

One of our recent projects involved the design and creation of a natural wildlife pond, aiming to enhance biodiversity and improve the local landscape's ecological value. This project focused on delivering a habitat that functions as a thriving ecosystem, supports native species, and integrates seamlessly with its surroundings.

The process began with careful site selection and design planning, ensuring the pond would receive adequate sunlight while remaining naturally fed by rainwater and surface runoff. We shaped the pond with a range of depths and gently sloping banks to encourage a diversity of aquatic and marginal habitats. To ensure long-term ecological health, we avoided the use of liners where possible, opting instead for clay sealing or natural soil retention methods. Once excavated, the pond was left to fill naturally with rainwater, avoiding the introduction of tap water which could disturb the ecological balance.

We introduced a carefully selected mix of native aquatic and marginal plants, such as Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), and Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), which support water filtration and provide essential cover and breeding grounds for amphibians and invertebrates. Importantly, the pond was left to colonise naturally by wildlife, allowing species such as dragonflies, frogs, and birds to arrive without forced introduction.

The benefits of this natural pond are already visible. It has become a hub for local biodiversity, enhanced the visual and ecological appeal of the landscape, and serves as a natural water storage and filtration system. By creating a self-sustaining water feature, this project not only benefits wildlife but also supports wider land stewardship goals—demonstrating how low-intervention, nature-based solutions can deliver lasting environmental value.

To further enhance the ecological value of the site, native trees and shrubs will be planted around the pond during the upcoming winter months—a time when trees are dormant and most suitable for transplanting. This planting will provide shade; stabilising fluctuations in water temperature, as well as stabilising the soil and offer essential shelter and foraging opportunities for birds, mammals and invertebrates as the habitat continues to mature.

