

Habitat Creation

- *Village Pond Restoration, Ashley Village, Cambridgeshire*
 - *Private Wildlife Lake, Essex*
- *The Innovation Centre, Ely, Cambridgeshire*

Habitat Creation ~ Pond Restoration

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 Cambridge District Council
Project Budget: £60,000



Habitat Creation ~ 1.5 Hectare Private Lake

Kelvedon, Essex

"Congratulations to you for doing a stunning piece of work and for working so hard in getting this through and approved by the planners. The client and I knew that from our first meeting with you we had chosen the right person to work on this project and it was a relief to me, after introducing you ,that we all got on very well together." **Perry James (Perry James Ponds & Lakes)**



Landscape Masterplan.



Grass Paths.



Pictorial Meadows.

Project Description

ELD were approached by a specialist West Country firm, Perry Chesterton, Pond & Lake Construction, to produce an imaginative landscape scheme for this private client; creating a proposed wildlife lake to be used for fishing & education of grandchildren who have lived abroad.

The large agricultural field to the east of the house has been transformed, with an irregular shaped, 1.5ha naturalised wildlife lake taking centre stage. The irregular shape allows inlets to the lake to be planted with specimens & native tree species, filtering & framing the views from the house & leading the eye out towards the wider landscape.

A shallow raised bund will form the boundary to the north, preventing views in from the road whilst allowing redistribution of excess spoil, avoiding removal from site. Bunds are to be planted with native shelter belt planting, screening the lake from the surrounding roads whilst providing a future, sustainable firewood supply.

Pictorial meadows shall surround the lake, encouraging increased biodiversity through a variety of native species flowers & grasses. The pond itself is to be filled from a borehole, powered by a wind turbine, planted with aquatics & marginal species to increase diversity of fauna & flora. The application was welcomed by the local authority who recognise the increase in biodiversity potential to an otherwise dry Landscape.

ELD Responsibilities

These included completion of an ecological Phase 1 habitat report; detailed design; sections; quantification of materials; pre-application discussions with LPA; completion, submission & negotiation of the planning application to gain approval.

Project Particulars

Client: Private Client
 Contractor: Perry Chesterton
 Project Budget £200,000



The Existing Site.



Lake Excavation and Liner.



Initial Excavations.



The Completed Lake.

Commercial SUDS ~ The Innovation Centre

Ely, Cambridgeshire



Project Description

Our client excels at developing and producing innovative electro mechanical prototypes, equipment manufacturing and flexible automation solutions. They required an innovative landscape scheme to compliment their new Innovation Centre, office and factory, with a brief that stipulated the need for a pond, with decking surrounds and water filtration planting.

This pond was to provide a rain water collection facility from roofs and was to be used as a water cooling facility, as part of the Innovation Centre which in 2002, was a modern and forward thinking attitude towards landscape, drainage sustainability and reuse of natural resources, whilst also providing a visually attractive wildlife feature and arrival point at their new office.

The pond was lined with Butyl and a shingle beach provided over margins to cover the soil to give a clean and attractive finish in the first instance. Planting has since naturalised and matured to provide the desired effect of partial screening and green infrastructure to the building frontage, whilst circulating water as part of the filtration system within the building.

The photographs illustrate the entrance pond immediately after planting and again 11 years later.



Add text



Images of the Pond After Construction in 2002 and Again in 2013.



Project Particulars

Client: GB Innomech Ltd
 Architect: Tony Walton Designs
 Landscape Contractor: Fordham Landscapes Ltd
 Landscape Construction Value: £55,000