



Nature Recovery & Habitat Enhancement Consultancy

Proposal for:  
Lower Wildlife Pond Creation

Mr Simon Schwerdt  
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Yarcombe  
Honiton  
Devon  
EX14 9AZ

30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## LOWER WILDLIFE POND CREATION

### Location:

<https://what3words.com/blissful.sisters.mammals>

### Suggested Design Statement:

This new pond creation will enhance local flora and fauna, creating a resilient ecosystem by boosting local biodiversity, and greatly improve wildlife connectivity.

It will support the natural environment through natural flood management, with the purpose only to benefit wildlife and people's connection with wildlife. The proposed area seems wet throughout the year and the several test holes that have been excavated remain full of water.

This pond supports DEFRA's Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme, namely conserving wildlife, and delivery of wildlife benefits. In my professional opinion there will be no negative or detrimental effect on the local wildlife, trees or neighbouring properties nor will it harm the character or appearance of the existing landscape. Therefore, making a positive contribution to enhance the biodiversity interests of the area.

This project will also contribute to regional and national targets for the Pond Habitat Action Plan, Rewilding Devon, and The Million Ponds Project.

It is proposed to create the new wildlife pond to around 450-650m<sup>2</sup>, measuring 35m at its longest and 18m its widest points. The pond should be profiled with marginal areas suitable for marginal aquatic plant colonisation, graded at approx. 10° from the outside edge and to an average depth of 0.33m, this should then fall to a gradient of approx. 18° to an average depth of 1m (depending on spoil conditions & possible ground water ingress), with final fall of 30° for deeper areas up to 2m. Marginal areas should range in width from around 0.5m to 2.5m creating a perimeter for marginal aquatic planting, also appropriate for wildlife to migrate to and from.

Any excavated material should remain on site, carefully scraped, and set aside to retain natural seeds, and spoil used to create necessary retaining bankside on lower edge. The perimeter edging and marginal areas of the pond should be overlaid with removed subsoil to a depth of between 150mm & 200mm suitable for marginal macrophyte growth.

Removed topsoil (approx. 200mm depth) should be used for overlaying any perimeter bank, however, positioned >2m away from proposed pond edging. This will mitigate risk of high nutrient soil creating adverse water quality conditions and also create less favourable conditions for invasive macrophyte growth such as the dock, nettle, and bramble.

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I would suggest using a genetically pertinent seed mix of wildflowers and meadow grassland around the pond to compete against unfavourable species of dock, bramble, and nettle.

A selection of native aquatic plant species\*  
Suggested marginal aquatic plant species:

*Cardamine pratensis*

*Eupatorium cannabinum*

*Lychnis flos-cuculi*

*Lythrum salicaria*

*Mentha pulegium* or *aquatica*

*Mysotis scorpiodes* or *palustris*

*Ranunculus flammula*

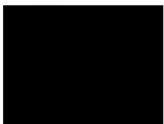
*Potentilla palustris*

*Veronica beccabunga*

(this pond can also have the addition of *Iris Pseudacorus*, *Typha angustifolia* and *Scirpus lacustris*) can be added in the marginal areas for improved water quality and aquatic habitat.

Finally, create hibernacula for wildlife refuge utilising timber available from site.

Kind Regards



Andy McConnachie MSc CEnv CMgr MIFM MCIWEM FCMI  
Chartered Aquatic Environmental Practitioner



Attached Docs:

*Terms & Conditions*

