



## **Wildlife Pond, Centenary Field, Frampton Cotterell**



*On behalf of:*  
**Frampton Cotterell Parish Council**

*Prepared by:*  
**Deb Randall Bsc**  
**Ecological Consultant**  
**April 2022**

## **1.0 Instructions/Scope**

- 1.1 We have been instructed to identify a suitable location for the creation of a new wildlife pond within the grounds of the Centenary Field, Frampton Cotterell.
- 1.2 This report is based on a ground level and aerial assessment of the site. Except where stated, all dimensions are estimated. An ecological consultant visited the site on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022. The weather was warm and bright.

## **2.0 Proposed Site**

- 2.1 Ponds require a suitable location where it can maintain its own balanced ecosystem to thrive. They should be ideally situated on level ground, in partial shade, and away from too many trees. Too much sunlight can cause excessive algae growth (e.g. blanketweed) which outcompetes other organisms in the pond. Trees can provide shade and protection from the wind, but excessive leaf litter can increase the rate of silt build-up in the pond.
- 2.2 Ponds can be any shape, size, and depth. A pond with more variety in depth and irregular shapes creates a wider range of habitats for invertebrates and amphibians. It is ideal to have a pond with depths varying from 2cm - 200cm deep with shallow inclines around the edges. It is also ideal to create a 'pond complex' with smaller, seasonal ponds surrounding a larger, deeper pond. The ultimate size and shape of the pond will be determined by the immediate physical surroundings.
- 2.3 Aerial images were used to assess the surrounding area to help inform the process. There is an agricultural field adjacent to the north boundary of the site. Agricultural fields may allow fertiliser run-off to affect the pond causing eutrophication which creates poor conditions for pond wildlife. The southern half of the Centenary Field is the most suitable area for the pond where there is a reduced risk of agricultural run-off affecting the pond.
- 2.4 One location was found which meets the pre-existing requirements for the pond, such as a balance between sunlight and shade, and a suitable distance from trees and agricultural run-off (Appendix 1).

- 2.5 The proposed location is set partially within the hayflower meadow which provides a suitable habitat for amphibians. The south side of the pond will be a few meters from a group of trees which will provide shade and protection from the wind as well as providing an additional habitat suitable for amphibians.

### **3.0 Site Limitations**

- 3.1 The location identified as suitable is dependent on the removal of 4 Ash trees on the south side of the pond. An arboricultural report from 2021 show the trees are infected with Ash Dieback Disease and recommends compiling ongoing management plan for the trees.
- 3.2 The proximity of the pond to a group of trees means the accumulation of leaf litter can lead to increased silt build-up over time. It is advised to remove leaves from the pond every autumn. Leaf litter should be left beside the pond before removing altogether to allow any invertebrates to re-enter the pond.
- 3.3 The proposed site is located within a desire line of the field. It is important to consider health and safety implications of the pond's location as well as protecting the pond such as from dogs or damage.

### **4.0 Health and Safety**

- 4.1 There are certain hazards associated with ponds and water bodies, particularly the risk of drowning. Consider having the maximum depth of the pond 1m which will only pose a risk to younger children who may struggle to stand up in this depth of water. Alternatively, the pond can be fenced such as by the use of dead hedges, which will also prevent dogs entering the water as well as providing an additional habitat for pond species.
- 4.2 If the depth of the pond is greater than 1.5m consideration should be given to installing a life ring adjacent to the pond in the unlikely case of emergencies. It should be sufficiently visible and accessible.
- 4.3 Erecting signs or interpretation boards informing the public of the presence of the pond and its purpose may raise awareness and caution around the site.

- 4.4 Weil's disease can be caught from freshwater bodies that have been contaminated by infected rats' urine. Although rare, it should be a consideration for health and safety and people should be discouraged from entering the water. Barriers and/or signs should help prevent people from entering the water.

## 5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 It is recommended that the pond should be protected by a barrier, such as a dead hedge. This will help prevent people accidentally falling into the water or prevents dogs and humans purposefully entering the water. Barriers will also help protect the wildlife and biodiversity of the pond. A dead hedge is easy to maintain and can provide refuge and habitat for pond species.
- 5.2 Freshwater Habitats Trust provides a comprehensive Pond Creation Toolkit which should be consulted when designing and creating the pond.  
<https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/million-ponds/pond-creation-toolkit/>

## 6.0 Appendices

- Proposed site location
- Example pond diagram

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Aerial image of the Centenary Field showing  
proposed pond location with yellow star

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Google

Basic diagram of an example pond in the proposed location showing a diversity of pond sizes and shapes which creates different habitats and encourages a wider range of species.

The Pond Creation Toolkit will help to inform the process of best practice when creating the pond.

<https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/million-ponds/pond-creation-toolkit/>

The diagram shows just an example of what the pond can look like including features such as seasonal ponds, dead hedges, living hedges, and logpiles for habitats. All or some of these features can be included in the final design.

