements. ELD produced alternative detailed design proposals & costing with specifications; tendered the works & administered the contract. At all times ELD kept the client & Parish Council informed, presenting to the Parish & at a public consultation exercise to inform villagers.

## ELD Requirements

- Completion of an Arboricultural survey, new survey, tree works & introduction of tree protection.
- Review seating, the information board & bus shelter, to upgrade the existing ensemble of street furniture.
- Liaise with County Highways to complete a H&S audit of posts/railings & replace, upgrade as required.
- Consider provision of life saving equipment, new hard standing & upgrade to village green setting.
- Increase biodiversity by introducing native fish and a more diverse planting scheme to the pond/margins & within the Village Green, central to the Conservation Area.
- Gaining consent to remove the mature willow tree that was cracked down its trunk, from top to bottom, as it was a major risk to children's H&S being trapped.
- Liaise with the Parish Council & attend a public consultation meeting.
- Tender the works; recommend contractor appointment; manage the contract to include enclosure of the works; fish removal; drainage of the pond; excavation & relining pond with blue clay; replace posts & add railings; certify payments; issue Instructions & ensure all H&S requirements are met, with appropriate risk assessments.

## Project Challenges

The client had a fixed budget. The Parish Council had high expectations of desired improvements, despite not providing any funding themselves. ELD responded with alternative drawings & accurate costings to demonstrate what could be achieved within different budgets, having ascertained estimates from local contractors to provide accurate costs. It soon became apparent that there were insufficient funds to complete all items requested by the PC, or identified by ELD as being in need of attention, i.e. restoration of retaining walls.

In addition, the project was not deemed 'big enough' by many firms, resulting in challenges over procurement of tenders. Re-tendering a revised package & subsequent delays to commencement were exacerbated by Council funding deadlines, resulting in works being undertaken at the wettest, most difficult time of year. Through discussion & liaison with local firms & the client, ELD value engineered the entire project to achieve the key elements of the original brief within the fixed budget for construction & within the fee quoted for project management.

## Project Particulars

Client: East Cambrdge District Council  
Project Budget: £60,000

